

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY DATO' AZHARUDDIN ABDUL RAHMAN,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION, MALAYSIA AT THE ICAO AND
THE WORLD BANK AIR TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT FORUM, 14
OCTOBER 2008**

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION
ORGANIZATION, THE WORLD BANK AND THE ROUTE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO WISH YOU SELAMAT DATANG OR WELCOME
TO KUALA LUMPUR AND TO THE ICAO AND THE WORLD BANK AIR TRANSPORT
DEVELOPMENT FORUM. FIRSTLY I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU FOR THE
OPPORTUNITY TO SAY A FEW WORDS

I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT BOTH ICAO AND THE WORLD BANK HAVE
CHOSEN THE CITY OF KUALA LUMPUR TO BE THE VENUE OF THIS ICAO AND
THE WORLD BANK AIR TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT FORUM. THIS FORUM IS
THE FOURTH OF SUCH FORUMS, THE PRECEDING THREE HAVING BEEN HELD
IN CITIES IN NORTH AMERICA AND AFRICA. IT IS ALSO OPPORTUNE THAT
THIS FORUM IS TAKING PLACE IN ASIA WHICH IS AN IMPORTANT AREA IN
CIVIL AVIATION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

2007 WAS A GREAT YEAR FOR AVIATION. TODAY, HOWEVER WE ARE FACED WITH A WAKE UP CALL. AIR TRANSPORT IS AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE WHERE A SERIES OF FACTORS HAVE AFFECTED THE INDUSTRY WITH THE FUEL AND GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS. IT'S ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT NOW, THAT AIRLINES, AIRPORT OPERATORS, SERVICE PROVIDERS AND REGULATORS MUST WORK TOGETHER AS THEY FORM THE FABRIC OF THE CIVIL AVIATION INDUSTRY. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT THOSE IN THE BUSINESS OF RENDERING ASSISTANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRY SHOULD PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THE CHALLENGES FACING AVIATION. WHILST THE INDUSTRY , AIRLINES AND AIRPORT OPERATORS ARE SEEKING COST CUTTING MEASURES, REGULATORS TOO MUST TAKE COGNIZANCE WITHOUT COMPROMISING SAFETY AND SECURITY.

MALAYSIA SHARES THE SAME CONCERN ON THE MANY CHALLENGES CONFRONTING CIVIL AVIATION. I AM ENCOURAGED BY THE FACT THAT ICAO, AS THE GLOBAL FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION, HAS ADOPTED SIX STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES WHICH ARE AIMED AT ENSURING SAFETY, SECURITY, ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION, EFFICIENCY, CONTINUITY AND RULE OF LAW. THERE IS A NEED FOR THE INDUSTRY TO BE GUIDED IN THE FACE

OF THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS AND ICAO'S INITIATIVES IN THE FIELD OF EFFICIENCY ARE AN EXAMPLE OF LEADERSHIP.

IT IS ALSO APPROPRIATE THAT THE THEME FOR THE FORUM IS MAXIMISING CIVIL AVIATION'S CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT .

I MUST ALSO MENTION THE HIGHLY PROACTIVE APPROACH TAKEN BY THE WORLD BANK IN RECENT YEARS IN FOCUSING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF AVIATION TO THE GLOBAL ECONOMY. I AM TOLD THAT THE WORLD BANK IS ALSO IN THE PROCESS OF RENDERING ASSISTANCE IN RECONSTRUCTING THE AVIATION INDUSTRY AS WELL AS DEVELOPING INFRASTRUCTURE, PARTICULARLY IN REGIONS WHICH NEED SUCH ASSISTANCE MOST.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

ALLOW ME ALSO TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO THE ROUTE DEVELOPMENT GROUP AND MALAYSIA AIRPORTS FOR THEIR GENEROUS AND ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN THIS EVENT. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS FORUM WILL PROVIDE US WITH MUCH FOOD FOR THOUGHT AND LEAD TO PRODUCTIVE RESULTS.

LASTLY, I WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK EVERYONE INVOLVED IN ORGANIZING THIS FORUM. TO OUR FOREIGN GUESTS, I DO HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE SOME TIME OFF TO TOUR KUALA LUMPUR AND ITS SURROUNDINGS FOR ITS DIVERSE CULTURAL SIGHTS AND CUISINE.

TERIMA KASIH AND THANK YOU.