

**Remarks for Launch of Sustainable Cities IAP Malaysian Project in  
conjunction with Melaka Sustainable Cities Conference 2017**

**2-3 May 2017**

Honorable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen

I congratulate you on the launch of the Sustainable Cities IAP Malaysian Project.

As one of the most urbanized countries in Asia, Malaysia knows very well the challenges and opportunities of urban growth.

Today, cities are home to 74% of Malays and responsible for over 90% of national economic activity.

Rapid urbanization has created tremendous opportunities. At the same time, it has put an enormous strain on urban infrastructure and services.

Climate change, with rising sea levels, floods and storms, adds to the pressure.

To tackle the challenges, the Malaysian Government has demonstrated a continued commitment to sustainable urban development.

The Eleventh Malaysian Plan, the National Urbanization Policy and the State and Local Urban Planning Policies laid out a policy framework for Malaysia's sustainable urbanization.

Your commitment is not only a reason why Melaka was chosen to be in the GEF's Sustainable Cities flagship program, but also a source of great hope for all of us in the urban development arena.

The project in Melaka will demonstrate how integrated urban planning can lead to compact and connected cities and therefore reduce the needs for infrastructure investment and further GHG emissions.

With support from UNIDO, leading the implementation of the project, it will also showcase cutting-edge low-carbon technologies that can be greatly scaled up at the urban scale.

Honorable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am confident that in 5 to 10 years, Melaka will act as a national or global ambassador on how to do sustainable city planning right, with tangible benefits at both the local and regional levels.

Melaka is at the forefront of a global effort to transform the future of cities.

Thank you