

**WELCOMING SPEECH BY  
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VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI PETRONAS  
CUM ORGANISING CHAIRMAN  
OF  
WORLD ENGINEERING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CONGRESS  
(ESTCON2018)  
13 AUGUST 2018  
KUALA LUMPUR CONVENTION CENTRE**

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Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Yang Berhormat Teo Nie Ching  
Deputy Minister Of Education of Malaysia

Distinguished Speakers

Honoured Guests

Delegates of ESTCON 2018

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,

Salam Sejahtera and a very good morning.

On behalf of Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP) and the ESTCON 2018 organising committee, let me first extend our deepest gratitude to the Yang Berhormat Teo Nie Ching, Deputy Minister Of Education of Malaysia, representing the Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Dr Maszlee Malik, for being here with us to officiate ESTCON 2018. Thank you for making time to attend our flagship event despite your busy schedule. Your presence is indeed, truly appreciated.

It also gives me great pleasure to warmly welcome all our distinguished speakers, honourable guests and delegates to the World Engineering Science and Technology Congress or ESTCON 2018 here at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. To all our overseas participants and delegates, welcome to our beautiful country and I hope you enjoy your stay here – and if this isn't your first time, welcome back!

We bring to you ESTCON 2018 bigger and better this time around.

With the theme 'Science, Technology & Humanities: Reinventing the Future', ESTCON 2018 will gather more than 1,000 experts from 40 countries from diverse fields of research and innovation, and more than 3000 visitors to the exhibition which is open to the public for the next two days. We also have a Design Thinking Workshop and Short Courses on the third day so we welcome all participants and delegates to stay till the end.

ESTCON 2018 is organised by UTP with the support from the Ministry of Education (MOE), Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC), Academy of Sciences Malaysia, SIRIM Berhad and Yayasan Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (Yayasan UTP).

This is one of the world's largest congresses Malaysia has ever hosted which comprises ten simultaneously-held international conferences.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For this edition of ESTCON, we are excited to bring to you, four keynote speakers with unmatched power and vigour, to provide thought-provoking insights on reinventing the future in line with the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

First, we will hear from Dr David Wood, the Chair of London Futurists and Principal of Delta Wisdom, a renowned futurist, who will speak on "Anticipating Successive Waves of Changes at the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution Accelerates". Second in line, we will have the President of Academy of Sciences Malaysia, our ESTCON 2018 partner, Yang Berbahagia Professor Datuk Dr Asma Ismail who will be talking on "A Road Map for Malaysian Science".

Next, we have the President and Group Chief Executive of SIRIM Berhad, Professor Ir Dr Ahmad Fadzil Mohamad Hani, to talk on "Standards for Industry 4.0/Smart Manufacturing: Challenges and Opportunities". And last but definitely not the least, just before the closing ceremony tomorrow, we bring to you the Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Social Entrepreneur, and Founder of Grameen Bank, Professor Muhammad Yunus, who will deliver a keynote address entitled "A World of Three Zeros".

We hope that you are as excited as we are to listen to these speakers who will enlighten our intellectuality and entertain our spirits!

We have also made use of all our multi-discipline expertise and academic resources at the University and synergised it with industry know-how to come up with ten international conferences. From only seven conferences in 2010, we have now increased it to ten conferences, with a tremendous increase in the citations, an average of 1000 citations yearly.

Each of these conferences will focus on different issues pertaining to their respective themes. These ten conferences are in tandem with the university's objectives and goals, and allows us to open up new frontiers, pioneer research, create new technology, and introduce innovative solutions and methods for industry. It enables sustainable development that will bring mutual benefits to the environment, economy and society.

One of the advantages of participating in ESTCON is that you are able to join in the other 10 conferences with only one entry pass! We hope that all these 10 conferences provide an exciting intellectual hub where ideas will be expressed, shared and implemented!

This congress also includes several forum sessions. We have 20 (twenty) Plenary Speakers and 30 (thirty) Forum Panellists coming together to discuss on the advent of Industrial Revolution 4.0 which will change the nature of higher learning education. There is a lot to consider on the concept of Education 4.0 that would be more suitable especially for the future generation of students. Such change is imperative to also meet the needs of the future, especially skills. Already, students have changed. Digital natives walking on the road of disruptive technologies are likely to find online educational tools with artificial intelligence highly appealing.

Finally - our Innovation Pitching still remains and for the first time, this event will be a closed-door affair. This year we tightened the range of pitches to the most viable projects, hopefully making this highly attractive to investors. Our format is now more a showcase to invited venture capitalists, industry captains, technology incubators and accelerators based on their interest and nature of business. We encourage for each research team leader to pitch their idea to potential investors and collaborators.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We know that only those that stay relevant and leverage on new digital capabilities will benefit. We are grabbing the opportunity to improve and redefine every aspect of life not just in the university but also out of it. Hence, it is important for each of us to be on board and play a vital role to embrace this Industry 4.0 at the national as well as the international level. Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum (WEF), tells it as it is, "The speed of current breakthroughs has no historical precedent... it is disrupting almost every industry in every country. And the breadth and depth of these changes herald the transformation of entire systems of production, management, and governance."

Since the first congress in 2010, we have created various networking collaboration opportunities and pitching innovation with the biggest organisations and agencies. As Malaysia progresses to become a technological and innovation centre for the oil and gas industry, there's a need to continuously build meaningful partnerships. For ESTCON 2018, we will witness a number of collaboration initiatives being established.

On that note, I would like to welcome my colleagues from the Malaysian Government Linked Universities (GLU) namely Professor Dato' Ir Dr Kamal Nasharuddin Mustapha, the Vice Chancellor of UNITEN, Professor Dato' Dr Ahmad Rafi Mohamed Eshaq, the President of MMU and Professor Datuk Dr Mazliham Mohd Suud from UniKL. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Professor Dr Akhmaloka, the Chairman of Indonesian Aliansi Perguruan Tinggi Swasta Berbasis Badan Usaha Milik Negara or APERTI BUMN, and the representatives from the five learning institutions under the Alliance.

Later today, the four Malaysian GLUs and the five Indonesian APERTI BUMN will seal a Memorandum of Understanding to forge stronger ties between the Government-Linked Institutions of neighbouring countries. There are so many common areas that the institutions could work on collaboratively, and this collaboration is our first step to strengthen the positions of Government-Linked Institutions within the ASEAN region and hopefully, later, at the global stage.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the Chairman of the Organising Committee, allow me to again express my sincere gratitude to Ministry of Education, (MOE), Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC), Academy of Sciences Malaysia, SIRIM Berhad and Yayasan Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (Yayasan UTP) for their support in making ESTCON 2018 a reality.

I would also like to thank our main sponsor - PETRONAS, Techsource, Dialog and Java Offshore as well as others such as Transwater, MIMOS, Dixon FA Engineering, Halliburton, Neu Dimension Sdn Bhd, Schlumberger, OPITO and Creative Minds for their invaluable support. I also like to thank our media partners, New Straits Times Press (NSTP), Astro Awani and Bernama.

My heartiest appreciation to the ESTCON 2018 organising committee for their commitment and dedication in ensuring the success of this event.

By building bridges between researchers, academia, and industry and linking innovative minds across disciplines, we hope that ESTCON 2018 will provide an inspiring and innovative platform to exchange and develop knowledge which will lead to enduring collaborations.

I once again would like to thank Yang Berhormat Teo Nie Ching and all distinguished speakers. I wish all participants a fruitful and informative congress.

Thank you.