



**SPEECH FOR YB DATO' SERI DR. SHAHIDAN KASSIM,  
MINISTER OF FEDERAL TERRITORIES**

**38<sup>th</sup> IBBY CONGRESS WELCOMING DINNER**

**7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022 (WEDNESDAY) 8:30PM,**

**ZENITH HOTEL PUTRAJAYA**

Assalamualaikum and good evening

**YB. Datuk Seri Jalaluddin bin Alias,**  
Deputy Minister of the Federal Territories Ministry,

**YBhg. Datuk Hajah Rosida binti Jaafar**  
Chief Secretary of the Federal Territories Ministry

**YBhg. Dato TPr. Fadlun bin Mak Ujud**  
President of Putrajaya Corporation

**YBrs. Mr. Mingzhou Zhang**  
President of The International Board of Books For Young People (IBBY)

**YBhg. Dato Ahmad Redza bin Ahmad Khairuddin**  
President of The Malaysian Board of Books For Young People (MBBY)

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

1. I would like to extend our warmest welcome to the IBBY President, IBBY Executive Committee Members, Award Winners, Jury, all delegates and participants to the 38th IBBY International Congress in Putrajaya from the 5th to 8th September 2022. To foreign delegates, welcome or 'selamat datang' to Malaysia.
2. August and September are beautiful months in Malaysia as our nation celebrates our National Day on 31<sup>st</sup> August and Malaysia Day on 16<sup>th</sup> September. Particularly for Putrajaya, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2022 is the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Putrajaya whose establishment was launched on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1995.
3. The Malaysian Government is very proud of the selection of Putrajaya, the Federal Government's Administrative Center as the host city for this prestigious congress. It is an honor for Putrajaya to be the first city in South East Asia countries to host the biennial international congress which has been held in several major cities in the world including London, Berlin, Copenhagen, Mexico City, Tokyo and Cape Town.
4. Putrajaya has successfully hosted many International Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) and we will continue to bid for world-class events. This is proof that Putrajaya is a city that excels in organizing MICE.
5. The Ministry of Federal Territories, as the ministry responsible for this city through its agency, the Putrajaya Corporation, has provided the space, including dedicating the Putrajaya Corporation Complex itself

as the main venue for the Congress with all our facilities has been booked to host this event. We hope to have been able to present a fun and relaxing atmosphere for everyone whether local or overseas to enjoy our facilities, beautiful landscape and weather for this Congress.

6. We understand from the Malaysian Board on Books for Young People (MBBY) that the IBBY Congress aims to be organized without too much formality and protocol, allowing all delegates to mingle and enjoy meeting and making friends. Thus we have provided such an atmosphere for the delegation and the participants to remember Putrajaya as the best congress for them.
7. Here delegates can take advantage of green spaces and be surrounded by water features and beautiful architecture as a backdrop. Delegates are encouraged to explore the landscape and buildings on the congress site, taking photos and Instagram moments.
8. Hosting of IBBY 2022 in particular will benefit the Putrajaya community and related businesses in Malaysia. The link and relationship that we forge with member countries and delegates shall continue. I believe IBBY members would be happy to assist Putrajaya in many ways to elevate children literature in the city. As a young city we value creativity and innovation and literature should not be confined to libraries and schools but promoted in many other dimensions within the city. We hope to attract more children and young adults to become writers and illustrators.

9. Beyond Putrajaya, we hope writers, illustrators, academician, publishers and related businesses in Malaysia would benefit from the congress and contacts to propel them internationally.
10. The theme of the Congress “The Power of Stories” are complimented with the six subthemes. We are parents and I think we are all aware that reading plays a very significant role in the lives of our children. We hope the delegates are having a good time besides learning and exploring new knowledge during this congress. It is indeed an honour to have everyone here.
11. Before I end, I hope the international delegates will spend some time to explore this beautiful and unique country. We have provided the map of Putrajaya to all delegates. If you have any inquiries, please get to any of the organizing committee. They will surely assist you.

Thank you.