

OPENING ADDRESS

BY

**YBHG. DATUK FADILAH BAHARIN
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF STANDARDS MALAYSIA**

AT

THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE

34th MEETING

***ASEAN CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND
QUALITY WORKING GROUP 2 (ACCSQ WG2) ON CONFORMITY
ASSESSMENT***

ON

5th MARCH 2018, MONDAY (9AM)

AT

DORSETT PUTRAJAYA

Head of Delegates from the ASEAN Member States

ASEAN Secretariat Representatives

Delegates and Observers

Ladies and Gentlemen

Salam Negaraku Malaysia and a very good morning.

First and foremost, it is my pleasure to welcome all of you to this auspicious ceremony today which marks the beginning of the **34th ASEAN CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND QUALITY WORKING GROUP 2 (ACCSQ WG2) MEETING ON CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT.**

2. On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, I am pleased to say that we are honoured and privileged to have hosted this round of ACCSQ WG2 meeting which is one of the important events for the ASEAN Economic Community or AEC.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Since its inception 50 years ago, ASEAN region continues to show the world the achievements that it had made as one identity. As one economy, the region combined gross domestic product (GDP) is about US\$2.6 trillion dollar, making us the sixth largest economy in the world and third in Asia. We also stand tall as power tradehouse, being the fourth largest exporting economy in the world.

4. ASEAN envisages that the region would continue to enjoy peace and prosperity as a community. With that aspiration in mind,

through the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of The ASEAN Economic Community on 31 December 2015 and adoption of the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, ASEAN has forged its commitment of regional integration and community building.

5. ACCSQ works have contribute greatly to the goal of ASEAN being single unified market and production base. This is achieved by eliminating unnecessary trade barriers and promoting mutual recognition and acceptance. In 2016, ASEAN total trade stood at US\$ 2.3 trillion and 23.1% is contributed by Intra-ASEAN trade.

6. The adoption of ASEAN Standards and Conformance Strategic Plan 2016-2025 “Forging Ahead Together: Ensuring Quality & Building Confidence” provides guidance for ACCSQ in fulfilling its mandate of facilitating the economic integration by removal of technical barriers to trade, in particular the standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. The Strategic Plan integrates the goals of the AEC Blueprint 2025 and taking into account the obligations of ASEAN Member States stipulated in the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA).

7. Additionally, WG2 has taken the initiative to develop a 10-year sub-sector Action Plan that correspond to the Strategic Plan. Among the initiatives outlined in the plan are strengthening of collaboration and cooperation in accreditation activities, promotion of recognition and acceptance of test reports and certificate to regulators and capacity building of the region’s Accreditation Bodies and Conformity Assessment Bodies. I am sure, it will be a busy year for our accreditation community as two newly revised standards ISO/IEC 17011 and ISO/IEC 17025

were just published last year. Much efforts will put in strengthening the competence of Accreditation Bodies and Conformity Assessment Bodies in order to comply with the standards.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. As you have realised it, the world is experiencing waves of technological revolution that change the way we live, work and communicate. Artificial Intelligent, Digital Economy and Internet of Things are among the trends that shaped the latest industrial paradigm shift, also known as the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

9. Industry 4.0 transforms almost every facet of socio-economic sectors and has the potential to elevate the region economy growth and the quality of life. At 635 million people, ASEAN provides massive market opportunities for digital technologies. Internet of Things technologies for example, one of the most proliferating technological innovation that improve the connectivity between people, service and things. Remote health monitoring, self-driving cars, and smart homes are the some of the practical application of IoT.

10. As we strive to meet the targets laid out in the Strategic Plan, the rapidly changing world means that there will be challenges and opportunities that we need to consider. Emerging technologies and broad-based innovation have greatly impact our lifestyle and people are more connected in the present day. and

11. Although Industry 4.0 leads to new market and drive economic growth, it does also comes with uncertainties and risks. In this respect, collaboration and teamwork are essential to ensure that our industry is

ready. Effort in harmonising standards and procedures will facilitate the adoption of IoT ecosystem into the market.

12. Recognising these changes, Malaysia continues to strengthen its quality infrastructure under the auspices of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI). Through our national initiatives Transformasi National 50 (TN50), Malaysia will make sure that its standards and conformance infrastructure remain relevant and drive industries competitiveness for the future of our economy.

13. The task for realising a single market in the area of standards and conformance requires intense participation and involvement of all stakeholders including private and business sector, dialogue partners as well as strong drivers at various levels in ASEAN member states. In this regard, ACCSQ must continue to identify and engage relevant stakeholders at all levels and all sectors to obtain the desired outcome. Malaysia will continue to support ACCSQ in its efforts to achieve its objectives.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

14. I would like to wish all of you great success in your deliberations and hope that you will continuously contribute your expertise to the working group. I would also like to congratulate Standards Malaysia for the excellent arrangements.

15. On that note, with great pleasure, I officially open the **34th ACCSQ WG2 MEETING ON CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT.**

Thank you.