

OPENING ADDRESS BY
THE HONORABLE
TAN SRI DATO' HJ. MUHYIDDIN BIN HJ. MOHD YASSIN
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CUM MINISTER OF EDUCATION MALAYSIA

DIGITAL EDUCATION SHOW ASIA 2015

Distinguished Guests, Delegates, Speakers and Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

1. Firstly, allow me to state my thanks to MDEC and Terrapinn Private Limited for working with the Ministry of Education to organize this event in Kuala Lumpur. As mentioned by Dato' Yasmin, this is third year that this regional event is being hosted in Malaysia, and I am pleased that our teachers, school leaders and policy-makers have the opportunity to attend this international level conference, right here in Kuala Lumpur.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. "Reimagining Education with Technology" is the theme chosen for today's conference showcasing digital education. This theme is inline with our mission to produce holistic students equipped with skills and knowledge for the 21st Century. We want to raise creative and

innovative thinkers. We want to nurture a nation of lifelong learners who are informed, effective problem solvers, ground breaking pioneers and visionary leaders who are masters of information, tools and technologies.

3. We have now completed our education blueprint with the launch of Malaysia Education Blueprint 2015-2025 (Higher Education) in April to continue further from where Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013-2015 (Pre-school to Post-Secondary) had paved the way. Technology features prominently in both blueprint. Signifying its strategic importance for education in Malaysia.
4. In the Pre-School to Post-Secondary Blueprint, Leveraging ICT to Scale Up Quality of Learning Across Malaysia is a shift specifically for ICT in education. In the Higher Education Blueprint, technology may not be mentioned specifically, but it is explicitly recognized as an enabler in two shifts; Shift 3 - Nation of Lifelong Learners and Shift 9 - Globalised Online Education.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. We at the Ministry believed in providing sound foundations when raising our students. It is the reason a major shift in the Pre-School to

Post-Secondary Blueprint specifically mentioned providing basic infrastructure for schools; and technology like internet connectivity and technology devices are considered basic infrastructure. We realised early in our journey the importance of providing basic technology infrastructure. To date, our 1BestariNet project has provided a minimum connectivity of 2 megabits per second to 99.7% of our schools. In some schools, this speed ranges between 4 to 10 megabits per second, and this is something we continue to enhance.

6. ICT or Digital Technologies as it more recently referred to, is always evolving. Some of the evolution stemmed directly in relation to its uses and views within education. I am pleased to note that Malaysia has been on the leading-edge of many of such developments. To this end, we are beginning to explore new and emerging technologies and models; such as games, augmented reality, virtual reality and such that are increasingly being used to help students learn better in schools as well as providing sound foundation in utilising technology in learning.
7. Utilising augmented and virtual reality technology, teachers and educators can provide visual, immersive and experiential context of learning. A teacher no longer needs pictures and videos to show what

a coliseum looks and feels like during the time of the Roman Empire. Virtual reality can place the students in the coliseum featuring that era. Augmented reality devices on the other hand can provide students with instant information overlay of the real world whenever it is required; with some devices even able to provide holographic overlay and multiple screens.

8. Children and even adults enjoys gaming. Utilised correctly, games can be used for teaching and learning. Through gamification, students learn by doing, as opposed to just being taught theoretically how to do it. And these games could even be used as simulation for career based training. Search online or even the app store on your smart devices right now and you can find games for teaching business fundamentals, or any other occupational fundamentals.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. We are just beginning our journey in an interconnected world, where we see devices, data and people all connected via technology. At school level, we already have in place a Virtual Learning Environment to facilitate teaching and learning inside and outside the classroom. As of May this year, more than 100,000 students in national schools are already heavily using this platform. We estimated further growth as

technology infrastructure and devices are made available to the schools. I urge our technology partners to come on board and assist us in accelerating its growth.

10. I have observed a growing movement to integrate advanced digital competencies into schools. A growing number of developed countries had already started to integrate coding or computing in their national curriculum. Coding has been found to be an effective means to help students understand how things work and strengthen logical thinking and problem skills.

11. So much so, it is seen as a technology-centric approach towards inculcating Higher Order Thinking Skills. I am pleased to inform you that we are looking into updating the national ICT curriculum to incorporate advanced digital literacy and computational thinking elements. I have been made to understand that this initiative will be piloted this year in partnership with MDEC.

12. In line with the Incheon Declaration at the World Education Forum last month, Malaysia is fully committed to ensuring that education is provided to everyone in a manner that is sustainable and equitable. While we attempt to provide equitable ICT access to our Special

Education students, we are always looking for new ideas and inspiration to further this important agenda. I understand there is a specific track in this conference to discuss this issue and I look forward to your views and ideas.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

13. All the activities I had touched upon earlier show how we are providing a solid foundation for our students as they move to continue their learning. The Malaysia Education Blueprint (Higher Education) aims to develop a Nation of Lifelong Learners. A nation where learning never stops; which meant learning no longer needs to be constrained to a formal classroom. With the broadband penetration at 67.1% last year, learning can be done at anytime and anywhere via the internet and technology.

14. Malaysia Massive Open Online Courses or Malaysia MOOCs was launched in September 2014 for all students in the Public Institution of Higher Learning. To date, 54,690 students have used MOOCs for their first year subject and we hope to increase that number by 30 percent in 2020.

15. This is part of the strategy for Malaysia to become a premier education hub utilising Globalised Online Learning platforms, which is another of the shifts mentioned in the Higher Education Blueprint. It would be able to provide an increase in access and equity as well as the quality of education in Malaysia. Part of its strategy includes strengthening content development and delivery and increase support for lifelong learning.

16. We have seen what profound impact technology had left on our lives. It has not just reimagine education, it had also reshaped our living world. Jobs like data scientists, social media managers, cyber securities specialists and even professional cyber gamers, were not heard of until recently. Emerging technologies will change the job landscape, and accordingly, the work values and skills that must be nurtured in our future generation. Our students must be willing to learn new things even after entering the job market.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

17. Let us use this event as a platform to share and unearth new possibilities to use digital technologies in empowering our students. Let this conference not just be a showcase of technologies but an

event where futures are forged from digital technologies being used in education. The future of our students.

18. I would like to commend the organisers, namely the Ministry of Education, MDEC and Terrapinn, for their effort in organising this annual event. I appreciate the hard work done by the organising committee as well as those who have contributed to make this event a success. I am confident that this event would be beneficial for the world of education today and in the future.
19. On that note, it is with great pleasure that I officially declare open the Digital Education Show Asia 2015.