

**OPENING REMARKS -
MALAYSIA**

by The Honourable Dato' Hj Baharin Dato' Abdul Hamid
Director General Of Marine
Marine Department Malaysia

Thank you Madam Chair,

1. **Mr. Hengki Angkasawan,**
Director of Navigation, Directorate General of Sea Transportation (DGST),
Ministry of Transportation, Republic of Indonesia
2. **Ms Quah Ley Hoon,**
Chief Executive, Maritime and Port Authority, Republic of Singapore
3. **Captain Mohamad Halim Ahmed**
Deputy Director General Marine
Marine Department Malaysia
4. **Ms Norhasliza Mat Salleh**
Deputy Undersecretary, Maritime Division
Ministry of Transport, Malaysia
5. **Distinguished Delegates of Indonesia, Distinguished Delegates of Singapore, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good Morning Ladies and gentlemen.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to every delegate here who have made the effort to attend the 13th Co-operation Forum. I was made to understand that many delegates have arrived safely yesterday. I hope every delegate has had a chance to have some rest and enjoy Kuala Lumpur again after the global lockdown due to COVID-19.

1. I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to my fellow counterparts **Mr. Hengki Angkasawan** and **Ms Quah Ley Hoon** for allocating time from your busy schedule to be present at the 13th Co-operation Forum on Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. Your presence here this morning shows the commitment of the Littoral States in maintaining the safety of navigation and environment protection in The Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS) through the auspices of the Cooperative Mechanism.
2. On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to everyone here and online, whether you are from the littoral States, user States, user of the Straits or stakeholders, your presence shows your undiminished support and commitment to the Co-operative Mechanism as a proven platform to foster the co-operation in the SOMS under the article 43 of The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

3. Malaysia is indeed honoured to have the privilege to once again host this important annual event. We are heartened and greatly encouraged by your participation here today, which is a clear indication of your concerted 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.

4. 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.
5. As a result, the success of the Co-operative Mechanism has been demonstrated by various from of collaborative projects and initiatives that have been derived from the Forum. It is clearly in line with the objective of Co-operative 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.
6. The next two days have been arranged with a full agenda for the Co-operation Forum. We have come up with a programme 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.
7. On the latter, we welcome the keen anticipation, fresh ideas and new initiatives and evolution towards ensuring the Straits remains safe and its marine environment well protected.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

8. It has been 13 years since the inception of the Cooperative Mechanism in 2007. Since then, the three Littoral States together with the user States and user of the Straits have taken various steps and initiative to provide safe navigation and protection of the marine environment in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. Nonetheless, rapid development of Artificial Intelligence, the increasing trend on numbers of ships transiting SOMS and development of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS), I

strongly believe that further work is needed to ensure further enhancement on safety of navigation and protecting our marine environment.

9. 13th Co-operation Forum was due to convene in 2020 with Malaysia as host, after Indonesia hosted the 12th Co-operation Forum in 2019. Nonetheless the pandemic outbreak of COVID-19 had changed the landscape of our annual Co-operative Mechanism when Malaysia which has restricted international and local travel, including organising events, to break the chain of COVID-19 infection. Thus, Malaysia had announced the postponement of the forum until this year.

10. Despite the enforcement of Movement Control Order (MCO) as measures to control the on-going outbreak of COVID-19, Malaysia continues to do the necessary work to ensure safety of navigation, with installations of AIS Remote Monitoring System onto eighteen (18) Critical Aids to Navigation including five (5) Lighthouses namely One Fathom Bank, Bkt Jugra, Tg Tuan, Pulau Undan and Bukit Segenting.

11. Considering the importance ensuring Malaysian waters are safe, secure and to preserve the marine environment, Malaysia is currently in the process of upgrading the current Vessel Traffic System with a more advanced technology at approximate cost of RM32mil.

12. To conclude, allow me once again to welcome the delegates to the 13th Cooperation Forum and to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. I thus hope that you will have two days of very fruitful discussion and deliberation and that you will also find some time to explore the numerous sights of Kuala Lumpur, the stunning capital of Malaysia.

Thank You.