OPENING SPEECH BY

YB DATUK HAJI FADILLAH BIN HAJI YUSOF

DEPUTY MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON COMPUTING ETHICS

SUNWAY PUTRA HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR

TUESDAY | 4 SEPTEMBER 2012 |

9.30 AM

BISMILLAHIRRAHMANIRRAHIM.

ASSALAMUALAIKUM WARAHMATULLAHI WABARAKATUH, GOOD MORNING AND SALAM SATU MALAYSIA.

YANG DIHORMATI SAUDARA PENGERUSI MAJLIS ,

YANG BERUSAHA PROF. DATUK DR. KHAIRUDDIN ABDUL HAMID

VICE-CHANCELLOR , UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK (UNIMAS), CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ICT HUMAN RESOURCE TASKFORCE, AND CHAIRMAN OF EXPERT GROUP ON ICT HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE NATIONAL IT COUNCIL (NITC)

YANG BERUSAHA PROF. DR. AHMAD ZAKI ABU BAKAR

PRESIDENT , MALAYSIAN NATIONAL COMPUTER CONFEDERATION (MNCC) ,

KEYNOTE AND INVITED SPEAKERS FROM LOCAL AND ABROAD,

PARTICIPANTS, MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

1. LET US START BY THANKING ALLAH S.W.T FOR GIVING US THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GATHER AT THIS AUGUST CONFERENCE AND HISTORICAL EVENT . I WAS INFORMED BY THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE THAT THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON COMPUTING ETHICS IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND TO BE HELD IN THIS REGION . WITH *PROMOTING GOVERNANCE AND PROFESSIONALISM* AS ITS THEME , THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WILL CERTAINLY BRING ALONG INVALUABLE GLOBAL VIEWS AND PERSPECTIVES ON COMPUTING ETHICS TO THE CONFERENCE .

2. AS WE ALL KNOW , INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY OR ICT HAS BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF MODERN LIVING AND THE PERVASIVE NATURE OF COMPUTING MAKES IT AN INDISPENSABLE TOOL FOR THE MASSES . HOWEVER , OUR RELIANCE ON THIS SUPER DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY OPENS UP MANY AVENUES OF CONCERNS ON THE POTENTIAL THREATS OF ABUSE , INTRUSION , BREAKDOWNS AND FAILURES DUE TO HUMAN ERROR , POOR DESIGN , CARELESSNESS AND NEGLIGENCE .

3. HENCE , I BELIEVE THE CONFERENCE IS A CLEAR INDICATION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES WHICH IS NOT ONLY CONFINED TO COMPUTING OR INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY BUT ALSO MULTI-DISCIPLINARY IN NATURE .

4. AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE , TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (MOSTI) WHICH IS IN CHARGE OF THE ICT DEVELOPMENT AND IN ADVANCEMENT AGENDA OF THE COUNTRY , WE HAVE ALWAYS VIEWED **INTEGRITY** AS A CRITICAL ELEMENT IN THE ICT INDUSTRY WHICH AIMS TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC AND THE CREATION OF QUALITY PRODUCTS FOR THE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS . IT IS FOR THIS REASON MOSTI IS SPEARHEADING THE FORMATION OF THE BOARD OF COMPUTING PROFESSIONAL MALAYSIA (BCPM) IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF THE COMPUTER AND MULTIMEDIA INDUSTRY MALAYSIA (PIKOM) , MALAYSIAN NATIONAL COMPUTER CONFEDERATION , ACADEMIA AND ICT COMMUNITIES WHO ARE IMPORTANT STAKEHOLDERS IN THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE ICT INDUSTRY .

5. THE CULMINATION OF THE PROPOSED BCPM IS THE UPGRADING AND DEVELOPMENT OF A QUALITY WORKFORCE WHO ARE HIGHLY TALENTED AND SKILLED WITH STRONG ETHICAL VALUES IN THEIR PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND PRACTICES . THIS IS CRITICAL AND STRATEGIC AS WE MOVE

IN LINE WITH DIGITAL MALAYSIA , A NATIONAL ICT TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME WHICH REQUIRES THESE TALENT POOLS TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES AND BRING THE COUNTRY TO NEW LEVELS OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND SCRUTINY .

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN ,

6. THE EMPHASIS ON INTEGRITY ALSO REAFFIRMS THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA'S AGENDA UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF YAB DATO' SRI MOHD NAJIB BIN TUN HAJI ABDUL RAZAK , THE RIGHT HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA TO TRANSFORM THE NATION INTO A DEVELOPED HIGH INCOME NATION BY 2020 . AS A MATTER OF FACT , INTEGRITY IS ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL VALUE OF THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS ASPIRATION AND COMMITMENT TO SERVE THE PUBLIC BETTER UNDER THE PHILOSOPHY OF 1MALAYSIA – PEOPLE FIRST , PERFORMANCE NOW .

7. I APPLAUD THE INITIATIVE OF THE NATIONAL ICT HUMAN RESOURCE TASKFORCE UNDER THE ABLE LEADERSHIP OF YANG BERUSAHA PROF. DATUK DR. KHAIRUDDIN ABDUL HAMID IN ORGANIZING THIS CONFERENCE IN COLLABORATION WITH PROF DR AHMAD ZAKI ABU BAKAR , PRESIDENT OF THE MALAYSIAN NATIONAL COMPUTER CONFEDERATION (MNCC) .

8. I WAS FURTHER MADE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE NATIONAL ICT HUMAN RESOURCE TASKFORCE WAS ALSO ENGAGED BY THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO ACT AS A THINK TANK ON THE FORMULATION OF POLICIES AND STREAMLINING OF STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS ON ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE ICT HUMAN RESOURCE OF THE COUNTRY . THE TASKFORCE HAS PRODUCED A REPORT , "ICT HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK" WHICH HAS BEEN PRESENTED AND APPROVED BY THE CABINET COMMITTEE ON HUMAN CAPITAL CHAIRED BY OUR RIGHT HONOURABLE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER , YAB TAN SRI DATO' HAJI MUHYIDDIN BIN HAJI MOHD YASSIN .

9. UNDER THIS FRAMEWORK , THREE STRATEGIC THRUSTS ARE PROPOSED AND OUTLINED FOR IMPLEMENTATION AS FOLLOWS :

    I.   RAISING WORKFORCE COMPETENCIES BY STRENGTHENING ICT CURRICULUM BOTH AT THE SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY LEVELS ;
    II. BUILDING GREATER R&D AND INNOVATIVE CAPACITY THROUGH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN R&D AND COMMERCIALIZATION AND THE SETTING UP OF A ICT BOUTIQUE UNIVERSITY ; AND
    III. INSTITUTIONALIZING PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION AND STANDARDS BY FORMING A NATIONAL COMPUTING PROFESSIONAL BODY .

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN ,

10. THE TASKFORCE IS CURRENTLY WORKING WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (MOE) , TEACHERS TRAINING INSTITUTES , INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO COME WITH MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND PRACTICAL APPROACHES TO STRENGTHEN OUR ICT CURRICULUM BASED ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES .

11. EVENTUALLY , THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THESE STUDIES WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE JOINT-COMMITTEE BETWEEN MOE AND MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION (MOHE) BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR FOR APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION .

12. ON THE OTHER HAND , THE STRATEGIC PLANS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NATIONAL ICT HUMAN RESOURCE TASKFORCE ALSO SAW NO LESSER INTEREST AND SUPPORT FROM MOSTI AND MOHE .

13. AN EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THE RECOMMENDATION TO SET-UP A SPECIALIZED UNIVERSITY WHICH WILL PROVIDE A MORE FOCUSED AND HOLISTIC APPROACH TO ICT TERTIARY EDUCATION WHICH WAS PRESENTED AND APPROVED BY THE CABINET COMMITTEE ON HUMAN CAPITAL LAST YEAR . THIS UNIVERSITY IS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE GRADUATES AT ALL LEVELS IN ICT AND BE INDUSTRY-READY WHO WILL

SUBSEQUENTLY BECOME COMPUTING PROFESSIONALS OR WORLD CLASS RESEARCHERS IN SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY AND ITS APPLICATION .

14. AS I HAVE MENTIONED EARLIER , THE CONFERENCE IS YET ANOTHER INITIATIVE OF THE NATIONAL ICT HUMAN RESOURCE TASKFORCE TO PROVIDE DIVERSE AND GLOBAL INPUTS TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA IN ITS CONSIDERATION IN ESTABLISHING A PROFESSIONAL BODY TO GOVERN ETHICAL CONDUCT AND PRACTICES OF COMPUTING PROFESSIONALS . TOWARDS THIS END , MOSTI HAS GIVEN ITS SUPPORT TO THE TASKFORCE TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO GET INPUTS AND FEEDBACKS FROM THE VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS OF THE ICT INDUSTRY TO FURTHER STRENGHTHEN ITS PLAN ON THE PROPOSED FORMATION OF BCPM .

15. THEREFORE , THE CONFERENCE TODAY IS TIMELY AND APPROPRIATE FOR US TO SEEK THE VIEWS AND INPUTS FROM ALL THE PARTICIPANTS ESPECIALLY OUR DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS BOTH LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY WHERE THE RESOLUTIONS FROM THIS CONFERENCE WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH MOSTI AND SUBSEQUENTLY DELIBERATED FOR THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION ON THE ISSUE OF INSTITUTIONALIZING PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION AND STANDARDS IN THE COUNTRY .

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN ,

16. AT THIS JUNCTURE , I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE VARIOUS PARTIES WHO HAVE TOILED UNRELENTLESSLY IN MAKING THIS GLOBAL CONFERENCE POSSIBLE . APART FROM MY COLLEAGUES AT THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDCATION , NATIONAL ICT HUMAN RESOURCE TASKFORCE AND MALAYSIAN NATIONAL COMPUTER CONFEDERATION , I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK , UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA AND INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA FOR HOSTING THE THREE DISTINGUISH PROFESSORS FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HOLDING ACTIVITIES SUCH AS LECTURES , WORKSHOPS AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS ON THE NEED AND RELEVANCE OF INCORPORATING COMPUTING ETHICS IN THE CURRICULUM . THE INPUTS FROM THE THREE DISTINGUISH PROFESSORS HAVE CERTAINLY ADDED TO OUR BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE STRATEGIES TO EFFECTIVELY TEACH COMPUTING ETHICS AND I SINCERELY THANK THE PROFESSORS ONCE AGAIN FOR THEIR INVALUABLE EFFORTS AND INPUTS .

17. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK ALL THE PARTICIPANTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONFERENCE ON THEIR DIVERSE GLOBAL VIEWS AND PERSPECTIVES PERTAINING TO COMPUTING ETHICS . MALAYSIA HAS ALWAYS BEEN A

STRONG BELIEVER IN REGIONAL COOPERATION AND SHOULD A CODE OF CONDUCT ON COMPUTING ETHICS BE FORMULATED DUE TO THE OUTCOME OF YOUR DELIBERATIONS , WE WOULD BE HONOURED AND DELIGHTED TO INTRODUCE IT TO OUR REGIONAL PARTNERS IN THE NEAR FUTURE .

18. WITH THIS WORDS AND IN THE NAME OF GOD THE ALMIGHTY, I WISH ALL OF YOU A FRUITFUL AND BOUNTIFUL CONFERENCE AND HEREBY OFFICIALLY DECLARE THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON COMPUTING ETHICS 2012 OPEN .

19. THANK YOU .