

**OPENING ADDRESS BY
DATO' HJ BAHARIN BIN DATO' ABDUL HAMID
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MARINE
MARINE DEPARTMENT MALAYSIA
Read by: Capt. Mohamad Halim Ahmed
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF 8TH COOPERATION FORUM
RESORTS WORLD CONVENTION CENTRE, SENTOSA, SINGAPORE
ON 5TH OCTOBER 2015**

Professor Tommy Koh, the Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore

Mr. Andrew Tan, the Chief Executive Officer, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore;

Capt Bobby Mamahit, the Director General, Directorate General of Sea Transportation, Ministry of Transportation Indonesia;

Excellencies, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Very Good Morning and warm greetings from Malaysia.

1. Allow me to start by conveying greetings and best wishes from Malaysia Head of Delegation, Dato' Hj Baharin bin Dato' Abdul Hamid, the Director General, Marine Department Malaysia who cannot be with us this morning due to unavoidable circumstances. On behalf of Dato' Baharin, I will deliver his keynote address.

2. I wish to express our gratitude and our sincere appreciation to the organisers, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore for hosting the 8th Cooperation Forum under the Cooperative Mechanism on Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. Our appreciation to, Professor Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore to officiate this 8th Cooperation Forum.

3. On behalf of the Malaysia Delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to express our warm greetings to distinguished guests, user States and user of the Straits for attending this 8th Cooperation Forum. I am sure your presence is an important indicator for the littoral States in showing your interest and support towards the efforts in maintaining the safety of navigation and marine environment protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore through the Cooperative Mechanism.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

4. The importance of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore for the international trade is inevitable. Through the IMO initiatives, both straits known as the Straits, have been endorsed as one of the critical international shipping lane in the world. The number of ships passed through the Straits is on increasing trend, and in 2014, almost eighty thousands (80,000) ships reported by the Malaysia Vessel Traffic Service under the Straits mandatory ship reporting system also known as STRAITREP. Ships transiting the Straits carries various types of cargoes with an estimated of one third of the total international trade. The needs of source of energy especially for the industry to continue to grow, have contributed to a massive global oil movement with approximately 14 million barrels crude oil transited through the Straits each day. Therefore, it is vital for the littoral States to implement best practices and initiatives under the Cooperative Mechanism to ensure that safety of navigation and marine environment protection needs are met effectively and efficiently.

5. The Co-operation Forum since its' been formed is one of the three key pillars of the Co-operative Mechanism. The other two are the Aids to Navigation Fund which provides financial assistance to maintain the critical aids to navigation in the Straits; and the Project Co-ordination Committee to co-ordinate the implementation of the Straits projects, while the key feature of this Co-operation Forum is to provide a platform where the littoral states, user States and users of the Straits can meet, exchange views, and explore further collaborations.

As I have made to understand, there are an increasing number of user States and user of the Straits are present today and participates as a speaker as well as delegates to share their views and to provide possible best-practices to keep the Straits safe for navigation while its marine environment remains protected.

6. In supporting the Cooperative Mechanism, Malaysia would also like to share our views and continue to discuss on several activities that has been proposed in the previous Cooperation Forums. One of the initiatives came from the Japanese Government which have made a joint hydrographic re-survey along the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Straits possible, with an objective to update the hydrographic data in the Straits for the production of the navigation charts which include the Electronic Navigation Charts. This initiative, together with recent developments of the navigation tools on-board ship and ashore will support the e-Navigation concept implementation in the Straits. In our view, these initiatives is very encouraging, and the hope for better management of the maritime traffic in the future for the Straits of Malacca and Singapore can be achieved.

7. Another key initiative under the Cooperative Mechanism is to protect the marine environment along the Straits. The risks for the marine environment to be damaged have become higher as the number of shipping traffic increases from time to time. There are few programs have been proposed and one of them is to make certain areas which we have identified very sensitive in the Straits of Malacca as a Particular Sensitive Special Area or PSSA. Further studies need to be made and experts view from many parties are requires to discuss and deliberate on this proposal. Malaysia as lead country for this initiative welcome and humbly seek for opinion of others.

In addition, Malaysia would also like to announce, completion of the Straits Project 2 on 'Co-operation and Capacity Building on Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS), Preparedness and Response in the Straits'. On behalf of the three littoral States, I would like to thank the IMO, in providing the fund through the IMO Straits Trust Fund, the

People's Republic of China, the Government of Australia, India and the United States of America for their generous contribution for this project.

8. Further to that, Malaysia also like to thank to all contributors for their continuous financial contributions to the Aids to Navigation Fund which currently chaired by Singapore. Apart from the financial contribution, the three littoral states also received technical assistance and capacity building from user States and stakeholders towards various ongoing and completed projects under the Project Coordination Committee (PCC). Thank you very much for your generosity and we look forward for your further contribution in the coming years.

9. On behalf of Malaysian Government, I would like to take the opportunity to invite and welcome all delegates and friends, to the 13th International Vessel Traffic Service Symposium or known as VTS SYMPOSIUM which will convene at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, from the 8th to 12th of August 2016. Malaysia is privileged to host this symposium, which is held every four years in the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA-AISM) calendar. The VTS symposium with the theme "*Sustainable Safe Navigation*" will be a forum for the VTS experts, manufactures and the end users, to discuss current challenges and opportunities for the development of VTS. This VTS Symposium is considered as an enhancement program for the efforts in maintaining the safety of navigation and marine environment protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

As the host for this symposium, I would to assure you that we will provide as much as information about the symposium. With Malaysian hospitality and our diverse cultural background, which made "*Malaysia Truly Asia*", we will do our very best to make the symposium something to be well remembered and appreciated.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

10. I would like to reiterated, Malaysia is committed to ensure that the Straits of Malacca remains open for the international shipping and safe for navigation while efforts to protect the marine environment adhere to. Malaysia, together with Indonesia and Singapore, are confident that the Cooperative Mechanism have provide an excellent platform discussing and concurs many common initiatives which then implemented through the Project Coordination Committee. We believe this platform have made us to be in unison, cooperate and share the burden in maintaining the safety of navigation and marine environment protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. Nevertheless, sustainability and continuous promotion of the Cooperative Mechanism is necessary, to attract more contributions and participation, especially from the international shipping industry.

11. To end this note, Malaysia would like to thank again the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore for hosting the 8th Cooperative Forum and the continuous support and commitment from the user States, user of the Straits and stakeholders towards the Cooperative Mechanism. I would also like to thank Professor Tommy Koh, for taking his time off from his busy schedule to be present here to officiate this important occasion.

Thank you very much.