

**Welcome Speech by CEO, ASLI Tan Sri Michael Yeoh at the Boao Forum for Asia
International Conference on One Belt and One Road, BFA Energy, Resources and
Sustainable Development on 11th June 2015**

YABhg. Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, former Prime Minister of Malaysia,
H.E. Zeng Peiyan, Vice Chairman, Boao Forum for Asia and former Vice Premier of China,
Excellencies, Tan Sri-Tan Sri, Dato'-Dato', Ladies & Gentlemen,

Selamat Pagi, Selamat Datang, Ta Jie Chou Shang How. Good morning and welcome.

I am delighted to join H.E. Zhou Wenzhong, Secretary General of the Boao Forum for Asia in welcoming all of you to this timely and prestigious forum – the 1st ever held in Malaysia by the Boao Forum for Asia. We are especially delighted to welcome YABhg. Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, former Prime Minister of Malaysia and H.E. Zeng Peiyan, former Vice Premier of China, two eminent statesmen from our countries to be keynote speakers at this Forum. On behalf of ASLI, I wish to thank the Boao Forum for Asia as well as the Chinese Embassy in Kuala Lumpur and in particular Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for giving ASLI this opportunity to work together with the Boao Forum for Asia in organising this apt and important conference.

Ever since President Xi Jinping has spoken about the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and the Silk Road Economic Belt, now more popularly known as the One Belt, One Road initiative there has been a great deal of interest in this initiative. We hope this conference can shed more light on what One Belt, One Road means and the business and investment opportunities that will go with this initiative. We also note with great interest the establishment of the China ASEAN Infrastructure Fund as well as the Maritime Silk Road Fund and now the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). All these initiatives we believe will further strengthen cooperation between China and the ASEAN countries, as well as deepen connectivity in the region. We warmly welcome and support these initiatives of the Chinese government. ASEAN Leaders have already adopted the ASEAN Connectivity Master Plan and this initiative from China will help ASEAN realize the Connectivity Master Plan and enhance connectivity links between China and ASEAN.

We believe that more conferences and dialogues like this will further promote regional cooperation, peace and stability. Two weeks ago, I attended the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on Asian Security and there was a lot of concerns and tensions in the discussion on the South China Sea. I believe that the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road will build better relations and understanding between China and ASEAN countries and hence reduce tensions or potential conflicts in the South China Sea. Extending business and economic cooperation can help overcome political or security challenges. So having more exchanges between entrepreneurs and businessmen, as well as scholars and researchers and young leaders can result in more confidence building measures to ensure regional peace and stability is upheld and preserved.

Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen, the topic which the Boao Forum for Asia has chosen for this conference is also very relevant and timely. Energy, resources and sustainable development are important issues facing us today. The demand for energy will continue to increase over the years with a greater push towards green or renewable energy. At the same time, resources are depleting and hence making sustainable development more important. Increasingly, sustainability will be a major challenge facing many countries all over the world. Climate change has brought floods, tsunamis and many other natural disasters. Therefore going forward we need more public-private partnership to ensure sustainable development is practiced by all countries and governments. Energy security and water resources are important issues to address.

Finally, all countries must do more to promote sustainable development and address climate change. Malaysia has already reduced carbon emissions by 33% by 2013. The Climate Change Summit in Paris in December is also going to be an important summit for international action on climate change and sustainable development.

Let me end by once again thanking the Boao Forum for Asia for collaborating with ASLI. I also wish to thank our distinguished speakers and moderators for your support. Last but not least thank you also to members of the media. Once again, my deepest appreciation to YABhg. Tun and H.E. Zeng for your attendance at this summit.

Terima kasih banyak, Xia-Xia, Thank you.