

9th MALAYSIAN ROAD CONFERENCE 2014
and
PIARC INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON SLOPES,
ROAD FOUNDATION DRAINAGE AND
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

CLOSING SPEECH

by

Y. B. Datuk Rosnah Bte Abdul Rashid Shirlin
Deputy Minister of Works, Malaysia

Date : 12 November 2014

Time : 12.00 pm

Venue : Sunway Pyramid
Convention Centre,
Petaling Jaya,
Selangor.

1. Y.Bhg. Dato' Zohari bin Haji Akob, Secretary General, Ministry of Works
2. Y.Bhg. Dato' Seri Ir. Mohd. Noor bin Yaakob, President of Road Engineering Association of Malaysia (REAM)
3. Y. Berusaha. Ir. Ab. Manan bin Embong, Director of Roads Branch and Joint Chairman of 9MRC & PIARC International Seminar
4. Y. Bhg. Dato' Ir. Dr. Ashaari bin Mohamad, Secretary General of REAM and Joint Chairman of 9MRC & PIARC International Seminar

Tan Sri–Tan Sri, Dato'–Dato',

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. Assalamualaikum and a very good afternoon to all distinguished delegates and participants who are present here at the closing ceremony of the 9th Malaysian Road Conference 2014 and PIARC International Seminar On Slopes, Road Foundation Drainage and Stormwater Management. I'm greatly honored to have been invited to this auspicious occasion today.

2. As the curtain draws upon the Conference, I wish to extend my heartiest congratulations to the entire team of organizers, made up of committed volunteers from both the private and public sectors, the sponsors and exhibitors, and also not forgetting all of you, participants out there, who have made this Conference a huge success. It was certainly a job well done and all of you truly deserve an enormous applause for your efforts!

3. We hope that all knowledge gained and ideas generated over these three days will guide us further to ensure sustainable development and conserve the environment for future generations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. I thank all of you for your active participation, either during the presentation sessions or the discussion forum at the workshop sessions where you have the chance to share your experience with local and international participants.

5. I believe that for the past three days, you have all been kept very busy assimilating the latest technologies and innovations on offer. Although it had been a hectic schedule, I hope all of you have enjoyed and benefited from this Conference.

6. This Conference has been privileged to receive presentations regarding a wide variety of topics pertaining to the many aspects of sustainable infrastructure development and green technology by the 48 distinguished authors and 3 guest speakers. Key topics covered include geotechnical innovation, pavement, design & construction, intelligent transport system, transportation, safety & environment, storm water management, road foundation drainage and finance. In all there were 2 Plenary sessions, 10 Technical sessions and 2 Workshops, deliberating on issues and challenges relating to sustainable infrastructure development and green technologies. I am happy to note that greater emphasis has now been given to future challenges with regards to sustainable infrastructure development and greening our roads.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

7. The road network in Malaysia continues to grow in number, length and breadth to accommodate the constantly increasing volume of traffic. There are changing needs that the road construction industry needs to respond to. In the light of the global warming phenomenon, Malaysia is adapting her road infrastructure systems to respond to the demands of sustainable development as well as conserving the environment for future generations.

8. These challenges require us to incorporate the green concepts when planning, designing, constructing and maintaining our roads. Towards this, implementation processes have been adopted; new sustainable technologies applied; combined local-foreign expertise has been boosted; and alternative financing has been sourced. With enhanced linkages and efficient transportation, the nation's future competitive edge will be better defined.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. Increased awareness of sustainable development is beginning to profoundly change the behavior of consumers, who are beginning to demand for more green technology. This trend and awareness has begun to shape preferences for the new world infrastructure development.

10. Governments around the world are also playing a critical role in catalysing sustainable development, through policies and regulations that encourage the adoption of green technology. In Malaysia, sustainability represents one of the key principles underpinning the New Economic Model and has been identified as a Key Strategic Reform Initiative. The Malaysian government is actively putting in place the ecosystem, value system and supply chain to create a vibrant low

carbon economy. A set of institutions has been established to oversee the development of green growth through the implementation of relevant policies of a Low Carbon Economy in a systematic and structured manner.

11. Malaysian government policies are further enhanced to spur the growth of the industry and create larger consumer awareness. More efforts should be taken to build a highly skilled workforce and increase collaboration between research institutions and businesses to commercialise and scale up innovative green technology research. Government procurement policies which priorities green solutions could also be explored.

12. With all these experiences and technologies, I am confident that road professionals will be in a better position to handle not only local road projects, but to venture and provide financing, management and construction of road projects abroad.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

13. I have been informed that participation at this Conference were excellent. There is a saying that a successful conference is one which you can walk away with two, or maybe three, good ideas that would affect the way you think about some major issues or the way you work. I sincerely hope that you have all take away something pragmatic from this conference that you can share with our counterparts from all over the country.

14. I have also been informed that the Road Exhibition held in conjunction with this Conference has drawn in a large number of visitors. The 99 booths in the Exhibition offered an exciting and mutually beneficial opportunity for both local and foreign companies to showcase their diverse range of services and products

related to the road industry. I believe the Exhibition has been beneficial and already led to fruitful business ventures between the exhibitors and the participants.

15. I would also like to mention here and congratulate again the deserving winners of the Road Engineering Excellence Award 2014, Conference Best Paper Awards and Malaysian Road Conference Invention & Exhibition (MRC-IIE Awards).

16. To our friends from overseas, I hope you not only had a memorable Conference but also walk away with fond memories of your stay here in Malaysia. I urge you to extend your stay here to see more of this fascinating country.

17. In closing, I hope that the organizers will keep up the good work and start the ball rolling for the 10th Malaysian Road Conference scheduled in two years' time. I also hope that most, if not all of you, will continue to be associated with this important forum.

Thank you for all of your participation. Until we meet again in a similar forum, it gives me great pleasure to officially declare this Conference closed.

I wish you all a pleasant and safe journey home.

Thank you.