

PRESS RELEASE (ENGLISH TRANSLATION)

MINISTER OF WORKS, YB BARU BIAN LEADS MALAYSIA'S DELEGATION TO THE 26TH WORLD ROAD CONGRESS IN ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Abu Dhabi, UAE: Works Minister YB Baru Bian leads the Malaysian delegation to the 26th World Road Congress in Abu Dhabi. The on-going congress (6th - 10th October 2019) **themed: Connecting Cultures, Enabling Economies** is organized by the World Road Association (PIARC) and the Abu Dhabi Department of Transport (DoT), and is attended by delegates from 144 countries with at least 40 government ministers.

Works Minister YB Baru Bian participated in the Ministerial Session titled Artificial Intelligence for future road development where he shared 3 important emerging trends in Malaysia: higher mobility, higher car ownership and the increasing use of car sharing. Studies have shown that Malaysians will tend to travel more often from 40 million daily trips per day in 2010 to an estimated 131 million daily trips per day in 2030; car ownership will be expected to increase from 25 million in 2015 to 31 million in 2030; and the emergence of new technologies and the increasing use of vehicle sharing.

These trends will result in a higher demand on existing infrastructure. However, the solution does not lie in the building of new roads nor adding more lanes onto existing roads. Instead, as we learn from other more advanced nations, the application of Artificial intelligence (AI) can be used to cater to these mobility trends. The Session also highlighted various methods and options of AI used for road development and infrastructure.

Malaysia is moving towards the use of AI. The type of AI technology to be adopted shall be based on minimal disruption to existing infrastructure; its robustness, given the wet and hot local climate; and its cost-effectiveness. Ministry of Works has several policies in place namely the National Transportation Policy, Road Construction Policy and the Malaysian Intelligent Transport System (ITS) Blueprint (2019 – 2023), which charts the technologies and applications to be used in order to achieve seamless intelligent mobility, congestion-free infrastructure, enhanced safety and efficient commercial vehicle operations. Full implementation of ITS is expected by 2023.

For a start, Malaysia will be setting up the Traffic Monitoring Centre and the Multi Lane Free Flow system to ease traffic congestion and encourage the public to use the public transportation system. Another initiative carried out by the Government includes the weigh-in-motion system to improve road safety, by preventing heavy vehicles from over-loading, and save our road infrastructure from being damaged.

In conjunction with the on-going 26th World Road Congress, Works Minister YB Baru Bian also visited and officiated the Malaysian Pavilion at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC). The exhibition showcases Malaysian construction industry services namely consultancy, maintenance and development.

Works Minister YB Baru Bian was engaged in various technical visits and bilateral meetings during the 5-day congress in Abu Dhabi. Other sessions that were addressed at the 26th World Road Congress included topics on Intelligence Transport System, Climate Change, Building Information Modelling (BIM) for Highways, Unpredicted Infrastructure Failures, Automated Vehicles and Innovative Financing.

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