

WELCOMING SPEECH

by

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*Second Minister of Resource Planning and Environment,
Minister of Public Utilities and
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in conjunction with

**33RD MALAYSIA-JAPAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION
(MAJECA) – JAPAN-MALAYSIA ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION
(JAMECA) JOINT CONFERENCE**

on

Thursday, 13th November 2014 @ 9.30 a.m.

at

Hilton Hotel, Kuching

His Excellency Dr Makio Miyagawa,
Ambassador of Japan to Malaysia;

Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Azman Hashim,
President of MAJECA;

Mr Mikio Sasaki,
President of JAMECA;

Mr Hidefumi Kobayashi,
Secretary-General, JAMECA;

Yang Berbahagia Datuk Seri Mohamed Iqbal,
Vice-President and Secretary-General, MAJECA;

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Md Taib Abdul Hamid,
Vice-President, MAJECA;

Distinguished members of JAMECA and MAJECA;

Honoured guests;

Members of the Press;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

A very good morning to all of you.

1. On behalf of the Government of Sarawak, I would like to extend a warm welcome and "Selamat Datang" to all the delegates of this important conference.

2. This Conference held in Kuching comes at a very opportune time. I note that my able colleagues from the State Planning Unit and the Chief Minister's Department will present to you the business and industrial potential of Sarawak with its rich and diverse natural resources and endowments.

Ladies and gentlemen,

3. Sarawak is no stranger to our Japanese friends as they have consistently been one of our top investors especially in the oil and gas industry. Given the renewed

emphasis of bilateral relations between Malaysia and Japan under the Look East Policy 2.0, I welcome the opportunity to assist Japanese investors to explore and invest in new sectors in Sarawak. These include:

- (a) Basic Metal Products (Aluminium);
- (b) Chemical and Chemical Products;
- (c) Petrochemical and Polymer Industry;
- (d) Advanced Ceramics;
- (e) Shipbuilding;
- (f) Biotechnology;
- (g) Advanced Electronics; and

(h) High-Tech Capital Industry.

4. Trade with Japan

Japan was Malaysia's:

- 3rd largest global trading partner;
- 3rd largest export destination; and
- 3rd largest source of imports.

From January to August 2014:

- Total trade between Malaysia and Japan increased by 3.6% (in Ringgit terms) to RM91.92 billion

(US\$28.28 billion) compared to RM88.77 billion (US\$28.45 billion) in the corresponding period of 2013. Exports increased by 6.2% to RM55.00 billion (US\$16.92 billion) while imports declined 0.2% to RM36.92 billion (US\$11.36 billion);

- Higher exports were recorded for liquefied natural gas (LNG), E&E products as well as optical and scientific equipment; and
- Major imports from Japan were E&E products, machinery, appliances and parts as well as transport equipment.

5. Japanese investments in Sarawak

For the last five (5) years, 18 manufacturing projects were implemented amounting to RM15.23 billion.

Japan continues to be Sarawak's top source of foreign direct investments since 1980.

6. I am also happy to note that some of the delegates of this Conference will also visit Sama Jaya Free Industrial Zone (SJFIZ) and will be given a more detailed briefing

by my Ministry. If you have more time, we would welcome you to visit other potential investment areas such as Samalaju Industrial Park (SIP) in Bintulu, which is a part of the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE). We would be happy to arrange for your visit. In any case, we welcome you and extend our co-operation to work closely with you to expand your operations and businesses to Sarawak.

7. With this, let me just conclude by saying how delighted we are that you have chosen to hold your annual Joint Conference in our city and we encourage you to take

time out to see our beautiful city, experience our
hospitality and savour our cuisine.

8. I wish you successful deliberations at this Conference.

Terima kasih ... Thank you.