

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

**THE OPENING CEREMONY OF UNIVERSITY TO INDUSTRY CAREER FAIR 2016
FRIDAY, 13 MAY 2016; 03:00 P.M.
ASTAKA, UMP GAMBANG CAMPUS**

SALUTATION

Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Sri Diraja Haji Adnan Haji Yaakob,
Menteri Besar of Pahang;

My colleagues from UMP:

Yang Hormat Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International);

Yang Hormat Professor Dato' Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni);

Professor Dr. Mashitah Mohd Yusoff,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation);

Yang Hormat Professor Dato' Dr. Ishak Ismail,
Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Corporate & Quality Affairs);

Professor Dato' Dr. Zulkefli Yaacob,
Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Industry & Community Linkage);

Yang Hormat Dato' Jeffrey Khor,
Director, Career Placement & Development Centre;

Encik Hamid Abd Majid,
Registrar;

Encik Zainuddin Othman,
Bursar;

Haji Roslan Che Pee,
Chief Librarian;

Deans, Directors and Heads of Departments;

Representatives of the participating industries, companies and agencies;

President, Student Representative Council;

Members of the press corps;

Distinguished guests;

Ladies and gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,

Salam Sejahtera and Salam 1Malaysia.

1. First and foremost, it gives great pleasure in welcoming all of you this afternoon to this auspicious occasion that marks the commencement of University to Industry Career Fair 2016.
2. On behalf of the UMP management, I am particularly delighted to extend our warmest welcome to the Menteri Besar of Pahang, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Sri Diraja Haji Adnan Haji Yaakob for his presence as our guest-of-honour this afternoon.

3. The continuous support that UMP enjoys from both the Federal and Pahang State Governments has enabled this University to solidify her presence and to enhance her visibility as a Public University with special focus on the fields of engineering, science and technology both locally and internationally.

4. That cordial and warm relationship with both governments also provides this University with a strategic ground from which UMP could grow and expand further by capitalizing on her current scientific and technological resources, intellectual talents as well her strategic linkages at the national and international levels.

5. In that regard, we always acknowledge the importance and significance of industrial linkage and partnership as one of the critical factors for the University's visibility and sustainability. Thus, the University's Department of Industrial & Community Linkage is tasked to coordinate and oversee the strategic aspects and prospects of our desired collaboration with potential industries particularly in term of its competitive advantage to UMP.

6. In line with that too, special emphasis is given towards Graduate Employability (GE) agenda to ensure that UMP's curriculum and education system aptly meet the expectation of the industry as one of our major stakeholders.

7. Thus, under the framework of UMP Strategic Plan 2016-2020, the management of this University is committed to address GE-related issues and problems through a holistic and well-coordinated approach by synergizing all the faculties, relevant centres and departments as well as the Student Representative Council and other student organizations.

8. Besides sharpening the soft skills aspect of our students, UMP also welcomes the strategic move taken by the Ministry of Higher Education with the introduction of the new student performance assessment mechanism namely the Integrated Cumulative Grade Point Average or the iCGPA system.

9. UMP is fortunate to become one of the public universities that were selected by the Ministry of Higher Education for the pilot programme of the iCGPA system along with Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu and Universiti Malaysia Kelantan beginning the 2015/2016 Academic Session.

10. It is my firm belief that all the eight aspects in iCGPA namely Knowledge and Understanding; Practical Skills; Social Skills and Responsibilities; Professional Skills, Ethics and Values; Communication; Problem-solving; Information Management; Entrepreneurship; and Unity and Patriotism are among the key traits that the industries are expecting from our graduates.

11. Thus, systematic evaluation of our soon-to-be graduates is crucial, and the iCGPA mechanism enables the holistic evaluation to take place at the earlier stage, that is when the students are still at their first-year level, thus enabling us to strategize the measures and initiatives to enhance their competencies and competitiveness in a more focussed way and structured form.

12. Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Sri Diraja, ladies and gentlemen;

Hence, University to Industry Career Fair 2016 is one of the key initiatives by the Career Placement & Development Centre and the Department of Industrial & Community Linkage to bring the industries closer to this University particularly in the aspects of job recruitment for our graduates and internship placement of our undergraduates as well as competency and talent development for our students in preparation for their future professional life.

13. This University to Industry Career Fair 2016 is also one of the key events during UMP Career Month from April 13 to May 14, 2016. With the commitment shown by our industrial and strategic partners to participate in various activities and programmes throughout this event, it is my ardent hope that UMP students and graduates could benefit from their constructive direct engagement with the representatives of the participating industries, companies and agencies.

14. As UMP is targeting 81% graduate employability this year, the programmes and activities in conjunction with the Career Fair and the Career Month have been specially designed and tailor-made in accordance to the University's strategic aspiration and the event's specific objectives.
15. I am glad that with the support from the participating industries, companies and agencies, we are able to carry out interesting and exciting programmes such as career talks, *Finish Up and Move On* (FUMO), *One Page Resume* and *TalentCorp Boot Camp* for one main purpose, that is enriching the campus experience of our students to prepare them as highly sought-after graduates with outstanding competency and competitiveness.
16. In conjunction with this occasion too, my colleagues and I are also particularly delighted with the strategic initiative taken by the TalentCorp by establishing the *Ind-E-Zone* here in UMP. It is my hope that this initiative would enhance career services at this university by providing students greater awareness of career opportunities arising from the Economic Transformation Programme and of the expectations of employers.

17. UMP looks forward to benefitting from the opening of this Ind-E-Zone as one-stop career information centre which will connect students to industry-relevant content and educate them on internship and career opportunities within Malaysia's key industries.

18. **Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Sri Diraja, ladies and gentlemen;**

In conclusion, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to all participating industries, companies, agencies and institutions for their support and commitment towards making University to Industry Career Fair 2016 a success. It is my hope that the warmth and cordiality of this collaboration could be maintained for the purpose of exploring new constructive opportunities in the future.

19. Honouring the efforts made by the members of organizing committee, I would also like to record my heartiest congratulations to the teams from our Career Placement & Development Centre, Department of Industrial & Community Linkage, Student Affairs & Alumni Department, the Faculties and Centres of Excellence and the Student Representative Council for their unwavering commitment and dedication.

20. May Allah Ta'ala continue to shower us with His love, mercy and blessings and keep us the on the path of success and righteousness, *Ameen*.

Thank you,

Wabillahi taufiq walhidayah,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.