**Annex III**

**WELCOME SPEECH BY CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING**

**3RD AD HOC MEETING TO CONSIDER THE FORMATION OF D-8 FERTILIZER ASSOCIATION (D-8 FA) 2014, 09-10 OCTOBER 2014, KUALA LUMPUR**

1. Bismillahirrahmannirrahim. Alhamdulillahirabbil a’lamin. Wassala tuassala muala asyrafil anbiya hiwalmursalin, wa’ala alihi wasahbihi aj’main, walhamdulillahirabbil a’lamin.
2. My grateful to Allah SWT for His grace that has allowed us together today, to hold an 3rd Ad Hoc Meeting To Consider The Formation Of D-8 Fertilizer Association (D-8 FA) 2014, 09- 10 October 2014, Kuala Lumpur.
3. I understand this meeting is subsequent from the meeting which was held in Abuja, Nigeria in December 2013, when it was decided during the 4th Working Group on Fertilizer 2013 meeting, Malaysia would be as the next host for D-8 Fertilizer Association or also known as D-8 FA.
4. And, Alhamdulillah, today, with the blessed of Allah SWT, it is my great pleasure to welcome The Honourable D-8 Secretariat Representative from Istanbul, Turkey. Mr. Ilham Perintis, and The distinguished delegates from;
5. The Islamic Republic of Iran, which chief of delegate is Mr. Hossein Zamani, The Iran's Fertilizer Focal Point at D-8 FA and PR Manager at Agricultural Support Services Company (ASSC), and the distinguished board members of Iran Fertilizer Union, and
6. A delegate from the The People’s Republic of Bangladesh, the distinguished Mr. Kamrul Ashraf Khan, Chairman of Bangladesh Fertilizer Association (BFA).
7. As well as delegates from the host country Malaysia, the distinguished Mr. Saharudin Bin Mohd Dan, the GeneralManager of NAFAS Bajakimia representing National Farmers Organization (NAFAS) and Malaysian delegates.
8. Before we proceed ahead with the meeting, I would like to recap on the history of how the initiative to perform the co-operation between the D-8 countries, under The Working Group on Fertilizer and the private sector initiative, has nearly materialized with the formation of D-8 FA, with the objective to enhance the fertilizer trade between private sector among D-8 countries.
9. The 1st D-8 Ad Hoc Group on Fertilizer meeting, was held on 09-11 Mac 2013, Kish Island, Iran. It was later followed by the 2nd D8 Ad Hoc Meeting On Fertilizer Consortium 2013 meeting on 4-6 November 2013 in Antalya, Turkey. And today is the 3rd Ad Hoc Meeting To Consider The Formation Of D-8 Fertilizer Association (D-8 FA) 2014.
10. We have been progressing quite well so far, since the effort to involve the private sector under The Working Group On Fertilizer was initiated during the 3rd D-8 Working Group on Fertilizer 2012 in West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia.

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. This is the 2nd involvement of NAFAS of Malaysia, being a Government Link Company attending the meeting under the D-8 countries collaboration, and we are glad that we can play an active role to ensure that we are serious to collaborate with other D-8 countries to enhance our trade of fertilizers.
2. As most of us probably aware, along the years, millions of tonnes of fertilizers have been moved every year throughout the world to fulfil the requirement of global market demand, as well as to ensure that it could fulfil the manuring program to safeguard on the security of the food supplies globally. It is anticipated, the growth of world population will reach 8.5 billion by 2025, which is only about 10 to 11 years from now. And until today, the world consumption of fertilizers has reach nearly180 million tonnes annually, and it is believed to keep on increasing. Also, it is highly notable that the population among the D-8 countries has already picked-up to one point zero one (1.01) billion from the total of 7 billion world population.
3. For Malaysia alone, our requirement of fertilizers is approximately 5 million tonnes annually which have been consumed for variety of our agricultural manuring programmes. NAFAS being the first-tier among the fertilizers importers in Malaysia for instance, consumed nearly 400,000 to 450,000 metric tonnes annually, which fertilizers are mainly supplies to the registered farmers under our National Food Security Policy, which crop is mainly paddy. It is estimated, Malaysia has nearly 700,000 hectares of paddy planted areas for paddy cultivation.
4. Therefore, today, with the determination and the serious effort to increase co-operation between the members countries, in variety of fertilizer trade through Business To Business (B2B) relations, I sincerely hope, the collaboration to consider the formation of D-8 FA, under the private sector initiative, between the D-8 members country, can further contribute to the development in economic growth, and positive contribution to the agriculture and food security within the D-8 countries.