

ASEAN ARCHITECTS DINNER

KEYNOTE SPEECH

by

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Minister of Works, Malaysia

Date : 15 May 2015 (Monday)
Time : 8.00 pm
Venue : Hotel Berjaya Times Square
Kuala Lumpur

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

Tan Sri -Tan Sri, Dato' Sri-Dato' Sri, Dato'-Dato',

Delegates of ASEAN Architects,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,
Good Evening and Salam 1 Malaysia

1. Let me begin by thanking the Board of Architects Malaysia for inviting me to this dinner with the delegates of ASEAN Architects. I was informed that the ASEAN Architects Coordinating Committee on Services has covered much grounds and seeks to enhance its reach in ushering a new era for ASEAN cooperation and collaboration in the delivery of architectural services.
2. May I also take this opportunity in welcoming all delegates from ASEAN member states to Malaysia and hope your stay in Kuala Lumpur will be enjoyable and fruitful. I am told that there will be many similar meetings in the pipeline throughout the year and assure all of you of my undivided support in your endeavours.
3. Undeniably, there are a lot of work in progress in relation to the liberalisation of the services sector amongst ASEAN countries as reported in the ASEAN Economy Outlook which indicates a steady growth of 4.7% in the first quarter matching that of 2016. This encouraging growth demonstrates the mobility of ASEAN professionals which is the reason for us to seize this opportunity to further escalate our efforts in capitalising on the spirit of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in being globally competitive.
4. On the Malaysian front, the Government has initiated the “Transformasi Nasional 50” better known as the TN50, an initiative which envisions to chart the way forward for the country from 2020 to 2050. One of the emphasis of TN50 is to leverage on the strength of AEC as a formidable economic force which is in line with ASEAN’s objective of Member States and business mobility as a whole.

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. Since the signing of the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Architectural and Engineering Services in 2007, we have received a number of registrations from ASEAN Architects (AA) and ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineers (ACPE) which until to-date have a total of 39 ASEAN Architects registered with the Board of Architects Malaysia and 294 ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineers registered with the Board of Engineers Malaysia. Undoubtedly, this is something we can improve amongst the Architectural fraternity of ASEAN by actively promoting our skills and core competencies.

6. With Malaysia as the Chairman and host of this meeting, we are excited about the prospects and benefits of AEC which envisage a single market and production base that is highly competitive and fully integrated into the global economy. In short, AEC will transform ASEAN into a region with free movement of goods, services, investments, skilled labour and capital.

7. In the just concluded 30th ASEAN Summit, the leaders of ASEAN adopted 5 declarations :
 - i) Promote cooperation in the development and implementation of capacity building and share best practices;

 - ii) Raise the professional standards and capability of the various sectors and build the community of professionals in each sector to forge closer ties for collaboration;

iii) Ensure that ASEAN embrace good governance such as citizen-centricity, innovation and knowledge for our mutual benefits;

iv) uphold and protecting the welfare of civil servants in ASEAN

V) Empowering and strengthening networking among ASEAN Member States by involving ASEAN Dialogue Partners, regional and multilateral organizations, civil society, private sector and other relevant stakeholders

Ladies and gentlemen,

8. These declarations are intended to empower and strengthen ASEAN's unity and solidarity in enabling ASEAN's advancement into a sustainable region which underscores the importance of building an ASEAN community that is resilient to disaster and climate change.
9. Needless to say, these declarations will have direct bearing on the work we do here where ASEAN with a rich history of architectural diversity and architectural excellence can compete with the best in the world. Now it is incumbent upon us to translate these rich traditions and abilities into designing building spaces, structures and facilities that makes the best use of the abundant natural resources and at the same time taking into account the vagaries of our environment in improving the quality of life of our citizens.
10. I am confident the concerted efforts among professionals of ASEAN Member States through the ASEAN Architect Council and ASEAN

Chartered Professional Engineers Coordination Committee will bear fruit. However, I believe more work needs to be done particularly in the area of education and accreditation of our professional qualifications with a view in facilitating our professional's movement within the ASEAN region.

11. Finally, I urge all of you in striving for excellence by further driving the initiatives of ASEAN towards our common goal of a prosperous and dynamic economic bloc.

Thank you.

Wassalam mualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.