HOME

PATRICK GOH/THE EDGE


**(*From left*) *The Edge Malaysia* editor-in-chief Kathy Fong, Westports Holdings Bhd independent non-executive director Datuk Tengku Marina Tunku Annuar, UOB Malaysia CEO Datuk Ng Wei Wei, Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Datuk Seri Arthur Joseph Kurup, Bursa Malaysia CEO Datuk Fad'l Mohamed, IOI Properties Group Bhd group chief financial officer Leow Weng Seong, IOI Corp Bhd chief sustainability officer Surina Ismail, George Kent (M) Bhd CFO Steven Ang and Datuk Ho Kay Tat, publisher and group CEO of The Edge Media Group.**

# IOI Properties Group wins Best of the Best at The Edge ESG Awards 2026

**BY DANIAL DZULKIFLY**
theedgemalaysia.com

KUALA LUMPUR (Sept 1): IOI Properties Group Bhd (KL:IOIPG) won the Best of the Best award at The Edge Malaysia ESG Awards 2026 on Tuesday, recognising companies that have demonstrated consistent ESG performance over three consecutive years.

The award is presented to public-listed companies (PLCs) based on their respective ESG scores and the compound annual growth rate of common dividends declared over the past three years.

The past year has been difficult for businesses, with the war in Iran pushing up oil prices and continued uncertainty over the global trade war, said The Edge Media Group publisher and group CEO Datuk Ho Kay Tat.

Despite the challenging environment, Ho said the ESG agenda had continued to gain traction among businesses that increasingly viewed sustainability as part of their long-term strategy.

"The ESG agenda continues to be upheld by some businesses, who see it as a strategy to achieve resilience and stay competitive in the long term," Ho said in his welcoming speech at the awards.

The event was organised by *The Edge Malaysia* in collaboration with Bursa Malaysia and FTSE Russell, with UOB Malaysia as its main partner. Morningstar was the awards' knowledge partner for the funds category, while Deloitte was the auditor and Artelia sponsored the trophies.

The awards were held at the Four Seasons Hotel this year and attended by more than 350 guests.

This year's awards saw the largest number of PLCs assessed, with 1,003 companies evaluated, up from 966 a year earlier, alongside broader coverage of the ACE Market. The weighted average ESG score of Main Market and ACE Market PLCs rose to 2.7 from 2.5 a year earlier, according to Bursa Malaysia.

To encourage capacity building among local fund houses, the awards introduced a new category this year to recognise the best feeder and non-feeder funds under the Best ESG Overall category.

Principal Malaysia's Principal Global Sustainable Growth Fund won Best Feeder Fund, while RHB Asset Management's RHB i-Sustainable Future Technology Fund won Best Non-Feeder Fund.

Guest of honour Datuk Seri Arthur Joseph Kurup, the Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability, said the improvement in ESG performance came as sustainability increasingly became a matter of capital preservation, risk management and competitiveness.

"ESG is no longer a peripheral compliance exercise or a public relations exercise. It is a core anchor of long-term capital preservation, risk management and also commercial competitiveness in a climate-conscious global economy," Kurup said in his keynote address.

He said the government was also strengthening Malaysia's climate policy framework, including through the National Carbon Market Policy launched in April and the finalisation of climate change legislation.

As Malaysia advances its carbon pricing mechanism, including a proposed carbon tax initially focused on emissions-intensive sectors, Kurup said the policy was intended to encourage green technology, improve efficiency and protect the competitiveness of Malaysian exporters as global markets introduce measures such as the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.

However, he stressed that government policy alone would not be enough, with businesses and financial institutions needing to translate climate ambitions into actual changes in how they allocate capital, deploy technology and run their operations.

"Effective policy frameworks alone will not achieve a low-carbon economy. The private sector must help in order to translate ambition into action," Kurup said.

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# The Edge Malaysia ESG Awards 2026 winners

GOLD

## IOI Properties Group Bhd

### Best of the best
George Kent (M) Bhd
IOI Corporation Bhd
Westports Holdings Bhd
IOI Properties Group Bhd

## PUBLIC-LISTED COMPANIES (PLC)

### Best performing company by sector

Construction
MGB Bhd

Consumer products and services
Bermaz Auto Bhd

Energy
Wasco Bhd

Financial services
RCE Capital Bhd
Tune Protect Group Bhd

Healthcare
Pharmaniaga Bhd

Industrial products and services
VS Industry Bhd

Plantation
SD Guthrie Bhd

Property
Skyworld Development Bhd

REITs
CapitaLand Malaysia Trust

Technology
Vitrox Corporation Bhd

Telecommunications and media
Astro Malaysia Holdings Bhd

Transportation and logistics
MISC Bhd

Utilities
Tenaga Nasional Bhd

### Most improved ESG performance by market capitalisation

Market cap over RM5 billion
Hong Leong Industries Bhd

Market cap between RM800 million and RM5 billion
BM Greentech Bhd

Market cap between RM300 million and RM800 million
Southern Steel Bhd

Market cap less than RM300 million
JHM Consolidation Bhd

### Outstanding ESG & dividend return
Velesto Energy Bhd

### Emerging leader
Johor Plantations Group Bhd

### Top performers in ACE Market
Flexidynamic Holdings Bhd
Unitrade Industries Bhd
Privasia Technology Bhd

## FUNDS

### Best ESG overall

Best Feeder Fund
Fund name:
Principal Global Sustainable Growth Fund
Company: Principal Malaysia

Best Non-Feeder Fund
Fund name:
RHB i-Sustainable Future Technology Fund
Company: RHB Asset Management

Best Fixed Income Fund
Fund name:
AHAM ESG SGD Bond Fund
Company: AHAM Asset Management

Best Equity Fund
Fund name:
Principal Global Sustainable Growth Fund
Company: Principal Malaysia

Best Allocation Fund
Fund name:
RHB ESG Multi-Asset Fund
Company: RHB Asset Management

### Best E, S and G

E
Fund name:
AHAM ESG SGD Bond Fund
Company: AHAM Asset Management

S
Fund name:
RHB i-Sustainable Future Technology Fund
Company: RHB Asset Management

G
Fund name:
Public Islamic Sustainable Growth Fund
Company: Public Mutual

### Best ESG and returns award

Fund name:
RHB i-Sustainable Future Technology Fund
Company: RHB Asset Management

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He also warned that companies would face greater scrutiny over the credibility of their stainability claims as investors and trading partners became more discerning.

"Greenwashing is in fact a severe liability," Kurup said, while calling for credible science-based targets, transparent disclosures and actionable decarbonisation roadmaps covering Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.

Ho also linked responsible business practices to environmental outcomes, pointing to the recent haze as a reminder of the wider impact of economic activity.

"If more businesses are run more responsibly around the world, we will not have incidents like wildfires and the haze that has impacted us this past several weeks," he said.

Other winners in the Best of the Best category were George Kent (M) Bhd (KL:GKENT), IOI Corporation Bhd (KL:IOICORP) and Westports Holdings Bhd (KL:WPRTS). A total of 37 awards were given to 31 companies across the PLCs and funds categories.

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