

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



NIK NAZMI NIK AHMAD
MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE
CHANGE (NRECC)

ADDRESS AS GUEST OF HONOUR AT
'MADE IN MALAYSIA SHOWCASE'

HOSTED BY POLYMATERIA

5th OCTOBER 2023

5.30 PM

ROOM 302, LEVEL 3, KUALA LUMPUR CONVENTION CENTRE

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and a very good morning,

[Salutations printed separately]

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

1. Allow me to extend a very warm welcome to all the esteemed guests to the **"Made in Malaysia" Showcase** as well IGEM 2023.

2. It is an honour for me to address this distinguished assembly today. I thank you for your support and participation, and I do hope you took some time to visit the IGEM exhibition. And if you haven't had the chance to look around, do come back tomorrow as well because IGEM will go into a third day and there will be just as much to see then.

Ladies and gentlemen,

THE PLASTIC WASTE CHALLENGE

3. Plastic pollution is a global issue that requires a holistic approach from various parties as it not only has a long-term effect on the environment, but also poses a risk to the health of human beings as well as wildlife. Globally, 32% ends up in the natural environment as mismanaged waste. The majority of this ends up on land, which then makes its way into the marine environment.
4. Even when it is properly collected and disposed of, less than one-third of plastics waste is recycled. It is also estimated that 11 million tonnes of plastic waste are entering the ocean every year.

Ladies and gentlemen,

THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT

5. The government is currently actively engaged in addressing the plastic pollution issue comprehensively by taking concerted actions across every phase of the plastic value chain. At the upstream level, we are promoting alternatives and sustainable substances in plastic production.

6. Besides this, the government has implemented a **No Free Plastic Bag Campaign** through a **pollution charge**. This is an effort to ensure responsible practices towards minimal plastic waste generation.
7. The government is also prioritising the improvement of plastic recycling to reduce plastic waste. One of these efforts involves collaborating with **The Ocean Cleanup** to **implement interceptor technology**, which will help to increase collection for recycling, as well as to prevent plastic waste from leaking into the ocean. This effort is also in line with our **National Marine Litter Policy and Action Plan 2021 – 2030** and **Malaysia Plastic Sustainability Roadmap 2021 – 2030**.
8. Collectively, these efforts represent a comprehensive approach to tackle plastic pollution from its inception to its final disposal.

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

9. I am grateful to companies like **Polymateria** for innovating to the point where we can now transform and industry has the necessary range of alternatives available to enable us to move forward with our plans.
10. I urge you all to consider this and other innovative technologies to produce better plastics in Malaysia, for the benefit of citizens and the environment.
11. I also hope that we will be able to see more **“Made in Malaysia” green technology**. It is important, even as our country works to

address climate change and its related processes, that we also contribute to the advancements in science and technology needed to do so.

12. Indeed, through this, we will be able to move up the value chain economically and as a knowledge-based, innovation-driven nation. One is also hopeful that more Malaysians will embrace careers in these fields and indeed it would seem that many are. “Made in Malaysia” needs to be supported by Malaysians.

CONCLUSION

13. Finally, I thank Polymateria again for showcasing their innovation today and for convening us here for this important event. Innovators are welcome from all over the world and I know our industry will embrace the new technologies that allow us to tackle this environmental challenge.
14. I look forward to seeing a wide range of approaches come to fruition and have full confidence in industry’s innovation and ingenuity. I firmly believe that Malaysia can be a source of inspiration, showcasing how economic development and environmental protection are mutually reinforceable.
15. This is the core purpose of IGEM; to showcase world-leading innovations set to define the future of business and society. With that, I thank you for your commitment and look forward to working with all of you on our shared mission. I wish you all a most pleasant evening ahead.

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Thank you.