

**UCAPAN OLEH  
YBHG. DATO' SRI DR. NOORUL AINUR MOHD. NUR  
SECRETARY GENERAL  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**

**DI MAJLIS PENUTUP  
“*APEC WORKSHOP ON CAPACITY BUILDING  
FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL EXTERNAL QUALITY  
ASSURANCE (EQA) PROGRAMME*”**

**BERJAYA TIMES SQUARE HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR  
RABU, 29 OKTOBER 2015**

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**YANG BERBAHAGIA DATUK FADILAH BAHARIN**

Director-General  
Department of Standards Malaysia

Workshop participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamualaikum wbt. and a very good afternoon.

First and foremost, it is my pleasure to welcome all of you to this auspicious ceremony today which marks the successful **conclusion of the *APEC WORKSHOP ON CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE (EQA) PROGRAMME.***

2. On behalf of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) and the Department of Standards Malaysia, I am pleased to say that we are honoured and privileged to have hosted this important workshop.

3. I hope all of you have had very interesting and informative sessions of training and find your knowledge on the field of external quality assurance enriched through this programme.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. Malaysia is a proud **founding member** of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in 1989 whose main objective is to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific economies.

5. APEC with its current **21 member economies**, is aimed at creating greater prosperity for the people of the region by promoting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure growth and by accelerating regional economic integration.

6. Under the **Bogor Goals** agreed by member economies in 1994, APEC ensures that **trade of goods, services, investment and people move easily across borders**. These are facilitated through several means, such as faster customs procedures at borders; more favourable business climates behind the border; and **aligning regulations and standards across the region**.

7. **Harmonised standards and conformance procedures** improve the efficiency of production and facilitate the conduct of international trade, resulting in more rapid trade flows, reduced costs and greater integration of production networks.

8. With this in mind, the **APEC Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (SCSC)** in which Standards Malaysia functions as Malaysia's focal point, was established in 1994 to help reduce the

negative effects that differing standards and conformance arrangements have on trade and investment flows in the Asia-Pacific region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. This workshop is urgently needed in order to improve **the quality of services provided in the field of healthcare**. Medical testing laboratories are essential to patient care and therefore have to be able to serve the needs of patients, clinical personnel and the healthcare industry in general.

10. In most APEC economies, medical testing laboratories are required to comply with international standard of **ISO 15189 - Medical Laboratories - Requirements for Quality and Competence**.

11. However, accredited EQA programmes or EQA providers complying with international standard are still scarce in numbers. Currently there are **only eight accredited EQA programmes for medical testing in the region**.

12. They are **RCPA Quality Assurance Ltd, Australia; National Institute of Clinical Laboratories, China; the Institute of Quality management in Healthcare, Canada; Hong Kong Institute of Medical Laboratory Services**, to name a few. These EQA providers are accredited by their respective national accreditation bodies.

13. At present **most EQA programmes in APEC developing economies are supplied by international providers**, due to the limited capacity and capability of local providers. This incurs a high cost to medical testing laboratories to participate in the programme and results

in limited participation and non-compliance to the requirements of ISO 15189.

14. As the national accreditation body, Standards Malaysia would like to address this challenge and provide a platform to kick-start the efforts to **build up capacity and capability of EQA providers**, especially in developing economies in APEC region.

15. This programme will benefit EQA providers, where it can increase their readiness to establish and run their own EQA programmes and to be able to open the participation to neighbouring economies.

16. This would also serve to achieve the **2015 priorities set by APEC under the theme of 'Building Inclusive Economies, Building A Better World'**, namely Enhancing the Regional Economic Integration Agenda, Fostering Small and Medium Enterprises' Participation in Regional and Global Markets and Investing in Human Capital Development.

17. I understand that for this workshop, we have **28 participants from various APEC member economies, namely Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Japan, Mexico, Chile, Peru and Thailand**. This multilateral cooperation is a commendable effort that is part of a holistic approach in sharing technical expertise between countries.

18. I thank you for being a part of this inaugural training programme, I am sure we have learnt as much from you as you have from us. We hope that you will be able to bring back to your country all

the information gained and experiences shared, and together improve on the infrastructure of medical external quality assurance in our respective economies.

19. With that aspiration in mind, it is with great pleasure, that I **officially close the *APEC WORKSHOP ON CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAMME.***

Sekian. Terima kasih.