Welcoming address by

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METEOR Sdn Bhd

for

Open Source Seminar

Date: Tuesday 29th March 2004.

Venue: Theaterette, Open Universiti Malaysia.

Time: 8.45 a.m. – 9.00 a.m.

Distinguished Speakers
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Assalammualaikum dan Salam Sejahtera and a warm welcome to every one present at this seminar on "Open Source Knowledge Development Seminar for the Education Sector".

At the outset, let me welcome Mr. Ramachandru Tejavath, Secretary to the Governer of Orissa from India, Mr. Abhi Datt, Founder and Chief Software Architect from ELX Linux, and Encik Ahmad Azhar, Program Manager for OSS-PIP from MavCap. They are the speakers at this short seminar who would bring us to the world of Open Source Knowledge, with a new perspective.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am sure all of you have embarked on the quality journey in your respective organizations and many have achieved excellent results and good returns from such initiatives. Whilst there could be others who have experienced setbacks in their quality

efforts, some have visibly advanced in this area. I believe this seminar will enable all participants to reflect upon the successful lessons learned so as to achieve further breakthroughs and innovation in an environment of rapid technological growth. It also applies to others who are less successful to reenergize their efforts, reexamine their mindsets and take on new leadership roles in navigating the quality journey.

Therefore, today we will be going through a few interesting topics and themes about Open Source. The objective of today's seminar is to make the educational sector understand that the Open Source program can be made mandatory to the student community and there are Linux based products and services that can

play a major role in knowledge generation and absorption. Education, both in the private and public sectors, can only be successful in the long run if there is support from all sectors; particularly in terms of resource-allocation and manpower enhancement. They can attain world-class performance if they place quality at the core of their philosophy, strategy and business or organizational culture. In other words, to be truly effective the quality journey requires a strong leadership, commitment and clear direction for the organization.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

While hardware, telecommunication and internet infrastructure are becoming more affordable, software remains expensive and

has become a dominant cost of business and government information systems around the world. This has mainly been the cause of the digital divide between the developed and less developed nations. Nevertheless, there is always an opportunity that can be exploited by a developing nation such as Malaysia to implement a national level software industry that would harness the advances in the software industry to address both local and global requirements while making it simple and affordable.

The universities have traditionally been the seed bed for the development of Open Source building block technologies. For instance, the UCLA's BSD Operating System, is well known for its strong security, and MIT's Postscript

reader and X-Windowing system, is also popular.

In Malaysia, the Open Source System is actually becoming a very common system. To name a few, I-Krystar, a subsidiary of International Islamic University Malaysia, is an established Open Source support and development center. It offers classes to students on Linux fundamental skills. MavCap also operates a fund known as the Open Source Software Platform Investment Program which, amongst others, focuses on local technology and bridges structural gaps. It is in this context that we as part of our own learning organizations should pursue vigorously our efforts in this direction.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All in all, the workshop should culminate in the proliferation of new ideas, experiences, practices and wisdom that we can all value and put into good use in our respective organizations and endeavors.

Therefore, let me conclude by wishing everyone success in your deliberations in this seminar and it can hopefully bring our organizations forward to participate in a global K-economy.

Thank you.