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SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE DEPUTY EDUCATION MINISTER,
DATO' DR. MICHAEL TOYAD AT THE OFFICIAL CEREMONY OF
THE BOOK EDITING AND EDITORIAL MANAGEMENT COURSE

Mr. Sha'ari Abdullah, the Deputy Director-General of Dewan Bahasa dan
Pustaka, Mr. Chandra Naiz, Director of the Book and Copyright Division
UNESCO, Mr. V.J. Menon, the General-Secretary AMIC, panel of lecturers,
distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

First of all may I take this opportunity to wish 'Selamat Datang'
(welcome) to Malaysia to all of you in particular the participants from
the Asian Region. During your stay in Malaysia attending the Book
Editing and the Editorial Management Course which is going to be held
from the 19th. to 23rd. October 1992, you would also be able to observe
for yourselves the book development in Malaysia. I believe that Dewan
Bahasa dan Pustaka would make several arrangements to enable you all
observe for yourselves the developments.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka's effort in jointly organising such a course
with the Asian Mass Communication Research and Information Centre,
Singapore should be commended. The first course held in Dewan Bahasa
dan Pustaka in August 1997 encompassed the book production aspects. All
aspects of book production: typesetting, camera, film and printing including binding were exposed to the participants of the first course. The second course, which we can see from the programmes provided encompasses editorial aspects, including book editing, copyediting and proof reading, the dynamics of book publishing, substantive editing, index preparation, etc.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I believe all of you who are participating in this course are working as editors in your respective organisation. As editors you may have acquired at least some basic knowledge in the editorial work. When we take up a book, it is easy for us to see all the defects found in that book: from the cover, the copyright or imprint page, the content page, the introduction page, the arrangement of the chapters, bibliography, index, etc. There are many among us particularly those who are outside the book trade do not realise the difficulty and complication of publishing a book in conformity to the taste and need of the consumers. As such the editors and production personnel have to upgrade their knowledge and expertise in the publishing aspects in line with the book development in the world. The technical know-how to use
the sophisticated tools and machines should be upgraded. One of the most effective way of producing a professional work force in the book trade is to organise more courses and workshops such as this.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Malaysian Government always realises the importance of book in various fields to the development of education in Malaysia. As much as $ (Ringgit: ) has been allocated in the Budget in the Sixth Malaysia Plan. Of this amount a sum of $ (Ringgit: ) has been allocated for the production of text books. It has been the policy and desire of the Government to inculcate the habit of reading among children and youths in this country. Accordingly, more quality books, magazines and resource and reference materials have to be produced and Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka in particular has been given the responsibility to fulfil the needs, besides other publishers involved in the book trade.

This desire is in line with the Vision 2020 which would make Malaysia an industrialised developed nation. Developed in the context of book development in Malaysia is the endless efforts taken by those who are entrusted with the responsibility of producing books and other reading
materials to strive to improve and upgrade their knowledge and expertise in book production so that they would become a professional force who would then be able to produce high quality publications.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Malaysia feels proud of the quality of its publications. The publications of the various publishers in particular Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka have been acknowledged by foreign publishers. I believe that this advancement in the book trade is a result of the initiative which has been given to upgrade the expertise of the editors and the production staff of the book trade.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The effort to upgrade the professionalism in the book trade being jointly organised by the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka and the Asian Mass Communication Research and Information Centre (AMIC) has to be continued. I believe that there are no other publishers or institutions in this country capable or having the necessary facilities to train or guide the intended editors to become a professional editors other than
the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka. The Government on its part will render its assistance in whatever way possible to fulfil that objective.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I put my full trust that the course which is going to be held for 5 days beginning today would benefit and accordingly enhance the knowledge and expertise of the participants of this course.

With that confidence and trust I do officially open the Book Editing and Editorial Management Course.

Thank you.

Kuala Lumpur,
19 October 1992.