



WELCOMING REMARKS

**YBHG. DATUK FADILAH BAHARIN
DIRECTOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF STANDARDS MALAYSIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

**MTCP ON
HALAL STANDARDS AND CONFORMANCE INFRASTRUCTURE
FOR OIC COUNTRIES**

**27 OCTOBER 2015
THE EVERLY HOTEL, PUTRAJAYA**



My warmest appreciation to **Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr. Abu Bakar Mohad Diah, Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI)**, presence today to close the MTCP on Halal Standards and Conformance Infrastructure for OIC Countries;

Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Datuk Mustafa Mansur Chairman of Malaysian Standards and Accreditation Council;

Yang Berusaha Encik Beh Ching Chye Principal Assistant Secretary of International Cooperation and Development Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

Senior officials from Ministries and Agencies;

Honoured guests and distinguished participants;

Ladies and gentlemen;

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam 1 Malaysia, Salam 1 MOSTI, Salam 1 Standards Malaysia and a very good morning to all of you.

1. I am indeed honoured to be given this opportunity to address all of you at the closing ceremony of the MTCP Training on Halal Standards and Conformance Infrastructure for OIC Countries. On behalf of the Department of Standards Malaysia, I would like to congratulate you for having completed this 9 days training programme. I hope all of you have had a pleasant and comfortable stay in Malaysia.

2. I would also like to record my utmost appreciation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme for funding this timely and much needed initiative. This clearly demonstrates the commitment of the Malaysian Government in supporting the standardisation activities in Malaysia.

3. 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 Ecosystem. 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 its 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,

4. 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.

5. 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 6164 standards within 25 different Industry Standards Committees (ISC). One of the keys areas that has attained the Government attention is Halal sector.

6. 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 where it has successfully assisted them in developing their own framework of quality assurance of halal products and services.

Ladies and gentlemen,

7. 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 for year 2015 focusing on the development of human resources through the provision of training in 7 various areas which are essential for a country's development namely education, SME Sector, Public Admin, Diplomacy, Islamic Finance, ICT and also **Halal Ecosystems**. In line with the spirit of South-South Cooperation, the MTCP, which is a multilateral technical cooperation programme, shares development experiences with other countries.

8. This is the 11th year Standards Malaysia is hosting this kind of training programme. For this year, we are having **15 participants** from **11 countries**. i.e. Egypt, Gambia, Jordan, Mali, Pakistan, Turkey, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Sudan (2), Kazakhstan (2) and Saudi Arabia (3). We also have **9 local participants** which come from government and private agencies.

9. This training programme has included lectures, seminars and hands-on-training on standards and accreditation, participation in case study and experience sharing and also technical visit (Nestle, Negeri Sembilan) and briefings in the relevant agencies in Malaysia. These would enable participants to understand the roles of standards and accreditation on Halal in Malaysia.

10. 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,

11. Finally, I would like to congratulate all the secretariat staff of the Department of Standards Malaysia for once again having successfully organised the MTCP on Halal Standards and Conformance Infrastructure for the OIC Countries. Once again, I wish to record my sincere appreciation to Yang Berhormat Datuk Dr. Abu Bakar Mohamad Diah for your kind presence. With that, I thank you for your kind attention.