

# International Engagements

In 2025, amid shifts in geopolitics, trade dynamics and global financial conditions, we stepped up our international collaboration. By working more closely with our partners, we built shared understanding, advanced solutions and strengthened resilience to help the country navigate an increasingly complex global environment.

## Enhancing Partnerships amid Geopolitical Shifts

2025 was a significant year for Malaysia and BNM as Malaysia assumed the ASEAN and ASEAN+3 Chairmanship. BNM continued to engage actively in international discussions on issues affecting Malaysia and the global economy.

As ASEAN Chair, BNM together with the Ministry of Finance, led key meetings and initiatives under the ASEAN Finance Track. These focused mainly on strengthening regional financial integration and stability. Meanwhile, under the ASEAN+3 Finance Process, Malaysia worked alongside China as co-chairs to strengthen financial safety nets. Key milestones achieved during the ASEAN and ASEAN+3 Chairmanship are elaborated in the feature article 'Malaysia's 2025 ASEAN/ASEAN+3 Chairmanship: Advancing Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth for ASEAN and Malaysia'.<sup>1</sup>

Through the Executives' Meeting of East Asia-Pacific Central Banks (EMEAP), BNM worked closely with members to identify key policy challenges and policy responses over the medium term. These included areas such as the implications of digitalisation and artificial

intelligence, as well as climate-related risks. We also discussed initiatives to further enhance the effectiveness of EMEAP.



Governor Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour at the Governor Talks session 'The Future Ahead: Malaysia and ASEAN in a Changing Landscape' during the International Monetary Fund (IMF)-World Bank Group (WBG) Spring Meetings on 23 April 2025 in Washington, D.C.

Source: IMF Photo/Alyssa Schukar



Governor Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour with Malaysia's Minister of Finance II, Yang Berhormat Senator Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan at the IMF-ASEAN Roundtable during the IMF-WBG Spring Meetings

Source: IMF Photo

<sup>1</sup> The Finance Track advances regional financial integration across areas, including payments, local currency use, capital markets, sustainability, taxation and treasury functions.



Governor Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour and his counterparts at the 30th EMEAP Governors' Meeting and 14th Informal Meeting of EMEAP Governors and Heads of Supervisory Authorities on 20-22 July 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand

We participated actively in key international standard-setting and policy platforms, including the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS), Financial Stability Board (FSB), International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) and the Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB) – amplifying Malaysia's voice in shaping global regulatory developments. These platforms enable us to align our policies with evolving international standards. Additionally, these platforms support collective efforts that strengthen the resilience and competitiveness of our financial system.

In parallel, we continued to strengthen bilateral engagements with peers and partners. These bilateral engagements are integral for several reasons. First, they enable us to exchange views on challenges and emerging policy issues in the wider economy and financial sector. Secondly, they create opportunities to explore solutions to enhance financial and economic resilience. Lastly, these engagements deepen our relationships with key stakeholders – making Malaysia a credible, trusted and well-connected partner in the global financial community.



Governor Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour with IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva during a bilateral meeting on 27 October 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



BNM senior management with their counterparts of the Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas during a bilateral meeting on 5 December 2025 in Langkawi, Malaysia

## Driving Connectivity, Resiliency and Inclusivity Across Borders

In the area of connectivity, BNM worked closely with regional and global partners to transform cross-border payments, helping make seamless transactions a reality.<sup>2</sup>

BNM is actively involved in Project Nexus – a multilateral initiative to build a scalable and interoperable infrastructure for seamless cross-border payments. The project aims to make cross-border payments as seamless and efficient as domestic ones. Progress is well underway, with the system expected to go live in 2027.

We are an active contributor to the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI), a network we have been part of since 2009 and has hosted its headquarters in Kuala Lumpur since 2015. BNM chairs AFI's Global Standards and Policy Committee and contribute knowledge, experience, and policy insights across multiple working groups. These include leading policy discussions across areas such as open finance, MSME digitalisation, financial capability, and national strategy development. We also actively facilitate knowledge exchange on a wider range of financial inclusion topics, including hosting in-person study visits by member countries. In 2025, BNM received AFI's inaugural Honorary Recognition Award. The award recognises our long-standing leadership and support for AFI's institutional development.

BNM also worked closely with the World Bank Group, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and

<sup>2</sup> Further details on these initiatives can be found in the chapter 'Promoting Safe and Efficient Payment and Remittance Services' and the feature article 'Malaysia's 2025 ASEAN/ASEAN+3 Chairmanship: Advancing Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth for ASEAN and Malaysia' in BNM's Annual Report 2025.

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the ASEAN Working Committee on Financial Inclusion (WC-FINC) to deepen evidence-based policymaking in financial inclusion. These collaborations provided access to shared knowledge, best practices and emerging international standards. Together, they help build BNM's institutional capacity and ensure Malaysia stays aligned with regional and global developments.



Assistant Governor Suhaimi Ali at the AFI Global Policy Forum on 2-5 September 2025 in Swakopmund, Namibia

## Continued Commitment to Prevent Financial Crimes

At BNM, we are committed to supporting global efforts to protect the integrity of the financial system.<sup>3</sup> We are an active member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG). We do so by helping to shape global standards to combat financial crimes – contributing to updates to FATF standards, reports on proliferation financing and sanctions evasion, and guidance on financial inclusion and de-risking.

In preparing Malaysia for the FATF's Mutual Evaluation Exercise,<sup>4</sup> we actively engaged with key stakeholders, including relevant domestic agencies, several FATF member countries, as well as the FATF and APG Secretariat. These engagements were essential to ensure our readiness for the evaluations. As part of our FATF obligation, we also contributed to peer evaluations of other member countries' measures, helping to strengthen global implementation of anti-money laundering, countering financing of terrorism and countering proliferation financing (AML/CFT/

CPF) standards. These evaluations reinforce our commitment to a safer, more transparent financial system, and safeguard the integrity of the global financial ecosystem.

## Elevating Malaysia's Global Leadership in Islamic Finance

Malaysia continued to hold a leading position in Islamic finance. The country shapes global standards and drives thought leadership that enhance the resilience, integrity and international credibility of the Islamic finance ecosystem.

As Chair of the Executive Committee of IFSB, BNM led efforts to further strengthen IFSB's institutional foundation. The Executive Committee is a key component of the IFSB governance structure that provides advisory to the IFSB Council on strategic matters. The Committee also makes decisions on operational matters. At the standard-setting and technical level, we play an active role in developing prudential standards, providing technical assistance and capacity-building to other jurisdictions, and reinforcing sound governance and institutional effectiveness of IFSB.

We played our role as a member of the International Islamic Liquidity Management Corporation (IILM) by providing strategic advice and support to strengthen its governance framework and internal controls. Our support



Governor Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour chairing the 14th IFSB Executive Committee Meeting on 17 November 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

<sup>3</sup> Further details on BNM's efforts in 2025 can be found in the chapter 'Maintaining Financial Integrity' in BNM's Annual Report 2025.

<sup>4</sup> The Mutual Evaluation (ME) is a peer review assessment which analyses a country's level of compliance with international standards and the level of effectiveness of its AML/CFT/CPF system. Further details on the ME of Malaysia can be found here: (<https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/Mutualevaluations/mer-malaysia-2025.html>).

includes steering best-practice frameworks, guiding decision-making and facilitating the IILM's business transformation phase. This helped IILM become among the top three Sukuk issuers globally in 2025, contributing to enhanced global Islamic liquidity for Islamic banks and financial institutions.

## Advancing Sustainable Finance through Collaboration

BNM continued to contribute to regional and global efforts in advancing a more climate-resilient financial system.<sup>5</sup> We actively participate and contribute to key international bodies such as the ASEAN Taxonomy Board (ATB) and the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS).

As a member of the ATB, BNM contributed to the development of the ASEAN Taxonomy Version 4 (Taxonomy). In 2025, we led the work on developing the Technical Screening Criteria (TSC) for the manufacturing sector. Additionally, we were also involved in developing the TSC for the remaining sectors<sup>6</sup> under the Plus Standard. The updated Taxonomy offers comprehensive guidance on identifying and classifying sustainable projects and economic activities in the region. The goal is to help investors and companies make informed investment decisions on environmentally sustainable investments.

At the side event of the Ethical Global Finance Summit 2025 in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, in collaboration with Sustainable Development Goals Hive-Ethical Finance Global, we showcased how integrating Islamic finance principles with sustainability can deliver tangible development outcomes. By sharing our approach with the global audience, we positioned Islamic finance as a practical solution supporting long-term global sustainability priorities. The strong interest from international audiences and investors signals growing momentum to collaborate with Malaysian stakeholders. This paves the way for

new partnerships, deeper knowledge exchange and greater investment opportunities that drive responsible growth and real-world impact.

## Expanding Trade and Investment Potential

As the lead negotiator for financial services, BNM continued to work to improve market access and negotiating strategic provisions to position Malaysia's financial sector as a competitive global player – driving investment, fostering innovation, and fuelling sustainable economic growth.

In 2025, we played a role in the conclusion of two major trade agreements. First, the Malaysia–European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Economic Partnership Agreement (MEEPA) – Malaysia's first trade pact with several European countries.<sup>7</sup> Our involvement secured new markets for Malaysian financial institutions to provide services in EFTA countries, including for cross-border insurance. The second agreement is the Malaysia–Korea Free Trade Agreement (MKFTA). It strengthens collaboration with Korea as a key economic partner in the region. It also creates potential for Malaysian businesses to explore future economic opportunities in strategic areas such as digital economy and green economy.

These achievements set the stage for deeper integration and future opportunities. They also ensure our financial sector remains agile and competitive, making Malaysia an attractive trade and investment destination.

## Going Forward

As global dynamics continue to shift, our international engagements remain anchored in a clear purpose. In 2025, we continued to safeguard stability while unlocking new opportunities for the nation and the region. Nevertheless, each partnership is part of a larger story. It is one of resilience, collaboration and shared progress. Moving forward, BNM will continue to be proactive and work closely with our partners. This would further enable us to ensure the financial system remains robust, responsive and future-ready.

<sup>5</sup> Further details on BNM's efforts can be found in the chapter 'Towards a Greener Financial System' in BNM's Annual Report 2025.

<sup>6</sup> The remaining sectors are (i) Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; and (ii) Water Supply, Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities. The updated Taxonomy also includes inclusion of enabling sectors (i) Information & Communication; and (ii) Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities.

<sup>7</sup> Members of EFTA are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

# Malaysia's 2025 ASEAN/ASEAN+3 Chairmanship: Advancing Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth for ASEAN and Malaysia

ASEAN and ASEAN+3 serve as key regional platforms for cooperation, enabling countries to work together to foster shared economic prosperity and enhance collective resilience against external shocks. For Malaysia and for Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), these platforms are important in strengthening economic and financial ties with our regional partners.

ASEAN Chairmanship rotates annually among the 11 ASEAN Member States (AMS). As Chair, a country sets the region's priorities for the year – setting the agenda, convening and chairing ASEAN meetings, and driving cooperation initiatives across the ASEAN tracks and pillars.

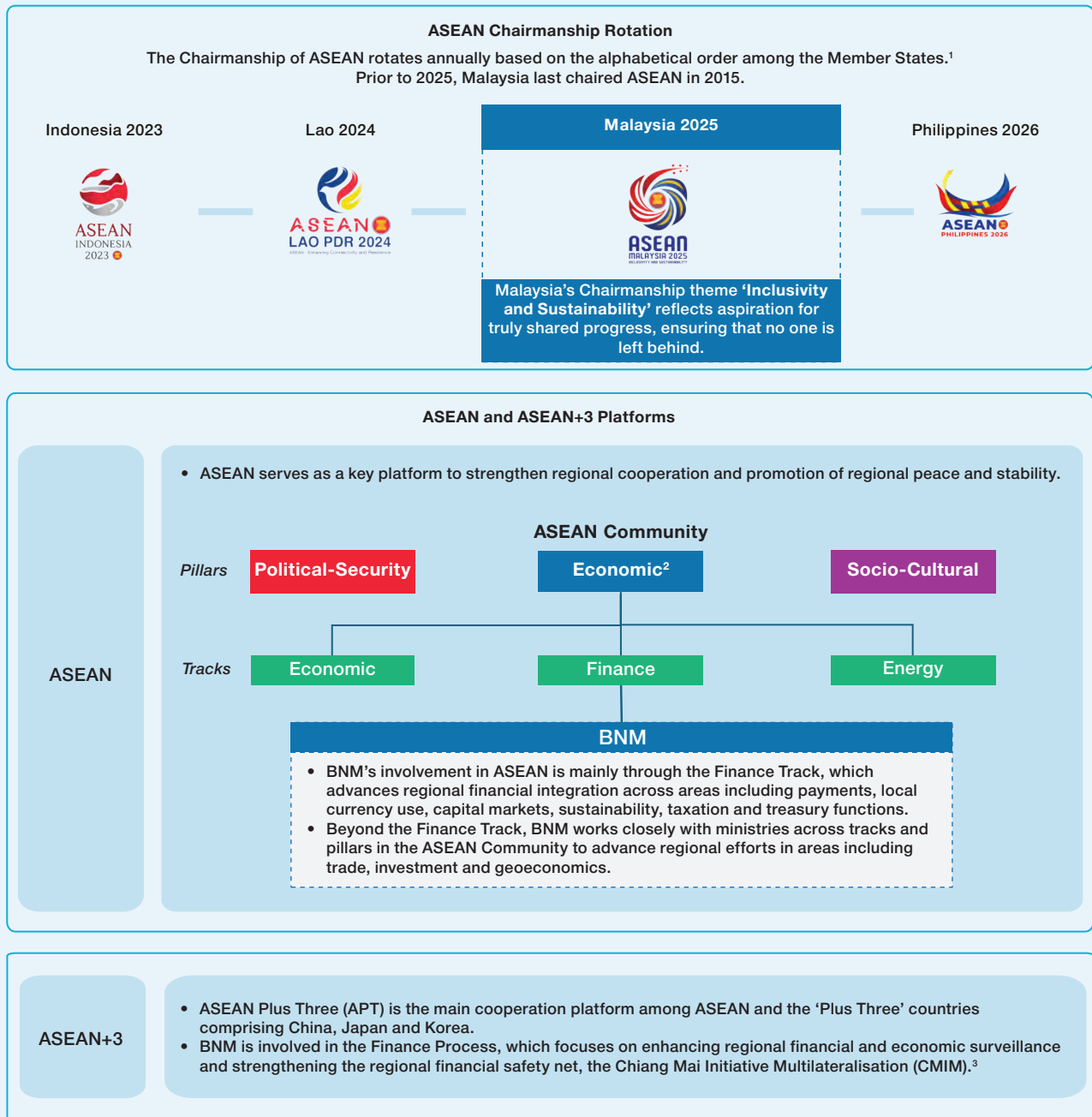
Malaysia's ASEAN and ASEAN+3 Chairmanship (Diagram 1) coincided with a period of heightened global fragmentation. In an environment marked by rising trade tensions and geopolitical uncertainty, the task of reinforcing regional economic and financial integration, trade facilitation, and investment cooperation becomes important. Against this backdrop, BNM worked closely with the Ministry of Finance to advance practical initiatives under the ASEAN Finance Track.<sup>1</sup> Our aim was to bring tangible benefits to households and businesses in Malaysia and across the region.

For its ASEAN Chairmanship, Malaysia chose the theme 'Inclusivity and Sustainability'. This theme reflects the country's commitment to narrow development gaps, improve living standards and mitigate climate-related risks in an increasingly fragmented and uncertain global environment. Drawing from this theme, BNM's efforts focused on advancing sustainable finance, strengthening payment connectivity across ASEAN, and enhancing the regional financial safety net. Additionally, Malaysia's Chairmanship sought to strengthen the ASEAN platform by fostering deeper policy dialogues aimed at driving tangible, impactful outcomes for the region.

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<sup>1</sup> The ASEAN Finance Track actively pursues cooperation in various areas covering efforts to enhance financial integration and resilience, further develop capital markets, and advance cooperation in taxation and treasury functions.

Diagram 1: ASEAN Chairmanship and BNM’s Involvement



<sup>1</sup> At the ASEAN Summit in 2023, Leaders decided that Myanmar will not be taking over the rotating Chairmanship as scheduled in 2026.

<sup>2</sup> The Economic Community consists of various tracks including Finance; Economic; Energy, Agriculture and Forestry; Transport; Tourism and others.

<sup>3</sup> The CMIM is a liquidity support facility in the form of a multilateral currency swap arrangement, in which ASEAN+3 members commit to financially support each other during a balance of payment and/or short-term liquidity difficulties.

Source: Bank Negara Malaysia

## ASEAN and ASEAN+3 Key Deliverables

We applied three core principles to guide our deliverables – (i) prioritising *rakyat* centric outcomes; (ii) advancing Malaysia’s thought leadership; and (iii) delivering practical solutions with measurable impact. With these principles in mind, our Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs)<sup>2</sup> focused on initiatives to promote sustainable and inclusive regional growth (Diagram 2). These efforts are critical in strengthening regional resilience and enhancing the region’s capacity to better withstand future shocks. These initiatives form part of the national PEDs and the annual work plans of the ASEAN Finance Track Working Committees.

<sup>2</sup> PEDs are initiatives of the ASEAN Chair that aim to yield impactful outcomes and contribute to ASEAN’s economic integration agenda. The PEDs are to be implemented and fully completed during the Chairmanship year.

ASEAN’s growth priorities include increased demand for cleaner, more reliable and resilient energy supply. This requires ASEAN to upgrade its grid infrastructure and invest in renewable energy. In this regard, we focused efforts on developing avenues to finance the ASEAN Power Grid (APG).<sup>3</sup> Given the scale and the early stage of the projects involved, we gathered the public, private and philanthropic capital funders to discuss funding solutions for the APG. Following its launch, the ASEAN Power Grid Financing Initiative (APGF)<sup>4</sup> serves as a catalytic platform offering early-stage, non-debt funding to help APG projects take off. This helps de-risk investments and strengthen the financial viability of the APG projects in their initial stage, paving the way for greater private-sector participation as the projects mature.

BNM also took its domestic experience to the regional scene. Along with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), we launched the ASEAN Greening Value Chain (GVC) Playbook.<sup>5</sup> The Playbook provides practical guidance for firms in the region to remain competitive as global markets transition towards low carbon standards. This also supports access to new markets and financing opportunities and creates more resilient jobs for the future. Two AMS have since initiated the GVC programme with the release of the Playbook, with two more expressing interest.

In the payments area, BNM worked on inclusive payment connectivity across ASEAN. This aims to make cross-border transactions simpler, faster and affordable. With increased regional payment linkages, individuals, micro-entrepreneurs and businesses are now able to send and receive money across borders with greater ease and at a lower cost. This, in turn, supports trade, tourism, remittances and everyday transactions. By end-2025, ASEAN has formed 29 bilateral payment connectivity arrangements, from 18 in January 2025.

Diagram 2: BNM’s ASEAN Finance Track PEDs



<sup>1</sup> This includes the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Bank Pembangunan Malaysia Berhad (BPMB), CIMB Islamic, HSBC Amanah, HSBC Bank Singapore, Islamic Development Bank, Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Khazanah Nasional Berhad, Kumpulan Wang Persaraan (KWAP), Mizuho Bank (Malaysia) Berhad, MUFG Singapore, Standard Chartered Singapore, The Rockefeller Foundation and Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG).

<sup>2</sup> For more information on cross-border payment linkages, please refer to chapter on ‘Promoting Safe and Efficient Payment and Remittance Services’.

Source: Bank Negara Malaysia

<sup>3</sup> The ASEAN Power Grid (APG) is the shared vision of ASEAN Member States (AMS) for a fully integrated grid operations in Southeast Asia by 2045. The APG holds great promise for promoting regional economic integration and growth, enhancing energy security and accelerating clean energy transition.

<sup>4</sup> Led by ADB and World Bank in cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE).

<sup>5</sup> The playbook draws insights from Malaysia’s Greening Value Chain (GVC) pilot programme by the Joint Committee on Climate Change (JC3).

Beyond the PEDs, through ASEAN Working Committees, we worked to strengthen regional financial stability and make cross-border payments work better for people and businesses. By spearheading the Model Operating Guidelines for the Local Currency Transaction Framework, BNM helped expand the use of local currencies in regional trade. This helps to reduce foreign-exchange costs and volatility for businesses, particularly SMEs.

BNM also led the review of the ASEAN Banking Integration Framework (ABIF) Guidelines, providing clearer and more consistent regulatory rules for ASEAN banks operating across borders. This supports a more competitive banking environment, improving access to financing for businesses and households across the region.

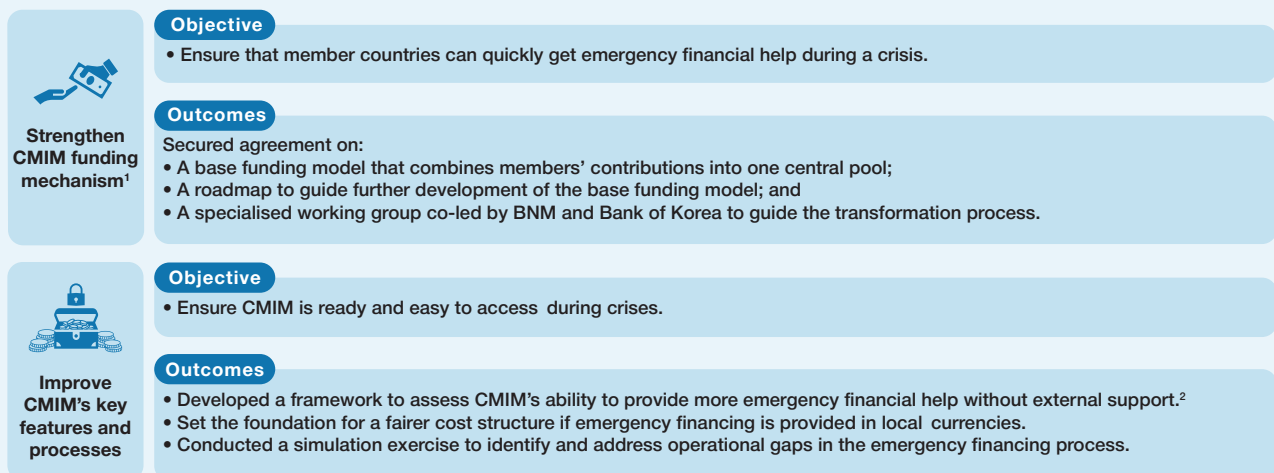
To strengthen crisis preparedness, BNM played a central role in efforts to re-establish the ASEAN Swap Arrangement (ASA). The ASA provides short-term foreign-exchange liquidity support to member countries facing balance-of-payments pressures. This regional safety net helps reduce the risk of sudden financial disruptions that could spill over to jobs, incomes and everyday economic activity.

In facing the rising digital risks, we continued our regional collaboration through the ASEAN Cyber Security Resilience and Information Sharing Platform (CRISP). By promoting the sharing of cyberthreat intelligence and technical expertise, these efforts helped protect payment systems and financial services that people and businesses rely on daily. In turn, aside from strengthening trust, this also promotes resilience in the region's financial system.

As co-chairs, alongside the People's Bank of China, BNM led the efforts to enhance the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM), the region's safety net, which has a total size of USD240 billion. A major milestone in 2025 was the formation of the Rapid Financing Facility. This mechanism provides ASEAN+3 member countries with quick access to emergency funds in the event of sudden financial pressures arising from extreme events such as natural disasters.

BNM also worked closely with our counterparts to upgrade the CMIM's funding mechanism into a paid-in capital structure. This means countries contribute funds upfront, making the CMIM more readily usable. This is intended to speed up the release of support and access to the funds during crises. Specifically, we made progress through the adoption of a centralised base funding model for the paid-in capital structure. This was also supported by a clear implementation roadmap. In parallel, work to strengthen CMIM's operational framework also progressed. This aims to improve accessibility, cost efficiency and response time to crisis. Together, these efforts ensure that ASEAN+3 including Malaysia has the tools and resources to cushion the impact of global economic shocks.

### Diagram 3: BNM's ASEAN+3 Deliverables



<sup>1</sup> This refers to CMIM's transition from a structure where members individually commit to providing funds only when requested, to a more predictable and transparent funding structure where funds are centralised into the liquidity facility before any requests.

<sup>2</sup> A portion of CMIM resources can only be accessed through a joint funding arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which adds additional procedures that may delay emergency funding disbursement.

Source: Bank Negara Malaysia

## Strengthening ASEAN Collective Voice

BNM worked with AMS and strategic partners, including financial institutions, businesses and international organisations, to address shared challenges and priorities. This included aligning views and coordinating actions on issues such as US tariffs, fraud and scams, improving cross-border payments, promoting sustainable finance and digital innovation.

As the region faces heightened geopolitical uncertainty, regional challenges and growing geoeconomic fragmentation, such efforts helped ASEAN converge on clearer and coordinated regional positions and action plans at a defining moment.

As part of these efforts, BNM supported the initiation of an independent study on structural barriers to intra-ASEAN trade. This led to ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office's (AMRO) in-depth analysis on intra-regional trade and investment. The study comes at a pivotal moment, offering strategic recommendations to unlock further growth potential for Malaysia and ASEAN. We also recommended for the IMF to provide perspectives on shifting trade patterns and its implications for regional integration.<sup>6</sup>



Prime Minister of Malaysia, Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim with Finance Minister II Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan, Governor Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour and other ASEAN Finance Ministers and Governors at the ASEAN Finance Ministers and Governors Meeting (AFMGM) on 10 April 2025, in Kuala Lumpur



Finance Minister II Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan and Governor Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour alongside China co-chairs, Finance Minister Lan Fo'an and Governor Pan Gongsheng of the People's Bank of China, at the ASEAN+3 Finance Ministers and Governors Meeting (AFMGM+3) Press Conference on 4 May 2025, in Milan



Deputy Governor Marzunisham Omar co-chairing the ASEAN Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting (AFCDM) on 7 April 2025, in Kuala Lumpur



Deputy Governor Marzunisham Omar and other ASEAN representatives at the ASEAN Senior Level Committee on Financial Integration Meeting (SLC) on 13 March 2025, in Kota Kinabalu

<sup>6</sup> IMF presented its study on ASEAN Integration in a Shifting Global Landscape during the IMF-ASEAN Roundtable in October 2025.

## Enhancing Outreach Through ASEAN Finance Track Side Events and Exhibitions

Aside from policy engagements, BNM organised side events to raise awareness of Malaysia's Chairmanship initiatives and deepen stakeholder engagement. These events brought together policymakers, industry participants and international partners to engage in dialogues and collaborate across areas such as sustainable finance, financial well-being, local currency transactions and regional integration.

A key event was the Malaysia Open House Exhibition, jointly organised by BNM and the Ministry of Finance. The exhibition attracted a diverse range of visitors, from financial institutions to ASEAN SMEs, and showcased practical financial innovations with real world applications. One of the highlights was a live demonstration of cross-border QR payments, now available in several ASEAN countries. These solutions enable merchants and consumers to make instant mobile payments across borders without complex processes or high fees. For small businesses, travellers and everyday users, these make cross-border payments as seamless as domestic transactions.

**Diagram 4: Side Events Organised by BNM on the Sidelines of the ASEAN Finance Track Meeting**



Pitching Session on ASEAN Green Projects



Pantas Climate Solutions showcasing its green project to investors and attendees at the ASEAN Pitch for Planet

Summary

- Showcased six Malaysian-based and four ASEAN-based climate and sustainability-focused projects.
- Facilitated meaningful engagements among investors and project owners to mobilise funding.

Outcomes

- Connected project owners with interested investors to explore further collaboration opportunities.

Panel Session on Catalysing Trade and Investment



Assistant Governor Mohamad Ali Iqbal Abdul Khalid with the speakers of the panel session on Advancing ASEAN Financial Integration: Catalysing Trade and Investment

Summary

- Gathered more than 400 participants to discuss the role of local currency transactions and call for greater adoption and collaboration.

Outcomes

- Strengthened visibility of the Local Currency Transaction Framework and generated interest from other ASEAN member states and private sector to explore its adoption.
- Kickstarted similar panel discussions in other ASEAN member states.

Local Currency Initiatives in ASEAN Exhibition



Governor Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour with the Governor of the National Bank of Cambodia, H.E. Dr. Chea Serey visiting the Local Currency Initiatives Exhibition at the sidelines of the AFMGM

Summary

- Six Appointed Cross-Currency Dealers (ACCDs) representing Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia participated in showcasing local currency initiatives across the ASEAN region.

Outcomes

- Enhanced visibility of the Local Currency Transaction Framework (LCTF), generating interest from both ASEAN Member States and private-sector participants to explore its adoption.
- Stimulated interest from additional parties seeking to participate in the LCTF, helping to further expand its reach and potential market impact.

Source: Bank Negara Malaysia

## Promoting Cross-Pillar Collaboration

Beyond the Finance Track, we also worked closely with ministries<sup>7</sup> across other tracks and pillars in the ASEAN Community. Specifically, BNM facilitated the formation of a Ministerial Interface platform across the Energy, Economic and Finance Tracks. This platform provides a coordinated approach to mobilising investments for the APG, strengthening alignment across policy areas.

In parallel, through the ASEAN Goeconomics Task Force (AGTF),<sup>8</sup> BNM helped to identify key policies for ASEAN to respond to rising geopolitical uncertainties. BNM further supported AGTF's efforts to promote cross-pillar collaboration on goeconomic issues. This led to the first ASEAN Joint Foreign and Economic Ministers' (AMM–AEM) Meeting, which bridged the gap between the ASEAN's Political-Security and Economic pillars. The engagement reflected the growing intersection of security and economic issues, alongside the need for a more coherent and coordinated regional response.



Assistant Governor Fraziali Ismail with Former Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry Yang Mulia Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz, Former Deputy Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry Yang Berhormat Liew Chin Tong, and other AGTF members at the Fifth Meeting of the AGTF on 22 September 2025, in Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's Chairmanship initiatives at both the ASEAN and ASEAN+3 strengthened ties with member countries, regional bodies and strategic partners. By aligning regional positions and acting together, ASEAN elevates its capacity to tackle economic shocks, trade disruptions and emerging global risks. These outcomes bolstered collective resilience and delivered tangible benefits for Malaysia, supporting jobs, keeping trade and payments smooth, and safeguarding incomes and livelihoods amid global uncertainty.

<sup>7</sup> This includes the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

<sup>8</sup> The AGTF is an ad-hoc, specialised, high-level advisory body under the Economic Track – set up in early 2025 to provide coordinated, strategic, and region wide analysis and actionable policy recommendations to support ASEAN Sectoral Bodies in addressing the current geopolitical and goeconomic challenges. The AGTF published the first goeconomics report in November 2025.