

OPENING AND OFFICIATING SPEECH

Yang Berbahagia
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Secretary General
Ministry of Plantation and Commodities Malaysia

**The 3rd International Plantation Conference
(IPC2023)**

21 December 2023

Grand Swiss-Belhotel Melaka

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Yang Berbahagia
Professor Datuk Dr Shahrin bin Sahib @ Sahibuddin
Vice-Chancellor
Universiti Teknologi MARA

Yang Berbahagia
Professor Ts. Dr Azhan Hashim @ Ismail
Dean
Faculty of Plantation and Agrotechnology UiTM and
Chairman of IPC2023

Yang Berbahagia
Dato' Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah Raja Hussin
President / Chief Executive Officer
Agrobank

Yang Berbahagia
Dato' Dr Zairossani Mohd Nor
Director General
Malaysian Rubber Board

Yang Berbahagia
Datuk Dr Ahmad Parveez Hj. Ghulam Kadir
Director General
Malaysian Palm Oil Board

Yang Berbahagia
Dato' Dr Mohamad Hashim Ahmad Tajudin
Chairman
Perbadanan Ekonomi Islam Perak Sdn Bhd

The esteemed
Professor Dr Muhammad Firdaus
Professor of IPB University, Bogor, Indonesia

Mr Mohd Ramzuz Mohd Rashid
Director of Administration and Government Affairs
Malaysian Palm Oil Association (MPOA)

Dr Harris Gani
Principal Assistant Secretary, Policy Division (Labour)
Ministry of Human Resources Malaysia (MOHR)

Mr Mohd Zuhairi Mohammad Sabri
Managing Director Dynamic Fairview Sdn Bhd

and

Mr Kenneth Lim

Sales and Marketing Manager (Additives and Specialties) Behn Meyer AgriCare (M) Sdn Bhd

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Salutations

(To be confirmed by the organiser on the day of the event)

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. Salam sejahtera. Good morning, everyone.

1. *Alhamdulillah*, we offer thanks to Allah S.W.T. for His grace and blessings, bringing us together on this significant day.
2. I extend my warmest greetings to all gathered here to participate in this special conference – **The 3rd International Plantation Conference (IPC2023)**.
3. It is an honour to be here among such esteemed individuals who share a common interest and goal in researching and advancing plantation and commodity and its related industries.

4. I must, therefore, thank the organisers and collaborators, especially the **Faculty of Plantation and Agrotechnology UiTM** and the **WMIT Group Sdn Bhd**, for inviting me to be part of this crucial academic gathering steered by the theme “**High Performance of Plantation and Commodity Industry: Forging Ahead.**”

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. As we convene for **IPC2023**, we must reflect on the significant role played by the plantation and commodity industry in the global economy.
6. Malaysia has long been at the forefront of the industry, and this conference serves as a platform for us to share insights, exchange ideas, and collectively chart the course for the future.
7. It is clear from the conference theme that there is a need for sustained excellence and innovation in the

face of evolving global challenges as we undergo profound changes, including shifts in **climate patterns, economic dynamics, and consumer preferences.**

8. For these reasons, the plantation and commodity sector must not only adapt but also strive for excellence to ensure its continued success.
9. Let us not forget that in pursuing high performance, innovation must be at the forefront of our strategies. **The Fourth Industrial Revolution** presents opportunities for the plantation and commodity industry to leverage technologies such as **precision agriculture, blockchain, and artificial intelligence.**
10. By embracing innovation, we can enhance efficiency, traceability, and sustainability across the entire value chain.

11. It is worth noting that these challenges transcend borders, and solutions must be global in scope. Hence, international collaboration is vital for sharing best practices, fostering research and development, and addressing shared challenges.
12. Thankfully, Malaysia stands ready to collaborate with other nations, organisations, and stakeholders to create a resilient and dynamic global plantation and commodity industry.

Ladies and gentlemen,

13. **The National Agricommodity Policy (DAKN) 2021–2030** has been used as a guideline for the country's commodity industry in terms of **Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG)**, as well as towards achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda 2030**.
14. One of the cornerstones of **DAKN** is a steadfast commitment to **sustainable agriculture practices**.

Recognising the global imperative to address climate change and environmental degradation, the plan places a strong emphasis on **promoting sustainable farming methods, efficient water management, and biodiversity conservation.**

15. This consequently strikes a balance between meeting the growing demand for agricommodities and preserving the delicate ecosystems that sustain us.

16. Above all, Malaysia must be promoted as an international hub of the agricommodity sector, and with Malaysia's position strengthened as a major producer of agricommodity products, local and international innovation and technology exhibitions will be guided by **DAKN 2030.**

Ladies and gentlemen,

17. In the next decade, technology will play an instrumental role in reshaping the landscape of

plantation and commodity sectors. Accordingly, integrating technology into our agricultural practices will increase efficiency and open new avenues for growth and innovation.

18. Several steps and efforts need to be taken by the concerned parties to overcome the challenges this industry faces today. Fortunately, we are presented with a suitable platform, such as **IPC2023**, to promote and assist in empowering the plantation industry.
19. Before I end, I hope that this event will also attract the interest of the community to venture into careers and entrepreneurship based on agricommodities and, at the same time, cultivate competitiveness and sustainable growth of the industry.
20. May the outcomes of the conference also assist the government in determining the direction of the plantation and commodity industry.

21. Lastly, I extend my most profound gratitude for your attention and cooperation in making this conference a success.

**Without further ado,
with *Bismillahirrahmanirrahim*,
I officiate the 3rd International Plantation Conference
(IPC2023).**

Thank you.

**Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum
Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.**