

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY YBHG. DATO' AZMAN MAHMUD
CEO OF MIDA**

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

Acknowledgement

YB Dato' Seri Ong Ka Chuan
Second Minister of International Trade and Industry

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

Distinguished Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Good morning and welcome to our inaugural Industrial Park Forum for Central Region. We are pleased to share that this Forum has gathered a good crowd of international and local business chambers, industrial parks developers & managers, local authorities and utilities companies. Thank you everyone for taking the time to join us today.
2. This Forum is a collaborative effort between the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) and the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) in strengthening the manufacturing ecosystem through industrial park development and management. I also would like to record MIDA's appreciation to FMM for its support and contribution in making this Forum possible.

3. Today's Industrial Park Forum marks the first of its series and more will be organised throughout 2018 in the northern and southern regions as well as East Malaysia.
4. To kick start the series, we have chosen to organise it for the Central Region covering the states of Selangor, Kuala Lumpur and Negeri Sembilan. This decision underscores the fact that almost 50% of Malaysia's industrial parks are located here. Sungai Way Industrial Zone, Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ) and Nilai Industrial Park are among industrial parks that have been developed in this area.
5. I believe this forum will be a valuable platform for various stakeholders to discuss as well as establish common understanding and framework in strengthening the industry ecosystems. As this is also a gathering of people with mutual interests towards growth and prosperity, I hope that this forum will also provide a good opportunity for strategic networking among the stakeholders.
6. Today's forum will feature a panel discussion that will be moderated by YBhg. Dato' Soh Thian Lai, President of FMM Malaysia with presentations by selected developers and investors. This will then be followed by a dialogue session with panel speakers, local authorities and utility companies. Our afternoon session will be dedicated for One-On-One Engagement with Developers and Biz Clinics with the utility companies, and financial institutions. We look forward to having interactive engagements throughout these sessions.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

7. The initiative to encourage the development of comprehensive industrial parks is certainly in line with the Government's on-going efforts to increase the competitiveness of our country. The presence of well-developed industrial parks can be a magnet to attract high value added investments, thereby creating high income jobs for the people.

8. Looking at the business trends today, MIDA believes that in order to attract more quality investments, we have to move faster by re-engineering our industrial parks to meet the demands of new emerging markets and industries.
9. Being the first point of contact for investors, MIDA will take the lead as the authority to oversee the performance and regulate the industrial parks; as well as to assist potential investors in identifying suitable locations to place their facilities.
10. As to date, we already have a compilation of database on industrial parks in the country. However, this database requires further enhancement to meet the needs of investors.
11. Thus, we are pleased to share that by the end of our Industrial Park Forum roadshow with FMM, we will publish a Directory of Industrial Parks in Malaysia.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

12. The recent announcement on investment performance 2017 two days ago, gave a clear indication that despite of the challenging global scenario, our foreign investors as well as domestic investors – both new and existing, continue to demonstrate their confidence in our business environment.
13. Being a trading nation that adopts an open economy, high quality foreign direct investment (FDI) continues to be crucial to Malaysia. FDI creates job opportunities, contributes toward knowledge and technology transfers and more importantly FDI provides greater opportunities for our domestic players to enhance their capabilities. By being part of the supply chain of these FDIs, our local companies are able to move up to the next level in terms competitiveness, productivity and market outreach.

14. Therefore, it is imperative for us to attract more foreign companies to invest and set up their manufacturing facilities or regional hub here. Their operations in this country will give rise to a thriving SME and local industry.
15. The right industrial ecosystem has to be put in place to enable Malaysia to attract these FDIs that will further spur the growth of domestic investments. Thus, let us work together in realising this agenda by addressing one of the determinants that impact investors' decision i.e. having the right industrial parks to support their operations.
16. I am confident that this Forum will create an excellent opportunity for park developers, managers and operators to gain insights on the benefits, requirements and processes involved in re-engineering their existing industrial parks and developing new ones.
17. With that, once again, thank you for your presence, and I wish all of you a productive session ahead.

Thank you.