



KEYNOTE SPEECH BY

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MINISTER OF WORKS MALAYSIA

Road & Construction Technology Cooperation Seminar

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Prepared By:

Policy & International Division

Ministry of Works Malaysia

Good Afternoon, *Selamat Pagi* and *Salam Malaysia Madani*

Annyeonghaseyo

Your Excellency Yeo Seung-Bae

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea

YBhg. Dato' Mohd Sakeri bin Abdul Kadir

Deputy Secretary General of Ministry of Works Malaysia

YBhg. Dato' Roh Jae Yeol

Chairman of Korean Chamber of Commerce Malaysia (KOCHAM)

YB Ir.Haji Yusuf bin Haji Abdul Wahab

Chairman of Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) Malaysia

YBhg. Dato' Ir. Sazali bin Harun

Director General of the Malaysian Highway Authority (LLM)

Excellencies

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It is with great honour that I address this Road and Construction Technology Cooperation Seminar, a collaborative effort by the Korean Embassy in Malaysia, the Ministry of Works (MOW), and the International Contractors Association of Korea (ICAK). This seminar unites visionary leaders and innovators from Malaysia and the Republic of Korea to advance infrastructure and construction technology.
2. I would like to further extend my sincere gratitude to His Excellency Yeo Seung-bae, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, and the Korean Embassy for organizing this event, and to the delegation from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT) of the Republic of Korea for their presence. Welcome to Malaysia.

Ladies and Gentlemen

3. The bilateral relationship between Malaysia and the Republic of Korea, established on 23 February 1960, has flourished for 65 years. South Korean companies have significantly contributed to Malaysia's iconic landmarks, including the Penang Bridge, Petronas Twin Towers, and the Merdeka 118 Tower. In 2024, Malaysia imported RM349 billion worth of construction materials from South Korea, demonstrating a robust economic bond.
4. The strong ties between MOW and MOLIT were further reinforced during a fruitful meeting between myself and H.E. Mr. Park Sang-woo, Minister of Land Infrastructure and Transport, on 22 November 2024,

where we discussed highway management and the construction sector. Hence, this seminar is a tangible result of the productive meeting with Minister Park, highlighting our shared vision to strengthen collaboration between our ministries, fostering exchanges among businesses and research institutions. To further enhance the collaboration, both ministries have committed to formalizing cooperation through a memorandum of understanding later this year, focusing on roads, infrastructure development, and construction technology.

Distinguished Guests,

5. The Ministry of Works has launched the National Construction Policy 2030, a cornerstone of our strategic initiatives, in enhancing construction productivity and international competitiveness.
6. The National Construction Policy (NCP) 2030, launched on 9 November 2021, aims to integrate technology into work processes, standardizations, and business culture, marking a 'game changer' for the Malaysian construction sector. NCP 2030 comprises six thrusts: enhancing quality and safety, embracing a sustainable built environment, improving construction productivity, strengthening infrastructure maintenance, promoting internationalization and competitiveness, and reinforcing good governance and best practices.
7. These initiatives address critical elements for quality infrastructure, including safety, sustainability, human capital productivity, internationalization, competitiveness, and infrastructure maintenance. The transformation of the construction landscape through digitalization and new technologies is essential, given the volatility of geopolitics and

geo-economics, as emphasized by The Honourable Prime Minister, Dato Sri Anwar bin Ibrahim.

Ladies and Gentlemen

8. Malaysia and South Korea have a longstanding partnership in infrastructure, with Korean construction companies awarded 89 projects valued at RM 29.3 billion between 2018 and March 2025. These collaborations have facilitated significant technical and human resource exchange, fostering mutual growth.
9. The Republic of Korea is celebrated for its innovation and excellence in construction technology, setting global benchmarks with smart highways and green infrastructure. South Korean companies have an impressive track record in Malaysia, contributing to iconic landmarks such as the Penang Bridge and the Petronas Twin Towers.
10. In Malaysia, MOW is also committed to infrastructure modernization and smart construction. On this note, this collaboration aims to merge our strengths, foster connections, and generate innovative ideas to elevate road and construction technology standards in both nations.
11. Addressing the complex challenges in our sector requires collective wisdom and collaboration. I was made to understand that the key Malaysian agencies, including the Malaysian Highway Authority (MHA), the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), and the Public Works Department (PWD), are present here today to share insights and future goals.

12. It is my hope that participants will gain valuable information to enhance collaboration in advanced construction techniques, sustainable practices, and digital transformation from the presentations and sharing sessions.

Ladies and Gentlemen

13. As Malaysia assumes the ASEAN Chair this year and Korea is an active dialogue partner, this seminar will stimulate collaboration across various sectors. The joint organization of this seminar by the Korean Embassy and the Ministry of Works Malaysia is particularly meaningful, and I anticipate continued cooperation and expertise exchange in the coming months and years.

14. I truly trust that this seminar will serve as a platform to align Malaysia's ambitions for world-class infrastructure with Korea's expertise in innovative technologies, fostering partnerships and transformative solutions.

15. I firmly believe that this seminar will yield lasting benefits for both nations, setting a new precedent for international collaboration in road and construction technology. Let us unite our collective wisdom and determination to achieve a future of modern, sustainable, and inclusive infrastructure.

16. Again, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the organizers, participants, and stakeholders for their tireless efforts in making this seminar possible, demonstrating the spirit of cooperation and innovation. I commend everyone involved for this beneficial event and am confident

that the bonds between Malaysia and Korea will strengthen, leading to remarkable achievements.

17. In closing, I would like to highlight the South Korean proverb translated to English that says– “*Ten Spoonful Make A Bowl Of Rice*”, symbolizing that collective effort can accomplish great tasks. With the contributions of experts from both nations, we can significantly advance our construction sector.
18. Thank you all once again for your active participation and insightful contributions throughout this enriching seminar. May your journeys be safe, and your endeavours be prosperous.

Thank You.