

OPENING SPEECH
BY THE
SECRETARY GENERAL
MINISTRY OF WORKS MALAYSIA
ARENA OF YOUTH 2016
12 APRIL 2016
AT
DEWAN TAN SRI MAHFOZ KHALID,
KEMENTERIAN KERJA RAYA,
KUALA LUMPUR

Terima kasih Pengacara Majlis.

Bismillahirrahmanirahim,

Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Dr Ir Ahmad Tajuddin Ali,
Pengerusi
CIDB Malaysia

YBhg. Dato' Ir. Ahmad 'Asri bin Abdul Hamid
Ketua Eksekutif
Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan

Puan Karimah Tan Abdullah, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif, PINTAR
Foundation

Rakan kolaborasi program *Arena of Youth*

Wakil media, para hadirin yang saya hormati sekalian

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam
Sejahtera dan Salam 1Malaysia.

1. Alhamdulillah, bersyukur kita ke hadrat Allah kerana dengan limpah izin dan kurniaNya, dapat kita berhimpun hari ini dalam majlis perasmian program *Arena of Youth – My City 2050* anjuran Lembaga Pembangunan Industri Pembinaan Malaysia (CIDB) dengan kerjasama PINTAR Foundation. Izinkan saya berucap seterusnya dalam Bahasa Inggeris.
2. I am pleased to see so many people here today, to support the final presentations and judging of the projects

undertaken by the teams participating in the *Arena of Youth – My City 2050* Competition. On behalf of the Ministry of Works, I would like to congratulate CIDB and PINTAR Foundation as the organisers of *Arena of Youth – My City 2050*, teachers and the participating students for a job well done. Congratulations also to the parents, relatives and friends of participating students. Your support is a testament to the importance you have accorded to them as Malaysia's next generation of builders.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. As you are aware, the *Arena of Youth – My City 2050* is a town-planning competition that started off as a means to develop the next generation of builders. Participating teams have been tasked to envision, design and build a model of a sustainable city in 2050.
4. I understand that the projects undertaken were not easy and students had to complete them alongside their regular studies. Your tenacity in this programme demonstrates your interest in envisioning a better future for our country. This tenacity augurs well for the country as your contribution is vital for the future growth and prosperity of our beloved country.

5. According to United Nations statistics, around 1.2 billion or 16.4% of the people across the globe were between the ages of 15 to 24 in 2015. A large percentage of young population means that a country needs to nurture and invest in its young generation. It also shows that the future belongs to the youth. The old ways of doing things will have to be replaced by new approaches, methodologies, and philosophies. Meaningful changes are going to come from the youth of today who will become the leaders of tomorrow. Thus programmes such as the *Arena of Youth* are vital for the development of youth, for they impart the values and knowledge important to shape the youth of Malaysia.

6. I understand that the PINTAR Foundation was intricately involved in organizing the *Arena of Youth*. The competition will see students from PINTAR schools adoption programme competing with students from international schools in developing a vision of a city in 2050. Therefore, the *Arena of Youth* provides a suitable avenue to stimulate the imagination of our students in order to inspire and motive them.

7. I also would like to commend personnel from corporations and bodies such as Ekovest Berhad, Jabatan Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia, IBM Malaysia, IJM Corporation Berhad, Sunway Construction Berhad and UAC Berhad for taking the time out of your busy schedules to visit the schools and imparting your knowledge on the students. Through these mentoring sessions, you have shown how corporations can invest and facilitate changes in addressing the challenges of developing our nation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. If all of the cities of the world are built with proper planning, our dream of having a more sustainable planet would be realised. According to the United Nations, currently 54 per cent of the world's population today lives in the urban areas. It is estimated that by the year 2050, the percentage will increase to 66 per cent, which is around 6 billion people. This will pose numerous challenges in providing housing, infrastructure, transportation, energy, waste management and employment, as well as basic necessities like education and healthcare to the population.
9. The role of planners and builders will become even more important. All resources will have to be used more

carefully. For the development of cities, proper planning and sustainable construction will have to be give more prominence. So today, it will be interesting to listen to your ideas and see how some those ideas can be adopted and implemented in future.

10. The Ministry of Works, through the CIDB, has developed the Construction Industry Transformation Programme (CITP) to empower and strengthen the construction industry as outlined in the thrusts of the Eleventh Malaysia Plan. The CITP, launched by YAB Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Razak, our Prime Minister on 10 September 2015, is a 5 year comprehensive programme to transform the construction industry by 2020. It encompasses 4 strategic thrusts namely Quality, Safety and Professionalism, Environmental Sustainability, Productivity and Internationalisation.
11. As you can see, the *Arena of Youth* competition is in line with our aspirations under the CITP. We are working towards creating a more sustainable built environment. Some of the university students taking part in the Arena of Youth will be entering the workforce soon. As the future builders of Malaysia, we count on you to build a new culture in the construction industry. Competitions such as

this can be an ideal training ground for our next generation of builders who will affect change from the inside out. It is with your ideas that we hope to create an industry which will be admired globally for its sustainability, innovation and productivity.

12. I understand that 10 shortlisted schools and 4 universities will have their projects judged over the next two days. I look forward to seeing how creative and innovative the students are in building their own cities. To all participating teams, I wish you all the best. However, I believe that regardless of which team wins this competition, all of us are “winners” too as we would have accumulated a bank of ideas that will contribute to making our country and the world a better place.

13. Finally, I would like to thank the organising teams and partner organisations for their tireless hard work in making this event a success.

On that note, it is with great pleasure that I declare the *Arena of Youth – My City 2050*, officially open.

Thank you.