BURSA IR4U PROGRAMME (VOL 1, 2026)

28 JULY 2026

As we navigated through a turbulent first half of 2026, we are excited to share with you some of the key initiatives under the Bursa IR4U Programme.

From Politicking to Profits

The first installment of the 2026 IR4U Series commenced with a timely and thought-provoking webinar titled "*From Politicking to Profits*", featuring Andrew San, Head of Malaysia Equity Research at Macquarie Malaysia. Held on 29 January 2026, the session featured insights on how markets are influenced by global and domestic politics in 2026.

Politicking Over Policies

The first half of 2026 is expected to witness political noise relating to state elections, cabinet reshuffle and re-delineation activities while the latter half of the year could see early GE16 as well as ramp-up of populist policies. Despite these political uncertainties, Malaysia is viewed favourably within ASEAN, supported by a resilient macro backdrop, private investment, and continued strength in the export sector, particularly in electrical and electronic products.

On the external front, the U.S mid-term elections, which are expected to occur at the year-end would generate heightened political rhetoric as campaigning intensifies. However, the impact to Malaysia is expected to be relatively limited as the Trump administration is likely to focus on domestic issues rather than implementing new trade restrictions.

Economic Drivers

Despite a potentially noisy political environment, Malaysia's long-term economic agenda remains largely intact. The Malaysian Government have introduced key initiatives such as the National Industrial Master Plan (NIMP) 2030, Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JSSEZ), National Semiconductor Strategy with political developments having limited impact. 2026 is expected to be a pivotal year for broader themes including energy transition, tourism (Visit Malaysia Year 2026), and the Climate Change Bill, which collectively reinforce Malaysia's long-term growth trajectory.

Macroeconomic Outlook

Macquarie Securities has forecasted Malaysia to achieve a GDP growth of 4.6% in 2026, driven by robust private consumption, healthy private investment, growing tourism activity and continued expansion of the E&E industry. Consumer spending is expected to benefit from initiatives such as civil servants' wage hike, cash handouts and additional fiscal support measures. Overall, the outlook suggests that while politics may influence market sentiment throughout the year, Malaysia's economic fundamentals remain firmly anchored by structural growth drivers and ongoing reform initiatives.

Fund flows in 2026

Despite Malaysia's resilient macroeconomic outlook, foreign investors are projected to be net sellers of Malaysia equities in 2026 amid evolving US political developments and shifting global capital flows. Foreign investors could make a return to the Malaysian equity market although the overall market's performance is likely to be driven less by fund flows and more by underlying corporate earnings and sector fundamentals. Domestic funds are already highly invested in the market; whereby future gains will depend on the companies and sector they choose to invest rather than broad-based liquidity support.

Webinar Highlight

We have organised 5 webinars, 1 jointly organized webinar and 1 workshop under the IR4U Programme in the first half of the year and have attracted a total of close to 490 participants.

Our webinar series covers a wide range of topics that benefits Investor Relations Practitioners.

- *2026 Outlook - From Politicking to Politics*
- *Introduction to Malaysia Forest Fund & Nature Based Solutions*
- *Elevating Investor Relations in ASEAN: Trends, Targeting & AI-Enhanced Market Intelligence*
- *The Impact of the Middle East Conflict on Markets and the Economy*
- *Your Equity Story: Connecting the Dots between Ownership, Market Intelligence and Strategy*

BURSA IR4U PROGRAMME (VOL 1, 2026)

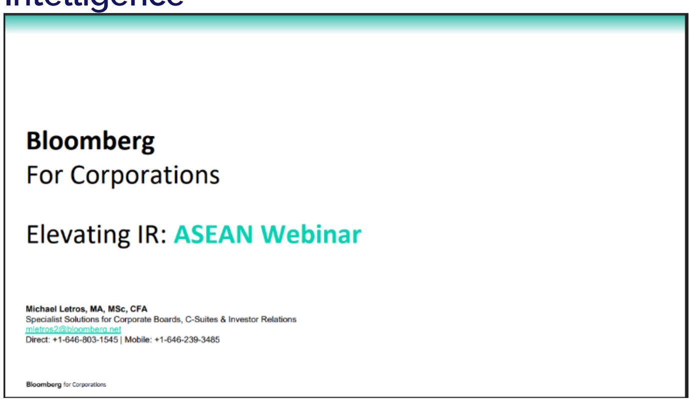
Introduction to Malaysia Forest Fund & Nature Based Solutions

This session features an introduction to the Malaysia Forest Fund (MFF), an agency under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES) and the role of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) in supporting Malaysia's sustainability and climate objectives.

During the session, presenter Dr Faisal Md. Noor, Senior Director, Protocol Management & Project Delivery at MFF, shared insights on the MFF and its role in transforming forest conversation in Malaysia through innovative, sustainable financing mechanism. A key focus of the discussion involves the Forest Conversion Certificate (FCC), Malaysia's first non-market, voluntary conservation financing instrument under the REDD+ Finance Framework that enables companies to support verified forest conversation projects.

Watch the webinar here

Elevating Investor Relations in ASEAN: Trends, Targeting & AI-Enhanced Market Intelligence



This session features Bloomberg as a tool that can enhance Investor Relations (IR) by transforming vast financial data into actionable insights for both external and internal stakeholders. It highlights key tools, namely Bloomberg Terminal, Bloomberg People and the AI-powered Bloomberg Assistant provide real-time data, analytics, and intelligence to support investor targeting, market analysis, and strategic decision-making.

Presenter Michael Letros, Bloomberg's Board, C-Suite and Investor Relations Specialist, based in New York discusses three core areas that are shaping the modern IR function which were i) The evolving global IR landscape, ii) Advanced investor targeting and iii) accelerating competitive and market intelligence with Bloomberg AI. themselves for long-term success.

The Impact of the Middle East Conflict on Markets and the Economy

As conflict in the Middle East escalates, this session explored the potential ripple effects the conflict has on global trade and capital markets.

The webinar featured Alan Tan, Group Chief Economist of Affin Bank Berhad, and Loong Chee Wei, Head of Research at Affin Hwang Investment Bank Berhad as they discussed Malaysia's investment outlook covering resilience, structural reforms, and returns— alongside perspectives on the Ringgit outlook, interest rate trajectory, ASEAN growth, capital flows, and trade realignment.

Watch the webinar here

Your Equity Story: Connecting the Dots between Ownership, Market Intelligence and Strategy

This session highlights how companies can enhance valuation and investor confidence by aligning four key elements: equity story, ownership base, market intelligence, and corporate strategy.

The webinar featured Bryan Ko, Director, Strategic Markets and Henry Chik, General Manager at MUFG Corporate Markets as they discussed investor relations should act as a strategic advisor, helping management understand market perceptions, attract the right investors, close valuation gaps, and support long-term value creation through continuous alignment

Watch the webinar here

Market Intelligence

The Malaysian equity market witnessed heightened uncertainty during the first half of 2026, as sentiment was largely influenced by escalating geopolitical tensions stemming from the U.S-Israel-Iran conflict. This conflict has led to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for approximately 20% of the world's oil and gas supply. Global sentiment improved following the announcement of a ceasefire between U.S and Iran coupled with a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between both countries towards end-June whereby both countries would hold talks for 60 days before reaching a final agreement. Global investor sentiment was lifted further, underpinned by increasing investments into artificial intelligence and developments of the semiconductor value chain.

Overall, the FBMKLCI trended slightly downwards during the first half of the year by closing 0.96% lower. Market attention heading into 2H2026 focuses on the ongoing de-escalations of geopolitical tension, U.S Federal Reserve's monetary policies and the upcoming state elections in Malaysia.

About Bursa IR4U Programme

Bursa IR4U Programme was launched in December 2023 to promote and deepen the culture of investor relations amongst public listed companies in Malaysia.

The Programme encompasses the IR4U Portal, a comprehensive online resource to serve as a centralised hub which houses webinars, articles, and guidebooks covering the latest trends in the IR space, as well as various aspects of effective stakeholder management and IR relevant to PLCs and IR practitioners.

We also released two handbooks, i.e. Fundamentals and Applications of Investor Relations, to provide practical and actionable steps on how to develop and implement effective IR plans and strategy.

Subscribe to our newsletter at https://www.bursamalaysia.com/reference/ir4uprogram/overview

Contact the IR4U team at ir4u@bursamalaysia.com