

**The 28th ASEAN Consultative Committee Meeting on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ) Working
Group 2 – Conformity Assessment
Opening ceremony
The Rizqun International Hotel, Gadong
13 – 16 April 2015**

**OPENING REMARKS BY
AWANG HAJI KHAIRUDDIN BIN HAJI ABD HAMID
DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY AND PRIMARY RESOURCES
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND PRIMARY RESOURCES**

Bismillah hir Rahman nir Rahim

Chair of the ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality Working Group 2 – Conformity Assessment, Mr. Mohd Hamzaini bin Hashim, Principal Assistant Director of Accreditation, Department of Standards Malaysia, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Malaysia.

ASEAN Secretariat Representatives

Distinguished Co-Chair and Heads of ASEAN Delegation

Distinguished guests, delegates, participants and observers.

Colleagues in the government sector

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu'alaikum Warrahmatullah Hi Wabarakatuh and a very Good Morning to all of you.

First of all, I am honoured and privileged to be here to officially open the 28th Meeting of the ACCSQ Working Group 2 – Conformity Assessment and for that I wish to thank the Organizing Committee for this invitation. It is our pleasure to host this 28th ACCSQ Meeting on behalf of the Government of Brunei Darussalam, I would like to extend our special welcome to all of you to Brunei Darussalam the Abode of Peace. **SELAMAT DATANG.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,
(INTRODUCTION OF ASEAN'S STANDPOINT)**

ASEAN is boldly facing the worldwide challenge of an increasingly liberalized global economy. In line with the objectives of the Asia Free Trade Agreement, or also known as AFTA, the ACCSQ was established to eliminate technical barriers to trade on intra-ASEAN trade in the goods sector.

One of the main objectives of the Working Group 2 is to establish a comprehensive and cohesive ASEAN standard and conformance infrastructure, which is achieved by the implementation of accreditation system for conformity assessment bodies in ASEAN Member States to assure that tests & calibration reports, inspection & certification certificates are according to internationally recognized standards. Having this acceptance in the ASEAN community will allow free movement of goods across ASEAN whilst also reducing the costs of trading activities through the elimination of retesting and/or recertification.

I believe that harmonization of conformity assessment activities is vital, as economic leaders are committed towards the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint this year 2015. This will strengthen and heighten ASEAN's capability and productivity so as to compete in the demanding global market.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,
(CURRENT WORK AND ACTIVITIES)**

Working Group 2 has been given the task to provide support to the sectoral bodies under the purview of ACCSQ in the area of conformity assessment. Therefore, Working Group 2 is working hard to facilitate the implementation of mutual recognition arrangements (MRAs) of test reports and certificates in the ASEAN Market. Consumers will benefit through the assurance of the quality of products available in the market which has been tested in accordance with the requirements of the MRAs. 11 priority sectors have been identified, which includes electronics, e-ASEAN, healthcare, wood-based products, automotives, rubber-based products, textiles and apparels, agro-based products, fisheries, air travel and tourism.

Currently, the ASEAN guideline on accreditation and conformity assessment is near the end of the drafting stage. This task is not easy as each ASEAN country have varying accreditation & conformity assessment infrastructures. This guideline plays a key role in providing an essential condition for market integration and to ensure that ASEAN suppliers, while facilitating its internal trade, will also serve to maintain or enhance access to external markets.

In planning the next steps for Working Group 2 for the post 2015, a 2-day workshop was held from the 13th April to 14th April 2015, prior to the commencement of this meeting. It is my hope that a fruitful and successful discussion from all participants was carried out during the 2-day workshop. I also hope that this preparatory workshop will provide a clear path for Working Group 2 to execute and also to play its role in providing its support towards a better ASEAN community.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

(FUTURE HOPES & OPENING)

At this juncture, I am confident that this Working Group will collaborate their thoughts and ideas together to overcome the challenges, barriers and constraints towards the establishment of a standard and conformance infrastructure that will open the door to free, unhindered and competitive trade opportunities, in-line with ASEAN's vision that is to transform ASEAN into a stable, prosperous, and highly competitive region with equitable economic development and reduced poverty and socio-economic disparities.

Finally, I wish you all a successful and fruitful meeting in the traditional spirit of ASEAN cordiality and solidarity as I am sure that you have a full schedule. I hope you have a pleasant stay in Brunei Darussalam and please take time to enjoy the Bruneian hospitality and make your stay a memorable one.

(OPENING CEREMONY)

With the kalimah "Bismillah hir Rahman nir Rahim" I now officially declare open, the 28th ASEAN Consultative Committee Meeting on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ) Working Group 2 – Conformity Assessment.

Wabillahitaufik Walhidayah, Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. Thank you.