



OFFICIATING ADDRESS

**YB DATO' SRI HAJAH NANCY BINTI SHUKRI
MINISTER OF WOMEN, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

PROGRAM

**ASEAN DISABILITY FORUM (ADF)
CONFERENCE 2025:
SHAPING ASEAN'S INCLUSIVE TOMORROW**

LOCATION / DATE / TIME

**ROYALE CHULAN, KUALA LUMPUR
3 DECEMBER 2025 (WEDNESDAY)
9.00AM**

Updated 2 December 2025

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

(SALUTASI)

SALUTATIONS TO BE ATTACHED

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

1. It is a great honor to be here with all of you as we commemorate both the ASEAN Disability Forum (ADF) Conference 2025 and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Having these two events side by side is a powerful reminder that our region's commitment to inclusion must be more than words. It must be felt by the people we serve, especially persons with disabilities.

2. The theme of today's conference, "Shaping ASEAN's Inclusive Tomorrow," resonates deeply with me. It reminds us that inclusion is not an annual conversation; it is a daily effort. It requires intention, partnership and unwavering commitment.

APPRECIATING THE ORGANIZER, PARTNERS AND CHAMPIONS IN INCLUSION

3. Allow me to begin by expressing my heartfelt appreciation to the Malaysian Federation of the Deaf (MFD) for hosting this important conference on behalf of the ASEAN Disability Forum.

4. I recognize the dedication and tireless efforts that MFD has invested not only in this conference, but in championing access, recognition and opportunities for the deaf community and all persons with disabilities.

5. My sincere thanks also go to our partners — the United Nations Country Team in Malaysia through the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP, ILO, UNICEF, and to our corporate champions Bursa Malaysia, Grab and Yayasan Sime Darby. Your commitment demonstrates a powerful truth: disability inclusion is not the responsibility of governments alone. It requires active participation of every sector — public, private and community. When we invest in inclusion, we invest in stronger economies, more resilient societies and brighter futures for all.

ASEAN'S PROGRESS

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

6. Today, I want to talk about something very close to my Ministry's heart: the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025. **This Masterplan represents a shared promise across ASEAN; that persons with disabilities deserve equal opportunities, equal participation and equal dignity.**

7. The Masterplan also connects deeply with the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 - a vision of political cohesion, economic integration and social responsibility. The 76 key action points outlined in the Masterplan align our regional aspirations with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

8. Since ASEAN adopted the Masterplan in 2018, we have seen real movement. Each ASEAN Member State has undertaken self-assessments, reviewed policies and engaged their own disability communities. Many sectoral bodies; from social welfare to education to ICT; have started weaving disability inclusion into their plans.

9. What I appreciate most is this; persons with disabilities themselves are now being consulted and meaningfully involved. **Malaysia took a firm step by appointing a national consultant who is a person with a disability to lead our own Masterplan self-assessment.** This is the way forward — nothing about us, without us.

10. ASEAN has also endorsed key regional documents; the Mid-Term Review Report, The Path Ahead strategy paper, and the annual progress reports which show where we are making progress and where we must push harder. At the 47th ASEAN Summit, our Leaders took note of this work, signalling that disability inclusion is not a side topic — it is part of ASEAN's core agenda.

MALAYSIA'S COMMITMENT

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

11. At home, Malaysia continues to strengthen its disability inclusion agenda. Under the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, we are reviewing the Persons with Disabilities Act 2008, improving accessibility in public spaces and transport, promoting inclusive education and expanding pathways for employment.

12. But more than that, we are working to make sure persons with disabilities are **in the room, at the table, and heard**. Whether it involves policymaking, programme design, or monitoring, we want their leadership and their voice to shape the decisions that affect their lives.

13. We look forward to seeing persons with disabilities uplift their lives even further to gain skills, secure meaningful employment, become independent, and contribute strongly to society and the economy.

14. And let me be very clear: PWDs are not a “special interest group” for us. They are an important part of our national and ASEAN family. When we talk about gender equality, care economy, ageing, child protection, or social protection; PWDs must be and will continue to be at the centre of our work.

LOOKING BEYOND 2025

Ladies and Gentlemen,

15. We are now reaching the end of the Masterplan's timeframe. But this does not mean the work is ending. In fact, this is the moment to strengthen our momentum and prepare for the next phase.

16. ASEAN has already established a technical working group to think beyond 2025; what comes next, what gaps remain, and how we ensure disability inclusion stays embedded in the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. And this requires all of us — governments, civil society, private sector, and most importantly, persons with disabilities themselves.

GRAB ASSIST LAUNCH

17. Having said about the roles of government, civil society and private sector, we are delighted to know that Grab is going to introduce its new service called GrabAssist. GrabAssist is a new dedicated service designed to support passengers needing extra mobility and accessibility assistance. It aims to empower Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), senior citizens, and users of personal mobility aids, to travel independently and seamlessly.

18. I would like to encourage initiatives like GrabAssist among industrial players in our journey to empower the rights of persons with disabilities. GrabAssist is considered as a gift to persons with disabilities on this day in conjunction with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

CONCLUSION

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

19. On this meaningful occasion, as we officiate the ASEAN Disability Forum (ADF) Conference 2025, it is also my privilege to launch the GrabAssist, which symbolises our continued commitment and support toward mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities.

20. I hope we use this space to be honest, practical, and ambitious. Let us learn from each other, challenge one another, and support one another. And let us make sure that persons with disabilities are not only participants in this movement; but leaders of it.

21. I wish all of you a productive and meaningful conference. May today's discussions help us build the inclusive ASEAN we are all striving for. Together, let us shape an inclusive tomorrow for all.

Thank you.

Wabillahi taufiq walhidayah

Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

YB DATO' SRI HAJAH NANCY BINTI SHUKRI
Minister of Women, Family & Community Development
3 December 2025