SPEECH BY MR LOW BENG TIN, CHAIRMAN OF SMA ASEAN BUSINESS GROUP AND SMA COUNCIL MEMBER FOR THE SMA ONE-DAY BUSINESS VISIT TO ISKANDAR MALAYSIA ON TUESDAY, 10 JANUARY 2012.

I am very pleased today to lead a Singapore delegation of 150 delegates to visit Iskandar to gain first hand understanding of the investment and business environments in Iskandar. The sheer size of the Singapore delegates shows the strong interest and confidence that Singapore business people have in the Iskandar Region.

This Singapore delegation is organised by the Singapore Manufacturers' Federation in conjunction with Malaysia Investment Development Authority. On behalf of the Singapore Manufacturers' Federation, I would like to take this opportunity to record out deep appreciations to all officials of the Iskandar Region Development Authority and the many organisations and people that have rendered support and assistance to this Singapore delegation.

Allow me to say a few words about the Singapore Manufacturers' Federation. The Singapore Manufacturers' Federation was established in 1932 and is older than Singapore independence, our Federation is a leading trade association representing manufacturing and manufacturing related industries in Singapore. We have 2,800 members, comprising leading MNCs and local companies in a wide spectrum of industries. This year, we are celebrating our 80th Anniversary and we have a series of activities planned for this auspicious occasion.

Just last week, the Prime Ministers of Malaysia and Singapore have agreed that the Joint Malaysia-Singapore Ministerial Committee should

explore more ways to enhance collaboration in Iskandar Malaysia for the mutual benefit of both sides. My delegates and I are excited about the strong support given at the highest level by the Leader of Singapore and Malaysia for projects in Iskandar. We are confident that our visit today will go towards reinforcing closer business relations among the business communities of our two countries.

The Singapore Manufacturers' Federation looks forward to further opportunities to work with Iskandar Region Development Authority, Malaysia Investment Development Authority and other agencies to help our business people in our two countries to forge business alliance and partnerships with one another.

Let me once again express my heartfelt appreciation to Malaysia Investment Development Authority and the Iskandar Region Development Authority for the kind courtesies and hospitality given to us. I also thank our Singapore Consulate in Johor for the assistance and support which they have given us in joining us in this mission.

We look forward to understanding more about this iconic project in Malaysia today.