

**ATIC SINGAPORE 2010
SUNTECH SINGAPORE,
HALL 401 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE
SATURDAY, 24 APRIL 2010, 9.30am**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MR. OMAR MERICAN
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, BURSA MALAYSIA BERHAD**

Good morning.

Mr. Stephen Lai, Chief Executive Officer of Nextview

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of Bursa Malaysia, I would like to thank NextView for inviting me to deliver the keynote address at the Asia Traders and Investors Convention (ATIC) 2010 here in Singapore. I must commend NextView for their ongoing commitment in reaching out to investors in the Asian region. At the Malaysian leg of the convention held in Kuala Lumpur last month, I was personally encouraged to see the tremendous response from local investors. I trust this Singapore convention will be similarly successful.

I am very pleased to be able to meet with all of you today. Malaysia and Singapore share close ties, and I'd like to think that these ties extend beyond just the usual political and cultural contexts. Apart from sharing a rich historical heritage together, there is also the strong economic and trade link.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our relationship with each other can be termed as symbiosis – be it as neighbouring countries or as investors in each other's markets. Essentially, a retail investor participates within the capital market in the interest of wealth creation. To us, your participation is important in order to create a vibrant and dynamic capital market. However, rather than to just encourage people to invest in the stock market, we also need to build a well-informed retail investor base.

It cannot be denied that investing in the stock market does have an element of risk. There is no crystal ball that can help us see into the future of the companies we invest in. However, risks can be managed when your decisions are backed by a sound

understanding of all relevant factors relating to the business of a company. Essentially, it is information that will help you arrive at decisions you can be comfortable with, and this is why regulators put in place stringent disclosure requirements upon listed companies.

I must also add, that initiatives such as ATIC, which are aimed at giving investors an additional platform to gain a better understanding of the present investment landscape are most welcome. Ensuring a sustainable retail market is certainly a collective responsibility of all capital market players in every country.

Ladies and gentlemen

As you have all taken time from your busy schedules to be here, I feel that there is a need also to talk about opportunities for investors in today's market landscape. I am sure many of you will agree with me that these are interesting times indeed.

One very exciting development that is about to take place for investors in this region is the implementation of the ASEAN Link. It will enable investors to view consolidated market data from all participating exchanges, and enable them to execute trades directly in the other markets. With this initiative, you will be able to access opportunities from other ASEAN markets through a single access point.

Back at home, stakeholders within the Malaysian capital market have been collectively working to provide an attractive investment destination which appeals to investors beyond just our own shores.

Those of you who were in touch with developments at the Invest Malaysia 2010 conference in Kuala Lumpur last month, would be familiar with the announcements by our Prime Minister, Dato' Sri Najib Tun Razak concerning the capital market. He had called for the divestment of Government stakes in public listed companies and the listing of two Petronas' subsidiaries to allow more flow of sizeable government assets into the market. We are pleased to note that the Government is undertaking these measures to promote vibrancy, free float and liquidity within our market to enhance the attractiveness of the Malaysian capital market. I believe these developments hold opportunities for all investors.

Also, it would be remiss of me if I didn't take this opportunity to tell you of the many quality companies on Bursa Malaysia that offer good valuations from a wide range of key and high growth sectors such as plantation, rubber gloves, education, healthcare and oil & gas - just to name a few. Many Singaporean investors already hold Malaysian stocks because they offer strong value and attractive returns, and we hope to see more of this. Furthermore, with the currency conversion, Malaysia is a relatively cost-efficient marketplace for you to pick up value investments. With Malaysia and Singapore enjoying close proximity and familiarity, it would be worth your while to invest in key sectors in our market as you would be able to research and gain access to reports very easily.

Bursa Malaysia's derivatives market and Islamic market also hold some interesting developments to watch for. Our crude palm oil futures contract has a strong track record and as a result of our partnership with the CME Group, the crude palm oil futures contracts will soon be tradable on CME's Globex platform, enabling us to profile it to a wider range of international investors.

For Islamic markets, we have investment products such as the Shari'ah Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) and Islamic Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) which offer investment returns via capital gain and stable dividends.

In terms of infrastructure, we have in place direct market access (DMA) in both equities and derivatives now to widen investors' access to all our product offerings. Investors can also carry out online trading and we note that it is increasingly being used by more investors as it offers the option of trading at their own time and convenience. Bursa Malaysia also makes available on our website free research reports on companies participating in the CMDF- Bursa Malaysia Research Scheme or CBRS. The initiative features objective analyst reports from international research houses on participating Malaysian listed companies.

Additionally, Bursa Malaysia pays a premium to corporate governance standards. We place high priority on investor protection and our regulatory framework is sound and benchmarked against global best practices. While we may be a small market relative to our neighbours, we are a market of quality and integrity. Just recently, Bursa

Malaysia was ranked first in Asia Pacific and second in the World by the Investor Relations Global Ranking for Best Corporate Governance Practice.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In Malaysia, we are seeing signs of improving market sentiment. With the Government's commitment in making Malaysia more business-friendly to investors, companies with strong fundamentals, innovative product offerings and more convenient access points into our market, the time is right for all of you to explore the potential that the Malaysian market may hold for you. If you have any questions or doubts, do not hesitate to clarify them with us. We are here to engage with you to understand your needs because you are important to us.

And on that note, before I end my speech today, I would like to urge all of you to take this opportunity at ATIC 2010 today to explore and learn from the experts, and in this process, become more informed investors. I have spoken at great length about the attributes of the Malaysian market, but I am certain that there is a plethora of other opportunities around the Asian region. ATIC 2010 is certainly one of the few appropriate platforms for you to explore, in this regard. I wish you all a pleasant day ahead.

Thank you.