

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS Jan-April 2007

### **3 January 2007**

The Bank announced that banking institutions are now given the flexibility to determine their own internal policy governing their equity-related investment activities. This will include defining the type of investment in shares and interest-in-shares to be undertaken and specifying the internal limits on exposure to the individual counter limits. The type of shares that an institution can invest under the new framework would also be expanded to include all listed shares, preference shares, unlisted shares and foreign equities. Banks will also be allowed to hold shares of another banking institution, subject to a maximum limit of 5% of the licensed institution's paid-up capital. As a prudential safeguard, banking institutions are required to observe an overall investment in shares and interest-in-shares limit of 25% of their capital base.

### **12 January 2007**

Governor Tan Sri Dr. Zeti Akhtar Aziz was appointed the fourth Chairperson of the Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB) Council, for a one-year term beginning January to December 2007. The position was previously held by Central Bank of Kuwait Governor, Sheikh Salem Abdul-Aziz Al-Saud Al-Sabah. Chairmanship of the IFSB is on an annual rotational basis from among the Full Members.

### **19 January 2007**

The Bank, as the Secretariat of the National SME Development Council (NSDC), announced more initiatives to support the development of SMEs at the sixth NSDC Meeting. Among the initiatives are: the provision of microfinance facilities by financial institutions; improvement of the strategy and marketing initiatives to promote domestic SME products and services to the global market; enhancement of the SMEinfo web portal; and the establishment of a web-based advisory services directory - the SME Business Adviser Network (SME-NET).

### **26 January 2007**

At its first meeting for 2007, the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to leave the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) unchanged at 3.50 percent. In its statement, the MPC noted that the Malaysian economy is expected to maintain a steady growth path amidst moderating inflationary pressure which is expected to be contained during the year. The MPC maintained its decision to keep the OPR at the same level at its second meeting on 26 February.

### **28 February 2007**

The Bank announced that the Malaysian economy continued to sustain steady growth in the fourth quarter of 2006 with real gross domestic product expanding at 5.7%. The expansion was more broad-based with all sectors of the economy recording positive growth. Underpinned by stronger consumer sentiment and sustained business confidence, the private sector was the main contributor to growth which was supported by the external and public sectors. For the whole year, real gross domestic product expanded by 5.9%.

### **21 March 2007**

The Bank released the Annual Report 2006 and the inaugural Financial Stability and Payment Systems Report 2006. At the press conference, Governor announced that the Malaysian economy was projected to continue its steady growth path in 2007, supported by resilient domestic demand. The Governor also announced further liberalisation of the foreign exchange administration policies which include three key measures: facilitating the development of the domestic financial market by providing greater flexibility to licensed onshore banks to undertake foreign currency business; facilitating investments in ringgit assets by non-residents by widening the investor base for ringgit assets and financial products; and enhancing business efficiency and facilitating the development of the capital market by reducing the cost of doing business as well as enhancing the depth and breadth of the capital market.

### **26 to 29 March 2007**

The Bank hosted the Global Islamic Finance Forum (GIFF) in conjunction with the IFSB Annual Meeting and Seminars 2007 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. A series of premier events were organised namely: the Financial Regulators Forum in Islamic Finance; the Investors and Issuers Forum; and the Banking and Financial Law School 2007. An exhibition was also held in conjunction with GIFF, aimed at showcasing the myriad of Islamic financial services and products, as well as various investment opportunities that Malaysia has to offer.

### **27 March 2007**

The Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority and Dubai Financial Services Authority respectively. The MOU is part of the Malaysia International Islamic Financial Centre (MIFC) initiatives to establish collaborative relationships with key strategic partners towards stronger development of and enhanced inter-linkages in Islamic finance. Separately, the Bank and Securities Commission Malaysia released a Joint Information Note on the facilitative regulatory framework for the issuance of foreign currency-denominated bonds and sukuk in Malaysia.

### **3 April 2007**

The Bank as the Secretariat of the Malaysia International Islamic Financial Centre (MIFC) announced the appointment of His Royal Highness Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah Ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah as Financial Ambassador for international MIFC initiatives. The Financial Ambassador will support the MIFC by advancing bilateral relations between Malaysia and leaders of nations, industry captains and key decision makers of regional and global financial communities, particularly from the Middle Eastern countries.

### **10 April 2007**

The Bank together with Ministry of Higher Education facilitated a dialogue between universities and representatives of the financial industry and capital market as part of an effort to strengthen collaboration between the two industries. Various issues were discussed which include demand for new expertise and skills for the financial industry; compatibility of graduates in meeting industry requirements; and prospects for greater collaboration in areas of curriculum development and research. This structured collaboration creates a path towards the creation of a more dynamic and responsive university system that is able to contribute effectively to the development of the financial services sector and the economy.

### **18 April 2007**

The Bank announced the issuance of revised capital frameworks for banking institutions and insurers which will be implemented on a trial run basis beginning April 2007. The frameworks which are consistent with best global standards and principles, would promote greater protection of interests of various stakeholders, particularly the depositors and policy holders of both industries.

### **27 April 2007**

At its third meeting for 2007, the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to leave the OPR unchanged at 3.50 percent. In its statement, the MPC noted that despite the possibility of moderate export growth in the first half of the year, the Malaysian economy is expected to experience sustained growth for the year as a whole.