



## **CLOSING SPEECH**

**BY**

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**YAHAYA**

**SECRETARY GENERAL**

**MINISTRY OF ENERGY, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,  
ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (MESTECC)**

**MALAYSIAN TECHNICAL COOPERATION  
PROGRAMME (MTCP) ON  
HALAL STANDARDS AND CONFORMANCE  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

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**MENARA KUALA LUMPUR**

**Yang Berbahagia Datuk Fadilah Baharin**

Director General, Department of Standards Malaysia

**Yang Berusaha Encik Norman Muhamad**

Undersecretary, International Cooperation and  
Development Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

**Yang Berusaha Encik Suhaimi Hamzah**

Undersecretary, STI Development, Services and  
Acculturation Division, Ministry of Energy, Science,  
Technology, Environment and Climate Change  
(MESTECC)

**Honoured guests and distinguished participants;**

**Ladies and gentlemen;**

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and a very good morning to all of you.

1. It is an honour for me to officiate the closing ceremony of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP) on Halal Standards and Conformance Infrastructure. MTCP has always been a platform for Malaysia to share our expertise and knowledge with other economies as part of our commitment and contribution to promote the growth and development of the sector which Malaysia is spearheading. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for being the main sponsor for this programme and also to express my gratitude to Standards Malaysia as the organiser, for inviting me to officiate this event.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

2. The halal industry has always been of utmost importance to Malaysia. The Government of Malaysia has formulated the Halal Industry Blueprint for 2008-2020 to drive the growth of the industry and to make Malaysia a global leader in the halal value chain. It has established the Malaysia Halal Council to address the national halal industry issues, which include developing policies, regulations and guidelines on halal management in Malaysia. The Council is also responsible to monitor and drive the halal industry development in tandem with the national economic agenda.

3. Today, Malaysia is the leading global halal hub with an annual export value of RM35.4 billion for halal products. This contributes approximately 5.1% of the

total exports for the country. The value of the global halal industry is growing at a remarkable rate; from approximately US\$2.3 trillion in 2012, the halal sector is expected to almost triple, to US\$6.4 trillion by this year. This astounding growth signifies a major success for the global halal industry.

4. The Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC) through the Department of Standards Malaysia, has contributed substantially to this effort, working in collaboration with other relevant government agencies such as the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM), Halal Industry Development Corporation (HDC), Department of Veterinary Services, as well as the private sector and universities, in ensuring the standards and conformance activities are in line with the national halal agenda. To date, Standards Malaysia as the National Standards Body, has developed 15 halal standards covering food, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics,

warehousing, logistics, packaging, quality management system in halal perspectives and hospitality services. Currently we are in the final stage in the development of a standard on halal medical device.

It is indeed gratifying to note that 2 countries, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan have adopted our Malaysian Standards as their national standards. In addition, a certification body in Japan has translated a Malaysian Standard to cater to its Japanese market.

5. The Malaysian Standard on halal, which was first released in 2000, has become an important milestone for Malaysia as we became the first country to have a documented and systematic halal assurance system. The iconic Malaysian halal logo is the most sought-after, serves as a symbol for the country's reputation as the world's leading halal hub. The halal label has become a symbol for good quality and wholesomeness. It is an emerging market force that attracts not only Muslims but

is also becoming a lifestyle of choice for non-Muslims. To that end, the regulation and governance of the halal conformity assessment is important to ensure credibility of the halal assurance system is properly maintained.

6. To date JAKIM and the state religious authorities have certified, based on Malaysian Standards on halal, a total of 7062 companies, including 4863 companies on food and beverages, 370 cosmetics companies, 201 pharmaceutical companies and 82 logistics companies. These certifications provided confidence on their products and services to the local and global consumers.

7. As the National Accreditation Body, Standards Malaysia, provides accreditation services, to ensure the credibility of the halal testing facilities. This will result in recognised competency of the testing facilities that provides assurance to the consumers that the services are credible and reliable. Standards Malaysia is also a

signatory to the regional and international Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA) and Multi-Lateral Recognition Agreements (MLA), and are subject to rigorous evaluation processes. This further enhances Malaysia's competitive edge as the recognised test results produced by our accredited testing facilities facilitate cross-border trade through international recognition.

8. While we recognise that there are significant opportunities in the halal economy, there are still many challenges to realise the full potential of this sector. One of the challenges is for the international fora to have consensus on a halal standard that is acceptable to all Muslim communities. The lack of a unified standard has also raised production costs for exporting companies, as they must follow different national regulatory standards. Thus, by having a unified standard among OIC countries for a start, these matters can be addressed and hopefully will help minimise the cost of doing business.



9. Similarly, in order to optimise the enormous potential of the global halal industry and to further promote halal products and services, there is a need to acquire greater acceptance of the various aspects of halal certification available in the halal market today. In ensuring uniformity at the international level, Malaysia is ready to collaborate with any party to achieve infinite mutual acceptance and recognition of halal products and services in the global market.

10. At the international level, Malaysia, since 2014, is a member of SMIC, the Standards and Metrology Institute of Islamic Countries and a member of its Board of Directors since early this year. With our expertise and experience, we will assist in harmonising standards and establishing accreditation and certification schemes, to eliminate technical barriers to trade amongst Islamic Countries.

11. Similarly, at the ASEAN level, Malaysia is also an active player in 2 platforms, that is, the ASEAN Working Group on Halal Food and the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) Working Group on Halal Products and Services.

12. As a key player in the global halal industry, Malaysia is obligated to drive the halal economy for the mutual benefit of all stakeholders. We have come a long way, and have made great strides making Malaysia the Global Halal Hub. Leveraging on the experience, in-depth knowledge and available infrastructure, Standards Malaysia took this opportunity with noble intention, to conduct the training on Halal Standards and Conformance Infrastructure for benefits of others.

13. The training programme is designed to provide a comprehensive overview on halal conformance infrastructure, regulatory perspectives, capacity building and industry outlook in Malaysia. The training includes

technical visits of the “Farm to Fork” value chain that demonstrate the complete halal requirements in MS 1500 – Production, preparation, handling and storage – general requirements. For this, I would like to express my appreciation to Standards Malaysia for their efforts in making this training programme interesting and beneficial to all participants. This programme will not be successful without the contribution from JAKIM, Department of Veterinary Services (DVS), HDC, Malaysia Halal Analysis Centre (MyHAC), Kerabat Processing House (Pedas) Sdn. Bhd and QSR Brands (M) Holdings Bhd. Thank you very much for your assistance.

14. It is hoped that this programme has achieved its intended objectives. On behalf of the Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to all participants who have successfully

completed this training programme. I wish you well and every success in your future endeavour.

15. On that note, I officially close the MTCP Training on Halal Standards and Conformance Infrastructure 2018.

Thank you.