

**SPEECH BY
YAB DATO' SERI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI AHMAD BADAWI
AT THE THE OCCASION OF THE THIRD I.D.B 1440H VISION COMMISSION
MEETING AND VISION DOCUMENT LAUNCH AT MANDARIN ORIENTAL
HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR
23 MARCH 2006**

BISMILLAHIR RAHMANIR RAHIM.

THE HONOURABLE TUN DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED,
CHAIRMAN OF THE "I.D.B 1440 HIJRAH VISION COMMISSION",

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION,

HIS EXCELLENCY DR. AHMAD MOHAMED ALI,
THE PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP,

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE I.D.B BOARD OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS,

EXCELLENCIES MEMBERS OF THE I.D.B GROUP MANAGEMENT,

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

ASSALAMU ALAIKUM WARAHMATULLAHI WABARAKATUH, AND

GOOD MORNING.

ALHAMDULILLAH, ALL PRAISE BE TO ALLAH S.W.T, BY WHOSE GRACE AND BLESSINGS WE ARE ABLE TO GATHER HERE IN KUALA LUMPUR FOR THIS SPECIAL OCCASION. ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA, LET ME FIRST WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO THIS LANDMARK MEETING OF THE I.D.B GROUP, ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH THE "I.D.B 1440 HIJRAH VISION" DOCUMENT. THIS EVENT IS INDEED MEMORABLE BECAUSE A DOCUMENT SUCH AS THIS HAS NO PRECEDENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK.

2. WHEN I MET THE PRESIDENT OF THE I.D.B IN JEDDAH IN MID 2004, I REMEMBER DISCUSSING WITH HIM OUR COMMON CONCERNS ABOUT SOME MAJOR ECONOMIC AND OTHER STRATEGIC CHALLENGES FACING THE MUSLIM UMMAH. I WISH TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO HIM AND HIS STAFF AT THE I.D.B FOR QUICKLY RESPONDING, CONSULTING WIDELY WITH ITS STAKEHOLDERS AND SUBSEQUENTLY CONVENING A BRAINSTORMING SESSION OF EMINENT PERSONALITIES IN MARCH 2005. THIS LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VISION COMMISSION GROUP. IT IS MOST COMMENDABLE THAT IN LESS THAN ONE YEAR, A COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENT CHARTING THE WAY FORWARD FOR MEETING OUR FUTURE CHALLENGES IS READY FOR LAUNCHING TODAY. WE MUST EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO THE VISION COMMISSION MEMBERS FOR THEIR DEDICATION

AND HARD WORK IN COMING OUT WITH THE VISION DOCUMENT IN A TIMELY FASHION. THIS DOCUMENT WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR BRINGING INTO BEING A PROSPEROUS AND DYNAMIC INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF MUSLIMS. IT IS OF COURSE OUR WISH THAT THE I.D.B, THE KEY SUPPORTER OF THE WORK OF THE VISION COMMISSION, WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN PUTTING INTO EFFECT THE VISION COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

3. DURING THE 31ST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE I.D.B IN PUTRAJAYA, IN JUNE 2005, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF THE VISION COMMISSION UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE HONOURABLE TUN DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, MY PREDECESSOR THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA. THE MAIN OBJECTIVE WAS TO SET THE DESIRED DIRECTION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MUSLIM COUNTRIES, EMBRACING AN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AGENDA AS WELL AS CHARTING THE PATH FOR THE LONGER TERM PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY OF THE UMMAH.

4. AS WE GATHER HERE TODAY, IT IS BEFITTING THAT WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE PIVOTAL LEADERSHIP PROVIDED BY TUN DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED IN DEVELOPING THE "I.D.B 1440 HIJRAH VISION". THIS LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN AN EXEMPLARY MANIFESTATION OF GETTING THINGS DONE. MORE THAN THAT, HE HAS ALSO SUCCEEDED IN BRIDGING VARIOUS INTERESTS AND BRINGING THEM TOGETHER TO SERVE THE LARGER, COMMON GOALS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE I.D.B. WE ARE ALSO AWARE OF DR. MAHATHIR'S UNWAVERING COMMITMENT AND TIRELESS EFFORTS TOWARDS RESTORING THE DIGNITY OF THE UMMAH AND SECURING FOR THEM AN APPROPRIATE AND RESPECTABLE PLACE IN THE WORLD. HE HAS INDEED BEEN AN INSPIRATION TO ALL OF US. THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA ARE PROUD TO BE PART OF THIS TIMELY INITIATIVE. MANY MALAYSIAN EXPERTS PROVIDED CRITICAL SUPPORT IN DEVELOPING THIS I.D.B VISION. WE WISH TO THANK THE I.D.B GROUP FOR PLACING ITS CONFIDENCE IN MALAYSIA IN THIS UNDERTAKING.

5. I AM DELIGHTED TO NOTE THAT THE VISION COMMISSION HAS MADE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREPARE THE I.D.B GROUP TO REPOSITION ITSELF IN THE NEW DEVELOPMENTAL AGENDA OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM. IT HAS OUTLINED THE STRATEGY FOR THE GROUP TO RESPOND TO THE NEW CHALLENGES THAT ITS MEMBER COUNTRIES WILL BE FACING OVER THE NEXT 15 TO 20 YEARS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP, INCLUDING THE NECESSARY CONSULTATIVE PROCESSES WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS, WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE THE BANK RELEVANT TO ITS CONSTITUENCY AT ALL TIMES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

6. THE MUSLIM WORLD IS NOT LACKING IN ASSETS. IT POSSESSES AN ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF RESOURCES FOR WEALTH CREATION. IN TERMS OF NUMBERS, THE 1.3 BILLION MUSLIMS REPRESENT AT LEAST 20 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S

MANPOWER. MUSLIM COUNTRIES OCCUPY STRATEGIC GEOGRAPHICAL POSITIONS, BEING LOCATED WITHIN THE CENTRAL REGIONS OF THE EARTH WHICH ARE THE MOST FERTILE AND RESOURCE RICH IN THE WORLD. IF THERE IS ANY DEFICIENCY, IT IS MORE IN THE AREA OF ENTREPRENEUR SKILLS AND MANAGERIAL EXPERTISE. THESE WE CAN, AND MUST, DEVELOP BECAUSE WE REQUIRE THEM FOR THE OPTIMAL UTILIZATION OF THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE.

7. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMIC STRENGTH OF THE MUSLIM WORLD CAN BE ACCELERATED IF WE EARNESTLY APPLY CREATIVE THINKING AND STRIVE TO MAKE QUANTUM LEAPS. WE MUST INNOVATE NEW STRATEGIES TO FACE THE EVER-CHANGING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE COMPETITIVENESS FOR THE UMMAH AND MAINTAIN ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE WORLD COMMUNITY. WE SHOULD APPLAUD THE FACT THAT THE VISION DOCUMENT CONTAINS MANY, AND ADVOCATE THE ADOPTION OF, SUCH NOVEL APPROACHES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

8. WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE, HOWEVER, THAT EVEN UNTIL NOW, LARGE MASSES OF MUSLIMS STILL LIVE IN CONDITIONS OF POVERTY, ILLITERACY AND DEPRIVATION. FOR THESE UNFORTUNATE BROTHERS AND SISTERS, HEALTH FACILITIES ARE POOR AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE SCARCE. MANY MUSLIM COUNTRIES HAVE YET TO BE PROPERLY INTEGRATED INTO THE GLOBAL ECONOMY. MANY OF THEM ARE SO POOR OR TOO UNDERDEVELOPED TO PARTICIPATE FULLY AND DERIVE BENEFITS FROM INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT. THEREFORE, THE VISION COMMISSION FINDINGS ON THE STRATEGIC GOALS OF ALLEVIATING POVERTY, IMPROVING HEALTH, PROSPERING THE PEOPLE AND IMPROVING GOVERNANCE ARE CRITICAL FOR UPLIFTING AND STRENGTHENING THE MUSLIM UMMAH AS A WHOLE.

9. TODAY MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST STEP IN OUR JOURNEY OVER THE NEXT 14 YEARS TO TRANSFORM OUR VISION INTO REALITY. WE MUST NOT DEVIATE FROM TAKING THAT JOURNEY BECAUSE IT IS OUR OBLIGATION, AND IT IS THE OBLIGATION OF OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS, TO ENHANCE THE WELLBEING OF MUSLIMS AND UPLIFT THE IMAGE OF ISLAM. THIS IS ACHIEVABLE IF WE SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENT THE STRATEGIES OUTLINED IN OUR VISION. THE YEAR 1440 HIJRAH IS NOT SO DISTANT IN THE FUTURE. WE MUST PUT INTO ACTION WITHOUT ANY DELAY, ALL OF OUR PLANS AND STRATEGIES, AND WE MUST MOBILIZE ALL OF OUR RESOURCES TO ACHIEVE THIS PURPOSE. WE MUST CAREFULLY ESTABLISH A PRACTICAL PLAN OF ACTION AND OVERCOME WEAKNESSES SO THAT WE CAN MOVE FORWARD THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE VISION COMMISSION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

10. TO ENSURE SUCCESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VISION, THE GOVERNMENTS OF ALL THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT

BANK, WHICH ARE PRACTICALLY SYNONYMOUS WITH THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, MUST PLEDGE TO EXERT A STRONG POLITICAL WILL; MUST PROVIDE ABLE AND CAPABLE LEADERSHIP; MUST SHARE AND USE RESOURCES STRATEGICALLY, MUST ENHANCE AND MANAGE SKILLS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE VARIOUS TASKS AND MUST MAINTAIN THE STAMINA TO RUN THE DISTANCE AND COMPLETE THE COURSE. THE KEYWORD IS CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN MUSLIM COUNTRIES AND SOLIDARITY AMONG MEMBERS OF THE I.D.B AND THE O.I.C.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

11. QUITE CLEARLY, THE I.D.B GROUP HAS A LOT TO OFFER. IT SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN ADDRESSING THE DEVELOPMENT FUNDAMENTALS AND FOCUSING ITS EFFORTS ON NETWORKING AND EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH ALL CONCERNED O.I.C ENTITIES, MEMBER COUNTRIES, CIVIL SOCIETIES AND THE CORPORATE WORLD. MEMBER COUNTRIES AND MUSLIM COMMUNITIES EVERYWHERE MUST STRIVE TO ATTAIN THE GOAL OF COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT.

12. I.D.B COULD BE THE DEVELOPMENT-FACILITATOR. THE VISION DOCUMENT HAS DELINEATED SUCH DEVELOPMENTAL TASKS INTO SHARPER FOCUS FOR MORE SPEEDY ACTION. THE VISION COMMISSION COULD PLAY A MONITORING ROLE BY ESTABLISHING SPECIFIC TASK ORIENTATED GROUPS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE COMMISSION. THE I.D.B GROUP, AS THE DEVELOPMENT CATALYST OF THE UMMAH, CAN INNOVATE BY COMBINING DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP WITH INTELLECTUAL EXCELLENCE.

13. LET US VIEW THE "I.D.B. 1440 HIJRAH VISION" AS ONE OF THE TWIN THRUSTS FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE UMMAH, THE OTHER BEING THE "THE O.I.C TEN YEAR ACTION PLAN", WHICH WAS ADOPTED DURING THE EXTRAORDINARY ISLAMIC SUMMIT OF THE O.I.C IN MAKKAH AL-MUKRAMAH IN DECEMBER 2005. LET US ALSO INTEGRATE OTHER IMPORTANT INITIATIVES SUCH AS THE CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM FOR O.I.C MEMBER COUNTRIES WHICH HAD BEEN LAUNCHED BY MALAYSIA IN COOPERATION WITH THE I.D.B ONE YEAR AGO IN MARCH 2005. CAPACITY BUILDING SHOULD FORM PART OF OUR CORE STRATEGIES IN MEETING THE CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED IN THE "I.D.B 1440 HIJRAH VISION".

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

14. WE ARE LIVING IN A PARTICULARLY DYNAMIC TIME IN WORLD AFFAIRS. THIS DYNAMISM CALLS FOR NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND NEW NETWORKING. IT REQUIRES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STRATEGIC ALLIANCES AMONG DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY, I.D.B MEMBER COUNTRIES AND MUSLIM COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD. IT WILL ALSO REQUIRE ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES TO REVISIT THEIR CURRENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC COOPERATION INFRASTRUCTURE TO ENABLE EASIER ACCESS TO THEIR HUMAN AND NATURAL RESOURCES. THEY MUST REEXAMINE THEIR COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE AND STRATEGIZE FOR A NEW

PERIOD OF GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP, NOT ONLY AMONG THE UMMAH BUT ALSO WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.

15. AT THE SAME TIME, WE MUST STRIVE TO USHER IN A NEW ERA OF ETHICAL, MORAL AND CULTURAL RENAISSANCE FOR OUR TIME. WE NEED TO INSTITUTE A PROCESS OF REFORM IN MUSLIM COUNTRIES AND MUSLIM SOCIETIES. TO CARRY OUT THIS PROCESS OF REVIVAL, IT IS NECESSARY TO ADOPT A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANKIND, SOCIETY AND COUNTRY BASED ON THE PERSPECTIVE OF ISLAMIC TEACHINGS AND ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION. IT INVOLVES PROVIDING FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELLBEING OF THE PEOPLE THROUGH PROPER PLANNING, OPTIMUM UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES. IT REQUIRES GOOD GOVERNANCE AS EPITOMIZED BY EFFICIENCY IN THE DELIVERY SYSTEM AS WELL AS ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ON THE PART OF THOSE WIELDING THE POWERS OF GOVERNMENT. IN MALAYSIA, WE HAVE ADOPTED THESE GOVERNING PRINCIPLES AS A BASIS FOR ENSURING FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE FOR ALL OUR PEOPLE WHICH CONSIST OF MUSLIMS AS WELL AS NON MUSLIMS. THEY ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE INJUNCTIONS AND TRADITIONS OF ISLAM. WE HAVE CALLED THIS APPROACH ISLAM HADHARI OR CIVILIZATIONAL ISLAM.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

15. LET US PRAY TO ALLAH SUBHANAWATALLA THAT OUR ASPIRATIONS AS EMBODIED IN OUR VISION DOCUMENT WILL BE FULFILLED AND MAY ALLAH BLESS AND ACCEPT THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE VISION COMMISSION AND ALL ITS PARTNERS, NAMELY I.S.I.S MALAYSIA, BANK NEGARA MALAYSIA, STATE BANK OF PAKISTAN, AND MORE RECENTLY THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MALAYSIA. THIS LIST ALSO INCLUDES THE I.D.B GOVERNORS, MEMBERS OF THE I.D.B BOARD OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS, MEMBERS OF THE I.D.B MANAGEMENT AND THE I.D.B VISION TECHNICAL EXPERT TEAM. MAY ALLAH GRANT THEM ALL A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE GLORIOUS HISTORY OF THE UMMAH.

16. WE ALSO PRAY THAT ALL I.D.B MEMBER COUNTRIES AND MUSLIM COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD WILL CLOSE RANKS, EXERT ALL EFFORTS AND MAKE AVAILABLE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE "I.D.B 1440 HIJRAH VISION", INSHALLAH.

17. ON THAT NOTE AND WITH THE RECITATION OF BISMILLAHIR RAHMANIR RAHIM, I HAVE THE PLEASURE AND HONOUR TO OFFICIALLY LAUNCH THE "I.D.B 1440 HIJRAH VISION" DOCUMENT. I PRAY TO ALLAH THAT IT WILL BE A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION AND THAT IT WILL GENERATE GREAT SUCCESS FOR THE UMMAH.

I THANK YOU.

WASSALAMU ALAIKUM WARAHMATULLAH WABARAKATUH.