

**11/03/2015 - Welcoming Remarks: Asean-Oecd Good Regulatory Practice Conference 2015**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh, Good afternoon and Salam  
1Malaysia.

Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed,  
Minister of International Trade and Industry;

Mr. Rolf Alter,  
Director of Public Governance and Territorial Development,  
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);

Excellencies;

Board of Directors of Malaysia Productivity Corporation;

Representatives from the OECD and ASEAN;  
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. Let me begin first by thanking Yang Berhortmat Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, for making the time to be here this afternoon. His presence reflects both his commitment to ASEAN and his conviction in the principles of Good Regulatory Practice. I also want to welcome the OECD and ASEAN representatives as well as Government officials to the ASEAN-OECD Goof Regulatory Practice Conference 2015. Selamat Datang! We are delighted to have with us such high level delegates from ASEAN Member States, and to have the OECD as our strategic partner for this conference.

2. As we deepen regional economic integration, ASEAN's economic agenda must be premised on productivity-driven growth. One of the key drivers identified to enhance productivity among ASEAN Member States is to **improve efficiency of policy and regulatory processes**. This will substantially reduce the regulatory burden on businesses by improving the quality of existing regulations and ensuring quality of new regulations.

3. The implementation of Good Regulatory Practice is systemic, involving both top-down and bottom-up engagement. The emphasis is on transparency and accountability, through public consultation and engagement with stakeholders and parties that will be affected by the changes, or introduction, of regulations and policies.

4. And it is in that spirit that we have put together this 4-day programme. We began yesterday with the **ASEAN-OECD Centres of Government Meeting**, involving either the heads of civil service or key persons involved in public policy, laws and regulations. Today and tomorrow, we have the **ASEAN-OECD Good Regulatory Practice Conference**, and this will be followed by the **Good Regulatory Practice Network Meeting** on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

5. These are programmes undertaken in collaboration between the Malaysia Productivity Corporation, an agency under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and the OECD. It brings together policy makers from ASEAN Member States, OECD Member countries, as well as industry leaders. The conference will highlight GRP best practices, share policy reforms at the national and regional levels, as well as propose practical measures to enhance greater regulatory coherence and institutional connectivity.

6. The collaboration between ASEAN and OECD goes back to 2010, with the ASEAN-OECD Workshop on Regulatory Policy in Viet Nam. This was followed by the decision of the ASEAN High Level Task Force for Economic Integration, chaired

by Malaysia in 2013, for the OECD to conduct a regional diagnostic of regulatory settings in five ASEAN Member States.

## **MALAYSIA AND GRP**

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. In Malaysia, we embarked on GRP in 2012 by benchmarking experiences of the OECD member countries that have implemented GRP. The Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) is the lead agency to promote and facilitate GRP implementation in the country. Much progress has been achieved in establishing systems and procedures for GRP across government agencies, by focusing on priority areas that have a major impact on businesses and service delivery.

8. Today, the OECD assessment report of the first 15-months' implementation of GRP in Malaysia is going to be launched. We really appreciate the recommendations to further strengthen the GRP implementation in Malaysia. The report suggests that Malaysia should act to build on the progress made and institutionalise GRP into government planning, performance indicators and the decision making process. The next phase of implementation for Malaysia will require support, understanding of GRP and better communication with wide range of stakeholders.

9. I strongly believe that the successful implementation of GRP in Malaysia is hinged on **close collaboration between the public and private sectors** to enhance public service delivery and improve Malaysia's business environment. The work we are doing on GRP is in line with the call by the Special Task Force to Facilitate Business (PEMUDAH), a public-private sector initiative, which was set up in 2007.

10. Since its inception, PEMUDAH has introduced many initiatives to improve the business environment in Malaysia. The **key success factor of PEMUDAH** has been the **continuous collaboration between the public and private sectors** to make it easier to do business in this country. Their efforts have led to many improvements in business processes, as well as in simplifying rules and regulations.

11. The success of public-private sector collaboration in implementing regulatory reforms is reflected in Malaysia's positive performance in the World Bank Doing Business 2015 report, where Malaysia is placed a commendable **18<sup>th</sup> position among 189 economies in the ease of doing business**.

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. This Conference is an important part of our journey towards closer regional economic integration, and the deliberations in this Conference will provide timely input into our ASEAN Post-2015 economic agenda. With that, I wish everyone a fruitful and meaningful conference, and I wish all of you an enjoyable time in Kuala Lumpur.

Thank you.

Wabillahitaufig Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.