

# **TUN DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD**

## **FOREWORD MESSAGE**

I am glad that the World Bloggers and Social Media Summit had entered its 3<sup>rd</sup> year now and is again being hosted in Kuala Lumpur. As in the past, I trust that this year's edition will see more interesting issues being addressed and exciting panel sessions, being attended by world class speakers and social media specialists. I welcome all our foreign visitors and friends and I trust you will enjoy your stay in Malaysia.

The global connectivity scenario had transformed drastically today. I consider this revolution is a great discovery and should be made beneficial to humankind. We cannot deny that remaining connected and being part of the social media network is considered a mandatory part and parcel of our lives today. Bloggers from various channels and communities had built very large followers, infused unimaginable new ideas and created a massive line of communication that had changed the way we think and live today.

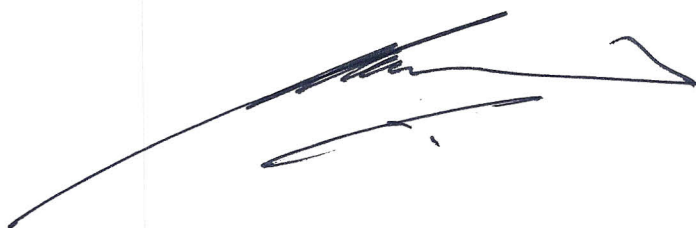
Certainly this wave of change is not going to end here, the social media is going to go further in time and transform the way we think. Governments are realizing this and the reality is people decide what they want and what they visualize of the future through social media. We had witnessed in recent times, how powerful this new media had changed leadership, businesses and communities. Social media has become a useful tool to address critical issues that needs public attention, issues that encourage freedom of speech and thoughts. Social media today is vital to gauge performances of businesses, products and services. It will speak the truth and we must adopt to changes voiced out and move along for betterment.

On that note, being given the privilege to speak and write online must have some limitations. One must be cautious, responsible and be accountable for the thoughts and ideas spread across cyber space. It can be very useful and yet could be damaging and not benefit anyone, should the message be

wrongly put across. I urge all social media users to be mindful when you blog, and ensure sensitivities and rights of others to be respected at all times.

I must congratulate the Social Media Chamber for organizing this timely and well thought summit. It should benefit social media users and practitioners and I believe there is still more room for us to be innovative and transform this unique channel of networking to greater heights.

I wish this summit all success!

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a cursive script. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

**Dr. Mahathir Mohamad**