

TEKS UCAPAN

**YB. DATUK SERI PANGLIMA MADIUS TANGAU
MENTERI SAINS, TEKNOLOGI DAN INOVASI**

SEMPENA PERSMIAN

**“THE 7TH ASIAN FORENSIC SCIENCES NETWORK
ANNUAL MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM”**

**PULLMAN HOTEL, BANGSAR
KUALA LUMPUR**

MONDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2015

[Salutations to be finalized by UKK]

HIS EXCELLENCY DR JOONG SEOK SEO

President of the Asian Forensic Sciences Network

YANG BERUSAHA DATO' DR YEW CHONG HOOI

President of the Forensic Science Society of Malaysia

YANG BERUSAHA TUAN HAJI ISMAIL TALIB

Director General Department of Chemistry, Malaysia

Members of the Asian Forensic Sciences Network Board of Directors

Invited Speakers and Participants

Members of Media

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Salam Sejahtera, Salam 1 Malaysia and a very good morning to all.

It gives me great pleasure to be here today and I am deeply honoured to be invited to officiate the **7th Asian Forensic Sciences Network (AFSN) Annual Meeting and Symposium**. On behalf of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, I would like to congratulate the **7th Asian Forensic Sciences Network (AFSN) organizing committee headed by the Forensic Science Society of Malaysia (FSSM), in collaboration with the Department of Chemistry, Malaysia and the Royal Malaysian Police for organizing this important event.**

2. I was informed that with us today are representatives of renowned international forensic institutes, law enforcement agencies, government and private sector. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the invited speakers who have taken time from their busy schedules to be with us in the spirit of strengthening forensic sciences in Asia. **SELAMAT DATANG** to all of you!

Ladies and gentlemen,

3. **Forensic science has undergone tremendous progress in recent years. New technologies to develop various applications for forensic investigations are being progressively discovered and marketed.** Nowadays, trace evidence that would have once been invisible can be found and analysed more easily. Thanks to new investigation methods and innovative techniques, investigators and forensic scientists nowadays are better equipped to tackle ever increasing challenges in the fight against crime and criminals.

4. However we must always be mindful that **advanced sophisticated scientific instruments alone cannot guarantee the quality of a forensic report. It is crucial that scientific analysis is carried out professionally by the forensic scientists and appropriately used by the relevant authorities.**

5. Besides technology, forensic practitioners must be equipped with the right knowledge and confidence to assure that the results reported are sufficient and adequate enough without having to spend unnecessary time and money on analyses that may possibly be redundant. As well, forensic scientists must be able to determine whether these advances in technology are really necessary to solve a particular crime or just a luxury when the extra information gathered is not utilised accordingly. Hence, the theme of this year's symposium "*Necessity versus Luxury*" is indeed appropriate and timely.

6. I believe that the staging of this event today can contribute towards the **sharing of knowledge and experiences among forensic scientists within the Asian region and help them stay in touch with progress in the scientific world and with each other.**

7. I understand that this symposium which is being held in conjunction with the annual meeting of AFSN Board members, **offers a wide range of presentation topics that are relevant to the current forensic science scenario, from trace evidence to crime scene investigations.** Every aspect of forensic science analysis and examination is taken care of through the various working groups that have been the backbone of AFSN.

Ladies and gentlemen,

8. **Just as forensic investigations and analysis are undergoing rapid technological advancement, crimes and criminals are also getting more sophisticated and elaborate.** This means that stakeholders, such as the law enforcement agencies and the judiciary expect **increasingly better quality of analysis and faster investigations.** Hence it is important for members of the AFSN community to benchmark the standard of their services with each other through symposiums such as this.

9. **Equally important is the international cooperation and collaboration between countries in the fight against cross border crimes such as human and drug traffickings.** In this regard, I am pleased to hear that the networking among the Department of Chemistry, Royal Malaysian Police and The Drug Enforcement Administration, DEA of the United States has contributed substantially in the investigations of several drug processing clandestine laboratories in Malaysia.

10. **Another example of a successful cooperation is the involvement of the Malaysian forensic team with the International Disaster Victim Identification Team based in the Netherlands that has helped to expedite the DNA identification of victims of MH 17 tragedy.**

Ladies and gentlemen,

11. I am delighted to note that this symposium has drawn so much interest, not only from the countries in the region but also from outside Asia. This symposium will **offer participants from member institutes of**

AFSN plenty of opportunities to share ideas with each other. I urge all participants to make full use of the symposium proceedings to improve the quality of forensic science services in respective institute and country.

12. To all our overseas participants, I would like to encourage you to also visit some of the interesting sites in Malaysia before you depart home. As this year is “**Visit Malaysia year 2015,**” there are many cultural events and activities happening in the country showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the Malaysian people.

13. **Once again, congratulations to the Forensic Science Society of Malaysia (FSSM) and the collaborating agencies, namely the Department of Chemistry Malaysia and the Royal Malaysian Police for successfully realizing this international meeting and symposium.** I would also like to extend my appreciation to all those who were involved in the preparations to make this event a successful and memorable one.

14. **I wish all of you a fruitful and eventful symposium. AND NOW IT IS MY GREAT PLEASURE TO DECLARE THIS SYMPOSIUM OFFICIALLY OPEN.**

Thank you . Terima kasih.