

**APEC ARCHITECTS DINNER  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
THE 7<sup>th</sup> CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING OF APEC ARCHITECT  
PROJECT**

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**KEYNOTE SPEECH**

**By:**

**YB. DATO' SRI HAJI FADILLAH BIN HAJI YUSOF  
MINISTER OF WORKS, MALAYSIA**

**Date : 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016 (Monday)**

**Time : 8.00 pm**

**Venue : Saloma Bistro, Kuala Lumpur**

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

YBhg. Ar. Prof. Datuk Dr. Amer Hamzah Mohd Yunus  
The President of Board of Architects Malaysia,

Members of the APEC Architect Project,

Members of the Media,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

Good Evening and Salam 1Malaysia

1. Firstly, I would like to express my pleasure in being invited to grace this evening's APEC Architects Dinner in conjunction with the 7<sup>th</sup> Central Council Meeting of APEC Architect Project.
2. This meeting which is held biennially aims to facilitate the provision of architectural services amongst participating economies around the Pacific Rim have the continuous support of the Ministry of Works Malaysia in all its endeavours to enhance the standard and quality of the architectural fraternity.

3. The construction sector which includes professional services, have played a significant role in the economy of Malaysia in terms of its contribution to revenue generation, capital formation and employment creation which translates positively to the gross domestic product (GDP) and the socio-economic developments of the country.
4. As we move towards a high income and developed nation status by 2020, greater emphasis are being placed on the development of the professional services sector to serve as one of the engine of growth to propel and sustain our economy.
5. Hence, it is critical for Malaysia to accelerate the transformation of the professional services sector to an industry that thrives on higher value creation through innovation which creates higher paying jobs.
6. Undoubtedly, the growth of professional services such as architecture is critical as they have the potential to add value to the economy apart from being a significant multiplier effect on the economy through improved productivity.

Ladies and gentlemen,

7. Moving along the same line, I believe the network on professional services cooperation such as the APEC Architect Project is an important initiative to facilitate the provision of architectural services for our mutual benefits for professional architects in the region.

8. On the Malaysian front, I am pleased to inform that the Parliament of Malaysia has passed the amendments to the Architects Act, Registration of Engineers Act and Quantity Surveyors Act in 2015. The newly amended Acts are to pave the way for the numerous opportunities for Malaysian professionals to demonstrate their skills in the international market place especially in emerging economies on an equal footing.
  
9. Similarly, foreign professionals will also be able to practise here through the liberalisation of professionals which will enable greater mobility for practitioners. Currently, a framework and mechanism to facilitate the movement of architects for the provision of architectural services between ASEAN and APEC countries was established which then culminated in the Board of Architects of Malaysia to ratify the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) on architectural services for us to compete on a level playing field.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. The construction industry currently contributes 4 per cent of the Malaysian GDP and is expected to increase to 5.5 per cent by 2020 with the implementation of the 11<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan.
  
11. Towards this end, the Ministry of Works in fulfilling this agenda has proactively formulated the Construction Industry Transformation Program (CITP) to accelerate the performance of the country's

construction sector which aims to ultimately create construction industry players that are sustainable and are able to compete in the local and international arena.

12. The CITP which sets important strategic goals and milestones to bring Malaysia's construction industry to the next level aims to transform the construction industry encompassing four strategic thrusts: i ) raising the overall productivity level of the industry ii ) environmental sustainability measures being incorporated in the design, construction and subsequent maintenance of our building and infrastructure iii ) focusing on improving competitiveness and the ability of our construction players to internationalised and iv ) improving the overall quality, safety and professionalism of the industry.
13. Likewise, the CITP envisions an advanced, highly productive construction industry that will be a major contributor towards Malaysia's ambition of a modernised construction industry which will create prosperity at all levels of our society and provide a steady flow of high-income employment for its citizens.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

14. I am informed that the APEC Architect Project based on the agreed APEC Architect Framework has registered a total of **24 APEC Architects** in the country. I am hopeful this number will increase in

future and enable better networking and collaboration opportunities amongst the ASEAN and APEC economies to boost the services sector and build capacity in driving innovative growth by encouraging increased cooperation within the sector.

15. In this context, I would like to urge all of you to be committed to growth, quality, enterprise and probity in creating a business environment that maximizes profitability and growth for ASEAN and APEC whilst adhering to our core values of environmental care and our respective national economics imperatives in our collaborative efforts. The enhancement and empowerment of our communities are vital as it reflects the ASEAN and APEC spirit of inclusiveness in inculcating attitudes of commitment, achievement and responding positively to change. We must also identify, lead and exploit market trends and business opportunities regionally by regularly reviewing our administrative systems and procedures by installing new methods and technologies where appropriate.
  
16. Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all member economies of the APEC Architect Project for their participation in the 7th Central Council Meeting of APEC Architect Project, 2016 and thank the Board of Architects Malaysia for their hard work as the secretariat of APEC Architect Project 2015-2016.

Thank you. Wabilahitaufig Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh