Calendar of Events
July - September 2003

28 July 2003

The Bank hosted the ASEAN Anti-Money Laundering Workshop, which was organised as part of the commitment to the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Organised Crime. The workshop represented another important step towards regional financial co-operation to strengthen the regional defences against external shocks.

27 August 2003

The Bank announced that the Malaysian economy grew by 4.4% in the second quarter of 2003, culminating in a first half-year performance of 4.5%. The Bank also issued a Monetary Policy Statement for the first time.

29 August 2003

InsuranceInfo, the Consumer Education Programme for the insurance and takaful industries, was launched as part of the on-going efforts to promote market integrity and consumer protection over the whole spectrum of banking, insurance and takaful activities in the market.

29 August 2003

The Bank and the banking industry held their regular dialogue session to discuss economic and financial developments as well as the performance of the banking sector. The meeting also discussed bank lending, especially to small- and medium-scale enterprises and the Europay MasterCard Visa chip migration for credit cards. The meeting was also briefed on the progress of the proposed deposit insurance scheme and the activities of the Islamic Financial Services Board.

15 September 2003

As announced in the 2004 Budget, the Bank will issue the Bon Simpanan Merdeka (Merdeka Savings Bond) on a regular basis, with effect from February 2004. These bonds will provide an additional savings instrument that offers a more favourable rate of return to retirees. Subscription to these bonds will be opened to retirees who are not employed on a full-time basis, as well as uniformed personnel who are on mandatory retirement and not employed on a permanent basis.

18 September 2003

The Bank announced that it will issue up to three new Islamic banking licences to qualified foreign players as part of the overall efforts to strengthen the global integration of the domestic Islamic banking system. This step brings forward the liberalisation of the Islamic banking industry with respect to the issuance of new licences, to 2004, three years earlier than envisaged in the Financial Sector Masterplan.

23 September 2003

The Governor was named Asia's Best Central Bank Governor for 2003, by Euromoney Institutional Investors plc, a UK-based financial publication house, in a special edition of Emerging Markets, a Euromoney news bulletin. The

bulletin was distributed during the Annual Meetings of Boards of Governors of the World Bank and IMF held in Dubai, from September 17-24, 2003.

26 September 2003

The Islamic Banking and Takaful Expo 2003 was launched at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur, in conjunction with the Islamic Banking and Takaful Week (26 September-2 October). It was aimed at enhancing the level of public awareness and knowledge of Islamic banking and financial services, and to boost the volume of Islamic banking and Takaful transactions.

29 September 2003

The Bank issued three commemorative coins in conjunction with the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace 2003 (LIMA '03) exhibition which was held from 30 September - 5 October 2003 in Langkawi.