

By : DATUK SERI SYED HAMID ALBAR
Venue : PWTC, KUALA LUMPUR
Date : 3 OCTOBER 2003
Title : WELCOMING ADDRESS AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE OIC COMMEMORATIVE COIN, STAMP & FIRST DAY COVER AND THE KL INTERNATIONAL MONEY FAIR BYYAB DATO' SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi
Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia

Tan Sri Dato' Sri Dr. Zeti Akhtar Aziz
Gabenor Bank Negara Malaysia

Dato' Haji Salim Hashim
Deputy Secretary General I
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dato' Megat Wahab Megat Abu Bakar
Managing Director
Royal Mint

Datuk Ahmad Ichnin
Chairman
Protemp Exhibitions Sdn. Bhd.

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum and a very good day to all.

I would like to express my appreciation to the organisers for taking the initiative in making this event a reality and for inviting me to make the welcoming remarks. On behalf of the organisers I wish to welcome everyone here to this happy occasion.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we all know, coins and stamps portray the rich history and heritage of nations. Collecting coins and stamps today is just not a hobby, but also a lucrative trade. Besides marking an important event, commemorative coins and stamps have become valuable commodities sought after by investors and collectors all over the world.

The Government of Malaysia is proud to be the host of the 10th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, and has issued the OIC Commemorative Coins, Stamps and First Day Cover to etch our memories of this event, marking another milestone of Malaysia's achievement. I am sure that in times to come these commemorative items will become very valuable and much sought after.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The KL International Money Fair, KL Stamp Show, and its concurrent events are indeed an appropriate occasion for us to launch the OIC Commemorative items. This is the annual gathering for collectors, investors and enthusiasts. We hope visitors from near and far will take home with them this uniquely designed OIC Commemorative collection.

I understand that the Money Fair is still in its infancy stage, and we still have a lot to do to build it into a truly regional event. But I would also like to congratulate the organisers and exhibitors for all the efforts that you have put in to invigorate numismatics and philately not just as a hobby, but also as a rewarding investment.

May I also take this opportunity to welcome all the international guests here today to share this auspicious occasion with us, especially the delegation from China at the Money Fair. Malaysia is proud to share with you a rich numismatic history, which dates back to the 1400s when Chinese traders began to arrive on the shores of Malaysia. Due to the shortage of local currency then, a lot of Chinese coins were used within the communities. Your presence here will indeed help Malaysians learn more of our historical ties with China. If anyone of you have a collection of these old Chinese coins sitting in your closet, well; it may be worth a big fortune today!

With that I once again congratulate the organisers of this event.

Thank you.