

**ADDRESS BY THE HEAD OF DELEGATION OF MALAYSIA,
DATUK AB AZIZ KAPRAWI
DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT MALAYSIA AT THE
28th IMO ASSEMBLY, MONDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2013**

Mr President, Mr Secretary General, Excellencies, Honourable Head of Delegations and Distinguished Delegates.

Good Afternoon / Good Morning and Happy Greetings from Malaysia!

1. First and foremost, on behalf of the delegation of Malaysia I congratulate you on your election as President of the 28th Assembly of the International Maritime Organization. I also congratulate His Excellency Dr Dalhatu Tafida, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Nigeria to IMO, and Her Excellency Ms Ana Irene Delgado, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Panama to IMO, on their election as Vice-Presidents.

2. I must also congratulate you, Mr Sekimizu for your inaugural Assembly as the Secretary-General of IMO. I trust you have had an eventful first 2 years at the helm of IMO.

3. On a sadder note, I on behalf of the Government of Malaysia express our heartfelt condolence to the Government and the people of the Republic of the Philippines for the devastating effect of the Typhoon Haiyan which hit the Republic recently. Our support and prayers for the families who have lost their loved ones.

4. On a similar note, Malaysia would also like to convey our deepest sympathy to the Government of India and the family of the late Secretary-General Emeritus, Dr. Srivastava who passed away recently. He had served this Organization with great dedication and contributed immensely to IMO and to international shipping at large. He will be sadly missed.

Mr President

5. We observe with appreciation some of IMO's achievements since the last Assembly in 2011 that include IMO's relentless work on the protection of vital shipping lanes particularly to address issues relating to piracy and armed robbery against ships that continue to be the bane of international shipping.

6. While we have been working relentless to improve the safety of ships and develop new standards for international shipping, shipping accidents continue to happen. In this regard we applaud IMO's initiative to review regulations that could be construed as administrative burden and work towards creating "better regulations". We welcome the establishment of the Ad Hoc Steering Group for Reducing Administrative Requirements and wait with keen interest the outcome of the Group's work.

Mr President,

7. The World Maritime Day theme for 2014 is, "IMO Conventions: Effective Implementation". In our view this could not have come at a better time. In order to see any appreciable benefits of the many IMO conventions, they have to be implemented effectively. We sincerely

hope the theme will create greater awareness and understanding towards more effective implementation of IMO's instruments.

8. In this regard, more than 80% of IMO member States are developing countries, including Malaysia. Many of us continue to face challenges to regulate maritime activities and to implement IMO's Conventions. For this reason we sincerely believe the technical cooperation activities should be the heartbeat of IMO.

9. It is with this conviction that for the first time this year, Malaysia is directly contributing to the IMO technical co-operation program to assist member States and fellow developing countries in building up their capacity. I am pleased to assure everyone that this new initiative by Malaysia is not a one off but will continue for years to come, and hopefully with greater outreach.

Mr President

10. It will be remiss of me if I do not mention "The Straits of Malacca"; the waterways that continue to attract interests and shipping from around the world. The Straits also remain the busiest and critical waterway for international shipping and trade. In this regard the Cooperative Mechanism to enhance safety of navigation and environmental protection in the Straits, now well into the sixth year of operation is a model for international cooperation between many stakeholders. We would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to our fellow littoral State members; Indonesia and Singapore and the many contributors for their support and cooperation. We are confident that with the continued support of IMO and other stakeholders, the

Straits will continue to be safe and open to shipping without detrimental impact on the environment.

Mr President, Mr Secretary General, Excellencies, Honourable Heads of Delegations and Distinguished Delegates.

11. Before I conclude, allow me to make a small announcement of Malaysia's intention to continue serving in the IMO Council and that we have submitted our candidature for re-election in Category C. I am also happy to invite you Mr President, the Secretary General and all staff of the Organization and all delegates to the Malaysia Reception Night at the High Commission of Malaysia on Wednesday evening.

12. Lastly, I wish all delegates a very interesting and productive meeting. I thank you for your kind attention.