

Welcoming Speech by Y Bhg. Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Anuwar Ali, Group Chief Executive Officer, METEOR Sdn. Bhd., for The Opening Ceremony of e-Learning Training Programme, GOTEVOT, Arab Saudi on the 17th July 2006 at Theatre, OUM, Jalan Tun Ismail, Kuala Lumpur

Bismillahir Rahmannir Rahim. Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and a very good afternoon.

1. Y Bhg. Tan Sri Dato' Dr Syed Jalaludin Bin Syed Salim, Member, METEOR Board of Directors
2. Y Bhg Dato' Kamaruddin Bin Mohd Jamal, Member, METEOR Board of Directors
3. Mr. Sallah Bensaleh
Vice Dean, Unaizah College of Technology,
Member of GOTEVOT e-learning Committee
and Leader of the GOTEVOT Delegates
4. Prof Dr. Ansary Ahmed
Senior Vice President, OUM

5. All staff of METEOR and Open University Malaysia
6. And our distinguished delegates from GOTEVOT, Saudi Arabia

First and foremost, I would like to welcome all of you or 'Selamat Datang' to Kuala Lumpur and also to our establishment, METEOR and the Open University Malaysia. I am pleased to be given this opportunity to express my gratitude towards GOTEVOT for choosing our institution for the second time as the provider for this e-Learning Training Programme. It is a pleasure to be able to share our knowledge and experience in e-Learning with your prestigious institution. We hope that the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between our organizations which was held in April in Riyadh is the start of many more future collaborations. The previous e-Learning training for

GOTEVOT, which was conducted also in July last year, gave us the opportunity to be better acquainted with your organization and exchange ideas with the participants.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Before I proceed, let me just brief you about METEOR Group of Companies and our involvement in the e-Learning initiatives. METEOR is a consortium of 11 public universities in Malaysia with 4 subsidiaries: METEOR Technology & Consultancy, METEOR Learning, METEOR Doc and Open University Malaysia. Each of our subsidiary ventures into different and diverse business segments namely: Research and Consultancy, Information and Communication Technology, Training and Development, Digital Printing as well as Education.

We are also proud to mention that our partners and clients come from both the Public and Private sectors, locally and internationally.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Open University Malaysia, which is in its 5th year, is our largest subsidiary, with over 45,000 students nationwide. Open University Malaysia is an institution that practices the concept of Open Distance Learning and Blended Learning in education. Currently we have 36 learning centres which are located all over Malaysia to cater to all of our students. Our students are mainly working adults who wish to pursue a tertiary education without having to take leave of absence from their careers. Our university provides a flexible and convenient environment for these students whereby they are encouraged to

communicate, study and learn mainly through our Learning Management System, Digital Library and Online Portal.

As we are currently practicing the Blended Learning Approach, students will meet their tutors and fellow students during weekends to discuss about their studies, projects and assignments. We are also one of the major players in various local and international conferences and have participated in the preparation of various working papers for relevant ministries. Some of the efforts or conferences that we hosted or participated in are the National E-Learning Conference in 2001, EU-Asia E-Learning Conference in 2002, the ASIA Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) and the Asia Pacific Knowledge Base on Open and Distance Learning.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

E-Learning is rapidly gaining popularity and trust among the Malaysian academic community and education institutions. We firmly believe that e-Learning will further accelerate the process of learning and would naturally benefit a wider range of population, be it in an institution or a country. E-Learning also provides a platform for the collaboration and sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources online, which saves time and financial resources tremendously. We are much honoured to be able to share our knowledge on this subject with all of you and we hope that together we will make the programme an enjoyable and memorable experience for both of our organizations. As an education institution, we believe in the transfer of technology concept to strengthen the knowledge and skills of

participants. It is our fervent wish that all will go home with a refreshed mind and new ideas towards learning and education

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I end my speech, I would like to welcome all of you again to our beautiful country. I hope that the training will provide you with the avenue to gain as much knowledge and skills on e-Learning as you can during your short stay here. I am confident that our staff and trainers will do their best to ensure that your training is conducted in a professional and efficient manner. With that, let me conclude by wishing everyone success in your training program and at the same time to enjoy your stay here in Malaysia.

Thank you.