



SPEECH BY
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DEPUTY MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

FOR
CLOSING CEREMONY OF WORLD ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY (ESTCON2016)

KUALA LUMPUR CONVENTION CENTRE
17 AUGUST 2016 (WEDNESDAY), 4.00 PM

YBHG. DATUK IR. (DR.) ABDUL RAHIM HASHIM

Vice Chancellor & Chief Executive Officer of Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS cum Chairman of ESTCON 2016;

Distinguished speakers;

Honoured guests;

Members of the media; and

Ladies and gentlemen.

Salam Sejahtera and a very good morning,

1. First and foremost, I would like to thank Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP) for giving me the opportunity to be present here today to officiate the closing ceremony of the **4th World Engineering, Science and Technology Congress or ESTCON 2016**, which was held for the last 3 days at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC). I am indeed honoured to officially close one of the largest world congresses Malaysia has ever hosted.

2. The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) is fortunate to have been part of this Congress with this year's theme, **"Engineering, Science, Technology and Humanities: Convergence for a Sustainable Future"**. The Congress has 9 conferences with the same aim of hoping to bring to light issues pertaining to sustainability. Now there is a renewed realisation that our lifestyles must be sustainable in order to last and with the integration of the 4 elements aforementioned in the theme, the future is set to look bright as we together promote sustainable development for the betterment of mankind.

3. We are proud to be supporting ESTCON2016 which is organised by UTP. My deepest appreciation to the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), Agensi Inovasi Malaysia (AIM) and Yayasan Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (Yayasan UTP) for their invaluable support. I would also like to thank the main partners for the exhibition which are PlaTCOM Ventures Sdn. Bhd. and Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDeC). MOSTI is indeed proud to support what has been the largest world Congress Malaysia has ever hosted, comprising 9 simultaneously-held conferences and exhibition where the 2 main keynote addresses were delivered by YBhg. Datuk Wan Zulkiflee bin Wan Ariffin, PETRONAS President and Group Chief Executive Officer and Prof Jackie Y. Ying, Executive Director, Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, Singapore.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. Engineering, science and technology have a crucial role to play in creating a sustainable future and dealing with the significant global challenges we face in the 21st century. We clearly live in a time when innovative solutions are needed. The nation requires a new generation of scientists and engineers to help create sustainable communities. Congress such as ETSCON encourages critical thinking and interdisciplinary learning, promotes skills as well as knowledge and nurtures in us a passion and commitment to sustainable living. To remain regionally and globally competitive and to achieve high-income nation status, we as a nation need to seriously pursue novel and advanced technologies.

5. This congress 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 3-days of the congress, more than 1,000 speakers and delegates have converged to this event with a 3,000 turnout from universities, industries and the general public. It was definitely a refreshing sight to have fellow participants from as far as Russia and Netherlands joining us this year. This wide array of people from the academia and the industry further cements ETSCON's position as one of the leading congress.

6. ESTCON is such a diverse congress with highlights and breakthroughs in all 9 conferences. In the International Conference on Process Engineering and Advanced Materials or ICPEAM, the conference papers are published in the Procedia Engineering (Scopus indexed) and currently available online even before the conference! This is a revolution to ICPEAM as most of the conferences in the world have post publication instead of pre-publication. ICPEAM has made it this time for pre-publication whereby the participants are able to view all the ICPEAM papers during the conference online with no charges at all.

7. Another major highlight of one of the conferences was in the International Conference on Leadership & Management or ICLM. The conference not only featured 3 plenary speakers whom are distinguished leaders from the industry and the academia with YBhg. Tan Sri Dato' Azman Mokhtar, Managing Director of Khazanah Nasional Berhad being one of those big names but also Young CEOs session featuring the younger generation of CEOs whom have become leaders at a young age. This is in conjunction with the Seminar within the ICLM conference called Millennia Corporate Leaders: CEO Seats which is a collaboration with MOHE on a programme called CEO@Faculty to bridge the industry and the academia. It also provides a platform for industry leader to have sharing sessions with the students and faculty members.

8. In this congress, there is also "The Innovation Pitching" which is a continuation from ETSCON 2014. This pitching session takes ESTCON to the next level as it connects researchers and inventors to the right

investors and business partners while at the same time creating opportunities to increase university revenue and create new job opportunities in an innovation driven economy through commercialisation of R&D. ETSCON has a history in producing creative minds and invention through the years. Not only will it provide a platform for the university's community to present their work, successful research and innovations will also gain reputable recognitions from external parties through the participation in this exhibition. The innovation pitching session is an avenue for researchers to evaluate their product potentials as well as seeking commercialisation opportunities. This session provides researchers a platform for them to pitch their products to our panel of evaluators from various Government and private agencies.

9. MOSTI therefore strongly support this "Innovation Pitching" in narrowing the gap between what the inventors can offer and what the industry needs. We remain firmly committed in supporting any initiatives which place importance to R&D, Commercialisation and Innovation. 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 Gentlemen,

10. I am also pleased to highlight one of the congress' initiative, the special Carbon Offset Project (COP) to help minimise our contribution to global warming by planting trees at the UTP campus during the planning and execution stage of ESTCON. In order to meet the objective of COP, focus was given on reducing and reworking strategies to minimise carbon footprint in 3 key areas involved in organising the Congress, that is air travel, paper usage and electricity consumption. Based on this, the trees were planted to minimise or counter back the carbon emission level. Part of the sponsorship received for this Congress has been channelled to fund the tree planting activities. MOSTI is happy to play a role in partly sponsoring the Congress activities, consisting not only the 9 international conferences and exhibition, but also the project.

11. Kudos to UTP for making carbon offsetting gain some momentum and in creating more awareness and making us become more concerned about the potentially negative environmental effects of our energy-intensive lifestyles.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. There is a need to prepare the country beyond 2020. More than ever, this is a time when the field of engineering, science, technologies combined with humanities can – and must – play a decisive role in providing our country with the knowledge, skills and values to discover solutions to today's sustainability challenges. It is vital for people with the right talent and skills to rapidly and widely disseminate the knowledge they create as to achieve the sustainable future that we envisioned for the country. We need to be able to demonstrate effective communication, creativity, entrepreneurial thinking, and teamwork in a global context to survive this ever-changing world. I like to reiterate how important it is for us to envisage this sustainable future now to move forward technologically and economically.

13. I am sure that throughout the event, there were many discussions and open conversations among all present to exchange ideas and explore stimulating perspectives. Surely, this global gathering of over 1,000 experts from diverse fields of research and innovation would augur well towards the spirit of sustaining knowledge for the betterment of humanity. MOSTI would like to urge academics, researchers, scientists, engineers, interest groups and industry experts from all around the world to continuously share knowledge, have fruitful intellectual discussions and forge meaningful networking on various areas of interest even outside the conference walls.

14. My hope is that all of you will continue to contribute effectively towards enhancing the nation's competitiveness by virtue of your distinction and accomplishment in respective STI related disciplines, be it for engineering, science, technology and even in humanities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

15. Finally, I would like to congratulate the organising committee of ESTCON2016 and all parties involved in ensuring the success of this event. Certainly, without their hard work and dedication, this congress would not have taken flight.

16. It now gives me great pleasure to officiate the closing ceremony of the **World Engineering, Science and Technology 2016 (ESTCON2016)**.

Till we meet again at ESTCON2018, I wish you all the best.

Thank you.