



KEYNOTE SPEECH

**YANG BERTHORMAT DATO SERI SETIA
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MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT**

GUEST OF HONOUR

**THE 39th CONFERENCE OF ASEAN
FEDERATION OF ENGINEERING
ORGANISATIONS (CAFEO)**

**30 NOVEMBER 2021
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

YM Ir. Tuan Haji Mohd Zin Bin Haji Mohd Salleh

President of the Pertubuhan Ukur, Jurutera dan Arkitek, Brunei Darussalam (PUJA) and Chairman of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations (AFEEO) 2021,

Your Excellencies, Presidents and Heads of all the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations, Distinguished Guests, Distinguished Key Note Speakers, Respected Participants of CAFEO-39, Fellow Engineers, Ladies and Gentleman.

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

and a very Good Morning to all of you.

1. First of all, allow me to welcome you all to the “**Virtual 39th Conference of ASEAN Federation on Engineering Organizations (CAFEO)**”. It gives me a great pleasure to officiate the event today, and to address fellow engineers from all around ASEAN. Since, Brunei Darussalam as Chair of ASEAN 2021 this year, is very honored to host the 39th CAFEO this year.

2. For almost four (4) decades, the CAFEO has continued to be an instrumental platform for engineering professionals across ASEAN, not only to deepen friendships, boost cooperation and understanding, and exchange valuable experiences and best practices, but also promoting the roles of Women Engineers (WEAFEO) and Young Engineers (YEAFO). And most importantly, CAFEO has always steered our focus to areas that is of the most concern to the region, with the aim to explore new engineering solutions and opportunities.
3. This year's theme on "**Engineering and Climate Change**" could not come at a better time. The year 2021 is seen as the "turning point" for tackling one of the greatest environmental challenges of our time – climate change. The world is currently in a state of climate and environmental emergency.
4. The best available science was released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s *First Part of the 6th Assessment Report*, telling us that the world has reached a warming of 1.1 degrees Celsius, and will likely to reach the 1.5 degrees threshold as early as 2030. Beyond this point, the impacts on our sea level and weather patterns will be irreversible.
5. At this year's United Nations Conference on Climate Change or COP 26, the world responded and we saw climate ambitions being levelled up, by major global economies' pledges on carbon neutrality, strengthening forests preservation and reversing deforestation, as well as phasing out coal.

6. Climate change is a major concern to us, ASEAN, as Southeast Asia is one of the most at-risk regions in the world to the impacts of climate change. This was stated in the "*ASEAN State of Climate Change Report*" released last month. The Report further highlighted that the region is highly vulnerable to sea level rise and coastal inundation, due to large populations and economic assets in coastal areas.
7. As we know, effects of climate change are many, which include; increased infectious diseases, heat waves, reduced crop yields, flooding, extinctions of marine life due to ocean acidification, and sea levels rises with the potential to place millions of people and several megacities underwater. In addition to direct consequences, resulting mass migration events and political instability are likely to cause extensive additional human suffering.
8. Although projected climate change impacts vary considerably from country to country within ASEAN, the region will generally face significant impacts both to its built environment and economy.
9. The ASEAN region is predicted to be the fourth largest economy in the world by 2030. Almost 70 percent of ASEAN's greenhouse gas emissions is contributed by the energy sector, followed by manufacturing industries accounting to about 20 percent. These figures will grow significantly in correlation with the dynamic economic growth, by 2030 all through 2050. However, the built environment has a major role to play in global stewardship; infrastructure is currently responsible for 50 percent of humanity's greenhouse gas emissions.

10. Nevertheless, we must recognize that all ASEAN Member States have communicated its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), with a few recently indicating commitment towards net zero. Since ASEAN has a higher stake in the fight against climate change, compared to other regions, it is therefore important for the region to accelerate its responses on both climate mitigation and adaptation measures.
11. As ASEAN Chair for 2021 this year, Brunei Darussalam had the honor to deliver the "*ASEAN Joint Statement to COP 26*" in Glasgow few weeks ago. The Joint Statement reaffirms the region's collective commitment on climate action, both to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow Engineers,

12. In driving the shift to a low carbon ASEAN, investments on infrastructure for decarbonization are required. At the same time, achieving a climate-resilient, ASEAN also requires investments on infrastructure to reduce climate change impacts such as sea level rise, flooding, landslides and forest fires. This is where engineers and professionals with engineering innovative from various sectors must play a part and conquer the practical solutions that are needed, in order to bring down the costs of climate action and implementation.

13. Climate change will remain a complex issue. We must therefore continue to drive innovation in engineering to ensure that climate risks – both mitigation and adaptation - are addressed with the most effective solution, with a sense of urgency, in the most material-effective and cost-effective designs.
14. With creative and innovative engineering, we could re-configure existing infrastructures to be more climate adaptative, and transform future infrastructures to climate-proof ready. We could also explore new engineering solutions for climate mitigation efforts such as carbon capture, utilization and storage, sustainable energy systems and renewable energy, to name a few. Infrastructure projects and designs that are set today will be “locked in” for a long-term, so it is crucial that we take the right steps now.
15. As ASEAN embarks on a low carbon transition, I call upon our ASEAN engineers and professionals to seize this new emerging low carbon or green growth opportunities, and keep building their skills, capacities and credentials, in order to provide effective engineering solutions to all the climate challenges that will continue to come the region’s way. For a foreseeable period of time, our engineers in ASEAN will continue to play a crucial role in endeavor to advance ASEAN as a low carbon and climate-resilient region.

16. For Brunei Darussalam, we have declared to reduce 20 percent of our total greenhouse emissions by 2030 through our NDCs, and we have expressed our intention to move towards net zero by 2050. This will not be an easy task for us, but it is necessary as our vulnerability to the impacts of climate change increases every year.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Fellow Engineers,

17. At this opportunity, I wish to congratulate this year's AFEO awards and Certificate recipients for distinguished honorary fellows and member, for the contribution towards engineering and to the community. I like to also express my appreciation to the 39th CAFEO Organizing Committee for all the hard work and effort in putting together this event. I hope this Conference, with many selections of key notes papers and technical papers presented, will provide aspiration and insight for all of us to rise to the challenge of climate change, as well as Engineering challenges.
18. Lastly, We, the professionals and engineers need to safeguard tomorrow through what we do today – every project matter and every individual matter – while tackling climate change, we also need to work together continuously to preserve our oceans, our forests and natural ecosystems.

19. On that note, and with the Kalimah,

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Serta bertawakal kepada Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala, Selawat dan Salam ke atas junjungan besar kita Nabi Muhammad Sallahu Alaihi Wassalam,

Allow me to declare open and officiate the **Virtual 39th Conference of ASEAN Federation on Engineering Organizations (CAFEO) 2021.**

Thank you.

Wabillahi Taufik Wal Hidayah

Wassalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh