



**UCAPAN PERASMIAN  
(OFFICIATING SPEECH)**

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MENTERI KERJA RAYA**

**SEMPENA**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SLOPE 2026**

**(ICOS 2026)**

**TEMA:**

**“RESILIENCE, ADAPTATION & SUSTAINABLE SLOPE”**

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**ROYALE CHULAN KUALA LUMPUR**

## SALUTATIONS

<<<<< To be provided separately by the Secretariat>>>>>

## INTRODUCTION

Warm greetings, Salam Malaysia MADANI, and Salam Segulai Sejalai.

1. First and foremost, I am truly delighted and grateful that we have the opportunity to gather here today at the **International Conference on Slope 2026 (ICOS 2026)**. I would also like to extend my highest appreciation and sincere thanks to **JKR Malaysia** for the invitation to officiate the inaugural ICOS 2026.
2. I believe the convening of ICOS 2026 is exceptionally well-timed. It reflects the commitment of the **Ministry of Works** and **JKR Malaysia** to strengthening national slope planning and management. In this respect, the theme “**Resilience, Adaptation & Sustainable Slope**” is highly aligned with the nation’s current needs and aspirations. Through ICOS, we not only seek to ensure that national infrastructure continues to develop rapidly and sustainably, but also that it remains **safe, resilient, and enduring**.

At the same time, ICOS showcases local expertise and reflects a strong commitment to elevating knowledge-sharing and innovation at the international level.

3. Malaysia is a rapidly developing nation with an extensive infrastructure network. We have hundreds of thousands of kilometres of road infrastructure, whether expressways, federal roads, or state roads. Meanwhile, development in hilly areas, whether for roads or new projects has increasingly become the backbone of economic corridors, connecting cities and communities across the country.
4. In this context, we must recognise that slopes are not merely geotechnical elements or isolated technical issues. They are **critical assets** that directly influence public safety, the stability of transport networks, and operational resilience under all weather conditions.
5. The reality is that slope failures have consequences far beyond physical damage. They can disrupt vital links between urban and rural areas, interrupt logistics chains, increase operating costs, and

most importantly undermine public confidence in the quality and reliability of our national infrastructure.

6. Therefore, this conference should be viewed as a platform not only to discuss technology, but also to strengthen policies, practices, and a culture of safety in slope management. We must move from **managing incidents** to **managing risks**; from **repairing damage** to **preventing failures**; and from fragmented, stand-alone projects towards a more comprehensive and integrated slope management ecosystem.

Distinguished guests,

## **STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SLOPE MANAGEMENT**

7. As the Minister entrusted with strengthening the public works sector, I view slope management through three key lenses. **First: Service Resilience.** Our infrastructure, particularly the road network must function safely without compromise, even in the face of extreme weather. Our objective is clear: to ensure uninterrupted access for the people, minimise the risk of disruption, and ensure that recovery measures are executed swiftly and in an organised manner.

8. **Second: Value for Money and Expenditure Efficiency.** The cost of repairing damage after a slope failure is far greater and more complex than preventive measures. Hence, policy priorities must now shift towards preventive investment and early, data-driven interventions. This is essential to ensure that every ringgit spent delivers the greatest possible safety impact for the people.

9. **Third: Governance and Compliance.** Slope-related issues often involve multiple parties. The Government expects risk management that is clearer and more transparent covering technical compliance, maintenance discipline, development control in sensitive areas, and coordinated action. Legal frameworks such as the **Street, Drainage and Building Act 1974 (Act 133)** must be enforced more effectively to prevent any “grey areas” regarding responsibilities and the actions required.

Distinguished guests,

## **ICOS 2026: A CALL TO ACTION**

10. I hold great aspirations for this conference. I am confident that ICOS 2026 is more than merely a gathering of minds; it can serve as a pivotal turning point for meaningful change on the ground. We envision this excellent platform producing outcomes that deliver high-impact results.

11. In short, I want ICOS 2026 to deliver three key outputs. **First**, a clear action plan that sets out who must act and what the priorities are so that it does not remain merely a document on paper.

12. **Second**, a rapid warning system that goes beyond producing data one that can save lives and protect property through effective communication.

13. **Third**, practical innovation solutions that can genuinely be applied to resolve the slope management and maintenance challenges faced in routine operations.

14. I believe that if we can translate the intellectual discourse of ICOS 2026 into tangible steps, we will be building a safer Malaysia for the well-being of our people.

Distinguished guests,

## **CLOSING**

15. Before I conclude, allow me to underscore that slope safety is not merely a technical task; it is a long-term commitment we owe to the people. The Government will continue to stand firmly behind efforts that strengthen technical capability and accelerate best practices in the interest of national safety.

16. I am optimistic that when engineers, academics, researchers, and industry players come together under one roof, as we have at ICOS 2026, no challenge is too great to overcome. Together, we will ensure that Malaysia's infrastructure remains robust, safe, and resilient for generations to come.

17. Allow me to share a brief message for our international guests. To our esteemed international guests and speakers, we are truly honoured by your presence. Your expertise and insights are

invaluable as we collectively address the challenges of slope management in an era of climate uncertainty.

18. I hope you find this conference intellectually stimulating, and while you are here, I invite you to experience the warmth and hospitality that Malaysia has to offer. I look forward to the innovative solutions that will emerge from our shared collaborations over the next few days.

19. With that, it is my pleasure to officiate the **International Conference on Slope 2026 (ICOS 2026)**.

Thank you.