



KEMENTERIAN KERJA RAYA

OFFICIATING SPEECH

**YB DATUK ARTHUR JOSEPH KURUP
DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS**

OPENING CEREMONY ARCHIDEX 2022

29 JUNE 2022 (WEDNESDAY) | 11.00AM

PLENARY THEATRE, KUALA LUMPUR CONVENTION CENTRE

Salam Sejahtera; Salam Keluarga Malaysia and a very good morning to

1. Associate Professor (Industry) Architect Sarly Adre bin Sarkum
President of Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM)
2. Dato' Vincent Lim,
President of C.I.S
3. Arhitect Dr. Lim Teng Ngiom,
Director of Kuala Lumpur Architecture Festival 2022 (KLAF)
4. PAM Council Members
5. Esteemed Partners, Sponsors and Exhibitors
6. Members of Media
7. Distinguished Guests
8. Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Firstly, I would like to congratulate the organising committee for successfully organising this meaningful event. It is a great honour to be invited to officially launch the Archidex 2022 event and to welcome all foreign and local delegates to the 21st edition of ARCHIDEX, Asia's leading and most established exhibition for architecture, interior design, and building industry.
2. With this opportunity, I would like to express my appreciation to our distinguished speakers who have generously share their knowledge and expertise on this platform. The construction industry is the life and blood of the country's economy and will play a key and strategic role in driving the national economic recovery.
3. I am confident we will be able to gain fresh perspectives and insights through their presentations on how we can continue to enhance the construction industry by utilizing technology, Infra-tech and building efficiencies based on data so we can do more with less.
4. The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated the world of work. Its impact, which varies across sectors, has been significant in the construction sector and estimated to have incurred a loss of RM42 billion following the implementation of the Movement Control Order (MCO) from March 2020. As construction is sensitive to economic cycles, construction enterprises and workers are particularly vulnerable to the drastic decline in economic activity resulting from the pandemic.
5. Malaysia aims to 'Build Back Better', from the MOW's perspective, the pandexit of COVID-19 will pose new challenges and opportunities for the government to synchronise the economy towards a more

sustainable and equitable pathway. The construction industry is recognized as a prominent enabler of economic growth. It triggers huge multiplier effect, churning the development cycle through industries like steel, cement, technology, construction equipment, etc. This, in turn, activates consumption and Human Resources.

6. Thus, scaling-up of investment in green infrastructure is critical for Malaysia to meet its climate commitments – including the Paris Climate Change Agreement - and build resilience to the impacts of climate change as well as to achieve rapid economic development.

7. Infrastructure development is a crucial driver of economic growth. We are grateful that infrastructure development in Malaysia is receiving a significant boost from the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP) to support the sector in reviving the economy. We have many projects such as:⁽¹⁾
 - The Klang Valley Double Track (KVDT) Phase 1 connecting Rawang to Salak Selatan will be completed in 2022.
 - Implementation of the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project is to be resumed, expected to be completed in 2026.
 - 500,000 more affordable homes to be built for B40 and M40 groups.
 - 120 towns targeted to achieve sustainable urban status to create resilient green urban development.

8. The property market will be boosted with RM2 billion (USD482mil) under the Housing Credit Guarantee Scheme in Budget 2022 to support housing for low-income residents and encourage the younger generation to invest in their own homes at the earlier stage of their lives.

⁽¹⁾ Speech by Prime Minister of Malaysia, 12MP Tabling Dewan Rakyat (27 Sept 2021) Para 37, Para 46 & Para 99

Ladies and gentlemen,

9. The Government aims to implement key projects to boost the economic growth in Sabah and Sarawak such as the development of the Sabah-Sarawak Pan Borneo Highway (LPB) project will create many economic opportunities. This reflects the Government's commitment to the construction industry as a catalyst to drive economic recovery and develop modern infrastructure for the nation.
10. This is in line with the Government commitment to complete phase 1 of the Sabah Pan Borneo Highway within 5 years and the commitment of the Sarawak-Sabah Link Road (SSLR) construction works.
11. Subsequent phases of Pan Borneo Highway in Sarawak and also new roads that are being proposed to link Kalimantan to Sabah and Sarawak such as the Serundung-Simanggaris roads ⁽²⁾ and also of course the moving of the new Capitol from Jakarta to Kalimantan which shows there will be an abundance of construction works in East Malaysia for the next few years.

(2) SEDIA TO DEVELOP MALAYSIA-INDONESIA REGIONAL BORDER | <https://cmsabah.gov.my/2021/03/11/sedia-to-develop-malaysia-indonesia-regional-border/>

12. Therefore, it is imperative for us to leverage on the technological competencies and capabilities of our engineers and also our technocrats in driving our economy and value chain which will drive us to a higher level of productivity and efficiency, and be more competitive.

Ladies and gentlemen,

13. Post-pandemic era has accelerated the adoption of digitalization tools and Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR4.0) technologies across industries. The technology trends taking shape now will pave the way for economic recovery and growth in the coming years.
14. I would like to congratulate ARCHIDEX for taking this big step towards creating a virtual platform called ARCHIDEX Online when businesses have been shutting down and grappling with the immensity of the situation since 2020.
15. ARCHIDEX Online has helped to continue connecting industry stakeholders by creating a community to bridge architects, interior designers, building professionals, property developers, buyers, and suppliers of architectural and building materials from near and far.
16. A virtual platform is never the same as a face-to-face meeting that has been the bedrock of our vibrant and profitable business events industry. But ARCHIDEX Online shows that businesses need to be agile and flexible in embracing new ways of building companies and carrying on.

Ladies and gentlemen,

17. The Industrial Revolution 4.0 is already shaping our lives in ways that will affect us for the years to come. Construction sites of the future will be almost human-free. We will see more robotic applications and artificial intelligence at work in the construction sites of the future, which is less than 10 years away.
18. These new technologies and applications will have far-reaching effects on our construction industry as they reshape and remodel the sector in every area on how infrastructure development and real estate will be designed, built, operated, and managed.
19. Our Prime Minister launched the National Construction Policy 2030 (NCP 2030) in November last year with the theme of 'Digitalising the Construction Sector.' The NCP 2030 will guide the continued reinvention and revitalisation of the Malaysian construction industry.
20. With utmost importance, industry stakeholders should accelerate the learning of new technologies, innovations, and automation at all levels of construction. Embracing emerging technologies and international best practices is a critical strategy for the recovery of our construction industry so that we are resilient and prepared for tomorrow's challenges.
21. It is important for us to not just learn the new language of technologies but to embrace them and gain the fullest functionality from new platforms so that we may leverage them to revive and drive our economy forward. Industry players and professionals who are open to

adopting new technologies and ways of working have the potential to emerge even stronger than before.

22. As such, I am delighted to see that the theme of ARCHIDEX is about Building Beyond Tomorrow – it is a testament to the organisers, the Malaysian Institute of Architects, and C.I.S for having a massive vision from their partnership right from the start. Furthermore, the new showcase Future City is also a step ahead and presents great ideas and innovations because, indeed, we are shaping our future today.
23. Although our borders are open again, ARCHIDEX offers a hybrid online platform to those who cannot yet travel abroad to this exhibition. A hybrid exhibition is a value-added proposition to businesses, and most of all, it is a safeguard for the future because going digital is the way forward.
24. It is challenging for a business of 22 years to pivot to a digital platform, but ARCHIDEX shows they achieve it with vision, courage, and unity.
25. Finally, please allow me to reiterate the government's commitment to facilitate the growth and enhancement of sustainable infrastructure in Malaysia through innovation whilst ensuring a steady path towards continuous economic growth for the country.
26. Looking forward, the overall landscape will likely continue to be uncertain with the after-effects of the pandemic which has disrupted our lives. These challenges shall pass as we remain fortitude and agile to capitalize on the waves to recovery and growth.

27. With that, I would like to thank Archidex for inviting me this morning and wish all of you a fruitful time at this conference. Thank you.