



Message

**Director
Teacher Education Division**

Welcome to "The ELTC ETeMS Conference 2003: Managing Curricular Change". The English Language Teaching Centre (ELTC) has to be congratulated for organizing this conference which focuses on a critical development in the national educational agenda, namely, the change in the medium of instruction for the teaching of mathematics and science from Bahasa Melayu to English.

When the Cabinet decided on this policy change in June 2002, the Teacher Education Division of the Ministry of Education, Malaysia was entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring that serving teachers received adequate support and training to enable them to teach effectively in English. To carry out this duty, the ELTC task force, which had barely

been in existence for 2 months, was asked to develop a suitable language programme for mathematics and science teachers. This led to the development of the *English for the Teaching of Mathematics and Science (ETeMS)* programme which was implemented nationwide in August 2002. To date, approximately 50,000 mathematics and science teachers have successfully completed the programme.

It is therefore most appropriate that ELTC should organize an international conference of this nature which will enable us to look back at the various challenges and opportunities that emerged during the first year of the implementation of the policy to teach mathematics and science in English. This critical reflection of our practices and procedures will enable us to better manage this innovation as it enters its second year.

In organizing this conference ELTC has undertaken yet another challenge as a new institution. I am pleased to note that ELTC has risen to the occasion commendably. It is my hope therefore, that the plenary and parallel sessions will stimulate a meaningful exchange of experiences and ideas, which in turn will inform our practices, specifically in the teaching of mathematics and science in English.

TUAN HAJI RAZALI BIN ISMAIL