

## ANNEX 1



Photo: Victoria ZENTILLI

## OPENING SPEECHES

**Dato' Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain,  
Chief Minister of Kedah Darul Aman  
(Malaysian/English only)**

*Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.*

*Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarokatuh.*

*Tuan Pengerusi Majlis.*

*Yang Berhormat Ahli Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri Kedah.*

*Yang Berbahagia Datuk Zulmukhshar bin Dato'Md. Shaari, Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Penganjour.*

*Dr Margarita Clemente Muñoz, Chairperson of the CITES Plants Committee.*

*Dif Kehormat, Tan Sri, Dato'.*

*Tuan-Tuan dan Puan-Puan Sekelian.*

*Saya sangat berbesar hati kerana menjemput saya bersama-sams dalam majlis ini, untuk menyampaikan ucapan dan seterushya merasmikan Mesyuarat Ke 11 Jawatankuasa Konvensyen Mengenai Pokok-Pokok Tumbuhan dan Perdagangan Antarabangsa Species Terancam Fauna dan Flora.*

*Saya ingin mengucap tahniah kepada Jabatan Hutan Malaysia kerana bukan sahaja mengambil inisiatif ejadikan Malaysia sebagai tuan rumah perjumpaan ini, tetapi juga berusaha dengan bersungguh-sungguh mengadakan event ini yang ulung di Malaysia.*

*Sepertimana yang kita sedia maklum, perjumpaan ini akan menjadi satu forum yang dihadiri oleh pihak membuat dasar dan pengamal perniagaan untuk berkongsi pandangan mengenai isu ekologi dan alam sekitar, khususnya isu spesies terancam, sepertimana fauna, iaitu binatang liar, burung, ikan, serangga dan sebagainya yang tinggal di tempat tertentu, dan flora ialah hidupan pokok dan tumbuhan yang hidup di kawasan tertentu.*

*Saya berharap hasil daripada perjumpaan ini dapat memberi sumbangan yang bermakna kepada pembangunan negara, setelah menemui formula yang dapat menolong Kerejaan dan masyarakat korporat mengatasi risiko dan cabaran alaf baru dan globalisasi dalam konteks pengurusan sumber alam dan persekitaran.*

Mrs Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to be here this morning and be given the honour to declare open the 11th meeting of the Plants Committee of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

On behalf of the Government and the people of Kemah and Malaysia in general, I wish to extend a very warm welcome to distinguished delegates, especially those from overseas, with our traditional greeting — *Selamat Datang dan Salam Mesra*. I sincerely hope that you will have a pleasant stay in our country and this island-city of ours. I am sure your Malaysian counterparts are too eager to show you around and see how our people go about with their daily life.

In this memorable occasion, I would like to place on record the sincere appreciation of my Government and the people of Kemah to the Forest Department Peninsular Malaysia for having chosen our tourist island-city, Langkawi, to be the venue of this important event. I am most happy indeed that you have decided to visit our legendary island of Langkawi, which is currently enjoying the full status of city for tourism, and duty-free port. To us, the choice of

Langkawi is very appropriate since it is an important place for tourist industry, and the fact that tourism is related significantly to a clean environment and a balanced ecological system which is an important topic to be discussed in the meeting.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

While most of you might be familiar with this country, I would presume that for some others, this might be your first visit. Therefore, I sincerely hope you should have an opportunity to visit other parts of Malaysia while you are here so as to enable you to get to know more of our country and our people. We have been described as a country of many races and, therefore of many different cultures. This multi-racial character of our nation is a great asset, provided we can forge out of it a strongly-knit society which can then be fully mobilized for our common goal and our own benefit i.e. fostering harmony, goodwill, national unity, prosperity, independence and sovereignty.

We Malaysian and Kedahan regard with pride the fact that the members of organizing committee have chosen us to host such an important gathering. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the members of the committee for their commendable effort in making this event happens in Malaysia, particularly this is the first time such historic gathering is held in Malaysia.

I have no doubt that such a meeting of distinguished delegates will be of great benefit to all of us. This meeting can be regarded as a practical manifestation of domestic and international cooperation, which will further strength the ties between our people and our government, besides enhancing the national strategies and policies of natural resources and environmental management.

Mrs Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

The subject of the international trade of endangered species of wild fauna and flora which has been chosen in the meeting and convention, is indeed very topical at the moment, and is a widespread interest all over the world. The problem, of course, exists in varying degrees in deferent countries and, although I agree that in Malaysia it has not yet reached an acute stage, it is nevertheless of sufficient gravity to make all of us who are concerned about the problem to sit up and take notice, and contemplate measures to prevent and control before it gets to unmanageable proportions.

Before deliberating further this problem, it is important at the outset to touch on the current status of forest both in Malaysia and in the state of Kemah, i.e. places and areas where fauna and flora live. The total area of forest in Malaysia is estimated at 19.93 million hectares (or 60.7% of the total land area), and some 17.56 million hectares are classified as Inland Dipterocarp forest, with the remaining 1.56 million hectares (Peat Swamp Forest), 0.58 million hectares (mangrove Swamp Forest) and 0.23 million hectares (Plantation Forest).

We realize the crucial roles and the security of tenure of these forests. Therefore a total of 14.45 million hectares of the natural forests are designated by law through gazettelement as the Permanent Reserved Forest to be managed and developed sustainably. Of this total, approximately 10.93 million hectares (or 75.6%) are production forest, with the remaining 3.53 million hectares being protection forest.

As for the state of Kemah, a total forested area i.e. estimated at 345,000 hectares (approximately 37% of the total land in the state), and about 342,000 hectares of the forested land have been gazetted as Permanent Reserved Forest which will be sustainably managed and

developed. The Government and people of Kemah have long been recognized the important role of forests to play in the socio-economic development, environmental protection, and the preservation of its invaluable genetic resources of wild flora and fauna. Policies and legislation governing the development and management of the forest resources in Kemah were formulated and implemented since the early twentieth century. Over the years, these policies and laws were updated and improved as evident through the adoption of the National Forestry Policies 1978 and the National Forestry Act 1984 by the State of Kemah, in line with the national objective on ensuring sustainable management and development of this renewable yet complex green resource.

In this pleasant occasion, I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of my government to continue and enhance the sustainable management and development of forest resources in future. I can assure you all that the State Government will give its full support to implement all the activities and actions identified and agreed upon under the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest management and its associated forest management and timber certification. To illustrate the commitment of the State Government, I am pleased to inform you that a total of about RM 26 million had been spent on forest development work under the Seventh Malaysian Plan, i.e. for the period 1996-2000. For the year 2001, the State Government has allocated over RM 8 million to implement a total of 11 programmes of forest development projects for the whole State of Kemah.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The archipelago of Langkawi comprises a group of 1-4 tropical island lying off the northwestern coast of Peninsular Malaysia. Over 80% of total land area of the archipelago is covered with green vegetation, comprising natural forest, fruit orchards, paddy fields, vegetable farms and rubber estates.

Approximately 24,396 hectares of 56% of the total land area have been gazetted as Permanent Reserved Forest. In term of flora composition, the forest in Langkawi is indeed rich and unique. There are about 1,150 species of vascular plants from 598 genus and 144 families in the archipelago of Langkawi. A total of 11 species of vascular plants from 8 families were found to be endemic to Langkawi.

The island of Langkawi, as a natural paradise, is perhaps unmatched anywhere else in South East Asia. The rich diversity of flora and fauna offers the natural lover amazing sights and sounds. Furthermore, it is noted that with many added state-of-the-art facilities and modern amenities on top of its natural beauty and fascinating folklore and legend, Langkawi soon become a much sort-after destination for both local and foreign tourists and corporate business communities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In fact, sustainable forest management and development that balances the needs for socio-economic development, environment and ecology have become a high priority on the agenda of the Vision Kemah Maju. As I have mentioned on earlier occasions, our task and commitment ahead is to build a developed Kemah State by year 2010 based on holistic approach. We must, therefore, put all our effort to realize this golden vision. We have formulated the blueprint of a development action plan, called Pelan Kemah Maju 2010, which is also spelt out the need of environmental management and ecological protection. We are very serious to translate the bold plan in manufacturing, agriculture, tourism and services sector into reality. The achievement of our goal and vision is of course all-important but I see no reason why this goal cannot be achieved without permanently damaging, the environment for our future generation.

In this regard, I would like to invite interested parties to share the economic development "cake" of the state. There are many opportunities that could be formed strategic alliance and smart partnership by foreign and local investors. In this gathering, I would like to deliberate some major development projects.

Kemah is currently promoting the continued diversification of her industry based, towards high tech, integrated manufacturing, and high value added services sector, as part of our move towards a knowledge based economy. To facilitate this, Kemah has specialized Hi-Tech Industrial Park for small and medium to heavy capital intensive and high technology industries. Various infrastructural facilities including road, air, sea transports and communications are available, besides providing business friendly government.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A thriving and viable private sector is a great asset to the nation, and play important role to achieve our mission. The Kemah Government needs entrepreneurs and active participants in the private sector to complement its own role in the task of nation building in the context of sustained economic growth in a dynamic and progressive society. We expect to achieve economic growth of between 7.5% to 8.5% per annum. For in an enlightened approach toward achieving the objective of our strategic development Plant 2010, no one will be losers while everyone will be gainers. It is the duty of everyone of us, particularly those at the helm of policy and decision making, to think and act not only for their own particular interest to the exclusion of everything else, but also in terms of broader state and national interest. In this way, by helping themselves, they will also help the state to achieve the vision of having a developed state.

On its part, the Government will ensure that the development will take place in a balanced approach that considers issues of environment, ecology and endangered species of wild fauna and flora. Furthermore, a concerted effort and substantial financial funding shall continue to be allocated to aid and ensure the sustainability of the forest resources.

In concluding remarks, allow me to once again bid you all a warm welcome to Kemah, particularly to the fascinating Langkawi Island. I am positive that you will find your short stay here a fond memory for you all to bring home after the conclusion of the meeting.

Mrs Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I now have great pleasure in declaring open the 11th meeting of the Plants Committee of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and I wish you success in your deliberations.

Thank you.

**Y. Bhg. Datuk Zul Mukshar Bin Dato'nd. Shaari,  
Director-General of Forestry, Peninsular Malaysia  
(English only)**

The Honourable Dato' Seri Syed Razak bin Syed Zain,  
Chief Minister of the State of Kedah,  
The Honourable Members of the Kedah State Legislative Assembly,  
Professor Dr. Margarita Clemente Munoz,  
Chairman of the CITES Plants Committee,  
Officials from the CITES Secretariat,  
Distinguished Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

First and foremost on behalf of the Organising Committee and The CITES Management Authority for Malaysia, allow me to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Hon. Dato' Seri Syed Razak Bin Syed Zain, Chief Minister of Kedah for taking time off from his busy and hectic schedule to be present here with us this morning to address and officiate the 11th Meeting of The Plants Committee of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome all participants: the members of The Plants Committee, observers from CITES member countries, observers from the NGOs, members of The CITES Secretariat, rapporteurs and the interpreters to this meeting. For our friends from abroad, I hope that you all have indeed had a good rest and are fresh and ready to tackle all matters identified in the agenda of the Meeting.

The Honourable Chief Minister, Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is both an honour and a privilege for Malaysia to be given this opportunity to host this important meeting. Indeed with the Meeting being held in Malaysia, it has given an opportunity for more Malaysians to attend the Meeting and understand more about the workings of CITES especially with regards to issues on plants. This is evident with the presence of a very large delegation from Malaysia this morning. I hope the number can be maintained till the end of the Meeting. Holding the Meeting here has also enabled delegates from our neighbouring ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) countries to attend, and I bid them a special welcome.

The Honourable Chief Minister, Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Through the whole of this week we will be trying our best to provide all participants with a conducive working environment and hopefully a pleasant stay in Langkawi. We have arranged what we think will be an interesting field trip on Wednesday. Weather permitting, it will give an opportunity to our friends from abroad, especially those from the temperate countries to experience walking through a virgin tropical rainforest and a boat ride through the mangroves. I hope everybody will be prepared with proper shoes and will be joining the field trip. I would like to remind participants that all accompanying persons are invited to all functions, including the field trip.

The Honourable Chief Minister, Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Forestry Department is celebrating its 100th year Anniversary this year. As one of its activities, the Forestry Department is having a mobile forestry exhibition that had been going around the shopping malls of major towns in Peninsular Malaysia. I have taken this opportunity to bring the exhibition here from today until the 5th of September. The small exhibition will be held in Boardroom 1 for those interested.

The Honourable Chief Minister, Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In preparing this meeting we have had help and cooperation from various departments, institutions and individuals. It would be inappropriate for me to mention one by one lest I miss some. But I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for their cooperation in making this meeting a success. Special thanks to the CITES Secretariat for all their advice and help.

I am sure there will be shortcomings. The food served will not be able to satisfy all tastes. The field trip might be too tiring to some and might not be up to expectations to others. For all the shortcomings, I would like to apologise on behalf of the organisers. If you need any assistance at all during this week, just ask anybody who look Malaysian enough.

Lastly. I would like to once again thank the Honourable Chief Minister of the State of Kedah for kindly accepting to grace this occasion and officiating this meeting.

Thank you.

**Prof. Dr Margarita Clemente Muñoz,  
Chairman of the Plants Committee and representative of Europe  
(Spanish only)**

Distinguido Sr. Ministro  
Distinguidos Señores y Señoras Representantes en el Comité de Flora  
Distinguidos Señores y Señoras Observadores de los países Parte y de las Organizaciones Intergubernamentales y no Gubernamentales  
Distinguidos Miembros de la Secretaría CITES  
Distinguidos Señores y Señoras asistentes a este acto de apertura

Es para mi un honor y un enorme placer dirigirme a todos Uds. como Presidenta del Comité de Flora en este acto de inauguración de su undécima reunión y darles la bienvenida.

Por segunda vez, tras diez reuniones, el Comité de Flora tiene la oportunidad de reunirse en Asia y esto constituye una enorme satisfacción para todos nosotros. Queremos expresar nuestro más profundo agradecimiento a las Autoridades de Malasia por esta maravillosa invitación a celebrar nuestra reunión en el marco incomparable de la isla de Langkawi.

Quisiera mencionar y agradecer profundamente al representante de Asia en el Comité de Flora, nuestro buen amigo el Sr. Shaari, que promovió la realización de esta reunión del Comité en este maravilloso país. También quiero dar las gracias a su equipo por el espléndido trabajo que han realizado en la preparación y organización de esta reunión.

También deseo agradecer la presencia en esta reunión de los delegados observadores de las Partes y de las Organizaciones Intergubernamentales y no Gubernamentales a todos ellos les agradezco sus valiosas contribuciones a la reunión.

Malasia es un país que se caracteriza por sus ricos y exclusivos recursos naturales y especialmente por el manejo que de ellos se hace. El espíritu abierto y acogedor de sus habitantes y el incomparable marco elegido para celebrar esta reunión propiciarán sin duda una reunión distendida y fructífera.

La enorme agenda a tratar y los interesantes documentos presentados son el resultado del esfuerzo desplegado por los representantes y a las valiosas aportaciones y estudios que los observadores de los países Parte y las Organizaciones no gubernamentales presentan a la consideración del Comité.

Queridos colegas Representantes tenemos ante nosotros bastante trabajo estos días por desarrollar pero sé muy bien que puedo contar con ustedes, que ustedes nunca van a defraudar las expectativas que se ponen en este Comité y por ello me siento muy orgullosa y honrada de ser su voz como Presidenta. Es preciso trabajar cada vez mejor, de una forma cada vez más científica, profesional e independiente para cumplir de una forma correcta con nuestra responsabilidad de ser el organismo científico asesor de la Conferencia de las Partes.

Para el desarrollo de todo el trabajo que les planteo durante esta reunión, contamos como siempre con la inestimable colaboración de la Secretaría CITES. Agradecemos todos sus desvelos en la preparación de la documentación y en las tareas de organización, para que esta reunión pueda desarrollarse de una forma adecuada. También quiero dar la bienvenida a esta reunión al Dr. Lindeque Coordinador Científico de la Secretaría CITES que nos acompaña y que sin duda nos prestará un gran servicio en algunas de nuestras discusiones.



No todo es alegría, permítanme ahora el tener un emocionado recuerdo para Dora Mora de Retana recientemente desaparecida tras una penosa enfermedad. Ella estuvo ligada al Comité de Flora desde casi sus comienzos y fue la voz de América Central, Sur y El Caribe durante muchos años. Su vida ha sido corta, murió con 63 años pero tal y como señalaba Séneca " La vida es un teatro donde no importa lo que dure la representación, sino lo bien que se ha hecho ésta". Y Dora lo hizo muy bien: Fue una trabajadora infatigable en pro de la conservación, se distinguió especialmente por sus estudios sobre las Orquídeas de su país natal, Costa Rica, en donde organizó una inolvidable reunión de este Comité de Flora en 1996. El recuerdo de Dora permanecerá siempre entre nosotros y ahora les pido un aplauso dedicado a su memoria. Muchas gracias por su atención.