Calendar of Events
July - September 2004

13 July 2004
The inaugural meeting of the Takaful and Insurance Regulatory and Supervisory Authorities of the D-8 (Developing Eight) Countries was held in Kuala Lumpur. The Bank organised the meeting to discuss developments in the takaful and insurance industries in the eight nations, as well as to establish a mechanism for cooperation among the countries' takaful and insurance regulatory and supervisory authorities.

3 August 2004
The Governor delivered the opening address at the Euromoney Conference on "Remaking Malaysia: Investing in the New Malaysia" in which she said that the strategy to ensure the sustainability of the country's strong growth performance, is to focus on the economy's distinct capabilities, and to leverage on the areas of strengths to secure competitive advantage. Going forward, the process of rebalancing the economy to enhance its competitiveness could be expected to intensify and widen.

4 August 2004
The Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Philippines Anti-Money Laundering Council. The MOU is to facilitate the exchange of information and sharing of financial intelligence between the two organisations to combat money laundering.

13 August 2004
The First Meeting of the National Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Development Council was held in Putrajaya, and was chaired by the Prime Minister. The Council represents the highest-level policy-making body to chart future direction and strategies for SME development. Its establishment was a result of the Bank's recommendation to streamline and coordinate the efforts of the various ministries and Government agencies involved in the development of SMEs, and to accelerate the process of strengthening the supporting infrastructure.

20 August 2004
The Bank announced the fourth issuance of Bon Simpanan Merdeka amounting to RM500 million which was issued on 1 October 2004. 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.

25 August 2004

The Bank announced that the Malaysian economy grew by 8.0% in the second quarter of 2004, the highest quarterly growth since the third quarter of 2000. The growth continued to be broad based, led by the manufacturing and services sectors. For the first half-year, the combination of stronger private sector expenditure and sustained high growth in external demand resulted in a GDP growth of 7.8%.

The Monetary Policy Statement stated that with the low domestic inflation environment, the current stance of the monetary policy will be maintained to support growth.

The Governor delivered a keynote address at the ASLI (Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute) Conference on Developing Islamic Banking & Capital Market, in which she emphasised that the strengthening of the financial infrastructure is a key pre-requisite for the development of a dynamic and progressive Islamic financial system. She also highlighted the developments that have taken place in Islamic banking and finance in the country.

3 September 2004

The Bank announced the revision of the regulatory treatment accorded to new Cagamas debt securities issued after 4 September 2004, to further enhance the efficient functioning of the domestic bond market. The measure will promote a more market-based pricing as well as heighten investors' interest in the new debt securities, which augurs well for the development of a vibrant bond market.

21 September 2004

The Governor delivered a keynote address at the Asian Islamic Banking & Finance Summit in Kuala Lumpur, in which she highlighted the strategies and challenges of integrating the Islamic financial system with the international financial system.