

Malaysia-India Investment Seminar (MIIS)

September 26, 2008

Speech by Rakesh Shah, Chairman, EEPC India

I am honoured to address this very distinguished gathering of delegates from both India and Malaysia. I understand that the motto of this wonderful country is: 'Unity is Strength'. The Indian Engineering Exhibition has been organized to honour this motto, and to spread the message as to how sincere we all are about being united and working hand in hand for economic prosperity of both the countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in the year 2000, Hon'ble Lee Kuan Yew, the first Prime Minister of Singapore said India is a "nation of unfulfilled greatness". Here he voiced the opinion of the world at large. However, I am happy to say that this notion has now been discarded and its emerging global geopolitical power is being noticed the world over. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Sri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi remarked during his last visit to India that, "India is indeed a stirring economic giant whose time has come."

In fact, a lot of goodwill has been generated between India and the members of the ASEAN countries, including Malaysia. India has already concluded its FTA Agreement with ASEAN, and is working on a Comprehensive Economic Co operation agreement with Malaysia. It gives me reasons to be optimistic about a brighter future for trade and investment between the two countries.

Today is the second day of our exhibition, and I must say we are overwhelmed with the response which is much more than encouraging. I am confident that the Partnership that we have forged together with the leading TPOs of Malaysia during INDEE 2008 will go a long way in cementing business ties between the two countries, particularly among the SME sectors.

I assure our fullest co operation to all our Partner Associations.

Before I conclude I would like to put on record my deepest appreciation of the support we have received, from the HE High Commissioner of India and his able team here, from our partners without whose help we would not have been able to see this success today.

Welcome once again and enjoy the evening.

Thank you.