



WELCOME SPEECH

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Assalamualaikum w.b.t. dan Salam Sejahtera

The Honorable Director-General of Education, Datuk Abdul Rafie bin Mahat,
Haji Razali bin Ismail, Director of Teacher Education
Directors and Officers from the Ministry of Education,
State Education Directors,
Directors from Teacher Training Colleges
Principals and Headmasters,
Lecturers and Teachers
Our friends from the Media,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. A very good morning to you. We are indeed honored and privileged to have with us this morning the Director General of Education, Datuk Abdul Rafie bin Mahat who have kindly consented to present the closing remarks for this conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

2. We have come to the end of a very exhausting but interesting two and a half days of papers, workshops and discussions. The conference was specifically organized to address a myriad of concerns and issues as a result of the curricular change introduced into the teaching of mathematics and science in Malaysian schools, namely, the change of the medium of instruction from Bahasa Malaysia to English. We know it must have been a challenge to all involved especially teachers who had to cope with the change with barely three months of preparation.

3. As the main provider, the Ministry of Education was responsible for identifying companies responsible for preparing science and mathematics materials in the print and electronic media. All Primary Year 1, Secondary Form 1 and Lower Six teachers received laptops and self-instructional language materials. Schools were supplied with LCDs to cope with the content and pedagogical changes. The Curriculum Development Centre saw to the translation of the content, orientating teachers to new content and also prepared lesson plans for the teachers to use. The Technology



Division sourced and distributed multi-media learning materials. More than 14 government agencies were mobilized to realize the nation's call.

4. ELTC was given the responsibility of enhancing teachers' proficiency in the English Language. The ELTC team wrote the training modules for both Phase 1 and 2 and conducted the training of trainers. We have also been engaged in monitoring visits and we have received very constructive feedback that has helped us to review and refine the modules.

5. It has been one and a half years since the policy change was announced. Significant effort in training and monitoring has been carried out. This conference is aimed at providing a forum for the exchange of experiences and ideas among principal stakeholders and clients, and by so doing lend a more accurate perspective to the objectives of this policy change.

6. This conference has heard from Directors, administrators, academics and practitioners. Topics have ranged from micro-issues of grappling with everyday pedagogical principles in the classroom to the impact of policy on the teaching-learning environment. We have heard from almost all quarters of the Ministry of Education including non-government agencies related to education. Given the very recent nature of the change having been implemented just 9 months ago, the Teaching of Science and Mathematics in English has become a national concern occupying the minds of students, teachers, administrators, educators and parents alike. But we can be rest assured that everything has been done and is being done for an efficient and successful implementation.

7. I cannot begin to imagine the work involved in organizing this conference and for that I wish to thank my able team at ELTC for their untiring efforts and commitment to make this conference a success. In fact, the Secretariat has been working non-stop for the past few months to get speakers, to liaise with the ministry and outside agencies, to communicate with participants, to write speeches and to select and edit papers to ensure a quality conference.

8. On behalf of ELTC, I also wish to thank all the presenters for their informative and insightful presentations and to participants for taking time off to be a part of this conference.

9. To the outside agencies who prepared the exhibition I would like to thank them for their cooperation and contributions to the conference.



10. I would also like to thank the Directors of Divisions of the Ministry of Education, Directors of Teacher Training Colleges, principals and school teachers for their cooperation and kind attendance.

11. Special thanks go to the Director of Teacher Training Division for all the support given, for without which this conference would not happen.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

12. We have come to the end of the conference and we are indeed honoured to have the Honourable Director-General of Education, Datuk Abdul Rafie bin Mahat to deliver the closing address.

Thank you.