

OPENING ADDRESS AND OFFICIATING SPEECH

Yang Berhormat
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Minister for Education, Innovation, and Talent
Development Sarawak

**Opening Address and Official Launching
5th International Symposium on Insects 2023
(ISoI 2023)**

Pullman Kuching, Sarawak

11 September 2023

Yang Berbahagia
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Yang Berusaha
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**Distinguished guests, speakers, delegates, ladies,
and gentlemen.**

Salutations

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

Salam Sejahtera. Salam Malaysia Madani dan Salam Ibu Pertiwi. Greetings to everyone.

1. I am delighted to be here this morning for the official opening ceremony of the **International Symposium on Insects (ISol 2023)** organised by the **Entomological Society of Malaysia (ENTOMA)** and co-organised by the **Centre for Insect Systematics (CIS), UKM, UiTM Cawangan Sarawak**, and the **Faculty of Science and Technology, UNIMAS**.
2. I would like to extend my warmest regards to everyone who has convened for this special occasion especially the **CORTEVA Agriscience and FMC Corporation** and **Business Events Sarawak** for their sponsorship, support, and assistance.

3. Not forgetting, my sincere thanks to the organising committee for inviting me to officiate this remarkable event. I commend you for your dedicated efforts to make this symposium a reality.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. The theme for **ISol** this year, "**Unveiling the Hidden Prospect of Insects**" signifies the commitment to explore the world of insects, which are often disregarded and misunderstood, uncovering their untapped possibilities and benefits.
5. Hence, we gather here today with a shared passion to unlock the secrets and potentials of insects in diverse fields including agriculture, environmental conservation, biotechnology, and human health.
6. **Entomology**, as many are aware, is the study of insects and is a discipline branching from the field of **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)**.

7. Insects are more than merely fascinating representatives of biological sciences. Their uniqueness in physical forms, characteristics, and functions presents a wealth of learning topics for integrating STEM disciplines.
8. With that in mind, I believe that every entomologist is responsible for increasing the general public's knowledge of insects and their vital roles in our lives.
9. At the state level, we are committed and supportive of efforts to encourage and motivate the public to venture into STEM disciplines. Moreover, Sarawak aspires to obtain at least **60% of students in STEM by 2030** as we hope to be a **fully developed state by 2030**.
10. In response to this goal, stakeholders must play active roles in supporting STEM education. It is equally vital that we create a **sustainable STEM**

education, making sure to enable and encourage student participation in this field.

11. Consequently, I hope that the findings and ideas shared in this symposium can contribute to the body of knowledge for STEM disciplines, consistent with the focus of the Sarawak government through the **Ministry for Education, Innovation and Talent Development Sarawak (MEITD)**.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. The ministry has taken various initiatives, including setting up the **Sarawak Science Centre** to serve as a platform to foster interest and appreciation in Science and Technology among the younger generation and the public.
13. Acknowledging these efforts made by the state government, it is therefore timely, for fellow **Entomologists and STEM researchers** to work together to increase **STEM literacy** in Sarawak.

14. Hence, I extend my highest compliments to **ISol 2023** as a platform to present and discuss the astonishing aspects of insects as it is in line with the direction of **MEITD** which advocates for **STEM education**.
15. In addition, I applaud this effort and endeavour to provide up-to-date, relevant, and educational information to produce findings that benefit socio-economic interests and ensure **Quality Education** for the nation.
16. With this remark, I wish you all a fruitful and inspiring symposium and hope that the outcomes of the symposium will serve as an impetus for transformative action that will benefit the nation and society.

**Without further ado,
it gives me great pleasure to launch the
5th International Symposium on Insects 2023**

(ISol 2023)

Thank you.