



## **WELCOMING REMARKS**

### **INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR CONFERENCE (INC '97) A New Era in Nuclear Science and Technology - The Challenge of the 21st Century**

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First of all, let me on behalf of the Malaysian Nuclear Society (MNS), record our appreciation to The Honorable Minister of Science, Technology and the Environment of Malaysia, YB Datuk Law Hieng Ding, who is also the patron of this Conference, for gracing the opening of our Conference this morning. Your support, YB Datuk, goes a long way towards encouraging MNS to play a more active role towards achieving the objectives of creating a more scientifically-literate and scientifically-inclined society.

Ladies and gentlemen,

When the MNS last year thought of having this Conference, the idea was to have a look back and a look forward on nuclear science and technology in terms of its applications, penetration of the market place and end-users, further progress that could be made on peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, and the sharing of experiences. In terms of time, in looking back, it was 25 years ago that the only national nuclear research institute in Malaysia, MINT, was established; it was about a decade ago that a separate nuclear regulatory body, AELB, was set up - thus completing the infrastructure for the administration of nuclear science and technology in Malaysia; and only about 8 years ago that the Malaysian Nuclear Society (MNS) was formed. In looking forward, we are about two months away to the new year, and from that point it is two more years to the beginning of the next Century. Thus, we feel that the timing for this Conference is quite appropriate.

We are also fortunate that this idea is shared by three other organisations which are now the co-organizers of this Conference; MINT, UKM, and ANS; the latter of which MNS has a Memorandum of Co-operation which was signed in 1995.

Since nuclear science and technology covers such a broad areas, we have segmented this Conference to sequential sessions representing the generic areas in which this technology has important role to play. The Organising Committee received a good response that however much we tried to accommodate every papers for presentations, due to the limited time that we have for the Conference, some papers can only be assigned as poster papers. I would also like to add that all papers will be published in a proceeding of this Conference which shall be available before the end of this year.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Nuclear science and technology is one of the technologies that is known to many peoples, in the sense that many have heard of it. It is also one of the most misunderstood technology; not so much due to characteristics inherent to it but perhaps due to the incompleteness of the pictures of the technology that are available to the public. One of the aims of MNS is to correct this perception so as to facilitate acceptance of the technology, thus dispelling fears of it as well as attracting the interest of students and graduates to pursue a career in this area. In doing so, the role of the media is important. We have been fortunate in Malaysia, that news on nuclear related activities in the country, which mainly is associated with MINT, receive good coverage. More of this will certainly be welcomed.

In organising this Conference we have benefited from the tireless efforts of many hardworking and committed individuals, particularly those in the Organising Committee. We have also benefited from the sponsorships of several agencies, either in-kind or financial in nature. These include the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment itself, the co-organizers, and companies who have contributed in one way or another to make this Conference a success. To all of them I say thank you and we look forward to your continuing and increasing support.

As a concluding remark, I look forward to our next two days of being together and at the same time I wish everyone a successful Conference.

Thank you for your kind attention.