

CLOSING SPEECH

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DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS, MALAYSIA

10th MALAYSIAN ROAD CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION 2018

PIARC INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON ASSET MANAGEMENT

31ST OCTOBER 2018

SUNWAY PYRAMID CONVENTION CENTRE

Dato' Sri Ir. Dr. Roslan bin Md Taha
President of Road Engineering Association of Malaysia (REAM)

Claude Van Rooten,
President of World Road Association

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

YBhg. Ir. Hj. Zulakmal Bin Hj. Sufian
Senior Director of Road Branch, Public Works Department, and
Chairman of the Organising Committee

Distinguished Guests and Speakers,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. Assalamualaikum and good afternoon to all delegates and participants who are present here at the closing ceremony of the **10th MALAYSIAN ROAD CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION 2018 PIARC INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON ASSET MANAGEMENT**.
2. It is a great pleasure to be here with all of you. I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to the entire team who had made this event a huge success. It is certainly a job well done and deserving of an applause.
3. I hope this event has truly benefited us in many ways. I was informed by the organizer that the Conference has attracted more than **100 presenters** and speakers, participating in the 3-day conference with total of **89** technical papers presented throughout the Conference.
4. In addition to that overwhelming response, I was told that the exhibition held in conjunction with this Conference has drawn in a significant number of visitors. The **66 booths** in the exhibition offered an exciting opportunity for both local and foreign companies to showcase their diverse range of services and products related to road industry. This Conference had enabled us to cooperate and share the experiences and best practices between countries. I am also informed that the Exhibition has already led to several fruitful business engagements between the exhibitors and the participants.

5. I believe we have had the opportunity to share our experiences and knowledge with fellow participants and speakers from across the Asian region. This is essential as to improve the quality and efficiency of road networks through effective management of assets in tandem with user expectations and government requirements. This would truly reflect the main aspiration of this Conference, which is Global Approaches to Advance Road Assets Management.

6. Also, the Road Engineering Excellence Award 2018, MRC-IIE Awards and Best Paper Presenter Award has never failed to inspire us. My heartiest congratulations to all the winners for this year.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. The prospect for growth in Asia and particularly in South Asia and ASEAN are tremendous. During this Conference, many key issues were deliberated critically, and numerous constructive suggestions were also put forward in proposing approaches to advance road asset management.

8. Increased vehicle numbers, growing population, aging physical infrastructure, and escalating maintenance and operation costs are the drawbacks and should be the crucial priorities for road engineers, highway planners and governments. As to achieve a better, safer and environmental friendly roads, the government has started employing new approaches to asset management, in particular through the use of new technologies for asset surveys and performance-based maintenance contracts (or PBC). It is hoped that in the near future all asset management contracts will be using the PBC contract.

9. Another novel approach for road asset management is by integrating road infrastructure information into geographical information system (or GIS). GIS helps to facilitate data collection, processing, display and also integrate data mapping with project management and budgeting tools so that construction, operational, and maintenance expenses can be centrally managed and accounted for. For example, field personnel can take detailed GIS information with them on their mobile devices and quickly locate relevant facilities and perform detailed inspection on them. New work orders for the repair of a defect, for example a pothole, can be quickly generated and attended to by the maintenance company. I believe that every one of us has benefited and gained some

ideas from the various technical sessions pertaining to GIS application.

10. Worst-case scenarios must always be considered when designing and constructing road infrastructure to prevent massive damage to the roads and highways due to flooding, etc., as a result of climate change. Therefore, if road engineers are forewarned of any such effects, then they can be better prepared to deal with them. Designers should explore the use of innovative materials and design approaches to mitigate some of the impacts of climate change. I believe such discussions have taken place at this Congress.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. Before we come to an end, I hope that we will continue to build upon the discussions we have initiated, the partnerships we have cemented and the networking we have established, over the past 3 days. We have chosen to participate in this Conference knowing that, even in today's interconnected world, there is nothing as powerful as face-to-face interaction. I have no doubt that the knowledge you have gained and the contacts you have made here will make an impact in your future endeavours.

12. It is now vital to maintain the momentum and continue to develop ways for IRF and REAM to add value to all the stakeholder communities and to ensure that the future mandate is adhered to in a way that preserves and protects all the things that have made this special event a success.

13. As we bid farewell to Kuala Lumpur and look ahead to the **11th MALAYSIAN ROAD CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION 2020**, I urge everyone to look forward to continuing dialogues via the IRF platform. To foreign speakers and participants, I wish you all a pleasant and safe journey home. I hope we shall meet again in a similar forum.

14. On that note, it gives me great pleasure to officially declare the 10th MALAYSIAN ROAD CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION 2018 closed.

Thank you.