

TEXT OF THE WELCOMING REMARKS BY

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Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB)

Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI)

Malaysia

on the occasion of the

**Convention on Nuclear & Radioactive Material, Safety &
Security and Safeguards**

Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC)

Putrajaya, Malaysia

10 December 2007

Distinguished speakers from

- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- South East Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism (SEACCT), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia
- Nuclear Malaysia Agency, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Malaysia
- Department of Occupational, Safety and Health, Ministry of Human Resources, Malaysia
- Department of Energy, United States of America (USA)
- Los Alamos National Laboratory, United States of America
- Sandia National Laboratory, United States of America
- National University of Malaysia (UKM)
- Science University of Malaysia (USM)
- Technology University of Malaysia (UTM)
- MARPA – Malaysian Radiation Protection Association
- Freescale Semiconductor (M) Sdn. Bhd.
- Nusantara Technologies Sdn. Bhd.

Distinguished Representatives of Ministries, Departments and National Agencies;
Distinguished Participants and Exhibitors; and
Fellow Colleagues of the Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB);

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum wbt, selamat pagi and a very good morning to you.

Firstly, it is my honour to welcome all of you here to the first ever National Convention on Nuclear and Radioactive Material Safety, Security and Safeguards. I am delighted with the turn out of the participation here, which I am sure, are here today, with the same goals, i.e. to learn, to share and exchange thoughts and ideas on the issue which are of importance to all of us; safety, security and safeguarding the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. In this

regard, we have to admit that nuclear technology is of vital importance to us and is here to stay – to sustain the life that we are all use to now and to enjoy the benefits that it has to offer and will continue to offer.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The National Convention on Nuclear & Radioactive Material Safety, Security and Safeguards is the result of an initiative jointly taken by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) Malaysia and the Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB) and is held in conjunction with the National Innovation Conference and Exhibition (NICE) 2007 by MOSTI.

For your information, NICE 2007 is themed appropriately “**Innovation for Wealth Creation and Societal Well-being**” and aims to cover all aspects of innovation with emphasis on the vision, strategy, creativity, business and globalisation of innovation. It was officially opened by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. In upholding the NICE 2007 aspirations, today’s Convention is designed with an exciting and comprehensive program targeted to all Malaysians, be it from the general public, government agencies, researchers, industry, academia or students.

With the theme “Ensuring Safety and Security and Safeguarding Peaceful Nuclear Technology: Our Roles”, AELB hopes to bring together all Malaysians in one hall to contemplate about our individual or collective roles toward ensuring nuclear technology is being used responsibly. The Atomic Energy Licensing Board, as the nuclear regulatory authority has the legal mandate to monitor and control nuclear technology in Malaysia. However, the public at large, the radiation worker, users of the technology, other enforcement agencies, the industry, the research & learning institutions, also have important roles. Only by understanding and cooperating together can we really ensure that maximum benefits of the technology are reaped while minimizing the risk.

In this regard, I wish to sincerely extend my warm welcome to all the international & national experts, participants and exhibitors to this Convention. It is an honour to be able to gather these experts from far and near to this Convention and to create a forum for discussion and understanding on the issues of safety, security and safeguarding nuclear technology application in Malaysia. We express appreciation to the representative of International Atomic Energy Agency in which by his presence reflects the commitment of the IAEA to Malaysia as one of its Member State. We thank our international friends for sharing their experience on how they are ensuring the responsible use of the technology. I thank all the Malaysian speakers that have grace us with their presence and to share their expertise with us.

It is indeed also an honour for AELB for the prominent speakers as well as targeted audiences to gather for the first time. The parallel sessions are divided by the four important issues and with one harmonized intention which is to ensure safety, security and safeguards of the peaceful application of nuclear technology in Malaysia and which may also contribute to these endeavours globally.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

September 11, 2001 (9/11), among others, has triggered awareness among the international community towards augmenting measures to combat terrorist activities. That event has emphasized the need to enhance control and secure of nuclear and radioactive material. Thus, additional measures are being taken to increase the level of awareness and protection towards the safety and security of radioactive material in all fields. The control of safety and security of radioactive material involves an effective regulatory program with strong support of established network cooperation through various safety and security regimes and international legal instruments.

Realizing the global challenges in different areas which relate to issues of securing and safeguarding the nuclear technology, I believe it is best for everybody to harness the continuous efforts and in understanding each of our roles and functions to meet the international standards and requirements introduced in the name of ensuring safety, security and safeguarding the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. We believe it is high time for everybody today, to take this challenge of understanding each other's role and concerns, as well as the related international regimes on the issues. This will assist in securing our social and economy development related directly or indirectly to the application of nuclear technology and to work together as Malaysians for the benefit of Malaysia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to record my tribute to the Convention Organising Chairman and the members of the Organizing Committee for their excellent efforts and team work. To all the participants, I wish you every success at the Convention and hope that this will be a beginning for more resourceful experience and sharing on these issues in Malaysia.

Thank you.

10 December 2007

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