

**SPEECH OF
YANG HORMAT PROFESSOR DATO' DR. DAING NASIR IBRAHIM
VICE-CHANCELLOR OF UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA PAHANG**

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT SIGNING CEREMONY
BETWEEN UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA PAHANG AND HELAN NO 1 HIGH SCHOOL**

**THURSDAY, 16 MARCH 2017, 4:00 PM,
VIP LOUNGE, UNIVERSITY SPORTS COMPLEX, UMP GAMBANG CAMPUS**

SALUTATION

The distinguished delegates from the People's Republic of China:

Mr. Zhang Xuexin,

Deputy Director of Helan Education Department,

Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region;

Mr. Wu Zhijian,

Principal of Helan No 1 High School;

Ms. Zhang Lirong,

English Lecturer, Helan No. 1 High School;

Ms. Niu Changqing,

Director, Beijing Guangxinruifong Education Consultancy Co. Ltd.;

My colleagues from UMP:

Yang Hormat Professor Dato Dr. Rosli Mohd. Yunus,

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International Affairs);

Yang Hormat Professor Dato' Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin,

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni);

Professor Dr. Mashitah Mohd Yusoff,

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation);

Assistant Vice-Chancellors, Senior Officers, Deans, Directors
and Heads of Departments;

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Ta'ala Wabarakatuh,

Salam Sejahtera, Salam 1Malaysia and a very good day to all.

1. First and foremost, I have great pleasure in extending the warmest welcome and greetings to our distinguished guests from the People's Republic of China to the Pekan Campus of Universiti Malaysia Pahang on this occasion of the Memorandum of Agreement signing between UMP and Helan No 1 High School.
2. This is indeed another significant milestone for UMP in the context of expanding its global academic network with credible and reputable educational institutions worldwide, and we are truly honoured and privileged to have Helan No 1 High School of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region as our latest global partner.

3. Our diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China have been moving at a fast track since its formalization in 1974 and eventually grown into a lasting relationship that has benefited both nations on the whole in a broader spectrum, and education, stating the obvious, makes up the spectral colors of the Malaysian-Chinese symbiotic kaleidoscope.
4. As a tertiary education hub itself, UMP is blessed with countless smart partnerships owing to the seed of mutual trust that these two countries have planted before and the one that is in the making today is not something new or foreign to us.
5. To date, there are 20 Ning Xia university students and a Gui Zhou university student undergoing a student mobility program here in UMP. In addition, since the establishment of the UMP Mandarin Language and Cultural Centre (MLCC) in 2011, the Hanban Kongzi Institute of China has sent out four volunteer teachers annually to UMP to assist us in our Mandarin Language programme.

6. MLCC was also granted with the opportunity to conduct a student mobility program in Hebei University and Hebei University of Science and Technology (HEBUST) sometime in November last year. Just recently in January, we have witnessed the formalization of the Memorandum of Agreement for international collaborative degree programs between UMP and the Polytechnic College of HEBUST. Paving its way into this year's UMP almanac is none other than the event we are all here for – the formalization of the Memorandum of Agreement with Helan No 1 High School.

7. We in UMP take great pride in our carefully designed language courses in special reference to the Preparatory Intensive English (PIE) program for being able to yield competent English users who could communicatively function in this global system of increasingly driven by knowledge, information and ideas.

8. Our PIE program serves as a testimony of our dedication to exalt and foreground the pivotal roles of English language learning and teaching in a technical university context particularly and in an education for all contexts generally.

9. This Memorandum of Agreement commits us to join forces towards attaining our common goal - the pursuit of internationalization of education - on the basis of mutual trust and mutual benefit but definitely not at the expense of students' interests.

10. Therefore, both institutions should savor this opportunity to exert respective advantages of educational resources in carrying out friendly cooperation and enhance our social influences. Through our hard work and commitment, I am confident that we will be able to achieve more and simultaneously continue to develop even stronger relationships and friendships between both countries.

11. In conclusion, I would like to express my sincerest thanks and gratitude to everyone whose devotion and efforts have greatly contributed to the formalization of this Memorandum of Agreement. To our guests from the People's Republic of China, I wish you all a pleasant stay and wonderful experience here in beautiful Malaysia.

Thank you.