



MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF STANDARDS MALAYSIA

WELCOMING REMARKS

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WORKSHOP ON TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

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DOUBLETREE BY HILTON, PUTRAJAYA LAKESIDE

1. Bismillahirrahmanirrahim. Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh dan selamat pagi saya ucapkan kepada tuan-tuan dan puan-puan sekalian.
2. Terlebih dahulu, saya ingin merakamkan setinggi-tinggi penghargaan kepada hadirin dan hadirat sekalian yang datang daripada pelbagai kementerian dan agensi, kerana sudi meluangkan masa untuk menghadiri bengkel *Technical Barriers to Trade* kita pada hari ini.
3. Izinkan saya untuk meneruskan kata-kata aluan saya di dalam Bahasa Inggeris, memandangkan banyak terma teknikal yang akan digunakan. Akan tetapi pada masa yang sama, kita meneruskan usaha dan menggembeleng tenaga untuk terus memperkasakan Bahasa Malaysia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. Non-tariff measures (NTMs) is the grey zone where trade policy meets national regulation. They are generally defined as policy / regulatory measures other than ordinary customs tariffs that can potentially have an economic effect on international trade.
5. Most traded goods are affected by non-tariff measures. Since most regulations apply equally to imported and domestic products, NTMs affect most of the products that we encounter in our daily lives, such as packaging requirements and limits on the use of pesticides ensure safe food; restrictions on toxins in toys protect our children;

mandatory voltage standards for household plugs enable regional mobility; and emission standards for cars limit climate change.

6. While tariffs are clear in their intent, the role of NTMs is less straightforward. On the one hand, many regulatory NTMs are indispensable for sustainable development. They are developed with the aim to protect human, animal or plant health as well as the environment. These objectives are at the core of social and environmental sustainability policies.
7. On the other hand, NTMs can also raise costs and create hurdles for trade and economic development. Private sector surveys indicate that technical regulations as well as related processes pose a significant challenge for trade.
8. A type of NTMs are called “technical” measures. These include regulations, standards, testing and certification, primarily sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) measures.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. Department of Standards Malaysia, under the ambit of Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) holds a unique position in this regard. This is because we are engaged with all regulators that implement technical regulations through respective acts and laws to administer provisions under the TBT agreement. In addition, we are also proponents of standards utilization, via our standardization and

accreditation services where we engage with conformity assessment bodies, industries, and the public at large.

10. To fulfil the responsibility entrusted to us by our mother Ministry, MITI, the Department of Standards Malaysia strives to continue our advocacy and awareness initiatives to improve our governance and implementation of standards and conformity assessment procedures, especially in the development of technical regulations which are led by your good selves, the regulators.

11. With that, I sincerely hope that all of you will find this session useful and beneficial to your work. Do treat these 2 days as an open space for you to have a frank discussion. Feel free to ask questions, share your thoughts and ideas. The Department is always here to advise and facilitate in whatever way that we can. Have a productive two days ahead.

Thank you.