

# **OPENING SPEECH**

**BY**

**YB DATO' SRI HJ FADILLAH BIN HJ YUSOF  
MINISTER OF WORKS MALAYSIA**

**AT**

**2<sup>ND</sup> IRF ASIA REGIONAL CONGRESS & EXHIBITION  
2016**

**CONNECTING ASIA WITH BETTER ROADS**

**DATE: 17 OCTOBER 2016 (MONDAY)**

**TIME: 9.30 am**

**VENUE: PWTC**

**(Pls check the final salutation)**

YB. Datuk Rosnah binti Abdul Rashid Shirlin,  
Deputy Minister of Works, Malaysia

Y.Bhg. Dato' Sri Zohari bin Haji Akob,  
Secretary General, Ministry of Works Malaysia

Y. Bhg. Dato' Sri Ir. Dr. Roslan bin Md. Taha,  
Director General, Public Works Department Malaysia

Mr. C. Patrick Sankey,  
President and CEO, International Road Federation

Y. Bhg. Datuk Ir. Hj. Adanan bin Mohamed Hussain,  
President ,Road Engineering Association of Malaysia (REAM)

Y. Bhg. Dato' Ismail bin Mohamed Salleh,  
Director General, Malaysian Highway Authority

Y. Bhg. Tan Sri-Tan Sri, Dato'-Dato'

Distinguished Guests and Speakers,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and good morning.

1. Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizing committee of the 2<sup>nd</sup> IRF Asia Regional Congress and Exhibition 2016 for inviting me to deliver the keynote speech.

2. Indeed, it is a pleasure for me to be here among leading speakers, experts as well as key industry players from the road engineering industry fraternity and to our international participants, a very warm welcome to all of you.

3. The theme for this conference “ **Connecting Asia with Better Roads**” is apt and timely as it echoes the current efforts by ASEAN countries in producing the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity. The Master Plan which includes the completion of the ASEAN Highway Network (AHN), a critical infrastructural support facility that is necessary for greater and closer integration of ASEAN in enabling and strengthening regional trade, investments and tourism.

4. It is anticipated that the AHN will form part of the 'Trans-Asian Highway' and enhance transport connectivity amongst ASEAN Member States and other neighbour countries which are being connected by the Asian Highway Network and Trans-Asian Railway.

5. These projects will deliver many significant benefits to all related countries as greater connectivity will pave the way to a larger market place, reduced trade cost, establish linkages with regional and global supply chains, and facilitate greater regional economic cooperation and integration.

6. As a member of ASEAN, Malaysia has put its commitment into action by developing the Pan Borneo Highway under the 11<sup>th</sup> Malaysian Plan which is designated as the 'Asian Highway AH150' aimed at promoting improved connectivity between Sabah and Sarawak. This newly proposed highway, once completed, is expected to play a significant role in boosting the commercial corridors and opportunities in areas that it traverses.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. Climate change continues to be a major threat to our socio-economic wellbeing globally and therefore making it more pertinent that a transport system that is able to withstand the emerging impacts of climate change is vital.

8. A case in point is the massive floods in 2014 which inundated several states in Malaysia where the road infrastructure was severely damaged and paralyzing the country beyond comprehension.

9. In its efforts to minimize the impact from similar disasters, the Public Works Department Malaysia (PWD) has since implemented preemptive measures by raising road levels in several locations above the highest flood levels and incorporating stabilizing additives in recycled road bases and subgrades to improve the stability of these pavement structures.

10. In a nutshell, a resilient road infrastructure network is crucial to ensure the economic and social activities of the country are not disrupted and compromised in the event of calamities or natural disasters.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. The annual increase in emission of greenhouses causes colossal damages whereby the infrastructure and transportation sectors were cited to be the leading contributors to the upsurge of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide.

12. As such, the development and environmentally friendly practices must co-exist if the right strategies are to be formulated and implemented. One of the initiatives under the “Green Growth” strategy by Malaysia is the introduction of the Government Green Procurement (GGP) policy. Under this policy, the acquisition of products, services, and works must take into account the environment as a strategy to conserve our natural environment and resources. The adoption of GGP as outlined in the 11th Malaysian Plan will see at least 20% of Government procurement going green by 2020.

13. Likewise, the Ministry of Works is vigilant in taking consistent measures to ensure that our roads and highways are sustainable and environmentally friendly. Among the strategies adopted to achieve these agendas are as follows:

a) The implementation of the Construction Industry Transformation Program (CITP) to promote efficiency in construction methodology and reduction in cost through technology such as the Industrialized Building System (IBS);

b) The application of Cold-in-Place Recycling (CIPR) for its pavement maintenance program;

c) The employment of Green Product Scoring System, a system to measure the percentage of green products utilized in an infrastructure project; and

d) The implementation of Renewable Energy road furniture in road projects.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

14. Apart from constructing roads, maintaining the road structure to perform at its required standard is equally important. Although the allocation of financial resources has been seen to be one of the major hurdles for many countries to meet the required

standards, a systematic planning and execution in addressing these constraints must be put in place.

15. At this juncture, I would like to emphasize an up-to-date information to support management decisions on items such as network inventory details, traffic, axle loads, cost and road condition which is critical in assessing the physical conditions, safety, service level and efficiency of the operation of our road infrastructures.

16. Undoubtedly, it is increasingly important for us to predict the effects of infrastructures and its proposed policies which will affect our development imperatives for our future generation. This is where the Road Management System is useful in enabling decision makers to test alternative courses of action and determining policies and strategies to most effectively and efficiently incorporated in accomplishing the desired level of service, for long-term network performance and expenditure needs.

17. By embracing new technologies and innovations, we will better our capabilities and capacities in road planning, design, construction and management to avoid premature failures and at

the same time accomplish the life cycle cost effectiveness and environmental friendly objectives.

18. Similarly, a more comprehensive scientific research and development needs to be conducted to widen the applicability of bio renewable resources as bio-binders. In this regards, the Public Works Department Malaysia and Malaysian Rubber Board in a joint research to use the frozen rubber “cup lumps” as an additional material in asphalt is exemplary effort towards this end.

19. The recent establishment of the Centre of Excellence for Engineering & Technology (CREaTE) is yet another initiative undertaken by the Public Works Department to provide opportunities for road and infrastructure communities to collaborate in developing better solutions to overcome problems related to road management.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

20. The sustainability of roads evolves from the early stages of design and construction, where safety requirements are at the top of priorities. Safety requirements of a road project should never be an after thought and should not be compromised. All road

projects undertaken by the Ministry of Works will undergo a road safety audit process which I would like to urge road practitioners to take advantage of best practices and cutting edge technologies in addressing road hazards and roadside safety interventions.

21. As road authorities in recognizing the need to drive better value for money spent, the demand for better level of service from the assets through contract specifications in defining a combination of output and performance culminated in the development of the Performance Based Contracting (PBC). Apart from creating direct economic benefits, the PBC also creates sustainability and certainty of workflow for service providers.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

22. The traffic congestion in Malaysia, particularly in major urban centres particularly Greater Kuala Lumpur has been a primary dissatisfaction among road users. The Government in recognizing this crisis has continuously and proactively built new highways and expressways to reduce congestion and achieve a balance between increased number of vehicles and road development.

23. The technologies expounded by Intelligent Transport System (ITS) is the answer to ease traffic congestion in many countries. I am confident ITS is yet another innovative way to reduce congestion by altering flow directions and incorporating traffic engineering within the existing right-of-way especially in urban areas. In this context, the Malaysian Highway Authority has established a Traffic Management Centre connected to video management systems, traffic and weather sensors and ramp meters to manage traffic flows in our toll expressways.

24. I am pleased to inform you that the Ministry of Works will implement 100% Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) at all toll plazas by 2018 and the various initiatives undertaken in Malaysia can be adopted by other countries. Hence, I believe, this Congress is a useful platform for us to share our experiences and exchange knowledge that can make a well-connected Asia a reality in the near future.

25. I am hopeful the 2<sup>nd</sup> IRF Asia Regional Congress & Exhibition will be successful in achieving its goals and that your work will represent a new stage in cooperation on road related issues. Therefore, let us all put our efforts together to enable the road industry to grow and progress for our mutual benefits.

26. On that note, it gives me great pleasure in declaring the 2<sup>nd</sup> IRF Asia Regional Congress & Exhibition 2016 open.

Thank you.