



KEMENTERIAN KOMUNIKASI

SPEECH

YB TEO NIE CHING

DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS

**STRATEGIC AI INFRASTRUCTURE OF MALAYSIA: TRUSTED,
SOVEREIGN, AND GLOBAL**

马来西亚AI战略基础设施推介仪式

19 MAY 2025 | MONDAY

THE ST REGIS KUALA LUMPUR

Salam Madani, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to begin by recognising and honouring the distinguished individuals whose presence has made this moment possible:

Salutations

Mr. Tang Hao 唐浩

Deputy Director of China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone,
Lin-gang Special Area Administration

Mr. Huang Jiang 黄江

Chairman of Leadyo

Mr. Shawn Tan 陈颖祥

Group Chairman of Skyvast

Y.A.M. Tengku Syarif Laksamana Perlis Dato' Seri DiRaja

Syed Razlan Jamalullail

Chairman of Sirage Skyvast Holdings

Mr. Michael Zhuang 庄千

Vice President of Huawei Malaysia

As well as all our esteemed guests, partners, and collaborators

gathered here today. Your leadership and shared vision have set the stage for this historic initiative.

1. First and foremost, I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to Skyvast, Huawei and Leadyo for the invitation to officiate this landmark occasion. Your commitment to positioning Malaysia at the forefront of strategic AI infrastructure is both commendable and consequential. I thank you too for choosing Malaysia as the launchpad and pilot country for this transformative initiative. It is a decision that recognises not only our readiness but also our potential to lead, to scale, and to share in a future of innovation that delivers tangible and equitable benefits to all. This is a true win-win for our nation and our partners.
2. Today, at the launch of Malaysia's Strategic Artificial Intelligence Infrastructure, Malaysia sends a clear signal to the world: We are not merely adapting to the age of Artificial Intelligence. We are shaping it, securing it, and leading it. And we are doing so on our terms, with trusted partners, and with the wellbeing of our people at heart.
3. We stand at a decisive digital inflection point. For years,

Malaysia has harboured the ambition, nurtured the talent, and demonstrated the policy will. Yet, we have been constrained by foreign infrastructures, cloud dependencies, and barriers to high-performance computing. The global AI race will not wait. If we do not act decisively, we risk becoming perpetual consumers of technologies defined by others, running on infrastructure governed by others, under laws written by others.

4. Today, that changes. This infrastructure, developed in partnership with Skyvast, Huawei, Leadyo, and supported by the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Communications, Cyberview, PNSB, and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, represents far more than technology, which is also a strategic national asset.

5. Among the many breakthroughs we celebrate today are:

- Malaysia becomes the first nation to activate this class of Ascend GPU-powered AI servers at national scale.
- DeepSeek, an open-source large language model, is now operational in Malaysia, enabling public and private AI applications within our national jurisdiction.

- Skyvast AI Cloud infrastructure will deliver AI-as-a-Service (AlaaS) and GPU-as-a-Service (GPUaaS), democratising AI access for startups, researchers, enterprises, agencies, and communities alike.

- A phased rollout of 3,000 Ascend chips by 2026 will form the backbone of Malaysia's national AI grid.

- For the first time, Malaysia demonstrating that the AI era can be inclusive, interoperable, and multilateral.

- This also lays the foundation for green AI, anchored by projects such as the Perlis Advance Tech Park, an Off-Grid Data Centre Park in Chuping, Perlis—the largest of its kind regionally—launched in November 2024 by YB Minister Of Communications, who called it a true "game changer".

6. Importantly, this infrastructure is not built for industry alone.

- For businesses, it unlocks powerful and affordable AI tools to innovate, automate, and scale.

- For government agencies, it enables stronger, faster, and more intelligent services that reach the rakyat with greater speed, precision, and reliability.

- For students and researchers, it makes world-class computing power and AI resources accessible at home.

- And for everyday Malaysians, it means new career opportunities, high-value jobs, and the assurance that our national data is protected, governed locally, and deployed for the benefit of our people.

7. The urgency for sovereign AI infrastructure is not hypothetical—it is driven by real, accelerating demand. According to **DataReportal's Digital 2024: Malaysia report**, as of January 2024, Malaysia recorded **33.59 million internet users**, representing **97.4% internet penetration**. At the same time, **Telecom Review Asia** projects that Malaysia's **monthly mobile data usage per user will grow from 18.9 GB in 2023 to 44.9 GB by 2028**. Extrapolated at national scale, this translates to **over 1,000 petabytes of data transmitted locally each month in 2024—a 35% increase over the past three years**. These figures clearly highlight the pressure on our national infrastructure and the urgency of ensuring that our data flows through trusted, sovereign networks—governed and protected under Malaysian law. This is a core mandate of the **Ministry of Communications**, whose responsibility is to safeguard our national infrastructure, digital sovereignty, and public interest

in the digital age.

8. This launch is not merely a technical milestone, but a policy breakthrough. It lays the foundation for:
 - The National AI Framework
 - The operationalisation of the MyDIGITAL blueprint
 - Our commitment to public sector digital transformation
 - And the long-term development of local AI talent and the startup ecosystem.
9. It also advances one of Malaysia's most strategic bilateral partnerships: our digital and AI collaboration with China. As the first country to operationalise a Trusted Data Zone with China, Malaysia is honoured to co-develop a new model for cross-border AI governance, infrastructure, and innovation.
10. China today stands as both the world's largest AI application market, and one of the most advanced ecosystems in AI infrastructure, semiconductor innovation, and digital policy. That makes our collaboration not only timely but deeply strategic, and Malaysia's role as China's first international partner in trusted AI zones reflects our

credibility, capability, and regional leadership.

11. This launch is historic because it is a series of firsts:

- First activation of this class of AI compute infrastructure in Malaysia—and possibly ASEAN.
- First deployment of an open-sourced sovereign LLM (DeepSeek) at national scale globally.
- First Trusted Data Zone linking Cyberjaya, Perlis Advance Tech Park, and Shanghai Lingang.
- First time Malaysia leads the region with operational, sovereign AI infrastructure.

12. Subsequently, Malaysia is positioned to be:

- ASEAN's AI anchor nation.
- A trusted digital jurisdiction in an increasingly fragmented tech landscape.
- A launchpad for globally governed AI systems that uphold sovereignty, privacy, and equity.

13. This is not just a headline. It is a blueprint being delivered. It is the result of years of diplomacy, coordination, and public-private trust:

- From Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's national call for AI sovereignty and inclusive innovation, as outlined in his vision for Malaysia's digital transformation.

- To the China–Malaysia Trusted Data Corridor co-led by Skyvast, Cyberview, and Shanghai Lin-gang Special Area.

- And to the contributions of Skyvast, the architect of the infrastructure; Leadyo, the provider of GPU servers; and Huawei, for advancing AI data centre and cloud capabilities.

14. We are also deeply appreciative of the Shanghai Lin-gang Special Area, for entrusting Malaysia as the first and principal international pilot site for this pioneering cross-border AI model. This is a win-win collaboration that sets a new global benchmark for trusted digital partnerships.

15. It reflects Malaysia's growing strength as a neutral connector, a regional innovator, and a future-facing digital nation.

16. As we build AI, we must also govern it wisely. Malaysia's AI leadership will not be measured solely by compute power, but by our integrity, fairness, and how we protect our people.

We aim for AI that is responsible, inclusive, and grounded in our values. Let us develop not just AI for Malaysia but trusted AI from Malaysia—to ASEAN, to the GCC, and to the world.

17. So let me close by saying: What we launch today is more than a platform. It is a national declaration. Malaysia is ready to lead. With strength, vision, and unity, I declare the Strategic AI Infrastructure of Malaysia: Trusted, Sovereign, and Global — officially launched.

Thank you.