Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Thank you for the introduction.

Datuk Mohammad Hanafiah bin Mohammad Kassim
The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Sabah.

Ms Ernywati Dewi Abas
The Director, Sabah State Computer Services Department
cum ICT Security Officer for the Sabah State Government
and Advisor to the Organising Committee
BIMP-EAGA Cyber Security Summit 2023.

Digital Leaders of the State Government of Sabah, sponsors, speakers, panelists, exhibitors, hackathon organizers, colleagues from the BIMP-EAGA region, members of the media, and esteemed attendees.

Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

Salam Sejahtera, Salam Malaysia MADANI, and Salam Sabah Maju Jaya.

1. Alhamdulillah, we thank Allah SWT, for this morning we are gathered together at the **BIMP-EAGA Cyber Security Summit 2023**, with the theme "**AI in Cyber Security: Harnessing the Power, Navigating the Risks**." Congratulations to Sabah State Computer Services Department (JPKN) and Sabah Net for their close cooperation and joint efforts in successfully organizing this conference.

2. This year's conference has been expanded in terms of its scale and scope compared to previous years. It is now held over 2 days instead of 1, the number of participants has doubled, and the participation of attendees from the BIMP-EAGA region is welcomed. This conference

is expected to continue to grow to greater heights in future, thus contributing to the goal of promoting Sabah as a preferred destination for meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE).

3. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the organizers for inviting me to officiate this conference. I am delighted to welcome the participation of all Digital Leaders of the Sabah State Government, sponsors, speakers, panelists, exhibitors, hackathon organizers, colleagues from the BIMP-EAGA region, and all attendees. This two-day conference will undoubtedly provide us with the opportunity to network with each other and with cybersecurity experts, most of whom come from outside Sabah.

4. I am confident that with your active participation, we will gain knowledge and generate ideas on how to strengthen the role of Chief Digital Officers (CDO) and ICT Security Officers (ICTSO) in enhancing cybersecurity across government agencies. Staying informed about the latest developments in cybersecurity concepts and technologies will enhance the security of our service delivery to society.

Esteemed attendees

5. The officiating speech by the Right Honourable Chief Minister, during the National Anti-Scam Campaign 2023 State-level Launch on October 28th, revealed that over the past three years, online fraud losses in Sabah have exceeded 100 million Malaysian Ringgit, through 4,687 cases. Furthermore, this year, as of September, it has recorded the highest losses in history, reaching 28 million Malaysian Ringgit, through

1,243 cases. This clearly indicates that cybersecurity deserves serious attention and requires appropriate action by all segments of society, including public servants who are the implementers of the aspirations state's top leaders.

6. Although losses in Sabah are still small compared to the national total, we need to take early and proactive measures to minimize risks and control any cybersecurity incidents from spreading and escalating to the point of being difficult to manage.

Esteemed attendees

7. The challenges and risks of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on cybersecurity have risen significantly. November 30, 2022, is etched in history as the day when an AI chatbot, known as ChatGPT, was launched. It is considered a game-changer in the field of AI due to its ability to generate high-quality text that is contextually relevant, making it highly versatile and capable of handling various tasks related to natural language understanding and generation.

8. On the flip side, the very same capabilities can be misused to influence users, spread false information, craft and develop malicious source code, launch cyberattacks, or engage in other harmful activities. Furthermore, similar generative AI models have emerged, created by cybercriminals, such as FraudGPT and WormGPT, which are alleged to have the capability to develop malicious software, identify application vulnerabilities, targeting victims, and crafting fake emails.

9. On November 1st, 28 countries, including the United States, China, India, the United Kingdom, Japan, and the European Union, signed the **Bletchley Declaration**, the first international declaration on AI, where they acknowledged the potential catastrophic risks that AI could pose to humanity.

10. It is against this backdrop that this conference is held with the chosen theme, urging all of us to prepare ourselves, our organizations, and our surroundings to face these highly challenging issues.

Esteemed attendees

11. The state government has implemented various initiatives and programs to strengthen cybersecurity aspects to support its service delivery. This includes the establishment of a dedicated section to manage the cybersecurity ecosystem, at the State Computer Services Department (JPKN) in 2010, with the support of Sabah Net, the state government-owned ICT company.

12. The state government has placed special emphasis on online fraud issues since 2022 through a series of Cybercrime Awareness Programs among Public Servants. To date, six programs have been implemented in Keningau, Sandakan, Tawau, and Kota Kinabalu, reaching around 700 public servants. Plans are also in progress to expand these efforts to the general public through collaborations with strategic partners.

13. Overall, this year, the state government has carried out 14 training and awareness programs related to cybersecurity, including the conference today.

Esteemed attendees

14. The Federal Government has also demonstrated due attention to cybersecurity issues through financial commitments. In the Federal Budget Speech for 2024 on October 13th, the Federal Finance Minister announced, among other things, the following measures:
   ● Accelerating the implementation of National Digital Identity (NDI) to combat the risks of online scams.
   ● Increasing allocation for the National Scam Response Center (NSRC) to combat scam crimes.
   ● Examining the requirement to amend relevant laws to expedite the process of returning funds to scam victims.
   ● Developing a 5G Cybersecurity Testing Framework and Local Expertise in 5G Technology to enhance preparedness against cyber threats.

15. In June, the Right Honourable Prime Minister announced efforts underway in drafting special legislation related to cybersecurity.

16. Furthermore, the Minister of Communications and Digital has outlined various plans to strengthen national cybersecurity, including:
   ● Establishing the Malaysian Cybersecurity Commission;
   ● Determining the need to create a framework to oversee AI technology;

The combined efforts of the State and Federal Governments, as mentioned earlier, clearly demonstrate the government's commitment to addressing all cybersecurity needs in the country.

Esteemed attendees

17. Public servants must continue to play their role in ensuring comprehensive and secure implementation of the digital government delivery system. Therefore, all public servants should proactively and swiftly acquire digital knowledge and skills. Please collaborate with the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation in continuous engagement and cooperation on this matter, in line with the roles of its sub-agencies, JPKN and SabahNet, as implementers of a secure cyber ecosystem.

18. I would also like to remind all about the need to regularly update the list of ICT Security Officers, or ICTSOs, in your organizations and subsequently inform the National Cyber Security Agency (NACSA) and JPKN, as required by the Director-General of National Security, National Security Council. This step is essential, as it will facilitate organizational communication with NACSA on current cybersecurity issues.

19. In conclusion, let us all work together to cultivate a cyber community in this region that is responsible, ethical, positive, and ultimately, excellent, by being both builders and users of online facilities.

With the words *Bismillah Irahman Irrahim*, I hereby officially launch

BIMP-EAGA Cyber Security Summit 2023.

Wabillahit Taufiq Walhidayah,

Wassalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

Thank you.