

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY YB DATO' SERI ONG KA CHUAN  
SECOND MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE & INDUSTRY (MITI)**

**INDUSTRIAL PARK FORUM FOR CENTRAL REGION  
“STRENGTHENING THE MANUFACTURING ECOSYSTEM”  
8 MARCH 2018  
DORSETT GRAND HOTEL, SUBANG JAYA**

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**Acknowledgement**

YBhg. Dato' Azman Mahmud  
Chief Executive Officer  
Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA)

YBhg. Dato' Soh Thian Lai  
President, Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM)

Moderators and Speakers

Distinguished Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Good morning and Salam Negaraku Satu Malaysia. I am honored to join all of you at this inaugural Industrial Park Forum for Central Region, a collaboration between the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) and the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM).
2. Today's forum is indeed timely we seek to enhance the attractiveness of Malaysia's ecosystem through one of its enablers – industrial parks' development and management.
3. I would like to congratulate MIDA and FMM for bringing together more than 200 participants to this event. I was made to understand that the participants today represent the entire spectrum of relevant

stakeholders – from local authorities, park developers & managers, utility companies, manufacturers and potential investors.

4. Through this platform, we hope to take stock of industrial parks in this country and reassess them for further enhancement and redevelopment to be in line with the way forward of industrial development of Malaysia.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

5. Malaysia's industrialisation journey began in 1960s as the Government sought to address challenges in relation to economic growth of a newly independent country as well as to generate the number of jobs needed to support a growing population.
6. To accelerate this journey, the Government back then had taken the initiative to establish Malaysia Industrial Estate Berhad (MIEL) (now known as MIDF Property Berhad) in 1964 to pioneer the development of industrial estates throughout the country. Soon, other private developers started to follow suit in capitalising the business opportunities that arose from the Government's industrialisation policy.
7. In the earlier decades, industrial estates were mainly concentrated in major states like Johor, Selangor and Penang, to meet the rising demand from multinational corporations and local businesses setting up operations in those areas.
8. Fast forward 60 years later, the nation now houses more than 500 industrial estates/ parks that are more disperse in terms of distribution throughout the country. Investors too have more options as Malaysia offers industrial parks that cater for specific needs such as Science Parks, Technology Parks and Halal Parks.
9. The presence of these industrial parks has enabled us to attract more than 5,000 foreign MNCs from 40 countries that have chosen Malaysia as their preferred investment destination in the region. More importantly, majority of them are leveraging on Malaysia as their springboard to the regional and global markets.

10. In fact, in the announcement of Malaysia's investment performance for the year 2017 made last Tuesday, the country has successfully attracted RM197.1 billion worth of approved investments in the manufacturing, services and primary sectors. These were from 5,466 projects that will generate an additional 139,520 job opportunities for the country.
11. The foreign direct investments (FDI) contributed RM54.7 billion, making up 27.8% of the total and the rest was contributed by the domestic direct investments (DDI) with 72.2% or RM142.4 billion.
12. This achievement certainly underscores the importance of having the right enablers in place in supporting positive economic development of the country.
13. Having said all these successes, we have come to a juncture that require us to reflect on whether or not the current industrial parks are sufficient to meet the industrial needs of tomorrow. Will Malaysia still be able to attract investments if the quality of our industrial parks remains status quo?

Ladies & Gentlemen,

14. The world today is coloured with multiple challenges - be it geopolitical tensions, emergence of new economies, rising inward looking policies, as well as subdued global demands.
15. With these challenges in place, resting on our laurels and doing business as usual is never an option. We need to step up our game to ensure Malaysia remains among the top destination for investments in the region.
16. Our aim is to attract quality investments that are of high value added, high technology, capital and knowledge-intensive as well as have strong linkages with domestic industries.
17. At the same time, we would like our industry players to adopt automation and smart manufacturing in order for them to stay competitive in the global market.

18. Investors too have grown to become more sophisticated over the years, demanding for modern, well-equipped and well-managed industrial parks. Some are even looking for industrial parks with eco-friendly features in line with their sustainable business policies and practices.
19. Therefore, industrial parks as an integral component of the nation's industrial ecosystem need to evolve and augur well with the country's aspiration to become a developed nation.
20. The country needs to develop industrial parks that are ready to receive quality investments and meet the complex needs of investors. Failure to meeting this requirements can lead to loss of business opportunities for the industrial parks' developers and on a larger context, may risk Malaysia of being sidelined when it comes to attracting quality investments.
21. The time to act is now! All park developers and managers need to seize the wave of industries that are coming into Malaysia by providing the next generation industrial parks.
22. In realising this aspiration, I would like to urge the local authorities, technical agencies and utility providers to also come on board as these entities are important in building comprehensive industrial parks for investors.
23. Sendayan TechValley Malaysia is an exemplary modern technology park that became the first developer in Malaysia to initiate collaboration with Gas Malaysia Berhad by pulling gas pipeline to the area in providing adequate gas supplies to its occupants.
24. While Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ), on top of its excellent infrastructure, provides a complete one-stop centre towards easier co-ordination of export and import activities. This includes the presence of a customs centre, trade offices, forwarding agents and other government agencies such as health and veterinary service.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

25. Successful industrial parks can be centres of growth and innovation, support local development and contribute to the advancement of the national economy. Thus, development of industrial parks is an important issue that needs to be addressed accordingly.
26. I hope that today's forum will open the doors for all the relevant stakeholders to review and re-strategise the way we develop and manage resources in providing more future –ready industrial parks in the country.

Thank you.