

**PAM CONVENTION 2010
ASEAN ARCHITECT CONGRESS
ARCHIDEX 2010**

SPEECH

By

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Assalammu'alaikum wbkt, salam sejahtera, salam 1Malaysia and a very good morning.

Firstly, I would like to thank YAB Tan Sri Deputy Prime Minister for making time to officiate the opening ceremony this morning. I know that being a DPM as well as the Minister of Education, he certainly has a busy schedule and especially he has the tenacious habit of coming up with innovative and creative ideas which stimulate extensive public debates. The recent UPSR- PMR issue is an example. Thank you sir!

Also, my thanks go to YB Dato Shaziman Abu Mansor, our Minister of Works for being with us this morning. You have been very supportive and inspirational for our architects to forge forward and be recognized for their works not only domestically but also at international level. The Green Building Index that you launched in May last year has made immense progress and is being recognized as a measuring tool for

green building of international standard. More and more buildings are subscribing to it.

From 29th August till 21st November this year, a group of Malaysian architects will exhibit their creations in the world renowned Venice Architecture Biennale 2010.

My warmest welcome to all delegates and in particular those from ASEAN countries and others.

I wish to congratulate Pertubuhan Akitek Malaysia (PAM), LAM and the organizers for holding the PAM Convention 2010, ARCHIDEX 2010 and the inaugural ASEAN Architects Congress 2010 which is packed full of exciting events, exhibitions, design conferences and forums, product awards, professional networking, gala night and many others.

I also wish to express, on behalf of the ASEAN Architect Council, our greatest appreciation and thanks to PAM and particularly the President, Ar Boon Chee Wee for making this occasion possible.

My appreciation also goes to LAM and the President Dato Nur Haizi for the support given in establishing the ASEAN Architects Secretariat to promote cooperation among architects in the ASEAN Member States and this inaugural Congress.

I believe that this is the right step forward for us architects in this region to cooperate and share our knowledge, expertise and jointly contribute

to the development of the region. Our services should move seamlessly across borders for us to share the economic benefits together.

On 15th December 1995 the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services was signed by the Governments of the Member States with the objective of expanding the scope of liberalization beyond the commitments made by ASEAN under GATS and toward the realization of ASEAN Economic Community.

This was followed by several meetings of the sectoral working groups in the Coordinating Committee on Services (CCS) that established protocols and timelines for the liberalization targets for the various services sectors.

On 27th November 2007, our ASEAN Economic Ministers signed the ASEAN Agreement on Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Architectural Services, to facilitate the mobility of professionals within ASEAN and enhance information exchange in order to promote best practices on standards of architectural education, professional practice and qualification. Several meetings of the Expert Group on Architectural Services over the last few years culminated with the establishment of the ASEAN Architect Council, whose main functions include; maintaining a Register of ASEAN Architects (AAR), promote strategies toward the reduction of barriers to practice by AA and generally monitor the successful implementation of the MRA.

Hence on 30th June 2009 the ASEAN Architect Council was inaugurated in Bagan, Myanmar. Malaysia was chosen as the Secretariat and

Chairman for a 2 year term. So today marks our first anniversary and we are holding our first ASEAN Architect Congress to network, talk about design, innovation, creativity, green technology and sustainability.

For a long time we have been dependent on the technologies from the west. Today Asian advancements are being sought after. Certainly this 20th century is Asia's century. We shall forge further to greater heights if we cooperate with a shared vision to make ASEAN and Asia a developed region and continent respectively, but sustainable.

As a start, each of the participating Member States shall register their Architects who meet our prerequisite as ASEAN Architects. This will facilitate them to move across borders to practice as their qualifications are duly recognized by the Professional Regulatory Authority of the respective ASEAN country. To strengthen the spirit of cooperation, the foreign architect will collaborate with the local or hosting Architect.

I wish to take the cue from the EU as an example. The Architects' Council of Europe was founded on 11th May 1990 in Treviso, Italy. It was the merger of the former of Liaison Committee of the Architects of the United Europe (CLAEU) and the former Council of European Architects (CEA). It has the ears of the European Parliament on matters in the area of European architectural and professional policy. Its membership includes all EU countries and 45 Member organizations, Regulatory Bodies and Professional Associations. It represents 450,000 practicing architects in EU.

So, they have more than 20 year's head start over us. Several European Governments have also established their respective Architectural

policies in order to provide appropriate framework for urban developments and built environment which stimulate growth and sustainability. PAM has formulated the same several years ago and hopes to get governmental recognition. I urge that all ASEAN Member States do the same.

With globalization they already pose a formidable challenge to us in the immediate future. Their presence and branding in our turf, in Asia is so pronounced that change our urban landscape, design thinking and exerting uneasy influence not only over domestic private client groups but also government agencies.

So I urge that those of you architects with extensive experience of not less than 10 years to seriously consider registering as ASEAN Architects with our Monitoring Committees. The international recognition of your capabilities and professional status will help change the mindset of our domestic clients to do likewise. This liberalization strategy is a win-win situation to both the foreign and hosting architects.

Next, we shall also embark upon the trainee exchange program among ASEAN Member states through the Graduate Internship Exchange Program (GIEP). This will allow architectural graduates from a Member State to be employed as trainees in private offices in another Member State.

Such training period shall be counted as the usual 2 year prerequisite training period before they can be licensed to practice. This will also develop camaraderie among architects across the region.

The Secretariat is compiling data on architects' status in all Member States and will be available in our AAC website <www.aseanarchitectcouncil.org> soon along with other information and activities pertaining to AA.

I wish you all a successful and fruitful congress and once again thank you to PAM, President and organizers.

Thank you.