



Good Morning Craig,

In this week's Pressespiegel, the Securities Commission introduced a simplified guide for sustainability reporting, while Chinese solar panel makers scale back production in Malaysia due to US tariffs.

New rules now require companies to offer paid internships for local students for every expat hired and while we are on the subject of talent, the Melaka TVET council is expanding industry partnerships.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim is courting major MNCs like Google and Nestlé at Davos to boost Malaysia's investment prospects while economic integration, climate change, and inclusivity remain the focus for ASEAN.

We hope you enjoy our selection of stories this week.

Thank you for reading MGCC's Pressespiegel!

🍊 We would also like to wish all our readers Gong Xi Fa Cai! May the Year of the Snake bring you much prosperity, good health and happiness. 🍊

National



Anwar's Davos drive: PM courts Google, Nestle, other MNCs in investment push

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim held high-level meetings with business leaders from six multinational companies—AstraZeneca, Fortescue, DP World, Medtronics, Nestle, and Google—on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Summit 2025. The meetings, arranged by the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, focused on strengthening Malaysia's business ties with these companies. Anwar, who led the Malaysian delegation, was joined by several key ministers and officials. The WEF summit, which ran from 22 to 24 January, focuses on the role of emerging technologies and innovations in addressing global economic challenges.

Source: [Malay Mail](#)



Loke announces modern transportation hub Ipoh Sentral, set for completion in two years

Ipoh is set to develop a modern transportation hub, Ipoh Sentral, behind the iconic Ipoh Railway Station, with a RM6.26 billion transit-oriented development (TOD) project. The project, which will unfold in two phases, aims to integrate public transport with mixed-use developments, including housing, business, and recreational spaces. The first phase will focus on landscape improvements, pedestrian walkways, and cycling routes, while the second phase will feature serviced apartments, offices, a hotel, and community facilities, taking about 20 years to complete. The project aims to boost the local economy, reduce reliance on private vehicles, and align with Malaysia's climate change goals. The iconic Ipoh Railway Station will remain unaffected by the development.

Source: [Malay Mail](#)



Malaysians abroad must have same voting rights as those at home, says Anwar

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim emphasised that Malaysians living abroad should have the right to vote in elections, highlighting his discussions



Bacterial levels in cockles at Pantai Sura exceed safety standards

Cockles washed ashore at Pantai Sura in Dungun have been found to exceed safe levels of faecal coliform and E. coli bacteria, according to analysis by the Kuantan Fisheries Biosecurity

with the Election Commission (EC) about expanding postal voting options. He proposed alternative voting mechanisms beyond embassies to facilitate participation, which the EC has shown receptiveness to. Anwar also outlined the government's commitment to green technology and forestation, citing Malaysia's efforts to increase forest cover and plant one million trees. Additionally, he spoke about the country's focus on renewable energy and the importance of education, particularly through collaborations with the industry.

Source: [The Star](#)

Laboratory. These cockles, classified as Class B and C, should be fully cooked before consumption to avoid bacterial contamination. The public is advised to avoid consuming raw cockles, especially those with weakened immune systems, and to follow proper hygiene practices when handling seafood. Regular monitoring will continue to ensure food safety.

Source: [New Straits Times](#)

Economy



Rafizi: Govt-industry cooperation crucial for 13MP success, calls for paradigm shift in economic planning

Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli emphasised the need for a shift in Malaysia's economic policy approach, focusing on long-term structural changes rather than just project-centric initiatives. He stressed the importance of collaboration between the government and private sector, especially in addressing real-world challenges and fostering innovation. Rafizi highlighted the need for continuous dialogue, regulatory harmonisation, and a rethinking of government incentives to create an ecosystem where industries,

particularly SMEs, can thrive. The 13th Malaysia Plan (RMK-13) aims to empower industries and support Malaysia's transition to a high-technology economy.

Source: [Malay Mail](#)



ASEAN need to focus on economic integration, climate change, inclusivity to navigate global shift

Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan emphasised the need for ASEAN member states to focus on regional economic integration, climate preparedness, and inclusivity during his opening remarks at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat in Langkawi. Highlighting ASEAN's collective potential as the fifth-largest global economy, he stressed the importance of intra-regional trade and investment, unified climate action, and empowering micro, small, and medium enterprises. Malaysia, as ASEAN Chair for 2025, has prioritised inclusivity and sustainability under its leadership.

Source: [Business Today](#)

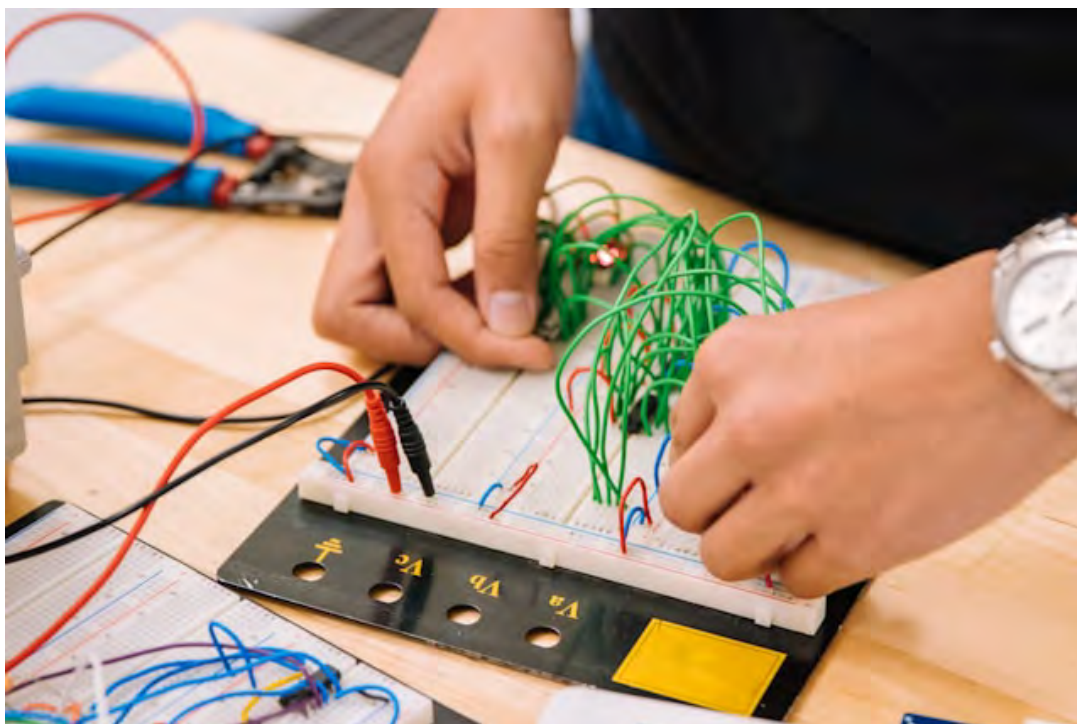


Johor's logistics sector set for growth, driven by Johor Port and PTP productivity

Johor's logistics sector is set for growth, supported by efficient ports like Johor Port and the Port of Tanjung Pelepas, and the strategic Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ) development. The region's strong transport infrastructure, proximity to Singapore, and lower costs position it as a key logistics hub, especially as global disruptions and the shift toward regionalisation increase its appeal. Experts believe Johor can capitalise on these trends to attract investment and enhance cross-border trade and logistics.

Source: [New Straits Times](#)

Industry



Melaka TVET council to expand collaboration with more industries

The Melaka government, through its State Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council, is expanding collaboration with over 30 companies to provide more opportunities for graduates and youth. These companies are primarily involved in industries like automation, manufacturing, electrical and electronics, and electric vehicles. The initiative, part of the National Dual Training System (SLDN), will be extended to other sectors such as food and pharmaceuticals. Khaidirah Abu Zahar, the Deputy chairman of the State Investment, Industry and TVET Development Committee, shared this during an event at the Mara Skill Institute.

Source: [New Straits Times](#)



Companies required to provide 3 local students with paid internships for every expat they hire

The Ministry of Human Resources (KESUMA) has introduced the 1:3 Internship Policy, which requires companies in Malaysia to offer up to three internship positions for local



Khazanah and EPF-led consortium nears success in MAHB takeover

Khazanah Nasional and the EPF-led Gateway Development Alliance (GDA) consortium are nearing the privatisation of Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) after revising their takeover offer, lowering the acceptance threshold

students for every expatriate they hire. This policy, aimed at enhancing the contribution of expatriates while providing local talents with practical training, will be implemented in stages, with full implementation starting January 2026. A pilot phase will run from February to December 2025. Companies will also receive tax relief incentives through the National Structured Internship Programme (MySIP) and must ensure internships are paid and structured.

Source: [World of Buzz](#)

to 85% from 90%. As of January 17, the consortium had secured 86.51% of MAHB's shares. The deadline for shareholders to accept the offer has been extended to 4 February. Following the acquisition, Khazanah will hold a 40% stake in the consortium, while EPF will control 30%.

Source: [Malay Mail](#)

ESG



SC releases simplified guide for sustainability reporting

The Securities Commission Malaysia (SC) has launched "Navigating the Transition: A Guide for Boards" to help company boards adopt the National Sustainability Reporting Framework (NSRF). This framework, which aligns with global standards like the IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards, aims to advance Malaysia's corporate sustainability agenda. It applies to large companies and listed issuers on Bursa Malaysia's Main and ACE Markets, with a phased implementation approach. The SC also introduced the PACE initiative to support companies with training and resources to meet NSRF requirements and foster sustainability in corporate decision-making.

Source: [Business Today](#)



Chinese solar panel makers close plants, scale back production in Malaysia as US tariffs bite

Several Chinese-owned solar panel manufacturers, including Jinko Solar, Risen Energy, JA Solar, and Longi Green Energy, have reduced or halted operations in Malaysia due to pressure from US tariff hikes in 2024. These companies, which account for nearly 40% of Malaysia's solar production capacity, are scaling back investments or halting expansion plans. Risen Energy, which entered Malaysia in 2021, has scaled down its production, while Longi Green Energy has paused its expansion after significant investments. Chinese firms dominate Malaysia's solar sector, making up 80% of the country's production capacity.

Source: [The Straits Times](#)



Good to know

While Terengganu is famous for its stunning islands, there's much more to explore, especially in the heart of its capital, Kuala Terengganu. Nestled within the city is Kampung Cina, a historic 200-year-old town that's a vibrant mix of culture, history, and local charm. Despite its long history, the exact date of its establishment remains a mystery, adding to its allure. Strolling through Kampung Cina, you'll be captivated by rows of old shophouses lining the streets, many adorned with colourful murals that tell stories of the town's past. This bustling quarter is a favorite spot for both locals and tourists, offering everything from unique trinkets to delicious local delicacies like *keropok lekor*. A true highlight of the area is Low Tiey's Well, tucked beside a lively morning market. Once the lifeline for the community, this well provided fresh, clean water daily, and during a severe drought when other wells ran dry, it became the sole source of water in the region. The well's design, with separate bathing areas for men and women, adds a fascinating historical touch. Kampung Cina is a must-visit destination for anyone looking to experience the rich history and culture of Kuala Terengganu beyond its famous beaches.

(Source and pic: The Star, Siakap Keli)

Nachrichtenhäppchen

The Malaysian Reserve: Malaysia to become ASEAN's RE hub

BBC: New arena launched by Malaysian PM

Business Today: Education Malaysia: Cultivating critical thinkers in the age of AI

Channel News Asia: Najib Razak's new bid for house arrest leaves Malaysia in a political funk

The Straits Times: Malaysia takes on ASEAN mantle but tempers expectations on Myanmar, South China Sea

The Star: Embrace a circular economy during celebrations

Malay Mail: Five years since Covid, restaurants say back to roaring sales for CNY and reunion dinners

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