

**By : DATUK SERI SYED HAMID ALBAR**  
**Venue : LEVEL 2, PWTC**  
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**Title : REMARKS AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA CENTRE**

Saudara/i Pengerusi Majlis

Y.Bhg. Datuk Ahmad Fuzi Haji Abdul Razak  
Ketua Setiausaha, Kementerian Luar Negeri Malaysia  
merangkap Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pemandu Kebangsaan Bagi Persiapan  
Persidangan NAM ke XIII

Y.Bhg. Datuk Dr. Arshad Hashim  
Ketua Setiausaha, Kementerian Penerangan Malaysia

Yang Berusaha Tuan Syed Jamil Syed Jaafar  
Pengurus Besar BERNAMA

Ketua-Ketua Pengarang dan Wakil-Wakil Media Dalam dan Luar Negara

Dato'-Dato', Tuan-tuan dan Puan-puan

Assalamu'alaikom Warrahmatullah

First, let me take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to the organizer for inviting me to officiate the launching of the International Media Centre of the XIII Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit 2003. I am indeed very honoured to be here and associated with this event.

2. Malaysia is honoured to be given the trust and responsibility to host the XIII NAM Summit and thereafter assume the chairmanship of NAM for the next three years. The task ahead of us as Chairman is obviously enormous given the political, economic and social scenario facing the NAM member countries at present. This is very challenging indeed.

3. With a large membership of 114 countries, and soon it will be 116, representing almost two-thirds of the world community, NAM is still relevant and will continue to remain so. NAM will also continue to play its important role as a voice of reason and justice, and will contribute effectively towards global peace, stability and prosperity especially for its member countries. It is for this reason that we are more than determined to see NAM succeed. During Malaysia's tenure as Chairman, we will seek to continue the revitalization of the Movement in serving the common interest of its members.

4. It is very heartening to note the overwhelming response in terms of attendance at the XIII NAM Summit that we have received so far. We expect the participation of Delegates and Heads of State or Government to be the biggest since the inception of NAM in 1961. I am pleased to note that about 2,000 media representatives, both local and international, are present in Kuala Lumpur to cover this historic event. It is, therefore, only fitting that a Summit of this magnitude and importance should have an International Media Centre of world class standard. This Centre will meet that high expectation.

5. This International Media Centre is an important component of the Summit. It provides the media community coming to cover the event and the many important deliberations with good and efficient facilities. This will enable them to carry out their functions in an effective manner with minimum inconvenience. It is for this reason the Government has decided to locate the Centre within the same Complex as the venue of the Summit.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. The Centre, with an area of 3,800 sq. feet, will provide the full array of media facilities ranging from bullpen area to satellite feeding services. A pool of competent media secretariat staff is available to assist the media representatives in carrying out their specific assignments. Journalists will, therefore, be able to obtain all the information that they need promptly and accurately. In addition, BERNAMA, as the National News Agency of Malaysia and being the Host News Agency of the Summit as well as the coordinator of the International Media Center, will also make available daily reports on the conference proceedings and "still pictures" of events in its website. While Radio Televisyen Malaysia or RTM, being the Host Broadcaster, will provide "live" coverage of the opening and closing ceremonies. Members of the media can also follow the ceremonies from screens at the Centre.

7. The Centre is equipped with more than 100 Internet-enabled personal computers with user-friendly word processing software for the benefit of the journalists in the "bullpen" area. At the same time, the Center has also made available more than 40 communication ports for journalists to plug in their notebook computers. Those who need dedicated telephone lines for data and voice, in addition faxing, international calling, sale of prepaid phone cards and rental of mobile phones, could obtain them from Telekom Malaysia Berhad, a Malaysian telecommunications provider. For convenience, Telekom Business Centre is located within the International Media Centre.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. These are some of the many facilities that IMC will provide in facilitating journalists who have come from near and far for the Summit. We aim to make the coverage of the Summit as conducive and convenient as possible so that journalists can get news and pictures out to their media organisations in the shortest possible time.

9. In ensuring full safety and security for all participants at the Conference, the Royal Malaysian Police is enforcing a 'total security' concept. However, members of the media, like any other members of the delegations, will have free access to the IMC but will be subjected to a strict security procedure. Access for the media to some parts of the PWTC will be restricted due to security considerations. Coverage in restricted areas will be arranged on a "pool" basis and they will be escorted to restricted areas by Media Relations Officers as needed. This will, of course, bound to cause some inconvenience. I hope the media will understand and appreciate that security and safety cannot be compromised. Therefore, they will have to give their cooperation to the Police.

10. Last but not least, I would like to invite our foreign friends and guests to take advantage of the Post-Conference tours co-hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism Malaysia to see a little bit of our beautiful and peaceful country. It would have been such a waste if you had traveled thousands of kilometers to Malaysia and yet not able to venture out to do some sight-seeing. I also hope you will come back again to Malaysia perhaps with your families and loved ones, to see and enjoy more of our country in the near future. As we are fond of saying to our foreign friends, "To know Malaysia is to love Malaysia".

11. Before I conclude my remarks, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the organizer for inviting me to this ceremony. I also like to put on record my sincere thanks and gratitude to all who have contributed their tireless efforts to the setting up of the International Media Centre of the XIII NAM Summit 2003. Indeed, this Centre is a clear manifestation of the close co-operation between the different government agencies involved and the private sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. With great pleasure, I now declare open the International Media Centre of the XIII NAM Summit 2003.

Thank you.