

## Welcome Address by YBhg Datuk Mohamed Al-Amin b Hj Abdul Majid, *JP*

Chairman, Chemical Industries Council of Malaysia (CICM)

Yang Berhormat Dato' Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah  
Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia,  
Distinguished speakers, delegates and guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning and on behalf of the Chemical Industries Council of Malaysia (CICM), I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you to the ChemCon Asia 2005.

I would also like to thank our Guest-of-Honour, Yang Berhormat Dato' Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah, Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia, for taking time off his busy schedule to officiate this event and also agreeing to present the keynote address for this conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The ChemCon Asia 2005, which is hosted by CICM this year, is the second conference to be held in the Asia Pacific region after the ChemCon Asia 2003 in Singapore.

It is an international conference specifically focused on chemical control legislation and trade aspects and was initiated by the Feierl Herzele GmbH back in 1996. The conference now alternates between Europe and the Asia Pacific region every other year.

I am glad to note, that this conference has gathered more than 200 delegates from more than 30 countries worldwide, who are experts in chemical control legislation; comprising representatives from the industry, government as well as international organisations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Various topics, such as information on current emerging chemical regulations covering the reporting and testing of new chemicals, chemical inventories and the evaluation of existing chemicals, classification and labelling, risk management, hazard communication and product registration in several Asian countries, as well as the Americas

and Europe, will be shared and discussed during this 3-day conference.

This also includes important subject matters, which have been discussed at various regional and international forums and meetings, i.e. the proposed legislation by the European Union, known as the REACH System and also the Globally Harmonised System (GHS) for classification and labelling of chemicals.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The REACH System proposed by the European Union (EU) will impact chemical industries worldwide. Trading of chemicals and even downstream products into EU would be affected when this legislation is implemented. It is therefore important that the REACH legislation is discussed thoroughly during this conference, as it places a heavy burden to chemical companies, in particular the SMEs exporting to the EU, to provide information over and above the current requirements.

Meanwhile, the GHS, which is under the auspices of the United Nations (UN), is a major breakthrough towards achieving a globally coherent and consistent approach to identifying and communicating hazards of chemicals in a harmonised and comprehensible format.

Noting the benefits through the adoption and implementation of the GHS, the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Chemical Dialogue, a private sector and government sub-fora under APEC, which discusses trade and trade regulatory issues affecting the competitiveness and sustainable development of the industry in the Asia Pacific region, has resolved that APEC economies are encouraged to voluntarily implement the GHS by year 2006. The discussion on the GHS during this year's ChemCon Asia will provide useful information on its implementation especially to developing countries in Asia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Various legislations and international conven-

tions has been introduced by the government to regulate the usage and trade of chemicals, primarily with the aim to protect workers' and consumers' safety and health, as well as the environment.

Meanwhile, the chemical industry has found a solution in Responsible Care, a worldwide voluntary initiative, introduced in the mid-1980s to continuously improve the health, safety and environmental performance of its operations, product safety and to increase community involvement and awareness on the chemical industry. To date, 52 countries including Malaysia has adopted Responsible Care and it is widely promoted by national chemical associations / councils to chemical companies in their respective countries.

The Guiding Principles and the Codes of Management Practices forms the basis of Responsible Care, whereby it guides a company to conduct its business and operations based on the "cradle-to-grave" concept of responsible management of chemicals, starting from its invention or formulation till its final disposal. It specifies what must be achieved, but leave the details of how they are met to the company implementing Responsible Care.

The Responsible Care, which is self-regulatory, complements well with the government's objectives in regulating chemicals for protection of human safety and health and also the environment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Chemical control legislations introduced will

in a way affect the industry's cost of doing business and competitiveness, as well as sometimes acts as a barrier to trade. Hence, it is imperative that both the government and the industry work together to implement a workable / practical legislation, that will be beneficial and simultaneously meeting the objectives and standards as required of the industry.

In conclusion, it is my hope that with the information shared during these 3 days will provide guidance to all delegates on the orientation that we could emulate to help formulate legislations that will be beneficial to all parties.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again, on behalf of CICM, I would like to thank Yang Berhormat Dato' Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah, Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia for gracing our event this morning.

My congratulation goes to the ChemCon Asia 2005 organiser for having successfully organised the conference and bringing it to this region.

Once again, I would like also like to take this opportunity to offer a warm welcome to all delegates and I sincerely hope all of you would have an enjoyable and productive stay in Kuala Lumpur.

And now, may I invite Yang Berhormat Dato' Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah, Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry to present his keynote address.

Thank you.