

SPEECH

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SECRETARY GENERAL
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND
INNOVATION MALAYSIA**

AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF

**IAEA 18th POST GRADUATE EDUCATIONAL COURSE
ON RADIATION PROTECTION & SAFETY OF
RADIATION SOURCES ORIENTATION PROGRAMME**

BACC, BANGI

24th May 2024 (Friday)

Salutation

YBhg. Datuk Ts. Dr. Mohd Nor Azman bin Hassan
Deputy Secretary General (Technology Development)
Ministry Of Science Technology and Innovation Malaysia

YBrs. Dr. Rawi Mohamed bin Zin
Deputy Director General (R&D Program)
Malaysian Nuclear Agency

YBhg. Prof. Dr. Ismi Arif bin Ismail
Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic and International
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Top management of Nuklear Malaysia, AELB and Ministry of Health
Malaysia.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Esteemed Colleagues, and
Dear Participants,

Assalamualaikum dan Good Evening,

1. It gives me great pleasure to be here at this Opening Ceremony for **18th Post Graduate Educational Course on Radiation Protection & Safety of Radiation Sources**. I wish to take this opportunity to extend my warmest *Selamat Datang*, or welcome, to all **25 participants** (including 5 locals' participants) from **17 countries** to Malaysia. I would also like to congratulate all the participants of PGEC-18 for being selected to this highly sought after programme. I would also like to acknowledge the presence of ambassador and representatives from various embassies. Your participation in this event underscores the importance of international cooperation and the shared commitment to advancing the safe use of nuclear technologies. We are honored to have you here and look forward to your continued support and collaboration in our joint efforts.

2. On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, I would like to express our gratitude to the IAEA for providing Malaysia the opportunity to host this programme for the 18th time. This course, jointly organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Malaysian Nuclear Agency, represents another milestone in our continuous efforts to enhance radiation protection and safety standards across the Asia-Pacific region. I would also like to thank all collaborators for this year's PGEC program, including the Ministry of Health, Nuclear Malaysia, AELB, and UPM. Hosting this event in

Malaysia aligns perfectly with our focus on human capital development, particularly in advanced fields of science and technology, such as nuclear applications in medical, industrial, and agricultural technology. Building sustainable safety infrastructures requires individuals with the appropriate competencies, knowledge, and skills. This is why the IAEA works closely with regional partners like Malaysia, which hosts an officially designated IAEA regional training centre.

Ladies and gentlemen,

3. Education and training are pivotal in strengthening any country's radiation protection framework. By equipping professionals with current knowledge and best practices, we enhance our ability to manage and use radiation sources safely and effectively. This training program plays a crucial role in fostering a well-prepared workforce capable of addressing the challenges associated with nuclear technologies and their applications. Nuclear Malaysia has made significant strides as a recognized research institute, contributing to the global nuclear sector. Our collaboration with the IAEA in hosting this training course has enabled us to share knowledge and develop the skills of numerous professionals from around the world. Such efforts are vital for building sustainable safety infrastructures that are managed by highly skilled personnel. A number of Nuclear Malaysia's researchers have been appointed as international expert for technical mission in various parts of the world by the IAEA as well as being

invited by interested countries to run courses as well as technology transfers. Nuclear Malaysia has received fellows from various parts of the world to be trained or attached to the experts. Numerous technologies and technique generated from R&D have been transferred to the industries either through services provided or collaboration in commercialization of products. Many of these R&D products have also won merits and awards due to innovativeness and usefulness locally and internationally.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. As part of our commitment to advancing nuclear technology, Malaysia has developed the National Nuclear Technology Policy (Dasar Teknologi Nuklear Negara, DTNN) 2030 that has been launched on 20th September 2023. This policy aims to enhance the sustainable and peaceful use of nuclear technology across various sectors, including medicine, industry, agriculture, and environmental management. DTNN 2030 outlines strategic directions for nuclear technology development, emphasizing safety, security, and regulatory compliance. It seeks to build a robust nuclear technology ecosystem that supports socio-economic growth and aligns with global best practices. The policy also focuses on fostering innovation, developing skilled human capital, and promoting public acceptance and understanding of nuclear technology. Through DTNN, we aim to position Malaysia as a leading nation in the safe and effective application of nuclear technology for sustainable development.

5. Malaysia has a long-standing tradition of international collaboration in education and training programs. Our partnership with the IAEA and other member states has facilitated the exchange of knowledge and best practices, enhancing our collective capabilities in the safe use of nuclear technology. These collaborative efforts are not only beneficial to our respective countries but also contribute to global nuclear safety and security. Malaysia has been recognized by IAEA as Regional Training centre and also IAEA Collaborating Centres in the field of radiation processing, advanced non-destructive testing, and plant mutation breeding. Since year 2000, Malaysia has successfully trained 972 international participants around the world for various program. Hence, we look forward to continue sharing our expertise with other Member States.

Ladies and gentlemen,

6. Lastly, to our esteemed experts and lecturers, thank you for your commitment to sharing your knowledge and experience with our participants. Your contributions are invaluable and greatly appreciated.

To all the participants, I commend you for your dedication to advancing your knowledge and skills in radiation protection. Your commitment to this field is commendable, and I have no doubt that you will make significant contributions to the safety and well-being of

your respective countries. I encourage you to make the most of this opportunity, to engage actively in the sessions, to ask questions, and to challenge yourselves. The knowledge you gain here will be a powerful tool in your professional arsenal, empowering you to make informed decisions and take effective actions in your respective roles.

In closing, I wish you all a productive and enriching experience in this course. May you leave here with a deeper understanding of radiation protection, a stronger network of professional contacts, and a renewed commitment to ensuring the safe use of radiation technologies.

It is on this note that I now declare **18th POST GRADUATE EDUCATIONAL COURSE ON RADIATION PROTECTION & SAFETY OF RADIATION SOURCES PROGRAMME** officially opened, and wish to all the participants and lecturers the best in this programme.

Thank you.