



**KEMENTERIAN
PERDAGANGAN ANTARABANGSA DAN INDUSTRI**

OPENING SPEECH

**YB DATUK LIM BAN HONG
DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND
INDUSTRY**

**LAUNCHING OF
NATIONAL ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS (E&E)
FORUM 2020**

30 NOVEMBER 2020 (MONDAY)

9.00 – 9.30 AM

YANG BERBAHAGIA DATO' ABDUL LATIF HAJI ABU SEMAN
Director General of Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC),

YANG BERBAHAGIA DATO' SERI WONG SIEW HAI
Champion of Electrical & Electronics Productivity Nexus (EEPN),

Speakers, Panelists and Moderators,

Heads of Government Departments and Agencies,

Captain of Industries,

Members of Media,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Salam Sejahtera and a very good morning.

1. A very warm welcome and thank you for joining us today. It is indeed an honour and privilege for me to be part of today's event. On behalf of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), I would like to thank and acknowledge everyone for your presence.
2. We are all here today, at the National E&E Forum 2020: To Strive for Growth Against the Tide of Disruption which is organised by E&E Productivity Nexus (EEPN) together with Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) to enlighten

ourselves on the future of the Electrical & Electronics (E&E) Industry.

3. I believe that this event will help share knowledge and insights on how the industry is moving forward amidst the impact of disturbance in the global supply chain.

4. This forum acts as a platform for greater exchange of views from speakers and panelists on how COVID-19 and the US-China trade war has influenced the world trade especially in the E&E industry. Despite its impact to the global economy, the trade war does not have a major impact on Malaysia's trade performance with both countries. Malaysia's total trade with the US in 2019 grew by 6.1 percent year-on-year to RM165.22 billion; with export rising by 6.3 percent year-on-year to RM96.54 billion, and imports expanding by 5.7 percent year-on-year to RM68.68 billion. Meanwhile, Malaysia's trade with China rose 0.6 percent year-on-year to RM316.60 billion in 2019, with exports growing by 1.3 percent year-on-year to RM140.93 billion and imports edging up by 0.1 percent to RM175.67 billion.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. E&E industry has been the mainstay and strength of the manufacturing sector and economy, whereby it continues to be a key driver of industrial development and contributes significantly to GDP growth, export earnings, investment and employment. Therefore, EEPN which was established under

the Malaysia Productivity Blueprint (MPB) in 2017 has assumed significant roles to enhance the productivity and growth of the nation. This initiative is led by private sector with strong support from the Government.

6. Among the initiatives to ensure continuous and sustainable growth of the E&E industry include the reskilling and upskilling of the workforce. This initiative will be the top priority in nurturing talent pool strategy. Talent is the driver of technology acquisition and growth, and talent development is notably the most significant. We need a holistic manpower planning for industry which will push Malaysia to become a high-income nation.
7. As the backbone of the manufacturing sector, the E&E industry needs to play a bigger role in the future. We need to establish a significant IC design industry which will enable more local contents in our national 5G/6G roadmap. The design and development (D&D) activities and innovations as well as the medical device industry must be further expanded to attract more FDIs.
8. As Malaysia aspire to be a leading E&E engine of the world, we need strong and established state-of-the-art manufacturing, continuously grow IC design and embedded system design industry, attract FDIs in industrial software and wafer fabs to support semiconductor ecosystem, and improve E&E supply chain. Keep in mind that effective implementation and execution makes all the difference.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. During this challenging time, business survival is the main concern. In this regard, MITI will do its best to fortify the industries and businesses, and ensuring the economy remains vibrant and sustainable. Our concerns are not only on sustainability of the businesses and employment, but also emphasizing the importance of our workforce productivity.
10. The Government is structuring cohesive short, medium and long-term plans to resuscitate the economy. In the recent budget announcement, massive allocation emphasizes on initiatives to battle the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic including the additional allocation towards the COVID-19 Fund has been announced. This allocation is on top of the three stimulus packages that were announced earlier this year.
11. MITI and its agencies will implement strategies and programmes in the trade, investment and industrial sectors that have been planned for 2021 with the allocation of RM1.206b under the Budget 2021.
12. The RM1 billion **Domestic Investment** Strategic Fund has been allocated to accelerate the shift of Malaysian-owned companies in targeted industries to high value-added, high technology, knowledge-intensive and innovation-based industries. These industries include aerospace sector,

electrical & electronics, machinery & equipment, medical devices and shipping.

13. The Government has also allocated RM1 billion via the Industrial Digitalisation Transformation Scheme to boost digitalisation activities by the industry and additional fund of RM150 million under the SME Digitalisation and Automation Grants.
14. A comprehensive economic plan would place Malaysia back on track for an economic recovery thus benefitting both businesses as well as *rakyat*.

Ladies and gentlemen,

15. This forum is a step towards sharing and exchanging knowledge, ideas and experiences in driving productivity for the E&E industry. On that note, ladies and gentlemen, I take great pleasure to officiate the National E&E Forum: Strive for Growth Against the Tide of Disruptions.

Thank you.