

SPEECH BY

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LAUNCHING OF AAIBE CHAIR FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY
@UNITEN

RHR HOTEL, UNITEN, BANDAR BARU BANGI
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Thank you Mr. /Ms. Chairperson

[SALUTATION]

INTRODUCTION

1. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to be here today. I would like to thank Universiti Tenaga Nasional for inviting me to this auspicious occasion.
2. I would also like to congratulate **YBhg. Dato' Prof. Ir. Dr. Kamal Nasharudin Bin Mustapha, Vice Chancellor, Universiti Tenaga Nasional**, and the event organiser, **Prof. Ir. Dr. Abd Halim bin Shamsuddin, AAIBE Chair for Renewable Energy** for organising and making this event a success.
3. For those who are still unaware of the formation of the Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change or simply known as MESTECC, the Ministry includes the entire component of the previously-known Ministry of Science, Technology

and Innovation (MOSTI), the energy and green technology portfolio of the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water (KeTTHA) and the Environment Management and Climate Change portfolio of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE). We, at MESTECC will continue to support all the initiatives undertaken by those previous ministries, including the implementation of efficient and sustainable energy; which is among the main objectives of this AAIBE Chair for Renewable Energy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. Globally, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) has become a critical turning point. The Paris Agreement has been ratified by 174 parties, representing around 88 per cent of global emissions. This has surpassed the requirement of participation from 55 parties, representing at least 55 per cent of global emissions, in order for the agreement to enter into force.
5. In 2015, UNFCCC showed that the **energy sector dominated the portion of global greenhouse gas emission**, which amounts to almost 75 per cent of total GHG emission. To address this issue, ASEAN countries have expressed their commitment with the consideration of resource endowments, consumption patterns, technical capacities and challenges existing in each country.
6. In the case of Malaysia, among the mitigation measures undertaken by the Government to address the issue of climate change is to enhance the deployment and development of Renewable Energy.

Allow me to take this opportunity to share with you the strategic intent of the new Malaysia government in the development of Renewable Energy (RE), in which an ambitious and bold commitment was made to increase the share of RE (excluding large hydro) in the electricity generation mix in Malaysia from 2% to 20% by 2025.

7. This bold commitment was also made known to the global community by our Minister in the recently concluded COP-24 Meeting in Katowice, Poland. Therefore, in this gathering of eminent minds, allow me to again reiterate the commitment put forth by the Minister, on our country's effort in fulfilling our climate obligation under the Paris Agreement through the development and deployment of renewable energy.
8. The government will ensure that RE will play a significant role in helping Malaysia to achieve a low-carbon and resource efficient economy. We are also gradually reducing our dependency on coal power plants due to its serious CO₂ emission and its impact on the environment.
9. We reckoned that development of renewable energy sector, which is an impetus to Clean Energy Transition, has experienced rapid and unprecedented growth. With the rapidly falling technology costs, renewable energy technologies have become increasingly cost-competitive and viable compared to the use of fossil fuels, even with the lower global oil prices. In many parts of the world, its development has passed the point at which its future growth no longer hinges on public subsidy and government intervention.

10. Technological innovation, operational experience and economies of scale are making solar and wind power increasingly cost-competitive and more compelling as investment opportunities. IRENA in its report on the potential for investment in RE stated that, by 2030, global investment in RE is projected to be approximately USD\$300 billion which is a five-fold increase compared to the projected value in 2004.

11. Therefore, countries including Malaysia need to capitalize on such positive development to attract more investment for clean energy transformation, including in spearheading and to scale up the development and deployment of renewable energy. It is important to note that the transformation towards clean energy brings far reaching benefits in terms of human health, energy access, environmental protection and the response to climate change, along with the potential to create new jobs and business opportunities within the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. The strong coupling of economic growth and greenhouse gas emissions has been a major contributor to human-induced climate change, including in ASEAN. However, the region has the potential to substantially reduce overall carbon dioxide emissions by improving energy efficiency and deploying more renewable energy.

13. Currently, Malaysia is ranked second in this region in terms of emissions per capita. Our firm commitment to reduce emissions is

essential in ASEAN. We are committed to reduce emission intensity by 35 per cent in 2030, based on the 2005 gross domestic product. A further 10 per cent reduction is also expected with international support. So far, we have successfully reduced the emission intensity up to 23 per cent.

14. It is on this spirit that, AAIBE Chair of Renewable Energy (RE) is established under the endowment fund of Malaysia Electricity Supply Industries Trust Account, which is now under the purview of MESTECC. The establishment of the RE Chair is to develop a body of knowledge in renewable energy. It is hoped that the AAIBE RE Chair program will enhance the application of renewable energy as an alternative energy source for the country.
15. Lastly let me again express my sincere appreciation for having me here today. It is my utmost hope that, the strategic partnership among various stakeholders through the AAIBE Chair for Renewable Energy will catalyst the growth of the RE sector in Malaysia. I believe that UNITEN and AAIBE Chair for Renewable Energy will continue to support the national agenda in realizing the government's RE commitment.
14. With that, I now officiate the launching of AAIBE Chair of Renewable Energy.

Thank you.