

SPEECH BY

**YB DATUK SERI PANGLIMA MADIUS TANGAU
MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

**AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF
THE 27TH INTERNATIONAL INVENTION & INNOVATION EXHIBITION**



**KUALA LUMPUR CONVENTION CENTRE
THURSDAY, 12TH MAY 2016, 11.00 AM**

Salutation list to be finalised based on the confirmed attendance (on-site)

**YANG BERBAHAGIA TAN SRI EMERITUS PROFESSOR DATUK DR.
AUGUSTINE ONG SOON HOCK**

Founder and President of Malaysian Invention and Design Society or
MINDS

YANG BERBAHAGIA TAN SRI DR OMAR ABDUL RAHMAN

Malaysia's First Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia

YANG BERUSAHA DATO' VINCENT LIM

President of C.I.S Network Sdn Bhd, Event Manager of International Invention and Innovation Exhibition or ITEX

All Exhibitors, Inventors, Industry Players, Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

1. Allow me to begin by expressing how honored and privileged I am, to be addressing all of you today at the opening of the 27th International Invention and Innovation Exhibition or ITEX 2016.
2. I would like to wish a warm welcome to all participants to ITEX as well as the concurrent Malaysian Young Inventors Exhibition (MYIE) and Asian Young Inventors Exhibition (AYIE). It is truly encouraging to see such a diverse crowd presence today.
3. This congregation is a true depiction of how innovative communities around the globe have evolved, to bridge the gap, which enables ideas and thoughts to flow through borders seamlessly. I understand that in the coming days, more than one thousand inventions from participants hailing from over 20 countries will take center stage. It is definitely a refreshing sight to have fellow innovators from as far as Russia and Poland joining us this year. This wide array of invention being displayed and thinkers presence, further cements ITEX's position as one of the world's leading invention exhibition.

4. As the saying goes, **Rome wasn't built in a day**; the same can be said to the success of ITEX. None of this would have been made possible if not for the hard work and dedication put forth by its organizer, the Malaysian Invention and Design Society or MINDS. Works carried out by the society dated all the way back to 1986, and for three decades MINDS has relentlessly pursue excellence in invention, creativity, innovation, research & development and industrial design. Clearly the initiatives championed by MINDS and all involved in ITEX is exemplary. Your dedication in promoting sustainable development in the nation's science and technological arena must be lauded.

Ladies and Gentleman,

5. Innovation is the cornerstone of every transformative and visionary development strategy any society wishes to pursue. ITEX has thus far played its part as a pivotal catalyst in initiating and stimulating engagements between industries and the private sector. Over the years, we have seen how such engagements have become effective launch pads in facilitating the commercialization of ideas. ITEX has taken deliberate steps to promote commercialisation and with the numerous challenges we all face, the road to commercialisation is not a stroll in the park.

6. Since raising its curtains, ITEX has helped propel many areas that are lagging. Its goals are very much in line with Malaysia Commercialisation Year or MCY, which was announced by the Honorable Prime Minister during the Budget Speech of 2016. ITEX and MCY is an excellent example of a perfect networking platform for synergistic

collaborations to help accelerate the commercialisation of local R&D products.

7. MOSTI is tasked with leading the charge in accelerating the advancement of science and technology to support the growth of Malaysia's economy. We therefore strongly support ITEX initiatives in narrowing the gap between what the inventors can offer and what the industry needs. We remain firmly committed in supporting any programs which place importance to Research and Development, Commercialisation and Innovation or R&D,C &I. As Malaysia inch closer towards becoming a high value added and knowledge based economy, innovation will continue to be a critical element in the country's development agenda.

Ladies and Gentleman,

8. Initiatives in the previous Five Years Malaysia Plan have strengthened the innovation ecosystem by providing an environment conducive to research and development or R&D. The Government has also worked closely with countless stakeholders to extract the value from R&D especially with regards to strengthening the tri-partite collaboration between research institutions, industry and academia.

9. To further improve our global rankings, MOSTI under the Eleventh Malaysia Plan from 2016-2020, will promote greater collaboration and integration across the government, industry, and academia. On a similar note, the Government is instituting action plans to enhance STI's human capital development in particular inculcating interests in Science,

Technology, Engineering and Mathematics or STEM amongst our future generations.

10. Research activities will also be closely aligned with industry demand and the private sector will be active partners in the R&D,C&I process. Under the MCY, the Government is encouraging collaborations via the National Blue Ocean Strategy or NBOS across the many players within the nation's STI landscape. We wish to invite players from the industry, who understands the market and industry trend to partner with technology development organizations and R&D institutions in bringing outputs of R&D into the market.

Ladies and Gentleman,

11. I am pleased to learn that this is an exhibition dedicated to innovation and invention. However, innovation is not just about technology. Innovation leads to wonderful solutions and reduces challenges and risks. It should therefore be understood to include the entire value chain: from R&D to engineering, manufacturing, distribution, marketing and sales, and even after sales. Innovation is also about creating new economic value through collaboration and networking. With the right approach, innovation promotes opportunities that can be shared by all levels of society, promotes integration and increases productivity and wealth, and ultimately societal well-being.

12. It goes without saying that the entire history of socioeconomic revolutions in many parts of the world rests on invention and strategies originated from innovative minds. MOSTI would like to urge the innovative

society to work towards the goal of increasing connectivity among stakeholders in the value chain. We must not underestimate the value that can be harnessed from investing in the right infrastructure and environment, including human capital, which enables knowledge transfers as well market access for innovative products.

13. We also hope that the innovative community in Malaysia can reap the benefits from various initiatives and programs outlined at the Government-to-Government level. Case in point here is the launch of the ASEAN Economic Community or AEC. Advancement in innovation has been recognized as one of the benefits from the commencement of AEC. Malaysia's innovative solutions should take advantage of the powerful integrated economic community at this regional level as a launch pad for seeking to expand its footprint on the world map. With about 625 million people in the ASEAN region, there are endless opportunities that can be explored. And for Malaysian companies, please grab the first mover advantage.

Ladies and Gentleman,

14. In a nutshell, innovation is a vital enabler in any society hungry for change. Creating an environment which breeds innovative thinking is therefore an urgent task that must not wait. I look forward to greater partnerships between Government, the private sector and educational institutions to strengthen Malaysia's leadership position in the innovative space. The stakes are high and expectations are even greater, but it is without a doubt that all of you are more than capable of exceeding them.

So pull up your socks and get to work but don't forget to enjoy the adventure while doing it.

15. On that note Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now with great pleasure that I declare the 27th International Invention and Innovation Exhibition as open.

Thank you.