

OPENING ADDRESS

BY

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MINISTER OF WORKS, MALAYSIA**

**AT THE
OPENING CEREMONY OF THE
ITS SEMINAR AND EXHIBITION 2017**

**21 FEBRUARY 2017
CONNEXION@NEXUS, KUALA LUMPUR**

Y.Bhg. Dato' Sri Zohari bin Hj Akob
Secretary General, Ministry of Works Malaysia

Y.Bhg. Dato' Sri Ir. Dr. Roslan bin Md Taha
Director General,
Public Works Department Malaysia

Y.Bhg. Dato' Ismail Salleh
Director General, Malaysian Highway Authority

Cum President of ITS Council Malaysia

Distinguished speakers and delegates,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

1. Firstly, I would like to welcome all delegates and speakers to the *Intelligent Transport System (ITS) Seminar and Exhibition 2017*. It is indeed an honour for me to officiate this ITS Malaysia Seminar which is jointly organised by the Malaysian ITS Association and the Ministry of Works Malaysia.

2. The theme of this ITS Seminar , **‘Driving ITS To A New Normal’** is apt and timely given the challenges of the urban transportation landscape. The theme has been carefully chosen to reflect our aspirations of using ITS in managing our everyday transportation needs, from planning of our journeys, avoiding congestions, fuel efficiency, locating parking spaces in the network and to lessen pollution due traffic congestions. Notably, the topics covered in this seminar varies from toll technologies, public transport, fare systems, telecommunication technologies, fleet management, smart cities and big data analytics all of which are vital in helping us craft sustainable ITS solutions.

3. The Ministry of Works which is the key proponent of ITS projects and policies development in the country is continuously monitoring the mega trends in ITS to benefit from new breakthroughs in diverse fields covering artificial intelligence, robotics, Internet of Things (IOT),

connected and autonomous vehicles, 3-D printing, materials science, renewable energy, energy storage and quantum computing. I believe we are now at an exciting stage as we witness technological barriers broken down, which is why the Ministry of Works is constantly looking to forge collaboration with the public and private sectors to jointly draw talents and expertise in providing comprehensive solutions for transportation systems that meets the public's needs and expectations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. Malaysia is focused on further strengthening its infrastructure to support its economic expansion by focusing on building an integrated need-based transport system. Similarly, initiatives have been undertaken to provide seamless transportation systems which enhances connectivity and mobility which is the foundation of social inclusion, economic expansion and growth. Undoubtedly, ITS will enhance the efficiency of our transportation system, provide greater utilisation of existing facilities with an emphasis on better delivery and quality of services as well as capacity improvement.

5. As the population in urban areas increases, the urbanisation will also increase motorisation and hence traffic congestions in the city. Likewise, the demand for improved urban infrastructure will also increase and has become vital for us to develop transportation systems which are mainly driven by intelligence, integration, innovation and careful planning which can dramatically mitigate these challenges. Having all these in mind, Malaysia is embracing the smart city concept especially in major cities, economic development zones as well as new urban housing areas underpinned by six components

namely Smart Economy, Smart Environment, Smart People, Smart Government, Smart Transport and Smart Living.

6. With the adoption of IoT on a large scale basis due to higher bandwidth capabilities, materializing Smart Cities under the Digital Malaysia umbrella is not so far away.

7. On the part of the Ministry of Works, the Multi Lane Free Flow (MLFF) on highways in Malaysia by the year 2020, is a first step in establishing a smart city in terms of managing urban mobility. The most widespread use of ITS in Malaysia is for traffic management. In Kuala Lumpur, the Integrated Transportation Information System (ITiS) was developed to improve traffic management in the city. With this system, the authorities can collect, share and disseminate accurate traffic information and latest traffic updates with road users to simplify their journey in the Klang Valley. Current traffic information and alternative route recommendations in the event of congestion on certain routes are shared with motorists via the variable message sign (VMS) and call centres and social media.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. With the rising urban population in Malaysia, roads would be gridlocked if every single trip is on private transport mode. The solution to avoid this is to build an efficient public transport system. One such initiative is the implementation of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) which stretches from Setia Jaya Komuter Station to USJ LRT Station. The BRT combines the convenient features of a light rail transit system with the

usage of dedicated lanes, environmentally friendly buses as well as customer friendly infrastructure.

9. Other initiatives is the Klang Valley Mass Rapid Transit Project which involves the construction of a railway network which will form the backbone of the Klang Valley's public transport system. The project is a crucial component of the Greater Kuala Lumpur/Klang Valley National Key Economic Area (Greater KL/KV NKEA) and is the largest infrastructure project in the country. It is expected to significantly improve the coverage of rail-based public transport in the Klang Valley and enable 50% of all trips in the Klang Valley to be completed on public transport by 2020, up from the current 17%.

10. As such, the Government has proactively taken steps through the ITS Council of Malaysia and its members in the development of the Malaysian ITS Blueprint which is in the final stages of preparation. The blueprint will identify and emphasise the roadmap for inter-agency collaboration in nine (9) ITS sectors which I am confident this ITS seminar will conclude and confirm the length and breadth of issues that needs to be covered in the Blueprint.

11. One of our top priorities now is the National Traffic Management Centre (NTMC) which was approved by the Malaysian Cabinet. The NTMC will collect and converge data from other agencies and Authorities for the integration of data, data analysis in managing traffic and public transportation on a holistic basis.

12. Finally, I would like to thank and extend my appreciation to the organisers for their efforts in hosting this seminar. To all participants, I wish you all a fruitful time in the seminar and to take the opportunity to share and exchange experiences and knowledge for us to make the world more sustainable and a better place to live.

On that note, it is with great pleasure that I declare the *ITS Seminar and Exhibition 2017* open.

Thank you.