

**OPENING REMARKS BY
YAB DATO' SERI ABDULLAH BIN HAJI AHMAD BADAWI
AT THE 1ST MEETING OF THE 'IMPACT' INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD
AT SHANGRI LA HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR
20 MAY 2008**

HONOURABLE MINISTERS

EXCELLENCIES

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE 'IMPACT' INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

1. ALLOW ME TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO JOIN US FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE 'IMPACT' INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ('IMPACT' I.A.B.).

2. I REALISE THAT MANY OF YOU HAVE FLOWN IN FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD JUST FOR THIS EVENT. ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA AND 'IMPACT', I THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TOWARDS 'IMPACT' AND FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF 'IMPACT'S MISSION AND OBJECTIVES.

3. WE WILL DO OUR UTMOST TO ENSURE THAT YOUR TRIP HERE IS PRODUCTIVE, ENLIGHTENING AND ENJOYABLE. FOR THOSE WHO ARE VISITING MALAYSIA FOR THE FIRST TIME (OR INDEED FOR REGULAR VISITORS), I HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE SOME TIME OFF TO ENJOY THIS BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY OF OURS— INCLUDING OUR DELICIOUS FOOD, WARM HOSPITALITY AS WELL AS THE MANY SIGHTS AND SOUNDS THAT MAKE MALAYSIA A TRULY UNIQUE COUNTRY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

4. IN MY ADDRESS THIS MORNING, I HAVE ALREADY SPOKEN AT LENGTH ABOUT MY VIEWS ON CYBER-SECURITY AND CYBER-THREATS AND MY HOPES FOR 'IMPACT'. THEREFORE, SO AS NOT TO REPEAT MYSELF, ALLOW ME TO PROCEED TO BRIEFLY INTRODUCE EACH OF 'IMPACT'S BOARD MEMBERS. I WILL FOLLOW THIS UP BY SHARING WITH YOU MY THOUGHTS ON THE ROLE THAT EACH OF YOU COULD PERHAPS ASSUME IN GUIDING 'IMPACT' TO REACH ITS FULL POTENTIAL; AS AN ORGANISATION DEDICATED TO SAFEGUARDING CYBER-SPACE FROM ALL FORMS OF CYBERTHREATS.

5. TO BEGIN, LET ME SAY HOW FORTUNATE 'IMPACT' IS TO HAVE ON ITS BOARD OF ADVISORS SOME OF THE FOREMOST NAMES IN THE AREA OF CYBERSECURITY. WE ARE HONOURED TO HAVE ON BOARD DR. HAMADOUN TOURE, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (I.T.U.). AS ALL OF YOU KNOW, THE I.T.U. IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATIONS, AND IS OF PARTICULAR RELEVANCE WHEN IT COMES TO THE ISSUE OF CYBER-SECURITY. YOUR EXCELLENCY, MAY I SAY AGAIN HOW DELIGHTED 'IMPACT' IS TO HAVE YOUR PERSONAL SUPPORT AS WELL AS THE BACKING OF THE I.T.U.

6. 'IMPACT' IS ALSO DELIGHTED TO HAVE ON ITS ADVISORY BOARD, DISTINGUISHED INDIVIDUALS LIKE DR. VINTON CERF, WHO IS CURRENTLY GOOGLE'S 'CHIEF INTERNET EVANGELIST'. DR. CERF IS, OF COURSE, WIDELY-KNOWN FOR BEING THE 'FATHER OF THE INTERNET', AND HAS CONTRIBUTED VASTLY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF CYBER-SECURITY AND TO CYBER-SPACE ITSELF.

7. FROM ACADEMIA, WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE ON BOARD EMINENT SCHOLARS AND PRACTITIONERS SUCH AS PROF. HOWARD SCHMIDT OF 'R&H SECURITY CONSULTING'. PROFESSOR SCHMIDT HAS DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF AS THE CYBER-SECURITY ADVISOR TO THE WHITE HOUSE, AND BEFORE THAT, AS THE CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER AT MICROSOFT.

8. WE ALSO HAVE WITH US WORLD-RENOWNED CRYPTOLOGIST, PROFESSOR FRED PIPER. I UNDERSTAND THAT PROFESSOR PIPER HAS BEEN A LONG-TIME FRIEND OF MALAYSIA HAVING PREVIOUSLY WORKED WITH THE MALAYSIAN ARMED FORCES FOR SOME YEARS. WELCOME BACK TO MALAYSIA PROFESSOR PIPER.

9. 'IMPACT' IS ALSO PLEASED TO HAVE ON ITS ADVISORY BOARD, INDIVIDUALS WHO REPRESENT SOME OF THE LARGEST, MOST RESPECTED CYBER-SECURITY COMPANIES IN THE WORLD. THIS INCLUDES:

- F-SECURE, WHICH IS REPRESENTED BY MR. MIKKO HYPPONEN;
- KASPERSKY LABS, WHICH IS REPRESENTED BY DR. EUGENE KASPERSKY;
- OGER SYSTEMS, WHICH IS REPRESENTED BY MR. AYMAN HARIRI;
- SYMANTEC, WHICH IS REPRESENTED BY MR. JOHN THOMPSON; AND
- TREND MICRO, WHICH IS REPRESENTED BY MR. STEVE CHANG.

10. I UNDERSTAND THAT MR. STEVEN CHANG AND MR. JOHN THOMPSON ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THIS MEETING. I AM INFORMED THAT MS. EVA CHEN IS HERE TO REPRESENT MR. STEVE CHANG AND TREND MICRO; WHILE MR. DAVID THOMPSON IS HERE TO REPRESENT MR. JOHN THOMPSON AND SYMANTEC.

11. I WOULD LIKE TO WARMLY WELCOME ALL OF YOU AND I THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR ACCEPTING MY INVITATION TO BECOME MEMBERS OF THE 'IMPACT' INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

12. TO START WITH, ALLOW ME TO BRIEFLY RECAP WHY 'IMPACT' IS UNIQUE AND IMPORTANT. FIRSTLY, WHILE GOVERNMENTS ARE THE MAIN TARGETS AND THE MAIN USERS OF SECURITY SOLUTIONS AGAINST CYBER-THREATS, WE RECOGNISE THAT MOST OF THE SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGY NEEDED TO COMBAT CYBER-THREATS LIE OUTSIDE OF GOVERNMENT HANDS.

13. INDEED, THE REQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS ARE IN THE HANDS OF LARGE COMPANIES THAT SPEND MANY BILLIONS OF DOLLARS ANNUALLY ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ON CYBER-SECURITY SOLUTIONS. THEY ARE ALSO IN THE HANDS OF UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS, PARTICULARLY IN SUBJECT-MATTER EXPERTS LIKE YOURSELVES.

14. 'IMPACT' WAS THEREFORE ENVISIONED AT THE OUTSET TO BRING TOGETHER ALL THESE KEY PLAYERS IN A MULTI-LATERAL, MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ORGANISATION.

15. WE HAVE ATTEMPTED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO REFLECT THE IMMENSE DIVERSITY OF STAKEHOLDERS AND OF VIEWS WITHIN MEMBERSHIP OF THE I.A.B.. EACH OF US HERE HAIL FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND THUS BRING TO THE TABLE VERY DIFFERENT SETS OF EXPERIENCES, EXPERTISE AND PERSPECTIVES. AS I SEE IT, THIS IS THE REAL VALUE OF THE I.A.B..

16. TO OUR MEMBERS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR, I RECOGNISE THAT SOME OF YOUR ORGANISATIONS MAY BE BUSINESS COMPETITORS TO ONE ANOTHER. YET, BY AGREEING TO JOIN 'IMPACT', EACH OF YOU HAS SIGNALLED YOUR WILLINGNESS TO COME TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE ONE OVER-ARCHING GOAL—TO SAFEGUARD THE SECURITY OF CYBERSPACE FOR ALL. THIS IS HIGHLY COMMENDABLE AND I AM SURE, DEEPLY APPRECIATED BY ALL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

17. WE HAVE IN 'IMPACT' A UNIQUE PLATFORM THAT SEEKS TO BRING GOVERNMENTS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND ACADEMIA TOGETHER TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF CYBER-SECURITY AND CYBER-THREATS. THE CHALLENGE NOW BEFORE US IS TO DETERMINE HOW 'IMPACT' CAN CARRY OUT ITS MISSION MEANINGFULLY AND EFFECTIVELY.

18. I WANT TO EMPHASISE THAT 'IMPACT' IS UNDERTAKING A ROLE WHICH HAS NEVER QUITE BEEN DONE BEFORE. IN THIS REGARD, WE ARE MOVING INTO UNCHARTED WATERS SO TO SPEAK.

19. IT IS CERTAINLY OUR HOPE THAT WE CAN DEPEND ON THE COLLECTIVE WISDOM AND COUNSEL OF I.A.B. MEMBERS TO HELP GUIDE AND SHAPE 'IMPACT' INTO AN ENTITY THAT IS RELEVANT TO THE NEEDS OF ITS MEMBERS, AND FULLY-EQUIPPED TO RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE CYBER-SECURITY POLICIES AND RESPONSES TO CYBER-THREATS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

20. AT THIS POINT, I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU AN ISSUE THAT I HAVE BEEN THINKING OVER WITH REGARDS TO THE SCOPE OF 'IMPACT'. YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT I HAVE, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, REFRAINED FROM USING THE WORD 'CYBER-TERRORISM', EMPHASISING THE WORD CYBER-THREATS INSTEAD. THIS IS BECAUSE I HAVE COME TO BELIEVE THAT 'IMPACT''S ROLE SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO COVER ACTIVITIES BEYOND THAT OF CYBER-TERRORISM, TO ENCOMPASS ALL FORMS OF CYBER-THREATS AS WELL.

21. AFTER ALL, 'IMPACT' IS THE ONLY CYBER-SECURITY ORGANISATION IN THE WORLD WHICH HAS THE PARTICIPATION AND EXPERTISE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS. THIS IS A VALUABLE RESOURCE WHICH SHOULD BE UTILISED AGAINST ALL FORMS OF CYBER-THREATS, NOT JUST ONE. I BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE BEST AND ONLY WAY THAT WE CAN SECURE A SAFE AND SECURE CYBERSPACE. THUS, IF AGREEABLE TO OTHER MEMBERS, I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT WE BRING UP THE SCOPE OF 'IMPACT' AS A POINT FOR DISCUSSION LATER.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

22. WHAT WE DISCUSS AND RECOMMEND IN THIS AND IN UPCOMING MEETINGS WILL HAVE FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES INSOFAR AS SHAPING AND INFLUENCING THE FIELD OF CYBER-SECURITY IN THE COMING YEARS.

23. THIS IS INDEED AN IMPORTANT UNDERTAKING AND I HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE THAT EACH ONE OF US WILL CARRY OUT OUR ROLES POSITIVELY AND RESPONSIBLY, FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL. I AM CONFIDENT THAT WITH YOUR SUPPORT AND EXPERTISE, OUR SHARED VISION OF A SAFER AND MORE SECURE CYBER-SPACE WILL BE ACHIEVED, GOD-WILLING.

24. TO HELP US IN OUR DISCUSSIONS AS WELL AS TO GIVE YOU A CLEARER IDEA OF THE ROLE THAT WE HOPE 'IMPACT' MIGHT ASSUME, I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE 'IMPACT' MANAGEMENT BOARD, MR. MOHD NOOR AMIN, TO TAKE US THROUGH A BRIEF PRESENTATION ON 'IMPACT'.

25. AFTER THE PRESENTATION, I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE EACH OF YOU TO GIVE YOUR FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTIONS, IN PARTICULAR, ON THE ROLE THAT YOU SEE FOR 'IMPACT' AND HOW 'IMPACT' CAN BE MADE MORE RELEVANT TO THE NEEDS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES.

26. I WOULD ALSO WELCOME ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSAL OR IDEA THAT YOU MAY HAVE ON HOW YOU OR YOUR ORGANISATION CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF 'IMPACT'. I URGE YOU TO BE AS OPEN AND AS FRANK AS POSSIBLE SO THAT OUR DISCUSSIONS CAN BE INSTRUCTIVE AND MEANINGFUL.

27. ON THAT NOTE, MAY I NOW INVITE MR. NOOR AMIN TO BEGIN HIS PRESENTATION.

THANK YOU.