

**20/08/2016 - CAPAM President's Dinner Speech And International Innovation Awards
Presentation**

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,
Salam Sejahtera and Salam 1Malaysia.

Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland QC,
Commonwealth Secretary-General;

Ms. Gay Hamilton,
Executive Director and CEO of CAPAM;

Honourable Ministers;

Chief Secretaries and Heads of Public Service;

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

INTRODUCTION

1. A very good evening to all of you. It is indeed an honour and privilege to once again gather here tonight at Putrajaya, the administrative heartbeat of Malaysia. For the past three days we have had well-grounded discussions and sharing of best practices on how we can further improve our civil services and successfully scaled excellence through innovation. Tonight is the time for us to wind down and celebrate the success of the Conference. A befitting culmination to our eventful Conference is to honour our enterprising and exceptional public service officers and colleagues who have successfully embarked on innovative initiatives that had resulted in

exemplary services by awarding them the prestigious 2016 CAPAM International Innovation Awards (IIA).

2. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my utmost gratitude to our distinguished speakers, panellists and delegates for your continuous commitment and invaluable contributions throughout the Conference. The amount of admirable ideas and the abounding enthusiasm shown for the past few days have been astonishing.

SUMMING UP CAPAM 2016 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. I wish to reflect on our Hon. Prime Minister's remark in his keynote address that it is timely to accelerate our innovative capacity in order to face up to the challenges in today's ever-changing world. The point we can note here is that we are actually moving beyond building innovation but accelerating our capacity for innovation. The 'raw materials' are already there for this to happen. Unlike something that needs construction, the capacity and ability to innovate lie within each of us.

4. Hence, very aptly, throughout the Conference, we have deliberated on the nature, dynamics, implications and governance of innovation in public sector and three subsidiary themes guided us along to accelerate our innovative capacity.

5. It is indeed most commendable that once again CAPAM members have been very committed in transforming the public sector and all are eager to share among members their challenges and successes, aspirations, thoughts and best practices solutions to seed and cultivate organisational innovation. This I believe has been truly beneficial to all participating members and steered the success of all CAPAM events and programmes.

INTERNATIONAL INNOVATION AWARDS (IIA)

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. In order to create a public service par excellence, public services need to be geared towards innovation apart from being efficient and effective. The public sectors that successfully harness innovation will succeed in exceeding the expectation of the people. Innovation will impact upon and change the way services are delivered, as we set new standards that challenge and propel the public sector to even greater heights.

7. As a leading organisation that champions for public administration excellence and good governance practices, CAPAM has been recognising and celebrating the spirit of innovation in the public service by presenting the International Innovations Awards to organisations that have made significant contributions to improving governance and services in the public sector. The awards are aimed to encourage public service innovators to continue exploring, creating and implementing new ideas for the betterment of citizens, communities and nations at large.

8. This year, the award is divided into four major categories which Ms Margaret Saner CBE, Head of Jury for the CAPAM International Innovation Awards will deliberate further after this. I have been informed that 12 finalists have been shortlisted in each category and they have been putting commendable efforts in making sure their innovative ideas are feasible, and most importantly, qualified to be crowned as the worthy winners. We hope that this spirit of innovation will always be ingrained in our minds and embedded to our hearts for the advancement of the public sector.

HOPES & WAY FORWARD

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. Without vision, commitment and a big passion, it is impossible to move towards an innovative and productive public service. An innovative public service always stems from the strong desire to serve the people better which would inadvertently translate to and boost the

productivity of the public service. Therefore, we need to continue fuelling our passion to serve, and striving for excellence.

10. All in all, we want to give our best to the people. With the continuous demands from the public and challenges from various fronts, I would like to reiterate that it is indeed imperative for the government to be more innovative as it is the key sustainable comparative advantage that leads to value creation and ensures delivery of high quality services. With our continuous effort and ability to deliver, I am sure the public will be able to benefit from the services rendered.

CLOSING

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. It is indeed our privilege to have the presence of so many of you, making this conference a memorable, productive and enjoyable one. Our profound thanks and heartfelt appreciation to all of you for your active participation throughout the CAPAM 2016 Biennial Conference.

12. It is my hope that you found the proceedings enriching and stimulating in terms of what the challenges were as well as the opportunities that we shared and learned together throughout the conference. We look forward to seeing and working together with all of you again in the near future.

Thank you and do enjoy the rest of the evening.

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