

OPENING ADDRESS

BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF WORKS MALAYSIA

Y.B. DATO' SRI HAJI FADILLAH BIN HAJI YUSOF

AT THE

**INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING ALLIANCE MEETING
(IEAM 2016)**

DATE : 31ST MAY 2015 (TUESDAY)

TIME : 9.00 AM

**VENUE : GRAND BALLROOM
THE ROYALE CHULAN KUALA LUMPUR
5 JALAN CONLAY
50450 KUALA LUMPUR**

YBhg. Datuk Ir. Adanan bin Mohamed Hussain
President,
The Board of Engineers Malaysia

Dr. David Holger
Chairman,
The International Engineering Alliance (IEA) Governing Group

Chairmen of the IEA Agreements, Distinguished Guests, Delegates,
Members of Media, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum Waramatullahi Wabarakatuh and Good morning.

- 1. Let me begin by expressing my appreciation to the Organising Committee for making this occasion possible and giving me the honour to launch this historic event of the International Engineering Alliance (IEA) Meeting 2016. Malaysia is indeed honoured to be the chosen venue for such an important gathering of leaders and minds of the engineering profession.**
- 2. I am made to understand that the IEA is grounded by seven international agreements which governs the mutual recognition and mobility of professionals amongst the international engineering fraternity. These agreements are the:**
 - 1. Washington Accord**
 - 2. Sydney Accord**
 - 3. Dublin Accord**
 - 4. The APEC Engineers agreement**
 - 5. International Professional Engineers Agreements (IPEA)**
 - 6. International Engineering Technologist Agreement (IETA)**

7. The Agreement for International Engineering Technicians (AIET)

- 3. Before I proceed further, I would like to record my appreciation to the Chairman of the Governing Group as well as the Chairmen of the respective Agreements for devoting their time and expertise in upholding, protecting and guarding the integrity of the educational standards and professional competencies of the engineering profession globally.**
- 4. The Government of Malaysia applauds the IEA for championing cross-border mobility within the engineering profession through clear standards and references in which 24 countries are signatories to the 7 Agreements which was mentioned earlier. Malaysia is already an active signatory to the Washington Accord, IPEA and APEC Engineers Agreement and it is our intention to move forward in ratifying the remaining 4 agreements.**

Ladies and gentlemen,

- 5. I am humbled by this gathering of key leaders of the global engineering fraternity who are important drivers and contributors of nation building by ensuring continuous sustainable development. Malaysia has enjoyed tremendous growth in infrastructural development since her independence and has progressed well through the various phases of its development. All these would not have happened had it not been the contributions of our engineering professionals in enabling Malaysia through the development of a comprehensive network of highways, buildings,**

seaports, airports, electrical power, water and sanitation infrastructures which are comparable to the best in the world.

- 6. Indeed the roles of engineers, engineering technologists and technicians are an integral part of any nation's development. With an interconnected world through trade in goods and services, the engineering standards and benchmarking among nations become more critical for mutual acceptance of each others' services. "Connectivity" among nations is the order of the day as evident in the APEC CEO Summit, BOAO Asian Forum, World Economic Forum and ASEAN Economic Community which is why we must embrace it religiously in capturing the essence of its value.**
- 7. Among the key components of connectivity is the development and upgrading of infrastructure facilities which require massive engineering inputs. As such the impacts of such connectivity within the region is the mobility of engineering professionals in ensuring the right standards and competencies of the engineering profession being employed. This becomes even more important as our policy moves towards self-regulation to induce greater efficiency and productivity of our delivery systems in reducing bureaucracy.**
- 8. In the context of Malaysia, we introduced a self-regulatory system of occupation of newly constructed buildings in 2007 where in the past the Certificate of Fitness of Occupation (CFO) must be obtained from local authorities before any newly completed building can be occupied. This process has created problems of timeliness in local authorities processing developers applications,**

hence causing undue stress and inconveniences to home owners in occupying their newly constructed buildings. With the introduction of a new occupation permit called Certificate of Completion and Compliance (CCC), the authority can now issue it by transferring the onus on the professional engineers and architects. It was paradigm shift which gave the industry a sense of assurance on the accountability, reliability and integrity of the professional engineers and architects involved.

Ladies and gentlemen,

9. The export of services is part of Malaysia's Economic Blue Print as we aim to be a high income economy by 2020 in our aspirations of joining the ranks among top trading nations to be on par with the best of the world.
10. In this regard, I am proud to inform that Malaysia is the first ASEAN country in which its engineering services are fully liberalised. The Registration of Engineers Act 1967 which was amended in early 2015 to allow foreign firms and professional engineers from the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) having 100% ownership and directorship of engineering consultancy firms in Malaysia has witnessed a transformation in the sector. It is my fervent hope to see more nations opening their doors where their engineering services be liberalised in allowing a level playing field and hence greater mobility and opportunities for our mutual benefits.

- 11. There are indeed clear advantages in providing greater mobility for engineering professionals which are beneficial to recipient nations in coping with the delivery of their economic impetus.**
- 12. To date the Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM) has registered 16,103 Professional Engineers of whom, 9208 are Professional Engineer with Practising Certificates while 89980 are Graduate Engineers. The BEM has proactively extended the scope of registration of engineering professionals with the registering of Engineering Technologists and Inspector of Works so that the engineering professionals ecosystem is properly regulated.**
- 13. Taking cognizance of the need for international mobility of professionals, Malaysia is continuously emphasizing on the quality of education of its tertiary education institutions. Through rigorous quality assurance systems which have been put in place for more than 20 years, the education standards of our engineering courses must not be compromised. For this, I am proud to note that the recent World University Ranking has ranked 9 Malaysian engineering schools at the top of 100 universities in the world including 2 at the top 50.**

Ladies and gentlemen,

- 14. Malaysia through BEM will be applying to be a signatory of the two education agreements namely the Sydney Accord for engineering technologists and Dublin Accord for technicians. This will be consistent with the Government's aspiration of developing competent and quality human capital that is**

necessary to propel the nation towards a developed high income economy and making Malaysia a global hub for education. By being a signatory to the above Accords, our graduates will be internationally recognised and hence help attract foreign investments for our country.

15. It is my hope that this auspicious gathering will have fruitful deliberations in transforming our engineering educational standards, professional recognition and mobility which is vital as we push in driving excellence for global competitiveness.
16. Once again, I would like to thank the IEA for choosing Malaysia as the venue for IEAM 2016 and hope that you will all have an enjoyable experience and stay in Malaysia.

Thank you.