

**WELCOME REMARKS BY
ENCIK AHMAD KHAIRUDDIN BIN ABDUL RAHIM
SENIOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MIDA**

**TECHNOLOGY TALK AND SMART COLLABORATION WITH INDUSTRIAL
TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ITRI) TAIWAN**

21ST NOVEMBER 2019, PERDANA HALL, MIDA SENTRAL, KL

Acknowledgement

Dr. Frank, Shiu
Director,
Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI)
The Industrial, Science and Technology International (ISTI)

YBhg. Dato' Norhalim Bin Yunus
Chief Executive Officer
Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC) Sdn. Bhd.

Ms. Emelia Matrahah
Chief Executive Officer
MIMOS Berhad

Mr. Sharbani Harun
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Technology Park Malaysia (TPM)

Mr. Sabran bin Samsuri
Chief Operating Officer
Inari Technology Sdn. Bhd.

Mr. Victor Devadass
Senior Principal Researcher
SIRIM Berhad

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Assalamualaikum and good morning. Welcome to the Technology Talk and Smart Collaboration event, jointly hosted by the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) and the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) Taiwan. Thank you, everyone, for being here today. To our partner ITRI, I bid you a warm 'Selamat Datang' to Malaysia and congratulations for winning two CES 2020 Innovation Awards recently.
2. It is always a privilege for MIDA to collaborate with ITRI, Taiwan's largest and one of the world's leading high-tech applied research institutions. MIDA and ITRI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in May last year to have cooperation, among others, in facilitating joint projects; undertaking applied research, training and attachment programs; exchanging technical information and expertise in industrial technology.
3. Today's event is an extended chapter out of our collaboration to further promote our economic cooperation in the areas of trade, investments and Small & Medium Enterprise (SME) development, particularly in the field of smart manufacturing, Industry 4.0, the Internet Of Things and Circular Economy.
4. Today, we are pleased to have the first batch of our industry partners from SIRIM, Technology Park Malaysia (TPM), MIMOS, MTDC and INARI who are here to share their capabilities and technology offerings with the potential partners present here this morning.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. To remain competitive in the current landscape, Malaysia needs to develop an innovation-driven economy that is built on high-value added, R&D intensive and high-tech industries. To become one ourselves, we require not only strong investments in R&D, innovation and commercialisation by our industry partners, but also successful partnerships with the research institutes.
6. R&D activities do not only create value and enable us to exploit new economic opportunities; it also sharpens our competitive advantages. Over the years, MIDA has been intensifying its efforts to build stronger R&D linkages between the industry, academia and research institutions.
7. I am pleased to share that as of 2018, MIDA approved a total of 184 R&D projects with investments worth RM2.97 billion. These comprise of 77 Contract R&D, 58 In-House R&D, 30 approved R&D companies and 19 R&D Status companies. They are mainly in pharmaceutical, chemical, healthcare, machinery,

E&E, automotive, energy, medical devices, palm oil and food production industries. These projects have created over 6,500 job opportunities which are mostly in the science and technical fields.

8. Similarly, Malaysia retains its 35th spot in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2019 and has improved its rankings in four out of seven GII pillars, namely institutions (40th), infrastructure (42nd), business sophistication (36th), and creative outputs (44th). We improved significantly in the quality of our universities with 17th place, while the Gross Domestic Expenditure on research and development (GERD) performed by business, as well as GERD financed by business, take the 25th and 16th positions, respectively.
9. We trust that today's effort is another step in the right direction towards preparing Malaysia to become an innovation-driven economy that will lead the country to achieve R&D intensity and GERD of at least 2.0% by 2020.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. Malaysia launched the National Industry 4.0 blueprint, namely Industry4WRD, in October last year. With this policy in place, the Government anticipates that Malaysia will be one of the primary destinations for high-tech industries and ranked among the top 30 nations in the Global Innovation Index by 2025.
11. As part of the Industry4WRD Policy, a Readiness Assessment programme has been introduced to assist companies in the manufacturing sector, especially SMEs to identify what are their shortcomings in terms of Industry 4.0 readiness and ways to scale up. We want them to understand their business and determine the best business model that is relevant to them in the most cost-effective way.
12. So, to all companies that are embarking on the automation journey, please reach out to MIDA, as we offer various forms of facilitation for industry players to remain competitive. We are able to link industry players with the identified strategic partners, who are technology developers and solution providers in the fields of robotics and automation, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data Analytics, and the Industrial Internet of Things (IIOT), among others.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

13. This event today would not have happened without the hard work of my dedicated team in the Advanced Technology and Research & Development (ATRD) Division, led by Mr. Norhizam Ibrahim. They are the movers and shakers within MIDA that identify new trends and emerging technology that is deemed suitable for the Malaysian industries and businesses.
14. Before I end, I would like to once again express my sincere thanks to ITRI who came all the way from Taiwan and all speakers who are also MIDA's close partners for the support. I trust that all of us will gain the maximum benefits on today's talk. On that note, I wish you all a productive session ahead.

Thank you.