Statement and a Tribute to H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed by IDB Group President at ADFIMI Forum, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
5 July 2012

His Excellency, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the 4th Prime Minister of Malaysia
His Excellency, Br Mehmet Emin Ozcan, Chairman ADFIMI
His Excellency, Br Nuri Birtek, Secretary General ADFIMI
His Excellency, Datuk Mohd Radzif Mohd Yunus, CEO SME Bank, Malaysia

Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to thank and congratulate ADFIMI and the SME Bank of Malaysia for organizing this event and inviting me to jointly welcome everyone to this important platform, and more importantly to honor a special icon of the Islamic world H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the former Prime Minister of Malaysia, who has inspired, the IDB Group as well as many of our Member Countries in their national transformation efforts.

Allow me to express a very special Thank You, to the leadership of ADFIMI, for having successfully developed ADFIMI into a networking platform with over 50 developmental institutional members, in over 15 Member Countries. Together with the IDB Group, ADFIMI, has also been progressively focusing and expanding on pressing development issues faced by the developing world. However, there is much ground to cover for ADFIMI to realize its real potential as a networking and knowledge sharing platform to facilitate cross border economic and investment cooperation. We wish to see all the member countries strongly represented in ADFIMI. In this regard I have recently written to more than 200 institutions in our member countries encouraging them to be a member of ADFIMI. With a stronger and quality membership, we believe ADFIMI will be able to be transformed as a platform and as a source for partnership in leading age transformation and innovative agenda facing the world today. ADFIMI can be a stronger voice for us collectively in the global platform. This Forum held in Malaysia can be a turning point for ADFIMI.

With ADFIMI’s longstanding experiences in networking and dissemination of information through conducting training courses, workshops and seminars among the member institutions, the Association has gained maturity to accelerate the process of economic integration among member countries through establishment of joint venture projects, organization of an information centre for mutual use of data, carrying out research and studies, and acting as an accreditation agency for certification and laying the criteria for good practices.

Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would also like to thank the SME Bank Malaysia for assuming a leading role in organizing this forum. I see a significant role of SMEs not only as an operational partner for development, but
also a transformative partner in development. As you all know, SMEs is a key sector that can effectively address innovation, employment, and local community development for which the government and large private corporations cannot address. In my view, SMEs are the connector of large corporations and government, to the local communities. The SME Bank Malaysia, as we understood it, is now a key institution targeting the support of SMEs, aiming to contribute 40% of the GDP for a high income innovation-driven economy of Malaysia. The effort of transforming SMEs as the innovation engine is certainly necessary not just for the middle income economies like Malaysia, but also for the least developed economies. Indeed, many innovative solutions, even for the “Green Economy”, can come from local experience and expertise that can be put into the production line via the SMEs. We are, therefore, encouraged by the pioneering role of the Malaysian government to transform the SMEs sector for the innovation-based economy.

Given the strategic role and position of the SMEs sector in our member countries, the IDB Group is determined to facilitate the sharing of Malaysian experience and expertise in SME development with other member countries, especially through our new “reverse linkage” initiative. The IDB Group office in Kuala Lumpur will be happy to have further discussion with the prospecting SMEs for the reverse linkage initiative.

A Tribute to H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen.

H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed, during his premiership, has inspired many developing nations in transformative visioning, despite the changing global environment and limited resources that H.E. had to confront. His Excellency Tun Dr Mahathir innovative policies, such as the “Look East Policy” are certainly pioneering and original, demonstrated the power of “South-South Partnership” at work. Smartly, through this South-South approach, His Excellency Tun Dr Mahathir has showed the world, it can be applied to systematically build indigenous capacity to sustain growth by producing global products as is done with the Islamic Banking sector, the Automotive sector, and the ICT sector of Malaysia. In many ways H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir is “business smart”, able to nurture and transform the private sector of Malaysia from a nascent state to be among world class global suppliers of solutions and services today.

H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir is a man with passion for equitable growth, with his various “Growth with Equity” policies and institutions such as the Permodalan Nasional Berhad or PNB, for the citizen at large to also benefit directly from the privatization policies and accelerated economic development programs. At the international level, H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir promoted the notion of “Prosper-Thy-Neighbor” policy to moderate the dominant “Competitive-driven” policies of the advanced economies. I am sure, there are many more forward looking and inclusive policies that H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir not only advocated, but also followed through its implementation. H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir is not just a visionary leader, but also a successful project manager.

During his tenure, H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir was also able to deal with the financial crisis of the Far East and the Dot-Com crisis of the 1990s. During the 1997 Far East Economic Crisis, H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir turned this financial challenge into an opportunity to develop further the Islamic
financial industry. Today, Malaysia is a recognized global hub for Islamic Finance. We, therefore, have much confidence, that the developing world, can deal with the on-going development challenges and crisis in a constructive manner, as was done by H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir for Malaysia in the 1980s and 1990s.

Determined to serve the Ummah, after leaving office, among others, H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir through his Global Alliance and Partnership for International Development or GAPID, he actively facilitated private sector sharing of development expertise and joint ventures among member countries, targeting the lesser developed economies. Despite his often heard qualifier in his public lecture that he is not an economist nor a financial expert, H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir proved to be a real economist and a real financial planner.

Perhaps the most fundamental transformative effect of Tun Dr Mahathir is that of mindset change. H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir has been able to transform the mindset of the growing population of Malaysia from an agrarian-based, to industrial-based, to knowledge-based society. It provided the intangible strengths of Malaysian and by indirectly that of the Muslim world, with a new sense of confidence and desire to succeed and be treated equally and not as “third world”. H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir speaks his mind and thus was able to project an image of the Muslim world that was not widely spoken. Today, we find H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir championing peace through his Global Peace Movement efforts. H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir actively promoted the cause of displaced communities, especially of the Muslim Communities. H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir is a “Change Agent” at a global scale.

On behalf of your institution the IDB Group, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir for this inspiring leadership, not only for development practitioners from the developing world, but also, for significantly elevating the image of the Muslim world.

Shaping The New World – IDBG Vision 1440H

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen.

IDB Group was formed as a South-South development institution. The IDB Group also recognized the role of the private sector in development and in particular the SME sector. The IDB Group has been financing the private sector in its Member Countries particularly thorough our PPP financing window. The IDB Group has also established dedicated institutions, primarily to focus on private sector development i.e. The Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment & Export Credit or ICIEC, the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector or ICD, and the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporate or ITFC.

The IDB Group, in recognition of this changing world and the opportunity to leverage more on the South-South partnership, under the chairmanship of H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir, has formulated the IDB Group Vision 1440H. The formulation of the Vision was a collective effort of the Group’s stakeholders that include prominent thinkers and practitioners from all regions of the Muslim world.

With the IDB Group Vision 1440H, H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir, has been tirelessly assisting IDB Group in engagement with the leadership of IDB Group Member Countries to share his
experience and advise in adapting and emulating the transformation model of Malaysia. H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir, without hesitation, is ever willing to share his experience and time to engage openly and constructively with the various levels of society. H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir is also actively engaged in our Non-Member Countries, especially the Muslim Communities, giving them much hope and providing an alternative view of global development imperatives, challenges and solutions. H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir is bold and direct in his analysis and approach to address the emerging challenges of financial crisis, monetary system and development challenges facing the Ummah. I wish to sincerely express our sincere appreciation on behalf of the IDB Group management and staff for his continued support and confidence in the IDB Group.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere congratulation and gratitude to ADFIMI in organizing an event such as this one, and for recognizing the inspiring role of H.E. Tun Dr Mahathir in Economic Development Transformation and in inspiring to change the lives of the Ummah.