

18/08/2016 - CAPAM Biennial Conference Welcoming Remarks

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,
Good Morning and Salam 1Malaysia.

The Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Haji Abdul Razak,
Prime Minister of Malaysia,

Your Majesty, Excellencies, Heads of State and Government

Right Honourable Patricia Scotland QC,
Commonwealth Secretary General,

Honourable Ministers, Chief Secretaries, Heads of Civil Service

Ms. Gay Hamilton,
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of
the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration & Management (CAPAM),

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

INTRODUCTION

A very good morning to all of you and welcome to Putrajaya, Malaysia. It is indeed an honour for Malaysia to once again host the CAPAM Biennial Conference 2016.

2. I would like to take this opportunity to, thank the Honourable Dato' Seri Mohd Najib Tun Haji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, for being with us today to officiate the Conference.

CAPAM'S OBJECTIVES DAN CONFERENCE THEME

Your Majesty, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. This year marks the 22nd anniversary of CAPAM's existence. Our existence has been both historic and productive. Historic because we are a one of a kind in the world and productive because we have been a strategic platform for Commonwealth countries in promoting the practical requirements of good governance, public administration reforms and experiences as well as networking among the members. CAPAM has also grown into an established network of over 1100 members across the Commonwealth, and beyond. Our programmes strive to strengthen members' professional skills, capacity and enhance the quality as well as effectiveness of public administration in Commonwealth countries.

4. The theme chosen for the conference is: **"Innovation: Public Sector Imperative"**. The theme is apt as public sector plays a key economic role as a regulator, service provider, and employer. The theme clearly reflects the desire to strategically move from a call for change by "transformation" to the proposition for action through "innovation" as a definitive catalyst and an enabler. This is very timely and appropriate, as there is an urgent need for our public sector

to embrace the call for innovation. The public sector in today's complex globalised world faces challenges in terms of breakneck pace of technological changes and ever shifting geopolitical landscape.

AUGMENTING PUBLIC SERVICE THROUGH INNOVATION

Your Majesty, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. Public sector organisations have always looked for new ways to fulfill their public mission. Experiments in New Public Management and the rise of e-government are among the initiatives of great change in public administrations.

6. Enabling people throughout the economy and society to participate in innovation will provide new ideas, knowledge and capabilities, and enhance the influence of market demand for innovation. Policies need to reflect and encourage their broader engagement.

CHALLENGES FOR PUBLIC SECTOR INNOVATION

7. The nature of public sector problems is complex and cross boundary. The public sector is also confronted with the twin, but opposing demands of increased public demand for our services and constrained resources. All these come together to create policy challenges that are multifarious, diverse and often unprecedented, thus reinforcing the importance of building public sector capacity to innovate and invent solutions to the complex and intractable problems faced by society.

CLOSING

Your Majesty, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. In today's world we need to seek the best ideas, knowledge and experiences through collaboration and sharing. During the course of the next few days, I hope that all of us can

share best practices relating to innovation experiences of our respective countries. I am confident that this conference will generate ideas to drive efforts in catalysing innovative norms and practices within the public sector in our respective countries.

9. I do realise that all of you are fully dedicated to the sessions that follow but I do hope you will also take time to enjoy the beauty of Malaysia with its uniqueness, where citizens of various cultures, religions and ethnic groups live together in peace and harmony.

10. I would like to record my utmost appreciation to our Guest-of-Honour, The Prime Minister of Malaysia, who has taken time off his busy schedule to be with us. His presence today clearly shows that the Malaysian Government is ever supportive of the good governance amongst governments of the Commonwealth countries.

11. In a similar vein, I also thank all members of CAPAM for your unwavering support towards making my tenure as the President of CAPAM possible and my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the CAPAM Secretariat, Commonwealth Secretariat, and the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (MAMPU), Prime Minister's Department and to all those who have contributed tirelessly in organising CAPAM Biennial Conference 2016.

12. I pray this conference will be successful in igniting and forging new innovative ideas; in particular those that will help the public sectors of our respective Commonwealth nations to move forward.

On that note, Wabillahitaufik Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

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