

## OPENING ADDRESS

Distinguished Chair and Vice Chair of ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality (ACCCQ),

Distinguished Heads of Delegations of ASEAN Member States,

Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat,

Honoured guests, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum, selamat pagi and a very good morning, I wish for all.

First and foremost, on behalf of the Government of Malaysia, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the delegates of the 51<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality (ACCSQ). Malaysia is indeed very honoured once again to be hosting this very important gathering, as part of our continuous efforts in supporting ASEAN Economic Community 2025 (AEC 2025). To all our participants from overseas, let me bid you *Selamat Datang* ke Malaysia which in the Malay language means welcome to Malaysia.

## Point 1

In the recent 34<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Bangkok, The Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dr Mahathir Mohamed said trade within ASEAN was small, only 35% compared to other groupings like the European Union that recorded trade ties exceeding 40%.

Tun M's quoted:

“Special efforts need to be made to strengthen trade ties within the 10 ASEAN countries.”

“There is a need to look into procedures and processes to increase trade between ASEAN countries,”

**The Star, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2019/06/24/intraasean-trade-should-be-increased/>

- ASEAN intra trade is low

- ASEAN has taken many efforts to reduce tariff to 4% in 2015, but the Non-tariff Measures (NTMs) has increased.

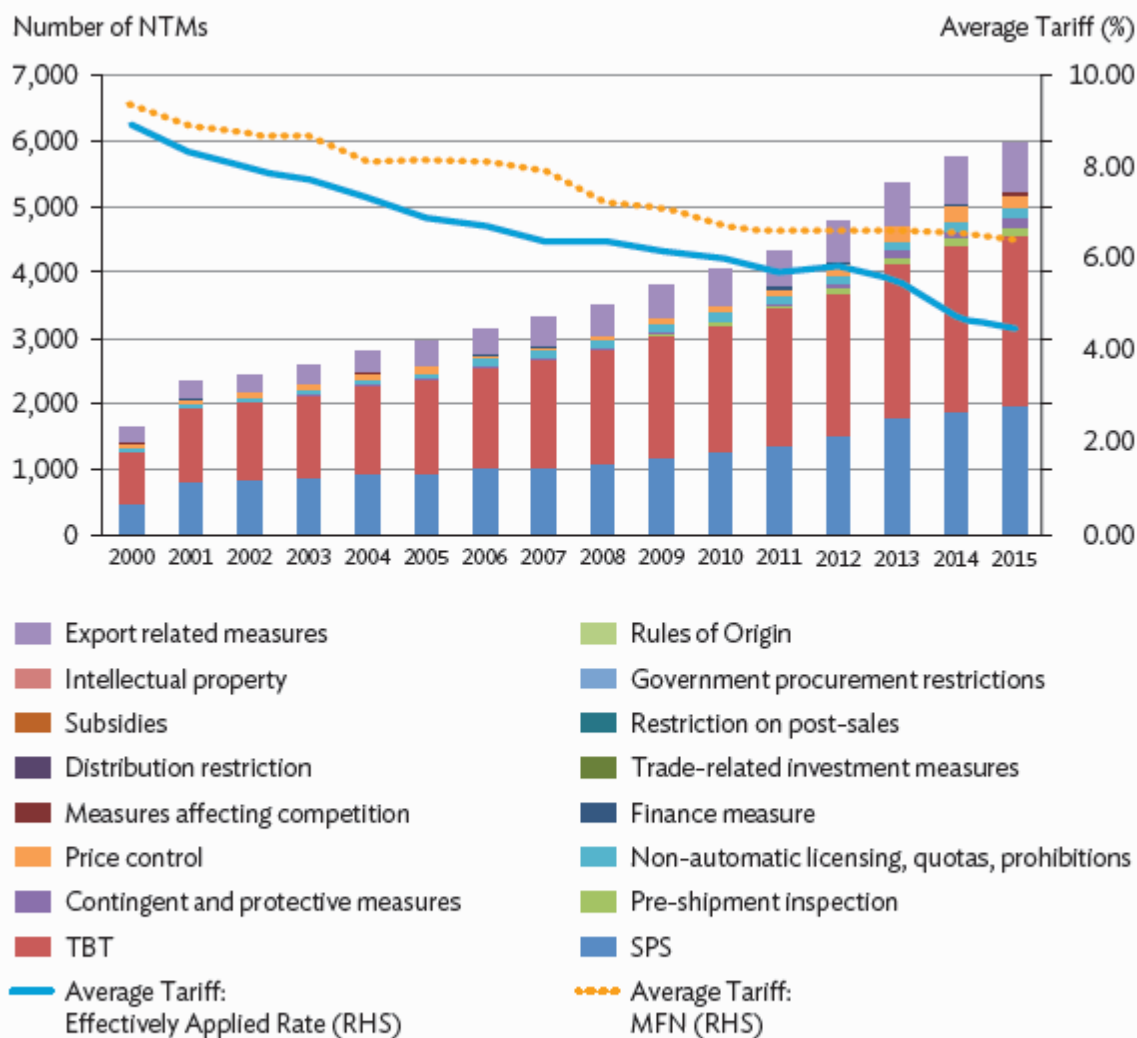
## **Point 2**

Study by ERIA – “A more integrated ASEAN: Facilitating Trade in Goods”

Lili Yan Ing & Olivier Cadot

- NTMs increase reaching 6000 NTMs in 2015
- approximately 75% of total number of NTMs in ASEAN is on Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary & Phytosanitary (SPS)
- The seriousness of the TBT & SPS issues
- ACCSQ has huge task to reduce this, as to increase ASEAN Intra Trade

**Figure 9: NTM Proliferation in ASEAN**



ASEAN = Association of Southeast Asian Nations; NTM = non-tariff measure; RHS = right hand side; SPS = sanitary and phytosanitary; TBT = technical barriers to trade.

Source: Ing et al. (2016).

### **Point 3**

- The role of ACCSQ has become more important and vital to ASEAN economy.
- to fulfil AEC 2025 goal - Clause A.1 Trade in Goods (h) & (g)
- in line with that, ACCSQ has come out with ASEAN STANDARDS AND CONFORMANCE STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2025 in order to achieve the objective AEC 2025 plus continue non achievable goal set during AEC 2015.
- up to ACCSQ members to work hard in order to materialise the strategic plan

### **Point 4**

- ACCSQ also need to cater the new emerging trend such as digital trade, e-commerce, 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution (4IR), Smart cities, UN Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs), Silver economy and many more.
- proactive solution and to be in trend with global initiatives.
- new sectors or area also has been put in the strategic plan

## **Point 5**

-Standards Malaysia has now been under new ministry, Ministry of International Trade and Industry since 17 October 2018.

- Hopefully it will more effective to facilitate trade specially to reduce TBT issues in Malaysia and complying with trade partners technical regulation including other ASEAN member states.

## **Conclusion**

I would like to wish all of you great success in your deliberations and hope that you will continuously contribute your expertise in the activities of standards and quality.

On that note, it is now my pleasure in declaring the 51st Meeting of the ASEAN Consultative Committee for Standards and Quality or ACCSQ, officially open.

Thank you.