



The 21st ARAHE Biennial International Congress 2023 was held from 7 – 11 August 2023 in Petaling Jaya, Sengalor/ Malaysia under the theme: “*Integrating Culture and Innovation in Home Economics Knowledge and Skills towards the New Wave of Industrial Revolution*”.

Opening speech by the President of ARAHE, Prof. Dr. Mee Sok PARK

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed delegates, distinguished guests, and fellow Home Economists from across the world.

A warm welcome to each one of you as we gather here today for the 21st ARAHE Biennial International Congress in the year 2023. It is an absolute honor to stand before you as the President of the Asian Regional Association for Home Economics (ARAHE), and I am deeply humbled by the trust you have placed in me to lead this esteemed organization.

As we know, our theme for this congress is “*Integrating Culture and Innovation in Home Economics Knowledge and Skills towards the New Wave of Industrial Revolution*”, express the essence of our collective mission as Home Economists in the modern era. It resonates deeply with transformative times we find ourselves in. The world is witnessing a transformative phase of technological advancement, and it is our duty to adapt, innovate, and integrate our expertise into this new landscape.

As Home Economists, we stand at the forefront of this evolution, armed with invaluable knowledge and skills that can shape a modern inclusive and sustainable future. Home Economics, once viewed primarily as a discipline revolving around domestic affairs thus, often celebrated for its focus on the domestic sphere, has evolved into a dynamic and multidimensional discipline that embraces emerging technologies and global challenges. We now encompass a broad spectrum of knowledge and skills, ranging from food and nutrition to sustainable living, from financial literacy to mental well-being to digital literacy, entrepreneurship and beyond. As we embrace this new wave of industrial revolution, we must recognize the pivotal role that Home Economics plays in shaping a sustainable and inclusive future.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution has ushered in a new era where artificial intelligence, automation, and digital connectivity are transforming industries at an unprecedented pace. Our ability to adapt and integrate Home Economics knowledge and skills in to this new landscape will be crucial in ensuring that the benefits of progress are equitably distributed to all segments of society.

During this congress, we have the privilege of sharing insights and experiences, engaging in collective discussions, and forging new partnerships that will drive us towards progress. Together, we possess a wealth of our knowledge and expertise that can transform industries, empower individuals, and uplift communities. Let us harness this potential and work together to create meaningful change.



As we integrate Home Economics into new industrial revolution, it is imperative that remain committed to inclusivity and accessibility. Our solutions must be tailored to address the diverse needs of our global community, leaving no one behind. Whether it be promoting sustainable consumption patterns, improving public health, or advocating for gender equality, our collective efforts and hold the key to a better tomorrow.

In the face of unprecedented challenges, we must also recognize the importance of continuous learning and professional development. As Home Economists, we are lifelong learners, committed to staying at the forefront of knowledge and innovation. Let us seize the opportunities provided by this congress to expand our horizons, learn from one another, and collaborate on initiatives that extend the boundaries of our discipline.

Furthermore, let us also celebrate the potential of youth leadership within our association. Nurturing the passion and dedication of young Home Economists will pave the way for a more vibrant, sustainable, and compassionate future. Through mentorship and empowerment, we can sow the seeds change, ensuring the legacy of ARAHE continues to flourish for generations to come.

In conclusion, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your presence and participation in the congress. Your dedication to the cause of Home Economics is an inspiration, and I am confident that our collective efforts will leave a lasting impact on the world we inhabit.

Let us embark on this journey of exploration, collaboration, and transformation with enthusiasm and determination. Together, we can integrate Home Economics knowledge and skills into the new wave of industrial revolution, shaping a future that is sustainable, and full of promise.

Thank you, and may this congress be a resounding success.