

**Opening Remarks for Mr Herizal Hazri, Chief Executive of ISIS Malaysia**

**The 27<sup>th</sup> PECC General Meeting**

**Optimising Human Potential Towards a Future of Shared Prosperity and Sustainability in Times of COVID-19**

**Zoom Webinar**

**15th December 2020**

**Salutations**

Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali  
Minister of Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) Malaysia

His Excellency Don Campbell  
Co-Chair of Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC)  
Chair, Canadian National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (CANCPEC)

His Excellency Su Ge  
Co-Chair of Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC)  
Chair, China National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (CNCPEC)

Your Excellencies,

ISIS Board members,

Honoured Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. A very good morning from Malaysia. I would like to welcome honoured PECC co-chairs and PECC members, esteemed speakers, active next gen delegates and dear participants from all around the world to our 27<sup>th</sup> PECC General Meeting and Public Forum. This year the theme is on Optimising Human Potential Towards a Future of Shared Prosperity and Sustainability in Times of COVID-19 which is very much in line with the APEC's theme this year.
2. Ladies and gentlemen, in this uncertain times I am happy that we are able to come together through the virtual world. It is the first time ever that the PECC General Meeting and Public Forum are held online in its entirety and I hope our discussion will be fruitful as we enter a world filled with challenges and opportunities beyond 2020.
3. PECC is truly a unique tripartite partnership of senior individuals from business and industry, government, academic and other intellectual circles with the aim to to serve as a regional forum for cooperation and policy coordination to promote economic development in the Asia-Pacific region. Additionally, ISIS, Malaysia has been an active partner in this network and we are very happy to play host to this year's General Meeting.

4. Ladies and Gentlemen, for the next two days, we will be discussing on several timely issues. Today we will delve into the Economic Repercussions of the COVID-19 Crisis and the future of FTAs in this region. Later today we will also examine the solutions to climate change.
5. Tomorrow we will discuss the prospects of our youths and unemployment in this region. As the digital economy is growing in the midst of the pandemic, we will also exchange views of what is needed to create an inclusive society through digital trade and SMEs participation.
6. I am also aware that our next generation delegates have started their interactions yesterday, so that they are able to follow and contribute to the discussion for the next few days. I encourage the young delegates to give their inputs and to be brave in suggesting new ways to improve this network and its programs in the future.
7. Ladies and Gentlemen, I am very honored to have the YB Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, Minister of International Trade and Industry deliver his opening speech today. Due to his busy schedule, we have pre-recorded his remarks on Malaysia and APEC Post-2020.
8. I hope that the pandemic has not dampened our spirits in strengthening the future of regional cooperation in this region. I hope that we are further connected and fuelled for collaboration entering a new decade. Thank you