

**SPEECH BY  
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DEPUTY MINISTER OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

**OFFICIAL OPENING OF ASIA PLANTATION CAPITAL DISTILLERY**

**2 JUNE 2016 (THURSDAY), 6.00PM  
NO. 5, JALAN BUKIT 28, MASAI INDUSTRIAL PARK, 81750  
BANDAR SERI ALAM, JOHOR.**

**Salutation**

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and a very good evening to all of you.

I am very pleased to be present here this evening to announce the Official Opening of the Asia Plantation Capital Agarwood Distillery and Research Centre. My heartiest congratulations go to Asia Plantation Capital on the opening of this state-of-the-art facility, and for hosting this event. On behalf of Asia Plantation Capital, I would like to welcome all of you here today.

**Introduction**

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

1. I was informed that this facility is currently the largest purpose-built agarwood processing factory in the region, and has been fully operational over one year now. I am proud that Malaysia is chosen as the base for Asia Plantation Capital Group – which is a multi-award-winning, sustainable plantation operator and Management Company, with projects across 4 continents, and a global workforce in excess of 2,000.

2. Asia Plantation Capital (APC) is a market leader in the industry. It has a Scientific Advisory Board that is comprised of leading academics from various countries (China, Thailand, Malaysia, India, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates), who have, between them, developed and

patented industry-leading technologies and systems. With a focus on commercial plantation projects and vertically integrated businesses that offer a combination of commercial, environmental and community benefits, APC has created a successful and dynamic 'triple bottom line' company.

3. Asia Plantation Capital Berhad in Malaysia is currently investing heavily in the Malaysian plantation sector, developing new plantations and factories for the production of agarwood (gaharu) and other associated products for the international export markets. It has further strengthened its presence in Malaysia by moving its headquarters to downtown Kuala Lumpur, a year after opening Southeast Asia's biggest agarwood processing factory and distillery in Johor Bahru, Malaysia.

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

4. Indeed, Malaysia provides a good and stable business environment for foreign investors, not only for lower operating costs, but also because of the relatively safe socio-politic-economic environment in the country and the availability of skilled and knowledgeable workers. APC's investment and expansion in Malaysia also benefit the nation in various ways; contribute to the country's GDP, provide job openings and business opportunities for locals and knowledge sharing in the field of science and technology.

5. This is especially important as this kind of investment will also provide job opportunities for our science and technology graduates. Additionally, our graduates are able to learn, grow and gain experience from an international company such as APC, which not only utilises the latest technology, but also places great emphasis on energy efficiency, environmental-friendliness and responsible and sustainable practices throughout its operation from plantation to production. I believe these are important practices that we can learn.

6. At the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), our mission is to explore, develop and utilise Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) to generate knowledge, create wealth and ensure

societal wellbeing towards achieving a competitive, sustainable and inclusive high income economy. Supporting the opening of facilities such as this is in line with our strategic thrusts such as development of human capital in STI; harnessing and intensifying home-grown research and development, technology acquisition and innovation for markets; enhancement and strengthening strategic alliances; empowering society through innovation for sustainable development; and internationalisation, amongst others.

7. I applaud and congratulate APC for the opening of this state of the art facility right here in Malaysia. We are indeed pleased that a forward-looking company such as Asia Plantation Capital has chosen Malaysia as its destination for expansion with its distillation factory and research centre. This undoubtedly affirms Malaysia's potential as an excellent location for doing business – not only in terms of being able to enjoy lower operational costs, but also in terms of being able to provide companies with a skilled and educated workforce in the fields of science and technology. Factories such as this not only increase investment into the country and provide job opportunities for Malaysians, but also encourage and stimulate progress in science, technology, research and development.

### **Closing**

8. On that note, with the recitation of “Bismillahirrahmanirrahim”, it is my pleasure to declare the Asia Plantation Capital Distillery and Research Centre open.

Thank you.