



WORLD SOCIAL
SECURITY FORUM
KUALA LUMPUR 2025

Hosted by:



With support from:



EMBARGO: Not to be printed or broadcasted on any platforms before 3 p.m., 3 October 2025.

For media release
3rd October 2025

GLOBAL RECOGNITION: MALAYSIA SECURES SECOND TERM AT THE HELM OF ISSA PRESIDENCY

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia remains at the helm of global social security leadership with the re-election to the presidency of the International Social Security Association (ISSA).

Renowned social security visionary leader Dato' Sri Dr Mohammed Azman Aziz Mohammed, who was elected as the 17th President of ISSA during the World Social Security Forum 2022 in Morocco and has served since 2023, secured a second term with a resounding global mandate from ISSA member institutions worldwide.

Such overwhelming trust reaffirms Malaysia's place at the forefront of advancing inclusive, resilient and future-ready social security systems.

During his first term, Dr Mohammed Azman, who is also the Group Chief Executive Officer of the Social Security Organisation (PERKESO), placed ISSA at the centre of global dialogue, influencing policy and forging partnerships with multi fora organisations.

These included the G20, the BRICS grouping of emerging economies (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

He championed the principle of 'prevention before rehabilitation, rehabilitation before compensation', transforming it from aspiration into international practice that restores lives, dignity and hope.

"The path ahead is fraught with urgent challenges including climate shocks that destabilise livelihoods, rapid population ageing that strains health systems and social services, and the rise of new forms of work undermining traditional contributory models.

"These issues are widening inequalities and risks of exclusion, alongside mounting challenges in protecting migrant workers and ensuring the portability of their benefits across borders," he continued.

"At the same time, social security systems face the critical test of maintaining sustainable financing in a volatile global economy, as ageing populations, rising healthcare costs and global uncertainties continue to put pressure on resources," he said.

Against this backdrop, Dr Mohammed Azman emphasised that the re-election comes with a daunting mission to confront the stark reality that 3.8 billion people globally remain unprotected by social security.

He underscored that the task ahead is not only to protect but also to empower, by building global cooperation so that no one is left behind in a rapidly changing world.

The re-election brings prestige to Malaysia, affirming the country's commitment to fairness, resilience and innovation in global social protection.

Founded in 1927, the International Social Security Association (ISSA) represents more than 330 member institutions in 164 countries and remains the leading international organisation for social security cooperation.

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Issued by:
Corporate Communications and
Affairs Division
3 October 2025

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