



**PRESS STATEMENT
BY THE HONOURABLE DATUK SERI DR. S. SUBRAMANIAM,
MINISTER OF HEALTH MALAYSIA**

**OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF THE
ASEAN RISK ASSESSMENT CENTRE FOR FOOD SAFETY (ARAC)**

22 MARCH 2016, PUTRAJAYA

The ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety (ARAC) was officially launched today on 22 March 2016 in Putrajaya. The 12th ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting (AHMM) held on 18 September 2014 in Hanoi, Vietnam agreed on the establishment of ARAC in Malaysia and for Malaysia to be the host country for ARAC as well as the ARAC Secretariat to coordinate food safety risk assessment activities in ASEAN. It is an honour to Malaysia and reflects Malaysia's strong commitment in food safety activities in particular in risk assessment at the ASEAN level.

Risk assessment is internationally recognized as a scientific tool in the development of food safety measures. This is very essential in strengthening food safety control system based on risk to ensure safe food and in facilitating and enhancing regional and international food trade.

The establishment of ARAC, which is supported by the European Union, is seen to assist ASEAN in reaching consensus on food safety issues of common interest and at the same time, leverage and pool scientific resources and experts in the region.

The launching of ARAC today, is to officially introduce ARAC which is located in the Food Safety and Quality Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia, to the public and hence enhancing its visibility at the ASEAN and international level.

Malaysia, in particular, the Ministry of Health, will endeavour to give its utmost commitment in fulfilling its mandate as the host country and the ARAC Secretariat as bestowed by the ASEAN Member States.