

TEKS UCAPAN

**YBHG. DATUK FADILAH BAHARIN
KETUA PENGARAH, JABATAN STANDARD
MALAYSIA**

SEMPENA

**ASEAN RETREAT CONVENTION ON
ISO/IEC 17024 – CERTIFICATION OF PERSONS**

**SHANGRI- LA'S TANJUNG ARU RESORT & SPA
KOTA KINABALU, SABAH**

RABU, 25 NOVEMBER 2015

YB Datuk Seri Panglima Madius Tangau

Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation
Malaysia

YBrs. Dr. Juliana Lim

Director and the CEO of IPEC Bureau Certification Sdn.
Bhd.

Honoured guests, distinguished participants, ladies
and gentlemen,

Welcome and Selamat Datang....

I am very pleased that you are all able to join this convention as we mark the start of the inaugural 1st ASEAN Certification of Persons ISO/IEC17024. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all delegates from across the world to beautiful Sabah. I would also like to personally thank YB Datuk Seri Panglima

Madius Tangau, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Malaysia for having accepted our invitation to grace this event. Your presence, dear Sir, clearly demonstrates the Government of Malaysia's strong support and commitment towards deepening ASEAN integration in particular in the area of standards and conformance.

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to provide a brief account about Standards Malaysia. Standards Malaysia was established on 28 August, 1996 and is governed by the Standards of Malaysia Act 1996 (Act 549) after corporatization of SIRIM into SIRIM Berhad. It is an agency under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) with the dual objectives of improving the quality of life of the people of Malaysia and achieving global competitiveness for Malaysian products and services through its credible Malaysian Standards development and Accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies services. In a nutshell, Standards

Malaysia is the national standards and accreditation body of Malaysia.

Over the past 19 years, more than 6500 Malaysian Standards (MS) have been developed to meet the demands of 24 core industries as well as to offer pragmatic global solutions. We have also accredited 26 certification bodies for various programmes; of which IPEC Bureau Certification Sdn Bhd is one of those and granted accreditation to about 600 testing and calibration laboratories nationwide; to ensure our products and services are well recognized and accepted across the globe.

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

In 1992, the ASEAN Economic Ministers meeting (AEM) has established the ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality (ACCSQ) with the aim of working towards the elimination of technical barriers to trade posed by standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures in

ASEAN to support the realization of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA). ACCSQ is put under the ambit of Senior Economic Officials Meeting (SEOM) and represented by all standards bodies of ASEAN member countries. Malaysia is represented in ACCSQ by Standards Malaysia.

Ever since and more than two decades ASCCQ has been focusing its efforts on addressing standards and conformance issues to facilitate the freer movement of goods within ASEAN. In light of the ASEAN Community pledged, Standards Malaysia views the work ACCSQ is increasingly important and needs be amplified to cover other elements of creating a single market and production based, which is the freer movement of skilled labour. In this regard, Standards Malaysia at the 43rd Meeting of the ACCSQ held in August 2015 in Bangkok has proposed that ACCSQ should consider working on this area. The notion to have the first ever convention on ISO/IEC 17024 was unanimously adopted.

Hence, in our capacity as a member of the ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality (ACCSQ), we commit to support the ASEAN free movement of skilled workers by making accredited certification of persons to the ISO/IEC17024 an ASEAN agenda. This convention's objective is to focus on the establishment of ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on Certification of Persons. It is to initiate a common understanding and consensus on a certain scheme for generics and specific skills.

Ladies and Gentlemen...

We are living in an increasing nomadic era. As globalization progresses the workforce becomes more mobile, with individuals changing jobs, organisations, careers and even countries, several times throughout their life time. But although this mobility may bring international expertise and talent, it can pose problems,

since education and training varies from country to country.

We see ourselves often having to work around the 'grey areas' of ASEAN employment and business mobility simply because we lack standardisation and uniformity that enables us to create a harmonious human capital in ASEAN.

Globally ISO/IEC17024 Conformity Assessment-General requirements for bodies operating certification of person has become an important element of verifying the competence of an increasingly mobile and global workforce, underscoring the value of industry-recognised credentials that can be carried across national borders. Accredited certification can enhances credibility and international recognition of the certification process of persons.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As ASEAN member states, it is our collective responsibility to contribute to AEC agendas. Integration of industries across the region and unify human capital is essence to economic solidarity hence making this Convention a very relevant event. I hope this inaugural event will grow to become a permanent agenda under ACCSQ. I wish all of you a successful Retreat Convention.

Thank you.