

**OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY SPEECH  
BY  
YAB TAN SRI DATO' HAJI MUHYIDDIN BIN HAJI MOHD YASSIN  
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER  
MALAYSIA  
MALAYSIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS CONVENTION /  
ASEAN ARCHITECT CONGRESS  
2010  
KUALA LUMPUR CONVENTION CENTRE  
THURSDAY, 1 JULY 2010, 11.30am**

YB Dato' Shaziman Abu Mansor,  
Minister of Works, Malaysia

YBhg Dato' Sri Architect Esa Mohamed, Chairman, ASEAN Architect Council

YBhg Dato' Architect Nur Haizi Abdul Hai,  
President, Board of Architects, Malaysia

Architect Boon Che Wee,  
President, Malaysian Institute of Architects

Mr Vincent Lim  
President, C.I.S. Network Sdn Bhd, Joint Organiser of ARCHIDEX 2010  
Distinguished guests, Ladies & gentlemen

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

1. I am deeply honoured to be invited to deliver this opening address for the Malaysian Institute of Architects Convention and the inaugural ASEAN Architect Congress 2010.

2. I would also like to welcome all the delegates from afar who came to especially attend the Convention and the Congress. I was made to understand that the heads of the International Union of Architects (or IUA), the Asian Regional Council of Architects (or ARCASIA) as well as Presidents of our neighboring Architects' Institutes, are also here. Selamat datang and welcome all.

3. I would also like to take this opportunity to give due credit to the architecture community for its contributions to Malaysia and ASEAN. As architects, you have played a pivotal role in moulding a nation's landscape and contributed in shaping a nation's psyche. The skylines of ASEAN countries are a testament of your commitment to help transform your respective countries landscape. More importantly you have been a close strategic partner in various

ASEAN's building conservation efforts and hence have critically helped retain our valuable heritage.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. In the light of the latest global demographic and economic challenges, the architecture fraternity will be called upon to contribute more in terms of nation building. The challenges are many. For one, the modern economy is being driven by the talent competition between urban hubs and no longer exclusively between nations. Talents increasingly are now very selective on the cities where they want to work. Vibrantly designed cities have become significant elements to a nation's economic growth.

5. In the next few decades, many new economic hubs and clusters will emerge, and they will all be competing for limited talent and investments. ASEAN has to reinvent itself as so not to be left behind in this race for global talents and investments.

6. In this competitive context, ASEAN's architects will play a vital frontline role, by creating inspiring urban landscapes that makes it possible for ASEAN to anchor these scarce talents and investors. A visually creative landscape will also immensely help fashion a creative society that will provide the requisite innovation in this new economic order.

7. However, attracting talents is just one part of the equation. ASEAN aspirations to have high economic growth should be inclusive of all its population segments. The successful en bloc re-development of London's inner city areas such as the Docklands are some of the urban examples that comes to mind in terms of regenerating fringe community in previously unfashionable areas. Such rejuvenation should also strive to enhance a nations' social capital by facilitating inter-community engagement and interaction.

Ladies and gentlemen,

8. Another new emerging area where architects' creativity would be critical is in environmentally sensitive designs. With rapid urbanization, many cities are grappling with the challenge of balancing the impact of growth on the wider ecology.

9. On this note, the Malaysian Government's commitment to the advancement of sustainable cities is exemplified by its provision of numerous incentives such as the Green Building Index initiative. Beyond the tax and other financial incentives, the government also recognises that a balanced and integrated approach is required to implement these initiatives successfully.

10. To this end, a high level National Green Technology Council chaired by the YAB Prime Minister to coordinate the resolution of issues among various stakeholders, has been established early this year to spearhead the implementation of the Malaysia's Green Agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen,

11. It has been 3 years since Malaysia signed the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Architectural Services. Indeed I am happy to note that one of the fruits of the aforementioned agreement was the establishment of the ASEAN Architect Council with the objective of promoting cooperation among ASEAN Architects. This will surely go far to facilitate the mobility of the architect services in ASEAN.

12. Inevitably globalization means architects and creative professionals in ASEAN will need to compete with the best in the world to ply their trade. Indeed by 2012, architecture services will be fully liberalised within the ASEAN region. This is an early opportunity for local architects to enhance their capacities and capabilities through collaboration and networking amongst ASEAN professionals. To be globally competitive, ASEAN architects need to further develop a unique approach to design or become a specialist in an area of expertise.

13. In view of this, the 10th Malaysian Plan proposes to further enhance competition and market mechanism within the public services. The Malaysian Government via the Public Works Ministry has further embarked on open design competition for projects of national interest to help identify emerging Malaysian architects and spur unique Malaysian designs. Above all, these design competitions will facilitate the injection of fresh private sector ideas allowing stronger private-public sector partnership.

14. I would also like to take this opportunity to strongly urge the respective local governments and architects alike to treat the urban hubs as a piece of artwork whereby structural designs are really details on a canvas. However it is paramount that we should strive to find our own distinct sense of identity, reflecting ASEAN cultural and climatic values. It is my personal hope that ASEAN architects combined unequivocal modernity and a sophisticated sense of cultural presence in their designs. Their "avant garde" designs should embody an ASEAN essence; contemporary yet uniquely home grown.

15. Last but not least, I wish the Malaysian Institute of Architects Convention and the ASEAN Architect Congress every success and hope all participants will gain a fruitful and invigorating experience from these events. I hope this year's forums and exhibitions will be the much awaited platform to position Malaysian and ASEAN's design ideas in its rightful place on the world map. It is my pleasure to now declare the Malaysian Institute of Architects Convention, the ASEAN Architect Congress and the ARCHIDEX 2010 open. Thank you.

WABILLAHl TAUFIQ WALHIDAYAH WASSALAMUALAIKUM WARAHMATULLAHl  
WABARAKTUH