

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

**OPENING CEREMONY OF
INNOVATE MALAYSIA DESIGN CONFERENCE 2016**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2016; 8.30 AM;
EQUATORIAL HOTEL, PENANG**

[READ BY DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (STUDENT AFFAIRS & ALUMNI)]

SALUTATION

Yang Berhormat Dato' Abu Bakar Mohd Diah,

Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation;

Vice-Chancellors, Deputy Vice-Chancellors and fellow academicians;

Chairman of Innovate Malaysia Design Conference 2016;

Guest speakers and conference delegates;

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,

Salam Sejahtera and Salam 1Malaysia.

1. *Alhamdulillah*, it is a great pleasure that I have the honour of welcoming all of you to this auspicious occasion that marks the official commencement of Innovate Malaysia Design Conference 2016.

2. Let me begin by conveying the warmest regards from the Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Pahang, Yang Hormat Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim who is unable to be with us this morning due to another official commitment which has been earlier scheduled.

3. Vice-Chancellor Daing Nasir has asked me to represent him in presenting this welcoming address and he wishes to thank you all, especially our Guest-of-Honour, Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Yang Berhormat Dato' Abu Bakar Mohd Diah for your presence and kind support towards the conference.

4. UMP is indeed very proud to host this edition of Innovate Malaysia Design Conference together with TechSource System in collaboration with the Industry Relations Division of the Ministry of Higher Education and other partners from the industrial and corporate sectors.

5. Since the conference is concurrently organized with Innovate Malaysia Design Competition 2016, I am glad that both events have received strong support from our committed and credible partners namely TalentCorp, Altera, Intel, Keysight Technologies, Mathworks, Microsoft, Motorola Solutions, National Instruments, Silterra, Vitrox, Daikin, Sime Darby, Telekom Malaysia and Wildlife Conservation Society Malaysia.

6. It is also worth mentioning that the member-universities of the Malaysian Technical Universities Network (MTUN) that consists of UMP, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia, Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka and Universiti Malaysia Perlis, together with other higher education institutions have also played a pivotal role in organizing this conference.

7. Such constructive partnership bond I hope, will persist for future editions of this conference, not only for the sake of inter-institutional networking, but more importantly, its impact on the acculturation of innovation, science and technology among Malaysians as aspired by the government.

8. **Ladies and gentlemen,**

In that regard, UMP in particular has identified specific strategies and relevant initiatives within the framework of our 2016-2020 Strategic Plan to position this University on the accurate coordinate of technological excellence, both nationally and internationally in related academic disciplines and research areas.

9. Therefore, events of this sort are avenues where UMP could solidify its presence as one of Malaysia's Public Universities and MTUN members. We are ever committed to explore possible strategic opportunities for constructive collaboration with other higher education institutions, state agencies, corporate bodies and the industry.

10. This commitment is reflective of the national agenda within the AICG Framework, which is a quadruple helix model of Academia, Industry, Community and Government as stated in Malaysia Higher Education Blueprint 2015-2025.

11. Thus, creating such frameworks will help open the path for the private sector to contribute, support and guide and to unleash the tremendous potential within our students and our higher learning institutions. Therefore, the success of these efforts relies very much on the continuous effort by all parties.

12. It is our common desire to see that Malaysia is able to produce talent pool which is knowledgeable, competent, proficient and globally competitive. This undoubtedly challenges the academic community in our universities to embrace innovative approaches with the participation from industrial partners in order to provide our students with more interactive and hands-on learning experience particularly in the fields of engineering, science and technology.

13. **Ladies and gentlemen,**

Honouring the efforts to organize this conference, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the secretariat and the organizing committee for their commitment and dedication. To our partners from the public and private sectors, thank for your support and we look forward to working closely with you for other constructive ventures in future.

14. To conference participants, I wish you all a fruitful discussion and deliberation throughout Innovate Malaysia Design Conference 2016 and a pleasant stay in Penang with the warmth of local hospitality.

Thank you.