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4th ASEAN Battery Technology Conference Opens in Malaysia as ASEAN Moves from Dialogue to Industrialisation

Opening day highlights Malaysia-Indonesia battery collaboration and new industry partnerships, as ASEAN turns its attention to manufacturing scale-up and market deployment.

19 August 2026, Sepang, Malaysia: The 4th ASEAN Battery Technology Conference (ABTC 2026) opened today, bringing together policymakers, manufacturers, researchers, investors and industry leaders from across ASEAN and beyond to advance regional collaboration and strengthen the foundations of a competitive battery ecosystem.

Hosted by NMB (NanoMalaysia Berhad) at the Mövenpick Hotel & Convention Centre KLIA, Sepang from 19 to 21 August 2026, this year's conference builds on three previous editions in Bali, Singapore and Phuket. Held under the theme ***"Industrialising Battery Technologies: Strengthening ASEAN's Battery Value Chain for Global Competitiveness",*** ABTC 2026 shifts the regional conversation towards implementation, from scaling manufacturing and advancing safety and certification to enabling investment, commercialisation and closer integration across ASEAN markets.

Officially opening the conference, **YB Datuk Chang Lih Kang, Minister of Science, Technology & Innovation (MOSTI), Malaysia**, called on ASEAN to move "from discussion to industrialisation".

He said, "ASEAN's strength lies in our ability to complement one another through research, manufacturing, standards development, investment, and market integration. By working together, we can build a resilient regional value chain that benefits all our economies."

Malaysia's role as host comes as the country strengthens its own pathway from battery research to industrial application. Initiatives such as the NanoMalaysia Energy Storage Technology Initiative (NESTI) and the Hydrogen–EV–Battery Centre (HEBATT) have supported capabilities spanning research, prototyping, testing, validation and pilot-scale manufacturing. More recently, the establishment of GigaFactory Malaysia Sdn Bhd (GMSB) and the introduction of Malaysia's Graphene-Enhanced Lithium-ion Battery Technology have demonstrated the country's efforts to translate local research and innovation into industrial-scale capabilities.

These developments provide a practical backdrop for ABTC 2026's wider regional ambition: connecting the different strengths being developed across ASEAN into a more integrated and commercially competitive battery industry.

Prof. (Adj.) Dr Rezal Khairi Ahmad, Chief Executive Officer of NMB Group, said, "Hosting ABTC 2026 in Malaysia is significant because ASEAN already has considerable technical capabilities and innovation strengths across the region. The priority now is how we scale, integrate and commercialise them. Malaysia has been building the infrastructure to move technologies from research into pilot and industrial application, but no single market can build the battery economy alone. ABTC gives us the opportunity to connect capabilities across ASEAN, develop stronger cross-border pathways and collectively build an industry that can compete globally."

Malaysia-Indonesia Collaboration Marks Milestone in Regional Battery Development

A key highlight of the opening day was the launch of the Malaysia-Indonesia NMC-graphene lithium-ion pouch cell, marking the next step in regional battery collaboration between NMB (NanoMalaysia Berhad) and the National Battery Research Institute (NBRI), Indonesia. The development builds on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) formalised between NMB and NBRI during ABTC 2025, which established a collaborative framework for technology transfer, joint research and innovation, testing and standardisation, as well as education and industrial training.

By combining Indonesia's capabilities in NMC active material production with Malaysia's expertise in battery formulation, graphene technology and cell development, the pouch cell initiative provides a tangible example of how complementary ASEAN capabilities can be connected across battery materials, technology development and future commercialisation.

Strategic Partnerships Advance Regional Battery Development

ABTC 2026 also witnessed the exchange of several strategic partnerships and agreements aimed at accelerating battery innovation, commercialisation and industry development across the region. The collaborations announced include:

- **GigaFactory Malaysia Sdn Bhd (GMSB) and Milan Utama**: A Supply Agreement for the prototyping of Compact Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), supporting the development of energy storage solutions for future applications.
- **Infien Energy and Ampace**: A strategic collaboration to explore opportunities within the evolving battery technology ecosystem.
- **Green Tenaga and Go Rental Singapore**: A partnership supporting sustainable energy solutions and wider adoption of clean technologies.

- **Neuron Energy Network, Aryva Energy, Nano Commerce Sdn Bhd (NCSB) and GigaFactory Malaysia Sdn Bhd (GMSB):** A strategic partnership to accelerate the development and commercialisation of battery and energy storage solutions, strengthening manufacturing and strategic partnerships.
- **GigaFactory Malaysia Sdn Bhd (GMSB) and Axium Industries:** A joint initiative to leverage AI and digital technologies to enhance battery manufacturing, operational efficiency and supply chain management, while driving continuous improvement and innovation.
- **GigaFactory Malaysia Sdn Bhd (GMSB) and Montavista Energy Technologies Corporation:** A strategic collaboration to accelerate high-energy-density battery innovation and commercialisation through advanced materials, battery recycling, manufacturing capabilities, equipment facilitation and market development.

Driving Knowledge Exchange and Innovation Across ASEAN

The opening day also examined battery safety, manufacturing scale-up, energy storage, circularity and emerging technologies, drawing perspectives from internationally recognised experts Professor Ying Shirley Meng of the University of Chicago and Argonne National Laboratory and Professor Khalil Amine of Argonne National Laboratory. They were joined by regional leaders from SEDA, MARii, Pertamina, A*STAR and the Electric Vehicle Association of the Philippines (EVAP).

Ts. Dr Nurul Akmaliah Bt Dzulkurnain, Chief Executive Officer of International Battery Center (IBC), said, “ABTC has become an important platform for ASEAN stakeholders to explore shared opportunities within the battery industry. Each country brings unique strengths across policy, research, manufacturing, safety, and deployment. By connecting these capabilities across the region, we can work towards building a more resilient and competitive battery ecosystem.”

Looking Ahead: From Manufacturing Scale-Up to Market Deployment

The conference continues with a Battery Manufacturing Deep Dive, examining how ASEAN can scale production, improve manufacturing efficiency and better connect capabilities from materials through to cell and system integration. Thereafter, discussions will shift towards application integration and market enablement, including investment, energy storage, and the conditions required for wider commercial deployment. Together, these discussions will explore how ASEAN can translate its complementary strengths into a more integrated and competitive regional battery industry. Closing the conference will be the ceremonial handover of the ABTC hostship from Malaysia to the Electric Vehicle Association of the Philippines (EVAP), host of the 5th ASEAN Battery Technology Conference in 2027, symbolising ASEAN's continued commitment to advancing the region's battery and electric mobility ecosystem.

The 4th ASEAN Battery Technology Conference is supported by Platinum sponsors Xiamen Ampace Technology Limited, Siemens Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. and Montavista Energy Technologies Corporation, Gold sponsors Green Tenaga Pte. Limited and MTI Kejing & KGC, Silver sponsors Neware Technology Limited, GoRental.MY, Thermo Fisher Scientific Pte. Ltd. and PEC, and Bronze sponsors UL Standards & Engagement (ULSE), Pyro X Sdn Bhd, Axium Industries Group Pte. Ltd., EV Connection Sdn. Bhd. and INV New Material Technology (M) Sdn Bhd.

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About ASEAN Battery Technology Conference

The ASEAN Battery Technology Conference (ABTC) is the region's premier platform for advancing battery innovation, safety, and collaboration. First launched in 2023 in Bali, Indonesia, with early support from regional partners including Hioki E.E. Corporation, the conference was rebranded from ABEVTC to ABTC to reflect its strong focus on battery technologies and their critical role in ASEAN's energy future.

Now entering its fourth edition, ABTC has grown into more than a conference—it is a regional platform uniting industry leaders, researchers, policymakers and investors to advance battery innovation and collaboration across ASEAN. Key milestones include the signing of an MOU among ASEAN battery associations in 2023 and the launch of the ASEAN Battery Safety Network (ABSN) in 2025, strengthening the foundation for long-term regional cooperation.

The 2026 edition in Sepang, Malaysia, will focus on industrialising battery technologies and strengthening ASEAN's battery value chain for global competitiveness. Discussions will spotlight manufacturing scale-up, battery safety, investment, market enablement, circularity and emerging technologies, supporting the region's ambition to build a resilient and globally competitive battery ecosystem.

Organisers of ABTC

About NanoMalaysia Berhad

NMB was incorporated in 2011 as a company limited by guarantee (CLBG) under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI). Through the NMB Venture Builder Model, it is entrusted with driving the development of nanotechnology and EV components technology and spearheading the hydrogen economy in Malaysia.

About Singapore Battery Consortium

Singapore Battery Consortium (SBC) aims to foster strategic R&D partnerships amongst public research performers and industry players in the development and advancement of battery technologies. SBC aims to develop and catalyse the local ecosystem in battery related technologies through this platform. It is hosted at A*STAR and supported by the National Research Foundation Singapore (NRF). Over the past decade, commercial interest in battery development has been on the rise, keeping pace with demand for better battery performance and different performance characteristics for increasingly complex mobility and portable devices. To meet this demand, the Singapore Battery Consortium will bring research outcomes from our laboratories into the market by enabling researchers to understand business requirements, while giving companies access to the latest battery research and technologies to augment their product development efforts.

About Thailand Energy Storage Technology Association (TESTA)

TESTA or THAILAND ENERGY STORAGE TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION aims to help connect stakeholders, educate public, promote understanding, and nurture technological advancements on energy storage technologies in Thailand. TESTA had been officially registered on January 25, 2021, by 5 founding institutes including National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Khon Kaen University (KKU), King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok (KMUTNB), and Electric Vehicle Association of Thailand (EVAT). Over 60 members of the association include energy storage technology enthusiasts from various sectors ranging from academic, research institutes, public sectors, policy makers, and private industries.

About National Battery Research Institute (NBRI)

The National Battery Research Institute (NBRI) was legally established on 17th December 2020 as The Center of Excellence Innovation of Battery and Renewable Energy Foundation, with Prof. Dr. Evvy Kartini as a Founder and Prof Alan J. Drew as Co-Founder. NBRI is Indonesia's independent institute for electrochemical energy storage science and technology, supporting research, training, and education. NBRI aims to contribute to the overall research capacity and training environment in Indonesia in Battery Research. NBRI is a platform that brings together scientists, academicians, industry partners, the government and all stakeholders that focus on battery technology. The main goal of NBRI is to encourage and support a battery manufacturing industry using local resources, which will enable Indonesia to be independent in energy. The NBRI was supported by the UK Government's Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF), part of the Queen Mary University of London QR allocation.

About Electric Vehicle Association of Philippines (eVAP)

eVAP envisions a nation wherein the use of electric vehicles is highly promoted, encouraged and supported by its government and the society in order to develop a transportation landscape that is one with the environment ecologically and economically. eVAP's mission is to educate the public on environmental awareness, and the economic and ecological benefits of electric vehicles through the conduct of and/or participation in promotional activities. eVAP aims to accelerate the society's conversion from using gas-powered vehicles to electric vehicles and works with the government in the creation and implementation of legislations that will support and encourage the use of electric vehicles.

About HIOKI

Established in 1935 and headquartered in Ueda, Nagano, Japan, Hioki E.E. Corporation celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2025 as a global leader in electrical measuring instruments. With a strong focus on precision, innovation, and reliability, Hioki provides a comprehensive range

of solutions for testing, measuring, and analyzing electrical parameters, serving industries such as automotive, electronics, and energy. Trusted by professionals and researchers in over 80 countries, Hioki continues to drive advancements in electrical measurement with state-of-the-art R&D and manufacturing facilities in Nagano, upholding a proud legacy of quality and innovation over nine decades.

About International Battery Center Sdn. Bhd.

International Battery Center (IBC) traces its roots back to the Polymer Ionic Research Group (PRIG) since 2007, officially establishing itself as a company in 2022. Our mission is to serves as a comprehensive hub for smart collaborations, fastering local and international partnerships among government-linked companies (GLCs), industrial companies and universities. Our primary focus is to accelerate the advancements of energy storage, particularly in Li-ion battery development, catering to the needs of device applications and electric vehicles (EVs) in Malaysia.