

**OPENING ADDRESS BY
DATO' ROSSID MUSA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MARINE
MARINE DEPARTMENT MALAYSIA
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF 9TH COOPERATION FORUM
ROYAL AMBARUKMO RESORT, YOGYAKARTA INDONESIA
ON 26TH SEPTEMBER 2016**

Mr. Sugihardjo,
Secretary General, Ministry of Transportation of the Republic of
Indonesia

Mr. Gatot Saptadi
Deputy for Economic and Development,
Secretariat of Special Region of Yogyakarta, the Republic of Indonesia

Mr A. Tonny Budiono,
the Director General, Directorate General of Sea Transportation, the
Republic of Indonesia;

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

Excellencies, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Very Good Morning and warm greetings from Malaysia

1. I wish to express our gratitude and our sincere appreciation to the organisers, the Directorate General of Sea Transportation, Republic of Indonesia for hosting the 9th Cooperation Forum under the Cooperative Mechanism on Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. My appreciation to Mr. Sugihardjo, Secretary General, Ministry of Transportation, the Republic of Indonesia to officiate this 9th Cooperation Forum.

2. 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 9th 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.

Excellencies, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

3. 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 2015, more than eighty thousands (80,000) ships or being specific 80959 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 more than 16 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.

4. 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.

Excellencies, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

5. Safety of navigation and marine environment protection for shipping has always been a primary agenda for Malaysia. In supporting the spirit underlies within Cooperative Mechanism, Malaysia would also like to share our effort and activities. One of the initiatives came from the Emergency Towing Vessel (ETV) in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore project under the Project Coordination Committee (PCC) where Malaysia have procured a 82 meter buoy tender vessel to expand our capability, not only in maintaining the aids to navigation in the Straits of Malacca but also can be used for the other purposes. In addition to that, this vessel will also serves as a training platform for Marine Department personnel in the field of VTS, aids to navigation and response to oil pollution.

6. Another key initiative under the Cooperative Mechanism is to protect the marine environment along the Straits. I rest assure that Malaysian are giving higher priority as the number of shipping traffic increases from time to time. There are few programs have been discussed in the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Marine Environment Protection of TTEG in year 2015, amongst other are :-

- (i) To strengthened our capacity to response any oil spillage at the southern tip of Peninsular Malaysia and Straits of Malacca with the procurement of new oil spill response equipment;
- (ii) The development of guidelines on place of refuge for ships in need of assistance in the SOMS;
- (iii) The conduct an risk assessment, in particular on the oil spill response in the Straits;
- (iv) Collaboration with People Republic of China for a marine oil spill monitoring system in the SOMS;

Malaysia as lead country for this initiative welcomed and humbly seek for opinion of others. On behalf of the three littoral States, I would like to thank the IMO, in providing the fund through the IMO Straits Trust Fund to the projects, People's Republic of China, other user States and user

of the Straits for their generous contribution for various project under the Cooperative Mechanism.

7. 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.

Excellencies, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

8. A lot more can be done to fully realise the spirit of Article 43 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). I sincerely hope user States, users of the Straits and other stakeholders can come forward to assist the Littoral States in our efforts to keep the Straits of Malacca and Singapore safe and open for navigation as well as to protect its marine environment. Following to it, I would like to reiterated that Malaysia is committed to ensure that the Straits of Malacca remains open for the international shipping and safe for navigation

9. To end this note, Malaysia would like to thank again the Directorate General of Sea Transportation (DGST), the Republic of Indonesia for hosting the 9th Cooperation 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 Mr. Sugihardjo, Secretary General, Ministry of Transportation, Republic of Indonesia for taking his time off from his busy schedule to be present here to officiate this important occasion.

Thank you very much.

Dato' Rossid Musa
Marine Department Malaysia