

**By : DATO' SRI MOHD NAJIB TUN ABD RAZAK**  
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**Title : INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON E-GOVERNANCE  
ENHANCEMENT VIA KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT**

HE Thierry Rommel, Ambassador and Head of the European Commission to Malaysia;

Professor Tan Sri Anuwar Ali, Chief Executive Officer, METEOR Sdn Bhd and  
President/ Vice-Chancellor, Open University Malaysia;

Board of Directors and Management of METEOR and OUM,

Vice-Chancellors, Rectors, Presidents of Institutions of Higher Education,

The Distinguished Keynote Speakers and Paper Presenters,

All Participants, Media Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and a very good afternoon.

1. First and foremost, I would like to begin by saying that Malaysia is honoured to be the host for the International Conference on E-Governance Enhancement via Knowledge Management, in short EG2KM, 2006. To our distinguished guests from overseas, welcome to Kuala Lumpur.

2. Indeed, I am pleased to note the incessant effort taken by the co-organisers of EG2KM. The list includes METEOR, Open University Malaysia, UK Open University and University of La Rochelle (France). Also with the support from the Asia IT & C Programme of the EU Commission, in bringing together the local as well as foreign ICT communities from both the public and private sectors.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. I firmly believe your presence here for this two-day conference will definitely enrich the discussions and deliberations as to how we can explore the potentials of ICT in the integrated global economy. This equally important in addressing the future ICT collaboration between EU and Asia.

4. Certainly, this conference will serve as a salient catalyst upon the challenges brought about by the rapidly changing and dynamic ICT industry. I am happy to note that the public sector in Malaysia too realize the need to keep up with these contemporary issues and challenges.

5. In today's fast changing environment, corporate organizations need to

continuously arm themselves with knowledge and innovative ideas. In this regard undeniably, the knowledge management has emerged as a field that is increasingly important for a contemporary organization to stand at a higher level of competency and productivity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. Contemporary knowledge management in modern times has however been elevated to a more structured systematic transfer and utilization of knowledge generated. It imperatively reflects on the organizational structure and processes. Hence, the synergistic effects from this body of knowledge must be effectively harnessed in order to enhance the organization's innovative power and competitiveness in the global marketplace

7. I honestly believe that, further rapid development in ICT in the form of software, hardware and NetWare has also enabled the concepts of knowledge management to be integrated seamlessly within an organization's existing management structure as well as its business processes.

Ladies and gentlemen,

8. The discipline of knowledge management is very pertinent to Malaysia. It is actually in line with our aspiration to transform our economy into a knowledge-based economy as envisaged in Vision 2020. Our commitment towards this direction is further underlined under the Ninth Malaysian Plan where efforts will be intensified to raise our human capacity for knowledge and innovation.

9. As the first step in this direction, the Government in 2003 launched the Malaysian Public Sector ICT Strategic Plan that provides a clear direction on the utilization of ICT in the public delivery service. A number of e-Government initiatives have been undertaken which include the Government-2-Employee Portal, e-PBT for local authorities, e-Tanah for land administration, Online Income Tax Services, Integrated Financial Management System and many others.

10. It is because of this trend of knowledge, I am certain that knowledge management can flourish tremendously in Malaysia. Therefore, I would like to highlight several points that may contribute to the development of this knowledge in various sectors.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. Firstly, knowledge management should be seen as an effective tool to enhance the delivery of services for the citizens of the country. In coping with today's

insurmountable challenges however, the public sectors need to be transparent, accountable as well as efficient and citizen-centred in its delivery. Thus, improvement in the public delivery system is crucial in order to reduce the cost of doing businesses, encourage private investment and improving the quality of life in general.

12. Secondly, this knowledge should serve as a launching platform for greater public-private sector collaboration. Obviously, the Malaysian Government has strongly supported the enlarged roles play by the private sectors, especially in the new areas of growth such as ICT. I do really encourage the private sectors to continue innovating and adopting new approaches and mechanisms to enhance this public-private sector partnership.

13. Thirdly, the knowledge management models that are developed in the context of the western social and cultural environment should be formulated and implemented in accordance with our culture and social norms. Due to this, management policies can be tailored according to our intended national aims and objectives.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

14. With this framework, I am confident that knowledge management can be one of the leading impetuses in mobilizing our country to achieve vision 2020 within the time frame. I am also happy to note that EG2KM 2006 is able to make Malaysia as a venue for international event.

15. Before I end, I would like to extend my appreciation once again to all foreign participants. Do take this chance to explore the rich culture of our multiracial country, our extensive historical heritage and beautiful scenery. Meanwhile to our local participants, I hope that you shall extend your warmest welcome to our distinguished foreign guests.

16. I would like to take this opportunity to wish the organizers and all the participants a very successful and rewarding conference. On this note, I declare the International Conference on E-Governance Enhancement via Knowledge Management 2006 officially open.

Thank you.