

**20TH ANNUAL PALM AND LAURIC OILS CONFERENCE (POC) 2009
DAY 3 – THURSDAY, 12 MARCH 2009**

WELCOME REMARKS BY

**YANG AMAT BERBAHAGIA TUN MOHAMED DZAIDDIN HAJI ABDULLAH,
CHAIRMAN OF BURSA MALAYSIA BERHAD**

YB Datuk Peter Chin
Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, Malaysia

Y.Bhg. Datuk Wira Ismail Saleh
Secretary General, Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities

YBhg Dato' Mohd. Sabri Ahmad
Chairman of the Malaysian Palm Oil Board,

YBhg Dato' Dr. Mohd Basri Wahid
Director General of the Malaysian Palm Oil Board

YBhg Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Yusof Basiron
Chief Executive Officer of the Malaysian Palm Oil Council,

YBhg Dato' Sri Zarinah Anwar
Chairman of the Securities Commission Malaysia,

YBhg Dato' Yusli Mohamed Mohamed Yusoff
Chief Executive Officer of Bursa Malaysia

Board Members of Bursa Malaysia,

Tan Sri-Tan Sri, Dato'-Dato',

Honoured guests,

Distinguished delegates,

Members of the media,

Ladies and gentlemen

Assalamualaikum and a very good morning.

Let me welcome you to the second day of POC2009. It is with great pleasure that we have with us our guest of honour, Yang Berhormat Datuk Peter Chin Fah Kui, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities Malaysia at our Palm Oil Price Outlook Conference. My special thanks to Yang Berhormat Datuk for accepting Bursa Malaysia's invitation and to deliver his keynote address.

Despite the current market uncertainties, I am equally honoured and pleased to see a good turnout by delegates at this conference. This is a great testament to the support and the vibrancy of the palm oil industry, both domestically and internationally.

As my Chief Executive mentioned during his opening address yesterday, this conference is celebrating its 20th year. Over the years, POC continues to attract the attention of international palm oil experts and players from over 40 countries, and for that, I thank you for your unwavering support. POC has grown in parallel to the continuous development of palm oil production and the increasing demand for edible oils.

It is worth noting that the Malaysian palm oil industry contributes to about 5 to 8 percent of Malaysia's GDP, providing a sustainable and profitable income for the community. We are grateful to the Government, its agencies and industry associations for successfully developing the palm oil industry, and the vital role it continues to play as a prime mover in the plantation sector.

Ladies and gentlemen,

On our part, Bursa Malaysia will carry on its commitment to facilitate market development in meeting the current challenges. The POC2009 continues to draw regional and global attention, reinforcing Malaysia as one of the largest and globally recognised producers of palm oil, with a successful crude palm oil futures contract known as FCPO. The FCPO contract is one of the most actively traded derivatives contracts offered by Bursa Malaysia, representing 50 percent and 31 percent of our derivatives volume and revenue respectively. FCPO has been the preferred benchmark for the pricing of crude palm oil products and is globally accepted as a reference price for major industry products and services.

The FCPO product has evolved since its launch more than 25 years ago. It is now electronically-traded, and for the past three years, this market has consistently registered more than 2 million contracts annually. Open positions were also strong at over 80,000 contracts as at end of last year. This goes to show that the FCPO market remains a liquid and attractive market.

Price trends are critical for palm oil players, be it for the physical or futures markets. As you can appreciate, the POC will offer and share the different aspects of price outlook and predictions for this enviable and viable commodity for the year ahead. On that note, I

would like to thank our panel of distinguished speakers for sharing their expertise and knowledge with us. Needless to say, their predictions and insights will be valuable in enabling many different organisations in the palm oil industry to further improve their marketing and competitive skills.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I hope you will leave this conference not only knowing more about the potentials that lie within the palm oil sector but will also become a contributor in the development of this market. Malaysia is a force to be reckoned with, with regards to palm oil production and trading. So let us work together to further maintain our competitiveness in an area that we already have an edge in.

Before I take my leave, I would like to express our gratitude to the guest speakers, all our partners, sponsors, exhibitors and delegates who have contributed towards the POC2009 Conference in its 20th year. I am sure before we break off for lunch we would be hearing from Mr Dorab Mistry, the Palm Oil Price Outlook for 2009-2010.

Thank you.