



**MINISTRY OF INVESTMENT,
TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

**SPEECH BY
YB SENATOR TENGKU DATUK SERI UTAMA ZAFRUL
TENGKU ABDUL AZIZ**

**FOR
JCI INSPIRE FEST 2025 – INSPIRE ENTREPRENEUR DAY**

**2:30PM | 18 APRIL 2025 |
SUNWAY VELOCITY MALL, KUALA LUMPUR**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

[Salutations]

Mr Izzat Afifi, President Malaysia Youth Council (MBM)

Mr. Friday Chua, Organising Chairman of JCI Inspire Fest 2025,

Mr. Tan Boon Kuan, 2025 Local President of JCI Entrepreneur Metropolitan Malaysia,

Ms. Lunarcia Loh, Chief Strategy Officer of SATEERA,

Mr. Allen Beh, Organising Chairman of HERSTORY Healthcare Foundation,

Distinguished entrepreneurs, respected partners, JCI members, members of the press, ladies and gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera dan Salam Malaysia MADANI. Good afternoon.

1. Firstly I wish to extend my gratitude to the organizers for curating the JCI Inspire Fest and for inviting me to launch the “Inspire Entrepreneur Day”. The event today serves as a powerful reminder of the **immense potential that lies within Malaysia’s youth** and the entrepreneurial ecosystem that is thriving in our country.
2. As the Minister of Investment, Trade, and Industry, I am deeply inspired by the energy and enthusiasm at this event.

Youths represent the future of Malaysia—a future built on innovation, resilience, and the unwavering determination to create meaningful change.

3. Today, I want to speak to you not just as a Minister, but as a leader who believes passionately in the **transformative power of youth entrepreneurship and the critical role it plays in shaping our nation's future.**

The Foundation of Malaysia's Strength

4. Malaysia's strength as a nation is not solely defined by our policies, infrastructure, or natural resources. It is rooted in the creativity, drive, and ingenuity of our people—especially our youth.
5. Youths are the ones who dare to dream big, who sees challenges as opportunities, and who have the courage to take risks in pursuit of your vision. It is this spirit that has propelled Malaysia forward and will continue to do so in the years to come.
6. Today's event demonstrates the fact that Malaysia is brimming with talent, fresh ideas, and bold young entrepreneurs who are ready to shape our future.

7. Looking at the entrepreneurs present today, they range from tech startups to sustainable enterprises, from creative industries to cutting-edge innovations, you are proof that Malaysia is not just keeping pace with global trends but can also lead the charge in many areas.

The New Industrial Master Plan 2030: A Blueprint for the Future

8. The Malaysian Government launched the **New Industrial Master Plan (NIMP 2030)**, spearheaded by MITI as a comprehensive blueprint aimed at building a resilient, innovative, and sustainable economy. This plan is aimed to position Malaysia as a global leader in key industries, from advanced manufacturing to green technology, and from digital innovation to high-value services.
9. But let me be clear: the success of this plan does not rest solely on government initiatives or policy frameworks. It relies on ***you*—the passionate changemakers, the problem-solvers, and the visionaries** who are willing to take bold steps to transform ideas into reality.
10. Entrepreneurs like you are the driving force behind our economic growth, and your contributions will determine how far we can go as a nation.

The Power of ASEAN's Youth: A Regional Advantage

11. As young entrepreneurs in Malaysia, you are not just part of a national movement—you are **at the heart of a regional powerhouse of youth-driven progress**. ASEAN is home to almost 700 million people, and some 300 million of them are young people like yourselves.
12. This makes ASEAN one of the most youthful and dynamic regions in the world, with **immense potential for innovation, economic growth, and social transformation**. Your energy, innovative thinking, and technological savvy position you to drive this growth, foster innovation, and lead the charge in addressing global challenges.
13. Whether it's through digital transformation, sustainable development, or inclusive business models, **you have the power to shape the future of not just Malaysia, but the entire ASEAN region**.

Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship 2025: Inclusivity and Sustainability

14. This brings me to Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship theme for 2025: **"Inclusivity and Sustainability."** These two principles are at the core of our vision for the region. We

believe that by **harnessing the power of our youth and focusing on inclusive and sustainable development**, we can create a more prosperous, resilient, and equitable ASEAN for all.

15. Inclusivity means ensuring that no one is left behind—that every young person, regardless of their background or circumstances, has the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from our economic growth.
16. Sustainability means building a future that is not only economically prosperous but also environmentally responsible and socially equitable. **These are not just lofty ideals; they are essential pillars for long-term success in a rapidly changing world.**

Role of Youths in Shaping Malaysia's Future

17. To every young entrepreneur in this room, I want to emphasize this: **your energy, ideas, and businesses are key to Malaysia's economic resilience.** Whether you're running a small startup or scaling a growing enterprise, **your efforts are shaping not just your own future, but the future of Malaysia and ASEAN as a whole.**

18. But let's be honest—the entrepreneurial journey is not always easy. There will be setbacks, challenges, and moments of doubt. **What sets successful entrepreneurs apart is their ability to persevere, adapt, and learn from failure.** Remember, every challenge is an opportunity to grow, and every failure is a stepping stone to success.
19. As we look to the future, **I urge you to continue pushing boundaries, solving problems, and dreaming big.** Let's work together to make Malaysia a hub for youth-led, inclusive, sustainable, and globally competitive enterprises.
20. Let us also remember that **entrepreneurship is not just about individual achievement; it's about creating value for society.** Whether it's through job creation, community development, or innovative solutions to pressing challenges, your work has the power to make a lasting impact on the lives of others.
21. As you build your businesses, I encourage you to think about how you can contribute to the greater good—how you can uplift your communities, protect our environment, and create opportunities for those who need them most.

22. Together, let's embrace the spirit of collaboration and shared purpose. **Let's leverage the strength of our diversity, the power of our ideas, and the resilience of our entrepreneurial spirit to build a brighter, more inclusive, and sustainable future for Malaysia and ASEAN.** The road ahead may be challenging, but I have no doubt that with your creativity, determination, and passion, we can achieve extraordinary things.

23. Thank you once again for being here today, and for being the driving force behind Malaysia's progress. I look forward to seeing more success stories that will undoubtedly emerge from this gathering of bright minds. **Let's seize this moment, embrace the opportunities before us, and work together to shape a future that we can all be proud of.**