

**OPENING REMARKS BY  
Y.A.B. DATO' SERI ABDULLAH HAJI AHMAD BADAWI  
FOR THE MULTIMEDIA SUPER CORRIDOR-IMPLEMENTATION COUNCIL  
MEETING (M.S.C.-ICM) AT BILIK MESYUARAT PERDANA,  
PEJABAT PERDANA MENTERI  
11 AUGUST 2005**

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ASSALAMUALAIKUM WARAHMATULLAHI WABARAKATUH

1. FIRSTLY, I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME AND THANK ALL MEMBERS OF THE M.S.C. IMPLEMENTATION COUNCIL FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THIS 18TH MEETING OF THE M.S.C. IMPLEMENTATION COUNCIL.

2. I.C.T. REMAINS A KEY GROWTH AREA FOR THE NATION AND WILL BE AN IMPORTANT ENABLER FOR THE KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY. AS SUCH, THE M.S.C. REMAINS A VERY IMPORTANT INITIATIVE. THE M.S.C. HAS ALREADY HELPED BUILD THE FOUNDATION FOR A KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY AND HAS PROVED TO BE A SIGNIFICANT SOURCE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH. IT WILL CONTINUE TO ACT AS A POWERFUL DEVELOPMENT ENABLER TO CATALYSE AND TRANSFORM OTHER SECTORS SUCH AS AGRICULTURE AND MANUFACTURING, ENABLING AN INCREASE IN PRODUCTIVITY, AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE UTILIZATION OF THE NATION'S RESOURCES AND AN INCREASE IN G.D.P. GROWTH.

3. INDEED, I.C.T. PLAYS A PIVOTAL ROLE IN ENSURING THE SUCCESS OF MANY OTHER KEY INDUSTRIES IN MALAYSIA. MALAYSIA'S BIOTECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE, FOR EXAMPLE, DEPENDS TO A LARGE EXTENT ON HOW SUCCESSFUL WE ARE IN APPLYING OUR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS IN I.C.T. TO THE FIELD OF BIOTECHNOLOGY. INDEED, IN ORDER TO BE EVEN CONSIDERED A BIOTECHNOLOGIST, ONE WOULD HAVE TO HAVE THE REQUISITE I.C.T. SKILLS. THEREFORE, WHEN I AM PROMOTING BIOTECHNOLOGY, I AM ALSO INDIRECTLY PROMOTING I.C.T..

4. M.S.C. INITIATIVES SUCH AS SHARED SERVICES AND OUTSOURCING, BIOINFORMATICS, AND CREATIVE MULTIMEDIA CONTENT ARE EXPECTED TO CREATE MORE WEALTH FOR THE NATION. USE OF I.C.T. THROUGH THE M.S.C. FLAGSHIP APPLICATIONS WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO HELP TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SECTOR DELIVERY SYSTEM AND BRING SERVICES TO UNDER-SERVED AREAS, AS WE HAVE SEEN IN THE TELE-HEALTH AND SMART SCHOOL PROJECTS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE USE OF I.C.T. TO EXPEDITE AND STREAMLINE ADMINISTRATIVE AND SERVICE-RELATED PROCESSES CAN GREATLY ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO INCREASE TRANSPARENCY AND REDUCE CORRUPTION.

5. AS YOU KNOW, THE M.S.C. HAS ENTERED INTO ITS 8TH YEAR. SO FAR, WE HAVE BEEN QUITE SUCCESSFUL, HAVING CREATED OVER 1,200 M.S.C. STATUS COMPANIES AND 26,000 JOBS TO DATE. WE HAVE ALSO SEEN THE CREATION OF

MANY HOME-GROWN I.C.T.-RELATED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES, TALENT AND TECHNOPRENEURS. M.S.C. COMPANIES NOW REPRESENT 47 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL LISTED ON M.E.S.D.A.Q..

6. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT TIME TO REST ON OUR LAURELS. THE M.S.C. CONTINUES TO FACE A NUMBER OF CHALLENGES IN ITS PURSUIT OF BECOMING A GLOBAL I.C.T. HUB. ALTHOUGH IT WAS UNIQUE WHEN FIRST LAUNCHED, THE M.S.C. IS NOW FORCED TO COMPETE WITH MANY OTHER SIMILAR I.C.T.-RELATED INITIATIVES SET UP BY OTHER COUNTRIES. TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE M.S.C. STAYS AHEAD OF THE COMPETITION, WE MUST CONTINUE TO ENSURE THE M.S.C.'S RELEVANCE AND FURTHER DEVELOP ITS NICHE-AREAS. AS SUCH, WE SHOULD CONSIDER TAKING THE FOLLOWING STEPS.

7. FIRSTLY, WE NEED TO REVIEW THE M.S.C. BILL OF GUARANTEES. THE M.S.C. BILL OF GUARANTEES IS NOW 8 YEARS OLD. THE INCENTIVES AND GUARANTEES THAT WE ARE OFFERING MAY NOT BE AS ATTRACTIVE AS THEY ONCE WERE GIVEN THAT MANY OTHER COUNTRIES ARE OFFERING THE SAME OR BETTER INCENTIVES TO ATTRACT PROSPECTIVE INVESTORS. THEREFORE, I BELIEVE THAT WE MUST RAISE THE STAKES ON OUR SIDE. WE MUST ENSURE THAT OUR INCENTIVES AND POLICIES REMAIN COMPETITIVE AND SERVE AS AN ATTRACTIVE VALUE PROPOSITION TO WOULD-BE INVESTORS.

8. SECONDLY, WE SHOULD CONSIDER INTRODUCING CUSTOMISED INCENTIVES TO POTENTIAL INVESTORS. I BELIEVE THAT WE NEED TO COMPLEMENT THE BILL OF GUARANTEES' ROLE AS THE GENERAL PACKAGE FOR ALL COMPANIES WITH CUSTOMIZED INCENTIVES FOR COMPANIES WITH HIGH VALUE INVESTMENTS AND JOB-CREATING ABILITY. OUR APPROVAL PROCESSES AND OFFERINGS MUST ALSO BE QUICK ENOUGH TO COMPETE WITH THE MANY OTHER COUNTRIES COURTING INVESTORS.

9. CURRENTLY, INVESTORS CONSIDER THE "ONE STOP CENTRE" THAT WE OFFER AT THE M.S.C. TO BE EXTREMELY BENEFICIAL. IT IS ALSO SEEN AS ONE OF THE M.S.C.'S MAIN SELLING POINTS. HOWEVER, WE SHOULD NOT STOP SHORT AT BEING A "ONE STOP CENTRE". INSTEAD, WE SHOULD LOOK TOWARDS DEVELOPING A "ONE STOP SOLUTION CENTRE" SO THAT THE MAJORITY OF INVESTORS' NEEDS AND CONCERNS CAN BE ADDRESSED EFFECTIVELY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY.

10. THIS MEANS THAT WE MUST BEGIN TO LOOK MORE CLOSELY AT SOME OF THE ISSUES AND CHALLENGES THAT COMPANIES FACE WHEN THEY MAKE THE DECISION TO INVEST AND OFFER THEM APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS. WE MUST ALSO CONTINUE TO BE VIGILANT AND MINDFUL OF THE NEEDS OF COMPANIES THAT HAVE ALREADY CHOSEN TO INVEST IN THE M.S.C.. IN THAT SENSE, WE MUST CONSTANTLY STRIVE FOR, AND ENHANCE, CUSTOMER SATISFACTION. WE NEED TO STEP UP OUR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE WORLD-CLASS, COMPETITIVE PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AS WELL AS A CONDUCIVE WORKING AND LIVING ENVIRONMENT. PUBLIC AMENITIES AND FACILITIES WITHIN CYBERJAYA MUST BE SUFFICIENT AND OF A HIGH-STANDARD. THE LACK OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

WITHIN CYBERJAYA AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS NEEDS TO BE IMMEDIATELY ADDRESSED.

11. ANOTHER ISSUE THAT WE NEED TO ADDRESS IS AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF KNOWLEDGE WORKERS. AS SUCH, EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF KNOWLEDGE WORKERS WILL BE STEPPED UP. WE MUST STRIVE TO BECOME A KNOWLEDGE NATION. IT IS ALSO VITAL TO STRENGTHEN THE SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENT BY ENSURING ADEQUATE AND AFFORDABLE FUNDING FOR I.C.T.-RELATED S.M.E.S (ESPECIALLY AT PRE-SEED LEVEL), CONCERTED PROTECTION FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, AS WELL AS GOVERNMENT AND G.L.C. PROCUREMENT PREFERENCE FOR LOCAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES.

12. WHILE WE WORK TO STRENGTHEN THE M.S.C.'S POSITION AS A GLOBAL I.C.T. HUB, IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT WE ENSURE THAT THE BENEFITS OF I.C.T. REACH THE WIDER COMMUNITY. I LOOK FORWARD WITHIN THE NEXT HOUR OR TWO TO HEARING THE PROGRESS OF THE M.S.C. ROLL-OUT TO THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. IN THIS CONTEXT, I BELIEVE IT IS TIMELY FOR US TO ALSO CONSIDER THE ROLLING-OUT OF SELECTED CYBERCENTRES TO COMPLEMENT THE EXISTING CYBERCITIES. CONCEPTUALLY SIMILAR TO CYBERCITIES, CYBERCENTRES, HOWEVER, ARE LIMITED TO JUST ONE OR A COMPLEX OF BUILDINGS. I BELIEVE THE EXISTENCE OF THESE CYBERCENTRES WILL HELP TO ATTRACT MORE INVESTORS BY GIVING THEM MORE LOCATIONAL OPTIONS AND HELP TO REDUCE THE REGIONAL AND DIGITAL DIVIDE.

13. WE MUST ALSO LOOK AT WAYS TO PROMOTE OUR LOCAL PLAYERS AND GROW THE DOMESTIC I.C.T. INDUSTRY. IN LINE WITH THIS, I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT M.D.C. HAS UNDERTAKEN SEVERAL INITIATIVES TO GET AS MANY BUMIPUTERA TECHNOPRENEURS INVOLVED IN THE I.C.T. INDUSTRY. I AM TOLD THAT THE M.D.C. HAS ESTABLISHED A BUMIPUTERA PARTICIPATION DEPARTMENT. WITH THIS, I BELIEVE GREATER ATTENTION CAN BE GIVEN TO THIS ASPECT IN OUR POLICIES, INCLUDING IN THE 9TH MALAYSIA PLAN.

14. GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE M.S.C. AS A NATIONAL INITIATIVE, ALL DECISIONS WE MAKE TODAY SHOULD BE FOLLOWED THROUGH CAREFULLY. TO THIS END, A STRUCTURED IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK, SUCH AS THE "BALANCED SCORECARD" WITH KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (K.P.I.) SHOULD BE USED.

15. AS YOU CAN SEE FROM OUR AGENDA, WE HAVE MANY IMPORTANT THINGS TO DISCUSS TODAY. SO WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, LET ME INVITE OUR FIRST SPEAKER DATUK DR. ARIFF NUN, C.E.O. OF M.D.C., TO GIVE HIS PRESENTATION.

THANK YOU.