

**OPENING ADDRESS BY**  
**DATO' BAHARIN BIN DATO' ABDUL HAMID**  
**DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MARINE, MARINE DEPARTMENT MALAYSIA**  
**AT THE OPENING OF 11TH COOPERATION FORUM**  
**GRAND HYATT HOTEL, SINGAPORE**  
**ON 24TH SEPTEMBER 2018**

Mr Koji Sekimizu, Secretary-General Emeritus, International Maritime Organization;  
Mr. Agus Purnomo, Directorate General of Sea Transportation, Republic of Indonesia;  
Mr. Andrew Tan, the Chief Executive, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore;

*(Greetings)*

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Very Good Morning and "Salam Sejahtera" from Malaysia

On behalf of the Malaysian Delegation, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the organizers, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore for hosting the 11<sup>th</sup> Cooperation Forum under the Cooperative Mechanism on Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

We would also like to take this opportunity to express our warm greetings to the distinguished guests, user States and user of the Straits for attending this 11th Cooperation Forum. Your presence is crucial and your interest portrays your supports and commitments towards the continuous efforts by the Littoral States in maintaining the safety of navigation and marine environment protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore through the Cooperative Mechanism.

*(Introduction)*

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

History has witnessed the Straits of Malacca and Singapore as an important route and catalyst in the international trade. Being one of the busiest international shipping lane in

the world, it connects continents and hence the world. We have seen an increasing trend in the number of ships passing through the Straits. In 2017, more than eighty thousand, has been recorded by the Malaysia Vessel Traffic Service under the Straits mandatory ship reporting system known as STRAITREP. Undeniably, the number of ships in 2018 and years afterwards will keep on increasing.

Hence, it is of utmost importance for the members of the Littoral States to carefully plan and implement best practices and initiatives under the Cooperative Mechanism to ensure the safety of navigation and marine environment are protected in the best of our capabilities.

The Cooperation Forum formed has since become the platform for its interested parties to meet and exchange views, to explore further collaborations where the safety of navigation and marine environment protection are concerned. In line with its objective to promote dialogue and facilitate close cooperation among Littoral states, user States and other stakeholders, we have seen many success implementations from the collaborative projects and initiatives resulted from this Forum. This has indeed proven such collaborations has yielded better management of the Straits, benefitting all parties concerned.

*(Malaysia's Updates)*

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Malaysia wish to emphasize that we are committed in participating in the initiatives and projects under this Forum. Safety of navigation and marine environment protection for shipping has been one of our primary agenda. Several projects under the Forum have been completed and some is still ongoing. We have also planned some for future projects that will benefit all parties.

Our Multi-Purpose Buoy Tender Vessel, named POLARIS has been in operation since 2017. This is a result from 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). This 85-meters vessel has been constructed as part of our plan to expand our capability, not only in maintaining the aids to navigation in the Straits of Malacca but for other purposes such as training for VTS personnel and response to oil pollution.

Phase 2 Joint Hydrographic Survey Project has commenced, after the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was held in October 2017 during the last Forum session. As in previous Phase 1 Joint Hydrographic Survey Project, the purpose is to enhance safety of navigation in the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) and the Straits, by acquiring comprehensive and accurate hydrographical data to produce an Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC). Planned areas scheduled for Malaysian waters for year 2018 has been completed and the whole project is to be completed in 2021 or earlier.

This are some of the examples of the initiatives that has taken and currently taking place.

*(Challenges)*

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

Despite our ongoing efforts to improve the safety of navigation and marine environment protection, there are a few challenges ahead of us. And like any captain and its crew sailing towards storms and rough seas, we must prepare and equipped ourselves to prevent or minimize the risks.

MARPOL Annex VI's implementation is the latest challenge that needs to be addressed. As the Straits is the main route of vessels, we should be seen as proactively ensuring the protection of the environment with a healthy and safe air quality according to IMO standards of 0.50% limit for the Sulphur content of ships' fuel oil, which will come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

Ships are increasingly using systems that rely on digitization, integration, and automation, which calls for cyber risk management on board. As technology continues to develop, information technology (IT) and operational technology (OT) onboard ships are being networked together and more frequently connected to the internet. This brings greater risk of unauthorized access or malicious attacks to ships' systems and networks. Risks may also occur from personnel accessing systems on board, for example by introducing malware via removable media. Therefore, it is hoped that experts in cyber risk management who might be with us today can deliberate and share ideas, and to further provide appropriate training, to ensure that cyber threats in the security aspects of navigation can be mitigated and prevented effectively and efficiently.

These are just a few challenges. I am sure there are many awaiting or currently faced by us and it is up to us to find the best solutions for mitigation and prevention measures.

*(Commitment and Ending)*

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

A lot more can be done to fully realize 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 reiterate that Malaysia is committed to ensure that the Straits of Malacca remain open for international shipping and is safe for navigation

I am also grateful to the IMO for its continuous support for the Cooperative Mechanism. IMO has played a major role in the successful implementation of the Marine Electronic Highway Demonstration Project for the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. The pilot project, the first of its kind, was developed by the IMO in cooperation with the littoral States and funded by the Global Environment Facility of the World Bank and the

Republic of Korea. The mission of promoting safety, security, efficiency, and marine environmental credentials are reaching out far beyond the IMO's immediate constituency affecting the stakeholders of the shipping industry and others.

Ending on this note, Malaysia would like to thank again the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore for hosting the 11<sup>th</sup> Cooperation Forum and the continuous support and commitment from the user States, user of the Straits and stakeholders towards the Cooperative Mechanism. I wish all delegates fruitful deliberations over the next 2 days.

Thank you very much.