

TEKS UCAPAN

**YB DATUK SERI PANGLIMA MADIUS TANGAU
MENTERI SAINS, TEKNOLOGI DAN INOVASI**

SEMPENA

**ASEAN RETREAT CONVENTION ON
ISO/IEC 17024 – CERTIFICATION OF PERSONS**

**SHANGRI- LA'S TANJUNG ARU RESORT & SPA
KOTA KINABALU, SABAH**

RABU, 25 NOVEMBER 2015

YBHG. DATUK ABIDIN MADINGKIR

Mayor of Dewan Bandaraya Kota Kinabalu

YBHG. DATUK FADILAH BAHARIN

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Director and the CEO of IPEC Bureau Certification Sdn. Bhd.

Senior officials from Ministries and Agencies

Members of the Media

**Honoured guests from ASEAN Countries and distinguished
participants**

Ladies and gentlemen,

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

As Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Malaysia, I am deeply honoured and privileged **to address the first ever Retreat Convention on ASEAN Certification of Persons - ISO/IEC 17024**. Let me also express my heartfelt **gratitude to the Department of Standards Malaysia or Standards Malaysia** for inviting me to this auspicious event and my **heartiest congratulations to Standards Malaysia and IPEC Bureau Sdn Bhd for jointly organizing this inaugural Convention**.

2. Over the last few decades, ASEAN has enjoyed a **remarkable economic growth**. Since 2007, while **annual average growth in the global economy** has been **3.3 per cent**, ASEAN recorded a **5.1 per cent in annual growth**. Its vision as a **single common market** and production base by the end of 2015 has become a reality with the signing of the **Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the establishment of the ASEAN Community** on **22 November 2015**. The ASEAN Community with a combined population of 630 million, will lead to a **freer flow** of goods, services, investment capital and **skilled labour** in the region.

3. Tariffs and non-tariff barriers will be reduced which will have implications for intra-regional trade and investment. New opportunities for growth and prosperity are likely to emerge, **but the challenge** is to ensure that **growth is inclusive** and prosperity is shared. Hence **understanding the impact of the ASEAN Integration on labour markets will be critical** in making sound policy choices that can shape the lives of the over **630 million** women and men in the region.

4. Between 1991 and 2013, eighty-three **(83) million workers** have moved out of poverty into the middle class. The region also has one of the world's highest foreign investment inflows; attracted by its **workforce of 300 million**, growing consumer markets and expanding networks of infrastructure.

5. Despite progress, challenges remain. Approximately **179 million workers (or three in five)** are in vulnerable employment and **92 million earn too little to escape poverty**. Securing decent employment is particularly difficult for young people and women. These labour market concerns are worsened by limited commitments to labour standards and social protection. In this regard, the **ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)** has the potential to accelerate growth – by increasing flows of trade and investment, enabling the freer movement of skilled workers, and by strengthening institutions.

6. Addressing these key issues will help ensure that **ASEAN will benefit from economic integration**, and vulnerable groups are not left behind. Even though we have seen some progress to boost the flow of skilled labour in ASEAN but there is still **room for improvement** – quality and well recognized skilled labour based on agreed standards.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. **Standards and conformance** play a pivotal role in achieving the goal. **Differences** in norms and laws; and incompatibility of conformity assessments procedures have long become **technical barriers to trade** across the region. Hence, efforts towards **standards harmonisation** in the

ASEAN and bringing about **regulatory convergence** and **recognition of testing and certification** need to be doubled in this area for the region to **stay competitive** and enhance intra-ASEAN trade as well as external trade.

8. I am delighted to note that **presently there is a globally recognized standard, ISO/IEC 17024** that could be a basis to further enhance the movement of professionals and skilled labour within ASEAN. As the standard is developed by ISO/IEC in which an agency under my Ministry is involved, I believe that **Standards Malaysia has a critical role play** to continuously foster and promote standards and standardisation activities.

9. In tandem with its **ASEAN Chairmanship, Malaysia** renews its call to intensify its efforts to reach out and **consult stakeholders on the post-2015 ASEAN agenda**. Event such as this one is **a perfect platform to deliberate** on a better-connected ASEAN that will contribute towards freer movement of people, of goods and of services. This in turn will better the lives of our ASEAN citizens, raising their living standards so as to deepen ASEAN's economic progress.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. **Leveraging on ASEAN's skill workers availability** and optimizing opportunities offered by Government to Government and Business to Business arrangements, we **move towards global competitiveness** through the harmonization of human capital platform. Our ASEAN Community must be able to depend on each other's human capital competency to brave current and upcoming challenges. Through ISO / IEC 17024 Certification of Person the certified skilled workers, professionals,

experts and personnel can be accepted amongst ASEAN members with less stringent processes.

11. **This initiative** will remove economic barriers within the industries and bridge economic gap in communities. It will **strengthen social development** at the same time guide talents and workforce to conform to specific requirements and skills to further drive productivity and boost the economic value chain to sustain global competitiveness.

12. Over the years, **the need for certification of persons** have become an increasingly important part of cross borders employment mobility requirement. This demands a pro-active method to justify and identify level of competency and a recognition that allows for relevant skills and **persons to be certified according to a set of standards and competency.**

13. Therefore **this Convention** is an opening to such objective thus making your presence and contribution at this ASEAN Certification of Persons **vital to the process** of achieving global recognition in human capital development. This is also in line with **MOSTI's mission** to explore and exploit Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to generate knowledge, create wealth and ensure societal wellbeing towards achieving a competitive, sustainable and inclusive high income economy.

14. In understanding the need to develop and sustain national competency, **Malaysia is shifting towards a knowledge-based economy to become a fully developed and modern nation by the year 2020.** In order to achieve this goal, we need to build up our technological capabilities by investing in the development of skilled human capital. This initiative is

also aligned with **the second strategic thrust of the National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (NSTIP), 2013 - 2020** that addresses the importance of developing, harnessing and intensifying talents.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

15. As we focus on **human capital development**, adherence to conformity assessment must be acknowledged as a way to **monitor standards and quality**. To build a great nation, human capital must be agile to keep abreast with global employment transitions and innovation. Through initiatives such as this ASEAN-IPEC Convention on Certification of Persons that we are able to forward into skills and services standardisation and quality. Let us work towards a free movement of workforces and global recognition of persons' certification by making your contribution to this Retreat Convention significant for ASEAN people, community and vision.

16. With that, it gives me great pleasure to **declare open THE ASEAN RETREAT CONVENTION ON ISO/IEC 17024 – CERTIFICATION OF PERSONS.**

Thank you.