



Message

**Director General of Education
Malaysia**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all paper presenters, participants as well as representatives from institutions of higher education, both local and foreign, to "The ELTC ETeMS Conference 2003: Managing Curricular Change".

Malaysia's decision to switch the medium of instruction for the teaching of science, mathematics and other technical subjects at all levels from Bahasa Melayu to English is indeed a curricular change of great significance. The implementation of this policy, which began in January 2003, has, quite deservedly, attracted the attention of various interested groups both in Malaysia and abroad. This is not surprising as the innovation has touched the lives of thousands of educators and an even greater number of students in schools as well as in institutions of higher education.

As the innovation moves into its second year of implementation even higher standards of quality as well as accountability will justifiably be demanded both from within the educational fraternity as well as the general public. Therefore, the initiative undertaken by ELTC and the Teacher Education Division to organize this conference is to be applauded. It is incumbent upon educators, administrators, policy planners as well as programme evaluators to enter into dialogue and deliberate on the impact this curricular change has had, thus far, on classroom practice in the teaching and learning of science and mathematics. This professional exchange of ideas must lead to greater excellence in managing the innovation.

It is my wish that this conference, the second international event organized by ELTC this year, will be a rewarding experience for presenters and participants alike. The fruits of your deliberations will, undoubtedly, provide valuable input to teachers and other professionals within the education service as they consolidate the experiences garnered in the first year of the innovation, and plan for the years ahead.

Thank you

DATUK ABDUL RAFIE BIN MAHAT