

**TEXT OF SPEECH OF  
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
DATUK PATINGGI TAN SRI (DR) HAJI ADENAN BIN HAJI SATEM  
CHIEF MINISTER OF SARAWAK  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
THE 33<sup>RD</sup> MAJECA-JAMECA JOINT CONFERENCE  
AT HILTON HOTEL, KUCHING  
ON 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2014 AT 8:00 P.M.**

His Excellency Dr Makio Miyagawa, Ambassador of Japan to Malaysia

Mr Mikio Sasaki, President of JAMECA

Tan Sri Azman Hashim, President of MAJECA

Mr Hidefumi Kobayashi, Secretary-General, JAMECA

Datuk Seri Mohamed Iqbal, Secretary-General, MAJECA

Delegates to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Joint Conference of MAJECA and JAMECA

Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

1. I am delighted to be here at this dinner, which marks the culmination of the Annual Conference of the Malaysia-Japan Economic Association (MAJECA) and the Japan-Malaysia Economic Association (JAMECA).

2. I am very happy and wish to thank both JAMECA and MAJECA for choosing Kuching, Sarawak, as the venue for this year's Conference. I am told that this is the first time that the Conference in Malaysia is being held outside Kuala Lumpur. I am also told that the Conference was very successful and that the Government of Sarawak was well represented in terms of speakers as well as delegates.
3. I am confident that your deliberations, in particular the initiatives we have taken in Sarawak will enable the Japanese business community to actively pursue some of the indications given at the Conference.

4. Sarawak with its rich and diverse natural resources and endowments is on a mission to showcase its business and industrial potential, in addition to the tourism attraction.
5. Malaysia-Japan relations have been defined by mutual respect and benefits. Since independence in 1957 and the formation of Malaysia in 1963, the relations have evolved and are poised to grow from strength to strength under new policy directions. Sarawak has been in the forefront of Japanese investments in the oil and gas industry. The foothold in this sector is now moving to new sectors.



6. The Look East Policy Second Wave – LEP 2, is the new driver for the relations between the two countries. The 30-year experience since the policy was introduced in 1982, its significance for the human resource development of Malaysia is very well known.

The globalisation trend and regional integration initiatives for greater trade and investment gives a renewed platform for collaboration in much broader areas. The framework for the new overtures is in the cutting-edge technologies. These new industries will increase the flow of research and innovation from Japan into Malaysia. Sarawak looks forward to new ventures in these new areas.

7. In line with these developments, new skills are required for such industrial undertakings. Sarawak has the necessary educational and institutional infrastructure to provide a platform for skills development. I would welcome institutional support from the Japanese private sector to strengthen this aspect and create a pool of talents to meet the requirement.
8. The contribution of SMEs to the economy is important from a labour absorption point of view. Sarawak with its agrarian and plantation base has a large number of small and medium enterprises. A good number is also very small family concerns – micro enterprises. This sector needs modernisation and support systems to build capacity and modernise their operations.

9. I am particularly happy to see that the LEP 2 has outlined these as priority areas and in Sarawak, we will be watching with great interest to be involved in the developments.
10. The LEP 2 since its announcement in 2012 has been again reiterated in 2013 by the Prime Ministers of Malaysia and Japan. With such high level commitments, the prospect to realise the benefits is great. It is indeed very apt to note that MAJECA and JAMECA have also "looked East" ... at Sarawak to host this Conference. It is a timely and most delightful experience for all of us in Sarawak.

11. You all have had a busy day with serious discussions and fruitful deliberations. This is the time to enjoy your dinner.
12. In closing, I would like to pay a tribute to MAJECA and its President, Tan Sri Azman Hashim, for taking the initiative to host the Conference in Kuching, Sarawak. I also want to thank Mr Mikio Sasaki and his JAMECA delegates for making this visit to Sarawak and your presence here with us tonight.
13. Thank you.