



KEMENTERIAN KERJA RAYA

SPEECH

**YB DATO' SRI HAJI ABDUL RAHMAN BIN HAJI MOHAMAD
DEPUTY MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE MALAYSIA**

ASEAN TVET FRIENDLY MATCH 2025 – CLOSING CEREMONY

**DEWAN TUN DR. ISMAIL
WORLD TRADE CENTRE
KUALA LUMPUR**

26 JUNE 2025

SALUTATION

- I. YBhg. Dato' Seri Azman bin Ibrahim, the Secretary General, Ministry of Works Malaysia,
- II. YBhg. Dato' Zainal Alhakab Seman, the Deputy Secretary General (Management), Ministry of Works Malaysia,
- III. YBhg. Dato' Mohd Sakeri Bin Abdul Kadir, the Deputy Secretary General (Policy and Development), Ministry of Works Malaysia,
- IV. YBrs. Puan Zainora Zainal, Chief Executive, Construction Industry Development Board Malaysia (CIDB),
- V. YBrs. Puan Hamdiah binti Ismail, Undersecretary, Policy & International Division, Ministry of Works Malaysia,

Excellencies, distinguished guests, esteemed delegates, participants, and observers,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, and a very good evening to all.

1. It is with immense pride and heartfelt joy that I stand before you today at the closing of what has been a truly historic milestone—the inaugural **ASEAN TVET Friendly Match 2025**.
2. For four vibrant and inspiring days—from the **23rd to the 26th of June**—we have witnessed not only a remarkable display of

technical mastery, but also a profound celebration of **regional solidarity, cultural richness, and the boundless spirit of youth**. This event has been far more than a skills competition; it has been a **movement of minds and hearts**, united in a shared commitment to building a better, bolder ASEAN.

Skills: The Engine of Progress

1. At the heart of this Friendly Match lies a powerful truth: **Skills are the foundation of nations**. They are the tools with which we build bridges—literal and metaphorical—and shape sustainable, resilient, and future-ready societies.
2. From bricklaying to welding, from CAD design to digital construction, from air-conditioning to joinery—every skill showcased here reflects the **craftsmanship, innovation, and dedication** of our region's brightest young talents. And this event has given these talents the rare opportunity to benchmark themselves against the **WorldSkills Occupational Standards (WSOS)**, setting new benchmarks for technical excellence in our region.
3. You, our remarkable participants, have proven that excellence is not defined by where you come from, but by your will to learn, your courage to compete, and your determination to rise. You are no longer just learners. You are leaders of your craft.

Solidarity: ASEAN United by Action

1. This event stands as a shining beacon of what is possible when ASEAN moves **together in unity**. With participants, observers, coaches, and experts from **6 ASEAN nations and 6 special guests from the wider Asian region**, we have created a vibrant platform that reflects our collective ambition: **to grow together, learn together, and rise together**.
2. This is ASEAN at its best—not merely as a grouping of nations, but as a family connected by values, vision, and mutual respect.
3. Let me take this opportunity to express my **deepest appreciation** to the Ministry of Works (KKR), the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), and every single hand and heart behind this effort. Your meticulous planning and seamless execution have turned an idea into an inspiration. Malaysia, thank you for your warm hospitality and for setting a gold standard for what regional collaboration can achieve.

Sustainability: Building with Purpose, Building for the Future

1. As we look ahead, it is clear: **TVET is no longer an option; it is a necessity**. In the face of climate change, digital disruption, and evolving global demands, we must cultivate a workforce that is **agile, skilled, and socially conscious**.
2. This vision aligns perfectly with **Malaysia's MADANI Economy**—a framework that champions compassion, sustainability, innovation,

and inclusivity. TVET is the very engine that will power this transformation.

3. Through initiatives like this, we are laying the groundwork for **green skills**, sustainable construction, and human-centric technologies. You, the participants, are the future engineers of clean energy, the builders of smart cities, and the creators of resilient infrastructure.

Human Capital: Investing in the Architects of Tomorrow

1. Malaysia firmly believes that **people are our most valuable asset**. That's why we are committed not only to developing youth talent, but also to empowering the educators who guide them. Trainers, mentors, and instructors are the unsung heroes of the TVET ecosystem. Their reskilling and upskilling will remain a **strategic national priority**, in line with **IR 4.0 and beyond**.
2. Let us never forget: the quality of training begins with the quality of those who train.

Legacy: More Than a Match

1. To all participants: You have not only shown technical brilliance—you have made new friends, shared cultural experiences, and built memories that will last a lifetime. This is the true magic of the ASEAN TVET Friendly Match. It is not medals or rankings that define success—but **relationships, respect, and regional renewal**.

2. You return to your countries not just as skilled youth—but as **ambassadors of ASEAN’s shared future**. You carry with you stories, connections, and inspiration that will ripple across borders and generations.

Closing – Lighting the Way Forward

1. As we draw the curtain on this extraordinary chapter, I wish to thank every participant, trainer, volunteer, expert, judge, organizer, and supporter. Your dedication has planted seeds of excellence and unity that will blossom in the years to come.
2. Let this be just the beginning. Let the spirit of the ASEAN TVET Friendly Match 2025 continue to echo across institutions, industries, and nations—igniting a new era where **skills unite us, sustainability drives us, and solidarity strengthens us**.
3. May this ground-breaking initiative continue to evolve as a **catalyst for deeper integration**, more inclusive economies, and a more resilient, capable, and compassionate ASEAN.

Thank you, Terima Kasih, and I wish everyone a safe journey home.
Let the spirit of TVET continue to **inspire, uplift, and connect us all**.