



SEBERANG PERAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

WELCOMING SPEECH

TECHNICAL VISITS

**BY THE DELEGATES OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE WORLD
URBAN FORUM (WUF9)**

**DATO' Sr HAJI ROZALI BIN HAJI MOHAMUD
PRESIDENT
SEBERANG PERAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

**KOTA AUR HOMESTAY
SEBERANG PERAI UTARA**

**10 FEBRUARY 2018 (SATURDAY)
11.00 AM**

Disediakan oleh Jabatan Korporat dan Perhubungan Antarabangsa

The Honorable Mr. Lim Guan Eng
Chief Minister of Penang

Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Farizan Bin Haji Darus
Penang State Secretary

Representative of
Federal Government of Town and Country Planning
(PLANMalaysia)

Representative of
Urban Wellbeing Centre of Excellence
(Urbanice Malaysia)

Distinguished Delegates

MPSP Councillors

Head Of Departments and MPSP officers

Media

Welcoming guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamualaikum and a very good afternoon.

It gives me a great pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to fellow delegates from the various countries all over the world as well as from within Malaysia. Thank you for taking time in this Technical Visits to Seberang Perai, Aspiring City of Tomorrow.

It is a great honour, Seberang Perai has been chosen for Technical Site visit with the theme URBAN HERITAGE. Thank You to the Penang State Government, Federal Department of Town and Country Planning (PLANMalaysia) and Urban Wellbeing Centre of Excellence (Urbanice Malaysia) for giving us a trust. Indeed It is a great privilege to host this session and we really hope that this visit will be well received by all 150 delegates.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Seberang Perai was formerly known as Province Wellesley located in the northern part of [Peninsular](#) Malaysia, which together with the island forms the Malaysian State of [Penang](#). Seberang Perai is divided into three (3) districts, namely, North Seberang Perai,

Central Seberang Perai and South Seberang Perai. It covers an area of 738 sq. km. and has a population of nearly 1 million people.

As a President / Mayor of the largest local authority in Malaysia, it is a big challenge to strike a balance development. However with the cooperation and good support through the People, Public, Private, Philanthropy, Philosopher and Planet Partnership, or 8Ps approach, we can do it!

Seberang Perai has undergone much urbanization and industrialization over the last decade. However, even with rapid growth in urbanization and industrialization, agriculture still remains the dominant land use in Seberang Perai, with over 50,000 hectares zoned as land for agricultural use, making up 54.4% of the land use in Seberang Perai.

Seberang Perai has great potential in eco-tourism industry. Greater emphasis will be given to the wet land conservation, education and eco tour programs and providing reserve facilities to name a few, such as board walk, bird hide and education board.

We intend to establish Natural Reserve in Seberang Perai to maintain major habitats and maximize native biodiversity particularly species of conservation importance. We would like to introduce active conservation so that Local Economic Development (LED) will flourish and local will get benefit. It is in our interest to see wetlands properly managed & being appreciated by all over the world. We want to bridge gaps & create synergy between environmental, economic, development, technologies & cultures.

We must work hard to ensure Teluk Air Tawar Natural Reserve be listed as a RAMSAR site in the near future. Beside that we want to make sure total wet land area in Seberang Perai 1,144.4 hectares(2,827.8 acres) continue to be conserved. These wet lands are situated in Teluk Air Tawar - Kuala Muda 468 ha (1,156 acres), wet land area in Air Hitam Dalam 460.6 ha (1,138 acres), wet land area in Kuala Jawi, Sungai Tengah, Sungai Kerian 215.8ha (533acres).

In order to promote ecotourism in this region, a biannual Seberang Perai International Conference on Ecotourism and Conservation (SPICEC) was initiated in 2016. This conference is aimed to promote

conservation efforts through ecotourism and bird watching. Seberang Perai has many potential sites to be explored and promoted as an ecotourism sites. This year we are organizing the second SPICEC on 8th & 9th October 2018. we cordially invite all delegates to participate as well as contribute papers on tourism and nature conservation. I guess, brochures have been distributed to all delegates.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Today we are gathered in a village, named Kota Aur located 20km from Butterworth and 40km from George Town. If you are inclined towards agro-eco tourism like getting the feel of living in a village environment with paddy fields, visiting fruit farms, Kota Aur would be perfect for you.

I would like to thank the Kota Aur Homestay management for providing vanue to carry out programme today. Here, you will be served with traditional dishes of Seberang Perai and traditional dances, *Boria*, *Silat* and *Tomoi* (Traditional Arts of Self Defense) as

well as traditional sports such as *Sepak Raga Bulat*. The delegates will also have the opportunities to prepare and cook traditional cakes such as *kuih cara, dangai* and *peknga*. Please do not miss this opportunity to taste these delicious pastries / cookies.

On your way back to the hotel, you will pass by the Guar Kepah Archeological Gallery, where you will find the latest discovery of a prehistoric human skeleton aged more than 5,710 years old, our own ‘Penang Woman’. This is an important discovery not only for us, but the state and the nation as a whole. Since the discovery, Penang Government aims for the Guar Kepah Neolithic Archeological site to be listed as a UNESCO World Archeological Site.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all of you who so generously helped us to make this visit come together smoothly. I also would like to say thank you to Penang State Government, PlanMalaysia, Urbanize Malaysia, MPSP officers and staffs and also the community of Kota Aur. We could not have done it without cooperation from all of you.

I wish this visit will be successful and meaningful to all. Congratulations to the organizing committee for their entire efforts to make a successful and a memorable visit to Kota Aur, Seberang Perai. To our international delegates don't forget to enjoy Penang foods and if you have time, take sometime to visit interesting tourist spots in Penang and also Seberang Perai.

Thank You

YBhg Dato' Sr Hj. Rozali Bin Hj. Mohamud

Yang DiPertua MPSP