

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

**PAM AWARDS & ANNUAL DINNER 2016
28 MAY 2016 (SATURDAY)**

Salutations

YBRS. AR. MOHD ZULHEMLEE AN

President of Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM);

YBHG. ARCHITECT DATUK PROF. DR. AMER HAMZAH MOHD YUNUS

President of Lembaga Arkitek Malaysia;

YBHG. ARCHITECT TAN SRI ESA MOHAMED

Past President of PAM and current President of International Union of Architects, UIA;

YBHG. ARCHITECT DATO' DR. KENNETH YEANG KING MUN

Past President of PAM and PAM Gold Medalist;

YBHG. ARCHITECT DATUK SERI LIM CHONG KEAT

PAM Gold Medalist;

YBHG. ARCHITECT DATO' HAJI HAJEEDAR BIN HAJI ABDUL MAJID

Past President of PAM and PAM Gold Medalist; and

Ladies and Gentlemen.

A very good evening and Salam 1Malaysia.

1. First and foremost, I would like to thank PAM for inviting me to join you at your Annual Dinner tonight and I am honoured to be in the presence of eminent people from the architectural profession. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate PAM for successfully organising another

Annual Dinner and PAM Awards. I understand that tonight PAM will be honoring winners of the PAM 2016 Awards and I take this opportunity to congratulate the PAM 2016 Awards Winners for your outstanding achievement in architectural design and creativity based on very stringent rules and criteria.

2. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate PAM in promoting and upholding your role as a responsible and proactive entity towards developing a cohesive and dynamic Malaysian architectural profession.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Architects play a significant role in the development of the Malaysian identity. Professional Architects must rise to the occasion and demonstrate that you can deliver as a Professional in response to the Government's aspiration and public expectation. I would like to urge all architects to meet this challenge with total commitment as a way forward in raising the professional standing in society and also in the best interest of the public.

4. The great impact on all of us with regards to the cost of living and doing business due to unpredictable costs of raw materials and quality and availability of human resources, should inspire us to be innovative and more creative. The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) is pleased that PAM is actively collaborating with us through Malaysian Design Council to promote design through activities such as exhibitions and competitions. I sincerely hope that PAM will continue to collaborate with us and more new activities could be introduced.

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. To constantly grow and be the movers and shakers of this country, we must aspire to keep abreast on the latest technological advancements abroad. We must look at potential opportunities to introduce contemporary innovations, ideas, designs and technologies to cater to the growing needs of an ever expanding market.

6. Measures must also be taken if we want to build up our own resources and to intensify our production capabilities to ensure constant growth of the local industry. Towards this end, research and development and establishing strong marketing networks become highly crucial and we must also urgently build capacity. The demand side is on the increase but the supply side is not following suit.

7. From the data provided, I understand that we would require about 9,000 professional architects by year 2020 if we want to be a developed nation. This means an increase of approximately 3,000 new graduates in the next 4 years if we are to maintain the index of 1 architect per 8,000 population. Failure to do so may result in an overworked profession, increases in mistakes and shortfalls and increased costs of delivery as a result of higher salaries but not necessarily a corresponding increase in the standard of skills or competency.

8. In the accelerating pace of global economic change, design and creativity, along with “green”, are the 2 key differentiating factors in the new world order, and it would be another oversight and missed opportunity for us to focus solely on the “green”, and not on “design” at the same time. Both design and green are high value industries, and in combination have immense potential not only as a combined high value economy, but also in raising the value to the country’s other economies, and subsequently enhancing the country’s global competitiveness.

Ladies and gentlemen,

9. Competition for investment and job opportunities has become more intense. In addition to competition from Singapore, China and India, other Asian developing countries are also assertively developing their economies. As an open economy, Malaysia is not insulated from this competitive environment, particularly in the era of ICT. The creative industry not only has a large potential to spur the economy but the industry adds value to the quality of life of the *rakyat*. In architecture, the quality of life is demonstrated through quality architecture which resolves the issues of functionality, stability, delight and sustainability, among others.

10. On that note, ladies and gentlemen, once again, I would like to thank PAM for this invitation. I am honored to be here with you tonight, and congratulations again to the Winners of the PAM 2016 Awards.

Thank you.

Note for Item (7)

* ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE AROUND THE WORLD

<http://www.coac.net/internacional/ang/docs/APAW.pdf> (Page 19)

Year	No of Architects (Malaysia)	Population (Malaysia)	Index Architect/Population (Malaysia) (World Index for UIA Region IV = 0.266%)
2002	3,100	25 million	0.125% (approx.1 architect per 8,000 population)
2016	3,800	30 million	0.129% (approx.1 architect per 8,000 population)
2020 projection	8,900	33 million	0.270% (approx.1 architect per 3,700 population)