CALENDAR OF EVENTS
October - December 2006

16 October 2006

Governor in her speech at the signing ceremony of the completion of the share subscription agreement between BIMB Holdings Bhd, Bank Islam Malaysia Bhd, Dubai Financial LLC and Lembaga Tabung Haji, said that the new partnership between the parties reflects the confidence the international and domestic investors have in the investment and business climate in Malaysia. She added that capital position of a financial institution was not the only factor that determined its capacity and potential to perform, but of equal importance was the quality of its talent, systems, risk management, ICT systems, governance structure, leadership and corporate culture.

1 November 2006

The Bank held a dialogue between regulators and the players of the financial industry to discuss on various opportunities arising from Malaysian International Islamic Financial Centre (MIFC) initiatives and various tax incentives as announced by the Government in August 2006. In her keynote address, Governor announced that both resident and foreign issuers are now able to raise foreign currency denominated bonds, in particular Islamic bonds (sukuks) in the Malaysian capital market. This initiative will also allow local and foreign investors more flexibility to diversify their investments into non-ringgit denominated investments in Malaysia.

9 & 13 November 2006

The Bank issued two sets of commemorative coins in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and with the launch of the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

13 November 2006

Bank Negara Malaysia and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) established Asia's first cross-border payment-versus-payment (PvP) link between Hong Kong's US Dollar real time gross settlement (RTGS) system and Malaysia's Ringgit RTGS system. The simultaneous delivery of US Dollar in Hong Kong and Ringgit in Malaysia will eliminate settlement risk arising from the delivery of different currencies in different time zones. Furthermore, it will promote collaboration and cooperation of payment systems between Malaysia and Hong Kong.

15 November 2006

The Bank announced that parties intending to enter into negotiations for the purpose of acquisition or disposal of interest in shares of licensed financial institutions, can now submit their intention with more than one party simultaneously. Under the law, the approval of the Minister of Finance through the Bank is required, prior to signing or finalisation of any agreement or arrangement.

23 November 2006

The Bank announced that the Malaysian economy continued to remain on a steady growth path, with real gross domestic product expanding by 5.8% on an annual basis in the third quarter (2Q: 6.2%). Economic activity continued to be driven by the private sector with the services, manufacturing and agriculture sectors being the key contributors to growth. The contribution to growth from the external sector was also stronger in the third quarter.

24 November 2006

At its final meeting for 2006, the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to leave the Overnight Policy Rate unchanged at 3.50%. In its statement, Bank Negara Malaysia noted that the Malaysian economy will continue on a steady growth path amidst moderating inflationary pressure that is expected to continue into 2007. The schedule of MPC meetings for 2007 was also released.

1 December 2006

The Bank announced the introduction of Bank Negara Monetary Notes (BNMN) to replace the existing Bank Negara Bills (BNB) and Bank Negara Negotiable Notes (BNNN) in order to increase efficiency in managing excess liquidity in the financial market. New issuances of BNMN would be on a discounted or coupon-bearing basis, depending on investors' demand. The first BNMN amounting to RM1 billion was issued on 8 December.

7 December 2006

The Bank announced two additional measures to further develop the Malaysian bond market, namely the introduction of the Callable Malaysian Government Securities (MGS) and the MGS Switch Auction. The Callable MGS allows the Government to redeem the bond ahead of its maturity date, while the MGS Switch Auction allows replacement of previously issued MGS with the current benchmark issues. These measures will further enhance the trading in the secondary market and improving overall liquidity in the bond market.

14 December 2006

The International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF), set up by the Bank in early 2006, was accorded university-status by the Ministry of Higher Education. INCEIF also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with nine local universities to collaborate in the areas of education, training as well as research and development in Islamic finance.

In her speech, Governor said that all parties, including Islamic finance practitioners, educators and researchers, should relentlessly promote the development of Islamic finance into one which is progressive, dynamic, responsive and sustainable. She noted that new research findings in Islamic financial engineering could pave the way for increased innovation of new products, which would contribute towards broadening and deepening Islamic financial markets, and thus strengthen the overall development of the financial industry.

29 December 2006

The Bank and the Securities Commission announced that the rationalisation of the discount house industry has been completed. In addition, the transformation of merchant banks, stockbroking companies and universal brokers into investment banks is expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2007.

Separately, the Bank announced the release of two financial planning tools, namely “Buku Wang Saku” and “Buku Perancangan dan Penyata Kewangan Keluarga” for the year 2007. This is part of the Bank’s on-going effort in educating the public, especially students and parents on the importance of financial planning.