

WELCOMING AND OPENING SPEECH
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DEPUTY MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

**THE 13TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CONCRETE
ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY (CONCET 2016)**

31ST MAY 2016 (TUESDAY)
HOTEL UiTM, SHAH ALAM, SELANGOR

Thank you to the Master of Ceremony. Salam Sejahtera and Salam
1Malaysia.

YBHG. PROFESSOR EMERITUS DATUK DR. HASSAN SAID (TBC)
Vice Chancellor of UiTM;

YBRS. PROFESSOR SR. IR. DR. SUHAIMI ABDUL TALIB
Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic and International;

YBRS. PROF. IR. DR. ABDUL RAHMAN OMAR
Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation);

**Honourable Keynote Speakers; Delegates of CONCET 2016,
Committee Members and Ladies and Gentlemen.**

1. First and foremost, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Universiti Malaya (UM) and the Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) for the continuous efforts to organise **the biennial International Conference on Concrete Engineering & Technology (CONCET)** as a platform to support professional, research, innovation and knowledge creation activities in the field of concrete engineering and technology.

2. It gives me great pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to the delegates of **CONCET 2016** which are held today and tomorrow, here at the Hotel UiTM, Shah Alam. This Conference clearly symbolises the special bonds between UiTM, UM and IEM in our research history.

3. Let me begin with a little back story of CONCET. As many of you are aware, CONCET is a biennial conference jointly organised by the Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Universiti Malaya (UM) and the Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) to be chaired on a rotational basis. I believe some of you may recall that the first phase of CONCET was organised back in the 1980s.

4. This conference quickly gained glowing recognition and subsequently became an annual hallmark of UiTM-UM-IEM research meetings until its 12th series which was held in 2015. CONCET was elevated to the status of an international conference back in 1989 and was renamed as the International Conference on Concrete Engineering & Technology, the beginning of the second phase of CONCET.

Honourable guests, ladies and gentlemen,

5. I was made to understand that the 13th CONCET will provide an avenue for engineers, academics and researchers to share their knowledge, expertise and experience in relation to concrete engineering and technology. It is my fervent hope that researchers will take the advantage to use this platform to communicate and to engage in the activities of knowledge sharing, strategising research plans for the future and also to expand networking amongst themselves.

6. **“Empowering Innovation and Sustainable Future”** has been chosen as the theme for this year’s conference which emphasises the comprehensive range of issues and developments of concrete technology. I am glad to learn that this conference has received a total of 56 manuscripts divided into 5 themes, namely:

- i. Durability and Sustainability;
- ii. Advances in Concrete Technology;
- iii. Innovative Materials in Concrete and Mixtures;
- iv. Structures and Earthquake Engineering; and
- v. Repairs and Rehabilitation of Concrete Structures.

7. This theme was chosen to give special emphasis on the green technologies, sustainable materials, robust designs as well as maintenance and repair of concrete structures. It is imperative that we need to practice sustainability by empowering the concrete engineering and technology without compromising the ability and opportunity of our future generations to innovate through technology enhancements in the future.

8. I sincerely hope that **CONCET 2016** will continue to contribute to the research and professional communities as this will complement the initiatives put forth by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) in order to realise its mission to establish a renowned centre for the pursuit of knowledge and also to produce competent, innovative and noble individuals to meet the needs of the nation and the world.

9. It is my firm belief that **CONCET** will be a platform for researchers, academicians, engineers and other participants to congregate and to discuss on the current developments, challenges, advancements and innovations in the field of concrete engineering and technologies. This will be in line with the aspiration of the Malaysian Government that always emphasise innovation and creativity in order to realise a sustainable development and a high income nation by the year 2020.

Ladies and gentlemen,

10. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish the successful convening of **CONCET 2016**. I would like to thank all keynote and invited speakers who have spent their precious time and energy to contribute in this conference. To all participants and presenters, we greatly appreciate your participation and scientific contribution in multidisciplinary research. I wish all delegates to have a successful and fruitful conference.

11. Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartiest congratulations for the best paper award recipient of **CONCET 2016** on their outstanding papers as vetted by expert panel of paper reviewers.

12. On that note, it gives me great pleasure to declare **“The 13th International Conference on Concrete Engineering & Technology (CONCET 2016)”** officially open.

Thank you.