



Innovative Policy
Recommendations:

Advancing Malaysia Through High-Quality Development

Malaysia Stay & Build 2024
Executive Summary



Background

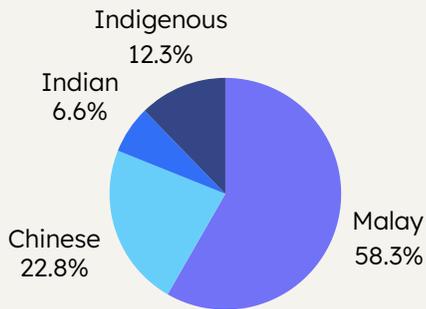
The Malaysia Stay & Build (MS&B) programme is GIFT's flagship experiential leadership development programme designed to motivate young Malaysian leaders from both the public and private sectors to think critically about the drivers of change in the 21st century and become effective leaders and active citizens with a "new vision" for Malaysia.

During this MS&B, a group of 20 participants from across Malaysia convened in Kuala Lumpur and Kuching, Sarawak to undertake classroom discussions, stakeholder meetings, site visits, and policy development sessions. The highlights of their proposal were presented at GIFT's Public Forum on 5th July 2024 in Kuching, which was attended by close to 100 attendees.

GIFT would like to thank everyone involved who put in their valuable time and efforts to make this possible.



Malaysia at a Glance



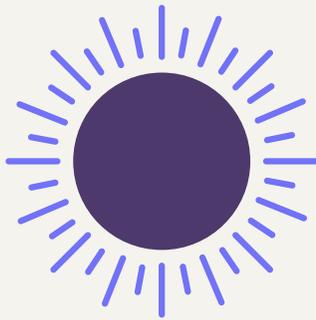
ETHNICITY

Malaysia is a melting pot of cultures that boasts diverse communities, each contributing unique traditions, languages, and cuisines to the nation's rich cultural history



LOCATION

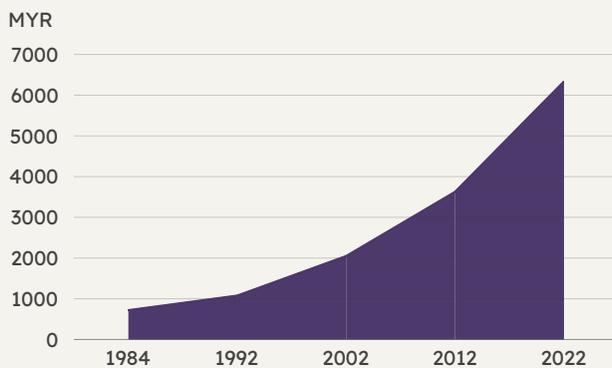
Located at the heart of South East Asia, Malaysia shares borders with Thailand, Indonesia, and Brunei, and has maritime boundaries with Vietnam and the Philippines



CLIMATE

Malaysia lies entirely in the equatorial zone, and is characterised by a tropical climate with an average daily temperature of 21 to 32 degrees Celsius.

Despite its relatively small geographical size, Malaysia is one of the world's 17 megadiverse countries, boasting an extraordinary range of unique flora and fauna due to its diverse ecosystems and rich biodiversity.



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Over the past 40 years, Malaysia's median household income has steadily increased, reflecting significant economic growth



ECONOMICS

- Malaysia is the sixth largest economy in Southeast Asia
- 36th largest economy in the world in terms of nominal GDP. When measured by purchasing power parity, its GDP climbs to the 30th largest.
- 14th fastest growing economy in Asia

High-Quality Development



High-Quality Development in Malaysia's Context

As Malaysia continues on its developmental trajectory in the pursuit of attaining high-income status, it is important to consider what the nation is ultimately trying to achieve. While high-income status is a crucial indicator of economic health and provides the necessary resources for development, it does not automatically equate to a high-quality of life for its citizens or narrow the inequality gap in access to healthcare, education, livelihoods, and wellbeing.

To genuinely progress, Malaysia must broaden its development framework beyond mere economic output. A narrow focus on economic metrics alone risks neglecting these fundamental human wellbeing and sustainable development aspects.

Applying the concept of high-quality development in the Malaysian context means enhancing the wellbeing of its people while leveraging cultural and geographical strengths. This approach, which is comprehensive in nature, emphasises environmental protection, social equity, access to essential needs, and improvements in literacy and education, thereby addressing the comprehensive needs of all Malaysians.

With this in mind, the objective of the 2024 MS&B programme was a set of innovative policy recommendations that would advance Malaysia through high-quality development using GIFT's Innovation Model. Four focus areas were selected based on their urgency, significance and potential to propel Malaysia into a future of high-quality development, where progress is synonymous with the wellbeing and advancement of all its citizens: Health, Education, Climate and Biodiversity.

Why Sarawak?

Sarawak, Malaysia's largest state, stands out due to its distinct historical, political, and administrative context.

The state enjoys a significant degree of legislative autonomy compared to Peninsular Malaysian states, enabling it to enact laws on matters typically under federal jurisdiction.

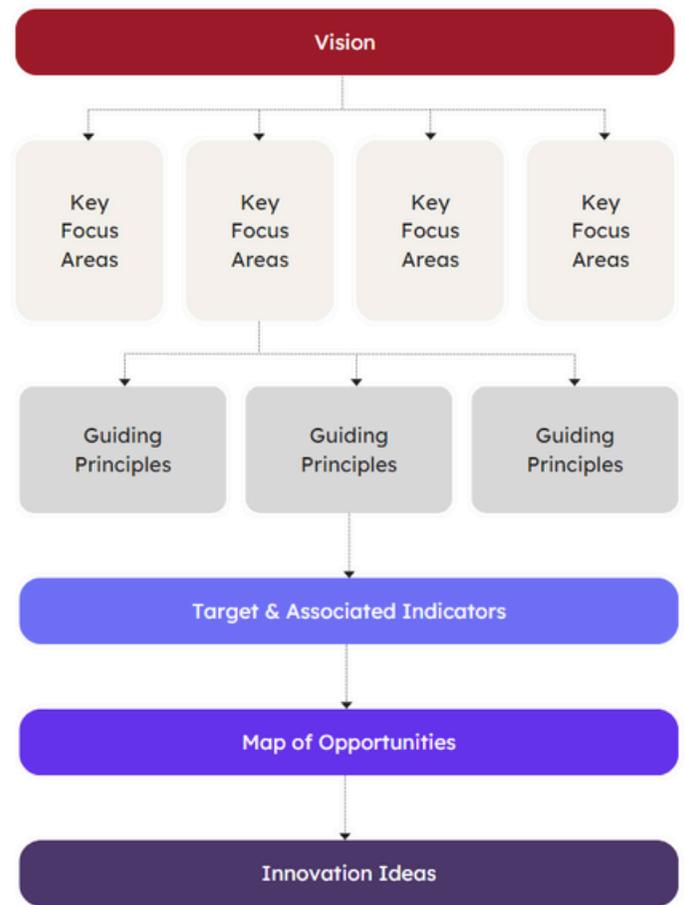
Sarawak's policies strongly emphasise rural development, reflecting the state's geographical and demographic characteristics. Significant efforts have been made by the state government there to improve infrastructure, healthcare, and education in interior regions, aiming to bridge the development gap between urban and rural areas. While healthcare and education are federally managed in Peninsular Malaysia, Sarawak plays a complementary role by addressing local challenges and supporting the state's developmental objectives.

The Innovation Model

GIFT's Innovation Model is a practical framework for governments, companies and organisations to devise strategies for innovation.

It starts with a unifying Vision that designates a clear goal. The vision for the 2024 MS&B is anchored on the concept High-Quality Development. The Vision is elaborated through Guiding Principles in each focus area, backed by actionable Targets and measurable Indicators.

A Map of Opportunities illustrating the relationships and painpoints between key stakeholders is developed and used to inspire Innovations that will in turn support the achievement of targets to realise the Vision



The Vision

To be an ASEAN leader by creating a model tropical economy, the foundations of which are: a healthy population, equitable access to quality education for all, effective environmental resource stewardship, a science-based approach to development and the use of appropriate technologies to deliver on a high-quality of life for all Malaysians.



Key Focus Area 1: Combating Child Stunting



The first 1,000 days of life are crucial for human development, and the diets of pregnant mothers and newborns during this period greatly impact a child's growth, learning, and overall development. Early monitoring of these diets is essential for effective intervention.

MyMama Application and Centralised Data Hub

The proposed MyMama mobile application, supported by a Centralised Data Hub, is a targeted approach to combat child malnutrition. The MyMama app will be introduced by healthcare providers to all registered mothers from the onset of pregnancy. It offers a platform for mothers to log their pregnancy progress weekly and receive tailored dietary recommendations through in-app notifications and reminders to consult a doctor.

Post-delivery, the app continues to serve by allowing mothers to input their newborn's food intake and health information. This data is securely managed by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and used by the government to facilitate timely and effective interventions to enhance public health strategies and address child malnutrition.

Expecting mothers and mothers of newborns will be incentivised to log their progress through the following:

- Dietary supplements prescribed by healthcare professionals during routine check-ups
- Food vouchers and discounts to encourage healthy eating choices through MOH's collaboration with health food industries.

The proposed pilot will be launched in Sarawak, serving as the initial testing ground for the project. Upon achieving tangible results and demonstrating success, the initiative will be expanded and implemented on a nationwide scale, ensuring broader impact across the country.

The MyMama app can be extended to pre-schools, kindergartens, and day care centres to further monitor and support children's nutritional intake beyond the initial stages of early childhood.

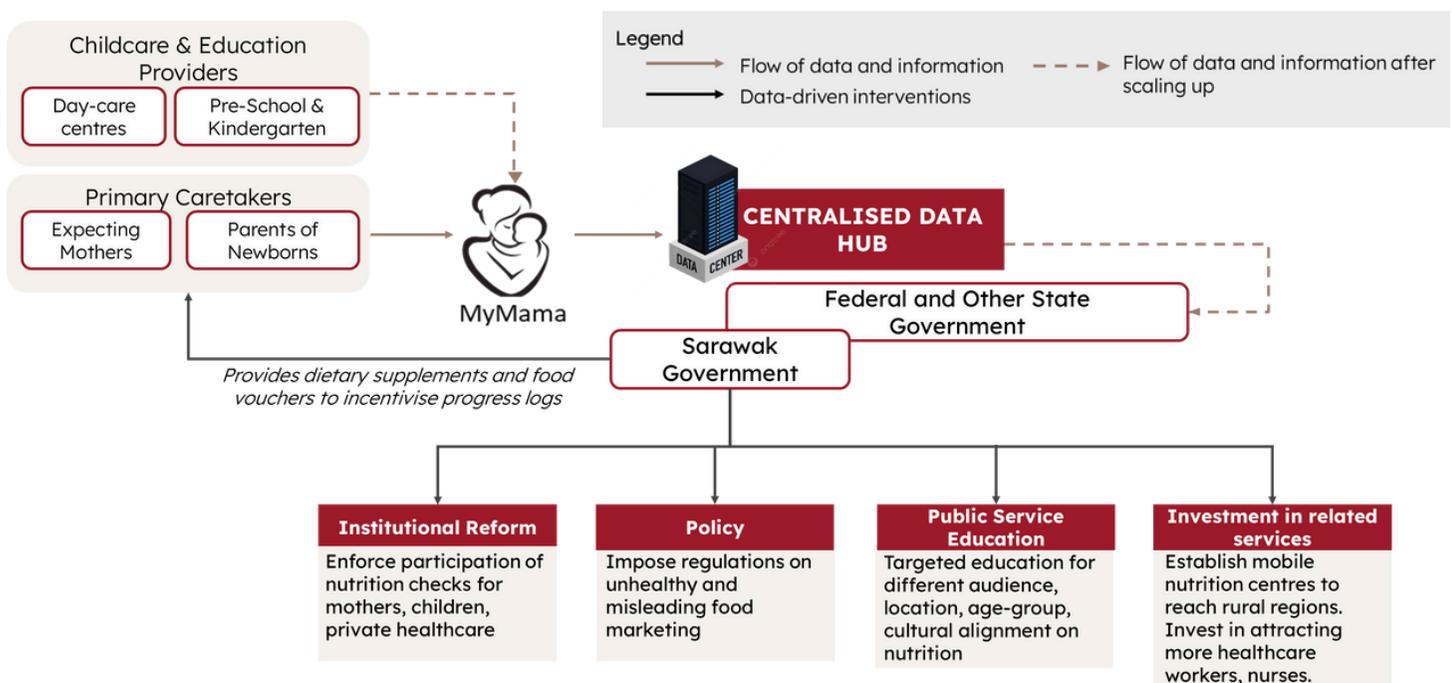
Guiding Principles

- Develop comprehensive early interventions from the onset of pregnancy to improve the long-term health and development of children.
- Invest in health-tech innovations to monitor and analyse data to inform interventions.
- Improve nutritional literacy to foster mindset shifts and behavioural change among children, parents and caretakers to nurture a healthier generation.

Key Targets

- Introduce the MyMama App and the centralised data hub for children's nutrition in Sarawak by 2027
- To reduce stunting rate in Sarawak to 5% within the next 15 years
- Establish public service announcement budget related to nutrition by 10% of the allocated health budget of Sarawak
- Implement compulsory nutritional check and record for children under 5 years and increase participation to more than 80% in 5 years.

Process Flow & System Overview



Key Focus Area 2: Developing Quality Teachers for the Digital Era

Guiding Principles

- Develop digital competencies among teachers skilled in utilising technology to integrate information in a meaningful way to enhance students' comprehension
- Boost digital adoption of tools and technology devices among teachers and students to enhance the learning experience.
- Improving access to digital infrastructure to ensure equitable access to learning opportunities

Key Targets

- To establish training centres in 6 regions by 2027 in:
 - Central
 - North
 - South
 - East
 - Sabah
 - Sarawak
- To boost the usage of DELIMa in schools by 2025 and raise the digital competency of teachers to at least an intermediate level from 40% to 60% by 2027
- Ensure that 60% of public schools are equipped with sufficient digital infrastructure by 2027

Digital Teacher Training Academy

The proposed establishment of the Digital Teaching Training Academy (DiTTA) transcends basic digital literacy by focusing on practical skills essential for the modern educational landscape. DiTTA aims to equip teachers with the ability to plan digital learning, utilise educational technology platforms, and integrate interactive multimedia content effectively.



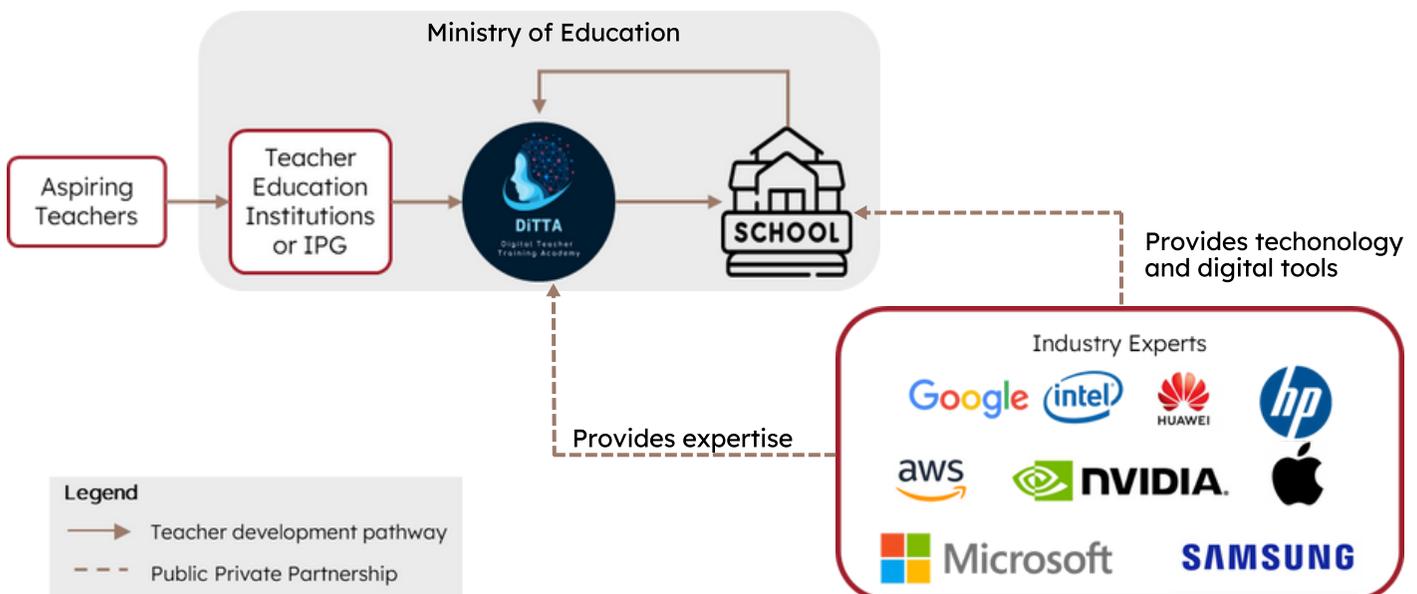
A core feature of DiTTA is introducing a progressive wage system by the Ministry of Education. This system recognises and rewards teachers as they advance through various course levels. Upon completion of each level, teachers receive a certificate of achievement, and their compensations are adjusted to reflect their new qualifications.

Teachers will have access to industry-recognised courses that impart the necessary tools and skills for the digital era. This structured training ensures teachers from diverse subject fields can collaborate, share innovative ideas, and enhance classroom delivery using digital tools.

DiTTA, which will come under the purview of the Ministry of Education (MOE), will not operate in isolation but will actively seek to collaborate with the tech and digital industry. This collaboration ensures that educators remain adept with the latest digital tools and technologies. Moreover, it provides teachers with industry-recognised qualifications, bolstering their professional credentials and equipping them with the necessary skills to integrate advanced digital methodologies into their teaching practices. Such a partnership not only uplifts the quality of education but also prepares students to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

The MOE can also leverage this partnership to significantly enhance access to digital devices in schools, thus helping to bridge the digital divide.

Process Flow & System Overview



Key Focus Area 3: Strengthening Resilience Against Climate Risks

National Data Repository (NDR)

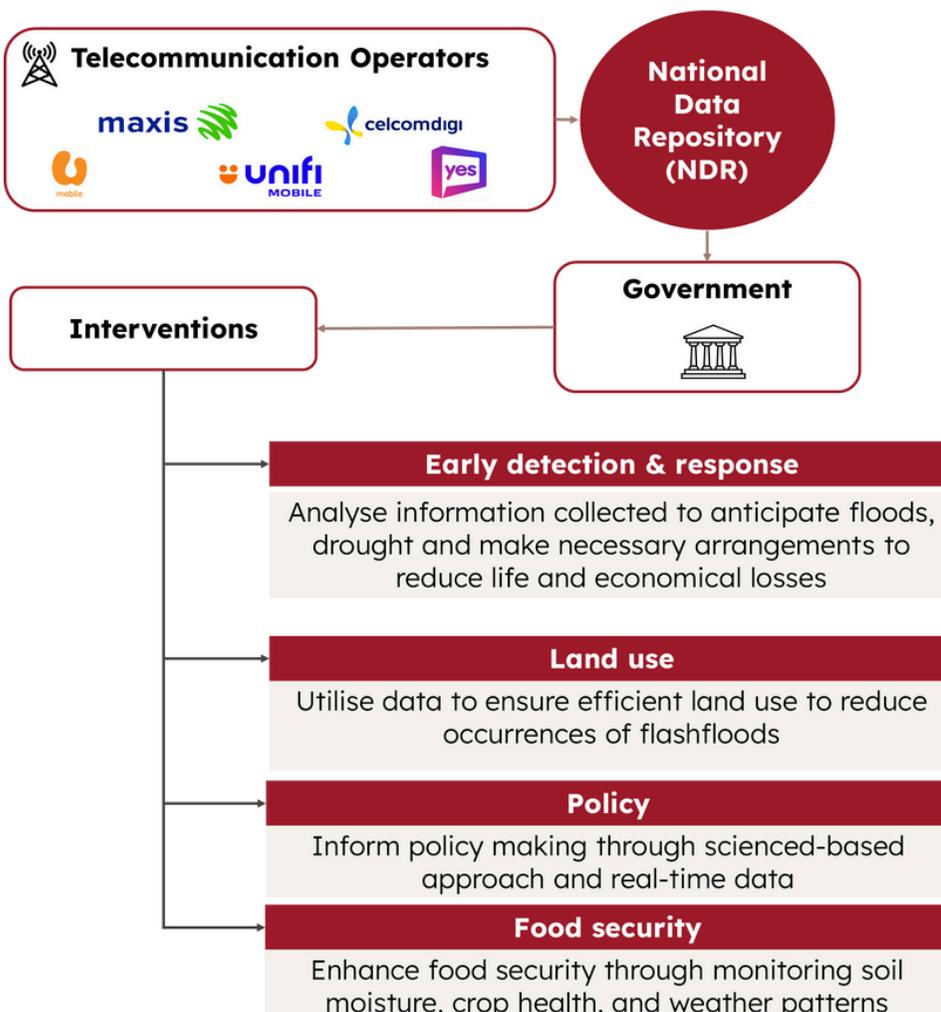
The proposed Public-Private Partnership (PPP) is the establishment of a National Data Repository (NDR) in collaboration with local mobile network operators. As part of the 5G roll-out, the Malaysian government should mandate that mobile network operators include data collection on meteorology, atmospheric science, geology, land use, and ecology within their concession contracts. This data will be aggregated and processed by the NDR, managed by the government, which will analyse climate information to enable early detection of disasters, inform land use planning, and enhance conservation efforts through continuous monitoring.

Incorporating digital technologies like satellites and drones will further improve data collection and analysis, providing detailed insights into Malaysia's climate changes. This integrated approach will facilitate more dynamic and effective climate responses, allowing the government and businesses to make informed decisions and optimise resource allocation to mitigate the impacts of climate change effectively.

Process Flow & System Overview

Legend

- Flow of information
- Data-driven interventions



Guiding Principles

- Develop institutional capabilities and strengthen climate action rooted in scientific knowledge and data.
- Enforce private sector accountability to mobilise resources and develop a comprehensive approach towards climate action.
- Enhance civic engagement in climate resilience initiatives to empower community-driven responses.

Key Targets

- To allocate at least 10% from the National Annual Budget specifically for R&D in climate science in 2025
- Setting emission reduction target of 30% by 2035
- Implement green procurement practices 30% of all private sector companies starting in 2027
- Increase awareness among Malaysians on climate change to inspire mindset shifts and behavioural change.



Key Focus Area 4: Positioning Malaysia as a Global Biodiversity Hub

Guiding Principles

- Develop digital competencies among teachers skilled in utilising technology to integrate information in a meaningful way to enhance students' comprehension
- Boost digital adoption of tools and technology devices among teachers and students to enhance the learning experience.
- Improving access to digital infrastructure to ensure equitable access to learning opportunities

Key Targets

- To establish the leading tropical rainforest Biodiversity R&D centre by 2030
- Zero incursion of designated biodiversity hotspot by 2030
- Increase awareness among civil servant and policy makers by incorporating mandatory course on biodiversity by 2030
- Increase accountability within corporate sectors



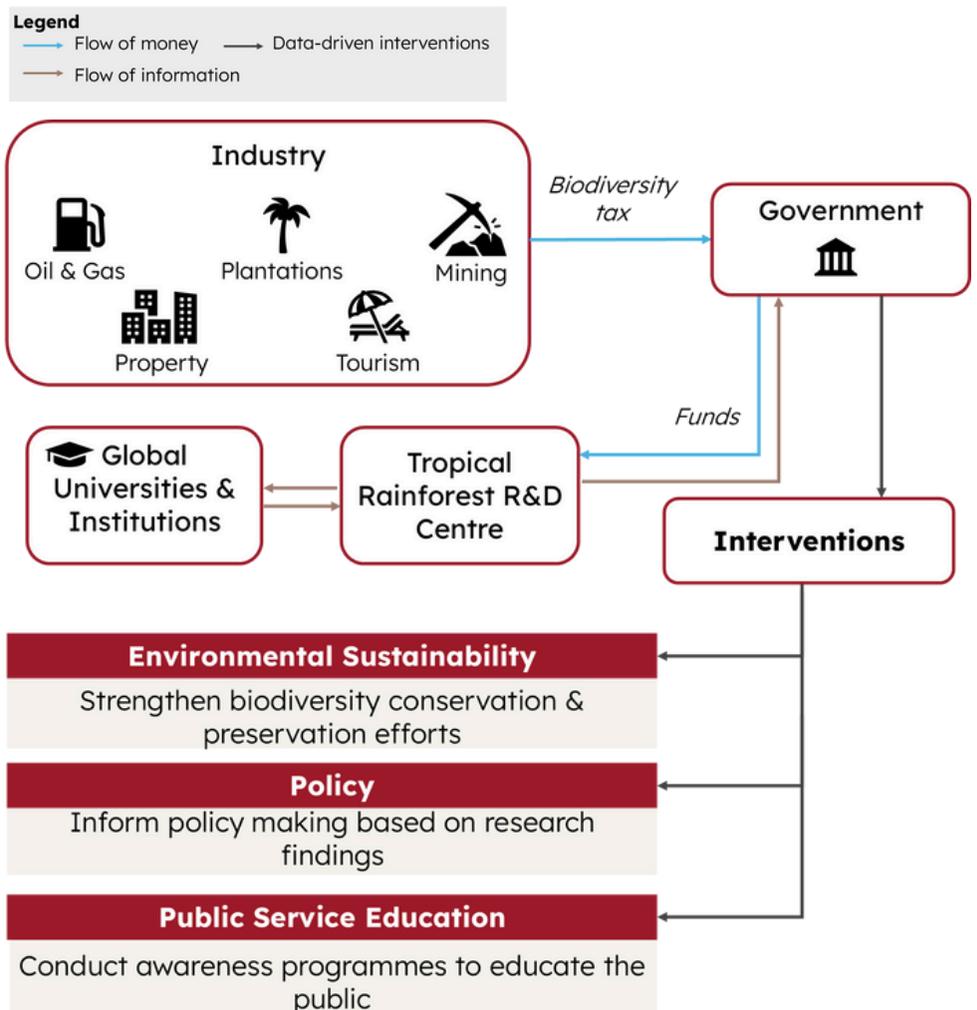
Global Research and Development Centre on Tropical Rainforest Biodiversity

The Global Research and Development Centre on Tropical Rainforest Biodiversity aspires to lead pioneering research efforts to understand and protect the unique ecosystems of tropical rainforests. It will evolve into a world-class hub for comprehensive studies on plant and animal species, ecological processes, and the impacts of climate change. By generating critical insights, the centre will significantly contribute to global efforts to preserve these vital ecosystems for future generations, positioning itself as a beacon of excellence in biodiversity research and conservation.

Beyond leading research, the Global R&D Centre will facilitate robust collaborations between local universities and international institutions. This synergy will enhance the exchange of knowledge and expertise, fostering innovative solutions to complex ecological challenges. Additionally, the centre will nurture local talent and attract international experts, creating a dynamic environment for groundbreaking research breakthroughs. The centre will solidify Malaysia's position as a global leader in tropical rainforest biodiversity conservation by developing local scientific expertise and drawing in leading global researchers.

The establishment of the Global R&D Centre will be financed through a biodiversity tax levied on resource-based corporations, including those in the Oil & Gas, Plantations, Mining, Property Development, and Tourism sectors. This tax ensures that companies benefiting from natural resources contribute to the preservation and study of biodiversity, fostering private sector accountability, sustainable development and environmental stewardship.

Process Flow & System Overview





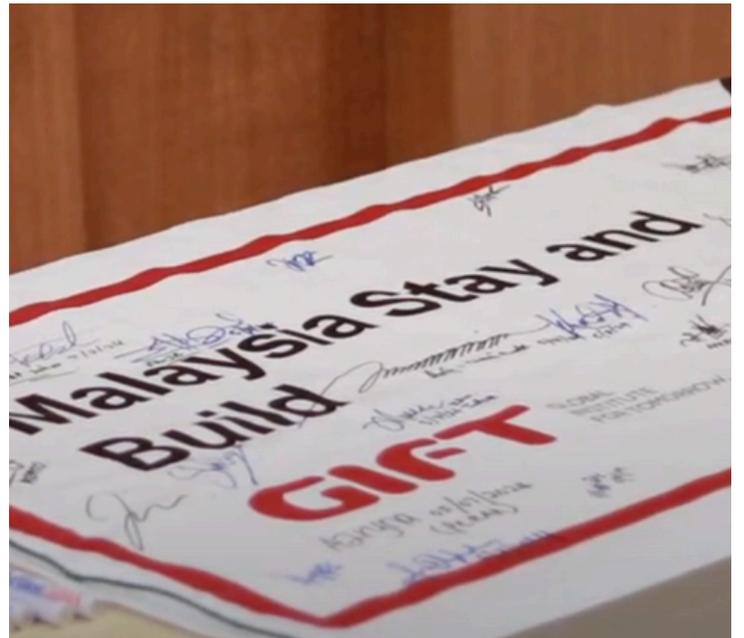
Innovative Policy Recommendations for High- Quality Development

This report is a summation of the cohort's policy recommendations to advance Malaysia through high-quality development, following their fieldwork in Sarawak.

Through emphasis on four key focus areas: health, education, climate and biodiversity, the recommendations seek to enhance the wellbeing and quality of life of every Malaysian citizen.

It is hoped that these recommendations can be a model for Malaysia and other developing economies in the region.





Tomorrow Matters.

If you would like to speak about the report or explore GIFT's public programmes, please write to us:

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You can download the full report. Link [here](#) or scan the QR code below.



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