



FMM INNOVATION CONFERENCE 2013

***Identifying Opportunities, Accelerating
Growth***

**Opening Address by YB Datuk Dr. Ewon Ebin
Minister, Ministry of Science, Technology &
Innovation, Malaysia**

**Tuesday, October 1, 2013
Sime Darby Convention Centre
Kuala Lumpur**

- **YBhg Tan Sri Datuk Yong Poh Kon**
FMM President
- **YBhg Tan Sri Dato' Sri Lim Wee Chai**
Chairman of Top Glove Corporation Berhad
- **Distinguish Speakers and Guests**
- **FMM Council Members**
- **Ladies and gentlemen**

...1. First and foremost,...

1. First and foremost, please allow me to express my sincere thanks to the organizer, Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers, for inviting me to deliver the opening address at today's FMM Innovation Conference 2013. I understand that this is the second Innovation Conference organised by FMM.
2. I must say that the theme chosen for this conference, "*Identifying Opportunities, Accelerating Growth*", is very timely indeed given that the competitiveness of the markets that has gone way beyond what was imagined possible a decade ago.
- ...3. *One of the key indicators...*

3. One of the key indicators of a country's economic success is the ability of its local companies to compete in the international marketplace. The government has always recognised the importance of this, and has continually encouraged the development of new Malaysian-made products and services for exports.

...4. In order to be competitive,...

4. In order to be competitive, products and services of high quality standards are required. This is where the ability to innovate continuously is crucial. Looking at the business trends today, the ability to innovate is powerful and companies which are innovative are the ones in control of the market segments they are in. Some good examples are Starbucks, Apple, Nestlé, GE, Google and Microsoft. Companies cannot achieve more than they have in the past if they only apply the paradigm that got them where they are in the first place. In order to move to the next level, it is necessary to apply a different set of rules and a different method of thinking.

...5. *The theme of this year's conference is...*

5. The theme of this year's conference is certainly relevant in the context of Malaysia. Consider these facts: According to Forbes, no Malaysian company ranked among the top 100 most innovative companies in the world in year 2013. Before the world shuddered four years ago, U.S. companies dominated the Most Innovative Companies ranking, easily outnumbering corporations based outside of America. But now, more companies on its Top 50 are based outside the U.S.. China's rise is the fastest. Three years ago, its only representative was Lenovo, at 46.

...6. *In year 2013, Greater China is tied...*

6. In year 2013, Greater China is tied with Japan, thanks to showing by Baidu which was ranked number 6, Tencent Holdings and Kweichow Moutai. It is impossible for us to ignore the fact that companies that are innovative, the ones that generate new products and services speedily into the markets, are the ones that record the fastest growth of their market shares.

...7. Looking at the roster of speakers...

7. Looking at the roster of speakers and panelists that FMM has lined up for this conference, you will no doubt be learning a lot about innovation with experts in the medium sharing their invaluable knowledge and experience with you.
8. I congratulate FMM for approaching this important topic from both the conceptual and practical perspectives. For MOSTI, we have a stake in you gaining useful insights in increasing productivity and competitiveness of your companies. The aggregate success of your companies or brands will positively contribute to the image of the country.

...9. *In the course of dispensing...*

9. In the course of dispensing our responsibilities, MOSTI is thankful to the thousands of Malaysian and Malaysia-based companies that have contributed to the growth of Malaysia's exports and, more recently, the recovery of Malaysia's exports following the global financial crisis. Malaysia's export performance relied heavily on Malaysian companies delivering quality products and services and, more importantly, on them being reliable and credible partners to their customers. We hope that Malaysian businesses will persevere with the values and principles that have placed Malaysia in good stead when you venture into new product or services development.

...10. *I wish to again congratulate the FMM...*

10. I wish to again congratulate the FMM for their efforts in establishing and continuing this noble endeavor. Thank you for your continued commitment towards helping Malaysian companies in planning their innovation strategies. There could only be great things that would come out of this, and MOSTI is ever ready to be part of that process.

11. It gives me great pleasure to declare the FMM Innovation Conference 2013 officially open and wish everyone a fruitful discourse.

Thank you.