



PARLIMEN MALAYSIA

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

2023 ASIA PACIFIC DISTINGUISHED LEADER LIFETIME

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

(KSI STRATEGIC INSTITUTE FOR ASIA PACIFIC)

TAN SRI WAN DR. HAJI WAN JUNAIDI TUANKU JAAFAR

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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Bismillahirrahmanirahim

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh dan Good Afternoon

SALUTATION LIST

1. Tan Sri Michael Yeoh,
President,
KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific
2. Datuk Seri Mohamed Iqbal Rawther,
Deputy Chairman,
KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific
3. Mr Michael Walsh,
Chief Executive Officer,
Pacific Basin Economic Council
4. Mr Qu Yingpu,
Editor-in-Chief,
China Daily Group
5. Tan Sri, Dato' Sri, Dato',
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies & Gentlemen

Firstly, I would like to record my utmost appreciation and gratitude to Kingsley Advisory and Strategic Initiatives or better known as KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific for having graciously elected me to receive the 2023 ASIA PACIFIC DISTINGUISHED LEADER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD.

Tan Sri President, Sir, and all your Members, I would like say with deepest gratitude and appreciation I accept the 2023 ASIA PACIFIC DISTINGUISHED LEADER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD from Kingsley Advisory and Strategic Initiatives or KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific. This is indeed a great honour and merit for me and for my family.

I feel humble by such a meritorious award and which places me amongst the great leaders of the Asia Pacific like H.E. BAMBANG YUDHOYONO, the President of Indonesia, H.E. SAMDECH HUN SEN, the Prime Minister of Cambodia, H.E. TUN AHMAD FUZI, the Governor of Penang, and the HON'BLE GOH CHOK TONG, the former Prime Minister and the Singapore Emeritus Senior Minister of Singapore.

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I started my humble career as a Trainee Technical Assistant in the Public Work Department, Kuching, Sarawak, before I could really serve the PWD I decided to resign and join the then Sarawak Constabulary (as the Police Department Sarawak was then called), as a Commissioner's Cadet. Of course, the Sarawak Constabulary was later disbanded the role of policing Sarawak was later transferred to the Royal Malaysia Police Force. I served the Force for 13 years in various branches, including its para-military Unit call the Police Field Force, before pursuing law studies in the United Kingdom. Five years and two degrees later in July, 1982, I came back to report for duty to the Commissioner of Police Sarawak. But because of serious differences in opinion on how the Police should enforce the law, I left the Police Force in December, 1982.

I joined politics with the big dream of changing the world around me. For nearly 26 years as a "lone-struggler", nearly 10 years as a Gurkha of the party, and eighteen years of which as a Member of Parliament since 1990 - I still held the idea that I could change the world. But believe me, it was a lonely road to travel in the world of politics.

Obviously, for that 26 years, as an idealist, I had been given a wrong opinion, had been asking the wrong questions and had given the wrong advices to my leaders. I was in a political wilderness for Eighteen Years for “**being too smart**” for my own good. Though, an ardent fan of Rudyard Kipling and yet I tend to ignore his warning,

If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good nor talk too wise.

Tun Abdullah became Prime Minister in 2004 and brought a wind of change to my political career. In 2008 I was appointed the Deputy Speaker of Dewan Rakyat in which I served for full term. After the Federal Election of 2013 I was appointed as a Deputy Minister Home Affairs. At that time the country was facing the aftermath of the abolishment of the ISA and all emergency ordinances which the PDRM warned the government in 2009 of what could happened – if 1900 inmates from various detention centres in the country was released. Remember the rampant killing in KL in 2014.

I was then the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, we had to figure out how to frame and design the new laws to handle the situation, to protect the nation and its people. With my Police experience and legal knowledge that I had, I was in the thick of it.

Before the parliamentary term was over, in August 2015 I was elevated to a full Minister and was transferred to take charge of the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry. A couple of big events happened before and in 2015; the aftermath of big flood in 2014, and to design and to implement various flood mitigations projects, to handle the transboundary-haze that blanketed half of the South East Asia that caused untold losses, the clearance of Cameron Highland hillsides for vegetables and fruits farming by foreign nationals and the bauxite pollution in Pahang which rendered Kuantan like a reddish city.

I managed to enforce moratorium on bauxite mining and producing several rules and regulations to control mining, transportation, stockpiling, and loading. In 2016 I managed to get the Indonesian to stop burning for forest clearing and to sign the ROAD MAP TO NO HAZE IN 2020. The University of Seoul Korea founded in 1918 appointed me a Professor of Research in 2017 and 2018 and to give lectures in their university for that two years.

I led the Malaysian Delegation to the Paris Agreement negotiation only 4 and half months after my appointment to the portfolio of the Natural Resources and Environment ministry. To the chagrin of the USA negotiation team compelled President Obama of the USA to call Ban Kim Moon, Sec-Gen of the UN who later contacted DS Anifah Aman the FM Malaysia alleging that, **“the Minister of Environment Malaysia had become the stumbling block to the successful negotiation of the Paris Agreement”**. DS Anifah informed DS Najib, PM Malaysia and Najib asked Anifah to go to Paris to ASSIST ME. But Anifah said to Najib “Wan Junaidi can handle that”. Nevertheless, I received a message from Kuala Lumpur asking me to get in touch with PM. I called DS Najib around 4.00 morning of the 11th December, for a new instruction, if any. DS Najib, simply said that, “There was no new instruction only report to me if there is any problem”. I faced no problem but only sticking to the rules.

At 10.00 following morning, on the 11 December, 2015, I met the US Secretary of States, Mr John Kerry, in his Pavilion in Paris. We had 1 hour 50 minutes discussions. I stood my ground on the Principles of the **Predetermine National Contributions** and **the Common but Differentiated Principles**. Paris Agreement was unanimously and fully

adopted at 2.00 pm Paris time on the 12 December, 2015 and I was already boarding my flight home when Dato Dr Azimuddin Bahari called and congratulated me about the adoption.

I had a 22 months Sabbatical in 2018 and 2019 when the BN lost the election in May 2018. But I was appointed as a Member of Parliamentary Caucus by DS Anwar Ibrahim for my in-dept knowledge in Parliamentary practices and law. In 2019 I was nominated by TS Arif, the Speaker of Dewan Rakyat and later affirmed by the AIPA to become the Chairman of ASEAN Caucus. Thus, I became the first MP in ASEAN to chair the Caucus twice in his life time.

In 2021 during TS Muhyiddin Administration, I was appointed the Minister in MEDAC and in 17 months I managed to push for various financial reforms and the idea of forming a Cooperatives University with a different – 2 years in the University & 2 years with the Industry.

My last post was as the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department in charge of the Parliament and Law. In only 13 months I managed to get the constitutional recognition for the MA63, fully implement the 18 years voting age system and the Anti-defection Law for Members of Parliament.

The first Minister of law Malaysia ever attempted THREE amendments to the Federal Constitution during the tenure of his office. I would have completed most of the critical “Law Reform Programs” had the DS Ismail Sabri’s Administration completed the Parliamentary Term in July 2023. To me it had been an amazing period of my life and wonderful years of serving the government

Over the years, I was blessed to have represented this great nation in many international dialogues, seminars, conferences of many interests and benefits to this country. I was the First Malaysian to speak in the Kremlin through IPU in 2000.

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies & Gentlemen.

Over the years, KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific has done wonders as the super-connector between governments, businesses and civil society to translate ideas into impact. As an independent non-profit think tank, KSI is doing a great job building better nations across Asia Pacific with its impactful and innovative high-level conferences and forums on issues and trends impacting on business and competitiveness. Therefore, I am honoured to be recognized by KSI as a recipient for this award.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Tan Sri Michael Yeoh, KSI President and his team for KSI's rank of 109th for Top Social Policy Think-Tanks.

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies & Gentlemen.

Parliamentary matters are not new to me and issues concerning the Malaysian Constitution are always close to my heart. Before my current appointment as the President of the Senate, I served as the Deputy Speaker of Dewan Rakyat and I founded the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Caucus with its Secretariat in Jakarta and I was also the first President of the Caucus and being a member of various Parliamentary Committees.

I have been in serving the nation for over 56 years and I will continue to serve the nation as long as my services are needed. I have only been the President of Senate for about 1.5 months, but my vision of implanting and realizing the true interpretation of ***Independence Parliament*** and to ensure ***compliance with Constitutional provision***, that is, the Cabinet is made accountable to Parliament. It is a great honour for me to play my part in ensuring that the principle of Parliamentary Democracy and Constitutional Monarchy be upheld in this beloved nation, Malaysia.

CLOSING

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Again, I would like to extend my gratitude to KSI for recognizing my humble and modest contributions to this country. The honour of serving the country is on me and not the other way round, just what John Kennedy said, “Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country”. Before I end my speech today I would like to share a quote by Mahatma Gandhi which I think is relevant to my service to the country. “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others”

Thank you.