

**ADDRESS BY**

**YB DATUK DR MAXIMUS JOHNTY ONGKILI**

**MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

**AT THE**

**MSC MALAYSIA ASIA PACIFIC ICT AWARDS 2009**

**(MSC MALAYSIA APICTA 2009)**

**ON**

**8 OCT, 2009**

**AT**

**DEWAN MERDEKA, PWTC**

**YB TUAN HAJI FADILLAH YUSOF**

DEPUTY MINISTER

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION, AND

WIFE YBHG PUAN HAJJAH RUZIAH MOHD TAHIR

**YBHG TAN SRI HALIM ALI**

CHAIRMAN

MULTIMEDIA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MDEC) AND PUAN

SRI

**YBHG DATIN MADINAH MOHAMAD**

SECRETARY-GENERAL

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

**YBHG DATO' BADLISHAM GHAZALI**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MULTIMEDIA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MDEC) AND DATIN

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

1. SELAMAT SEJAHTERA AND A VERY GOOD EVENING TO EVERYONE. SAYA BERASA BERSYUKUR KERANA DAPAT BERSAMA-SAMA DENGAN PARA HADIRIN SEKALIAN DI MAJLIS MSC MALAYSIA ASIA PACIFIC ICT ALLIANCE AWARDS 2009 (MSC MALAYSIA APICTA 2009) INI. DI MAJLIS INI KITA AKAN SEKALI LAGI MEMBERI PENGHORMATAN DAN PENGIKTIRAFAN KEPADA PENCAPAIAN CEMERLANG INDIVIDU-INDIVIDU, SYARIKAT-SYARIKAT DAN ORGANISASI-ORGANISASI YANG TELAH MENYUMBANG KEPADA PEMBANGUNAN MSC MALAYSIA DAN INDUSTRI ICT TEMPATAN.

2. INI JUGA MERUPAKAN SATU MAJLIS YANG ISTIMEWA KERANA MALAM INI KITA JUGA AKAN MERAI ULANGTAHUN YANG KE -10

ANUGERAH INI YANG DIMULAKAN PADA TAHUN 2000. IZINKAN SAYA MENERUSKAN UCAPAN SAYA DALAM BAHASA INGGERIS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

3. I AM HONOURED TO BE HERE WITH ALL OF YOU AT THE MSC MALAYSIA ASIA PACIFIC ICT ALLIANCE AWARDS 2009 (MSC MALAYSIA APICTA 2009), AS WE ONCE AGAIN RECOGNIZE AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF INDIVIDUALS, COMPANIES AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MSC MALAYSIA AND THE LOCAL ICT INDUSTRY.

4. IT IS ALSO A SPECIAL OCCASION IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE THAT WE CELEBRATE TONIGHT, FOR THIS IS THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE AWARDS, WHICH WAS FIRST HELD IN THE YEAR 2000. MSC MALAYSIA AND THE MALAYSIAN ICT INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE HAVE MADE GREAT STRIDES AND MOVED FAR AHEAD SINCE THEN.

5. THERE IS MUCH TO BE PROUD OF IN THE PROGRESS THAT WE AS A NATION HAVE MADE IN THIS AREA AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE KNOWLEDGE, EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE WE HAVE ACQUIRED AND CONTINUE TO ACQUIRE WILL ENABLE US TO NOT

ONLY KEEP UP WITH THE PACE OF CHANGE IN THE ICT FIELD, BUT ALSO ALLOW US TO LEAD THE PACK IN NICHE AND SECTORS WHERE WE HAVE DEVELOPED AND ARE DEVELOPING CUTTING-EDGE CAPABILITIES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

6. MSC MALAYSIA, OUR NATIONAL ICT INITIATIVE THAT IS THE CATALYST FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ICT IN MALAYSIA, HAS SEEN MUCH SUCCESS SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN AUGUST 1996. IT HAS PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE CREATION OF MANY HOME-GROWN ICT-RELATED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES, TALENT AND TECHNOPRENEURS; THE CREATION OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ICT-RELATED JOBS; AND IN SHEPHERDING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT THAT HAS HELPED ICT COMPANIES AND ENTREPRENEURS TO GENERATE REVENUES AMOUNTING TO BILLIONS OF RINGGIT IN TOTAL.

7. THE FIGURES SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. TODAY WE HAVE OVER 2,000 MSC-STATUS COMPANIES PROVIDING A BROAD ARRAY OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES. IN TOTAL, THESE COMPANIES GENERATE CLOSE TO RM18 BILLION IN ANNUAL REVENUES, WHICH HAVE SEEN STRONG GROWTH OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

**Comment [a1]:** Ok if you are referring to companies awarded but active and operational companies is less 2000. Total cumulative: 2,436 companies, Active: 1,923 companies.

Better to reword to "around 2,000 companies"

**Comment [a2]:** OK

TOGETHER WITH THE VARIOUS MSC MALAYSIA PROGRAMS THAT HAVE BEEN PUT IN PLACE TO SPUR GREATER BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN THE ICT INDUSTRY, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE NATIONAL ICT INITIATIVE CONTRIBUTES MORE THAN RM100 BILLION ANNUALLY TO THE MALAYSIAN ECONOMY.

Comment [a3]: Figures not from MDeC.

8. THE COUNTRY HAS ALSO EXPERIENCED AN INCREASE IN THE DEMAND AND CREATION OF KNOWLEDGE-BASED, ICT-RELATED JOBS IN TANDEM WITH THE GROWTH OF THE ICT INDUSTRY IN MALAYSIA. MSC MALAYSIA ALONE HAS CREATED MORE THAN 80,000 JOBS ANNUALLY AND PROJECTED IS FURTHER GROWTH OF MORE THAN 15% ANNUALLY.

9. THE LARGER MALAYSIA ICT INDUSTRY HAS ALSO BEEN ENJOYING GOOD GROWTH, IN LINE WITH GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY TRENDS AND SPURRED BY STRONG GOVERNMENT SUPPORT DRIVEN PRIMARILY BY MSC MALAYSIA. WHILE THE ECONOMIC CLIMATE HAS AFFECTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRY TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, IT IS STILL FORECAST TO GROW AT A RESPECTABLE 7% THIS YEAR. THIS DEMONSTRATES THE RESILIENCE OF THE ICT INDUSTRY AS WELL AS ITS ABILITY TO CONTINUOUSLY INNOVATE, THEREBY MAINTAINING RELATIVELY HEALTHY MARKET DEMAND. AS THE MALAYSIAN ECONOMY

Comment [a4]: Figures not from MDeC.

RECOVERS ITS STRENGTH, THE ICT INDUSTRY WILL NO DOUBT BE ABLE TO TAP INTO THE INCREASED DEMAND FOR THE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES IT PRODUCES.

HONORABLE GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

10. THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ICT IN THE COUNTRY CAN ALSO BE SEEN IN THE MANNER WITH WHICH MALAYSIANS HAVE EMBRACED TECHNOLOGY INTO THEIR DAILY LIVES. THE TRENDS SHOW THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN EXPLOSIVE GROWTH IN ICT USE AND ADOPTION, AS MORE AND MORE MALAYSIANS BECOME INCREASINGLY ICT-AWARE AND INTERNET-SAVVY.

11. IN 2000, WHEN THE INAUGURAL MSC MALAYSIA APICTA AWARDS WAS LAUNCHED BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER TUN DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, THE PC PENETRATION RATE WAS STILL RELATIVELY LOW, AT ABOUT 13.5% OF HOUSEHOLDS; TODAY IT HAS REACHED AROUND 45%. THEN, ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF HOUSEHOLDS HAD FIXED LINE CONNECTIONS AND ON AVERAGE, CELLULAR PHONES WERE IN THE HANDS OF JUST 22% OF THE POPULATION.

12. TODAY, MORE PEOPLE PREFER TO COMMUNICATE WIRELESSLY, RESULTING IN A CONSIDERABLE DECREASE IN FIXED LINE CONNECTIONS TO ABOUT 44.5% OF HOUSEHOLDS AND HUGE RISE IN THE CELLULAR PHONE PENETRATION TO MORE THAN 100% OF THE POPULATION. THIS MEANS THAT MANY MALAYSIANS HAVE MORE THAN ONE CELLULAR PHONE ACCOUNT AND PROVES THAT WE SIMPLY LOVE TO TALK. MALAYSIANS ALSO OBVIOUSLY ENJOY CHATTING WITH EACH OTHER VIA SMS – IN 2002, WHEN THE RELATED STATISTICS WERE FIRST COMPILED; IT WAS FOUND THAT 3.6 BILLION SMSES WERE SENT. THAT MIGHT SEEM LIKE A LOT OF MESSAGES BUT IT PALES IN COMPARISON TO THE OVER 73 BILLION SMSES THAT CRISSCROSSED THE AIRWAVES LAST YEAR.

Comment [a5]: Figures not from MDeC.

13. MALAYSIANS ALSO HAVE TAKEN TO THE INTERNET IN A VERY BIG WAY. INTERNET USE AMONG INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES HAS SURGED OVER THE PAST DECADE AND CORRESPONDINGLY, PENETRATION RATES HAVE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY. THE HOUSEHOLD BROADBAND PENETRATION RATE CURRENTLY STANDS AT ABOUT 24.8%, AND IT IS ESTIMATED THAT MORE THAN HALF THE POPULATION USE THE INTERNET REGULARLY, PRIMARILY VIA BROADBAND CONNECTIONS EITHER AT HOME OR AT WORK, OR BOTH. THE LOCAL INTERNET SCENE IS, AS WE ALL KNOW, VERY MUCH “ALIVE AND KICKING”, WITH MALAYSIANS GOING ONLINE FOR

A VARIETY OF PURPOSES RANGING FROM THE USE OF EMAIL AND GETTING THE NEWS TO CONDUCTING COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS AND MAINTAINING PERSONAL WEBSITES. MALAYSIANS TODAY NOT ONLY BUY, READ AND LEARN ONLINE, MORE AND MORE ALSO TWEET, FACEBOOK AND BLOG.

14. IT IS CLEAR THAT THAT THE BASIC FOUNDATION FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF ICT IN THE COUNTRY IS SOLID AND WE HAVE BEFORE US MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO MOVE FORWARD IN CREATING A VIBRANT AND THRIVING HIGH-VALUE KNOWLEDGE-ECONOMY. A KEY COMPONENT OF THIS ECONOMY IS THE ADVANCED LARGE-BANDWIDTH INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIRED TO ENABLE THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF CUTTING-EDGE APPLICATIONS AND SERVICES. INDUSTRY PLAYERS SUCH AS THOSE IN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTORS ARE CONSTANTLY UPGRADING THEIR NETWORKS TO OFFER MORE COMPELLING SERVICES. THE HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND NETWORK THAT IS CURRENTLY BEING PUT INTO PLACE VIA A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND TM BHD IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT INFRASTRUCTURE COMPONENT.

15. WITH THESE ONGOING INITIATIVES AND THE GROUNDWORK THAT HAS BEEN LAID OVER THE YEARS THROUGH VARIOUS PROJECTS SUCH MSC MALAYSIA, THERE IS A NEED FOR US TO

ALSO FOCUS ON DEVELOPING LOCAL CONTENT AND CONTENT APPLICATIONS. MUCH OF THE CONTENT CONSUMED IN THIS COUNTRY IS FOREIGN-BASED. AND ALTHOUGH WE SEE SOME INCREASE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL CONTENT, THERE IS STRONG POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER GROWTH IN THIS AREA AS THE INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT CONTENT AND CONTENT APPLICATIONS REQUIRING HIGH-SPEED NETWORKS IS PROGRESSIVELY ROLLED OUT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

16. THE CONCEPT OF THE “BORDERLESS WORLD” HAS BEEN TALKED ABOUT FOR SOME TIME, BUT OUR WORLD IS NOW BECOMING TRULY SO. WITH THE DEVELOPMENT AND GREATER USE OF ICT WE CAN BUILD TRULY CONNECTED COMMUNITIES THAT SHARE AND COLLABORATE ON A WIDE SCALE.

17. TO BUILD THESE CONNECTED COMMUNITIES WE NEED TO LESSEN THE DIFFERING DEGREES OF CONNECTEDNESS AMONG COMMUNITIES. VARIOUS POLICIES AND PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN AND ARE BEING PUT IN PLACE TO ENHANCE AND WIDEN ACCESSIBILITY TO ICT, BY FOCUSING ON ISSUES SUCH AS AVAILABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY OF ACCESS AND CONTENT.

18. INNOVATION IN ICT PROVIDES US WITH INFRASTRUCTURE-BUILDING CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT IS INNOVATION IN THE USE OF ICT THAT WILL ALLOW US TO ACCELERATE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND CREATE DIGITAL DIVIDENDS FOR THE WIDER COMMUNITY.

19. INNOVATION IS CRITICAL COMPONENT IN THE CREATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF A KNOWLEDGE-BASED SOCIETY AND ECONOMY, AND IN THE LARGER PERSPECTIVE, IT PLAYS A HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN EFFORTS TO ENHANCE THE COUNTRY'S GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS. THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM (WEF) RANKED MALAYSIA THE 24<sup>TH</sup> MOST COMPETITIVE COUNTRY OUT OF 133 COUNTRIES AND ECONOMIES RANKED IN ITS GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS REPORT 2009-2010 RELEASED RECENTLY. THIS IS NO MEAN ACHIEVEMENT FOR A COUNTRY WITH A RELATIVELY SMALL DOMESTIC MARKET LIKE OURS.

20. A KEY CONTRIBUTOR TO OUR COUNTRY'S HIGH COMPETITIVENESS RANKING HAS BEEN OUR EFFORTS IN ENCOURAGING, INCULCATING AND SPURRING INNOVATION IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC SPHERES. THE WEF GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS REPORT 2009-2010 ALSO PLACED MALAYSIA 24<sup>TH</sup> IN ITS INNOVATION

FACTORS SUB-INDEX. AMONG THE INNOVATION FACTORS, OUR COUNTRY RANKED 9<sup>TH</sup> IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS, 19<sup>TH</sup> IN COMPANY SPENDING ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, 22<sup>ND</sup> IN UNIVERSITY-INDUSTRY COLLABORATION IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND 25<sup>TH</sup> IN OUR OVERALL CAPACITY FOR INNOVATION.

HONORABLE GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

21. WE HAVE ACHIEVED MUCH IN TERMS OF PUTTING PLACE THE FUNDAMENTAL BUILDING BLOCKS FOR AN INNOVATION CULTURE, BUT WE DO NOT HAVE LUXURY TO REST ON OUR LAURELS IF WE ARE TO BOOST OUR COMPETITIVENESS AND JOIN THE RANKS OF ADVANCED COUNTRIES. THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO INTRODUCE NEW INNOVATION-RELATED POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES AND FINE TUNE EXISTING ONES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TOO WILL NEED TO PLAY ITS ROLE IN ADVANCING MALAYSIA FORWARD.

22. THE CHALLENGE BEFORE MALAYSIAN ICT COMPANIES AND ENTREPRENEURS, MANY OF WHOM ARE REPRESENTED HERE TONIGHT, IS THEREFORE TO BUILD UPON THE SUCCESSES THAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED AND THE FOUNDATION THAT WE HAVE BUILT

SINCE THE LAUNCH OF MSC MALAYSIA MORE THAN 13 YEARS AGO. WE MUST INNOVATE FURTHER IN DEVELOPING APPLICATIONS, SERVICES AND CONTENT THAT WILL ENABLE US TO BECOME A HIGHLY-CONNECTED, KNOWLEDGE-BASED INNOVATION-DRIVEN SOCIETY AND ECONOMY.

23. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT OUR ICT COMPANIES AND ENTREPRENEURS HAVE THE CAPABILITIES TO MEET THE CHALLENGE, AND I BELIEVE THE WINNERS OF THE MSC MALAYSIA APICTA AWARDS 2009 TONIGHT AS WELL AS PAST WINNERS WHO HAVE GONE ON TO MUCH GREATER HEIGHTS ARE PROOF THAT WE ARE EQUAL TO THE TASK. THE AWARDS RECOGNIZES CREATIVITY, INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE AMONG PLAYERS IN THE MALAYSIAN ICT INDUSTRY AND IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT ELEMENTS OF CREATIVITY AND EXCELLENCE ARE ESSENTIAL FACTORS IN RAISING OUR COMPETITIVENESS AND ULTIMATELY, IN OUR GOAL TO BUILD AN INNOVATION-BASED SOCIETY AND ECONOMY.

24. MY HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WINNERS OF TONIGHT'S MSC MALAYSIA APICTA AWARDS 2009 AND I LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESS FROM EVERYONE. I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST. THANK YOU.