Excellency Prof Dr. Davut Kavranoğlu. Deputy Minister of Science Technology and Industry, Turkey;

Datuk Mohd Radzif Mohd Yunus. Managing Director of SME Bank, Malaysia;

Distinguished Sisters Distinguished Brothers,

Distinguished Members of the Press

Assalamu Alaikum ve Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu

Glory be to Allah Almighty that we are meeting here today for the joint ADFIMI SME Bank Malaysia International Development Forum in this beautiful and modern city of Kuala Lumpur.

In my capacity as the Chairman of ADFIMI, Association of Development Finance Institutions in the Member Countries of Islamic Development Bank, it gives me great pleasure and encouragement to see such a large number of distinguished participants gathering for this event.

We meet here not only to discuss some of the issues relating to SME Finance, but also to associate our selves with a great personality of our times Honourable Tun Mahathir Mohamad who has development of Malaysia to his credit.

As you know ADFIMI is one of four such associations in the world operating in the regions of four international development banks. ADFIMI operates in the member countries of Islamic Development Bank. Objective of ADFIMI is to provide networking among development finance institutions and establish solidarity amongst them.

We, at ADFIMI, developed a tradition of associating ourselves with the role models in the area of development and its finance. This is to install a corporate value system of appreciating people doing work to the benefit of the society, in this case, the member countries of the Islamic Development Bank. This is achieved through conferment of Honourary Membership of ADFIMI.

In our previous Forum, held in Istanbul 2010, we have conferred honourary membership of ADFIMI to HE Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Ali for his legendary work on development finance in member countries of Islamic Development Bank as the President of IDB Group. This time ADFIMI General Assembly, representing over 50 members from 15 countries, unanimously decided to confer ADFIMI Honurary membership on Honourable Tun Mahathir Mohamad for his monumental achievements in the development of Malaysia as well as in developing countries.

This meeting has been possible essentially with the encouragement we received from HE Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Ali, the President of IDB Group for his continuous support to ADFIMI, in this case being the major co sponsor, as well as by substance. We have three distinguished speakers from the IDB Group to enlighten us about their support to SMEs.

This meeting would not have been possible without the kind offer of SME Bank of Malaysia to host it in Kuala Lumpur. I am extremely grateful to Datuk Mohd Radzif Mohd Yunus and his staff at the and SME Bank Malaysia, especially Br. Ahmed Ikram Abdullah, vice President, Corporate Communications and Branding for their will power and extremely hard work for the realization of this Forum.

I would also like to thank the President of Istanbul Chamber of Commerce Dr. Murat Yalçıntaş, another ADFIMI friend, for co-sponsoring the Forum.

We have many speakers and moderators who went to the trouble of traveling thousands of miles to come to KL in order to contribute to the success of this meeting. I am deeply indebted to them for their efforts.

Last but not least I am grateful to the most important ingredient of all meetings, the overseas and local participants for taking part this event.

I pray to Allah almighty to render this meeting beneficial to the development of IDB member countries.

M.Emin Özcan

Chairman

ADFIMI