

**SPEECH BY  
YAB DATO' SERI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI AHMAD BADAWI  
MAJLIS PERASMIAN PEMBUKAAN KEMUDAHAN BARU MOTOROLA  
TECHNOPLEX DI PULAU PINANG  
AT MOTOROLA TECHNOPLEX, PULAU PINANG  
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Saya ingin mengucapkan terima kasih kepada pengurusan Motorola Malaysia yang sudi menjemput saya untuk menghadiri majlis ini dan seterusnya merasmikan pembukaan fasa satu Komplek Teknologi Motorola atau yang ingin lebih dikenali sebagai Motorola Teknoplex.

2. Sesungguhnya pelaburan Motorola untuk mendirikan Teknoplex Kumpulan System tenaganya di Pulau Pinang ini amat dibanggakan, kerana ia akan membuka langkah untuk negara Malaysia memasuki bidang industri tersebut di pasaran dunia dengan lebih berkesan. Motorola Teknoplex di Pulau Pinang ini bukan sahaja hanya lima sepertinya di dunia tetapi ia juga adalah terbaru dan yang terancang.

3. Minat Motorola untuk terus melabur di Pulau Pinang ini jelas terbukti bahawa pelabur asing tetap yakin dengan kekukuhan serta pengurusan ekonomi negara Malaysia. Saya ingin mengucapkan tahniah kepada Motorola atas daya-usahnya untuk bekerjasama bagi kejayaan ini. Saya mengalu-alukan usaha dan tekadnya dan ingin mengucapkan syabas atas komitmen pelaburan jangka masa panjang Motorola ini.

4. Ini juga satu bukti bahawa pelabur asing tetap yakin bahawa Malaysia adalah sebuah negara yang stabil dari segi politiknya dan mereka terus berminat dengan dasar pelaburannya yang pragmatic.

5. To the many visiting foreign guests I am delighted to welcome you all to Malaysia and to our nation's silicon valley here in Penang which also happens to be my home state.

6. I am always pleased to lend support and recognition to local and multinational initiatives that reflect sincere investors' commitment which are in line with Malaysia's growth strategy and are geared to result in mutual economic benefits. Additionally, they should also contribute to nation building that's in line with vision 2020.

7. I am pleased to note that Motorola has over the past 27 years extended its semiconductor and land mobile communication operations beyond manufacturing into testing, high-end packaging, R&D, design and software development, energy, system solutions, product engineering, supply chain management, marketing and international procurement operations. Motorola's operations have moved significantly up the value chain to become a true end-to-end solutions provider.

8. This latest Motorola initiative to set-up Motorola's first regional integrated manufacturing R&D and distribution center in Asia Pacific for 2-way radio and energy business in Penang will enhance Malaysia's move to become a key hi-tech manufacturing and R&D center.

9. Today the convergence of the wireless industry and the internet is bringing together the 21st century's most explosive growth engines. Already this market dynamic is extending the power of the internet from the desktop to the shirt pocket and soon man's remarkable creativity and innovations may well extend it from the pocket to the wrist to a pendant at the end of a chain around the neck.

10. The associated energy requirements of these new devices will ensure a dynamic future for energy systems designers and suppliers. This augurs well for the future of this Motorola's Technoplex (Energy Systems group). I am confident that such achievements are well placed to impact positively on Malaysia's economy. At the same time, lend empowerment to the nurturing and growth of our nation's local pool of world-class software, system solutions, R&D and design engineering talent.

11. Motorola is recognised as a global leader in providing integrated communications and embedded electronic solutions. In this instant, I am pleased to note that Motorola's commitment to quality, continuous improvement and global leadership in developing electronics products also extends to protecting and promoting environmental, health and safety values. This was exemplified when Motorola took top honors as the first company to receive the National Hibiscus Award for environmental performance by environmental NGOs and in collaboration with department of environment when it was launched in 1996.

12. I also note with satisfaction that the Motorola's 'Green Malaysia' program launched earlier this year has put Malaysia ahead in the Asia Pacific as it represents the first systematic post-consumer two-way radio and batteries take-back program for recycling in the region.

13. Commendable too is Motorola's human resource development and training commitment that is reflected in a mandatory yearly 40-hour training policy for all its employees.

14. On the national front, Motorola's College/ University & Industrial Training Institution collaboration programs are addressing current & future training needs of the industry. And its recent joint venture with Multimedia University to sponsor and co-establish the chair of knowledge management in the Faculty of Creative Multimedia in the university's Cyberjaya campus marks another major world's first for Malaysia.

15. One concern that I do have is the prevailing practice of staff pinching. In such a flourishing industry, it is inevitable that the demand for knowledge workers is very high. When market forces come into play, the highest bidders get the best brains and skills.

16. Ultimately, it is the big players in the industry that manage to attract those with the best technical skills. 'Technical skill' no longer refers to the ability to repair a car or television set. Such skills are easily transferable in a relatively short period of time. 'Technical skill' at present requires accumulated experience by a large number of skilled workers working together over a long period of time.

17. Such workers must undergo constant training, absorbing a constant stream of state-of-the-art knowledge while striving to conduct related research and development activities on an ongoing basis. This is the only way to achieve a long-term competitive advantage in the high-tech sector.

18. The involvement of multi-nationals such as Motorola and other tier-1 companies in addressing current and future needs of the industry are commendable and will increase the talent pool we need to succeed in the high- tech sector.

19. We cannot and will not restrain the big industry players nor the work force from being dictated by market forces. At the same time, the smaller players in the industry have to be allowed to grow. If they keep losing skilled staff, their growth would be stunted.

20. I am confident that with all the necessary steps being taken, not only by the government in setting up multimedia universities and colleges, but also by multi-nationals and local companies to provide training, we will eventually have a big talent pool to meet the growing needs of the industry.

21. At the same time, for current needs, I would like to reflect on the growth of many companies which are now giants in the industry. One example would be that of Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon Dot Com.

22. When Jeff Bezos quit his job and started Amazon.com from his garage, he had a difficult time recruiting like- minded technopeneurs to join him. Eventually, his enthusiasm and drive brought him a group of talented young people who worked day and night to make their dream a reality.

23. At that point, almost everyone who joined Bezos stayed and their staff turnover was very small compared to the industry standards.

24. Today, many of Amazon.com's original founders and staffers are millionaires many times over. There are many such success, rags-to-riches stories in this young industry and I would like knowledge workers to reflect on this before they jump ship for a few dollars more.

25. Having said that, I must acknowledge that most multinationals and major local companies have shown a high level of corporate responsibility and have been pro-active in developing and growing Malaysia's local small and medium sized industries.

26. I am told by SMIDEC that Motorola has been taking leading role in this area. The manufacturing nucleus in Motorola Malaysia has over the years spawned a number of world-class Malaysian-owned companies. QDOS Microcircuits, Bakti Comintel Manufacturing, Carsem, Symtech to name a few, and that some of the companies have grown from a US\$ 100 million to US\$ 1 billion and are now major multi-national companies in their own rights. Here, I wish to call upon more multinationals and local conglomerates to take a leaf from Motorola and endeavor greater efforts to help raise the management skill and economic base of our SMIS.

27. The government will continue its aggressive drive to attract foreign and well as local investors to take up the vast and varied untapped investment opportunities that is widely spread across Malaysia's 13 states. From agriculture to education to the Multimedia Super Corridor initiative where we have put into place an enabling environment and the necessary infrastructure to encourage investments in I.T and multimedia content development.

28. We view investors as partners in development and in this light Motorola is an excellent partner. We believe that the dynamism of Motorola's business strategies for profitability and growth is well balanced with a conscious commitment to environmental considerations, and that the company upholds a proactive and responsive good corporate citizen and community relations policy. These are very positive attributes.

29. On that note, I would like to congratulate Motorola for the successful establishment of its first two-way radio-manufacturing center in the Asia Pacific here in Penang here today. We certainly share your pride for its establishment and I would like to wish this project great success. With this, it gives me great pleasure to officially declare open the Motorola Technoplex.

Thank you.