



Message

Minister of Education Malaysia

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all presenters and participants to the first symposium of the newly-formed English Language Teaching Centre or ELTC. ELTC is to be our premier institution for the training of English Language professionals at the regional and international levels. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend ELTC for organizing this inaugural symposium which addresses an issue of increasing significance in language education today.

Assessment is an integral component of teaching and learning. Research has indicated that effective formative assessment is a key factor in raising achievement. The introduction of the New Primary and Secondary Curriculum in 1983 and 1985 signaled an emphasis on formative assessment across the curriculum. However, over the years, the growing competition for entry into institutions of higher learning and a job market that privileges paper qualifications have led to an unwarranted emphasis on examination-oriented teaching and learning.

The Ministry is concerned about this trend and has invested considerable effort and resources to develop a more balanced approach towards assessment. It would be irresponsible to ignore the assessment of learning, but it would be unprincipled if we ignored the basis of education, that is to enable every child to learn, and to continue to do so throughout life.

I hope the sharing of ideas and experiences across all sectors of the education fraternity here will enable us to identify alternative assessment strategies that might help bring learning into focus in assessment or at least redress the current imbalance between assessment of learning and assessment for learning. With this I wish you all a rewarding experience at this symposium.

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink.

TAN SRI DATO' SERI MUSA BIN MOHAMAD

