

**OPENING SPEECH**

**BY**

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**10<sup>th</sup> MALAYSIAN ROAD CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION 2018  
PIARC INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON ASSET MANAGEMENT**

**29<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

**SUNWAY PYRAMID CONVENTION CENTRE**

1. Y. B. Tuan Haji Mohd Anuar Bin Mohd Tahir,  
Deputy Minister of Works, Malaysia
2. Y. Bhg. Dato' Sri Zohari bin Haji Akob,  
Secretary General, Ministry of Works
3. Y. Bhg. Dato' Sri Ir. Dr. Roslan bin Md. Taha  
Director General of the Public Works Department, and  
President of Road Engineering Association of Malaysia (REAM)
4. Y. Brs. Ir. Hj. Zulakmal Bin Hj. Sufian  
Senior Director of Road Branch, Public Works Department, and  
Chairman of the Organising Committee
5. Distinguished Guests and Speakers,
6. Members of the Media,

A very good morning to the road engineering fraternity from far and wide present here this morning.

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizing committee of the **10th MALAYSIA ROAD CONFERENCE 2018 AND PIARC INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON ASSET MANAGEMENT** for inviting me to deliver the opening speech of this conference. It is indeed a great pleasure and a privilege to be amongst this distinguished audience this morning, comprising experts, senior public-sector officials and captains of industry in the fields of road engineering, to deliver the opening speech and officially declare open the **10th MALAYSIA ROAD CONFERENCE 2018 AND PIARC INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON ASSET MANAGEMENT**.

I would like to welcome all international delegates to Malaysia. “**Selamat Datang**”. I am very pleased to note that there are about 900 professionals from 39 countries represented here. It is a very impressive number. I would like to cordially thank all of you for coming to Malaysia and taking part in this conference.

I am very pleased that the initiative to hold this conference, which I believe is the largest forum in Asia of its kind, has received such an enthusiastic response. My sincere congratulations to the Organizing Committee for their efforts in making this conference a resounding success in terms of participation and organizational professionalism.

## **INTRODUCTION OF THE 10th MALAYSIA ROAD CONFERENCE 2018 AND PIARC INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON ASSET MANAGEMENT**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Transportation is a prerequisite for civilizations from the beginning of time by meeting the travel needs of people and the transport of goods. Such connectivity and mobility has changed the way people live and travel. An efficient and reliable transportation system therefore is key towards creating better regional cooperation and wealth creation among nations.

This conference's theme is "**Global Approaches to Advance Road Asset Management**". In order to sustain the economic growth of a nation, a reliable, safe and comfortable road network is of utmost importance. Roads are expensive to build and maintain. Hence, this conference's theme is timely to enable us to sit down together and think of ways to improve on how to manage our road assets.

Over the last two decades we have seen a tremendous increase in population and its subsequent demand for goods and services. This has resulted in high traffic volumes on our roads and its effects on maintenance and operating costs. This is made even worse due to the fact that the roads are ageing. Hence, we need to re-think on how to build and maintain our road assets so that they can last longer and is cheaper to maintain.

## **ASEAN HIGHWAY NETWORK (AHN)**

Ladies and gentlemen,

The ASEAN Highway Network (AHN) is a critical infrastructure facility, necessary for the greater and closer integration of the ASEAN region, as well as to facilitate of regional trade, investment and tourism opportunities. The AHN links all ASEAN Member States by connecting 23 designated national highway routes, with a total length of 38,400 km. To achieve this, the ASEAN Member States are working to upgrade all designated national routes to Class I standards (i.e. 4 or more lanes) by the year 2020, and low traffic volume non-arterial routes to at least Class II standards (i.e. 2 lanes).

Malaysia has put its commitment into action by developing and upgrading the Pan Borneo Highway under the 11<sup>th</sup> Malaysian Plan. The Pan Borneo Highway, designated as 'Asian Highway AH150', will promote better connectivity in Sabah and Sarawak and thus will play a major role to open up economic opportunities in areas it traverses.

## **BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Climate change continues to be a major threat as it adversely affects economic and social development gains, thus deepening the gap between the haves and the have-nots. A road network that cannot withstand the impacts of climate change, will be expensive to maintain and operate.

The road network forms the economic backbone of countries. In Malaysia, about 95% of goods are carried using the road infrastructure. This is due in part, to the cost and door-to-door connectivity that road infrastructure offers as compared to other modes of transportation such as rail. When a massive flood hit the northern states of Peninsular Malaysia in 2014, it caused extensive damage to the road infrastructure. The fast flowing water had scoured the road pavements and inflicted various degrees of damage to bridges, such as scoured abutments, broken piers, etc. Many culverts and drains were also damaged and totally dislocated resulting in a deficient drainage system at these locations.

Repair of the affected Federal Roads infrastructure has been carried out since 2015, costing the government about RM191 million. In order to minimize the damage caused by another flooding event, the Public Works Department Malaysia (PWD) had raised the road levels at several locations to above the highest flood level recorded. To improve the stability of the pavement structures, stabilizing additives were also incorporated in the road base and subgrade. The repair works were

continued in 2016 in the affected states, with a further cost of RM66 million. It is therefore crucial to have a road network in place that can withstand the effects of calamities inflicted on it for the sake of the people's wellbeing and to ensure a sustained economic growth.

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Works has a policy in place to ensure that our roads and highways are built and maintained for them to be sustainable and environmentally friendly. Among the strategies applied as part of sustainable development are:

- a) The implementation of Construction Industry Transformation Programme (CITP) which promotes efficiency in construction and reduction in cost through technology such as the use of Industrialized Building System (IBS);
- b) The application of Cold-in-Place Recycling (CIPR) for its pavement maintenance as it is an eco-friendly pavement rehabilitation process, which utilizes the existing pavement materials;
- c) The utilisation of Green Product Scoring System, which is a system to measure the percentage of green products, used in an infrastructure project. Such tools will assist the Ministry of Works in ensuring that its road projects will have minimal impact on the environment; and
- d) The use of Renewable Energy road furniture in road projects.

## **MALAYSIA ROAD ASSET MANAGEMENT**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Road Asset Management is vital when we talk about roads. The effective management of road networks requires budget levels to be sufficient to keep the road assets in an acceptable condition. With rapid development and the corresponding increase in the number of motorized vehicles, a nation's budget allocation is normally expected to increase in tandem with the increase in road length and axle load of commercial vehicles.

**In Malaysia**, the Public Works Department (PWD) maintains a total of almost 20,000 km of Federal Roads with a limited maintenance budget.

The limited operating and maintenance budget is always a challenge to asset owners. Maintenance activities are now more focused on minimizing costs rather than assessing and enhancing the value of the asset to the organization. The shortfall in maintenance funds will result in road maintenance and strengthening works being deferred to a later date. Delay in rehabilitation works will inevitably result in more funds being required at a later stage to make good the damage. Hence, getting an adequate maintenance funding remains a major concern in the good up-keeping of road assets.

Hence, up-to-date information on road network inventory, traffic volumes, axle loads, residual cost of assets and road condition is vital to assist management decisions for road maintenance. These up to date information should be made available in the Road Asset Management System to be set up by any road authority.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The road authorities must keep abreast with the latest cutting edge technologies and innovations. Innovative pavement design should be explored to produce reliable pavement performances. This should include utilizing the results from Long-Term Pavement Performance (LTPP) studies undertaken locally.

With the establishment of the new Centre of Excellence for Engineering & Technology (CREaTE) in PWD, all those involved in road planning, design, construction and maintenance, including academia, are welcome to collaborate and lend your expertise in doing research and development on construction related issues, for the mutual benefit of all parties. Local manufacturers and suppliers are also invited to test and develop their products at this Centre of Excellence.

## CONCLUSION

Ladies and gentlemen,

This congress is an opportune time for all of us to make the first step towards the sharing and exchanging of knowledge, ideas and experiences that can make the world a better place to live in. We must fervently embrace innovation in driving productivity for the road industry. I sincerely believe this can be achieved from this Congress as well as the Exhibition on show, which offers ideas, solutions and products for road infrastructure.

I would sincerely like to wish the **10th MALAYSIA ROAD CONFERENCE 2018 AND PIARC INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON ASSET MANAGEMENT** success in achieving its goal.

I thank you again for choosing Malaysia as the venue for the second edition of this congress. To all delegates from abroad, a very warm welcome to Malaysia and I hope your stay here is an enjoyable one.

On that note, ladies and gentlemen, I take great pleasure in declaring the **10th MALAYSIA ROAD CONFERENCE 2018 AND PIARC INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON ASSET MANAGEMENT** *officially open.*

Thank you.