

DDW 7: NEW ENERGY

The DDW 7: Future Prospect for New Energy or Small Modular Reactor (SMR) session focused on the prospects for new energy, particularly nuclear energy and featured key announcements and the attendance of notable dignitaries. The panel began by discussing the fundamentals of nuclear energy, distinguishing between fusion and fission, with an emphasis on fission's operational status since the 1950s. In a global context, the discussion highlighted the importance of nuclear power for decarbonization efforts, especially in light of COP 28's recognition of its significance. The panel also addressed Malaysia's historical involvement in nuclear energy and the need for policy updates to reflect current technology advancements and goals.

The discussion examined the reliability and cost considerations of nuclear energy, emphasizing the levelized cost of electricity and the integration of nuclear power with intermittent renewable sources. Safety, security and effective public communication were identified as vital components to ensure informed decision-making. The panel advocated for Malaysia to explore nuclear energy competitively, suggesting the use of proven technologies and collaboration with experienced providers to ensure a successful implementation.

Action items proposed during the discussion includes reviewing and updating existing policies, enhancing legal and regulatory frameworks, engaging local communities and fostering international collaborations to support Malaysia's nuclear ambitions. These steps are aimed at ensuring that Malaysia can effectively integrate nuclear energy into its energy mix, leveraging its benefits for reliable and sustainable power generation.