

WELCOMING REMARKS

BY

Y. BHG. PUAN FADILAH BAHARIN

DIRECTOR GENERAL

**DEPARTMENT OF STANDARDS MALAYSIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND
INNOVATION**

**MTCP TRAINING PROGRAMME ON HALAL
STANDARDS AND
CONFORMANCE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR OIC
COUNTRIES 2014**

4TH SEPTEMBER 2014

EVERLY HOTEL, PUTRAJAYA

The Honourable Datuk Dr. Ewon Ebin

Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI)

His Excellency Ambassador Zainol Rahim Zainuddin

Director General

Department of Policy & Strategy Planning

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia

Senior officials from Ministries and Agencies,

Honoured guests, distinguished speakers and participants,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Assalamualaikumwarahmatullahiwabarakatuh, Salam
SatuMalaysia and a very good morning to all of you.

1. At the outset, let me express my great pleasure to be with all of you and to deliver the opening remarks at the Training Programme on Halal Standards and Conformance Infrastructure for OIC Countries 2014 under the Malaysia Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP). I wish to extend my heartiest welcome or, ***SelamatDatang***, to **21** our distinguished foreign participants here who have come all the way from **Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkey, Egypt, Gambia, Iran, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, Sudan, Uganda, Saudi Arabia and Yemen**. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Honourable Minister of Science, Technology and innovation, YB Datuk Dr. Ewon Ebin who has consented to be with us this morning to grace this training programme, despite his busy schedule. My special thanks also goes to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for having

entrusted us to carry out this training programme and to other ministries and agencies for their support.

2. For your kind information, this programme is being administered and coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia with the aim is to assist agencies related to Halal products development in OIC countries in developing the infrastructure for Halal standards and conformance. Based on the experience of Malaysia in developing a framework for quality assurance of Halal products, the training programme allows the sharing of experiences and concerns between member countries. In addition, through the course, Malaysia is able to extend her services in the related areas of technical assistance and capacity building in OIC countries, in line with efforts to promote Halal products and services globally.

Ladies and gentlemen,

3. Department of Standards Malaysia (Standards Malaysia) is a government agency under the purview of Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI). Its

function as prescribed in Standards Malaysia Act (Act 549) (Amendment 2012) is to become the National Standards and Accreditation Body, in which focuses on the development and promotion of Malaysian Standards (MS) and provides a credible accreditation service to conformity assessment bodies.

4. Since its establishment in 1996, Standards Malaysia has established a credible standardisation development infrastructure. With the engagement of various stakeholders in the standards development activities, Standards Malaysia has managed to excel in the development of more than 6500 standards within 24 different Industry Standards Committees (ISC). One of the key areas that has attracted the Government attention is the halal sector. To date, through the concerted effort by all parties, we have managed to develop 11 MS on halal.

5. Standards Malaysia also strives to enhance its services and increase its participation and recognition at national and international platforms. As a result, the Standards Malaysia Strategic Plan 2011-2015 has pointed

out that MTCP Programme is one of the strategic platforms to realise these goals and therefore, Standards Malaysia has been actively involved in conducting annual MTCP Course on Halal Standards and Conformance Infrastructure for OIC Countries. The MTCP course has received an overwhelming response from OIC and non-OIC Countries, where it has successfully assisted them in developing their own framework of quality assurance of halal products and services.

Ladies and gentlemen

6. Since its inception, the MTCP has expanded in terms of its scope and coverage with emphasis on the exchange of development experience. The programme provides various forms of technical cooperation in areas where Malaysia has the experience and expertise. The MTCP emphasises the development of human resources through the provision of training in various areas which are essential for a country's development such as public administration, agriculture, poverty alleviation, investment promotion, ICT, banking and others. In line with the spirit of South-South

Cooperation, the MTCP, which is a multilateral technical cooperation programme, shares development experiences with other developing countries.

7. More than 2,000 participants from 138 member countries have come to Malaysia annually under the MTCP.

Currently the MTCP has a membership alumni of about 19,700 worldwide. About 150 short-term specialised courses are offered by the 53 MTCP training institutions, many of which are centres of excellence for training, with the aim of building human capital in other developing countries.

8. In 2010, Malaysia has taken an initiatives to lead the Inclusion of Quality and Standards in “Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management (CPTM) Smart Partnership Movement” through the launch of “CPTM Smart Partners” Quality and Standards Inclusion Initiatives in Malaysia. A “Think Thanking Dialogue” on Quality Inclusion for Enhancing Trade Business and Sustainability which was hosted during the same events has highlighted the

importance to enhance the inclusivity of quality and standards by promoting regional cooperation and sharing of resources and expertise for quality and standards. Hence, we should acknowledge that the effective implementation of halal standards can only be achieved through collaboration and partnership with all stakeholders.

9. Malaysia, having more than 40 years’ experience in Standards Development and more than 15 years in Accreditation field has established a structured and systematic framework for these two (2) fields. The short-term goal of this training program is the sharing of experiences, technical expertise and concerns between participating countries as well as an entry point for Malaysia to establish network with them in the implementation of Halal standards.

10. This training programme includes lectures, seminars and hands-on-training on standards and accreditation, participation in case study and experience sharing and also visits and briefings in the relevant agencies in Malaysia. These would enable participants to understand the roles of standards and accreditation on Halal in Malaysia.

11. Thus, Standards Malaysia, being the National Standards and Accreditation Body will ensure the objectives of this programme are met. It is envisaged that arising from this programme, Standards Malaysia is honoured to extend its services in the related areas of technical assistance and capacity building in OIC countries, in line with efforts to promote nation building through international cooperation and collaboration.

Ladies and gentlemen,

12. While we recognise that there are significant opportunities in the halal market, there are still many hurdles to overcome to realise the full potential of this sector. One of the obstacles relates to the lack of common halal standards that are acceptable to all Muslim community and it is very much still a 'work in progress'. I would like to urge the Muslim community to strive towards common standards for the benefit of the ummah globally.

13. I am pleased to inform you that Malaysia has been in the forefront in developing standards for the halal industry that meet international best practices. This Initiative will

ensure that the Islamic community, no matter where they are, would feel safe and convinced that the food and products they consume are halal. In this regard, The Government of Malaysia on 9 July 2014 has decided to join the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC). We firmly believe that the participation at OIC level is imperative not only to develop the harmonised halal standards but more importantly, to spur the socio-economic development of all OIC member states.

14. Finally, I would like to congratulate all the secretariat of the Department of Standards Malaysia for once again successfully organising the training programme on Halal Standards and Conformance Infrastructure for the OIC Countries 2014. Once again, I wish to thank YB Datuk Dr.EwonEbin for your kind presence. I pray for Allah's grace and blessings towards a most productive and successful training programme. On that note, I thank you for your kind attention.