

WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR. BAHARIN DATO' ABDUL HAMID

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

MARINE DEPARTMENT MALAYSIA

7TH COOPERATION FORUM

MONDAY, 22ND SEPTEMBER, 2014

Y.B. Dato' Sri Liow Tiong Lai,
Minister of Transport Malaysia

Capt. Bobby R Mamahit
Head of Delegation of the Republic of Indonesia

Mr. Andrew Tan
Head of Delegation of the Republic of Singapore

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

A very Good Morning and A Warm Welcome Greetings to Langkawi, Malaysia

1. I would like to express a very sincere gratitude and appreciation to all the delegates who have made the effort to attend this Seventh edition of the Cooperation Forum on behalf of the Malaysian Delegation and the host. Our sincere appreciation goes to all the delegates and also to our fellow littoral States; Indonesia and Singapore for their undiminished support. My utmost respected appreciation will specially go to the Honorable Y.B. Dato' Sri Liow Tiong Lai, Minister of Transport Malaysia, for allocating time from his busy schedule to officiate this Seventh Cooperation Forum on Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. I am sure your presence to officiate and grace the Seventh Cooperation Forum here this

morning has given all of us an extra motivation and encouragement. Thank You, Yang Berhormat.

2. Malaysia is indeed honored to have the privilege to once again to organize and host this important annual event. We are heartened and greatly encouraged by your participation here today. This is a clear indication of your continued support and importance that you attach to the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, significantly recognized as one of the most strategic, busiest and vital lanes of the world shipping trade.
3. Over the years, the Forum has provided meaningful opportunities to all the interested parties to cooperate contribute and play a role in maintaining and enhancing the safety of navigation and protection of the marine environment in the straits. As a result, the success of the Cooperative Mechanism has been demonstrated by the various from of collaborative projects and initiatives that have been derived from the Forum. It is clearly in line with the objective of Cooperative mechanism to promote dialogue and facilitate close cooperation between the littoral States, user States and other stakeholders. I take this opportunity to thank all of you for all the kind contributions, and I sincerely hope the contributions will continue to flow in.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

4. The next two days has been arranged with a full complete agenda for the Cooperation Forum. We have came up with a filled program accommodating all parties relevant to the Straits and provided them all with ample opportunities to take part in the discussion. Thus we look forward to the usual rigorous exchange of views and ideas; and most of all the necessary support and encouragement to continue the cooperation between the littoral States and user of the Straits. We welcome the keen anticipation, fresh ideas and new initiatives towards ensuring the Straits remains safe and its marine environment well protected.

5. To conclude, allow me once again to welcome all the delegates to the Seventh Cooperation Forum and to Langkawi. As you are aware, in line with the Visit Malaysia 2014, the nation's biggest and grandest tourism celebration with Malaysia Truly Asia's endless wonders of events, festivals and activities all-year round, we have choose Langkawi as the venue for our Forum. Langkawi is a great island with lots of treasures and beautiful beaches with a World Geopark status by UNESCO in year 2007. I thus hope that you will have two days of very fruitful discussion and that you will also find some time to explore the Langkawi Island.

Thank You.