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**Title : SPEECH DURING THE WITNESSING OF THE SIGNING CEREMONY**  
**BETWEEN OIC-CIO PROGRAMME**

YBhg. Dr. Ishkandar Baharin,  
President and CEO,  
OIC Netowrks Sdn. Bhd.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu'alaikum and Good Morning,

It is indeed a pleasure for me to be here this morning at this auspicious occasion of the signing of the OIC-CIO Programme. We are here to witness the formalization of partnerships for OIC-CIOP: the OIC Centre for Intellectual Opportunity, which is a part and parcel of OICeducation Programme. I would like to thank Dr. Ishkandar Baharin, President and CEO of the OIC Networks Sdn. Bhd. inviting me to say a few words during this occasion and to witness the signing. As all of us are aware, the 10th OIC Summit in Putrajaya, October 2003, has focused the discussions on the subject of Knowledge and Morality. The Summit Resolution had clearly indicated the intent to put emphasis on knowledge development and the adaptation of science and technology in the OIC community. The effort by the OIC Network is certainly a step in the right direction to achieve those objectives. I would like to congratulate OICNetworks Sdn. Bhd. for their initiatives and efforts in introducing new programmes for education in OIC countries in line with the objectives and resolution of the Summit.

I am glad to hear that recently OICNetworks has started the development of Science and Technology Portal for OIC community together with MINT, an institution under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment with a mandate from COMSTECH.

The collaboration undertaken represents a successful initiative and noble effort in promoting and developing education programmes for the benefit of OIC member countries. It is also heartening to see other Malaysian training institutions joining the programme, thus extending their own skills and expertise to the OIC countries. Indeed, these institutions are praiseworthy to be given the credit as thoroughbred team members of the programme. I hope more experts will join the programme to put their skills in motion with full force.

I am very pleased that we can provide the initial step that may serve as a big leap for the future. I am sure this first step will have a forceful long term impact on the

productivity of every Muslim workforce. I am also very confident that many more OIC countries can collaborate together to provide the impetus and leadership towards equipping the Muslim workforce with all the necessary tools, knowledge and systems. The ummah must be exposed to the very latest technologies, skills, and management practices such as wireless broadband communications, effective communication skills, and work performance measurement systems such as balance score-cards. Without exposure to these latest techniques, it is impossible to expect that we can be at par with our non-Muslim colleagues.

Programmes like OIC-CIO will boost not only the level of competitiveness of Muslim workforce but also at the same time increase the trade and tourism within member countries. The current phenomena of travel advisory and restriction imposed to Muslim and Muslim nations should open new opportunity among Muslim nations to increase their interaction, trade and services internally.

My Ministry will lend all the needed support to ensure that programmes like OIC-CIO could be implemented effectively. I can also give assurance that our Malaysian Embassies and Consulates will play its role in promoting this initiative overseas. I would also like to encourage all other member countries to take part in introducing this noble undertaking in their respective countries. I am sure OIC-CIO will require not only support from Malaysian institutions but also from all OIC member countries.

Finally, I am glad to see significant number of foreign delegates to witness today's signing ceremony. I am sure this is a true representation on a very high expectation for all of us to put all of our effort together to revitalize OIC and OIC countries.

Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank OICNetworks Sdn. Bhd, its partner TimeCom Holdings Sdn. Bhd. and the institutional partners SIRIM, MIGHT-Meteor, MIM, APIIT, and BostonWeb for their initiatives and willing contributions towards fulfilling Malaysian responsibility as the Chairman of OIC through the OIC-CIO initiative.

Wabillahitaufig walhidaya wassalamu'alaikum warrahmatullah hiwabarakatuh.