

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**THEMATIC FORUM ON POLICY CONNECTIVITY OF BELT AND
ROAD FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION:
*“ENHANCING SYNERGY OF RELEVANT RULES
AND REGULATIONS FOR HIGH QUALITY,
HIGH STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE”***

**SPEECH BY
YB DATO' SERI MOHAMED AZMIN BIN ALI
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

**CHINA NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE
25 APRIL 2019**

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

Introduction

1. Traditionally, China and Malaysia have maintained cordial ties of friendship and fruitful trade and commerce links. China has been one of the biggest contributors to Malaysia's foreign direct investments.
2. It is also significant that Malaysia is one of the first countries to participate in the Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI).

3. Within the multi-lateral perspective of BRI, Malaysia aspires to play a productive role in policy connectivity in enhancing synergy of rules and regulations for high quality, high standards and performance.

4. In this regard, Malaysia is a prime gateway to the ASEAN market by virtue of our favourable business environment, good infrastructure, talent pool and a stable political climate.

5. As a measure of this, investments from the Asia Pacific region as well as from the EU including Nordic countries have been growing over the years, with leading global brands establishing their bases in Malaysia.

6. Nevertheless, we believe in the principle that to sustain global demand of our products and services, continuous enhancement of quality and the maintenance of the highest standards is imperative.

Standards Malaysia in collaboration with International Bodies

7. As of 2018, Malaysia has developed over 5,400 standards applied in 25 industrial sectors of which 61% are aligned to international standards.

8. In line with our trajectory to move Malaysia's economy as a major regional player in global competitiveness, with a diversified economic structure, we adhere strictly to international best practices in a process that is consensus-based, transparent and inclusive.

Rules Synergy and Accreditation

9. In terms of the synergy of rules and regulations to ensure the safety and health of the people and sustainability for the environment, in 2018 alone, more than 500 standards were made mandatory by Malaysian regulators across the board.

10. In the area of accreditation, as of 2018, programs offered by Standards Malaysia cover a wide spectrum including quality, environmental, occupational safety and health, product, energy, food safety, forest management and palm oil, in particular, the Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil.

11. This underscores Malaysia's culture of active standards compliance among industry players, which is essential as a testament of the high standards and quality offered by our goods and services.

12. In 2008, Standards Malaysia and Standardisation Administration of the Peoples' Republic of China (SAC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Standardisation, thus establishing active cooperation with China in this area.

13. On a bilateral level throughout this productive 10-year cooperation, Malaysia has gained tremendously through capacity-building initiatives and enhanced understanding of quality infrastructure of both countries.

14. This has facilitated entry of Malaysian products to China through recognition of Malaysian Standards and the credibility of conformity assessment results.

15. On a multi-lateral level, I strongly believe that we can enhance collaborative exchanges through joint research and development in standards and accreditation.

16. I would like to offer Malaysia's technical expertise in food safety.

17. Malaysia is a pioneer in developing and implementing international Halal standards, that is to ensure that products and services are appropriate, safe and hygienic.

18. With our comprehensive Halal ecosystem, which includes initial processes to finalization and R&D, together with a high standards and certification system, I believe the way forward is the synchronising of Halal certification procedures on a global level.

Thank you.