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**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY**

**H.E TUN DATO’ SERI UTAMA AHMAD FUZI BIN HAJI ABDUL RAZAK**

**YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI OF THE STATE OF PENANG**

**FOR**

**2024 WORLD GREEN & SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT**

**“ACCELERATING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT : GREEN TRANSITION, RENEWABLE ENERGY, AND THE 4PS OF PROGRESS”**

**25th JUNE 2024 (TUESDAY) 8.30 AM**

**JEN PENANG GEORGE TOWN BY SHANGRI-LA, PENANG**

*Bismillahirahmanirahim*

**YBhg. Tan Sri Michael Yeoh**

President, KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific,

**Excellencies**,

**Mr Edey Suresh**

Board Director at Large, UN Global Compact Network Malaysia & Brunei,

**Mr Albert Oung**

President, World Green Organisation,

**Dr. Fan Gang**

President, China Development Institute,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

*Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh* and a very good morning.

1. I would like to commend the KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific, World Digital Chamber, World Green Organisation, the ASEAN Economic Club, and the UN Global Compact Network Malaysia and Brunei for jointly organising this 2024 World Green and Sustainability Summit in Penang.

2. This Summit marks another pivotal moment in our collective journey towards a more sustainable and prosperous future.

3. The vision before us is clear: to continue to accelerate the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) globally.

4. Fostering innovation, embracing renewable energy, championing environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards are indeed crucial in paving the way for a more sustainable tomorrow.

5. This Summit is indeed a timely call to action for each of us to uphold and advance the 4Ps: Planet, People, Prosperity, and Partnership.

6. In this regard I applaud the eloquent remarks made by YAB Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, during the official launch of Asia’s first ESG Positive Impact Consortium recently. His emphasis on Malaysia's progressive stance towards decarbonization and sustainability, anchored in the MADANI ethos, reflects our nation's commitment to a sustainable future.

Ladies and gentlemen,

7. The need to transition to green practices globally for sustainability has never been more urgent. Shifting to renewable energy sources like solar and wind power is vital to combat climate change and promote economic growth. This shift not only benefits the environment but also creates jobs, fosters innovation, and ensures energy security.

8. Our commitment to sustainability is both a moral obligation to protect our planet and a strategic move for our future. Implementing sustainable practices across industries is key to minimising our ecological footprint and preserving the world for future generations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

9. Let me now focus on Penang.

10. The Penang Green Agenda 2030 embodies this global vision, mapping a path for Penang to become a green, smart State by 2030, improving life for all residents. It weaves sustainable development goals into governance, promotes inclusivity, and leverages public-private partnerships and community involvement for effective execution.

11. This comprehensive framework not only guides us towards environmental stewardship but also enhances our societal resilience and prosperity. The State government is committed to implementing this agenda through a comprehensive strategy that promotes sustainable growth while safeguarding our natural resources.

12. Our track record in Penang speaks for itself. Our transition to green practices is well underway. Since 2019, Penang has increased the capacity of renewable energy by more than four folds with solar power accounting for a significant portion. The Penang Industrial zones’ renewable energy adoption rate within the industrial zones in Penang is now at an average of 20% - 30% of the overall capacity. This shift has not only reduced our carbon footprint but has also created over 3,500 jobs in the renewable energy sector.

13. In addition, the Penang Waste Segregation at Source (WSAS) policy has been a resounding success, with recycling rates increasing by 53%. These figures demonstrate our dedication to sustainable waste management and our ability to make a tangible impact.

14. Penang also took advantage of Earth Day on 22 April this year when the Yayasan Amal TYT, in collaboration with the State government and Agencies concerned, supported by the private sector, achieved a milestone success by planting one million two hundred seventy three thousand and three hundred seventy three (1,273,373) trees in one day in the State, creating a Malaysia Book of Record. The trees planted are targeted to absorb 50,487 tons of CO2e per year in 5 years when matured.

Ladies and gentlemen,

15. In our journey towards sustainability, it is important that we rethink our relationship with materials and resources. Embracing the circular economy offers a transformative approach to waste management, emphasising the importance of recycling and up-cycling such as what Penang is doing with the **Penang Zero Waste Campaign**.

16. Such an approach, especially at the national and regional level, is paramount to fostering sustainable development and mitigating environmental degradation. By prioritising resource efficiency, promoting closed-loop systems, and encouraging collaboration among stakeholders, we can minimise waste and maximise the value of resources.

17. In this regard I am glad to note the Penang State Government’s initiative in launching a Green Industry Project titled Circular Economy and Industry Programme (CEIP) in 2022. This project provided a useful Platform for Partnerships and Capacity Development with the aim of reducing environmental impacts of production and consumption from the E&E sector while improving its productivity, environmental performance and competitiveness.

18. The project also entails establishing a platform for three major components namely, collaboration, setting up partnership programmes and developing supporting programmes, all of which are supported by green technology, green finance and expert platform. Several training programmes on capacity building have been held with the SMEs as the main target to empower and guide them to improve their ESG commitment. I believe this initiative will transform Penang into a Green Industrial Hub.

19. The State government has also successfully mobilised green investments via the **Penang Green Investment Zone. This is** essential for advancing global sustainable development as the alignment of investment strategies has unlocked new growth avenues while safeguarding the planet.

Ladies and gentlemen,

20. In our quest for sustainability, we cannot overlook the critical role of urban development and transportation. Building green cities and promoting smart mobility are critical components of sustainable urban development. Some examples that have come into force are the **Green Building Index (GBI) certification program,** the **Penang Green Office Project** to adopt sustainable practices, and the **Penang Green Connect**, which links parks, green buildings, and renewable energy sites.

21. I am also glad to note that Penang’s green building technologies and sustainable architecture have led to a 26% reduction in energy consumption in new buildings. In this regard, I applaud efforts made by the State government to expand public transport networks such as the MRT and LRT systems to help reduce our carbon footprint and traffic congestion.

22. The State government is also fully aware of the importance of a thorough baseline of greenhouse gas emissions in Penang. Towards this end it has started the Carbon Inventory Framework project. The project will develop baseline information of carbon emission in Penang for the transportation sector and provide a tool to monitor current emission trends as well as a scientific estimation of future emission. This effort will also provide the necessary information for decision makers to make an informed decision for the future.

23. With the aim of promoting Penang as a green and sustainable tourist destination, the Penang2030 Vision has also provided a solid platform for facilitating green transformation of hotels in Penang. Theme D4 of the Vision–“Implement Climate Change Adaptations Plans” specifically requires that 80% of all hotels in Penang adopt green practices by 2030.

24. As we journey towards a sustainable future, let us remind ourselves and remain committed to the principles of Planet, People, Prosperity, and Partnership;

1. For Planet, we must prioritise conservation and sustainable resource management to mitigate climate change and protect ecosystems;
2. For People, we must ensure social equity and inclusivity, addressing poverty and inequality to build resilient communities;
3. For Prosperity, we should adopt inclusive and sustainable economic models, investing in green technologies to drive growth and innovation and;
4. For Partnership we should collaborate across borders and sectors and develop comprehensive solutions to global challenges to build a sustainable future for all.

Ladies and gentlemen,

25. I believe it is imperative for us to transition to renewable energy from our dependence on fossil fuels to avoid precipitating a climate crisis. We now stand at a crossroads, deliberating between adopting hydrogen, electricity, and other emerging options. It's essential to make strategic decisions with the well-being of our planet as our guiding principle. Penang in this regard has taken the right decision by moving towards harnessing the power of the sun, wind, and water and with our solar energy projects like the **Penang Solar Park**, setting new benchmarks in renewable energy production.

26. The transition to renewable energy isn't just about technology; it's also about transforming our socio-economic landscape, requiring collaboration across all sectors of society. Whilst the challenges may be formidable, it also presents us with an opportunity to innovate and create new industries that will drive our economy forward.

27. Equally important is educating our children about green practises, both in schools and at home. By instilling these values early on, we ensure the next generation carries these sustainable practices into their future workplaces.

Comprehensive education on sustainability will also empower our children to make environmentally conscious decisions, fostering a culture of responsibility for our planet.

Ladies and gentlemen,

28. I must say in all honesty that, in my 3 years of being Governor in Penang, I still see many in the State not fully appreciating the devastating effects of climate change as to play their part in going green. This can be as simple as having potted plants in their condominium to assure them and their children fresh air throughout the day whilst enhancing the environment of their living room. In the longer term, it should be incumbent upon all of us to help overcome problems created by mankind’s greed for development at the expense of mother nature.

29. In conclusion, let me stress that, as we navigate this critical juncture, it is important to remind ourselves, that the choices we make today will ultimately shape the world we leave for future generations. Let us therefore work together as we move forward, to contribute positively for the common purpose of building a greener, more sustainable and more prosperous Malaysia.

30. I wish all participants a successful and productive Summit.

31. With these words, I have great pleasure in officially opening the 2nd World Green & Sustainability Summit 2024.

Thank you and

*Wabillahitaufik Walhidayah*

*Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.*