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**Venue : RENAISSANCE HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR**  
**Date : 12 JUNE 2004**  
**Title : SPEECH AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
EDUCATION GATEWAY VIA TOTAL EDUCATION SOLUTION (TES)  
PORTAL**

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Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum and Good Afternoon to all of you.

I would like to thank the Business & Advanced Technology Center (BATC) for inviting me to launch the International Education Gateway via Total Education Solution (TES) Portal.

2. I understand that the initiative is designed to provide total education solution which can be readily accessed from every corner of the globe. I hope that the initiative would illustrate that Malaysia is committed to working together with developing countries particularly from the OIC and NAM in the field of education. The range of products offered under this initiative would not only facilitate exchange of students programs but also enhance collaboration between educational institutions and academicians as well as facilitating transfer of technology between Malaysian institutions and their counterparts in OIC and NAM member countries. This is very much in line with the Malaysian Government's policy of promoting Malaysia as a center of excellence for education. It also fits very well with our policy of strengthening relations at various levels with OIC and NAM countries.

3. I am also very happy that this is taking place at a time when Malaysia is Chairman of the OIC and NAM. It really adds substance to our desire to enhance cooperation not only in the political and economic fields but also in people-to-people relations between Malaysia and OIC and NAM member countries. Countries of OIC and NAM are giving serious attention to strengthen collaboration in the field of education. The Putrajaya Declaration adopted by the 10th OIC Summit stressed the importance of ICT in the development of the Ummah and under its plan of action proposed that the

OIC should establish ICT for Development cooperation programmes based on "smart partnership" among its member countries. Similarly, the XIII NAM Summit held in Kuala Lumpur issued the Kuala Lumpur Declaration which among others, emphasized the importance of enhancing South-South cooperation in all areas of relations, particularly in the political, social, cultural, economic and scientific fields.

4. In today's highly globalized and demanding world, countries cannot but pay serious attention on education for the people. Developing countries must find ways to adapt its education system I facing the changing challenges of the 21st Century. If developing countries in the OIC and NAM, either individually or jointly, can have a pool of knowledgeable population or knowledge workers, undoubtedly it will help to have a ready reservoir of qualified and highly trained manpower for their own benefit.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. In the past, particularly in the 1970's to the 1990's, Malaysia used to send thousands of its students every year to study abroad as Malaysia then lacked enough facilities and places in the country to cater to its own education needs. Alhamdulillah, today our education sector has grown by leaps and bounds and we are now able to provide quality education for our citizens and even offer it at an affordable price to others.

6. I commend BATC for establishing the International Committee on Education of Malaysia (ICEM) to coordinate and recommend actions needed to be taken to ensure the market acceptability of Malaysian Education Services internationally. It is very important to ensure the marketability of foreign students studying in Malaysia when they return to their respective countries of origin or when they seek employment in other countries. In this regard, Malaysian institutions of higher learning must set a high level of standards at least on par if not superior to the established institutions in developed countries. The culture of excellence has to be maintained and nurtured. This will help to attract more foreign students to study in Malaysia.

7. As I understand it, the Total Education Solution portal is a platform for students in OIC and NAM member countries to enroll into Malaysian Education institutions. At the same time, through the portal, students can register on line to institutions in OIC and NAM member countries. The setting up of the portal and the networking between educational institutions among the OIC and NAM member countries, I believe, will contribute in the long run towards reducing the digital divide among the developing countries of OIC and NAM. As the Minister of Foreign Affairs, I believe any move to further enhance cooperation between Malaysia and the member countries of OIC and NAM should be encouraged. This effort could contribute towards the strengthening of bilateral relations between Malaysia and the OIC and NAM member countries. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with the relevant Ministries and Agencies, Wisma Putra will help in promoting our education facilities in Malaysia. The Embassies and consulates abroad will also assist to expedite the issuance of visas for students to study in Malaysia.

8. I have now the pleasure to launch the International Education Gateway via Total Education Solution Portal and wish the Business and Advanced Technology Center (BATC) every success in its endeavour.

Thank you.