

INTRODUCTORY SPEECH

**YBHG. DATUK FADILAH BAHARIN
DIRECTOR GENERAL
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (MOSTI)**

**SYMPOSIUM ON TRENDS IN UNIVERSAL DESIGN
(STUD 2014)
IN CONJUNCTION WITH LAUNCHING OF MS 1184 UNIVERSAL
DESIGN AND ACCESSIBILITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT –
CODE OF PRACTICE**

1ST DECEMBER 2014

INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL

KUALA LUMPUR

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

**YB. Datuk Dr. Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah, Deputy Minister of
Science, Technology and Innovation**

**YBhg. Prof Dato' Dr. Md. Tahir Azhar, Deputy Rector (Academic &
Planning) of International Islamic University Malaysia,**

**YBhg. Prof Dato' Sri Ar Dr Asiah Abdul Rahim, Chairman of
STUD2014 and Director of KAED Universal Design Unit, Kulliyah
of Architecture and Environmental Design (KAED), IIUM**

Honorable Deans, Head of Departments and lecturers of IIUM

Respected presenters and participants,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh and good morning.

I would like to convey the sincerest apologies from my Director-General, YBhg. Datuk Fadilah Baharin for being unable to join us today as she is currently abroad. Allow me to read her speech on her behalf.

Welcome to the Symposium on Trends in Universal Design, Tourism Industry for the Aging Population. My heartiest thanks to the Deputy Minister of MOSTI for gracing us with his presence today despite his busy schedule.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This event is organized by KAED Universal Design Unit, IIUM and Standards Malaysia under our Smart Partnership programme. In addition to the Symposium, this morning we will witness the Official Launching of Malaysian Standards MS1184:2014 – Universal Design and Accessibility in the Built Environment – Code of Practice.

I would like to give my utmost appreciation to KAED Universal Design Unit (KUDU), IIUM for the fruitful collaboration and smart partnership with Standards Malaysia for the past 5 years. It is hoped that this beneficial relationship between IIUM and Standards Malaysia can continue to prosper in the future.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to provide a brief account of Standards Malaysia.

Standards Malaysia was established on 28 August, 1996 and is governed by the Standards of Malaysia Act 1996 (Act 549). It is an agency under the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) with the dual objectives of improving the quality of life of the people of Malaysia and achieving global competitiveness for Malaysian products and services.

Over the past 17 years, more than 6500 Malaysian Standards (MS) have been developed to meet the demands of 24 core industries as well as to offer pragmatic global solutions. In addition to being the national standards body, we are also the national accreditation body of Malaysia, where we provide credible accreditation services to laboratories, inspection & certification bodies for greater market access and global recognition for technical competence and quality assurance.

The Malaysian Standards MS 1184:2014 on Universal Design and Accessibility in the Built Environment: Code of Practice provides building users, architects, designers, engineers, builders, building owners and

managers, manufacturers, policy makers and legislators with requirements and recommendations to create a sustainable built environment which is accessible.

The purpose of this standard is to define how the built environment should be designed, constructed and managed to enable people to approach, enter, use, egress from and evacuate a building independently, in an equitable and dignified manner and to the greatest extent possible.

The intention of this standard is to meet the needs of the majority of people. This goal is achieved by agreement on minimum standards of provision which are generally accepted to accommodate the diversities of age, disabilities and of human condition.

The MS 1184:2014 combines both the MS 1184:2002 and MS 1331:2003 on Code of Practice for Access of Disabled Persons outside Buildings for the purpose of producing one comprehensive accessibility guideline for Persons with Disabilities. I would like to stress here that compliance to the MS 1184 requirements is mandatory under the Uniform Building by Law 1984 (Amendment 1991) By-Law 34(A) (2) in Malaysia.

Needless to say, a built environment that conforms to Universal Design will not only create a safe environment and convenience for Persons with Disabilities, but it will also allow them to be independent and have equal access to basic needs such as education and employment, as well as social and recreational needs. A tourism industry that provides accessibility for all can capitalize on the growing number of elderly tourists over the years, both local and foreign. The number of specialized services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly has been increasing in many countries, especially developed countries. It is high time that Malaysia 'gets on board' and take the leading position at least among ASEAN countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The smart partnership between Standards Malaysia and KUDU has started since 2009. There have been many activities done together over

the last 5 years, among which are Access Audit Workshops all over Malaysia including Sabah and Sarawak, the latest of which was with the Public Works Department or JKR (25-26 November 2014), 3 International Conferences on Universal Design in the Built Environment (ICUDE), and 6 Universal Design Product Competitions (UDPC).

The collaboration between Standards Malaysia and KUDU is further enhanced with the appointment of Prof Dato' Sri Dr Ar Asiah Abdul Rahim, Director of KUDU, as Chairman of the Working Committee on Accessibility for Disable Person, to review the earlier version of Malaysian Standards MS 1184:2002. The members of Working Group is comprised of representation from relevant stakeholders, namely from **SIRIM Berhad, CIDB, DBKL, Cheras Rehabilitation Hospital, Fire & Rescue Department Malaysia, Department of Social Welfare, Local Government Department, Public Works Department, Federal Town and Country Planning Department, Malaysian Association for the Blind, Malaysian Federation of the Deaf, Malaysian Associations of Disabled Persons, Islamic International University of Malaysia and also University of Malaya.**

After a huge amount of effort in numerous meetings over the past few years, the MS 1184:2014 was finally completed.

It is our hope that the MS 1184:2014 will be widely referred to and adopted by the building industry so as to ensure not just compliance to the Uniform Building By Law 1984 (Amendment 1991) By-Law 34(A)(2), but more importantly to alleviate the hardship faced particularly by Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly.

Finally, I would like to welcome everyone again to the Symposium on Trends in Universal Design, Tourism Industry for the Aging Population, and I wish everyone a very fruitful Symposium.

Thank you.