



KEMENTERIAN PERPADUAN NEGARA

PRESS RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: “ARCHIVES FOR UNITY, ACCESS AND IDENTITY”

KUALA LUMPUR, 23 September 2025 – The Minister of National Unity, Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang, today officiated the International Conference on Archives for Unity, Access and Identity, organized by the National Archives of Malaysia in strategic collaboration with the International Centre for Documentary Heritage (ICDH), Republic of Korea, and the Southeast Asia Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (SARBICA), in conjunction with the 7th International Archives Week Celebrations 2025.

In his keynote address, the Honourable Minister expressed his deep appreciation to the National Archives of Malaysia for its leadership in hosting this international conference, and extended a warm welcome to distinguished delegates and participants from around the world.

The Honourable Minister emphasize the importance of archives as a foundation for unity, access, and identity. He stated that archives are not merely repositories of documents, but serve as instruments that weave together communities and nations, reminding societies of their shared journey and common destiny. Archives, he noted, must remain accessible to all, from scholars and policymakers to ordinary citizens, while serving as guardians of identity and protectors of national heritage.

The Honourable Minister further highlighted that the placement of the National Archives of Malaysia under the purview of the Ministry of National Unity reflects the intrinsic link between archives and the fostering of social cohesion. He affirmed that the preservation of heritage ensures inclusivity in the national narrative, respecting the voices of all communities and strengthening the foundations of unity in Malaysia.

During his address, the Honourable Minister also recognised the contributions of the South East Asia Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (SARBICA) in advancing regional cooperation, particularly through the successful joint nomination of The Birth of ASEAN documentation to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register. He encouraged continued collaboration to further enrich regional documentary heritage.

The Honourable Minister emphasised that archives must evolve with technological advancements. He highlighted the potential of artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, cloud computing, and the Internet of Things (IoT) to revolutionise archival management, ensuring preservation, authenticity, and wider access to records.

He reminded participants of the historical consequences of lost records, citing the Mayan civilisation and the destruction of the Library of Alexandria as examples of the irreversible impact of memory loss. "The survival of truth depends on the survival of archives. Without them, history can be distorted, forgotten, or rewritten," he cautioned.

The Honourable Minister further stressed the importance of engaging youth in archival preservation, noting that digital innovation can connect younger generations with their heritage in more interactive and meaningful ways.

In conclusion, the Honourable Minister called upon governments, institutions, and international partners to work together in building archival systems that are inclusive, transparent, and resilient. He emphasised that archives are living instruments that nurture national unity, strengthen democracy, and inspire innovation.

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL UNITY

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