PRESS RELEASE

ECONOMIC AND INVESTMENT OUTLOOK 2026

Theatre Hall, Ministry of Finance and Economy Building
Monday, 14 Sya'ban 1447H corresponding to 2 February 2026M

1. Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB) hosted the Economic and Investment Outlook 2026, carrying the theme "Progress Under Pressure – Opportunities Amid Global Strains". The event brought together speakers from the public, private, and academic sectors to share views on key economic and market trends and developments, as well as the outlook for 2026 and beyond.

2. The event was attended by around 150 participants from various organisations, including departments and divisions under the Ministry of Finance Economy (MOFE), other government agencies, financial institutions, and local higher educational institutions.

3. The guest of honour was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, as the Chairman of BDCB's Board of Directors. Also in attendance were YM Hajah Rashidah binti Haji Sabtu, Managing Director, BDCB; Permanent Secretaries; as well as Chief Executive Officers and Managing Directors of local financial institutions.

4. In his keynote address, the guest of honour highlighted the delicate balance between rising geopolitical fragmentation and the rapid advancement of transformative technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), both of which are shaping the global economic outlook. He noted that geopolitical tensions have reshaped international cooperation, heightened market vulnerabilities, and contributed to a fragmented landscape that dampens investor sentiment, prompting more cautious, diversified strategies. Counterbalancing these, AI emerges as a powerful structural force accelerating technological innovation and transforming productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness – particularly in the finance sector – hence, turning periods of pressure into catalysts for adaptation and long-term resilience. Subsequently, he emphasised the importance of closely monitoring such trends while rigorously assessing associated opportunities and risks.

5. This was followed by a special presentation by YM Dr. Hafezali bin Iqbal Hussain, Associate Professor, School of Business and Economics, University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD). He examined how economic policy uncertainty disrupts global supply chains, while also identifying pathways for progress under pressure, in line with the event's theme. He emphasised the role of targeted national capabilities – digital readiness, innovation capacity, and financial depth – in strengthening resilience and enabling economies to navigate periods of stress, while remaining mindful of the risks associated with emerging technologies.

6. The programme continued with a panel discussion moderated by YM Maz Khairiyah binti Mohidin, Senior Manager, Financial Markets and Treasury, BDCB. Panellists comprised YM Heidi Farah Sia binti Abd Rahman, Acting Director General, Department of Economic Planning and Statistics (DEPS), MOFE; YM Jason Wong, Managing Director, Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) Securities; YM Siti Athirah binti Dato Seri Setia Haji Ali, Senior Manager, Economy and Surveillance, BDCB; and YM Sofia Ezzah binti Haji Amer Hamzah, Associate (Listed Assets), Brunei Investment Agency (BIA).

7. The panel discussion brought together diverse perspectives on navigating current global and market realities. Panellists explored broad strategies to build resilience, including seizing market opportunities and leveraging data-driven insights to address vulnerabilities and navigate policy uncertainties. The conversation emphasised collaborative approaches that draw on financial strength, innovation, and adaptive capabilities, while harnessing the potential of emerging technologies and remaining vigilant to associated risks.

8. The Economic and Investment Outlook is one of BDCB's flagship engagements, serving as a platform to promote informed dialogues and the exchange of views on a variety of key topics relating to the economy and financial markets.

Brunei Darussalam Central Bank
Reference: BDCB/COMMS/3
Date: 14 Sya'ban 1447H / 2 February 2026M

SIARAN AKHBAR

ECONOMIC AND INVESTMENT OUTLOOK 2026

Dewan Teater, Bangunan Kementerian Kewangan dan Ekonomi
Isnin, 14 Sya'ban 1447H bersamaan dengan 2 Februari 2026M

1. Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB) telah menganjurkan sesi Economic and Investment Outlook 2026, dengan tema "*Progress Under Pressure – Opportunities amid Global Strains*". Acara ini menghimpunkan penceramah daripada sektor awam, swasta, dan akademik untuk membincangkan tren dan perkembangan ekonomi dan pasaran, serta tinjauan bagi tahun 2026 dan seterusnya.

2. Sebanyak kira-kira 150 peserta yang terdiri daripada pelbagai organisasi, termasuk jabatan dan bahagian di bawah Kementerian Kewangan dan Ekonomi (KKWE), agensi-agensi kerajaan, institusi-institusi kewangan, dan institusi-institusi pengajian tinggi tempatan telah menghadiri acara tersebut.

3. Hadir selaku tetamu kehormat ialah Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Menteri Sumber-Sumber Utama dan Pelancongan selaku Pengerusi Lembaga Pengarah BDCB. Turut hadir termasuk YM Hajah Rashidah binti Haji Sabtu, Pengarah Urusan, BDCB; Setiausaha-Setiausaha Tetap; serta Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif dan Pengarah Urusan institusi-institusi kewangan tempatan.

4. Ucaptama tetamu kehormat menyentuh mengenai keseimbangan antara peningkatan perpecahan geopolitik yang semakin meningkat dan perkembangan pesat teknologi baharu seperti kecerdasan buatan ataupun *Artifical Intelligence* (AI), yang bersama-sama membentuk landskap ekonomi global. Beliau turut menyatakan ketegangan geopolitik membentuk semula kerjasama antarabangsa, meningkatkan kerentanan pasaran, dan menyumbang kepada landskap yang berpecah-belah sehingga menjejaskan sentimen pelabur, sekali gus mendorong strategi yang lebih berhati-hati dan berpelbagai. AI juga diketengahkan sebagai kuasa struktur yang berupaya meningkatkan produktiviti, kecekapan dan daya saing – khususnya dalam sektor kewangan – menjadikannya pemangkin kepada penyesuaian dan daya tahan jangka panjang. Seterusnya, Yang Berhormat menekankan kepentingan memantau tren-tren ini sambil menilai peluang dan risiko yang berkaitan secara teliti dan menyeluruh.

5. Acara kemudian diteruskan dengan pembentangan khas oleh Dr. Hafezali bin Iqbal Hussain, Profesor Madya, School of Business and Economics, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD). Sejajar dengan tema utama acara, beliau meneroka impak ketidakpastian dasar ekonomi ke atas rantaian bekalan global, di samping mengenal pasti jalan penyelesaian untuk kemajuan di bawah tekanan. Beliau menekankan peranan keupayaan kebangsaan yang disasarkan – dari segi kesiapsiagaan digital,

kapasiti inovasi, dan kedalaman kewangan – dalam mengukuhkan kedayatahanan dan membolehkan ekonomi mengharungi tempoh tekanan, sambil kekal berwaspada terhadap risiko yang berkaitan dengan teknologi baru.

6. Seterusnya, sebuah sesi panel telah diadakan, dengan YM Maz Khairiyah binti Mohidin, Pengurus Kanan, Pasaran Kewangan dan Perbendaharaan, BDCB, sebagai moderator. Ahli-ahli panel terdiri daripada YM Heidi Farah Sia binti Abd Rahman, Pemangku Ketua Pengarah, Jabatan Perancangan Ekonomi dan Statistik (JPES), MOFE; YM Jason Wong, Pengarah Urusan, Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) Securities; YM Siti Athirah binti Dato Seri Setia Haji Ali, Pengurus Kanan, Ekonomi dan Pemantauan, BDCB; dan Yang Mulia Sofia Ezzah binti Haji Amer Hamzah, *Associate (Listed Assets)*, Agensi Pelaburan Brunei (BIA).

7. Panel mengongsikan perspektif berbeza-beza mengenai cara menangani realiti global dan pasaran semasa. Strategi bagi membina kedayatahanan, termasuk merebut peluang pasaran dan memanfaatkan data untuk menangani kelemahan dan memperkukuh penyelarasan dasar turut dibincangkan. Secara keseluruhan, panel menekankan kepentingan pendekatan kolaboratif yang menggabungkan kekuatan kewangan, inovasi, dan keupayaan penyesuaian, sambil memanfaatkan teknologi baharu dengan berhemat dan berwaspada terhadap risiko yang berkaitan.

8. Economic and Investment Outlook merupakan salah satu inisiatif utama BDCB untuk menggalakkan dialog dan pertukaran pandangan mengenai pelbagai topik berkaitan dengan ekonomi dan pasaran kewangan.

Brunei Darussalam Central Bank
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