CALENDAR OF EVENTS
July – September 2009

8 July 2009

Governor Dr. Zeti, in her address at the Malaysia-UK Islamic Finance Forum, said that there needs to be international cooperation and partnerships between international financial centres to ensure financial stability of the international Islamic financial system. She also highlighted that it is important for the international integration of Islamic finance be facilitated by mutual recognition of financial standards and products across jurisdictions. Furthermore, to sustain the internalisation of Islamic finance, the development of international Islamic financial markets is also important to enhance the liquidity of the instruments and risk management capacity of players.

15 July 2009

The Bank announced the issuance of the new design RM50 banknote. This new design of RM50 banknote is the first denomination of the Fourth Series of Malaysian currency notes which will replace the existing series in stages. The new RM50 banknote incorporates various modern and innovative security features principally aimed at deterring counterfeiting. The existing design series of the RM50 banknote will continue to remain legal tender and co-circulate with the new RM50 banknotes as the former are gradually phased out.

22 July 2009

On the sideline of the 14th EMEAP Governors' Meeting in Hong Kong, the Bank, together with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and the Monetary Authority of Singapore announced the establishment of a tripartite working group to map out a coordinated strategy for the scheduled exit from the full deposit guarantee by the end of 2010, in their respective jurisdictions.

23 July 2009

The Bank announced the commencement of operations of the Corporate Debt Restructuring Committee (CDRC), a voluntary forum for the resolution of distressed debts of large corporations. CDRC provides a platform for corporate borrowers and creditors to work out feasible debt resolutions without having to resort to legal proceedings. The CDRC was first established during the 1998 financial crisis and was successful in resolving 57 cases with a total debt outstanding of RM45.8 billion.

29 July 2009

At its fifth meeting for 2009, the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to leave the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) unchanged at 2.00 percent. The MPC stated that signs of stabilisation of the global economy have emerged whilst conditions in the international financial markets have generally improved, since the previous MPC meeting. The domestic economy have also shown signs of stabilising in the second quarter, with several indicators such as the industrial production index and retrenchments recording a slower pace of decline.

At its subsequent meeting on 25th August, the MPC also decided to maintain the OPR at the same level. The MPC said that more signs have emerged to suggest that global economic and financial conditions have improved since July, while domestic economic conditions are also stabilising. Going forward, the MPC expects that the domestic economy will continue to improve in the second half of 2009 and into 2010, following a recovery in domestic demand.

10 August 2009

The Bank accorded the landmark issuance of USD3 billion bond and USD1.5 billion sukuk (the Islamic bond) by PETRONAS, the national petroleum corporation, with the designation of "Emas", which is the Malay word for "gold". The "Emas" designation will be given to foreign-currency denominated sukuk or bond that are issued from the Malaysian market. The PETRONAS issuances were highly successful, attracting significant interest from a wide base of investor base. The issuance showcased Malaysia's credential as a centre of origination not only for Ringgit bonds and sukuk, but also for issuance of foreign currency denominated bonds and sukuk. Malaysia is currently the global leader in sukuk issuance, accounting for 62% of total global sukuk outstanding

26 August 2009

The Bank announced that the Malaysian economy contracted at a slower rate of 3.9% on an annual basis in the second quarter of 2009 (1Q 09: -6.2%), supported by higher public spending and positive growth in private consumption. Nonetheless, growth continued to be affected by weak external demand and private investment activity. On the supply side, all key sectors of the economy registered improved performance during the quarter.

27 August 2009

The Asian Institute of Finance (AIF), a joint initiative by Bank Negara Malaysia and the Securities Commission Malaysia was set up to promote further the development of human capital in the Malaysian financial sector. AIF aspires to be an institution of global excellence in support of the advancement of the financial services industry in Malaysia. This is achieved through strengthened institutional arrangements for collaboration between AIF and the four training institutions that currently serve the financial services sector, namely Institut Bank-Bank Malaysia (IBBM), Islamic Banking and Finance Institute Malaysia (IBFIM), Malaysian Insurance Institute (MII) and Securities Industry Development Corporation (SIDC). AIF will focus on the development of competency frameworks for financial service professionals and will function as the main platform for coordination to draw on the complementarities and strengths of each institution towards achieving a common vision.

28 August 2009

The Bank announced the issuance of the Shariah Parameter Reference 1, also known as the Murabahah Parameter. The Murabahah Parameter is the first in a series of Shariah Parameters issued as guidance and reference to all Islamic financial institutions in Malaysia. Other Shariah Parameters currently being developed are Ijarah, Mudarabah, Musharakah, Istisna' and Wadiah. The Murabahah Parameter has been endorsed by the Bank's Shariah Advisory Council and marks a key advancement in Bank's efforts to promote greater harmonisation in the development of the Islamic finance industry.

24 - 25 September 2009

The Bank, the South East Asian Central Banks (SEACEN) Research and Training Centre and Institute of Bankers Malaysia (IBBM) jointly organised the SEACEN-BNM Banking and Financial Law School 2009 (BFLS) on "Current Challenges in Central Banking - a Legal Perspective". The BFLS brought together distinguished internationally renowned speakers to share views on the key legal reforms which focused on issues relating to central banking legislation, regulation of financial institutions and corporate law.

In her keynote address at the event, Governor highlighted the need for central banks to have robust and dynamic legal and regulatory framework to respond to new challenges and address risks to financial stability. She added that, following the recent crisis, complex global financial and economic integration had introduced new risks to domestic financial systems.

28 September 2009

The Bank and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on co-operation in the development of the financial services industry, particularly in the area of Islamic finance. Aiming towards a long-term strategic partnership under the MoU, both parties agreed to further strengthen co-operation in the following areas:

- Capacity building and human capital development;
- Facilitating and promoting the development of an effective financial market infrastructure through the exchange of information and experience in developing legal, regulatory and supervisory frameworks for Islamic finance; and
- Promoting cross-border financial activities through exploring harmonisation of standards and documentation relating to Islamic finance transactions and promoting the consistent application of Islamic financial contracts for cross-border transactions.