

**INAUGURAL SPEECH TEXT
YB DATO' SERI MOHAMED NAZRI BIN TAN SRI ABDUL AZIZ
MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE MALAYSIA
IN CONJUNCTION WITH
'PEKING MAN IN MALAYSIA' EXHIBITION
AT NATIONAL MUSEUM
ON 29 MARCH 2018**

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and Good Afternoon.

Yang Berbahagia Datuk Rashidi Bin Hasbullah,

Secretary General,

Ministry of Tourism and Culture,

Tuan Yang Terutama Bai Tian

Duta Besar China di Malaysia

Yang Berusaha Cik Saraya binti Arbi,

Deputy Secretary General for Culture,

Yang Berusaha Puan Haslina binti Abdul Hamid,

Deputy Secretary General for Tourism

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Yean Yoke Heng,

Deputy Secretary General for Administration

Yang Berbahagia Datuk Kamarul Baharin bin A.Kasim,

Director General,
Department of Museums Malaysia

Madam Dong Cuiping,
Director of Zhoukoudian Heritage Site Museum,

Senior Officers,
Department of Museums Malaysia,

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh dan Salam Sejahtera,

1. Alhamdulillah, syukur kepada Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala kerana dengan limpah dan kurniaNYA, saya dapat bersama-sama dengan hadirin dan hadirat sekalian di Majlis Perasmian Pameran '**Manusia Peking di Malaysia-Tapak Warisan Zhoukoudian**' pada hari yang permai ini. Terlebih dahulu, saya mengucapkan terima kasih kepada Jabatan Muzium Malaysia kerana menjemput saya untuk menyempurnakan majlis yang sangat besar maknanya dalam konteks hubungan dua hala antara dua negara bersahabat iaitu Malaysia dan Republik Rakyat China.
2. Sebagai pemula bicara, saya terlebih dahulu mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi tahniah kepada Jabatan Muzium Malaysia kerana berjaya menjadi '*venue provider*' kepada Muzium Tapak Zhoukoudian, Beijing, China bagi merealisasikan pameran yang berteraskan sejarah dan budaya ini.

Sesungguhnya, saya amat berbangga dengan usaha-usaha Jabatan Muzium Malaysia yang berterusan menganjurkan program seumpama ini, seiring dengan matlamat untuk menarik lebih ramai pengunjung ke muzium bukan sahaja dari rakyat tempatan khususnya tetapi juga dari luar negara amnya. Ia juga bertepatan dengan usaha untuk meningkatkan dan memperkukuhkan jalinan kerjasama di peringkat antarabangsa. Dalam konteks ini, Jabatan Muzium Malaysia turut memainkan peranan dalam memperkukuhkan kerjasama dengan negara yang telah memeterai perjanjian dalam bidang kebudayaan sebelum ini. Sehubungan itu, adalah amat relevan pameran seumpama ini diadakan, apatah lagi dengan memperkenalkan koleksi-koleksi berharga milik Muzium Tapak Zhoukoudian.

Hadirin dan hadirat yang saya hormati sekalian,

3. Pameran ini mempamerkan sebanyak 117 koleksi yang berkaitan dengan sejarah dan kebudayaan manusia terawal di China yang dikenali sebagai Manusia Peking atau 'Peking Man'. Selain itu, pameran ini juga mempamerkan Tapak Manusia Peking di Zhoukoudian yang mengandungi bukti sejarah tentang asal-usulnya, mengkaji dan menyampaikan maklumat dari aspek Paleoanthropology, Paleolithic Archeology, Quarternary Geology dan Paleontology di mana tapak ini juga merupakan antara tapak warisan China yang pertama mendapat pengiktirafan dari UNESCO World Heritage List pada tahun 1987.

4. Di Malaysia misalnya, kita juga mempunyai tapak arkeologi yang turut mendapat pengiktirafan dari UNESCO pada tahun 2012 iaitu Tapak

Warisan Dunia Lembah Lenggong yang merupakan tapak penemuan rangka manusia awal di Malaysia yang dikenali sebagai Manusia Perak atau *Perak Man* di Gua Gunung Runtuh pada tahun 1990. Manusia Perak yang hidup lebih kurang 10,000 tahun dahulu merupakan bukti terunggul rangka manusia terlengkap yang ditemui pada zaman manusia awal di Asia Tenggara. Justeru, saya percaya Pameran Manusia Peking di Malaysia ini akan menjadi satu tarikan kepada para ahli arkeologi dan juga pengkaji sejarah dalam usaha memperkayakan lagi kajian dan dapatan mengenai bukti-bukti awal manusia serta tamadun mereka di rantau Asia khususnya. Selain itu, bagi pihak Kementerian Kebudayaan dan Pelancongan, saya amat berharap Pameran bertaraf antarabangsa yang didatangkan dari China ini akan dapat menambahkan lagi tarikan untuk para pelancong di negara kita.

Hadirin dan hadirat yang saya hormati sekalian,

Izinkan saya meneruskan ucapan dalam Bahasa Inggeris.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. The bilateral relation between Malaysia and China has started long time ago. By looking at it closely, this bilateral relation is not only a political and diplomatic relations, but it can be considered as a close friendship that has surpassed and maintained throughout the period of 700 years. According to historical records of Ban Gu, during Han Dynasty, Malaysia and China has established bilateral relations since the First Century AD. It

was mentioned in the record that 'Duyuan' which refers to Pulau Duyung in Terengganu, was a harbour for Chinese Trade ships enroute to India. Ceramics artifacts and shards from Qin and Han Dynasties which were found at Johor River Valley also correspond to the first century AD of Malaysia and China relations. Meanwhile, Bujang Valley in Kedah was also known as a transit point for Buddhist Monks from China to India between 2nd until 6th Century AD. The height of this bilateral relation was recorded by Ma Huan in his book, Ying Yai Sheng Lan where he cited the voyage of Admiral Cheng Ho or Zheng He to Malacca in 15th Century AD. In return, during the Ming Dynasty, Sultan Muzaffar Syah, the Sultan of Malacca together with his kin and entourage visited China in 1411.

6. Based on this historical record, it is clear that bilateral relations between Malaysia and China have long been established and became more intact when Zhou Enlai and Tun Abdul Razak signed the China-Malaysia Diplomatic Relations in 1974. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism Malaysia particularly has conducted numerous cultural exchange programmes with China follow-up to the signing of the Executive Programme on the implementation of cultural cooperation between the Government of Malaysia and the Government of the People's Republic of China for the period of 2014 until 2019. For records, the Department of Museums Malaysia and the People's Republic of China (PRC) have collaborated 2 exhibitions which are 'Treasures from the Summer Palace' at the National Museum from 15th December 2014 to 15th March 2015 and 'Malaysia - China Relations: From Ancient Time to the Future' at Ningbo Museum, Ningbo, China from 20th December 2016 to 28th February 2017. I do believe, the collaboration between the Department of Museums Malaysia and the People's Republic of China (PRC) in holding

these exhibitions is another example of the close relationship between two countries and I hope that the response will be encouraging from visitors to visit the National Museum.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. Apart from exhibition, I also hope that both countries will be able to expand further cooperation in other areas in the field of Museology such as collection management, conservation or even exchange of experts' visit. I fervently hope that the Department of Museums Malaysia can enhance this type of cooperation with other foreign museums from all over the world, to bring more interesting exhibitions to the Malaysian community. With this regard, I am pleased to express my congratulations to the Department of Museums Malaysia and Zhoukoudian Heritage Site Museum, China on their efforts that definitely require consensus and mutual understandings throughout the whole process to make this exhibition materialized. I also would like to thank all those who had helped and cooperated with the Department of Museums Malaysia to ensure this event today a success.

With this speech, without further ado, I would like to announce the **'Peking Man in Malaysia – Zhoukoudian Heritage Site'** Exhibition at Muzium Negara is officially opened from March 29th until June 16th 2018.

Sekian, Wabillahitaufik Walhidayah Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Taala Wabarakatuh.