

SPEECH BY

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MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

**AT THE STANDARDS AND METROLOGY INSTITUTE
FOR THE ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SMIIC) HALAL CONFERENCE**

**14 DECEMBER 2015
HOTEL ISTANA, KUALA LUMPUR**

[updated list to be advised on day of event]

YAB DATO' SERI DR. AHMAD ZAHID HAMIDI

Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia

YB DATUK HJ AHMAD MASLAN

Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry (MITI)

YB MEJAR JENERAL DATO' SERI JAMIL KHIR BAHAROM

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department

MR. NAGHI JABBAROV

Head of Trade and Investment, Department of Economic Affairs,
The Organization of Islamic Cooperation, representing the Secretary
General of the OIC

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. IHSAN OVUT

Secretary General of Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic
Countries (SMIIC)

Senior officials from Ministries, Departments and Agencies

Members of the Media

**Honoured Guests, Distinguished Participants; Ladies and
Gentlemen**

¹ To be delivered by YB DATUK DR ABU BAKAR MOHAMAD DIAH, Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation.

Salam Sejahtera, Salam 1 Malaysia, Salam 1 MOSTI and a very good morning to all.

2. Malaysia is indeed privileged to host this event which is jointly organised by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), the Prime Minister's Department and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI). We are indeed honoured by the presence of **the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi**. Your presence Sir, clearly demonstrates the unwavering support by the Government of Malaysia to the work of SMIIC.

3. The Honourable Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Datuk Seri Panglima Madius Tangau regrets that he is unable to join us this morning as he has another pressing engagement, and I have the pleasure of delivering the following message on his behalf.

4. It is indeed a great honour for Malaysia to host this **inaugural SMIIC HALAL CONFERENCE** here in Kuala Lumpur and please accept my apology for unable to personally welcome you this morning.

5. MOSTI also would like to extend its utmost appreciation to the three key agencies, the Department of Standards Malaysia, the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM) and the Halal Industry Development Corporation (HDC) with the support of the SMIIC General Secretariat for their concerted effort in organising this conference. This **joint partnership should be applauded** and it is my fervent hope that this inaugural effort will set a benchmark for future events organised under SMIIC.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. As a background, **Malaysia's membership into SMIIC has been approved by the SMIIC Board of Directors during the 7th General Assembly of SMIIC on 19th and 20th November 2014 at Istanbul, Turkey.** The Board has unanimously endorsed Malaysia's membership application, together with Bosnia-Herzegovina. With these inclusions, **SMIIC membership is now comprised of 32 out of 57 OIC Member States.**

7. The 7th General Assembly also approved and welcomed Malaysia's proposal to host today's SMIIC Halal Conference. This conference, which aims at **enhancing understanding of Malaysia's Halal initiatives**, will also act as a perfect platform to chart the direction of the halal agenda in OIC Member States. As tariff becomes zero-based on commitments under WTO and other free trade agreements, non-tariff issues such as standards, certifications and accreditation becomes increasingly important. I firmly believe that Malaysia's involvement in SMIIC would make an impactful contribution to the development and harmonization of the standards and conformity assessment procedures amongst the OIC Member States.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. I am delighted to note that this Conference has received an overwhelming response from member states. **Of the 300 registered participants, 32 are from the SMIIC and 18 from Non-SMIIC Member States.** They represent relevant stakeholders and experts who have hallmarked confidence and endorsement over Malaysia's Halal standards and conformance infrastructure.

9. A comprehensive programme has been planned for this two-day Conference. **The first day programme is divided into three sessions which will cover firstly, an overview on Malaysia's Halal standard and certification system, to be followed by SMIIC Halal initiatives and lastly on the industry's perspective on standards compliance. An industry visit to Halal Park Serkam, Melaka** on the 2nd day will also be organised to expose the participants to the halal manufacturing process of various products in the Halal Park.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. Halal originates from an Arabic phrase that means “***allowed or permitted by Islamic Law.***” By adhering to halal standards, we ensure that our products and services are accepted by both Muslims and non-Muslims since they signify hygiene, safety and regarded as a symbol of quality.

11. The status of Halal on consumer food products and goods in Malaysia **began in year 1974 when the Research Centre of the Islamic Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's office started to issue halal certification letters** for products that met all criteria. Over the years, the **halal management and governance structure has evolved and is now led by three (3) main organisations namely the Department of Standards Malaysia, the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM) and the Halal Industry Development Corporation (HDC).**

12. The **Department of Standards Malaysia** is an agency under the purview of my Ministry, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI). As the National Standards and Accreditation Body,

it focuses on **the development and promotion of Malaysian Standards (MS) and international standards, as well as providing a credible accreditation service to conformity assessment bodies.**

13. Since its establishment in 1996, the Department of Standards Malaysia has established a credible National standards development infrastructure. With the engagement of various stakeholders, the Department of Standards Malaysia has managed to excel in the development of **6,164 Malaysian Standards (MS) across 25 different sectors**. One of them is the Halal sector. To date, through the concerted effort by all parties, we have managed to develop **13 Malaysian Standards on Halal**.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

14. The 2nd organisation is JAKIM. JAKIM is also a Government Department under the purview of the Prime Minister's Department. Since its establishment in 1968, JAKIM has been playing a pivotal role in managing Islamic development in Malaysia. One of its core functions, which is the Halal certification lays a foundation for a strong Halal ecosystem in Malaysia. JAKIM has recognised **56 international Halal certification bodies** such as from Australia, USA, Switzerland, Sudan, Turkey and Pakistan; and **16 authorities** such as from Qatar, Kuwait, Brunei, Morocco, Iran and U.A.E. Currently ten (10) out of these 56 are from SMIIC Member States.

15. The third organisation is HDC. HDC is the first government-backed halal industry development agency formed in 2006. Its primary role and function is **to coordinate the overall development of Halal industry in a comprehensive and integrated manner**. The Cabinet has

recently approved HDC as the focal point for all Halal industry development programmes and activities. HDC seeks to assist companies to preparing for Halal certification; facilitating the development of Halal Parks; and providing knowledge, information and related data through the **Global Halal Support Centre (GHSC)**.

16. The **GHSC was established to promote Malaysia as the world reference centre in Halal knowledge and halal-related services**. It provides a one stop support for companies and service providers in Halal-related sectors including Halal integrity know-how, information on Halal certification and capacity building and investment opportunities in Malaysia. These efforts are in line with the strategic initiatives under **Malaysia's Halal Industry Master Plan towards making Malaysia the leading Global Halal Hub**.

17. With this brief introduction of Halal infrastructure and some insights on Malaysia's Halal ecosystem, I am hopeful that this can be a reference point for all of you to deliberate further in this conference.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

18. Finally, I would like to once again congratulate the Department of Standards Malaysia, JAKIM and HDC for their untiring efforts and commitment in organising the SMIIC Halal Conference. To Yang Amat Berhormat, Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, once again thank you for your kind presence, Sir. On that note, I wish you all every success with the conference.

Sekian. Terima kasih.