Officiating Speech by
YB Datuk Chua Tee Yong, Deputy Minister (Trade), MITI

Towards Autonomous Technologies Conference

Wednesday, 21st March 2018

MIDA HQ, Kuala Lumpur

Salutations

YBhg. Dato' Azman Mahmud
CEO of MIDA

YBhg. Professor Dato' Sr. Dr. Omar Bin Osman,
Vice Chancellor, DRB Hicom University of Automotive Malaysia

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1.	Introduction - Collaboration between stakeholders is important - Over 150 participants from automotive and E&E sectors	1. Good morning. It is my pleasure to be here to address all of you today at this inaugural conference on autonomous technologies. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the efforts of MIDA in collaboration with CREST and DRB HICOM University in successfully gathering such an eminent group of industry leaders today. 2. I was told that there is a large representation of the industry stakeholders comprising of both automotive and electrical & electronics (E&E) sectors at today's event. With over 150 participants present, I am excited with your interest in the development of autonomous vehicles and its related technologies in Malaysia. 3. We want to harness the new and emerging technologies to enhance our quality of life and ultimately create good jobs and competitive

		business opportunities for the country. Towards this goal, we need to have strong collaborations between all stakeholders. 4. I trust that this conference will provide a good platform for a two-way information exchange among the industry stakeholders from both the public and private sectors. 5. Thus, I would like to urge everyone here to leverage on this platform to discuss issues, challenges and recommendation towards developing autonomous vehicles and its related technologies in Malaysia.
2.	Malaysia's Electrical & Electronics (E&E) and Automotive industries and the convergence between both industries.	Ladies and Gentlemen, 6. Malaysia's Electrical & Electronics (E&E) industry has been a significant contributor to the nation's economy. Its success is evident as it continued to emerge as the country's largest export earner in 2017 with RM343 billion and accounted for 36.7 per cent of the total value of exports. 7. The E&E industry in Malaysia, has critical cross-industry linkages and applications, including new growth areas such as in automotive electronics. 8. As for automotive industry, the sector contributed 4.0% to Malaysia's GDP in 2017. Currently, there are 690 manufacturers producing a wide range of automotive components in this country. 9. Moving forward, digitization and new business models will continue to revolutionise the world and these two industries are not excluded. 10. Therefore, the Government is ramping up efforts in developing the ecosystem due to the convergence of these two industries.

3.	Global Scenario for Autonomous Technology Important to tap on this emerging global trend or risk being left behind	Ladies and Gentlemen, 11. Few years ago, autonomous vehicles were deemed not quite ready to operate without human supervision but they have made rapid progress in recent years. Most automotive companies expect that autonomous vehicle technology will start to come online between 2025 and 2030. 12. There are already some examples on the road. This includes Waymo, Google's self-driving car unit that has gone a step further by operating autonomous minivans without safety engineers in the driving seat; and GM, America's biggest carmaker, which plans to launch a robotaxi service in 2019 using autonomous Chevy Bolt cars that do not have steering wheels or pedals. 13. Technological advancement particularly those related to connectivity and autonomous technology will increasingly change the way we commute daily and travel from one place to another. The increasing speed of innovation and shared mobility solutions will give rise to new business models. Together, these developments will reshape the industry landscape and help define the future of transportation.
4.	- Malaysia is also making headways - More R&D on autonomous technology being carried	14. Malaysia is not far behind from these developments. I am pleased to know that we have notable local companies and universities that have initiated several development projects related to autonomous vehicles and its related technologies. 15. For example, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) has been conducting research and development (R&D) activities on developing a fully automated vehicle since 2017. An AV

	out - E.g. UTM	prototype was developed through the collaboration between UTM and Moovita Pte Ltd. The prototype is based on a 7-seater vehicle and after just six months of extensive development and testing, the vehicle made its debut to the public in January 2018.
	- E.g. PKNP	16. Another ongoing initiative is by Perbadanan Kemajuan Negeri Perak (PKNP) under the Wilayah Perak Selatan project to position Tanjung Malim as the Southeast Asia leader in the net generation technology of Connected Autonomous Vehicles (CAV). 17. Known as NXGV25, this project is expected to create a dedicated living laboratory (test bed) for some of the world's leading companies from the automotive, telecommunication, cyber security and technology industries to develop their CAV products and services in a dedicated cluster. This initiative is expected to accelerate the adoption of CAVs in major metropolitan cities around Malaysia and Southeast Asia as early as 2025.
	- REKA	18. Not to forget our home grown company, REKA that has started developing its own self-driving or autonomous car technology since September 2016. So far, they have undergone a series of tests and real-life demonstrations at events and exhibitions. REKA has also received offers from foreign firms interested in co-operation and to further the development of the technology. Among them are companies from Singapore and Australia. 19. We continue to urge more companies to consider these examples and come up with similar initiatives. As the world moves towards the adoption of industry 4.0, the government is hard at work to transition industry players

		towards the adoption of automation and smart manufacturing concepts and technologies. 20. Malaysian companies must grab this opportunity and do it with a strategy that is thoughtfully planned out, to ensure that its implementation will bring greater value for their businesses, industry and the country at large.
5.	Way forward - Leverage on Government incentives & plans	Ladies and Gentlemen, 21. Recognising the growing importance to enhance our automotive industry, the Government through the National Automotive Policy (NAP) aims for Malaysia to become the regional hub for Energy Efficient Vehicles (EEV) including hybrid and electric vehicles. 22. MITI will also address the important elements of mobility, next generation vehicles, industry 4.0 and artificial intelligence in the next review of the National Automotive Policy (NAP). 23. As the government put in place initiatives through various plans and strategies, we urge industry players to meet us half way in our drive to create strong, inclusive and sustainable economic growth for Malaysia. 24. I look forward to the exchange of ideas and insights throughout the sessions today. I hope all of us will leverage on the conference as a valuable platform to share information and discuss new ideas especially in addressing the challenges ahead for us to expedite the development of autonomous vehicle in Malaysia. 25. With that, I wish you a successful conference and productive day ahead.