

FOR MEMBERS ONLY  
**APRIL to JUNE 2025**

# **PROFESSIONAL** **BULLETIN**



MEDIC  
CARE



MEDICAL

HEALTH





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Dear Readers,

It gives me great pleasure to present the April–June 2025 edition of BIM's e-Bulletin, themed Medical and Healthcare. In this issue, we spotlight notable initiatives by our members from the medical and healthcare cluster.

Among the highlights is the launch of the Primary Eye Care Service Guidelines by the Association of Malaysian Optometrists (AMO), held at the Academy of Medicine Malaysia, Putrajaya. Supported by the Ministry of Health and the Malaysian Optical Council (MOC), this milestone marks an important advancement in Malaysia's eye care sector. We also share updates on the forthcoming Optometry Bill, which will be tabled in Parliament in October 2025 as a stand-alone Act to govern the practice, training, registration, and scope of duties for optometrists—distinct from opticians.

Another key development featured is the joint memorandum submitted by the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) to Prime Minister YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim on 6 May 2025. The memorandum calls on the government to remove medical clinics from the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011 (Act 723) once the medicine price display policy transitions to the Private Healthcare Facilities & Services Act 1998 (Act 586).

We are also delighted to congratulate our member institutions for their recent achievements. PRIM and RISM successfully hosted their annual dinners, strengthening professional ties within their respective fields. Meanwhile, ILAM proudly celebrated the Malaysia Landscape Architecture Awards (MLAA), honouring outstanding contributions in landscape architecture and recognising innovative projects and visionary leaders who continue to shape Malaysia's built environment.

This edition further places a strong emphasis on women's contributions to national growth. BIM is proud to have collaborated with HAWA Malaysia for the prestigious FEMForward 2025: International Women's Forum & Awards, held on 7 May 2025 at M World Hotel, Petaling Jaya. Equally inspiring was the inaugural Women in Export (WiEX) 2025 Forum, a landmark initiative to empower Malaysian women entrepreneurs in the global trade arena.

We hope you will enjoy this edition and be inspired by the significant strides made in advancing healthcare, strengthening professional excellence, and celebrating women's leadership in Malaysia.

Warm regards,

# PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

BIM President 2023/25  
**Prof. ChM Dr. Juan Joon Ching**



It is with great honour and privilege that I, as President of Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia (BIM), present this edition of our e-Bulletin themed Medical and Healthcare. This edition carries significant meaning, as it brings together the voices, expertise, and aspirations of our professional healthcare cluster namely the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA), Malaysian Pharmacists Society (MPS), Malaysian Veterinary Medical Association (MAVMA), Malaysian Dental Association (MDA), and Association of Malaysian Optometrists (AMO). Collectively, these professional associations form the backbone of Malaysia's healthcare ecosystem, reflecting BIM's commitment to advancing professional excellence and contributing towards national well-being.

Healthcare, in its broadest sense, encompasses far more than the treatment of illness. It represents an integrated framework of prevention, care, innovation, and education. From the dedicated service of medical doctors to the expertise and guidance of pharmacists, the vital role of veterinarians in safeguarding animal health, and the invaluable contributions of dentists and optometrists in enhancing quality of life, Malaysia's healthcare is strengthened by the collective synergy of these diverse professions. Each of these professional bodies stands as a guardian of public trust, ensuring that high standards of practice are consistently upheld. This edition of the e-Bulletin provides us with a timely opportunity to reflect on the achievements in the healthcare sector. Globally, the lessons of recent years have reminded us that healthcare is not only a national concern but also a global responsibility. Within this context, BIM serves as a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue that brings together not only the healthcare professions but also other professional sectors that influence and support health outcomes.

On 7 August 2025, BIM had the honour of paying a courtesy visit to the Minister of Health, YB Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad. This meeting reaffirmed BIM's role as a strategic partner to government agencies, with shared goals of strengthening Malaysia's healthcare system, addressing the challenges of accessibility and equity, and preparing our nation for the future demands of public health. The engagement with the Honourable Minister also underscored the importance of professional input in shaping national policies and strategies, ensuring that decisions are informed by the best expertise available.

As President, I am deeply encouraged by the dedication and professionalism demonstrated by our healthcare professional associations. Their work not only upholds the standards of their respective fields but also contributes to Malaysia's vision of a healthier, more sustainable, and more inclusive society. This edition of the e-Bulletin seeks to highlight these contributions, showcase best practices, and inspire continued excellence among our members and the wider professional community. I extend my sincere appreciation to the editorial team especially Datin TPr Hjh Noraida Saludin (Editor in Chief) and contributors for their efforts in producing this bulletin. Together, let us continue to champion innovation, professionalism, and compassion in the service of society.

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## BIM CORPORATE NETWORKING DINNER

6<sup>th</sup> May 2025

The BIM Corporate Networking Dinner was held on 6 May 2025 at Wyndham Grand Bangsar, with approximately 60 participants in attendance. This inaugural event, organised by Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia, aimed to foster engagement between BIM, its member organisations, and potential strategic partners. Given the positive response, it has been proposed that the dinner be held annually to strengthen relationships and enhance strategic collaboration within the professional community.





## BIM CORPORATE NETWORKING DINNER

6<sup>th</sup> May 2025



## FEMFORWARD 2025: International Women's Forum and Awards

7 May 2025

**Organizers:** WiLAT Malaysia (Women in Logistics and Transport), CILT Malaysia

**Supported by:** HAWA Malaysia, WITI (MITI), BIM, SAMENTA, Synergy Connect Holdings



On **7 May 2025**, the prestigious **FEMForward 2025: International Women's Forum & Awards** took place at **M World Hotel, Bandar Utama, Petaling Jaya**. The event brought together over **300 influential attendees** from across Malaysia and the region, including leaders from industry, academia, government, and civil society.

The event was **officiated by Tan Sri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil**, Chairperson of HAWA Malaysia and Head of the WITI Consultative Committee under MITI.

In her inspiring keynote address, she emphasized the importance of:

- i. Strengthening policy support for gender inclusion
- ii. Advancing inclusive economic strategies
- iii. Building robust public-private partnerships to elevate women's participation in national growth

### Celebrating Women in Leadership

A key highlight of FEMForward 2025 was the **presentation of 25 sectoral awards**, honoring women who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and innovation across a wide range of industries, including:

- i. **Aviation & Aerospace**
- ii. **Maritime & Logistics**
- iii. **Engineering & Technology**
- iv. **Urban Planning**
- v. **Finance & Fintech**
- vi. **Education & Research**
- vii. **Healthcare & Community Development**



## FEMFORWARD 2025: International Women's Forum and Awards

7 May 2025

**Organizers:** WiLAT Malaysia (Women in Logistics and Transport), CILT Malaysia

**Supported by:** HAWA Malaysia, WITI (MITI), BIM, SAMENTA, Synergy Connect Holdings

Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia (BIM) extended heartfelt congratulations to:

- i. Datin TPr HjH Noraida Saludin (MIP)
- ii. Assoc. Prof. Ts Dr. Jessica Ong Hai Liaw (CILTM)

Both recipients were recognized for their outstanding achievements and lasting contributions in their respective fields of **urban planning** and **logistics and transport**. Their recognition reflects the growing impact of professional women across strategic sectors, paving the way for future generations of female leaders.

FEMForward 2025 reaffirmed the urgent need to **accelerate collective action** for gender equity, professional recognition, and sustainable progress. The event served as a powerful reminder that when women lead, communities thrive.



## BIM-AIAC ADR SUMMIT 2025: EMPOWERING PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE IN A TECHNOLOGICAL AGE

14 MAY 2025



From left : Associate Professor LAr Dr Nor Atiah Ismail, Professor LOG Ts Is Dr Othman Ibrahim, Professor ChM Dr Juan Joon Ching, Datuk Almalena Sharmila Johan, Tan Hui Wen, Heather Yee Jing Wah and Dr. Wilmot Sasindran Dass.

**KUALA LUMPUR, May 19 (Bernama)** – Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia (BIM) and the Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC) are proud to co-host the second edition of their landmark summit, *Empowering Professional Excellence: Building a National Professional Ecosystem and Advancing Ethical AI and ADR Practices*, held on 14 May 2025 at Bangunan Sulaiman, Kuala Lumpur.

This full-day summit brings together thought leaders, policy-makers, and professionals from diverse disciplines to address critical issues at the intersection of professional integrity, alternative dispute resolution (ADR), and the ethical integration of artificial intelligence (AI). The collaboration builds on the success of last year's inaugural ADR-focused summit and continues to serve as a flagship platform for shaping Malaysia's professional and ethical landscape.

AIAC CEO, Datuk Almalena Sharmila Johan, and BIM President, Prof. ChM. Dr. Juan Joon Ching, opened the event, emphasizing the importance of collaboration across professions in achieving national resilience, innovation, and ethical advancement.

The Welcoming Remarks delivered by Datuk Almalena Sharmila Johan, Chief Executive Officer of the AIAC, encapsulated the innovative spirit we must all embody as the professional landscape continues to evolve. She noted that the AIAC views these rising technological shifts as "opportunities to integrate smart technologies into ADR mechanisms, improve access to justice, and create agile, user-centric dispute resolution processes."



## BIM-AIAC ADR SUMMIT 2025: EMPOWERING PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE IN A TECHNOLOGICAL AGE

14 MAY 2025



The summit featured four dynamic sessions that explored the future of Malaysia's professional environment. Session 1: Strengthening Professional Synergy showcased strategic partnerships among leading professional bodies, highlighting efforts to harmonise standards and elevate professional governance. Session 2: Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Action delivered practical insights into arbitration, mediation, adjudication, and expert determination, tailored to address the specific needs of various industries. In Session 3: Ethical Considerations in AI Across Professions, panelists tackled pressing concerns related to data ethics, AI bias, transparency, and responsible governance. Finally, Session 4: Mobilising Expert Networks introduced a multidisciplinary Panel of Experts established by BIM and AIAC, aimed at providing ethical and technical guidance in the face of emerging challenges across sectors implementation

"This summit is not just a dialogue—it is a call to action," said Prof. Juan. "By forging cross-sector collaboration and advancing ethical frameworks, we are equipping Malaysia's professional ecosystem to meet the future with integrity and innovation."

The BIM-AIAC ADR Summit 2025 is part of an ongoing commitment to foster knowledge exchange, ethical leadership, and practical collaboration to uphold Malaysia's standing as a hub for professional excellence and responsible innovation.

SOURCE: Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia



## MEETING WITH MALAYSIAN ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION (MACC)

16 May 2025

A strategic collaboration and partnership meeting was recently held between the **Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)** and **Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia (BIM)**.

It was a productive and insightful engagement session, where both parties shared perspectives and explored potential avenues of cooperation — all in the spirit of promoting **integrity** and **professional governance** across sectors.



## COURTESY VISIT TO YB DATUK SERI JOHARI ABDUL GHANI, MINISTER OF PLANTATION AND COMMODITIES

19 May 2025

On 19 May 2025, Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia (BIM) paid a courtesy visit to YB Datuk Seri Johari Bin Abdul Ghani, Minister of Plantation and Commodities.

The visit provided a valuable platform for dialogue on potential areas of collaboration, particularly in enhancing the contributions of professional bodies toward national development. Discussions centered on the strategic role of the plantation and commodity sectors in driving sustainable growth, as well as the importance of professional expertise in supporting the Ministry's initiatives.

BIM expressed its commitment to working closely with the Ministry to strengthen industry standards, promote capacity building, and support policy implementation that aligns with Malaysia's broader socio-economic goals.





## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) SIGNING CEREMONY

Between Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia (BIM) & Federation of Malaysian Business Associations (FMBA)

📅 Date: 21 May 2025

📍 Venue: FINAS, Hulu Kelang, Selangor



We are pleased to announce the successful signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between **Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia (BIM)** and the **Federation of Malaysian Business Associations (FMBA)** on 21 May 2025.

This MoU signifies a pivotal milestone in fostering collaboration between Malaysia's professional and business communities. The strategic partnership is designed to promote knowledge exchange, enhance capacity building, and support national development through stronger synergy between professional expertise and enterprise initiatives.

A milestone in bridging expertise with enterprise, paving the way for mutual growth and sustainable national progress.





## BIM PICKLE BALL EVENT - @ PICKLE WORLD

14 JUNE 2025

**Congratulations to PAM – Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia** for winning the **BIM Pickle Ball Event** on 14 June 2025!

We also extend our congratulations to all the teams who participated and gave their best effort.

The event was a fantastic display of energy, sportsmanship, and collaboration among industry professionals. Teams came together for a day of friendly competition, fostering camaraderie and strengthening bonds within the community.

A heartfelt thank you to all the participants, teams, and supporters who made this event a resounding success. Your enthusiasm and sportsmanship were truly inspiring!

We look forward to more such events that unite and elevate the spirit of teamwork and healthy competition.



## PRIM 65<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL DINNER

26 April 2025







## MALAYSIA LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT AWARDS (MLAA) GALA DINNER

24 May 2025

The Malaysia Landscape Architecture Awards (MLAA15) Gala Dinner

 **Saturday, 24 May 2025**

 **7:00 PM**

 **Renaissance Hotel, Kuala Lumpur**

Organized by ILAM (Institute of Landscape Architects Malaysia), the event celebrated outstanding achievements in landscape architecture, recognizing innovative projects and industry leaders who contribute to shaping Malaysia's built environment.

Prof. ChM Dr. Juan Joon Ching, President of BIM attended the event to show support and solidarity with professionals across the built environment disciplines.

A night of recognition, networking, and celebration of design excellence.





## LAUNCH OF THE PRIMARY EYE CARE SERVICE GUIDELINES BY THE ASSOCIATION OF MALAYSIAN OPTOMETRISTS (AMO)

17 June 2025



The successful launch of the **Primary Eye Care Service Guidelines** by the **Association of Malaysian Optometrists (AMO)**, held at the **Academy of Medicine Malaysia, Putrajaya**. This significant event was supported by the **Ministry of Health Malaysia** and the **Malaysian Optical Council (MOC)**, marking a major step forward in the country's eye care sector.

The event was officially launched by **YB Datuk Seri Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad**, the **Minister of Health Malaysia**, who highlighted the importance of advancing the quality and accessibility of eye care for all Malaysians. The guidelines aim to create a more **structured, patient-centric, and inclusive** approach to primary eye care services, with a focus on improving patient outcomes across the nation.

The launch event brought together key stakeholders from the healthcare, optometry, and medical sectors, providing a platform for collaborative discussions on how best to implement the guidelines effectively.



## LAUNCH OF THE PRIMARY EYE CARE SERVICE GUIDELINES BY THE ASSOCIATION OF MALAYSIAN OPTOMETRISTS (AMO)

17 June 2025





## 64<sup>th</sup> RISM ANNIVERSARY DINNER

21 JUNE 2025





## 64<sup>th</sup> RISM ANNIVERSARY DINNER

21 JUNE 2025



## EMPOWERING WOMEN, ACCELERATING ACTION. FEMFORWARD 2025

[www.malaysiaglobalbusinessforum.com](http://www.malaysiaglobalbusinessforum.com)

The prestigious FemForward 2025 program was successfully held at M World Hotel, Bandar Utama, in conjunction with the celebration of International Women's Day and Mother's Day. With the theme "Accelerate Action in Women Community", the event was organized by Women in Logistics and Transport (WiLAT), The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) Malaysia, in collaboration with HAWA Malaysia, Balai IkhtisasMalaysia (BIM), and Synergy Connect Holdings Sdn Bhd as the main management Femforward.



This meaningful occasion was graced by the Guest of Honour, YBhg. Tan Sri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, Chairperson of HAWA Malaysia and Chairperson of the WITI Consultative Committee (MITI). In her keynote address, she remarked:

"The dedication and spirit of women have brought us together today to recognise their invaluable contributions across all aspects of life. Today, we are not only celebrating outstanding women in their respective fields but also expressing our appreciation for women as a whole."





## EMPOWERING WOMEN, ACCELERATING ACTION. FEMFORWARD 2025

[www.malaysiaglobalbusinessforum.com](http://www.malaysiaglobalbusinessforum.com)



As part of the event, a special forum titled “Driving ESG Excellence” was held, bringing together industry leaders, corporate figures, and ESG experts to explore women’s role in advancing the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) agenda, and enhancing organisational competitiveness through sustainable practices.



Femforward 2025 served as an inclusive platform uniting women leaders, entrepreneurs, professionals, and community activists to strengthen networks, drive collective action, and champion women’s aspirations toward a more progressive and equitable society.

During the session, Prof. Ts. Muhammad Zaly Shah, President of CILT Malaysia, announced that Saito University College will be offering special scholarships for women in logistics to members of WiLAT Malaysia, a significant initiative aimed at nurturing female talent and leadership in the logistics sector.

The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the FemForward 2025: Lifetime Excellence Award, conferred upon Tan Sri Dato’ Sri Dr. Sharifah Zarah Syed Ahmad, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to national leadership and the advancement of women in Malaysia.



## ENGINEERS STILL HIGHLY RELEVANT

The Star | 26 May 2025

YOUNG talents must be encouraged to explore engineering if Malaysia is to become a developed, high-income nation.

While the demand for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) professionals is on the rise, Multimedia University Faculty of Engineering Prof Dr Mohamad Yusoff Alias said Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia graduates often question the viability, profitability and relevance of engineering as a career in light of rapid technological advancements.

Students, he said, don't fully understand what engineering entails and are not clear about the roles and responsibilities of an engineer, which makes it difficult for them to cultivate an interest in the field.

According to Prof Mohamad Yusoff, engineering is at the heart of everything that functions in daily life, from smartphones and infrastructure to medical devices and communication systems.

"Everything you see now will change in the future because of engineering.

"Engineers design, create and innovate. They shape the future and make a difference in our world but often go unrecognised because they work behind the scenes.

"During the enforcement of the movement control order, most people stayed home but engineers continued their essential work in the background.

"Engineers were not frontliners, but vital backliners," he said.



### Bright prospects

Prof Mohamad Yusoff stressed that a key role of engineers is to create innovative designs not only for the immediate present, but for the future.

Engineering is exploring sectors such as aerospace, with a focus on transitioning to a low-carbon economy, he said.

"This shift reflects the direction the world is moving towards, aiming to achieve net-zero carbon emissions within the next 30 years.

He added that emerging technologies are creating new opportunities, particularly for engineers, in new fields, such as renewable energy, biotechnology and robotics.

"Engineering graduates are not limited to traditional roles; their skills are applicable across a wide range of industries.

"Telecommunications engineers, for example, can work in sectors as diverse as the military, sales, entrepreneurship and beyond.



Prof Mohamad Yusoff



## ENGINEERS STILL HIGHLY RELEVANT

The Star | 26 May 2025

“Wherever your interest lies – be it space, sports, apps, fashion or film – engineering is a part of it,” he said.

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“Engineering graduates are not limited to traditional roles; their skills are applicable across a wide range of industries.

“Telecommunications engineers, for example, can work in sectors as diverse as the military, sales, entrepreneurship and beyond.

“Wherever your interest lies – be it space, sports, apps, fashion or film – engineering is a part of it,” he said.



Assoc Prof Dr Ahmad Fahmi Sheikh Hassan

Chiming in, Universiti Putra Malaysia School of Business and Economics Accounting and Finance Programme coordinator Assoc Prof Dr Ahmad Fahmi Sheikh Hassan said engineers with a combination of technical and business skills have a broader range of career opportunities and greater flexibility.

He said the varsity regularly sees engineers enrolling in its business courses.

“They can take on leadership roles, start their own companies or transition into management positions.

“Having dual skillsets makes them more adaptable to changing job markets and industry demands, increasing their employability and potential for career growth,” he said.

He asserted that fresh graduates with a diverse skillset can make them highly attractive to employers.

“A successful engineer is characterised by creative thinking and problem-solving abilities.

“While creativity is often associated with the arts, it is equally important in engineering for innovation.

“Engineers must think outside the box, work collaboratively in teams and pay meticulous attention to detail.

“They must be logical thinkers who approach problems methodically as even minor errors can have significant consequences,” he said



Lim Chia Wei

Agreeing that versatility can be an added advantage, Schlumberger technical sales engineer Lim Chia Wei, who is a Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP) alumna, said as much as technical know-how is important to sell technologies, interpersonal skills are equally crucial.

“Many engineers transition into sales roles, where they communicate technical concepts to clients,” she said.

Emphasising the lucrative salary, bright future and career advancement potential available in the oil and gas industry, she said most of the time, students – especially women – dismiss the idea of pursuing careers in this industry because their parents deem it unsuitable for females.

“But the perception is wrong,” she said, adding that interest and a desire to explore are important drivers of success.

## ENGINEERS STILL HIGHLY RELEVANT

The Star | 26 May 2025



*Technology Assoc Prof Abu Hanifah Abdullah.*

Prof Mohamad Yusoff said the demand for engineering professionals in the oil and gas industry is high.

“While many associate the oil and gas sector with chemical or petroleum engineering, electrical and electronic engineering is also crucial due to the need for communication and electrical advancements in the oil and gas industry,” he said. The aviation industry also needs many engineers, said Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Institute of Aviation

““Those who are competent are licensed by the (local aviation) authority or the company themselves,” he said.

He added that to be considered competent, aspiring talents need to have formal tertiary education or formal skills training, and experience working in the industry. He also said those in aviation engineering must have a minimum bachelor’s degree while technical roles would require a Malaysian Skills Certificate or equivalent.

Fresh graduates, said Prof Mohamad Yusoff, typically earn about RM3,000 with less than three years of experience.

“Many companies are experiencing a shortage of engineers, driving demand up for engineering roles.

“Once they become senior managers, they can earn up to about RM30,000 to RM40,000 per month,” he said.

### Enter AI, big data

Prof Mohamad Yusoff said with the integration of artificial intelligence and big data into engineering, engineers play critical roles in setting up and maintaining the necessary technological infrastructure.

“This is where you find electric vehicles, solar panels and other engineering-based products.” People often think big data is only part of computer science and information technology (IT), but it’s engineers who set up and maintain the servers. With more patrons relying on big data, its importance continues to grow – and so does the need for those who maintain them,” he said.

As more people store their data on clouds or utilise the Internet of things in their homes and offices, safety and security becomes a bigger concern, said City University Faculty of IT deputy dean Asma Zubaida M. Ibrahim.

She said the security risks faced by cloud computing can be solved using blockchain technology.



## ENGINEERS STILL HIGHLY RELEVANT

The Star | 26 May 2025

“Blockchains are completely transparent with every user knowing if any changes happen to any part of the ‘chain’,” she said, adding that recent data shows that over 90% of organisations are using cloud services.

Asma Zubaida said talents with knowledge of blockchain and cloud computing are needed in various industries handling data, including banking, healthcare and supply chain management.

Agricultural technology, Abu Hanifah pointed out, is also a fast-growing market as it is driven by the need to produce more food due to population growth.



“Boosting agricultural output is not just about farming; it also involves technology,” he said, adding that in Malaysia, advanced manufacturing is expanding, with factories increasingly using automation and robots designed by engineers.

### Consider this

It is crucial, said Prof Mohamad Yusoff, that educational institutions impress upon students how important engineers are and how they can help Malaysia achieve its STEM target.

A strong foundation in science-related subjects such as physics, mathematics, chemistry, biology and computing is essential for students aspiring to become engineers, he said.

“Engineering degrees usually include internships, providing students with practical experience and an overview into the industry.

“This hands-on approach is vital as engineering evolves with technological advancement,” he said.

Many students are choosing to pursue engineering programmes abroad as foreign institutions offer unique opportunities for exploration, collaboration and personal growth, said iEduCare Services managing director Subrinna Chiew.

“Different countries may have universities that excel in specific engineering fields.

“Studying abroad allows you to tap into this expertise and potentially gain a leading edge in a particular area,” she said.

Lim advised those considering an engineering degree to ask about internship opportunities.

Internships that are too short, she said, makes it difficult for one’s performance to be assessed.

As engineering is an important field, UTP registrar Mohd Fadil Mohd Ariff said it is vital to continue evolving the learning curriculum for engineering programmes.

“There also needs to be continuous learning for engineers in all facets of the profession,” he said.

*Note: The academics were speakers at the Star Education Fair 2024, which was held at IOI Grand Exhibition and Convention Centre, Putrajaya, from May 4 to 5.*

## DE-GAZETTE CLINICS FROM ACT 723 AFTER MOVING DRUG PRICE DISPLAY MANDATE — MALAYSIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

By CodeBlue | 27 May 2025

MMA urges the government to degazette medical clinics from the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011 (Act 723) once the medicine price display policy is shifted from Act 723 to the Private Healthcare Facilities & Services Act 1998 (Act 586).

The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) wishes to thank Health Minister Dzulkefly Ahmad for his response to our joint memorandum submitted to Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on May 6, 2025, which the prime minister has graciously acknowledged and requested for urgent action.

We welcome the health minister's commitment to addressing the concerns outlined in our memorandum, particularly our request to place the medicine price display policy under the Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act 1998 (Act 586), rather than the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011 (Act 723) — an Act that was never intended to regulate professional medical services, nor designed to recognise the unique role and operations of clinics within the nation's health care landscape.

Hence while doctors fully support price transparency, we strongly maintain that all health care-related policies must be implemented and enforced under the purview of the Ministry of Health (MOH).



While we respect the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Cost of Living's (KPDN) role in regulating the retail sector, it is important to recognise that healthcare is not retail. Clinics provide essential, expert-driven services built on trust and ethical duty, not commercial transactions.



## DE-GAZETTE CLINICS FROM ACT 723 AFTER MOVING DRUG PRICE DISPLAY MANDATE — MALAYSIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

By CodeBlue | 27 May 2025

Applying retail-based policies to medical practice risks compromising the quality and integrity of care Malaysians deserve. Health care policies must reflect these critical differences.

To avoid disputes and legal ambiguities that may arise from overlapping legislation if the gazette placing clinics under Act 723 (gazetted on April 29, 2025, and in force from May 1, 2025) remains in effect, it is crucial that the government simultaneously ensures the de-gazettement of clinics being under Act 723 once the medicine price display policy is formally brought under the ambit of Act 586, which we hope will take place as soon as possible.

We also thank the health minister for the update on the review of private general practitioners' (GPs) consultation fees under the 7th Schedule of the Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act 1998 (Act 586). These fees have remained unchanged for over 33 years, despite a significant rise in operational costs over the period.

We have submitted our request to the MOH, providing a rationale for the long-overdue revision of private GP consultation fees. We look forward with hope for a fair revision that reflects current economic realities, the challenges faced by private practitioners, and the essential role of GPs in safeguarding public health.

We also hope that the other concerns highlighted in our memorandum, such as the issue of the increasing role and impact of unregulated third-party administrators (TPAs) within the health care ecosystem, will be given similar urgency and addressed promptly.

As health care demands continue to rise, it is crucial that the MOH and the government take swift action to ensure the sustainability of private primary care services.

*This statement was issued by Dr Kalwinder Singh Khaira, president of the Malaysian Medical Association.*

## WIEX 2025 FORUM: CHAMPIONING MALAYSIAN WOMEN IN GLOBAL TRADE

10 June 2025

**Kuala Lumpur, 10 June 2025** – The inaugural **Women in Export (WiEX) 2025 Forum** marked a significant step forward in empowering Malaysian women entrepreneurs to compete in the global trade arena. Held under the theme *“From Local to Global,”* the forum was officiated by **Deputy Prime Minister YAB Dato’ Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi**, and brought together over 1,000 participants from across the public and private sectors.



A key highlight of the forum was the launch of two transformative digital initiatives:

**Women Exporters e-Directory:** A comprehensive digital platform showcasing Malaysian women-led exporting companies. This tool aims to increase global visibility, build buyer confidence, and improve international market access for women entrepreneurs.

**Madani Digital Trade (MDT) initiative:** Designed to boost women's participation in exports to 30%, this initiative forms part of the government's broader push for inclusive, digitally-driven trade development.



## WIEX 2025 FORUM: CHAMPIONING MALAYSIAN WOMEN IN GLOBAL TRADE

10 June 2025

Organised by HAWA Malaysia and WITI (Women in Trade and Investment), MITI, WIEX 2025 also featured strategic insights from industry leaders, policymakers, and global trade enablers. During the event, Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, YB Senator Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, announced that the forum will be elevated to become the Women International Exporters Expo from 2026 onwards.



We are proud to share that **WILAT CILT Malaysia** was invited to participate in this visionary platform. Their involvement reflects a shared commitment to fostering innovation, resilience, and global reach among women in trade and logistics.

## GOVT COMMITTED TO INCREASE WOMEN-OWNED COMPANIES – TENGKU ZAFRUL

The Sun | 10 June 2025



**KUALA LUMPUR:** The percentage of women-owned companies in Malaysia are still low compared to other ASEAN countries, at about 20 per cent or 210,000 companies out of all enterprises in the country.

Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz

said the government through the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) would strive to increase the percentage through various new programmes and policies.

“In helping women access overseas markets more effectively, the government is committed to providing trade facilities such as MADANI Digital Trade, Malaysia International Halal Showcase (MIHAS) and also trade missions to various countries,” he said during the opening ceremony of the Women in Export (WiEX) Forum 2025 today.

Tengku Zafrul said the initiative implemented was open to women entrepreneurs who wanted to explore international markets, including emerging markets such as West Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe, which have high demand for Malaysian products.

“MATRADE also constantly monitors the participation of female entrepreneurs in international exhibitions and overseas trade missions so that women can become competitive exporters on the international stage,” he said.

Meanwhile, MATRADE chairman Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican said the participation of Asian women in the economy, comprising only 30 to 35 per cent, shows that there are still untapped economic opportunities.

“Therefore, to assist women-owned companies in the export market, MATRADE has allocated 40 per cent of the RM14.89 million in export grants to 6,711 women-owned companies,” he said at the event.



## GOVT COMMITTED TO INCREASE WOMEN-OWNED COMPANIES – TENGKU ZAFRUL

The Sun | 10 June 2025

Regarding the organisation of WiEX, he said the forum was important as a meeting place to empower women in the export ecosystem and, by 2026, the forum would be known as the Women International Exporters Expo.

“The WiEX Forum has become the perfect platform to celebrate and recognise women entrepreneurs who want to make a name for themselves in the international arena.

All the knowledge, inspiration and strategies shared today are valuable gifts that can guide their respective journeys,” he said.

Therefore, Reezal Merican said MATRADE has launched an e-directory that serves as a bridge connecting products and services provided by women-owned companies.

“This platform will showcase to the world the great products and services produced by Malaysian women. It will facilitate business collaboration, build international networks and, most importantly, provide direct access to global markets.”

“This initiative is in line with the National Women’s Policy 2025-2030 and sustainable development goals, demonstrating the government’s unwavering commitment to empowering women in the trade sector,” he added.

Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, chairman of the Umno Malaysia Women’s and Family Affairs Council (HAWA) Tan Sri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil and MATRADE chief executive officer Datuk Mohd Mustafa Abdul Aziz.

## OPTOMETRY BILL TO BE TABLED IN OCTOBER, SAYS DZULKEFLY

Bernama, | 17 June 2025



PUTRAJAYA (June 17): The Optometry Bill is expected to be tabled in Parliament this October, said Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad.

He said the proposed legislation would serve as a dedicated legal framework to regulate all aspects of the optometry profession in Malaysia.

“It will be a stand-alone Act governing the practice, training, registration and scope of duties for optometrists, distinct from opticians,” he told reporters after launching the Primary Eye Care Service Guidelines for the Optometry Profession on Tuesday.

Dzulkefly added that the Bill is also expected to cover online sales of optical products, as well as enforcement provisions and penalties to safeguard consumer safety.

“This legislation is crucial in elevating optometry as a recognised, qualified, safe and effective professional field,” he said.

Dzulkefly highlighted the critical role of optometrists in the primary healthcare system, particularly in the early detection of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, hypertension, glaucoma and other retinal conditions.

“Optometrists are not only responsible for managing refractive errors, they also serve as a vital frontline in identifying eye diseases linked to NCDs,” he said.



## OPTOMETRY BILL TO BE TABLED IN OCTOBER, SAYS DZULKEFLY

Bernama, 17 June 2025

He acknowledged that Malaysia has yet to meet the World Health Organization's recommended ratio of one optometrist per 10,000 population.

"We are currently at a ratio of 1:16,000, which affects the health system's capacity to provide equitable and quality eye care services to the people," he said.

Dzulkefly also noted that Malaysia produces only about 200 optometrists annually, reflecting the need for a strategic approach to workforce development through expanded training and capacity building.

Dzulkefly also expressed concern over the low coverage of regular vision screening and the financial burden of treatment, including cataract surgery and the purchase of corrective lenses, which continues to fall on the majority of Malaysians, particularly those in rural areas.

He emphasised the need for a sustainable and progressive financing mechanism to ensure that no one is left behind in accessing quality eye care.



On the newly launched Primary Eye Care Service Guidelines, Dzulkefly described it as a strategic step forward, laying a strong foundation for an ethical, evidence-based and safe framework for private optometric practice.

He added that the implementation of credentialing and privileging would ensure that only qualified and competent optometrists are entrusted with specific clinical responsibilities.

## KEPIMPINAN WANITA: MENGUKIR LEGASI DUNIA PROFESIONAL

Ikram.org.my | 29 Mei 2025

Oleh Assoc. Prof. Dr Jessica Ong Hai Liaw

“Ibu ratu hati, kunci ke syurga.” Ungkapan ini sering kita dengar. Namun dalam konteks masyarakat moden hari ini, ibu bukan sahaja mendidik anak bangsa, malah memimpin organisasi, mencorak dasar negara dan membina masa depan masyarakat. Wanita kini tidak lagi sekadar menjadi tulang belakang, mereka adalah pemimpin barisan hadapan.

Bulan Mei membawa makna istimewa iaitu sambutan Hari Ibu dan juga Hari Guru. Ia masa yang tepat untuk kita merenung sejauh mana pengiktirafan dan kepercayaan yang kita berikan kepada wanita dalam dunia profesional. Adakah benar peluang itu setara atau masih ada “siling kaca” yang tidak kelihatan?



Profesion lebih mudah difahami sebagai pekerjaan. Profesional pula merujuk kepada individu yang melakukan pekerjaan tersebut sebagai suatu pekerjaan tetap dan sumber pendapatan utamanya. Profesionalisme adalah tahap kecekapan dan akauntabiliti yang seharusnya didukung oleh individu profesional tersebut.

### Semakin diterima baik

Peranan dan sumbangan wanita dalam memimpin sektor-sektor profesional yang sebelum ini didominasi oleh lelaki semakin diterima dengan baik. Istilah “mengukir legasi” yang bermaksud mencipta atau meninggalkan kesan yang berkekalan untuk generasi akan datang semakin terpakai dalam kalangan wanita.

Dalam konteks ini, ia menggambarkan usaha wanita untuk membentuk dan membina sebuah warisan kepimpinan yang memberi impak besar dalam dunia kerja profesional. Etika profesional adalah nilai-nilai atau tingkah laku murni yang harus dihayati oleh individu mengikut profesion masing-masing.



## KEPIMPINAN WANITA: MENGUKIR LEGASI DUNIA PROFESIONAL

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Kepimpinan wanita sering membawa nilai empati, kebijaksanaan beremosi, pendekatan berpasukan dan komunikasi yang telus iaitu nilai-nilai yang sangat penting dengan pendekatan lebih manusiawi.

Teori Kepimpinan Transformasi yang dicetuskan oleh Bernard Bass turut menegaskan bahawa pemimpin hebat ialah mereka yang mampu memberi inspirasi, membawa perubahan dan membina kepercayaan. Ramai pemimpin wanita kita hari ini, dari sektor kerajaan hingga korporat, menzahirkan ciri-ciri ini secara konsisten.

Menurut Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia (DOSM), jumlah wanita dalam tenaga buruh negara mencecah 6.38 juta orang pada Januari 2025. Kadar penyertaan tenaga buruh wanita meningkat kepada 56.4 peratus. Tetapi, di sebalik angka itu, tersembunyi realitinya bahawa 44 peratus wanita luar tenaga buruh tidak bekerja kerana komitmen keluarga.

### Pembaziran potensi

Lebih membimbangkan, ramai wanita berpendidikan tinggi masih bekerja dalam bidang separuh mahir atau tidak setimpal dengan kelayakan mereka. Ini bukan hanya pembaziran potensi, tetapi juga kehilangan besar kepada produktiviti negara.

Apa puncanya? Sebahagiannya datang daripada sistem kerja yang masih belum mesra keluarga. Sebahagiannya lagi berpunca daripada persepsi lapuk bahawa wanita tidak mampu memimpin setanding lelaki, terutama dalam sektor teknikal dan profesional.

Cabaran yang dihadapi wanita dalam mencapai kedudukan kepimpinan dalam bidang profesional amat ketara. Walaupun semakin banyak wanita menyumbang dalam bidang teknikal dan profesional, kepimpinan mereka bukan sahaja memperkasakan diri tetapi juga memberi manfaat kepada masyarakat dan ekonomi.

Seperti yang dinyatakan oleh ahli falsafah kontemporari, Carol Gilligan, etika wanita dalam kepimpinan yang menekankan hubungan dan tanggungjawab sosial bukanlah kelemahan, tetapi kekuatan tersendiri yang wajar diraikan. Hal ini melibatkan perubahan budaya dan sistem untuk mengiktiraf serta menghargai kepimpinan wanita dalam pelbagai sektor.

Inilah yang disebut sebagai “*glass ceiling*” iaitu halangan tidak kelihatan yang mengehadkan kemajuan wanita dalam kerjaya. Teori ini sudah lama dibincangkan dalam kajian kepimpinan dan sumber manusia, dan sayangnya ia masih berlaku di negara kita.

Namun, banyak pengalaman menunjukkan bahawa wanita, apabila diberi peluang dan sokongan, mampu mengatasi halangan ini dan membuktikan kemampuan mereka dalam dunia kepimpinan.

Sebagai Pengerusi Program FemForward 2025, sebuah platform anjuran Women in Logistics and Transport (WiLAT), The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) Malaysia dengan kerjasama HAWA Malaysia dan Balai Ikhtisas Malaysia, saya berpeluang melihat bagaimana 23 tokoh wanita daripada pelbagai bidang diberi pengiktirafan atas sumbangan mereka yang luar biasa.

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Tema program “Accelerate Action in Women Community” menggambarkan keperluan masa kini untuk mempercepat perubahan dan juga mengiktiraf pencapaian wanita.

### Sudah tiba masanya

Tan Sri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, Pengerusi HAWA dan Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Konsultatif Women in Trade and Industry (WITI), MITI dalam ucapannya di majlis FemForward menegaskan bahawa sudah tiba masanya wanita diberi peluang dalam sektor berimpak tinggi seperti logistik dan pengangkutan.

Beliau berkata, perubahan dalam sektor ini bukan hanya memberi manfaat kepada wanita tetapi juga kepada kemajuan negara.

Isu pengiktirafan wanita dalam kepimpinan ini bukan hanya tentang wanita semata-mata, tetapi juga berkait rapat dengan keadilan sosial. Ia melibatkan penggunaan potensi seluruh rakyat Malaysia untuk memacu kemajuan bersama.

Hal ini juga disuarakan oleh Presiden CILT Malaysia, Prof. Ts. Dr. Muhammad Zaly Shah, yang menekankan bahawa dasar kerja fleksibel dan pembangunan bakat wanita dalam sektor teknikal perlu diberi perhatian serius. Ia adalah langkah penting dalam memastikan wanita mendapat peluang yang sama rata untuk berjaya.

Justeru, legasi kepimpinan wanita tidak akan tercipta dalam sehari. Ia adalah hasil daripada usaha gigih, dasar yang menyokong dan komuniti yang percaya kepada keupayaan wanita.

Sokongan antara sesama wanita boleh menjadi kunci untuk mengatasi halangan-halangan tersebut dan membuka ruang yang lebih besar untuk kemajuan bersama.

Masa depan yang lebih cerah adalah milik mereka yang percaya pada keindahan impian mereka, seperti kata Eleanor Roosevelt: *“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”*

*Prof. Madya Ts. Dr. Jessica Ong Hai Liaw FCILT  
Pensyarah Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia &  
Pengerusi Women in Logistics and Transport (WiLAT) Malaysia*



## LANDSCAPE INDUSTRY TO POWER GDP AND GLOBAL OUTREACH

The Sun | 24 June 2025



**PETALING JAYA:** The landscape industry should no longer be viewed as purely cosmetic or decorative, but as a strategic national investment in climate resilience, public health and cultural identity, says the Institute of Landscape Architects Malaysia.

Its president, Assoc Prof Dr Nor Atiah Ismail said landscape architecture has become a key pillar of sustainable development, contributing significantly to economic growth and environmental protection.

“It is not a distant ambition. It is a clear call to action for Malaysia to mobilise our national strengths – our design expertise, biodiversity and professional innovation – for both local and regional impact,” she told *theSun*.

On June 19, Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming announced that under the newly updated National Landscape Policy, the government is targeting the landscape industry to contribute RM60 billion, or 3% to the country’s gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030. He said the sector had already contributed RM39.4 billion, or 2%, to the GDP last year, an increase from RM35.68 billion in 2023.

Nga added that the ministry would continue working to unlock the sector’s full potential, aiming to transform it into a strategic economic force that not only enhances aesthetics and quality of life, but also creates jobs and income.

## LANDSCAPE INDUSTRY TO POWER GDP AND GLOBAL OUTREACH

The Sun | 24 June 2025

Nor Atiah said the timing is right for Malaysia to position itself as a regional leader in sustainable landscape services, nature-based solutions and tropical floriculture exports.

She cited industry estimates that placed the global landscaping services market at US\$296 billion (RM1.39 trillion) in 2023, with projections rising to US\$400 billion (RM1.88 trillion) by 2030.

“Growth in the Asia-Pacific region is especially strong, driven by rapid urbanisation, climate risks and the need for resilient green infrastructure.”

Nor Atiah, who also serves on the executive committee of the International Federation of Landscape Architects Asia-Pacific, said Malaysian professionals are already playing a key role in high-value areas such as healthcare design, ESG-compliant (environment, social, governance) infrastructure, tourism planning and heritage revitalisation.

“They are not decorative works. They are part of a new green economy, where well-designed environments improve public health, attract investment and strengthen resilience to climate shocks.

“While the National Landscape Policy offers a solid foundation, it must now be fully operationalised across federal and state levels and aligned with national development frameworks such as the National Energy Transition roadmap and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.”

Nor Atiah proposed several strategic actions, including improved policy enforcement, green tax incentives, education reform and support for local firms to compete globally.

“Tax rebates could be introduced for projects that go beyond the minimum landscaping requirements and successfully integrate nature-based solutions.

“Digital upskilling and analytical tools should be prioritised to ensure our professionals remain globally competitive.”

She said landscape consultancies and nurseries should be better integrated into regional and global value chains, particularly in Asean and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, where demand for sustainable urban design is rising.

“Malaysia is well-placed to lead this platform, thanks to our tropical biodiversity, cultural richness and growing pool of design talent.”

Nor Atiah also said the RM60 billion target reflects a larger shift in how landscape architecture is viewed in Malaysia.

“It’s about giving value to beauty, dignity to green labour and strategic status to a profession that has long shaped our natural environments.

“With the right support, Malaysia’s landscape industry can become a beacon in the region and a key player in the global green economy.”



## BIM MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

- Malaysian Pharmacists Society (MPS)
- Royal Institutions of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM)
- The Institutions of Engineers Malaysia (IEM)
- Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM)
- Malaysian Medical Association (MMA)
- Malaysian Institute of Planners (MIP)
- Malaysian Veterinary Medical Association (MAVMA)
- Agriculture Institute of Malaysia (AIM)
- The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Malaysia (CILT(M))
- Institut Kimia Malaysia (IKM)
- Malaysian Society of Soil Science (MSSS)
- Malaysian Association of Social Workers (MASW)
- The Plastics & Rubber Institute of Malaysia (PRIM)
- The Chartered Institute of Building Malaysia (CIOBM)
- Institute of Landscape Architects Malaysia (ILAM)
- Institut Rimbawan Malaysia (IRIM)
- Association of Malaysian Optometrists (AMO)
- Malaysian Institute of Human Resource Management (MIHRM)
- Malaysian Dental Association (MDA)
- The Institute of Internal Auditors Malaysia (IIAM)
- International Institution of Plantation Management (IIPM)

### CORPORATE AFFILIATE

- Malaysian of Social Impact Assessment (MSIA)
- Association of Consulting Quantity Surveyors Malaysia (ACQSM)



FOR MEMBERS ONLY  
**APRIL to JUNE 2025**