

## MEDIA STATEMENT

Kuala Lumpur, 20 August 2008

### **India's Former President, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, to Speak at the *Khazanah Global Lectures* 2008**

A trail-blazer in India's space development, Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam ("Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam"), India's 11th President, is aptly nicknamed the *Missile Man of India*. His significant contribution in developing India's first indigenous satellite launch vehicle SLV-III, and the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme – India's most successful military research task to date – are among the numerous achievements of this eminent scientist.

Recognising Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's tremendous contribution and wealth of knowledge in the field of technology and education, Khazanah Nasional Berhad is bringing the former Indian president to Kuala Lumpur to speak at a dinner-lecture session on Thursday, 28 August 2008 at the Hilton Kuala Lumpur Hotel.

The *Khazanah Global Lectures* ("KGL") is a bi-annual lecture series featuring world's leading thought and business leaders who speak on various aspects of development. The main objective of KGL is knowledge-building and sharing. A key component of the KGL is the live broadcast of the lectures to selected universities across the country – an initiative to ensure wider reach particularly among the younger generation and future leaders of the nation.

For the upcoming KGL, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam is expected to speak on topics that include science, technology management, knowledge society and leadership. As Chairman of Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam led India with the help of 500 experts to arrive at Technology Vision 2020 – a road map for transforming the country from its developing status to a developed nation.

He also served as the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India from November 1999 to November 2001, and was responsible for evolving policies, strategies and missions of many development applications. Dr. Abdul Kalam was awarded India's highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna in 1997 and held the office as the 11th President of India on 25th July 2002 until 25th July 2007.

"In Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, we have one of India's foremost scientists whose achievements and national contributions were further showcased when he became India's 11th President," said Dr. Nungsari Ahmad Radhi, Executive Director of Khazanah Research and Investment Strategy.

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, who is also a prolific author espousing the idea of turning India into a knowledge superpower, took up academic pursuit as Professor of Technology & Societal Transformation at Anna University, Chennai from November 2001 and was involved in teaching and research tasks. Above all he took up a mission to ignite the young minds for national development by meeting high school students

across India. “We look forward to hear his views on how knowledge forms the basis for the development of individuals, communities and nations,” added Dr. Nungsari.

While in Malaysia, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam will also be meeting with the Prime Minister, YAB Dato’ Seri Abdullah Hj. Ahmad Badawi and delivering a lecture at University of Malaya, apart from visiting Penang and receiving an honorary doctorate from Universiti Sains Malaysia.

The KGL was launched last year by YAB Dato’ Seri Abdullah Hj. Ahmad Badawi, as part of the country’s celebration of 50th Year of Merdeka. The inaugural lecture was by Nobel Laureate and former United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan. Since then, the KGL has featured other influential speakers such as 2006 Nobel Prize Winner for Peace and the Founder and Managing Director of Grameen Bank, Professor Muhammad Yunus; 2001 Nobel Prize Winner for Economics and former Chief Economist of The World Bank, Professor Joseph E. Stiglitz; Malaysian Prime Minister Y.A.B. Dato’ Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi; and the President and CEO of Renault and Nissan, Mr. Carlos Ghosn.

The KGL is open to the public but due to limited free seats, invitations are treated on a first-come-first-served basis. To secure one of the coveted public seats, members of the public need to visit the KGL website and register at <http://www.kgl.com.my>

## **End**

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## **About Khazanah Nasional Berhad**

Khazanah is the investment holding arm of the Government of Malaysia entrusted to hold and manage the commercial assets of the Government and to undertake strategic investments. Khazanah was incorporated under the Companies Act 1965 on 3 September 1993 as a public limited company.

Khazanah has an eight member board comprising representatives from the public and private sectors. YAB Dato’ Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, the Right Honorable Prime Minister of Malaysia is the Chairman of the Board.

Khazanah has stakes in more than 50 companies with assets valued in excess of US\$25 billion. Khazanah is also the state agency responsible for strategic cross-border investments. These companies are involved in various sectors such as power, telecommunications, banking, automotive, airport management, infrastructure, property development, broadcasting, semiconductor, steel production, electronics, investment holding, research technology and venture capital.