



**OPENING SPEECH BY**

**YB DATO' SRI HAJI FADILLAH BIN HAJI YUSOF**

**MINISTER OF WORKS, MALAYSIA**

**(To be delivered by YB Datuk Rosnah binti Abdul Rashid**

**Shirlin, Deputy Minister of Works, Malaysia)**

**AT THE**

**KUALA LUMPUR ARCHITECTURE FESTIVAL (KLAF) AND  
INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTURE, INTERIOR DESIGN AND**

**BUILDING EXHIBITION (ARCHIDEX) 2016**

**20th – 23rd JULY 2016**

**KUALA LUMPUR CONVENTION CENTRE**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

Yang Berusaha Ar. Mohd. Zulhemlee bin An  
President, Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Vincent Lim  
President, C.I.S Network Sdn. Bhd.

Participants of KLAF and ARCHIDEX 2016,

Members of the Media,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

*Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Good  
Morning and Salam 1Malaysia.*

1. I would like to thank Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) and C.I.S Network Sdn. Bhd. for inviting me to the launching of the Kuala Lumpur Architecture Festival (KLAF) 2016 and the opening of the International Architecture, Interior Design and Building Exhibition or ARCHIDEX 2016.

2. I am pleased to be here today at two significant events, the KLAF 2016 and ARCHIDEX 2016 which are being held concurrently. KLAF 2016 is hosting multiple events, namely the Green and Design Forums, the International Architectural Design Conference (DATUM), several Architecture Exhibitions showcasing the works of PAM Award winners, young architects' talents, as well as the 17th ARCHIDEX 2016. This is truly a festival for architecture.

3. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate both PAM and C.I.S Network Sdn. Bhd. for their commitment to continually improve this premier annual event held in Kuala Lumpur for architects, interior designers as well as the building industry professionals of Malaysia and the region.

4. I am told that the conferences held to celebrate KLAF have received full house participation every year for the past five years. This is indeed a great achievement and I wish PAM continued success. I also hope that PAM will continue

to innovate and enhance the programmes offered in the KLAFF and ARCHIDEX to keep up with global trends and needs in the field of architecture.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. Construction remains one of the most important economic sectors in the country and has experienced the highest growth compared to other sectors in the country. The construction sector recorded a two digit growth for three consecutive years – 18.1% in 2012, 10.9% in 2013 and 11.6% in 2014. The industry is expected to grow at 10.3% per annum with a contribution of RM327 billion or 5.5% to GDP by 2020. It certainly is a significant economic driver that has a multiplier effect on other industries.

6. Under the 11<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan, the government has launched the Construction Industry Transformation Programme (2016-2020) to propel the industry forward and meet market demand. Efforts to transform the construction sector will focus on enhancing human capital, increasing productivity, fostering sustainable practices and increasing internationalisation.

7. Therefore, it is truly an exciting time for the construction industry as well as the professionals in this industry. Amendments were made last year to the three professional acts under the purview of the Ministry of Works, namely the Registration of Engineers Act, Registration of Architects Act and the Registration of Quantity Surveyors Act. The amendments pave the way for numerous opportunities for Malaysian professionals to demonstrate their skills in the international market, especially in emerging economies, on equal footing. Similarly, foreign professionals will be able to practise here in Malaysia. Liberalisation of the professionals will enable greater mobility of professionals.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. Architecture and design are crucial in leading the way for a better life for our future generation. Architecture is important to society because it provides the physical environment in which we live. At a deeper level, architecture provides an expression of human civilisation at a fixed point in time, which endures as a monument for study by future generations. Architecture is part art and part science. As an art, it provides an outlet for creative expression that leads

society to look at their living space and the overall environment in different ways. At the same time, architecture responds to society's functional needs while making use of modern technology in building design. As the global population is not only growing but also urbanising at a rapid rate, the role of architecture in the design of sustainable living space will become more crucial.

9. Thus, the theme chosen for KLAF this year which is "FUTURE COMMUNITIES: RE-EMERGENCE OF SOCIAL URBANISM" is indeed very apt. Architects play a great role in shaping our communities. I believe the conference held in conjunction with KLAF 2016 will generate stimulating and exciting discussions on this theme. I hope the intellectual exchange of ideas will stimulate your minds to produce fresh ideas for your future projects.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. To be internationally competitive and sought after, Malaysian architects need to develop definitive design character, or unique and durable architectural discourse, or innovative approach to design or a specialist area of

expertise. Professionals in Malaysia will need to compete with the best in the world to provide the best services even in Malaysia especially now that we are fully liberalised within ASEAN.

11. I understand that for the first time this year, PAM is introducing a public lecture as part of the events organised in the KLAFF. I believe this is a good move indeed to engage and enable the public to get to know architects and what they do. Hopefully the public will have greater understanding and better appreciation of how and what it takes to design the built environment and why we need architects to do it.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. I am made to understand ARCHIDEX is already in its 17th installment this year and is regarded as one of South East Asia's most successful trade events for the architecture, interior design and building industry. It is a great achievement for ARCHIDEX to be able to deliver an impactful and insightful exhibition of more than 500 local and international exhibitors to over 35,000 visitors coming from all over the world.

13. With globalisation, this exhibition has opened an important gateway for local and international businesses alike to share their expertise across a common ground. It is also the platform where industry professionals and experts go to for product sourcing and to keep abreast with the latest high-tech and technologically advanced materials featured here.

14. Finally, I hope participants will benefit greatly from all the carefully selected programmes at this significant event for the architectural sector. I would like to once again congratulate the KLAF and ARCHIDEX 2016 joint organisers, Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM) and C.I.S Network Sdn. Bhd. for their continuous effort in showcasing the finest in the architecture, design and building industry in Malaysia and the region.

15. On that note, it gives me great pleasure to officiate the Kuala Lumpur Architecture Festival (KLAF) and the International Architecture, Interior Design and Building Exhibition or ARCHIDEX 2016.

Thank you.