

**WELCOME REMARKS BY DATO' AZMAN MAHMUD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF MIDA
MOU BETWEEN MIDA - ITRI TAIWAN
7 MAY 2018, 10.30AM-12.30AM
Level 31, Boardroom, MIDA SENTRAL, KL**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Dr. Chang Pei-Zen,
Executive Vice President, ITRI,**

**Dr. Sean Wang
General Director, ITRI International Center**

**Dr. Frank Shiu
Director, ITRI International Center**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning. I would like to warmly welcome ITRI Taiwan to Malaysia and thank everyone for their contributions and support in making this collaboration possible.

MIDA has collaborated with many organisations to further increase quality investments in the country. To date, we have signed more than 50 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with local and foreign organisations in various countries such as France, Japan, UK, Singapore and US across many sectors. This includes Internet-of-Things, smart manufacturing, halal, logistics, aerospace, R&D and education.

Today, the collaboration with ITRI Taiwan adds to MIDA's on-going initiative to drive the country's R&D activities and Industry 4.0 agenda. MIDA acts as a conduit by working with entities such as ITRI to bring together the industry and academia to create fresh and exciting collaborations. This partnership will focus on the fields of Smart Manufacturing & Industry 4.0, Internet of Things and Circular Economy.

We look forward to working with ITRI on joint projects here and in Taiwan, facilitate the transfer of technical information and expertise, development of industrial technology, increase applied and trans-relational research, and much more. Malaysian industries will stand to benefit through the access to ITRI's expertise and network with other research and technology institutes in Taiwan. We are optimistic that this collaboration will increase of technology capabilities and capacities of our industries and lead to further investments in new and emerging technologies.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The advancing technologies such as those in automation and digitization are making breakthroughs in manufacturing processes, creating smart factories where man and machine can work together. We are working hard to ensure that our industries are keeping pace with these advances and seize the growing opportunities.

We understand that it is more crucial now than ever for companies to reassess and realign their business strategies to adapt to the current challenges of doing business. Indeed, intensifying innovation through strategic collaborations in R&D activities is one of the key components that would enable businesses to remain competitive and sustainable.

MIDA, as the principal investment promotion agency of the country has been aggressively promoting investments in R&D for many years. We continue to step up our efforts to drive stronger R&D linkages between the industry, and tertiary & research institutions. Our focus is not just about absolute value of investments, but the expansion of the ecosystem as well. We strongly believe that by strengthening the innovation ecosystem, we will develop a conducive environment to foster trust among all stakeholders.

Before I end, I would like to express again my sincere thanks to ITRI Taiwan for their support. I look forward to the exciting outcomes from our partnership.

Thank you.