

Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH)

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General Information

Country

[Malaysia](#)

Title

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BIOSAFETY SYMPOSIUM 2025 IN MALAYSIA

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Abstract

The highlights of the Biosafety Symposium 2025 (held on 21 August 2025) included the announcement of a strategic partnership with the Malaysian Border Control and Protection Agency (AKPS), speakers from 5 ASEAN countries and United Kingdom talking about "Insights on Biosafety Regulatory Approach, Local Innovations and Public Engagement Initiatives", a dialogue session entitled "With Great Technology Comes Great Responsibility: Genetically Modified Food from Farm to Plate" and exhibition booths that showcased the latest in biotech breakthroughs, biosafety monitoring tools, and public education campaigns.

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News text

The **Biosafety Symposium 2025** in conjunction with Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship 2025 kicked off with high energy, big announcements, and a strong regional presence — all under the banner of "*Strengthening Biosafety for Future Sustainability*." This symposium was held on the **21 August 2025** in Selangor, Malaysia. This inaugural event was organized by the Department of Biosafety Malaysia under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES). This event was officiated by the Deputy Minister Datuk Seri Huang Tiong Sii of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental and brought together stakeholders from sectors such as research, industry, institutional biosafety committees, relevant Ministries, regulatory agencies, and the media all under one roof.

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In a key highlight, the **Department of Biosafety** unveiled a strategic partnership with the **Malaysian Border Control and Protection Agency (AKPS)** — a bold move to ramp up enforcement of the **Biosafety Act 2007**. Besides reinforcing control over GMOs at the country's entry points, the collaboration also enhances officer training, improves data sharing and ensures more integrated procedures.

Speakers from 5 ASEAN countries and the United Kingdom offered deep dives about

"Insights on Biosafety Regulatory Approach, Local Innovations and Public Engagement Initiatives" and gave perspectives from their respective countries. Participants of the symposium listened to **Dr. Adiratna Mat Ripen (Malaysia), Dr. Hong Yan (Singapore), Dr. Tri Joko Santoso (Indonesia), Dr. Pitchaporn Wannitikul (Thailand), Ms. Darlene Joy M. Siena (Philippines) and Professor Jim Dunn (United Kingdom)**. Their sessions sparked vibrant conversations about the common challenges and progress towards managing biosafety in the region. Professor Jim Dunn offered a fresh perspective from a non ASEAN country and provided an interesting comparison.

A high-level dialogue session entitled **"With Great Technology Comes Great Responsibility: Genetically Modified Food from Farm to Plate"** ensured a robust discussion that highlighted the challenges faced in the ASEAN region with regards to biosafety. The panelists comprised **Dr Tan Siang Hee (CropLife Asia), Datuk Dr. Ahmad Parveez Bin Ghulam Kadir (National Biosafety Board Expert Member and Director General of the Malaysian Palm Oil Board) and Dr Masami Takeuchi (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)**. The discussion didn't shy away from tough questions, tackling the regulatory and scientific dilemmas surrounding genetically modified food. Their spirited exchange left the participants with a deeper appreciation of the balance between innovation and caution in food biotechnology and the importance of communication to the public.

Outside the conference hall, the exhibition zone buzzed with excitement as **10 exhibitors** showcased the latest in biotech breakthroughs, biosafety monitoring tools, and public education campaigns. The ten exhibitors comprised the **Department of Biosafety, Forest Research Institute of Malaysia, Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute, Department of Chemistry, Rubber Research Board, Malaysian Palm Oil Board, Universiti Putra Malaysia, National Public Health Laboratory, Malaysia Crop Life and Public Health Association and Department of Health Selangor**.

Through hosting the Biosafety Symposium 2025, Malaysia took the lead in initiating and encouraging the regional exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices in biosafety.

Please view our **social media platforms** to catch a glimpse of the highlights during the Biosafety Symposium 2025.

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<https://youtube.com/shorts/C17glqHddko?si=zF4QkobGaWCY5tAY>

WS

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Further Information

Questions about the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety or the operation of the Biosafety Clearing-House may be directed to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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