

**SPEECH BY
YAB DATO' SERI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI AHMAD BADAWI
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Terlebih dahulu saya ingin mengambil kesempatan ini untuk mengucapkan rasa gembira dan sukacita kerana dapat hadir bersama-sama tuan-tuan dan puan-puan untuk meraikan majlis SIRIM-Industri 2001 pada malam ini.

Saya mengambil kesempatan ini untuk mengucapkan tahniah kepada semua di atas kejayaan yang telah diperolehi dan berharap lebih banyak syarikat terutamanya syarikat kecil dan sederhana yang akan mengambil langkah yang sama untuk mendapatkan pengiktirafan bagi produk dan perkhidmatan masing-masing.

Bilangan persijilan yang meningkat dari tahun ke tahun mencerminkan kesedaran yang semakin meluas tentang perlunya produk dan perkhidmatan yang berkualiti supaya lebih berdaya saing di pasaran global. Dalam Skim Persijilan Sistem Pengurusan Kualiti menurut MS ISO 9001/9002 yang dikendalikan oleh SIRIM QAS Sdn Bhd, sehingga 10 Mac 2002 sejumlah 2474 syarikat telah didaftarkan. Manakala bagi Skim Persijilan Pengurusan Alam Sekitar menurut MS ISO 14001 sebanyak 221 buah syarikat telah didaftarkan. Bagi Skim Persijilan QS 9000 pula sebanyak 67 buah syarikat telah didaftarkan dan bagi Skim OHSAS 18001 sebanyak 34 buah syarikat telah didaftarkan. Manakala Skim Integrasi ISO 9000/HACCP yang baru sahaja dilancarkan pada 26 Februari 002 yang lalu, sebanyak 6 buah syarikat telah didaftarkan.

SIRIM Berhad juga melaksanakan beberapa skim penentuan kualiti yang lain iaitu Skim Persijilan Barangan di mana sehingga kini 1869 barangan telah disahkan.

Most standards require periodic revision. Several factors combine to render a standard out of date: technological evolution, new methods and materials, new quality and safety requirements. To take account of these factors, ISO has established the general rule that all ISO standards should be reviewed at intervals of not more than five years. On occasion, it is necessary to revise a standard earlier. To date, ISO's work has resulted in some 12,000 International Standards, representing more than 300,000 pages in English.

These good practices have been distilled into a set of standardized requirements for a quality management system, regardless of what your organization does, its size, or whether it's in the private, or public sector. However, I'm told that participation from our professionals in the development of Malaysian Standards was not encouraging. Many more experts must come forward and participate aggressively at the national or international level for the benefits of the nation.

My association with SIRIM Berhad and SIRIM QAS in particular over the years has convinced me that the credibility of SIRIM QAS's certification services is second to none in this country and, is indeed, on par with the best in the world. The accreditations that SIRIM QAS has obtained from the Department of Standards Malaysia and the United Kingdom Accreditation Service for its Quality Management System certification service bears testimony to this fact.

With rapid technological changes spurring the global economy, standards are a strategic business issue and it goes directly to the heart of the quality issue, which is now a critical element of competitiveness. The ability to compete in the global market is directly linked to standards. Therefore, continuous improvement to the current system is very vital to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of an organization.

Over the past 20 years or so, the Malaysian economy has progressed from agriculture based to an economy centred on manufacturing. Manufactured goods have become one of the country's main revenue earner and it shall remain to be so in the years to come. Our local companies have also benefited from the investments by multinational companies here through subcontracting work and joint ventures, and I am happy to say that some of these companies are now capable of producing their own indigenous products, which are exported overseas.

However, to market our products competitively internationally, manufacturers must consider factors such as innovation, design, price, quality, time to market and product life cycles. In addition to these factors, regulations and standardization are fast becoming precedent-setting requirements that manufacturers must be aware of. Now, Electro Magnetic Compatibility (EMC) regulations and directives are being implemented in countries such as the USA, European Union, Japan, Canada, Korea, just to name a few. Even countries like China and Taiwan are going to implement EMC regulations in the coming year.

Our manufacturers must know which of the EMC standards that are relevant to them.. Their products to be imported by the target country must incorporate design features to meet the requirements specified in the EMC standards. We can thus see that EMC compliance is now mandatory and EMC design consideration is a necessary part of product design and prototyping, and the manufacturing process of the manufacturer must consistently meet the EMC standards during production in order for them to be sold to these markets.

Why the concern with EMC? Electromagnetic Interference (EMI) is not something new as many would have thought. EMI in essence is unwanted or spurious electromagnetic waves emitted by electronic devices like personal computers, television receivers, electronic appliances, communication systems and devices, mainly through conducted and radiated means.

More recently near to home, some of you might have heard or read about incidents of portable electronic devices affecting the navigational systems of commercial aircraft. Many more of such events would have happened if EMC standards, which promulgates the control of unwanted EMI from equipment and also stipulates the required immunity levels of equipment to EMI for various types of products is not in place. The very purpose of EMC standards are to ensure that equipment are designed with EMC in mind so that they can operate or function with one another without degradation of performance.

For most countries in Western Europe, the EMC Directive 89/336/EEC, recently amended to 92/31/EEC, is now being enforced. It is widely regarded as one of the most complex EU Directives and will affect all sectors of industries which use electronic and electrical components in their products. The EMC standards adopted by the European Union are based on the international standards drafted by CISPR (Comite International Special Des Perturbations Radio Electriques) and IEC

(International Electrical Commission) and classified as harmonised European Norms (EN Standards) if adopted by the EU.

SIRIM sees the impending trend that most countries in the world will adopt EMC standards which are compatible or in line with international EMC standards in the long run. In view of the developments in the international arena, SIRIM has taken the initiative to set up the EMC Testing facilities to assist Malaysian electronic and electrical manufacturers in the field of EMC testing.

To enter Europe, our local electrical and electronic manufacturers have to pass not only the Low Voltage Directive relating to safety but also the EMC Directives. One must recognize that there will come a time when Malaysia will have to consider similar legislation to that currently being implemented or developed in other countries through out the world. We cannot complain if our country becomes an "electronic dump", be it from our own industries or importers of products from abroad.

Therefore, I believe that we need to put emphasis and efforts to provide some form of third party assurance Scheme for our local industries in the field of EMC so that in the long run we can educate and prepare our local industries for the world market. I am pleased to inform that SIRIM Berhad has established the testing facility costing some RM 60 million and has implemented the scheme and ready to serve the industries.

The full realisation of AFTA will result in a large domestic ASEAN market with a population of 515 million and a combined national income of USD 580 billion. This should spur companies currently concentrating on their home markets to strategise for serving a bigger market. This will also enable local companies to maximize benefits from resource and other potentials made possible through various economic cooperation programmes and market opening measures that are taking place in the region.

Market openings certainly would increase competition to Malaysian companies in the home ground. Domestic oriented industries and those who are not prepared to change would face the threat of being phased out of the market place. For their own sake, they should not hide their inefficiencies behind tariff and other protection measures.

I also wish to thank SIRIM Berhad for inviting me to witness the exchange of Agreement between the World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organization (WAITRO) and SIRIM Berhad for the hosting of the WAITRO Secretariat in Malaysia by SIRIM Berhad.

On behalf of the Malaysian Government, I would like to thank the WAITRO Executive Committee for choosing Malaysia as the host country for the secretariat of this prestigious association. I understand that this is the first time the secretariat is located outside Europe or North America since its formation in 1970.

The hosting of WAITRO in Malaysia is indeed timely as WAITRO is an important facilitator in the world of research and development. It is my hope that the spirit of cooperation and mutual support enshrined in the WAITRO Constitution be enhanced, particularly in this Internet age. Such cooperation will go a long way in advancing the level and capabilities of member's countries.

On this note, I have great pleasure in launching the hosting of the WAITRO Secretariat in Malaysia by SIRIM Berhad.

Akhir kata saya ingin mengucapkan ribuan terima kasih kepada semua yang telah sama-sama hadir dan menyumbang ke arah menjayakan Majlis SIRIM-Industri 2001 pada malam ini.

Terima kasih.