Calendar of Events
April - June 2005

27 April 2005
The Bank released the 2004 Insurance and Takaful Annual Reports which provide an analysis of the performance and developments of the insurance and takaful industries in 2004.

27 April 2005
The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) became the third issuer of Ringgit-denominated bonds with the launch of the RM760 million Wawasan Bonds, since Multilateral Development Banks and Multinational Corporations were allowed to do so in 2004. This bond issuance was structured in compliance with the Shariah, which would help in further broadening and developing the Islamic domestic capital market in particular, and Malaysia's domestic bond market in general.

24 May 2005
Governor delivered a speech at the Second Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB) Summit in Qatar, at which she spoke about the importance of securing an enhanced governance framework for Islamic financial institutions.

25 May 2005
The Bank announced that the Malaysian economy remained resilient despite a moderation in global economic activity amidst high oil prices and the continued down-cycle of the global semiconductor industry. Real GDP growth of the Malaysian economy remained favourable and was within expectations, expanding by 5.7% in the first quarter of 2005. During the period under review, Malaysia continued to be one of the strong economic performers in the region.The lack of strong demand pressures allowed monetary policy to continue to remain accommodative to support economic growth. The overnight policy rate (OPR) remained unchanged at 2.70%.

26 May 2005
The Bank announced that to further strengthen the institutional infrastructure of the takaful industry and accelerate the expansion of takaful business, up to four new takaful licences will be issued, and takaful brokers and adjusters will be licensed to increase the level of professionalism and competence of the takaful intermediaries.

30 May 2005
The Bank announced the seventh issuance of Bon Simpanan Merdeka amounting to RM300 million which was issued on 1 June 2005. The bond provides an additional savings instrument to senior

citizens, retired Malaysian Armed Forces personnel, as well as Malaysian citizens who have retired on medical grounds.

9 June 2005

The National Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Development Council chaired by the Prime Minister, announced further strategies for SME development in the country, which are:-

- New Trade Financing Products for SMEs
- Online Training Portal for SMEs
- Framework for SME Development Planning
- Adoption of Definition for SMEs in Various Sectors for Targeted Development
- Potential for SMEs in the Maintenance of Motorised Vehicles Industry

The Bank is the Secretariat to the SME Development Council.

21 June 2005

Governor delivered a keynote address at the Islamic Banker's Forum organized by the General Council for Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions (CIBAFI) in Putrajaya, in which she said that "investing in the future, in research and development and in the development of talent and expertise will be the differentiating factor that will contribute to the effectiveness, resilience and competitiveness of the Islamic financial services industry."

22 June 2005

Governor delivered a speech at the Seminar on the Ten-Year Master Plan for the Islamic financial services industry, organized by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB), in which she said that clarity of the vision and the objectives that are to be achieved is important to provide the starting point for the formulation of a Master Plan which defines the blueprint for the future development of Islamic finance. The seminar was held to discuss the key issues and considerations in the formulation of a master plan for the development of Islamic banking and finance in the international arena.

22 - 23 June 2005

The Bank organized an Investors Conference entitled "Malaysia: An Investment Destination" in conjunction with the IDB Annual Meeting, to bring together policy makers, investors and industry players to discuss investment opportunities in Malaysia. In a special address, Governor spoke about the Malaysian economic transformation and the resulting opportunities that Malaysia offers to investors in an evolving global environment. At the end of the conference, Governor launched two benchmark market indices for Malaysia, which are the Citigroup Malaysian Government Bond Index and the Dow Jones-RHB Islamic Malaysia Index.

23 June 2005

The Bank issued commemorative coins in conjunction with the 30th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank which was held on 22-24 June 2005 in Putrajaya. Three types of coins were minted, which are gold, silver and Nordic gold.

24 June 2005

A seminar on Derivatives in Islamic Finance was jointly organized by the Bank and the Financial Market Association of Malaysia, which brings together financial experts to deliberate on the role of derivatives in the development of Islamic finance. In her opening address, Governor said that the challenge facing Islamic finance is to further strengthen the linkages in the respective components of the Islamic financial system, particularly the Islamic financial market.