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**Opening Remarks at the
Malaysian Green Growth Policy Tools Training Workshop
for Low Carbon Development
18-19 May 2010 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

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Kuala Lumpur**

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Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Peter Chin Fah Kui, Minister, Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water

Mr. John Pearson, Head of South East Asia Climate Change Network, British High Commission

Ms. Kelly Hayden, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

A very good morning to all of you.

On behalf of the United Nations Development Programme in Malaysia, it is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to Pullman Putrajaya for the **Green Growth Policy Tools Training workshop**. I am especially grateful for the presence of Dato' Sri Peter Chin Fah Kui, Minister, Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water for agreeing to launch this important event.

Asia's strength and resilience, as well as its weaknesses, including those of Malaysia's as an emerging regional economic player have become clearer to many of us and the world at large in the recent global financial and economic crisis which threatened the very core foundations of the financial system in the developed world. Climate change is another global challenge which the international community continues to struggle with in the post-Copenhagen discussions now ongoing. It is hoped that the coming Bonn Climate Change Talks in June 2010 and the G20 summit in August will provide opportunities for solutions to be tabled in time for the COP16 in Cancun later in 2010.

Embracing a positive Climate Change agenda will require nothing less than a re-orientation of the global economy towards a low carbon one which, in reality, will be an extremely challenging task. Nevertheless, building a green growth and low carbon path to development should also be viewed as an important opportunity for developing countries. A new green growth and development nexus will enable developing countries to move directly to a cleaner future.

The United Nations Secretary-General has clearly made addressing climate change one of the highest priorities for the United Nations as well as a signature issue for his first term in office. UNDP Administrator, Ms. Helen Clark, has likewise, placed the highest priority on addressing climate change and argued that we ignore it at great risk because it will have the greatest impact on those amongst us who are the most vulnerable. The UN Secretary-General has repeatedly challenged the global community to work together to translate the growing scientific consensus on climate change into a broad political consensus for action. The climate change crisis poses not just an environmental challenge but also has serious

economic policy implications. Indeed, the economic and other aspects of development and climate change are – and must be viewed as – inextricably linked.

Malaysia's prioritization of green technology, symbolized by the creation of a new ministry with that name in mid-2009, can play a significant role in charting its future development path if it is implemented. To this effect, UNDP has agreed to support the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water in the development and implementation of the Green Technology Road Map in 2010. The workshop today is a manifestation of our initial commitment before we embark fully on this important endeavour. I have been made to understand that all these efforts are consistent with National Green Technology Policy: Thrust 3 which priorities expanding human capital development. Indeed, ensuring and sustaining highly skilled, qualified, competent and productive human resources will be a crucial prerequisite for green technology development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to note there are about 50 participants here today and we hope that this workshop will provide a medium for sharing information to support both political dialogue and strategic decision-making by generating relevant up-to-date climate change and other green technology related information. UNDP, with UNESCAP and other multi-lateral agencies, will deliver appropriate technical and policy assistance to Malaysia, if necessary. I sincerely hope that the lessons learned in this workshop will assist Malaysia in incorporating green technology in its policy-mix, leading to a better balance between achieving global, regional and national environmental benefits and its legitimate national economic development goals. Before concluding, allow me to thank the British High Commission and UNESCAP for their partnership in this endeavour. Your efforts are sincerely appreciated.

Thank you.