

CALENDAR OF EVENTS July-September 2007

6 July 2007

The Bank announced the establishment of BNMTELELINK, a new contact centre to complement the existing walk-in counter services of BNMLINK. Both centres provide prompt and efficient response to members of the public on matters related to conventional and Islamic banking, insurance and takaful, advisory services for small and medium enterprises, foreign exchange administration and other matters under the Bank's jurisdiction. Members of the public can contact the BNMTELELINK via telephone, fax, letter or email.

19 July 2007

At the 11th Malaysian Banking Summit themed "The Malaysian Banking Industry Reinvention and Transformation", Governor announced the introduction of a framework to facilitate the process for product innovation. Dr. Zeti said that the new framework would simplify regulatory processes and allow for greater flexibility to banks and insurers to introduce new products more quickly in the market and at the same time place a sound product management programme within their respective institutions. She highlighted that qualified banks and insurers are expected to exercise this flexibility responsibly by safeguarding the interests of consumers.

On the same day, the Bank issued three types of commemorative coins in conjunction with the Installation of His Majesty The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Wathiqu Billah Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin Ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Mahmud Al-Muktafi Billah Shah.

24 July 2007

At its fifth meeting, the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) maintained the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) at 3.50 percent and kept the rate at the same level at its subsequent meeting on 24 August.

30 July 2007

The Bank issued three types of commemorative coins to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Malaysia's Independence.

13 August 2007

At the 2nd Malaysian Islamic Finance - Issuers and Investors Forum 2007, Governor, spoke on the vast growth potential of the global sukuk market. She said the growing role of Islamic finance in mobilising and channelling funds to productive investment activities across borders has contributed to more efficient allocation of funds and facilitated international trade and investment. Dr. Zeti noted that Malaysia took the lead in Islamic financing globally, accounting for two-thirds, or about USD47 billion, of the global sukuk outstanding. Malaysia also accounted for the largest number of issuance. Malaysia provides a total solution for sukuk activities by providing a complete sukuk issuance and trading platform, supported by four main elements; a wide range of Islamic instruments, strong legal and regulatory infrastructure, sound Shariah governance

framework and experienced talent supply. These elements are supported by comprehensive Islamic financial system with key components comprising the Islamic banking, takaful, Islamic money and capital market that are now at an advanced stage of development.

29 August 2007

The Bank announced that the Malaysian economy expanded by 5.7% in the second quarter of 2007 (1Q: 5.5%). The growth was driven by domestic demand led by resilient private sector activity and reinforced by increased public sector spending. On the supply side, growth was supported by sustained strong performance in the services sector and higher activities in the mining and construction sectors.

5 September 2007

The Bank announced the establishment of Financial Sector Talent Enrichment Programme (FSTEP) to address the shortage of skilled talents in the financial industry. The one-year intensive programme provides technical financial industry training, simulations, workshops, case studies and on-the-job training exposure through internship with financial institutions. Selected applicants will be offered attractive scholarship into the programme and upon completion, successful participants will be absorbed into the financial sector.

13 September 2007

The Bank as the Secretariat of the National SME Development Council (NSDC) released the SME Annual Report 2006. The report provides information on the performance of SMEs, as well as highlights major programmes undertaken by the Government to promote the development of SMEs. It also highlights success stories of SMEs which had benefited from Government programmes and incentives. The NSDC also announced several key initiatives to further promote a competitive and resilient SME sector such as the establishment of the SME Central Coordinating Agency, development programmes for Agro-based industry and developing innovative SMEs.

25 September 2007

The Bank's Shariah Advisory Council made a resolution that the distribution of surplus from tabarru' fund in takaful scheme and the application of wakalah contract in deposit instrument is permissible from the Shariah perspective. Following this approval, it is expected that the Islamic financial institutions would be able to diversify their Shariah-compliant products and be more creative and innovative in their product offerings.