



**20th AFEO Midterm Governing Board Meeting 2021
Opening Remarks by
Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah bin Yusof
Senior Minister of Works, Malaysia
7th August 2021 (Saturday)**

Salutations:

Ir. Hj Mohammad Zin Bin Hj Salleh

Chairman of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (AFEO) and President of Pertubuhan Ukur Jurutera & Arkitek, Negara Brunei Darussalam (PUJA),

His Excellency Lim Sothav

Vice-Chairman of AFEO and Secretary General of the Board of Engineers, Cambodia (BEC)

Ir. Ong Ching Loon

President of The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM),

Other Presidents or Official Representative of Engineering Organisations from ASEAN Nations,

- i. Dr.Ir. Heru Dewanto**
Persatuan Insinyur Indonesia (PII), Indonesia

- ii. Prof. Ir. Khamphong Phavongsa,**
Lao Union of Science and Engineering Associations
(LUSEA), Lao PDR

- iii. Ir. U Aung Myint**
Federation of Myanmar Engineering Society (Fed.MES),
Myanmar

- iv. Engr. Federico A. Monsada,**
The Philippine Technological Council (PTC), Philippines

- v. Dr Richard Kwok**
The Institution of Engineers, Singapore (IES), Singapore

- vi. Dr Thanes Weerasiri**
Engineering Institute of Thailand under H.M the King's
Patronage (EIT), Thailand

- vii. Dr. Sc.Phan Xuan Dung**
Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations
(VUSTA), Vietnam

AFEO Secretary-General, Ir. Mohd Khir bin Muhammad

AFEO officials and Delegates, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

- 1) Good Morning and Salam Sejahtera. It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to the 20th AFEO Midterm Governing Board Meeting 2021. Initially, the Mid-Term Meeting which was planned to be held physically in Malaysia is now conducted virtually as we are struggling to battle the Covid-19 in our respective countries.**

- 2) Here I would like to record my appreciation to IEM for hosting the meeting in Malaysia and giving me the opportunity to say a few words to the Presidents and Delegates of the Member Organisations of AFEO.**

- 3) I was made to understand, AFEO means the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations formed by 10 engineering institutions and professional organisations of ASEAN countries with the main focus of : i) promoting goodwill and mutual understanding; ii) establishing and developing a baseline standard for**

the engineering profession in facilitating mobility of engineers for all ASEAN member countries.

I applaud and congratulate all of you for the efforts thus far despite the challenges you face especially with the diverse culture and tradition which are unique to us. Culminating from these insurmountable efforts, you have brought us together to create win-win situations and value adding propositions for the engineering fraternity. It is encouraging to see guests from Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam joining their Malaysian associates to advocate the exchange of information and sharing of ideas in engineering for our mutual benefits.

4) Since the outbreak of Covid-19 in Malaysia, the Government has proactively announced 8 aid packages totalling 530 billion Malaysian Ringgit which was aimed at revitalising the economy and unlifting the various sectors for its survivability.

5) In combating the Covid 19 virus, many standard operating procedures (SOPs) were established and deployed. However we must endeavour to minimise the impact of the pandemic in ensuring the livelihood of

our people is not jeopardised and protecting lives. In balancing between the economic and health imperatives, we must continuously collect and analyse data to help us make prudent policies in ensuring healthy socio-economic decisions in this challenging times.

6) In year 2020, the construction industry contributed 78 billion Malaysian Ringgit, which amounted to 4% of the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 1.342 trillion Malaysian Ringgit. Its multiplier effect has benefited 196 other economic segments, among them were 131 projects under the supervision of the Ministry of Works. Equally important is the Manufacturing sector, which contributed 23% of the Malaysian GDP. In this regards, we have to thank everyone in the Engineering fraternity, including Engineers, Technologists and Technicians for this utterly amazing achievement.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7) Infrastructure is one of the basis for economic growth. Just like education and healthcare, public transport is another important infrastructure to enable the continued expansion of socio-economic activities in

our cities. We are delighted by the fact that Southeast Asia is catching up rapidly in terms of urban mobility. For example, in Thailand, the Orange, Pink and Yellow Lines of the Bangkok MRT are now under construction concurrently. In the Philippines, you have the MRT Line 7, Metro Manila Subway and Makati Intracity Subway under construction. On the other hand, our Vietnamese counterpart is building Metro in 2 cities simultaneously, namely Line 3 of Hanoi Metro and Line 1 of Ho Chi Minh City Metro. As for Indonesia, 3 networks namely the Jakarta MRT, Jakarta LRT and also the Greater Jakarta LRT are moving at full steam. Meanwhile, Singapore, the pioneer of MRT in Southeast Asia is also pushing forward with the Thomson - East Coast Line. It is certainly an exciting time for engineers in the Southeast Asia.

8) Malaysia is no exception with many infrastructure projects taking place. For instance, the first phase of our MRT 2, the Putrajaya Line will be opened to service this November, followed by the Light Rail Transit 3 from Petaling Jaya to Klang in 2024. And that's not all, Malaysia and Singapore are building the first ever international rapid transit in the world linking Johor Bahru and Singapore via a bridge across the Tebrau

Straits which is scheduled for completion by year 2026. When the borders are open, we shall visit one another physically and enjoy the improved mobility in the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9) For over a year, the global economy was terribly disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. All of us are aware that to revitalise our economies, vaccination is the only way forward. In Malaysia, apart from the National Immunisation Programme, the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), our construction industry regulator is also doing its part by introducing a parallel pathway, the Construction Industry Vaccination Programme (CIVac) to accelerate the vaccine roll-out. The programme aims to protect the lives of our industry personnel including migrant workers from neighbouring countries such as Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia and Bangladesh as we appreciate and value the contribution of this workforce.

10) With the ASEAN Engineering Register (AER), it is hoped that top-notch experts of every country can come together and work hand-in-hand by collaborating

and sharing technologies in the ASEAN region to solve our local problems, for the benefit of everyone in the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11) Undeniably, digitalisation has transformed our way of life and the construction industry is no exception. In Malaysia, the CIDB has published the Construction 4.0 Strategic Plan 2021 - 2025, a roadmap that aims to propel the construction industry in moving forward vigorously. While the initial investments may be higher, the significant time saving and increase in efficiency will certainly make it worthwhile. Having said that, I am glad that with this online platform, I can officiate the opening of this virtual meeting, and welcome the Presidents and representatives of AFEO together with our local guests who are here today for the 20th AFEO Midterm Governing Board Virtual Meeting.

12) This year, we will see a fantastic line-up of sessions in the AFEO Mid-Term Meeting, covering topics such as Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Management; Environmental Engineering; Education

and Capacity Building; Sustainable City; Transportation and Logistics and many more. It is my fervent hope that all of you will enjoy a fruitful meeting and practice whatever we learn together to make ASEAN a greater place for all of us.

Without further ado, I hereby declare the 20th AFEO Midterm Governing Board Virtual Meeting. officially open. Stay safe and healthy. Thank you