



## **YB SENATOR TENGKU DATUK SERI UTAMA ZAFRUL TENGKU ABDUL AZIZ**

### **MINISTER OF INVESTMENT, TRADE, AND INDUSTRY MALAYSIA (MITI)**

It is an immense honour to address you today at DronTech Asia 2025, an event poised to highlight Malaysia's capabilities and opportunities in the ever-evolving drone industry. This premier exhibition and conference will undoubtedly serve as a vital platform to foster innovation, strengthen collaborations, and position Malaysia as a regional leader in drone technology.

In September 2023, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim launched the New Industrial Master Plan 2030 (NIMP 2030) which features four core missions, namely, to advance economic complexity and thus increase value-adding, to tech-up, to expand green transition towards net-zero, and to safeguard economic security and inclusivity. Under the sectoral plan, NIMP 2030 envisaged Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) as one of the crucial technologies to be developed in aeronautics and astronautics to achieve regional market leadership; guided by the Malaysia Aerospace Industry Blueprint 2030 (MAIB 2030) and Malaysia Drone Technology Action Plan 2022-2030 (MDTAP30).

The global drone industry is growing at an unprecedented pace, transforming sectors ranging from agriculture and logistics to infrastructure, aerospace, and defence. Malaysia, as a nation with robust infrastructure, a thriving semiconductor ecosystem, and an exceptionally skilled workforce, stands at the forefront of this transformation within ASEAN.

Malaysia has been ranked as the top Southeast Asian country in the Drone Readiness Index (DRI) 2023, reaching the 21st spot, up from the 30th position in the 2022 index. As of today, the leadership of Malaysia's drone industry has been recognized in Southeast Asia, highlighting its immense potential to emerge as a key player in the global drone market, which is projected to reach USD 127 billion by 2025. In the same year, the revenue in Malaysia's drone market is expected to reach USD 10.7 million, driven by growing demand for aerial photography, surveillance, and other applications.



In November 2024, Malaysia was reaffirmed as a key entry point for expanding collaboration on unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) within ASEAN. This recognition underscores our nation's advanced infrastructure, reliable semiconductor supply chain, and highly skilled workforce—key strengths that position Malaysia as a preferred destination for global and regional stakeholders seeking to tap into the dynamic ASEAN market. As we work to strengthen our semiconductor capabilities, we are not only enhancing the performance of our drones, but also ensuring that Malaysia remains competitive globally.

DronTech Asia 2025 presents an extraordinary opportunity to capitalise on these strengths by serving as a bridge that connects local businesses with ASEAN and global industry players. It is through platforms like this that we can attract global drone manufacturers, innovators, and investors to explore the wealth of possibilities Malaysia has to offer.

Nonetheless, even as we advance in drone technology, sustainability should always be at the forefront of our innovations. We must strive to develop drones that are not only efficient but also environmentally friendly. This include exploring renewable energy sources for drone operations and ensuring that our technologies do not infringe on privacy or public safety. Let us commit to responsible innovation that benefits society as a whole.

I am confident that DronTech Asia 2025 will pave the way for groundbreaking partnerships and initiatives that will shape the future of the drone industry in Malaysia and ASEAN. Let us work together to ensure the success of this remarkable event and to strengthen Malaysia's role as a leader in technology, innovation, and collaboration.

I look forward to seeing the extraordinary outcomes from DronTech Asia 2025, enabling us to soar to greater heights together.

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