



**STATEMENT BY THE HON. DATUK AB. AZIZ BIN KAPRAWI,  
DEPUTY TRANSPORT MINISTER OF MALAYSIA**

**PANEL I : ITC – GATEWAY TO PROMOTE CONNECTIVITY  
70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE (ITC)  
MINISTERIAL MEETING**

**21 FEBRUARY 2017**

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Mr. Chair,

Allow me to begin by thanking the distinguished panel for their insights on this pertinent subject of connectivity and the role of the ITC.

2. Connectivity, is undoubtedly central to trade, transport and travel and ultimately the well-being of the people. Connectivity is ever more important in today's fast moving world, bringing development to the most rural corners of the world while simultaneously servicing the most advanced economies.

3. To ensure continued economic growth and development, we must invest in developing better connectivity infrastructure. In the Malaysian context, the 11th Malaysia Plan (2016-2020) lays out initiatives for further developing the transport sector, including the construction of a seamless transportation system. Another pertinent element in the Plan is the strengthening the connectivity within rural and between rural-urban areas. One such example is the construction of the 620 km East Coast Rail Link (ECRL), connecting west and east coast of Peninsular Malaysia, and the 1,073 km Pan-Borneo Highway connecting Malaysian states of Sarawak and Sabah in the Borneo Island.

4. Malaysia has also embarked on several projects with its ASEAN neighbours through trade facilitation agreements that ensure effective transit transport systems for the region. These initiatives in turn complement the larger Asian transport network, including the Singapore-Kunming Rail Link and the Asian Highway Network, for better connectivity of South East Asian highways and roads. Being strategically located, Malaysia will also take advantage of the Maritime Silk Road and One Belt One Road Initiative to establish greater connectivity.

5. Additionally, we believe that an efficient, secure and sustainable integrated transport network between Asia and Europe can better facilitate the movement of goods and people. It can also enhance the attractiveness of both regions as major production, tourism and investment destinations, while bridging the development gaps.

6. In this context, it is beneficial for us to continue enhancing transportation infrastructure and regional intra-connectivity in order to drive sustainable and long-term growth of the Asia-Europe region. Malaysia recognizes the importance of establishing an institutional mechanism to support interregional transport connectivity between Asia and Europe and hopes that an interregional coordination committee on transport could be established.

Mr. Chair,

7. Malaysia recognizes road safety as another important element of modern transport systems. In line with the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, Malaysia's own Road Safety Plan 2014-2020 aims to address all road safety

related issues in the country, notably to reduce road fatalities by 50% by 2020.

8. In keeping with this commitment, Malaysia will host the Fifth Global Meeting of NGOs Advocating for Road Safety and Road Victims on 5 – 6 April 2017. The UN Envoy for Road Safety, Mr. Jean Todt has given his commitment to attend the Meeting. We are also organizing a Motorcycle Helmet Regional Workshop on 7 April 2017 in collaboration with the UNECE. I take this opportunity to invite you to Kuala Lumpur to join in this collective advocacy around the important issue of road safety.

Mr. Chair,

9. The ITC has made many landmark achievements in the area of inland transport over the last 70 years. Malaysia congratulates the Committee for these achievements.

10. The work of the ITC is an ongoing process and the role of the Committee is ever pertinent today. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals further emphasize the relevance of the Committee in helping countries make mobility and transport safer and more sustainable.

11. The ITC remains central to these efforts, by directly and indirectly providing a platform for further discussions on the sustainable, efficient and harmonized inland transport. To this end, Malaysia will continue to engage with the ITC as we work towards the common SDG vision of “leaving no one behind”.

Mr. Chair,

12. In looking at inland transport, we cannot but look at the maritime and air / aerospace transport communications. Malaysia has been organizing biannually the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition 2017 (LIMA). This year the LIMA Exhibition will be held from 21 to 25 March 2017. This exhibition will showcase an extensive range maritime and aerospace technology. I take this opportunity to invite you to this Exhibition.

Thank you.