



**SPEECH BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY TUN DATO' SERI UTAMA  
AHMAD FUZI BIN HAJI ABDUL RAZAK  
YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI PULAU PINANG**

**MALAYSIA 4IR CONSORTIUM LAUNCHING  
12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022 (MONDAY) 11:30AM  
AT USAINS, BUKIT JAMBUL**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

**YB Dato' Haji Abdul Halim bin Haji Hussain**

Penang State EXCO for Trade, Industry and Entrepreneur Development

**YB Khalid Mehtab bin Mohd Ishaq**

Chairman,

Lembaga Kemajuan Wilayah Pulau Pinang (PERDA)

**YBhg. Prof. Dato' Sr. Dr. Omar Osman**

Chairman,

Malaysia 4th Industrial Revolution Consortium (My4IRC)

**YBhg. Dato' Seri Haji Abdul Rafique bin Abdul Karim**

President,

Majlis Dato'- Dato' Negeri Pulau Pinang

**YBhg. Dato' P'ng Soo Hong**

Vice President,

Manufacturing Operations and Managing Director,

First Solar Malaysia Sdn Bhd

(Chairman,

Kedah Industrial Skills & Management Development Centre (KISMEC))

**Mr Farid Wajidi Mat Yusoff**

Deputy Chairman,

Malaysia 4th Industrial Revolution

(Group Managing Director USAINS Holding Sdn Bhd)

**Mr Mohd Yusuri Yusof**

Executive Director,

Kedah Industrial Skills & Management Development Centre (KISMEC)

(Founding Member of My4IRC)

**Professor Zita Mohd Fahmi**

Vice Chancellor,

Quest International University

(Founding Member of My4IRC)

Distinguished Guests,

Members of the My4IRC,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and Salam Sejahtera.

1. Alhamdulillah praise be to Allah SWT, the Lord of the Creator of Nature, the Most Loving and Most Blessed. Blessings and Greetings to the Noble Rasulullah SAW, also to his families, and friends.

2. I wish to thank the organizer for inviting me to speak and to officially launch the Malaysia 4th Industrial Revolution Consortium (My4IRC) and the Industry 4.0 Leadership, Skills and Strategy, Technical Forums and Sessions this afternoon.

3. I am honoured to be part of this two-day event, that is organised by a Consortium dedicated to actively promoting the IR4.0 in this country, particularly in the State of Penang.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) has provided us with a huge opportunity to harness the power of science and knowledge, as the most important drivers for development, progress and prosperity now, and in the foreseeable future. Penang, like other States in Malaysia, needs to take advantage of this window of transformational opportunity to uplift its people, businesses and government.

5. The global economy is being fundamentally transformed as we speak. Having said that, the IR4.0 is already upon us. Looking at our surroundings, technology advancement in our life today has shaped the way we work, interact, communicate and think. Emerging technologies are indeed changing the way the world operates. And terms such as automation, robotics, data analytics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), block chain, fintech, machine to machine (M2M) and the Internet of Things (IoT), are fast becoming household words familiar to all in this digital age.

6. AI for example, has enabled services such as chatbots to answer queries in eCommerce platforms. It has also allowed smartphones to perform highly sophisticated functions such as creation of augmented reality, speech recognition and navigation. IoT on the other hand, is being used to improve road safety as it enables quick information exchange for relevant authorities to act more efficiently such as reducing road fatalities and carbon emissions, whilst 3D printing is being used widely in engineering, aviation, healthcare, architecture and even the fashion industry.

Ladies and Gentleman,

7. The Malaysian economy saw a major realignment as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, with the emergence of new business models and the reshaping of production patterns as well as consumption preferences. A fine example of IR4.0 in action is the use of MySejahtera as one of the main platforms in disseminating information, by keeping our profile and health status updated.

8. Looking at the bigger picture, the state of the manufacturing industry has been a cause for concern in the last few years. Malaysia is moving away from being an attractive investment destination for low-cost labour manufacturing activities. We are now being challenged by lower cost competitors from emerging economies like Vietnam and Indonesia as well as the rapidly changing technologies. In the case of Penang it has been reported that shortage of skilled personnel like mechanical engineers, project engineers, IT software engineers and science lab technicians is becoming a more serious impediment to the State's ability to absorb a larger flow of investments into the State. As such, it is imperative for Malaysia and Penang in particular, to transform itself at an accelerated pace and embrace IR 4.0 as a critical cornerstone to propel and sustain its future manufacturing competitiveness.

9. In this regard, I am happy to see Penang striving to improve the manufacturing and the whole business processes by encouraging the establishment of smart and strategic public-private partnerships. To drive this, we have made the transition to IR4.0 as part of the Penang2030 Vision. The aim is to train 1,000 Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in capacity building programmes to transition to IR4.0.

10. To achieve this, the State government has been working together with agencies such as the Malaysia Productivity Corporation and the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA). As of September 2022, 416 SMEs in Penang have participated in various capacity building programmes. It is hoped that some 1,000 SMEs would be able to do so by the year 2030. We believe that such programmes will bring positive outcomes to new business opportunities and value creation, efficiency and productivity gains, new jobs creation, improved quality of life and environmental quality.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. The Malaysia 4IR Consortium, formed under the leadership of nine (9) organisations of quadruple helix concept, highlights the importance of collaboration in the era of IR4.0. The non-profit Consortium or MY4IRC objectives of working together with the industries, agencies, higher education and training institutions, as well as communities shows a pressing need of self-driven efforts to achieve a common aim to reflect the soft side of the highly technical IR4.0.



12. In this regard, I call upon all the relevant agencies, industries, universities including their nodes and communities to work together for the further advancement of the IR4.0. The IR4.0 should be made inclusive, not only to revolutionise the economic sector, but more importantly, to make it affordable to the community at large. Indeed, this is one major aspect that needs to be given priority to ensure that no one particular community is left behind as the IR4.0 progresses.

13. As we look forward, I hope the industrial sector partners can work with the Consortium to develop talents, skills and competence to employees, vendors and main production sectors as well as touching on the needs of the communities around the workplace. The Consortium is certainly well placed to adopt the governmental framework of Industry 4.0 (Industry4WRD) and become a private accreditation organization, to propel IR4.0 work in talent management and skills development, using the concept of co-collaboration.

Ladies and gentlemen,

14. In conclusion, let me congratulate the Malaysia 4IR Consortium for taking the initiative to organise this two-day event in Penang with such wide participation of prominent individuals and experts. I wish all role players and participants a fruitful and productive outcome. I hope this will be a good beginning to the holding of more similar events by the Consortium to cover more issues of interest in this beautiful State of Penang. I believe that Penang is well positioned to be the centre for the Consortium to conduct its activities and programmes in the years ahead and for which I would only be too happy to extend my full support.

With that, and with Bismillahhirramanirrahim, it gives me great pleasure to officially launch the Malaysia 4IR Consortium and the Industry 4.0 Leadership, Skills and Strategy, Technical Forums and Sessions.

Thank you.

Wabillahitaufik Walhidayah

Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.