



2ND BORNEO ECONOMIC FORUM

"Shaping The Future of Borneo"

7th - 8th October 2026 | Sheraton Kuching Hotel
Kuching, Sarawak

Positioned as the third-largest island in the world, Borneo lies at the heart of maritime Southeast Asia and along the equator. Shared by Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, and Malaysia, the island is home to more than 24 million people and is endowed with significant natural resources and biodiversity. Its tropical rainforest, the largest contiguous rainforest in Asia and among the oldest in the world, plays a vital role in regional ecological sustainability and global climate regulation.

Recognizing Borneo's strategic importance and economic potential, the Borneo Economic Community (BEC) seeks to strengthen collaboration and connectivity among businesses and stakeholders across the island.

As part of these efforts, the Borneo Economic Forum was established as a platform to strengthen regional dialogue, enhance connectivity, and foster greater economic cooperation across the island. The forum brings together policymakers, business leaders, and stakeholders to discuss common development priorities and opportunities for cooperation.

Timeline of the Borneo Economic Forum (BEF)

- **The Ideation of Borneo Economic Community (BEC) 2023**

The idea for establishing the Borneo Economic Community (BEC) emerged during the 1st Borneo Business Roundtable on 28 April 2023 at Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

- **Establishment of Borneo Economic Community (BEC) 2023**

The Borneo Economic Community (BEC) was formally established on 5 September 2023 during the Borneo Business Roundtable, held on the sidelines of the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (ABIS) 2023 under Indonesia's ASEAN Chairmanship.

- **Inaugural Borneo Economic Forum (BEF) 2024**

As part of the Borneo Economic Community's (BEC) efforts to advance regional collaboration, the **Inaugural Borneo Economic Forum** was convened on 14 August 2024 in Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan, Indonesia.

The forum served as a platform for dialogue on Borneo's development priorities, bringing together business leaders and stakeholders from across the island to discuss key issues related to connectivity and the promotion of trade and investment across Borneo.

- **2nd Borneo Economic Forum (BEF) 2026**

Building on the momentum of the inaugural Forum, BEC will convene the 2nd Borneo Economic Forum in 2026. This year's forum seeks to further advance discussions on Borneo's development priorities, with a particular focus on the importance of regional connectivity amid growing global uncertainty and fragmentation.

Event Concept

The 2nd Borneo Economic Forum (BEF) 2026 will be held at the Sheraton Kuching Hotel, convened by the Borneo Economic Community (BEC) in partnership with the Government of Sarawak and supported by the BIMP-EAGA Sarawak Association (BESA).

The forum will bring together government officials and industry leaders from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, and Malaysia, alongside interactive business roundtables drawing stakeholders from across Borneo and the wider ASEAN region. Invitations will extend to all Governors of Kalimantan, ensuring representation from the Indonesian part of the island.

The first day will close with a Gala Dinner hosted by the Premier of Sarawak at the Hilton Kuching, where participants can build on the day's discussions in an informal setting.

The second day will be given over to business-to-business (B2B) meetings at the Sheraton Kuching Hotel, offering all participating companies a structured setting to explore partnerships, joint ventures, and investment opportunities arising from the roundtables.

Together, these sessions aim to deepen dialogue and identify practical avenues for cooperation across Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

Day and Date : 7th – 8th October 2026

Conference Venue : Sheraton Kuching Hotel, 2, Jln Padungan, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak

Gala Dinner Venue : Hilton Hotel, Jalan Tunku Abdul Rahman, 93100 Kuching, Sarawak

Learn more about Borneo Economic Forum at our website:

www.borneoeconomic.com

Key Discussion Topics

Borneo Grid: Powering ASEAN's Growth

Given Borneo's hydrocarbon abundance and vast renewable energy potential and expanding cross-border electricity interconnections position the island as a strategic pillar of the ASEAN Power Grid and Borneo Grid.

This session will explore how Borneo's energy potential can be transformed into shared prosperity by strengthening cross-border transmission infrastructure, and aligning policy and investment frameworks across Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

Digital Borneo: Powering the New Economy

Borneo's governments are increasingly positioning AI, data centres, and digital infrastructure as the island's next growth engine. Unlocking this potential will require sustained investment in digital infrastructure, talent development, and cross-border regulatory alignment, leveraging Borneo's abundant and reliable clean energy.

This session will explore how Borneo can position itself as a competitive digital and AI hub for the region, examining the frameworks, partnerships, and investments needed to translate energy abundance into digital economy leadership.

Towards A Unified Borneo Integrated Industrial Hubs

Strategically located at the heart of Southeast Asia and a market of more than 680 million people, Borneo has the potential to become a major logistics and manufacturing hub. Connectivity is a critical enabler of Borneo's economic integration, with ports and infrastructure serving as the backbone of trade, investment, and industrial development.

This session will explore how governments and the private sector can work together to strengthen regional connectivity, improve infrastructure planning, and unlock Borneo's full economic potential.

Expected Deliverables

1. Reactivation of the Borneo Economic Community

The reactivation of the Borneo Economic Community (BEC) will introduce a renewed governance structure, an expanded membership base, and a refreshed set of strategic priorities designed to strengthen business-led regional cooperation and advance the long-term vision of an integrated and globally competitive Borneo.

2. Announcement of Priority Initiatives

Announcement of the initial portfolio of BEC Priority Initiatives, comprising approximately two flagship initiatives under each priority sector: Energy Security, Connectivity and Industrial Hubs, and Digital Economy, providing clear and actionable targets for regional collaboration in Borneo.

3. Launch of the BEC Secretariat

Official launch of the BEC Secretariat as the coordinating body responsible for overseeing implementation of the SoC, facilitating stakeholder engagement, convening programmes and meetings, monitoring progress, and ensuring continuity of the BEC's long-term agenda.

Program Rundown and Sequence of the Forum

Time Schedule	Agenda
DAY 1 October 7 th 2026	
09:00 - 10:00 (60 minutes)	Open Registration
10:00 - 10:10 (10 minutes)	<i>Welcoming the arrival of the Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, Premier of Sarawak</i>
	National Anthem of Malaysia “Negaraku” State Anthem of Sarawak “Ibu Pertiwiku”
	Opening Doa (Prayers)
10:10 - 10:15 (5 minutes)	Welcoming Remarks by M. Arsjad Rasjid P.M. , Co-Chair of Borneo Economic Community (BEC) Highlights the journey of the Borneo Economic Community (BEC), showcasing its collective efforts to promote economic integration and uphold the shared spirit of Borneo.
10:15 - 10:25 (10 minutes)	Keynote Remarks by H.E. Basuki Hadimuljono , Chairman of the Nusantara Capital Authority Highlight Indonesia’s vision for Borneo as a strategic and sustainable growth corridor, with Nusantara (IKN) as a catalyst for regional development, connectivity, and economic transformation.
10:25 - 10:35 (10 minutes)	Keynote Remarks by Datin Seri Paduka Hajah Tutiatty binti Haji Abdul Wahab , Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Brunei Darussalam Highlight Brunei Darussalam’s vision for Borneo, with a focus on strengthening regional connectivity, trade, investment, and economic diversification.
10:35 - 10:45 (10 minutes)	Keynote Remarks by H.E. Rachmat Pambudy , Minister for National Development Planning/Head of National Development Planning Agency of the Republic of Indonesia Highlight Indonesia's vision for Borneo as a strategic and sustainable growth corridor, while demonstrating how Indonesia may contribute to advancing regional connectivity and fostering greater collaboration across the island and the wider ASEAN region.
10:45 - 11:00 (15 minutes)	Keynote Remarks by The Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg , Premier of Sarawak Underscore Sarawak's strategic priorities and leadership vision for advancing regional connectivity, promoting energy transition, and sustainable economic development across Borneo.
11:00 - 11:10 (10 minutes)	Opening Ceremony <i>Video of the Borneo Economic Community (BEC)</i> <i>Opening the Forum and Group Photo</i>

Please note the program is subject to change and will be updated on a regular basis

11:10 - 12:00 (50 minutes)	Opening Panel: Shaping the Future of Borneo • Dato Jonathan Chai Voon Tok, President of Sarawak Business Federation (SBF) • Daniel Leong, Acting CEO of Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) • Sofyan Djalil, CEO of Indonesian Business Council (IBC) Moderator: Allen Lai, Managing Director, Confer Sdn Bhd
12:00 - 13:00 (60 minutes)	Lunch Break
13:00 - 14:15 (75 minutes)	Roundtable Discussion Session I Borneo Grid: Powering ASEAN's Growth <i>Include the Introduction of Borneo Economic Community (BEC)</i> Lead Discussants: • M. Arsjad Rasjid P.M., Founder and Chairman, Sriwijaya Capital • Leslie Chai, Vice President for Commercial, Sarawak Energy Berhad (SEB) • Dato' Charon Wardini Mokhzani, Chairman, ASEAN-BAC Malaysia • Said Zaidansyah, Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration, Southeast Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB) • Venkatachalam Anbumozhi, Senior Research Fellow for Innovation, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) • Foo Kee Khoon, Head of Business Development, Aster Chemicals and Energy Pte. Ltd. • Noorazwan Othman, Project Manager, Adinin Group of Companies Moderator: Jukhee Hong, Executive Advisor of Southeast Asia Future Initiatives Centre (SEAFIC)
14:15 - 14:30 (15 minutes)	Coffee Break
14:30 - 15:45 (75 minutes)	Roundtable Discussion Session II Digital Borneo: Powering the New Economy <i>Include the Introduction of Borneo Economic Community (BEC)</i> Lead Discussants: • Dato' Ir. Ts. Sudarnoto bin Osman, CEO, Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation (SDEC) • Sade Bimantara, Director for ASEAN External Relations, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia • Zurinah Datuk Hanafiah, Chief Executive Officer, CTS Horizon Sabah • Chin Kah Yi, Chief Executive Officer Sabah Net Net Sdn Bhd • Manish Chiddarwar, Senior Director, Corporate Finance, Danantara Investment Management (DIM) • David An, Director, CTO Group, ZTE • Qian Shihong, Strategy Officer, Huawei Indonesia • Goh Jing Rui, Director, VentureSEA Consulting Moderator: Allen Lai, Managing Director, Confer Sdn Bhd
15:45 - 16:00 (15 minutes)	Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:15 (75 minutes)	Roundtable Discussion Session III: Towards A Unified Borneo Integrated Industrial Hubs <i>Include the Introduction of Borneo Economic Community (BEC)</i> Lead Discussants: • Nobel Pang, Chair, BIMP-EAGA Business Council (BEBC) Malaysia • Arya Rizqi Darsono, Chair of KADIN West Kalimantan • Venkatachalam Anbumozhi, Senior Research Fellow for Innovation, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) • Ar. Teo Ah Khing, Chairman, Imasa Dinasti Sdn Bhd • Datuk Haji Mohd Hasnol Datuk Ayub, President of the Sabah Bumiputera Chamber of Commerce (SBCC) • Dr. Yap Kwong Weng, CEO of Vietnam SuperPort and Head of Group Strategy, Sustainability, and Communications, YCH Group • Faizah Mustapa, Chief Business Officer, EXIM Bank Malaysia • Atul Menon, Private Sector Development Specialist, Southeast Asia Department (SERD), Asian Development Bank (ADB) Moderator: Timothy Ong, CEO, Invest Sarawak
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Forum Concludes

GALA DINNER | October 7th | Hilton Hotel Kuching

19:00 - 21:00 (120 minutes)	Gala Dinner Hosted by The Premier of Sarawak An exclusive Gala Dinner will be held at Hilton Hotel Kuching, bringing together business leaders, government representatives, and key stakeholders from ASEAN and Borneo to explore collaboration opportunities and strengthen business ties following the Forum. Participation will be curated to bring together a diverse and relevant community of invited guests, creating a dynamic environment for meaningful conversations and high-level relationship-building. • Special Remarks by M. Arsjad Rasjid P.M., Co-Chair of Borneo Economic Community (BEC) • Special Remarks by Haslina Taib, Co-Chair of Borneo Economic Community (BEC) • Special Remarks by Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hasan, Deputy Premier of Sarawak • MOU Signing and Special Announcements
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DAY 2 | October 8th | Sheraton Kuching Hotel

09:00 - 12:00	B2B Business Matching <i>Hosted at Sheraton Hotel Kuching</i> Following the forum, the B2B Matching sessions at Sheraton Kuching Hotel will connect companies, and key stakeholders based on shared interests and business opportunities. The sessions provide a focused platform to explore potential partnerships, facilitate meaningful connections, and turn forum discussions into concrete business opportunities.
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About Borneo Economic Community (BEC)

Initiated during Indonesia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2023, the Borneo Economic Community (BEC) is a multi-stakeholder platform dedicated to advancing economic integration, cross-border connectivity, and sustainable development across the island of Borneo. Bringing together governments, businesses, investors, development institutions, academia, and civil society, the BEC fosters strategic partnerships to unlock the region's economic potential through practical, market-driven collaboration.

Through a bottom-up approach, the BEC promotes strategic dialogue, investment, policy coordination, and business collaboration to strengthen trade, industrial cooperation, and connectivity among Brunei Darussalam, the Indonesian provinces of Kalimantan, and the Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak.

The BEC's vision is to position Borneo as a globally competitive and integrated sub-regional growth engine within ASEAN by leveraging its strategic location, natural resources, industrial potential, and human capital to drive sustainable growth and shared prosperity for the people of Borneo.