As Delivered

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***The Honourable Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim**, Prime Minister of Malaysia,*

Excellencies, Distinguished Leaders, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The successful convening of the ASEAN Quantum Summit 2025 marks a significant step forward for our region. This gathering demonstrates our regional community's commitment to embracing the quantum era. Malaysia's leadership in fostering regional collaboration on this frontier technology deserves recognition and appreciation. The United Nations has designated 2025 as the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology marking a century of scientific advances and the transition of quantum capabilities toward practical, commercial applications. This Summit arrives at an opportune moment, fully aligned with ASEAN's strategic vision for the future.

Excellencies, Distinguished Leaders, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Globally, investment in quantum technologies has now surpassed USD 40 billion, with the market projected to grow from USD 1.3 billion in 2024 to nearly USD 10 billion by 2034. Quantum computing alone is expected to reach USD 20 billion by 2030. As nations worldwide position themselves to capture these opportunities, the European Union, in July this year, set out a 2030 Quantum Strategy, including new investments in quantum chips and a dedicated Quantum Skills Academy.

ASEAN must ask: how do we prepare our institutions, our talent, and our industries to participate effectively in this new landscape. The implications for our region are substantial. Quantum technologies will reshape how we protect data, strengthen digital economies, and enhance competitiveness across manufacturing, transport, energy, advanced materials, and agriculture. They will also accelerate the convergence of AI, high-performance computing, and digital innovation.

Our progress is already underway. In Malaysia, NVIDIA Corporation and YTL Power International are developing AI infrastructure, with ambitions for sovereign AI capabilities. This includes ILMU, Malaysia's first multimodal Large Language Model launched at the ASEAN AI Malaysia Summit 2025, designed to understand local context for applications across finance, healthcare, education, and public services. These initiatives illustrate the growing integration of high-performance computing, AI, and quantum technologies.

Singapore's Centre for Quantum Technologies is driving world-class research, talent development, and quantum-safe network testbeds. Thailand's Quantum Technology Research Initiative Consortium is expanding its ecosystem through multi-institutional collaboration and pilots in quantum communication, metrology, and sensing. Both the Philippines and Thailand are exploring quantum-based approaches to optimize power grid efficiency. Meanwhile, the SEA Hackathon is providing young innovators with practical experience in quantum-inspired solutions for cybersecurity, logistics, and sustainability. These diverse efforts signal that a vibrant ASEAN quantum ecosystem is taking shape*.*

Excellencies, Distinguished Leaders, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Looking ahead, ASEAN must focus on building the foundations required for meaningful participation in the quantum economy. First, talent development. We need a pipeline of engineers, researchers, and practitioners capable of understanding quantum principles and applying them to real-world challenges. Training programmes, youth initiatives, and industry partnerships will be essential for cultivating this expertise.

Second, applied research and commercial applications. We should encourage research that links quantum science to industries such as finance, healthcare, manufacturing, and logistics—particularly applications that deliver tangible benefits to businesses and communities across ASEAN, improving quality of life while strengthening our regional innovation capacity.

Third, an enabling ecosystem for investment. Attracting capital requires supportive policies, shared platforms, and predictable digital governance. Through the ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation (APASTI) 2026–2035, the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA), and the forthcoming ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2030, we are laying the groundwork for frontier technology adoption, with quantum as a key driver of future competitiveness. These frameworks will strengthen collaboration, develop skills, and expand the innovation networks essential for ASEAN's quantum future.

Excellencies, Distinguished leaders, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today's Summit represents not merely a milestone, but the beginning of coordinated quantum development across ASEAN. As a region projected to become the world's fourth-largest economy, serving over 680 million digitally connected citizens, we must act with coherence, confidence and a commitment to building capabilities.

I encourage governments, industry, researchers, and regional organisations to invest and collaborate. The quantum era is not arriving—it has arrived. What begins here must continue through testbeds, regulatory dialogue, and commercial pilots. Together, we can build an ASEAN that is competitive, trusted, and future-ready.

I wish you all a productive and impactful Summit.

Thank you.

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