

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**  
**YB DATO' SRI PETER CHIN FAH KUI**  
**MINISTER OF ENERGY, GREEN TECHNOLOGY AND WATER**  
**SAVE OUR PLANET – MALAYSIA 2010 CONFERENCE**  
**TUESDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2010, 1.00 PM**  
**LEVEL 1, SAPPHIRE ROOM**  
**THE MANDARIN ORIENTAL,**  
**KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA**

**Yang Berusaha Miss Loo Took Gee,**  
Secretary General,  
Ministry Of Energy, Green Technology & Water

**YB Tan Sri Rafidah Binti Abd. Aziz,**  
Member of Parliament,  
Advisor & Patron, the Malaysia-Europe Forum (MEF)

**H.E. Vincent Piket**  
Ambassador & Head of Delegation,  
The Delegation of the European Union to Malaysia

**Mr. Swarup Roy**  
Founder & Chief Executive Officer, ASEAN AFFAIRS

Distinguished Speakers and Panelist,

Representatives from the Malaysia Europe Forum,

Representatives from ASEAN Affairs,

Distinguished Guests,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon and Salam 1 Malaysia.

1. First and foremost, allow me to extend my congratulations to the organizers of today's conference – ASEAN Affairs and the Malaysia-Europe Forum – for their commitment and diligence in putting together this very important event. This series of conference, collectively known as 'Save Our Planet' has built a strong reputation in such a short time.

2. As you well know, the 2009 Copenhagen Summit concluded on an anticlimactic note. The Copenhagen Accord is not a binding agreement or treaty but a mere political commitment by parties. What is important now is for all Parties to prepare for COP 16, scheduled at the end of this year in Cancun, Mexico. I believe it is the hope of all member countries to see a legally-binding

commitment, with clear obligations, especially by the developed countries for carbon emissions reduction.

3. Climate change and global warming are issues that affect mankind. Thus, we must take full responsibility in mitigating the consequences. We need concrete and definitive actions, one of which is this series of "Save Our Planet Conferences". I am glad to see so many senior members of the government, the academia and diplomatic community, as well as NGOs here today. Your presence gives me a measure of hope that we can reach definitive decisions and conclusions to address the issue of climate change.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

4. The Malaysian government is cognizant of the effects of global warming and is committed to combating this global phenomena. Our commitment was made known to the global community when in December 2009, our Prime Minister, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak pledged at the 15<sup>th</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 15) in Copenhagen that Malaysia will reduce its carbon dioxide emissions intensity to the GDP to 40 per cent by the year 2020, as compared to 2005 levels, conditional upon transfer of technology and finance from developed nations.

5. I am a little uneasy to note that greenhouse gas emissions in Malaysia has increased substantially by 13% and 32% per GDP and per capita respectively between 1994 and 2000. Our total greenhouse gas emissions increased by 55% in 2000 when compared with the 1994 levels. Malaysia's emission of CO<sub>2</sub> per capita which is about 7.1 tonne/capita was higher than the average for Asia Pacific of 2.6 tonne/capita based on the National Communications Report submitted by each country to the UNFCCC.

6. I believe it is common knowledge that carbon dioxide emissions is largely responsible for our global warming problems. Malaysia has identified 5 sectors which are the main contributors i.e. energy, industrial processes, agriculture, land use and land use change/forestry and waste. The energy sector however has been identified as the largest contributor.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

7. In their 2007 Climate Change Synthesis Report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC, has concluded that the energy sector contributed 25.9% towards global anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Overall, fossil fuel use contributed 56.6% towards global anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. From these statistics, it can be concluded that reducing GHG emission from the energy sector should be the main priority of every nation.

8. Presently, my Ministry is working closely with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to ensure that Malaysia's pledge at Copenhagen is met especially from the energy sector. My ministry is currently developing the National Energy Efficiency Masterplan (NEEMP) to ensure efficient use of energy

in the country. Apart from that, I am proud to inform you that the government has approved the implementation of the Renewable Energy Policy and Action Plan starting from the 10<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan. With both plans in place, I anticipate the results will contribute significantly towards the reduction of GHG emissions in Malaysia.

9. Green technology will be the mainstay of the government agenda and become one of the new drivers of the country's economy. The Renewable Energy Policy and Action Plan is one of the initial efforts to move forward the initiatives. Apart from contributing towards the reduction of our GHG, RE will be a new source of economic growth. Although a shift away from reliance on heavy resource consumptive industries for economic growth is essential, the nation's resources could be used in creative and sustainable ways to build new, diverse, high value, high tech industries and services such as photovoltaic and biomass technologies. These technologies will be able to drive high value added growth with spillover effects. This means more business and job opportunities will be created for the people, which will contribute significantly towards our Gross National Income (GNI).

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

10. Overall, Malaysia maintains a varied mix of energy sources. The conventional sources of oil, coal and natural gas are used alongside renewable sources such as biomass, solar and hydropower. Despite this diversification exercise, we remain dependant on non-renewable energy sources. Renewable sources such as biomass and solar offer solutions, but these resources face constraints in providing reliable supply of electricity.

11. In view of the constraints of RE as well as the need to further diversify our energy mix to ensure security of supply, we believe that nuclear power should be considered as an option to meet Malaysia's electricity demand post 2020. As a power source, nuclear power is a clean source of energy which emits virtually no greenhouse gases. Currently, we are too dependent on fossil fuels, with 90% of our plants being fuelled by gas and coal. We import 100% of our coal requirement while our indigenous gas reserves are depleting. With coal prices fluctuating and the plan for gas to be priced at market levels come 2015, we have to look at other resource options to fuel our demand especially to meet the base-load requirements.

12. One of the questions often posed to me is, why do we have to consider the nuclear option when we have renewable energy (RE) resources in abundance in Malaysia. My answer is, we have never said that nuclear is the answer to all our electricity needs but time and again, I have stressed the importance of having a balanced power generation mix to ensure reliability and security of supply to the people.

13. It is important to remember that different energy sources have different roles to play in the power generation system. We must bear in mind that the cost

of generation from RE is still high compared to conventional energy such as gas and coal. It has also been shown in countries using nuclear energy, that the levelised cost of power generation from nuclear energy is lower than that of RE. While RE has its limitations in providing reliable electricity supply, nuclear energy is ideal in providing large amounts of electricity which can run continuously in a consistent and reliable manner. Although we recognize that RE should be part of our energy mix, we have to look at nuclear as an option to provide reliable and cost-effective electricity supply to the consumers.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

14. During the launch of the Tenth Malaysia Plan on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2010, the Right Honorable Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak showed the strong support and commitment from the Government by including the topic of nuclear energy among his deliberations. Our biggest challenge in considering the nuclear energy option is to win over the public in accepting the construction of nuclear power plants in this country. We have conducted several awareness programs but we need to conduct more in future.

15. Embarking on a nuclear power journey is not an easy task. We have to comply with multiple technical and non-technical pre-requisites as well as subject ourselves to rigorous international regulatory and governance oversight. We have a high safety benchmark to comply with as a nuclear energy candidate country. Without the support of our people, we will not be able to tread along the nuclear energy path. Therefore, we must pursue this peaceful and civilian nuclear energy track together. I sincerely hope that the Malaysia-Europe Forum will be one of the channels where Malaysia can benefit through engagement with the experts in nuclear field from European countries to assist us in developing a nuclear power program. We must make sure that what we do today does not jeopardize the future of the generations to come. We owe it to them to ensure that our energy sector is sustainable so that they would be able to live in a more sustainable environment.

16. Before I conclude, again I would like to congratulate ASEAN Affairs and the Malaysia-Europe Forum for organizing this conference. I also would like to thank the organizers for inviting me to address this conference today and I hope this conference will be a successful and fruitful event.

Thank you.