



**OPENING CEREMONY
GEOTROPIKA-ICHITRA 2019**

SPEECH BY

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MALAYSIA**

on

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THE ROYAL WIDAD RESIDENCE@UTMKL**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

and Good morning to everyone.

Yang Berbahagia Prof. Datuk. Ir. Dr. Wahid bin Omar
Vice Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Sri Ir. Dr. Roslan bin Md Taha
Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Kerja Raya

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Sr. Aziz bin Abdullah
Ketua Pengarah Lembaga Lebuhraya Malaysia

Yang Berbahagia Prof. Dr. Khairul Anuar bin Kassim
Chair, School of Civil Engineering
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)

Yang Berbahagia Associate Professor Dr. Kamarudin bin Ahmad
Chairman of Geotropika 2019

Yang Berbahagia Professor Dr. Rosli bin Hainin
Chairman of Ichitra 2019

International delegations from various regions of the world

Distinguished guests, Sponsors

Keynote speakers, paper presenters, Members of the media,

Ladies and gentlemen

1. On behalf of the government of Malaysia, I am deeply honoured to appear before you in succession following the 11th International Conference on Geotechnical Engineering in Tropical Regions and 1st International Conference on Highway and Transportation Engineering or **Geotropika-Ichitra 2019** that is organised by the School of Civil Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
2. First of all, I would like to welcome all delegates from all over the world who are together with us today. Welcome to Malaysia and hope you are enjoying your stay here. I am also obliged to convey best wishes in the spirit of cooperation between Malaysian researchers and researchers from all over the world for the success of this conference. I would like to thank the organiser, the School of Civil Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia for inviting me to officiate this conference, **Geotropika-Ichitra 2019**. Thanks to the co-organiser, MALAYSIAN HIGHWAY AUTHORITY (LLM), supporters and international sponsors.
3. I was informed that Geotropika-Ichitra 2019 is a joint conference for the 11th International Conference on Geotechnical and Transportation Engineering and the 1st International Conference on Highway and Transportation, that aims to bring together leading researchers, engineers, and scientists in geotechnical engineering, rock mechanics and geology engineering, highway and transportation from all around the world. Apart from that, this conference also aims to establish scientific link at international level for sharing and disseminating valuable information on activities in civil engineering research in developing countries.

4. I highly appreciate the hard work of the organizer for taking the initiative to hold such a prestigious conference like this. This a smart move, for event like this will provide a good platform for knowledge transfer between researchers and industrial players, as gaining knowledge is the first step to wisdom; and sharing it, is the first step to humanity. It is also parallel with the Government's effort in preparing Malaysians to overcome the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. The Fourth Industrial Revolution, is the latest wave of a series of advances in technological innovation that have transformed manufacturing industries over the last 250 years. The Fourth Industrial Revolution is an overarching industrial transformation that covers every aspect of industries and economic activities, including every aspect of living. It is a total transformation of all sectors into new system, and/or way of life that will change the way we do businesses. Current technological advances at times are also considered as 'disruptive technologies' due to the convergence of the physical, digital and biological worlds.
6. Malaysia is among the countries forging ahead with the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Fourth Industrial Revolution, is where digital, physical and biological spheres converge. The dynamism of this cycle is progressing at an unprecedented pace with a scope that is almost unimaginable. It is almost limitless in terms of capacity. It brings together both promises and challenges, just like any other technological advancement.

6. Statistically, by 2020 with the world population estimates reaching 7.6 billion, current developments in technology predict that 50 billion electronic devices will interact with each other. This shows the number of devices that communicate is well over the human population with each human being having about 6.58 electronic devices. These interconnected devices generate data and knowledge.
7. This transformation has the potential to disrupt almost every industry in every country, and is evolving much faster, with greater impact than any of the previous industrial revolutions, according to the assessment. In globalised world, Malaysia is compelled to embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution in order to stay competitive. The question is, are we Malaysians, ready for it?
8. The Fourth Industrial Revolution can address many issues concerning engineering, businesses, including the environment, health and safety of workforce, waste management efficiency in managing supply chains, resources and delivery systems. The potential for growth is limitless, but it all boils down to knowledge on application.

Ladies and gentlemen,

9. In preparing Malaysia's future in industry and economy and to reach a developed nation status, the government of Malaysia has taken the initiative with the National Policy on Industry 4.0 or Industry 4RWD (*Pronounced – Industry Forward*). It's has been launched by our

Honourable Prime Minister, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad on 31 October last year.

10. Industry4WRD (*Pronounced – Industry Forward*) is Malaysia's response to Industry 4.0 and beyond, that calls for transformation of manufacturing sector and its related services to be smarter and stronger, driven by people, process and technology. A strong manufacturing sector would pave the way to enhanced productivity, job creation, innovation capability, high-skilled talent pool, economic prosperity and societal well-being.
11. As part of the Industry4WRD (*Pronounced – Industry Forward*) Policy, the Readiness Assessment programme is established to help Malaysian to measure gaps and readiness in order to guide their adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies.
12. Eventually, this policy is anticipated to encourage Malaysia to become a strategic partner for smart manufacturing and related services in Asia Pacific and become a total solutions provider for advanced technology.
13. I believe Industry4WRD (*Pronounced – Industry Forward*) can help us to achieve this target at the same time contribute to fulfilling Malaysia's commitment to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This Policy is a collaborative effort of both Government and industry. The necessity for Malaysia to have its own policies to address the Fourth Industrial Revolution is critical and the introduction of Industry4WRD (*Pronounced – Industry Forward*)

marks the starting point to the wider Industrial Revolution for Malaysia.

14. Quoting the speech of our Prime Minister during the launching of Industry4WRD (*Pronounced – Industry Forward*), “with this Policy in place, the Government anticipates that by 2025 Malaysia will be one of the primary destinations for high-tech industry and ranked among the top 30 nations in the Global Innovation Index.”

Ladies and gentlemen,

16. I hope this conference will prove to be an inspiring experience for everyone. Finally, I wish that all participants would have a fruitful interaction and discussion and pleasant conference as well as having a wonderful memory and an enjoyable stay in Kuala Lumpur.
17. And hereby, with great pleasure, I officiate the opening of **Geotropika-Ichitra 2019**; the joint conference for the 11th International Conference on Geotechnical and Transportation Engineering and the 1st International Conference on Highway and Transportation.

Thank you and have a pleasant stay in Malaysia.

وَسَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ