

**SPEECH BY HONOURABLE MR. CHIA KWANG CHYE
DEPUTY MINISTER,
MINISTRY OF INTERNAL SECURITY MALAYSIA
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PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
BANGKOK**

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(Please Check Against Delivery)

The Honourable Chairman,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentleman,

It gives me great pleasure to be here today in this fascinating and beautiful city of Bangkok. I believe everyone here is still in the jovial mood of the 'Songkran' festival celebration and I hope it is not too late for me to wish the people of Thailand Happy Songkran. On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, I would like to express my words of thanks and appreciation to the Government of Thailand for graciously playing host to this congress. It is a tremendous effort on the part of Thailand to organize such a big event to fulfil the objectives of the congress.

Crime and disorder prevention means "preventing the opportunity for a crime or disorder to take place". Although it is not possible to prevent all crimes from taking place, it is possible to reduce the fear of crime and its impact.

Crime reduction involves a range of activities, which include improving the physical security of vulnerable targets, improving the environment in an area and working towards a better quality of life. Crime prevention or reduction has usually been seen as the responsibility of the police, but a whole range of other agencies are now involved.

The dawn of the information age has created new opportunities for criminals to carry out their activities. Advent of information and communication technology allows for essential data to be extracted discreetly and be use for modern crimes like cyber extortion. Cyber extortion could threaten any government, be it the security or the financial system of the nation.

Effective crime reduction does not have to be large scale and expensive. There are plenty of things which can be done locally on a small scale that have a significant impact on reducing crime.

Disruption to the flow of essential data cause security systems to go haywire and put halt commercial transactions which are now done through electronic means such as E-Banking. We should therefore enhance and work within a systematic and a structured mechanism to combat modern crimes.

Development in transnational crime and the diversity of its forms and also of its victims be they individuals, groups or legal entities demand a multi disciplinary response with regards to both prevention and law enforcement.

Malaysia believes that the exchange of information plays a great role in the success of any security operations to counter this type of crime. Transnational effort is the answer to curb modern age and sophisticated crimes. A full cooperation and concerted effort by each member country is necessary to achieve the desired goals.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Terrorism is no longer a new phenomenon that can be afforded to view in isolation by any country. No one country is safe from its hideous face. The convergence between transnational organized crime and terrorism is an inevitable phenomenon. Terrorists need financial resources for them to secure the purchase of weaponry, recruitment of members and facilitate their movement. The only suitable source other than legal financial institutions is transnational organized crime syndicates. There are terrorist organizations that provide full security support for drug cartels in the production of narcotics and trafficking lines across borders. Due to their transnational nature, the terrorist role in this aspect proved beneficial. In return ^{the} terrorists are funded generously.

Thus, the government of Malaysia condemns and rejects any form of international terrorist activities in defiance of the United Nations charter.

Terrorism and for what ever reason and motives is unacceptable, as such Malaysia stands ready to cooperate with friends and regional neighbours in combating terrorism and upholding international law and order. Presently, Malaysia has effectively taken a series of measures to counter terrorism. We have apprehended individuals whom we reasonably believe to be linked to terrorist group. The internal security act 1960 has been found useful as a preventive measure against terrorism.

We are convinced that the fight against terrorism cannot succeed through the enforcement of the law and the force of arms alone. To win it, we need to exert genuine efforts and demonstrate good faith to address the root causes of terrorism, promote dialogue and rid ourselves of the prejudices triggered by 9/11. We play into terrorist's hand if we prosecute a war against religions. Terrorists are always inspired by political motive not religions.

The global community continues to intensify efforts to enhance measures to detect and deter money laundering and terrorism financing. It is hoped that appropriate money laundering laws and the development of correct counter measures and law enforcement cooperation will be enhanced among member countries.

Malaysia has taken various anti-money laundering measures, through the passage of appropriate money laundering laws, and the development of correct counter-measures. ASEM consultants that evaluated Malaysia's technical assistance requirement concluded that "Malaysia's anti-money laundering system is well developed, integrated and supported by capable and professional staff across a number of agencies.

Evidentiary, since the coming into force of the Anti-Money Laundering Act 2001(AMLA), Malaysia has taken the incremental approach to widen the anti-money laundering regulatory net. To mobilise our domestic agencies in combating money laundering, the **National Coordination Committee to Counter Money Laundering** or NCC was established in April 2000. Through the NCC, the FIU works very

closely with the law enforcement agencies and other regulatory and supervisory authorities.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Although the world is focusing on terrorism, we should not lose sight on drug trafficking. No region of the world is exempted and has been spared from drug menace. Drug abuse and illicit drug smuggling are still one of the major problems plaguing member countries including Malaysia.

Our people do not deserve to live in fear and intimidation by criminal elements. It is their right to live in peace and harmony. The Government of Malaysia believes to begin with and at the very minimum there should be a close and constant effort in information exchange and intelligence sharing. It is often said that criminals always try to be one step or many steps ahead of the law enforcers. We can prevent this and indeed be one step or many steps ahead of the criminals if we have good intelligences and are willing to share it among ourselves.

Exchange and sharing must necessarily lead to coordination of actions. An intermeshing network of consultation between the various agencies or departments of member countries concerned with crime prevention or law enforcement, for example, the police, public prosecutors office, drug enforcement agency, the central bank etc. should lead to policy coordination. Mutual understanding and appreciation of policies will encourage common actions. The scope for joint effort is limitless. What is required of us is a coordinated effort and total commitment.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Malaysia shares the spirit and the sentiment which underlines the convening of this congress on crime prevention and criminal justice. The Government of Malaysia gives its full support and pledge its cooperation to combat and prevent crime for mutual benefit among the countries and citizens of the world.