

Global Muslim Business Forum (GMBF) 2025

Empowering the Future: Innovation, Investment, and Sustainable Growth in the Muslim World

InterContinental Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | 8th December 2025

WELCOME ADDRESS
By Tan Sri Majid Khan
Chairman, KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific

H.E. Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan & Former Prime Minister, Pakistan

H.E. Neak Oknha Datuk Dr Othsman Hassan, Senior Minister in Charge of Special Mission (Islamic Affairs), Royal Kingdom of

Cambodia, Special Envoy of Cambodia to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC),

H.E. Mr. Yousef Khalawi, Secretary-General, Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD) (Represented by Dr. Wael Eldesouki Bedda is the Secretary General of SKSEED (Saleh Kamel Sustainable Entrepreneurship & Enterprise Development)

Excellencies, Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

Salam Sejahtera,

A very good morning to all of you. On behalf of KSI, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Global Muslim Business Forum 2025.

Let me begin by expressing our deep appreciation to our co-organisers, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development, and Global One, for their strong partnership and unwavering support. Together, they have helped build this forum into a meaningful platform for the Muslim world.

We meet at a time when global turbulence is testing economies, institutions, and societies. Trade routes are shifting. Financial markets remain uncertain. Conflicts and geopolitical rivalry are eroding trust. In such an environment, fragmentation is easy. Unity is difficult but necessary.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Muslim community, spread across diverse regions, cultures, and economic systems, holds significant collective strength. With a

population approaching two billion and a growing economic footprint across halal industries, Islamic finance, technology, and services, the Muslim world is not a marginal player; it is a vital force in the global economy. But strength without coordination delivers limited impact. This is why cooperation is no longer optional. It is essential.

We must build deeper economic linkages, invest in shared capabilities, and speak with greater coherence on issues that affect our collective progress – from sustainable development to

technological transformation. When the Muslim world moves together, it shapes markets. When it acts in silos, opportunities are lost to others who organise better and faster.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Malaysia has long believed in the value of constructive engagement within the Muslim community. As a country that bridges Southeast Asia, the Gulf, South Asia, and the broader international system, Malaysia has consistently championed dialogue, moderation, and economic cooperation. Our leadership in Islamic finance, halal

standards, trade facilitation, and thought leadership reflects a commitment to building bridges rather than walls. As ASEAN Chair in 2025, Malaysia is also in a unique position to encourage collaborative approaches between East and West, and between the Muslim world and major global economies.

This forum is part of that effort. It brings together policymakers, business leaders, scholars, and innovators to think ahead – and to act with purpose. The sessions today, from economic partnerships to Islamic finance, tourism, and sustainable development, remind us

that progress is not achieved through speeches alone but through cooperation, investment, and shared conviction.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I conclude, I hope our discussions will be frank, forward-looking, and solutions-driven. The challenges ahead are real, but so are the opportunities – provided we work together.

Thank you, and I wish all participants a productive and inspiring summit.

