

# Preface

The 5th International Conference on the Future of ASEAN (ICoFA 2025), held in conjunction with the Malaysia's Chairmanship of ASEAN, provided an important platform for scholars, researchers, and industry practitioners to engage in meaningful discourse and share research findings in a dynamic and intellectually stimulating environment. The conference theme, “*Towards ASEAN Community Vision 2025*,” emphasised the region's aspirations for unity, peace, stability, and sustainable development—anchored in three fundamental pillars of Political-security, Economic, and Socio-cultural Communities.

This volume of conference proceedings, published in collaboration with UPM Press under the esteemed *Pertanika Journal*, represents a selection of peer-reviewed papers that were presented during the conference. It is both an honour and a privilege for contributors to have their work featured in this publication, which reflects the ongoing academic commitment to examine the transformative forces shaping the ASEAN's future. The majority of papers included in these proceedings align closely with the conference's core theme, addressing topics that prioritise the aspirations, well-being, and inclusive development of the ASEAN's people. Through these contributions, the proceedings aim to inspire further academic inquiry and collaborative research that will support regional integration and policy development in the ASEAN member states.

We gratefully acknowledge UPM Press and the *Pertanika* editorial team for their invaluable support in the publication process. Our deepest appreciation also goes to our academic and industry partners, collaborators, and all participants who contributed to the success of the ICoFA 2025. Special thanks are due to the dedicated members of the ICoFA 2025 Organising Committee, whose tireless efforts ensured the smooth execution of both the conference and subsequent publication. This proceedings volume stands as a testament to the collective scholarship and collaborative spirit that continue to drive ASEAN forward.

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