

21/02/2017 - Intelligent Transport System (ITS) Seminar And Exhibition 2017

Bismillahirrahmanirahim,

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Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum WBT, Good Afternoon and Salam 1Malaysia.

OPENING REMARKS

1. I bid you all a very warm welcome to the Intelligent Transport System or ITS Seminar and Exhibition 2017. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Ministry of Works and ITS Association of Malaysia for the opportunity to deliver this Keynote Address. I must commend the organisers, its collaborators and partners for organising this platform for intellectual discourse.

2. I have been informed that we have over 70 presentations from 11 countries at this 3-day event, including participation from 8 universities. It is heartening to note that we have been able to attract speakers and participants from within the country and overseas. There is clearly much support for this event and we are deeply encouraged and motivated to carry this momentum forward.

3. If we were to observe a city from above, the reflection would be to watch the world in constant motion. Examples of such nodes are, trains ferrying people to and from work; taxis flowing in abstract configurations; trucks deliver goods and removing garbage; and pedestrians hurry down to and from work. This leads us to conclude that mobility is the heartbeat of our cities and towns and a necessity for urban and rural life.

4. However, the need for such mobility results in certain outcomes such as pollution, congestion, social and health problems. Notwithstanding that, mobility is a focal point for economic growth in terms of delivering goods and services and improving the quality of life.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Theme

5. The theme of this Seminar is “Driving ITS to a New Normal”. According to the ITS Strategic Plan, “Intelligent Transport System, is the application of modern computer electronic and communications technology to transport”. Emerging technologies fundamentally alter the manner in which we view road safety and maximize the capacities and performance in our transport infrastructure.

6. The industry itself is growing rapidly with major players such as Google Maps, Uber, Tesla, Lyft and GRAB investing billions of ringgit into systems. The reason being by the year 2030, 60 per cent of the population will be living in metropolitan areas which is an increase of 10 per cent from the current statistics. Consequently 2 billion middle class segment is envisaged

to be living in cities with the automobile industry expected to increase sales by 55 million to 125 million per year by the year 2025.

7. Hence I believe intelligent transport system captures the very essence of the challenges faced today. Over the last several years, from a technological perspective, we have seen an exponential growth in the use of smart phones and smart devices with escalating processing powers and storage capacities at reducing costs. It is said that we are now at the Fourth Industrial Revolution of artificial intelligence, robotics, the Internet-of-Things, connected and automated vehicles, 3-D printing, nanotechnology, biotechnology, material science, renewable energy, energy storage, and quantum computing. It is the age of all things connected in a digital world.

8. I believe these developments call for us to seek out new ways to “normalize” our transport systems. We need to cater to increasingly sophisticated user demands, to drive greater cost efficiencies and to help establish sustainability in the way we plan, deploy, organise, operate and manage these increasingly complex systems.

Ladies and gentlemen

Public Transportation An Economic Enabler

9. Transportation is without doubt, the life line of our nation and our economy. To this end, the Government of Malaysia has invested significantly in public transport. Under the leadership of our honourable Prime Minister YAB Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, outcome based and impact driven projects were initiated. Among them, the 1st line of our Klang Valley Mass Rapid Transit system, i.e. the Sg-Buloh-Kajang line, due to be fully operational this year, which costs RM21 billion while the estimated construction cost for the second line, the Sungai Buloh-Serdang-Putrajaya (SSP), due for completion by 2022, is estimated at RM32 billion.

10. I am pleased to say that as the region's latest mass rapid transit system to become operational, the MRT SBK Line of which the first phase just opened on 16 December 2016, utilises some of the latest in ITS in its application to mass rapid transit systems. Planning for the MRT Line 3, also known as the Circle Line, has also started.

11. The LRT Line Extension for the Kelana Jaya and Ampang lines were recently completed. Furthermore, construction of the 36km long LRT line 3, linking Bandar Utama to Klang and targeting 74,000 commuters, is expected to start later this year and scheduled for completion in 2020.

12. The other infrastructure megaprojects includes the High Speed Rail connecting Kuala Lumpur and Singapore which is 350 km in length while the on-going Pan Borneo Highway, also known as the Trans Borneo Highway, measures at 2,325km in total.

13. The investment in such infrastructures by the Government has allowed transportation to play the role as an enabler of economic growth and provides greater connectivity between urban and rural areas for the people.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Electronic Toll

14. Toll collection at all 21 tolled highways in the Klang Valley is now fully electronic. By end of this year, the Malaysian Highway Authority expects all 31 tolled highways (with 177 toll plazas) nationwide to adopt Electronic Toll Collection (ETC). Once this is accomplished, the stage will be set for the start of the Multi-Lane Free Flow system. The use of Touch n Go for cashless or ETC toll collection started in 2004 and henceforth, this journey to full ETC will have taken us 13 years.

15. In comparison, 5 years ago, we already had over 120% penetration rate in mobile cellular services. As of 2016, we already have 44.5 million mobile subscribers for a population of 31.5 million, in other words the mobile penetration rate registered a whopping 144.8%.

16. Due to the rapidly evolving landscape of users and technologies, the Ministry of Transport, the Malaysian Digital Economy Corporation, the Malaysian Communication and Multimedia Commission, and the associated industries under their ambit will be pivotal in shaping the future of ITS Malaysia.

Ladies and Gentlemen

ITS Strategic Plan

17. When we first started aggregating ITS stakeholders in 1999, we worked towards a defined set of “Plans” to help chart the growth trajectory for ITS deployment in the country. The ITS Strategic Plan was released in 1999, followed by the ITS Master Plan in 2004 and subsequently the ITS National System Architecture in 2007.

18. However, developments in ITS have since fallen short of moving the Master Plan and Systems Architecture into Law or Guided Practices and have allowed the “markets” to freely create the opportunities and needs without much Government interference. In doing so, we have allowed a level of fragmentation in the local industry which, if uncorrected, could ultimately become self-defeating.

19. We need not look too far to see how ITS has benefited Asia-Pacific and ASEAN member countries such as Singapore, Japan, Taiwan, Australia and Korea. ITS in these countries are undoubtedly world class showcases.

20. At this juncture, ITS Association of Malaysia and the Ministry of Works and other relevant agencies are looking at ways to reduce the “gap” between the private and public sectors. The public sector is looking at the private sector to innovate and to fund such initiatives. At the same time, the Government will provide policy direction for our National ITS Agenda.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Challenges

21. The key challenge in Malaysia is to break the information and system silos among the various ITS deployments in different agencies and jurisdictions. In doing so, we need to establish a “network effect” where the focus is to establish cooperative frameworks and data sharing among the many deployments with private and public agencies. Subsequently in order to get the most from ITS, public and private agencies must cooperate collectively. This means greater collaboration and changing mind-sets among institutions.

22. We need to recognize that ITS is about creating and managing a network. To do so, we need to put in robust technologies that allow us to see and sense the flows and disruptions in our transport networks in real time – to provide us with good, actionable information that can support prompt and sound decision making.

23. Our other challenge relates to management. Traditionally, our agencies have been tasked with building and maintaining infrastructure – building new roads, improving junctions, clearing blocked drains, fixing potholes, repairing or replacing aged infrastructure, and of course, the enforcement of rules. ITS requires a new set of inter-disciplinary skills and understanding, particularly in the areas of supply and demand management, investment in technology with longer term visions and returns. We need new skillsets and competencies.

Way Forward

24. Our future hinges on our ability to nurture the ITS eco-system by bringing in wider participation from cellular service providers, broadband providers, vehicle manufacturers, logistics companies, and academic / R&D institutions, and transport technology innovators and service providers.

25. It is my hope that we can freely learn and share experiences and knowledge among the local and international delegates, establish new or nurture existing partnerships and opportunities. I also hope that this Seminar will inspire, excite and energize our younger delegates to look at our transportation challenges more innovatively and holistically.

Closing Remarks

26. I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the Organising Committee for actualizing and executing the ITS Seminar and Exhibition 2017 here in Malaysia.

27. To our many close friends and associates around the world who have answered our call for support and assistance, I wish to express my gratitude for your kind suggestions and for taking the time and effort to attend this event.

28. Finally, I wish you a happy, enjoyable and fulfilling 3 days of engaging talks and productive networking. To our international delegates, please remember to take time off after the seminar to savour and explore our beautiful country.

Thank you.

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