

FOLLOW-UP OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT PLAN OF ACTION

NATIONAL REPORT

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SECTION I: PRIORITY FOOD SECURITY ISSUES AND PROGRESS TOWARDS THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT GOAL

The state of the country's food security situation in terms of food availability, stability of supplies and access to food, and progress in reaching the hunger reduction targets

i. In terms of access to food, Malaysia is low in vulnerability as classified by FAO where the proportion of under-nourished is about 3.0% and therefore not significant. The country does not face problems in terms of availability, accessibility, affordability and utilization of food. This is attributed to the Government's comprehensive and holistic social and economic development policies, plans and programs; the country's political stability; its liberal investment and diversified trade policies; and a dynamic and literate population. This has contributed to a purchasing power parity adjusted GDP per capita income of about USD10,318 in 2005; a low unemployment rate of 3.5% and an average annual growth rate of the Consumer Price Index at 1.8% over the last five years (Year 2000=100) as well as an overall Balance of Payment of USD3.561 billion in 2005.

ii. Malaysia's challenges regarding food security is to be self sufficient in most of its food requirements as well as to reduce dependence on food imports. The approaches towards facing the challenges include:

- focusing production on major food items which are cost competitive such as fish, tropical fruits, vegetable and livestock as well as selective imported food items that can be substituted locally such as temperate vegetables;
- zoning areas specifically for food production;
- intensifying research and development to increase yield, reduce post-harvest losses and promote the utilization of good agricultural practices;
- increasing reverse investment and bilateral relationship with countries such as Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar which have comparative advantage in production of certain food and agriculture products;
- rationalizing the marketing system with the aim of reducing market intermediaries as well as ensuring fair prices for farmers and consumers through improvement of parallel marketing channel such as the farmer's market, direct marketing and contract farming;
- establishing and enhancing marketing infrastructure such as farm collection centers, packing house facilities, trading centers and wholesale markets in production

- areas to reduce transaction cost as well as post-harvest losses;
- focusing on the development of biotechnology products, extraction of specialty natural chemicals from biological resources, utilization of oil palm biomass, floricultural products and aquarium fish to generate growth for the agriculture sector and create new higher value industries;
 - promoting controlled environment, automated and mechanized intensive production systems;
 - maximising usage of land through promoting agro-forest enterprises and integrating livestock with plantation crops;
 - promoting and encouraging greater private sector participation;
 - developing agrotechnology parks to promote high technology agricultural production systems; and
 - availing Malaysia's services in the inspection, monitoring, standardization and certification of *halal* food.

Evaluation studies (such as impact assessment, comparison between results and objectives) of programmes or projects related to the WFS Plan of Action.

iii. Closely related to the WFS Plan of Action, a comprehensive account of the policies, strategies and programmes that have contributed to the achievements of the MDGs has been published. This document, *Malaysia: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals* published in 2005 by the United Nations Country Team for Malaysia in cooperation with the Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia under the United Nations Development Programme highlights the targets and achievements as well as indicators for monitoring progress. A catalogue record of this document is available from the Library of UNDP.

External assistance programmes, including a description of their impact on hunger reduction and lessons learned.

iv. Malaysia has been a recipient of Official Development Assistance in the form of projects, human resource development, studies, advisory services and volunteers from Japan and the United States which had contributed much in her early years of development. Both capital and technical assistance were received from organizations such as through the Colombo Plan, Commonwealth Secretariat, World Bank, Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations' Organizations and specialized agencies and donor countries like Japan, Denmark and Germany. Foreign aid supplemented domestic resources in addressing the challenges of poverty and redistribution in the 1970s. With rapid development over the years, the purpose of foreign aid shifted to supporting the transformation of the economy through the provision of expertise, technology and knowledge.

v. Strong economic growth has strengthened the Government's finances. Public sector finances together with high domestic savings provide the necessary resources to finance development programmes and projects. Prudent macroeconomic and financial management makes and easier to mobilize external private capital. With the availability of adequate domestic financial resources the country's dependence on foreign aid to finance development projects has reduced.

vi. As Malaysia continues to develop economically, its access to Official Development Assistance resources has correspondingly reduced. Funds allocated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have reduced to USD1.7 million for the programme cycle 2003-2007 compared with USD2.3 million for the period 1997-2002. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has embarked on a cost-sharing relationship and Malaysia would not be eligible to receive UNICEF's funding based on UNICEF's guidelines. On the bilateral front, Japan is reducing its ODA by 20% beginning 2003.

vii. However, technical assistance from international organizations and donors are still sought to address specific issues such as HIV/AIDS, gender, biotechnology and ICT. At the same time, concerted efforts are being made to bridge the digital divide between the urban and the rural communities.

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SECTION II: FOLLOW UP OF THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT PLAN OF ACTION

COMMITMENT ONE

Ensuring an enabling political, social and economic environment designed to create the best conditions for the eradication of poverty and for durable peace, based on full and equal participation of women and men, which is most conducive to achieving sustainable food security for all.

Political, social and economic environment for eradicating poverty and for durable peace

i. The Federal Constitution provides for the separation of powers of the legislative, judicial and executive branches of government at both the Federal and State levels. This framework provides a requisite environment to sustain political stability and enhance socio-economic development towards achieving developed nation status by the year 2020 in accordance with the National Vision Policy. In this light, real GDP has grown by an average of 6.5% per annum since independence in 1957 to 2005. Within the same period, GDP per capita in current prices grew by 7.0% per annum contributing towards substantial improvements in quality of life and widespread advances in education, health, infrastructure and industry.

Preventing conflict and creating a peaceful environment

ii. Fostering harmonious living conditions in a multiracial, multi-religious and multicultural society towards creating a peaceful environment for greater and dynamic development is a continuous effort undertaken through various policies and programmes. While vigorously pursuing economic growth, disparities in economic opportunities and livelihood should not persist, lest it jeopardises the very foundation of peace and harmony essential for sustainable national development. In its determination to remain steadfast in becoming a strong, developed and united nation, Malaysia has drawn up a new policy and implementation framework, the National Mission. It outlines the approaches planned for the remaining years towards 2020 to achieve developed nation status. The approaches include:

- pursuing policies and programmes that enhance its capacity to compete globally;
- improving national integration and reducing tendencies towards racial polarisation; and
- an equitable and better distribution of wealth to ensure balanced growth among and within ethnic and varying levels of

income groups as well regions through meaningful participation of all groups in the development process.

iii. Programmes undertaken to promote interaction, cooperation and understanding with the ultimate objective of further enhancing national integration, mutual respect, neighbourliness, a healthy and a family oriented lifestyle which forms the basis for peace and harmony is on gong. These include, Rukun Tetangga (fostering neighbourliness), Jati Diri (instilling the spirit of patriotism), Rakan Muda (fostering healthy lifestyles among youths), promoting a Caring Society and the new National Service Scheme for youths.

Full and equal participation of men and women

iv. During the last five years, women participated and contributed in various fields towards nation building and development. This was made possible through changes in the legal and institutional framework; amendments to the Federal Constitution; increased employment opportunities through higher educational attainment and with the implementation of gender-sensitive policies and programmes. Female population increased at an average of 2.5% per annum accounting for 48.7% of the total population of 26.748 million in 2005. The female labour force participation rate increased from 44.7% in 2000 to 45.4% in 2005 and the number employed increased from 3.3 million to 3.9 million in the same period.

v. The socio-economic advancement of women is largely due to the equal access to educational opportunities. For example, female enrolment in public universities increased from 61% in 2000 to 63.4% in 2005. The availability of affordable and equal access to education opportunities has been an enabling factor in the achievement of the MDG of gender equality and the elimination of disparities in education opportunities.

vi. Women continued to benefit from health care services and their life expectancy increased from 75.1 years in 2000 to 76.4 in 2005. At the same time, social and training programmes implemented to reduce the incidence of poverty among women including single mothers and female-headed households saw a decline from 12.5% in 2000 to 11.5 in 2005.

vii. Guided by the commitments made at the Fourth World Conference for Women in Beijing in 1995 and the Ministerial Meeting on the Non-Aligned Movement on the Advancement of Women held in Malaysia in 2005, the strategic thrusts for the further development of women in the coming five years through:-

- promoting greater participation in the labour force;
- increasing education and training opportunities;
- enhancing participation in business and entrepreneurial activities;
- reviewing laws and regulations to promote the status of women;
- improving further the health statue and well-being;
- reducing violence;

- further reducing poverty and improving quality of life;
- strengthening national machinery and institutional capacity; and
- advancing issues pertaining to women at the international level.

COMMITMENT TWO

Implementing policies aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality and improving physical and economic access by all, at all times, to sufficient, nutritionally adequate and safe food and its effective utilization.

i. Established economic development policies in place ensure that all equitably share the benefits of economic growth. This commitment is based on the premise that greater equity in the distribution of income and opportunities for wealth creation is essential for sustained economic growth, social stability and maintenance of national unity to ensure access to sufficient, nutritionally adequate and safe food. Since the 1970s, the guiding principle for economic development was through the strategy of distribution through growth and the twin-pronged objectives of eradicating poverty irrespective of race and the restructuring of society to correct the identification of economic function with race. Progress in meeting these objectives has been successful. Efforts in reducing absolute poverty have been exemplary and living standards have risen.

ii. In recent years however, inequality in income has been rising. Ethnic income disparity although narrowing in relative terms has widened in absolute terms. Inequality between states and regions remain. Although economic growth has been a driving force for raising income and improved living standards, it does not mean that the benefits of growth are shared equitably among all in society. To address this, stronger efforts are in place to improve distribution constructively and productively through growth. In the next five years, emphasis would be on:

- reducing overall and eradicating hardcore poverty by 2010;
- reducing disparities between rural and urban population and between regions through sustainable income generating projects and by further improving access to basic needs;
- establishing regional growth centres to spur development of less developed regions;
- bridging the digital divide between rural and urban areas;
- addressing inter-and intra-ethnic disparities by raising incomes through skills enhancement and capacity-building;
- promoting equal opportunities in employment;
- enhancing ethnic integration;
- creating a new generation of indigenous entrepreneurs;
- meeting distribution targets that have not been realised; and

- evaluating the effectiveness and impact of past restructuring policies.

Eradicating poverty

iii. The incidence of poverty decreased from 8.5% in 1999 to 5.7% in 2004 because of the successful implementation of poverty eradication programmes and the favourable economic growth experienced. Correspondingly, the number of poor households declined from 409,300 to 311,300. The mean income of poor households increased from USD182 to USD212 in the same period. However, the poverty gap in rural areas was five times higher than in urban areas, indicating the severity of poverty in rural areas. Nevertheless, the incidence of poverty in rural areas decreased from 14.8% to 11.9% and the number of poor households from 323,200 to 219,700, a reduction of about 32%. Despite the decrease in the incidence of poverty and the number of poor households, poverty remained a rural phenomenon with 70.6% of the poor residing in this area. Urban poverty also declined from 3.3% to 2.5%. However, the number of urban poor households increased by 6.4% to 91,600. This was due to the increase in urban poverty in the state of Sabah.

iv. In the next five years, efforts to eradicate poverty further will focus on amongst others:

- pursuing new and improved institutional mechanisms and specific social welfare programmes to ensure eradication of hardcore poverty by 2010;
- reducing poverty in rural and urban areas as well as among the indigenous group in the state of Sabah and Sarawak;
- placing more emphasis on human capital development through programmes such as Economic Improvement, Basic Infrastructure Development and Human Development to enable participation on a sustainable basis;
- improving access to credit facilities to enable target groups to actively participate in more productive economic activities;
- creating a more enabling environment to further encourage NGOs and the private sector to provide wider opportunities to the poor to improve their livelihood;
- improving the management of Islamic-based institutions relating to tithing, land and welfare and developing them into effective mechanisms to render outright assistance to the destitute;
- better access to new technologies and modern farming methods as well as off-farm economic activities to address poverty in the rural areas. Modernisation and commercialisation of agricultural activities through utilisation of better yielding clones will increase productivity and income among the poor;
- better accessibility to training programmes and credit facilities especially to those involved in agro-based activities;

- establishment of rural growth centres especially in Sabah and Sarawak to generate more employment opportunities; and
- consolidating and expanding projects under the Urban Poverty Eradication Programme that encompasses housing, education and training as well as the information and resource centre.

Addressing the needs of those affected by HIV/AIDS

v. Various programmes implemented for those affected by HIV/AIDS amongst others include:-

- the Action Plan on the Prevention of HIV/AIDS in the workplace that focuses on safer and healthier work culture environment;
- the Healthy Lifestyle Campaign to disseminate information on prevention of contagious diseases such HIV/AIDS;
- the National HIV/AIDS Treatment Registry (NHATR) to collect information on people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) who are on antiretroviral therapy (ARV) for the estimation of treatment rates in the country;
- planning and evaluating treatment services through assistance to the Ministry of Health (MOH) by non-governmental organisations, private providers and industry;
- planning and evaluation of HIV/AIDS treatment services;
- allocating USD130 million for NGOs to carry out more outreach and other complementary services for the next 20 years;
- adopting a multi-sectoral approach involving other sectors such as education, information, women, family and community development, human resources and the national anti-drug agency and NGOs;
- proposing a Cabinet Committee on AIDS as the highest policy making body chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister;
- complying with current national priorities relating to HIV/AIDS as well as to meeting the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on prevention and care targets through the a framework provided by the newly revised National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS for 2006-2010;
- Youth specific programs - Healthy Life without AIDS to mobilise youths to face the challenges posed by the AIDS pandemic;
- providing free counselling services and anti-retroviral prophylaxis therapy for expectant mothers through the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission Program;
- providing readily and widely available voluntary counselling and testing centres for HIV; and
- rendering comprehensive treatment and care including free ARV, monitoring and counselling session for HIV and addiction among the injecting drug users in Drug Rehabilitation Centres.

vi. Recognizing that the prominent feature of HIV epidemic is its extensive spread among injecting drug users, the Government has taken a significant step of initiating the Harm Reduction Approach which consist

of Methadone Maintenance Therapy (MMT) and Needle and Syringe Exchange Program (NSEP) to reduce HIV transmission and other related blood-borne diseases. These programs serve as an entry point to all related HIV treatment and care services. There are plans for replicating it to include rural and semi-urban areas.

COMMITMENT THREE

Pursuing participatory and sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development policies and practices in high and low potential areas, which are essential to adequate and reliable food supplies at the household, national, regional and global levels, and combat pests, drought and desertification, considering the multifunctional character of agriculture.

Policies and practices to ensure adequate and reliable food supply

- i. The Third National Agricultural Policy, 1998-2010 sets the framework and policies for agricultural development is still current. In line with strategies to intensify and diversify food production, it outlines the transformation of the agricultural sector into a modern, dynamic and competitive one through greater commercial orientation, wider adoption of newer technologies and modern management systems as well as greater private sector participation.
- ii. The performance of the agriculture sector improved in terms of production, value added and exports through usage of new technologies, commercial production, group-farming systems, increased market accessibility and better commodity prices. In the period 2000 -2005 while agriculture value added grew at an average rate of 3.0% per annum, the sector's share to GDP however decreased slightly from 8.9% in 2000 to 8.2% in 2005. Nevertheless, total agriculture value added increased from USD5.19 billion to USD6.0 billion.
- iii. Overall, there was growth for all major food commodities in the period 2000-2005. Beef production grew at an average of 23% per annum; vegetables 13.8%; mutton 10.8%; fruits 9.8%; pineapple 8.9%; milk 6.9%; poultry 6.5%; pork 5.5%; coconut 4.8%; paddy 2.3%; and eggs 2.1%. The development of new sources of growth such as ornamental fish, seaweed, tuna and floriculture continued to receive due attention. At the same time, agro-based industry grew at 4.5 % per annum and the processing of food commodities continued to be encouraged to support small-scale producers.
- iv. The focus of programmes implemented was in transforming agriculture into a modern and commercial farming system. This was with the view to increase productivity and therefore income of farmers as well

as improving their competitiveness. Large-scale commercial production of food amongst others was undertaken through:-

- increased consolidation of uneconomic-sized holdings under group farming;
- more permanent food production parks aimed at creating entrepreneur farmers with the target minimum income of USD833 per month. Twenty eight parks involving 2,007 hectares and 319 farmers were established;
- horizontal integration of food production activities within plantations;
- greater use of rehabilitated ex-mining and idle land;
- improving efficiency and competitiveness of food production through the adoption of Good Agriculture Practices;
- provision of adequate allocation. In the period 2001-2005 a sum of USD2.153 billion was allocated for agricultural development;
- greater availability and access to credit facilities. The Agriculture Bank disbursed a total of USD0.95 billion to enhance farm mechanisation, encourage involvement of graduates in commercial farming, and provided micro-credit for food production and financial assistance to agricultural related small and medium scale enterprises;
- improved marketing through strategic networking and development of portals;
- commercialisation of R&D findings. Out of the total 535 projects undertaken, 90 has been commercialised while the balance is being readied for commercialisation; and
- greater training and extension services in the field of post-harvest handling, processing and modern farm practices.

v. During the next five years, the policy thrusts towards increasing further food production would be through:

- venturing into new sources of growth with greater private sector participation;
- expanding agro-based processing activities and product diversification;
- strengthening marketing and global networking;
- enhancing incomes of the farming community; and
- improving the service delivery system

With these policy thrusts in place, the forecast growth of the food commodities sub-sector is at an average rate of 7.6% per annum through improvements in efficiency, productivity and expansion in area.

Technology

vi. Agriculture Biotechnology is one of the main thrust in the National Biotechnology Policy, launched in 2005. The challenges and limitation in agricultural production have resulted in a high importation of food, feed and nutrition. The inputs of biotechnology's toolbox to establish local industries and develop import substitutions will help to address some of

these challenges and limitations. With the applications of biotechnology in agriculture, the creation of an agricultural biotechnology industry can support new economic growth.

vii. The first major challenge in addressing national food security is to produce sufficient food to meet national needs. The second relates to creating wealth for the nation through production of value-added food and food products as well as to increase crop productivity. These are the niche research areas focused by the National Biotechnology Policy. The transformation and advancement of the agricultural sector would be in place with the application of biotechnology to meet new demands and needs, consistent with the Third National Agricultural Policy, 1998-2010. Currently, priority research supported by the government in agricultural biotechnology includes increasing animal nutrition and production, fish production and health, improving rice varieties, disease resistance in rice, papaya and chilli and as well as development of methods for detection and safety evaluation of GM foods and food bio-ingredients.

viii. Utilisation of biotechnology addresses many of the current constraints on sustainable production as our understanding of agricultural genetics increases and opens new doors for advancements in yield, quality, and preservation of the environment. To date seven Biotechnology Co-operative Centres (BCC) have been established. The Food BCC looks specifically into research on food biotechnology. The Government is actively involved in the development of biotechnology specifically in food generation to improve production, quality and safety of the products in the agricultural sectors. Strategies are being finalized for the development of food biotechnology. The benefits emanating from biotechnology are enormous in the food sector and would be able to help to further improve and maintain the state of food security.

Combating pests, drought and desertification

ix. Malaysia is a strong advocate of sustainable development. In the agriculture sector, it has introduced and implemented several measures that direct and ensure judicious agricultural production that does not adversely affect the environment. These include policies, guidelines, legislation, promoting soil conservation measures and encouraging recycling and proper disposal of bio-waste.

x. The opening of new land is discouraged and concerted efforts to increase the efficient use of under-utilized land, idle land and even marginal land such as acid sulphate and BRIS (Beach Ridges Interspersed with Swales) soils and ex-mining land is continuous. For optimal land use, mixed farming involving the planting of crops, aquaculture and livestock production is encouraged. Actively promoted also is the integration of livestock in rubber and oil palm plantations. A national forestry policy is also in place to prohibit the opening of land above 10,000 metres above sea level.

xi. There are also guidelines for developing sloping land. Land with slopes more than 25°, is classified as steep land and is not recommended for agricultural development. For land below 25°, conservation measures including the construction of terrace, silt traps, contour ditches and proper drainage systems, and planting of cover crops are recommended.

xii. Laws have been enacted to prevent illegal opening of land and to deal with offenders who cause land degradation and pollution. The Land Conservation Act 1960 (Revised 1989) (Act 385), National Forestry Act 1984 (Act 313) and Environment Quality Act, 1974 (Act 127) are major laws in place to protect the environment and to ensure sustainable development.

xiii. Several measures have been implemented to prevent the degradation and pollution of the environment. In response to the ban on open burning, bio-waste are properly disposed of or recycled for economic use. In the replanting of oil palm, trees are felled, chipped, stacked, and allowed to rot in the field. Recycling of bio-waste for economic use is actively promoted. Empty fruit bunches are used as mulch, fuel or converted into compost. Plant remains such as maize stems and leaves are no longer burned that results in air pollution but are made into silage and pineapple waste from the cannery are processed as cattle feed. Paddy straws are converted into compost and sold. All these measures not only reduce environment pollution but also provide additional income to farm entrepreneurs and the farming community.

xiv. Pests are controlled through the rational use of pesticides. Nevertheless, Malaysia practices environmentally friendly pest management in line with sustainable development in the agricultural sector. This is carried out through the integrated pest management programme with the adoption of technologies that reduces the need for pesticides such as cultivation under a rain sheltered environment, insect proof structure and fertigation.

xv. Legislative control of pesticides will continue to play an important role in the future management of risks of pesticides. Malaysia has drawn up a comprehensive program to reduce pesticide risk that includes legislative as well as non-legislative measures. The Pesticides Act 1974, implemented by the Department of Agriculture is the main Act that controls most of the major activities related to pesticides.

COMMITMENT FOUR

Ensuring that food, agricultural trade and overall trade policies are conducive to fostering food security for all through a fair and market-oriented world trade system.

Facilitating better links within and between domestic and external markets

i. Well established marketing and transportation infrastructure and systems serve the domestic and external markets to ensure the availability and accessibility to food by all. Various marketing institutions such as the Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority, Fishery Development Authority, Pepper Marketing Board, Pineapple Industry Board and Cocoa Marketing Board established ensure that producers get fair returns and consumers have access to quality, safe, nutritious and regular supply of food at prices that are affordable and reasonable. This is supported by a wide network of private operated marketing structures at the wholesale and retail level. These include the farmer's and wet markets and supermarkets as well as hypermarkets. The food supply chain is complemented by measures to increase efficiency of the multimodal transport (road, rail, ports and airports) chain.

Diversifying trade

ii. With an open economy and as the 18th largest trading nation in the world contributing 1.5% of world exports, Malaysia trades with many countries exporting and importing a wide variety of products. Major exports are manufactured goods such as electrical and electrical components and appliances, textiles, oil and natural gas, and palm oil. Imports mainly comprise capital and intermediate goods. Imports of food are an important component in trade to ensure adequate supply to meet local consumption. The US remains Malaysia's largest partner accounting for 17% of total trade in 2004, followed by Singapore (13.7%) and Japan (11.9%). Others include the People's Republic of China, the Near East, EU and with countries within ASEAN.

iii. Owing to the liberal trade policies, total trade in the period 2001-2005 expanded at an average rate of 7.2% per annum from USD190.2 billion in 2001 to USD268.8 billion in 2005. Imports on the other hand increased at an average rate of 6.9% per annum. The overall balance of payments strengthened during the period. The current account stood at a surplus of USD21.6 billion in 2005 representing 16.4% to GNP compared to 10.3% in 2000.

Policies related to international and regional trade agreements

iv. During the period 2001-2005, Malaysia continued its programme of cooperation with bilateral, multilateral and regional development partners to address issues, which influenced development, as well as advocating

South-South cooperation through sharing of experiences in development. Trade and services cooperation was enhanced with the signing of 45 agreements. Negotiations on bilateral free trade agreements were also undertaken. The Japan-Malaysia Economic Partnership Agreement was signed in 2005 to promote cooperation, liberalization and facilitation in trade and investment. Negotiations for similar agreements were done for Pakistan, India, Australia, New Zealand, the US and Chile.

v. Malaysia continued its commitment to open regionalism to promote economic cooperation among member countries without reducing cooperation with countries outside the region. This was expressed through Malaysia's active role in regional groupings such as ASEAN, APEC and the Growth Triangle Initiatives as well as inter-regional groupings, particularly the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). Malaysia's membership in ASEAN contributed towards greater closer relations between Malaysia and member countries. The Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between ASEAN and China in 2002 provides a platform for the establishment of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area by 2010. Similar agreements were also signed with Korea, India and Japan to enhance economic cooperation with the ultimate establishment of Free Trade Agreements by 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively.

vii. Participation in sub-regional entities, namely the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle, the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-the Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area and the Indonesia-Malaysia-Singapore Growth Triangle continued to be undertaken to promote economic growth in the less developed areas of the sub-region. Activities were conducted through various mechanisms including government to government fora and discussions between government and the private sector as well as among the private sectors of the participating countries. At the governmental level, efforts were directed to develop common rules and procedures for the conduct of trade and investments while the private sectors were encouraged to identify partners for joint-venture projects as well as to expand their business operations in member countries.

viii. On the multilateral level active cooperation continued through the Colombo Plan, the UN, the Commonwealth and WTO. Cooperation also continued with the Asian Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, and the World Bank to enhance capacity in productivity, investment and education.

ix. Malaysia will cooperate with developing countries to reach a common position, particularly on the need for tangible benefits to developing countries from trade liberalization and to address the resultant growing inequalities of wealth and opportunities arising from globalization. Efforts will continue to be undertaken towards the restructuring of the international financial architecture and to democratize the global decision-making process. In addition, efforts will continue to be undertaken towards

progressive trade liberalization, without the inclusion of extraneous issues. Participation in such negotiations will contribute towards the optimization of trade. Malaysia will continuously strengthen its capacity and expertise to meet the complex demands of multilateral work programmes, especially to enable an effective response to the challenges of globalization.

x. WTO Agreements promise more trade, investment, employment and income growth throughout the world through enhanced market access for both developed and developing countries and level playing fields for all. Unfortunately, the implementations of the agreements benefit the developed more than the developing countries. Market access to the developed countries is limited by the high protection given to the agriculture sector as well as by the stringent SPS regulations and procedures.

COMMITMENT FIVE

Endeavouring to prevent and be prepared for natural and man-made emergencies and to meet transitory and emergency food requirements in ways that encourage recovery, rehabilitation, development and a capacity to satisfy future needs.

Early warning and advance information infrastructure

i. Institutional arrangements for early warning and advance information for possible emergencies such as floods, droughts, diseases and other environmental hazards such as haze are well in place. This includes data collection and analysis of rainfall and weather patterns, installation of equipment to monitor both the water levels of rivers in flood prone areas with a high concentration of population and agricultural activity as well drop in water level in dams and reservoirs. As regards to diseases such as *Avian Influenza*, *Foot and Mouth Disease* and other viral diseases, the relevant Departments under the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry have established procedures for preventive measures to be followed. In addition, good cooperation with the Ministry of Health and other relevant agencies as well as a structured compensation scheduled rates for culling has ensured the successful containment of the recent isolated incidence of avian influenza outbreak in certain parts of the country. The public is informed through the mass media.

Combating disasters and rehabilitation for people affected

ii. Curative and preventive mitigation measures are in place to address the occurrence of *floods*. The preventive measures included the

wider use of integrated planning, the preparation of a *Manual* for better drainage and raising awareness on the importance of clean and clear flowing rivers. On the other hand, curative measures included the construction of dams, retention ponds and pumps, the deepening and widening of rivers as well as the upgrading of bunds on river banks to enhance the capacity of rivers to hold water. In the same vein, currently a storm water tunnel is under construction to increase the capacity to discharge storm water from the built-up areas in the city.

iii. The National Disaster Relief and Management Committee coordinate and supervise relief functions during times of emergencies. NGOs like the Red Crescent and others also respond to emergencies complementing the work of the Committee. Following the effects of the recent disaster brought about by the *tsunami*, the livelihood of affected fisher folks in the coastal areas of the state of Penang and Kedah were rehabilitated through assistance in kind and cash.

Measures taken to link post-emergency relief operations to development programmes

iv. In the agriculture sector, farmers affected by disasters such as floods are rendered assistance in the form agricultural inputs and for the reconstruction of infrastructure to rehabilitate agricultural projects. These include assistance in the form of fertilizers, seeds and other planting materials to the farmers. Assistance is also given to livestock and aquaculture farmers to resume their activities.

Watershed management strategies put in place

v. The amendment of the Federal Constitution in 2005 to transfer matters relating to water supply services from the State to the Concurrent List enabled the Federal Government to regulate water supply services. In the pursuit of an effective and efficient water services industry two bills were drafted that paved the way for the formation of the water services regulating body-National Water Services Commission. In the coming years, the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach will be continued to ensure sustainable water resources development. The study for the effective implementation of IWRM due for completion in the next few years will formulate action plans and programme to achieve these objectives. IWRM will also involve the management of physical resources as well as reform systems and practices to enable people to reap sustainable and equitable benefits from these resources.

vi. At the same time, the need to keep development within the carrying capacity of river basins while protecting and rehabilitating the environment will be continued through the integrated river-basin approach and sustainable management of forests will be also be continued to protect watershed and water catchment areas.

COMMITMENT SIX

Promoting optimal allocation and use of public and private investments to foster human resources, sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry systems, and rural development in high and low potential areas

Allocation and use of public and private investments in relation to agriculture and rural development

i. Over the next five years, 2006-2010, a sum of USD55.55 billion has been allocated for development expenditure compared to USD47.22 billion over past five years representing an increase of approximately 17.64%. From the allocated sum, 44.9% is for the economic sector, 37.5% for the social sector and the rest for security and general administration concerns. The Government envisages that an additional USD5.55 billion or 10% of the allocated sum to complement public sector funding for development would be forthcoming from private sector initiatives

ii. The national budget allocated for human resource development (education and training) for the next five years is USD11,420.55 billion representing 20.6% of the total national development allocation. At the *primary education* level, the number of students enrolled increased from 2.9 million in 2000 to 3.0 million in 2005 with a target of 3.196 million by 2010. To accommodate the increased number of students as well as to provide a more conducive learning environment, 9,930 new classrooms were constructed. Completion of these classrooms improved the overcrowding problem in urban schools. These additional classrooms contributed to the improvement in the class-classroom ratio from 1:0.90 in 2000 to 1:0.92 in 2005.

iii. Enrolment at *secondary education* level in Government and Government aided schools increased from 1.965 million in 2000 to 2.1 million in 2005. This enrolment included the increased number of students in secondary technical and vocational schools Junior Science Collages from 70,543 in 2000 to 84,972 in 2005. The construction of 9,936 classrooms to accommodate the increase also improved the class-classroom ratio from 1:0.83 in 2000 to 1:0.84 in 2005. The proportion of science students also increased from 3.2% to 45.6% in the same period.

iv. Enrolment at all levels of study in public and private tertiary education institutions increased from 574,421 in 2000 to 731,698 in 2005 with a target to reach 1,326,340 by 2010. At the post-graduate level, enrolment for masters and PhD programmes accounted for 16.2% of enrolment at all degree levels in public institutions of higher education and 3.8% in private institutions of higher education. The total output from public and private tertiary institutions at all levels of study increased by 94% from 130,161 in 2000 to 252,730 in 2005.

v. In the coming five years, greater emphasis will be given in the development of human resources to sustain economic resilience and growth, fortify a knowledge-based economy and to foster a community with an exemplary value system. This will be achieved through greater collaboration between the Government, private sector and community. The human resource development thrusts amongst others in place are:

- comprehensive improvement of the education and training delivery system;
- bridging the performance gap between rural and urban schools;
- fine tuning tertiary education to the needs of employers;
- providing opportunities for continuous learning; and
- promoting consultations between the Government, private sector,; community and parents in human capital and resource development.

vi. Other measures include:

- improving quality of labour force in line with the demand for a knowledge-based economy;
- increasing labour productivity to enhance competitiveness and economic resilience through skills upgrading, improving managerial capabilities, intensifying R&D and increasing utilisation of ICT;
- promoting greater self-reliance and competitiveness through intensified entrepreneurial training programmes;
- increasing the quality and professionalism of teachers with the target that all secondary and 25% of primary school teachers would be graduate teachers by 2010; and
- promoting holistic human capital development taking into consideration aspects of culture, morality, ethics, spirituality and integrity.

Budget allocated to agriculture, fisheries, food security and rural development programmes

vii. The national budget allocated to the agriculture sector and related development including forestry, fishery, livestock, support services, entrepreneur development, agro-based development, regional development irrigation and others amounts to USD3.176 billion representing 5.7% of the total national development allocation for the period 2006-2010. The increase in allocation for the sector augurs well for it to serve as the third engine of growth. The private sector is expected to invest about USD97.2 million to increase the sectors contribution to overall growth.

viii. Food production in the period 2001-2005 recorded growth because of the aggressive implementation of programmes and projects to increase production to meet national food requirements as well as to broaden the export capacity of the sector due to benefits from economies of scale as relatively larger projects were established with innovative production and management systems. As a result, the self-sufficiency levels for all major

food commodities, with the exception for vegetables and eggs improved. Export of food grew at an average rate of 8.7% per annum compared to that of imports at 7.9%.

ix. Paddy production increased at an average rate of 2.3% per annum, fruit at 9.8%, vegetables at 13.8%, fisheries at 1.6%, mutton at 10.8%, beef at 10.2% and pork at 5.5%. Poultry production including eggs remained resilient at 6.5% and 2.1% respectively. The agro-based industry grew at 4.5% per annum and total export earnings increased by 8.7% to reach USD10.38 billion in 2005. Agricultural programmes were focused on transforming traditional farming to be modern and commercial to increase competitiveness through the adoption of new agronomic and modern farm management practices, increased mechanisation and good agricultural practices.

x. Food security concerns were addressed through various programmes such as through:

- replanting of industrial to sustain export income;
- land consolidation and rehabilitation including idle land for commercial farming of food commodities. The Farmers Organisation authority for example rehabilitated 4,433 hectares that benefited 3,159 farmers;
- establishment of permanent food production parks for commercial production of food. Twenty eight parks were established involving 2,007 hectares of land and 319 farmers;
- improving market services ;
- improving competitiveness through R&D;
- training and extension services. A total of 260,930 entrepreneurs and farmers were trained;
- agricultural credit. The Agricultural Bank disbursed USD0.944 billion to increase mechanisation and commercial farming as well as to assist agriculture related SMEs; and
- agricultural infrastructure. A total of USD125.9 million was spent irrigation, drainage, and water resources projects to improve flood control and water supply including the construction farm roads, crossings covering a total of 70,000 hectares of agricultural land.

xi. During the next five years, increasing agricultural production will be continued through new land development, replanting, land consolidation, rehabilitation, utilisation of high yielding clones and breeds, farm mechanisation and good agronomic practices. At the same time, the private sector and government-linked companies will be further encouraged to increase investments in the sector through more attractive incentives and support measures.

Forestry

xii. In the period 2001-2005, a total of 19.52 million hectares or 59.5% of the land remained under forest cover. Out of this, 14.39 million

hectares were permanent reserved forest and 3.21 million hectares were totally protected. A total of 310,550 hectares of forest plantation were also established

xiii. Deforestation was controlled through various sustainable forest management measures. These included measures such as reduction in the felling of timber in permanent forests, substituting natural timber with rubber wood in the down stream industries and development of non-timber forest products such as bamboo and rattan to promote new sources of growth for the agro-forestry sector and through the National Guideline for tracking sawlogs and timber products. The Malaysian Criteria, Indicators, Activities and Standards of Performance for Forest Management Certification launched in 2001 to certify sustainably managed forests certified 67 companies by 2005. At the same time, measures were taken to intensify the conservation and rehabilitation of mangrove forests to serve as an effective shoreline defence system against erosion, wave action and *tsunamis*.

xiv. In the coming five years, conservation and sustainable use of forest products, watersheds and water catchments will be continued. The development of sustainable sources of wealth such as herbal and medicinal products, eco-tourism, and bio prospecting will be promoted. A Centre for Forest and Non-forest Products will be established to enhance capacity in environmental and natural resources management.

Rural development

xv. Rural development policies and programmes in Malaysia are geared towards the modernization of the rural sector and increasing their level of participation in the implementation process to uplift the socio-economic conditions of the rural community and to minimizing the rural-urban dichotomy. The population living in rural areas increased from 8.93 million in 2000 to 9.90 million in 2005. Its share of the total population declined from 38.0% to 37.0% in the same period because of urbanisation and out-migration.

xvi. Various programmes were undertaken to improve quality and services. These covered human and institutional development, anti poverty programmes, provision of infrastructure, utilities and social amenities, rural entrepreneurship and industrialisation programmes, education and health services, communication network as well as land and regional development. This integrated approach will be continued in the next five years through increasing the public support programmes in terms of credit facilities, technical and advisory services, marketing network strengthening rural industries. In addition, the provision of the requisite physical and social infrastructure will be continued to enhance further the quality of life of the rural population. This covers rural health, education facilities and other amenities, which will be further developed with the construction of new facilities as well as the provision of better

services. For this purpose, an allocation of USD3.032 billion has been earmarked.

COMMITMENT SEVEN

Implementing, monitoring and follow-up of the WFS Plan of Action at all levels in corporation with international community.

Follow-up of the WFS

i. Efforts taken to implement and monitor the WFS Plan of Action amongst others include:

- strengthening and intensifying coordination and cooperation with State Governments to facilitate food production programmes. This involves gazetting of state land for ensuring the success of food production zones (for crops, livestock, fishery sub-sectors);
- providing basic infrastructure and promoting increased investment by State Agricultural Development Corporations;
- facilitating greater participation of the private sector in food production was through investment opportunity seminars/fora and reviewing current rules, procedures and incentives;
- revitalising the one-stop *Agri-business Centre* established to serve the needs of the private sector;
- ensuring the adoption of an integrated approach throughout the total food production process (from farm to table) through the National Food Safety and Nutrition Council which is the highest authoritative body to address issues on food safety and nutrition that was established in 2001;
- providing direction and guidance to relevant agencies in the public and private sector through the National Food Safety Policy and Plan of Action formulated in 2003;
- ensuring household food security, access to safe and quality food regardless of location as well as ascertaining that food is nutritious for optimal growth, development and health of the family through the National Nutrition Policy; This Policy has been translated into the National Plan of Action for Nutrition Malaysia (NPANM II). Government agencies, NGOs, the private sector and professional bodies have contributed in the formulation of this Plan;
- documenting and launching the achievements of the MDGs in 2005 namely with regards to poverty, health, education, environment and global partnership earlier than the target date of 2015 with the exception of Goal 6 – halting and reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS

ii. FAO has indicated that less than 3% of the Malaysian population is undernourished and has classified Malaysia as a low vulnerable country in terms of the right to access to food. Nevertheless, food availability, accessibility and affordability is given due recognition at all levels of society with the thrust given domestic production of food.

iii. At the international community level, Malaysia's contribution to multilateral organisations and institutions amounted to USD94.81 million during the last five years. Out of this, 3.45% went to FAO and 4.55% to World Health Organisation. In the same period, technical aid received on a bilateral and multilateral basis amounted to about USD366,093 million.

Summary List of the Most Important Programmes Contributing to the WFS Plan of Action

No.	Programme	Year Initiated	Duration (2005)	Total Budget (USD million)	Status
1.	Agricultural Development	2001	5	2,152.5	On-going into the next five years
2.	Village and Community Development	2001	5	462.5	As above
3.	Health	2001	5	2,640.5	As above
4.	Housing	2001	5	1,936.6	As above
5.	Education and Training	2001	5	12,146.9	As above
6.	Transport	2001	5	8,836.9	As above
7.	Communication	2001	5	155.5	As above
8.	Local Authorities and Welfare Services	2001	5	1,650.5	As above

Policies, Strategies and Initiatives Implemented and Their Outcomes

i. Policies, strategies and initiatives implemented during the period 2001-2005 sustained the growth of the economy due to stronger macroeconomic fundamentals and increased resilience following the lessons learnt from the Asian financial crisis. In summary, the achievements include:-

- 4.5% per annum real GDP growth;

- increase in GNP per capita in current prices of 5.7% per annum to USD4,973 in 2005;
- broad-based growth for all sectors;
- strong exports resulting in a 61.4% growth in trade surplus, doubling of the balance of payments surplus and volume of international reserves;
- low inflation averaging 1.8% for the entire period;
- low unemployment of 3.5% by the end of 2005;
- greater progression to higher value added activities in key economic sectors;
- improved performance of the agricultural sector in terms of value added growth at an average rate of 3% per annum, production and exports resulting from the use of new technologies, move to commercialisation, wider adoption of group farming systems, increased market access and better commodity prices;
- improvement in the business environment including increased supply of skilled labour, higher physical infrastructure capacity and better investment incentives.

ii. The socio-economic objectives achieved amongst others include:

- reduction in overall poverty 8.5% in 1999 to 5.7% in 2004;
- decline in hardcore poverty from 1.9% in 1999 to 1.2% 2004;
- increase in mean household income at 5.6 % per annum on average exceeding real GDP growth;
- narrowing in inter-ethnic income disparities;
- achievement of all the MDGs ahead of the 2015 target with the exception of the reversal of HIV/AIDS; and
- significant improvement in the provision of housing, medical services and basic amenities.

April 2006

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8. Seminar on Human Rights and the Millennium Development Goals, Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department, Kuching, Sarawak,2004.
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Note

1. USD 1 = Ringgit Malaysia 3.60

Malaysia : Food Security & Related Indicators
 Extracted From International Databases & Other Local Sources

Code Indicator	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Sources*		
<u>Food Deprivation and Child Malnutrition</u>																		
1		0.5					0.5					0.6				FAO		
2		3					3 a/					3 a/				FAO		
3												12 b/	12.1	10.6	9.2	UNICEF/MOH		
3m										19 b/						UNICEF		
3f										19 b/						UNICEF		
4									15.5							MOH		
5									13.3							MOH		
<u>Food Consumption and Diet Diversification</u>																		
6		2,820					2,890									FAO		
7		56					58									FAO		
<u>Economic Growth, Poverty and Employment</u>																		
8		5.8	6.9	6.2	7.2	6.5	7.1	7.3	4.7	-9.5	3.7	6.2	-1.9	2.0	3.3	4.5	WB/OECD (WB) / NMP	
9				2													WB	
10										8.5							5.7 NMP	
10r										3.3							2.5 NMP	
10u										14.8							11.9 NMP	
11								4.4									WB	
12		5.1	3.7	3.0		3.1	2.5	2.5	3.2	3.4	3.0	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.5	ILO/DOS	
12r						2.8	2.5	2.2	3.1	3.5	3.0	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.4	ILO/DOS	
12f						3.8	2.6	2.8	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.8	ILO/DOS	
13		10.3	6.3	7.5	7.5	8.6	7.1	8.8	7.5	8.9	6.5	7.8	7.7	8.8	9.7		WB	
<u>Education and Gender Equality</u>																		
14										97	99	97	95	93			96	UNESCO



Code Indicator	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Sources*
14m Net primary enrolment ratio, male (%) 2/									97	100	97	95	93			UNESCO
14f Net primary enrolment ratio, female (%) 2/									97	98	97	95	93			UNESCO
15 Public expenditure on education as % of GDP 2/								4.8	5.7	6.2	7.9	8.1				UNESCO
16 Gender Parity Index for net enrolment ratio, tertiary 2/								1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0			UNESCO
17 Gender Parity Index for net enrolment secondary 2/								1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1			UNESCO
18 Gender Parity Index for gross enrolment ratio, tertiary 2/								1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.3				UNESCO
19 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament / congress (%)	5						8	8	8	8	10	10	10	10	11	IPU (UNSD)
Health and Sanitation																
20 Population with access to improved sanitation, total (%)	96															UNICEF
20r Population with access to improved sanitation, rural (%)	98												98			UNICEF
20u Population with access to improved sanitation, urban (%)	94															UNICEF
21 Population using improved drinking water sources, total (%)													95			95 UNICEF / NMP
21r Population using improved drinking water sources, rural (%)													94			94 UNICEF / NMP
21u Population using improved drinking water sources, urban (%)	96												96			98 UNICEF / NMP
22 Estimated prevalence proportion of adults living with HIV (%)												0.4		0.4		UNAIDS
Agriculture Development																
23 Agriculture, value added (annual % growth)	-1.7	1.0	6.9	-3.1	-1.9	-2.5	4.5	0.7	-2.8	0.5	6.1	-0.6	2.6	5.7	3.0	WB/OECD (WB) / NMP
24 Food production index number (PIN), net per-person 1/							96					101				FAO
25 Government expenditure allocated to agriculture and rural development (% of total)	6	5	5	5	5	4	4	4								6.4/ IMF (FAO) / NMP
Water, Natural Resources and Infrastructure																
26 irrigated Land as % of agricultural area	4	6 d/	4.5 d/	4.6 d/	4.6 d/	4.6 d/	4.6 d/	4.6 d/	4.6 d/	4.6 d/	4.6 d/	4.6 d/	4.6 d/	4.6 d/	4.6 d/	54.0/g FAO
27 Forest area as % of total land area																59.5 FAO



Code Indicator	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Sources*
28 Severely degraded land as % of total area										83						FAO
29 Roads, paved (% of total roads)	70	73	75	75	75	74	74	75	76	75	76	78				IRF (WB)
<u>Trade and National Debt</u>																
30 Terms of trade (2000 = 100)	1003					109						98	98			UNCTAD
31d Official donor commitments provided (by donor countries) for trade-related technical assistance and capacity building (US\$ thousand)																OECD
31r Official donor commitments received (by recipient countries) for trade-related technical assistance and capacity building (US\$ thousand)												3,904	2,186	5,568		OECD
32 Agricultural support estimate as % of Agricultural GDP (OECD countries only)																OECD
<u>Development Assistances</u>																
33 ODA, net, as % GNI (OECD countries only)																OECD
34 Total external assistance to agriculture provided (by donor countries) or received (by recipient countries) (US\$ million)													98			UNICEF

Notes :

* If data were extracted from a secondary sources, this sources is given in parenthesis

Refer to the Guidelines, Definition and Sources for more detailed notes.

1/ Values calculated as 3-year average. Year refers to middle year in period.

2/ Refers to initial year in the school year period.

a/ <2.5

b/ 0-59 mos

c/ Unofficial figure

d/ 5-0 estimate

e/ Provisional Data

f/ Cumulative for year 2001+2005

g/ Rice cultivation

Acronyms :

DOS : Department of Statistics, Malaysia

FAO : Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

ILO : International Labour Organisation

IMF : International Monetary Fund

IPU : Inter-Parliamentary Union

IRF : International Road Federation

MOH : Ministry of Health, Malaysia

NMP : Ninth Malaysia Plan, 2006-2010, Malaysia

OECD : Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

UNAIDS : Joint United Nations Programme on HIV / AIDS

UNCTAD : United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

UNESCO : United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization

UNICEF : United Nations Children's Fund

UNSD : Millennium Indicators Databased, United Nations Statistics Division

WB : World Bank

