

Ucapan DG Majlis Perasmian International Seminar On Bamboo – 19 Mei 2015

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- ENGLISH VERSION ONLY -

WELCOMING SPEECH BY YBRS. DR. JALALUDDIN HARUN
DIRECTOR GENERAL, MALAYSIAN TIMBER INDUSTRY BOARD
INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON BAMBOO
QUALITY HOTEL CITY CENTRE
19MAY 2015

YB Datuk Douglas UggahEmbasa,
Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, Malaysia

YBhg. Datuk Himmat Singh
Secretary General
Ministry of Plantation, Industries and Commodities Malaysia (MPIC)

Dr. Li Zhiyong
Deputy Director General of International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)

Dr. Wang Ge
Representative from the International Centre for Bamboo Research (ICBR)

Heads and Representatives of the Ministries and Government Agencies.

Seminar participants.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Salam 1Malaysia dan A Very Good Morning

1.0 First and foremost, on behalf of the organisers of today seminar, I would like to thank YB Datuk Douglas Uggah Embasa, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC) for his presence to officiate this event. I wish a warm welcome to all seminar participants who came all the way from several ASEAN countries and various parts of Malaysia in participating in the Seminar.

I would also like to thank the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) and International Centre for Bamboo Research (ICBR) for collaborating with MTIB in the organisation of the International Seminar on Bamboo.

As we are aware Malaysia is endowed with natural forest resources whereby over 2,500 tree species are available and can be utilized for a wide range of applications. The timber industry is an important contributor to the international market with the annual export value of approximately RM 20 billion and RM 13 billion for the domestic market. For 2014, Malaysia has exported RM 20.5 billion worth of timber and timber products to global market.

Apart from timber species growing naturally in the Malaysian soil, other non-wood plants are also available in our forest including Bamboo. Bamboo are the fastest growing woody plants in the world. The high growth rate

of bamboo makes the bamboo plant a sustainable and versatile resource. I was made to understand that yields of bamboo of up to 60 tonnes per hectare greatly exceed the yield of 20 tonnes for most trees and only 1-2 tonnes per hectare for cotton with a one-time planting for bamboo whilst little care and maintenance required.

To promote the development of the bamboo industry, China has encouraged technological innovations which have led to a variety of new bamboo products such as raw bamboo, daily-used goods, artifacts as well as bamboo charcoal, which are widely used in construction, packaging, transportation, medicine and tourism. The seminar is timely and as an important forum for bamboo manufacturers, craftspeople, entrepreneurs as well as academia to learn from INBAR based on their vast experiences in bamboo processing technology and R&D as well as commercialisations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2.0 As I had mentioned earlier, Bamboo is another important source of alternative materials to complement timbers. Therefore Malaysian government through MTIB has to ensure that the utilization of this minor-forest products can be further enhanced, thus contributing significantly to the national economy. In line with this, MTIB has developed the Bamboo Industry Development Action Plan for 2011-2020. This Action Plan was developed to be implemented according to five main strategic thrust namely;

- i) Establishment Of Bamboo Plantation And Sustainably Managed Existing Natural Resources;
- ii) Human Resources & Capital Development;
- iii) Development Of Value Added Products;
- iv) Research And Development and
- v) Marketing, Trade and Promotion

3.0 The organization of today's event is also in line with the Human Resources & Capital Development strategic thrust of the Bamboo Industry Development Action Plan since Malaysia is quite new in bamboo industry compared to China and Indonesia. I hope with the organizing of the today seminar it will further expose our potential manufacturers of bamboo products, academia as well as researchers on how to transform the current Bamboo Industry in Malaysia into a new era of higher value-added products. It will also provide a platform for entrepreneurs in Bamboo industry in Malaysia to obtain latest information and technology in order to support the Development of National Bamboo Industry Action Plan (2011 - 2020) as well as to provide a platform for government and private agencies to exchange knowledge and experiences on current issues of the Bamboo industry in Malaysia.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4.0 I would also like to inform that MTIB is amongst the six Standards Development Agencies (SDA) appointed by Standards Malaysia and MTIB is responsible to manage and develop standards on timber and timber based products at national, regional as well as international level. For your information, Standards on Bamboo will also be developed at ISO and national level and MTIB will play major roles in the standardisation activities which is in line with our roles as SDA. In this context we will work closely with INBAR and other research institution who are actively involved in R & D on bamboo for gathering of data to be used for standards development either at national or international fora. This is to ensure that bamboo products developed are in compliance with the requirements in the standards.

I was informed that the two day session will cover various aspects including Bamboo Plantations; Harvesting and Preservations of Bamboo; Bamboo Primary Processing Industry; Product Development; Machinery in Bamboo Industry as well as Promotions and Marketing.

I am glad to inform our guests and participants that beside paper presentations, on the third day, we have arranged a field visit to FRIM Bamboo Garden & Bamboo Gallery in Kepong and also to Bamboo Play House which is located in Lake Garden, Kuala Lumpur.

It is my fervent hope that the participants would gain valuable knowledge from this seminar where we have invited experienced speakers and experts in their respective fields to share their knowledge with fellow

participants who are interested to venture and made investment in bamboo development and innovation as outlined in the roadmap.

Before I end my speech, once again I would like to thank our Minister for officiating this seminar despite his busy schedule.

Thank You

Kuala Lumpur

19 May 2015