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INTERNATIONAL AGRIBUSINESS MARKETING CONFERENCE 2013

"Sustainable Agribusiness: Connecting Smallholders to Markets and Entrepreneurship"

22 October 2013 Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

WELCOMING SPEECH

BY THE CHAIRMAN OF FAMA

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning and welcome to all participants, delegates and guests to the International Agribusiness Marketing Conference 2013 (IAMC 2013). On behalf of FAMA, I would like to convey my highest appreciation to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Agrobased Industries, Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob, for consenting to attend and officiate this conference. Your presence today, YB. Dato' Sri, is a significant affirmation of the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrobased Industry towards the development of the agribusiness sector. Please join me in giving a round of applause to YB. Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob.

This inaugural conference is organized by FAMA with the assistance of four institutions of higher learning, that is, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan and Universiti Teknologi MARA. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all these co-organisers for their invaluable support and contribution towards the success of this conference.

I would like to record my appreciation to the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industries and the Ministry of Education which have come together as supporting organizations, as well as all departments, agencies and individuals who have contributed and assisted in this conference.

I would also like to thank all keynote speakers and plenary speakers, both local and international, who have so willingly accepted our invitation to participate in IAMC 2013. Also, all research paper presenters for their submission of papers and attendance at this event.

The theme of this conference, "Sustainable Agribusiness: Connecting Smallholders to Markets and Entrepreneurship", was chosen to encourage discussion and deliberation in order to provide solutions towards the increasing challenges faced by the agribusiness sector today. It is hoped that this two-day forum will help to highlight the

latest findings in research and encourage sharing of knowledge among participants from several countries who are present today, and in turn, accelerate the development of the agribusiness sector.

There are about 300 participants for this conference, comprising local and international participants, including researcher s, government ministries, departments and agencies, entrepreneurs, exporters, and post-graduate students. FAMA is grateful for your presence and willingness to share your knowledge and experiences for bringing greater achievements in the agribusiness arena.

I am proud to inform you that IAMC 2013 is an indexed and refereed conference. The proceedings of this conference will be published under UMK Procedia which is indexed by Elsevier. This is an achievement for FAMA in organizing an international conference, and I wish to thank all co-organisers for their collaborative efforts which have made this possible.

I am also pleased to inform you that there will be two awards to be presented during IAMC 2013, that is, a **Best Student Paper Award** and an **Overall Best Paper Award**. Participants are reminded to be present tomorrow for the Closing Session at about 12.30 p.m. for the announcements on the winners.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank all the officers from FAMA and co-organisers, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan and Universiti Teknologi MARA, whose hard work and dedication has enabled the organization of this inaugural international conference hosted by FAMA.

Once again, I would like to thank the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industries, Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob, for his presence today and I wish all delegates a successful deliberation.

Thank you.

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