

**SPEECH BY
YB DATUK DR. ABU BAKAR BIN MOHAMAD DIAH
DEPUTY MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

**THE 10TH INTERNATIONAL MATERIALS CONFERENCE &
EXHIBITION (IMTCE2016)**

**PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE (PWTC)
17TH MAY 2016 (TUESDAY)**

(Salutations)

- (a) **YBHG. DATUK IR. (DR.) ABDUL RAHIM BIN HJ. HASHIM**
Advisor of Institute of Materials (IMM);
- (b) **YBRS. ASSOC. PROF. DR. MELISSA CHAN**
The 10th International Materials Technology & Exhibition
(IMTCE2016) Chairperson;
- (c) **MR. MOHD AZMI BIN MOHD NOOR**
President of IMM; and
- (d) All speakers and delegates.

Assalamualaikum W.B.T, Salam 1Malaysia and a very good evening to all.

1. It is my pleasure and honour to be amongst the materials fraternity today with the invited guests, speakers and delegates of the 10th International Materials Conference & Exhibition (IMTCE2016).

2. Please allow me to congratulate the Institute of Materials (IMM) for having successfully gathered academicians, researchers, industry players and practitioners of the materials discipline to congregate today in this platform in order to exchange information, experience and the latest research findings. I sincerely believe the success of the materials discipline and practice heavily depends on this free flowing interaction.

3. I was informed that this Conference will be a gathering of minds to promote the use of materials in multi diverse fields such as oil and gas, marine, power, water, telecommunications and transportation.

4. We have to bear in our mind that the general public using the materials on a daily basis, they do not understand the tremendous amount of researches, testing and safety aspects that has gone into, let's say turning feed stocks whether from natural resources or petrochemicals into everyday materials. This would not even be possible without innovation in the materials; formulation, fabrication testing, design and safety. Another great example would be, as a layman, getting the fresh foods that would only be possible through innovative packaging, safer and faster modes of transportation with regards to innovation and its clever use of new materials, increased safety for workers in challenging and extreme conditions such as in marine and offshore structures, and so on and so forth.

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. I am happy to note that IMM has grown considerably significant over the years. IMM has been able to position themselves as a key leader of the materials discipline in Malaysia and is striving to form significant networking with others. They have been greatly involved to elevate the profession for the materials specialists in many fields such as welding, corrosion mitigation, life cycle assessment et cetera. IMM has participated in many collaborations in education and training for industry practices and also in the vocational and academic training. I am glad to inform that IMM has certainly make a strong presence in the materials technology and education here in Malaysia.

6. In order to remain relevant as a professional institution, we have to adhere and comply with the current need of its members. In light of this, I can't stress enough the importance of being relevant in the forefront of industry developments, **research endeavours, vocational training as well as higher education are becoming increasingly critical**. IMM and its members have to work hand in hand by providing technical knowledge, expertise and networking to their immediate industries in their current

location. We must also place grave importance to attract the younger generation to participate in order to maintain an energetic and vibrant organisation.

7. I believe the strength and growth of IMM is not even possible without the commitment and involvement of the volunteers from the materials science & engineering discipline. They have contributed significantly to the development and growth of IMM over the past 28 years. Innovative approaches has allowed IMM to offer skills training and certification programmes at lower costs compared to the international certifications available today.

Ladies and gentlemen,

8. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate IMM on their glowing achievements, despite not being a Government-funded professional society, has managed to stand by themselves for all these years with only the primary support from the O&G industry to develop the much needed local skilled technicians.

9. IMM's initiatives has contributed a lot towards nation building through its activities particularly in **materials sciences**. I believe more people have become much more aware on the gravity of having the understanding and knowledge on all types of materials, as these pertinent knowledge on how materials react in certain condition will subsequently produce a safer environment. These information is really crucial towards maintaining better health, safety and environment.

10. I would also like to applaud IMM's initiative on the **Skilled Personnel Development Program**. This initiative would surely lessen the dependence on foreign skilled workers and at the same time be able to increase the status of local skilled personnel. The Government of Malaysia has also agreed to set up the Malaysian Board of Technologists (MBOT) through the MBOT Bill passed last year by the Parliament and I am glad to inform that this effort is well underway. This can only means that technicians and technologists will also be recognised as professionals.

11. With the combination of members from the academia and industry, IMM has successfully conducted projects through R&D collaboration. I believe this initiative has come to fruition because the members share a common goal which is to solve issues faced by the industry and also to contribute to the development of knowledge. IMM is certainly moving towards the right direction to stay relevant by accommodating the needs of the society.

12. The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) fully appreciates the efforts put forth by the Non-Governmental Institutions such as IMM which has strong motivation and commitment towards improving and also to develop our society especially in material sciences. It is my firm belief that this initiative should be further enhanced with more R&D activities.

Ladies and gentlemen,

13. Before I end my speech, I would like to congratulate the Chairperson of the Organising Committee and committees members involved for the successful organisation of this conference. I would also like to extend my deepest appreciation to the Plenary and Keynote speakers, delegates and others in this Conference for their commendable contribution. It is my fervent hope that all of you would have a fruitful conference.

Thank you.