

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

**OPENING CEREMONY OF
THE SEMINAR ON ENGINEERING SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT EXCHANGES
(SMEE)**

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2018; 8.30 AM; ASTAKA, UMP GAMBANG CAMPUS

SALUTATION

Yang Berbahagia First Admiral Abu Bakar Mohd Ajis,
Exercise Director of Pacific Partnership 2016;

Captain Tom William,
Mission Commander of Pacific Partnership 2016;

Dr. Idris Mohammad,
Dean, Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources, UMP;

Deputy Deans and Faculty members;

Guest speakers and seminar participants;

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,

Salam Sejahtera and Salam 1Malaysia.

1. Alhamdulillah, it is indeed a great pleasure that I have the honour of welcoming you all to the Gambang Campus of University Malaysia Pahang in this auspicious occasion, that marks the commencement of the inaugural Seminar on Engineering Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE).
2. As your host, UMP is truly honoured to receive you all here this morning, and I would like to take opportunity to extend my warmest greetings to our special guests from the Malaysian Armed Forces and the Pacific Fleet of the United States Navy.
3. SMEE, which is initiated by UMP's Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources (FKASA) in collaboration with the Malaysian Armed Forces and United States Navy is a manifestation of our commitment to expand UMP's global reach and intellectual networking with credible and reputable partners both locally and internationally.

4. In that regard, special emphasis is given to position UMP on the right global coordinate in order to actualize its mission to become a distinguished technological university within the framework of UMP Strategic Plan 2016-2020.
5. Hence, our Deans and Heads of Departments are tasked with specific initiatives under that Strategic Plan to ensure that our internationalization agenda is embraced at all levels within the university ecosystem, both staff and students alike.
6. Thus, avenues for scholarly engagements such as seminars and conferences, including this SMEE are highly welcomed and encouraged by the management of UMP because of their international nature, which is vital in bringing in new collaborative prospects to this university.
7. Now through SMEE, UMP is able to work along our partners from the Malaysian Armed Forces and the United States Navy, and it is my most ardent hope that this collaboration could be further expanded in future, and UMP is more than happy to host future editions of SMEE.

8. **Ladies and gentlemen,**

Looking at the discourse scope of this inaugural edition of SMEE, I am pleased that one of the issues that will be addressed is disaster relief. To me personally, the discussion on that subject matter is truly essential, particularly in the context of this side of Peninsular Malaysia where end-of-year Monsoon season could cause catastrophic results, like the great flood that hit the East Coast states of Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang in December 2013.

9. While the impacts from that flood disaster were both heavy and costly, we cannot deny one fact, that the occurrence of that great flood is also a blessing in disguise, for it had opened up the eyes of many, especially in the context of managing disaster relief and humanitarian aid in a more systematic and appropriate way.

10. In that regard, the Kemaman district in the state of Terengganu is renowned nationwide for its reputation to have the best Flood Management System which had worked so effectively and efficiently during the 2013 flood. The Kemaman Template, as the system is popularly known is currently the national benchmark to other states in Malaysia.

11. Such aspects and experiences, I believe, are essential in setting up a workable disaster management system with all the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), logistical support and technical expertise in place. I am sure that our local experience in this regard can be further enhanced during SMEE today through enlightening presentations from our American speakers.

12. I believe that the discourses that will take shortly will greatly benefit us in terms of improving our system and enhancing our technical, logistical and manpower capacities to handle natural disasters. These are really essential as UMP itself has been directly involved in coordinating the volunteer task force from other higher education institutions for flood relief and humanitarian aid to flood victims since 2011.

13. In the face of these challenges, the University Malaysia Pahang through FKASA and related state agencies and institutions are committed in recommending appropriate adjustments to current practices and policies in the disaster management system in order to minimize the risk and threats of future flood disasters.

14. As a way forward, a proper flood hazards road map that covers all the regions in Malaysia including flood must be drafted to examine flood histories of the region to predict the probability of a flood. Following that, a detailed study must be conducted to predict an accurate rainfall intensity produced by probable monsoon rain.

15. The security of a nation as well as the safety and socioeconomic well-being of the public must always be at the top of our priorities and agenda. As such, appropriate standards that includes structured disasters preparedness managements and post disaster' damage assessment must be established in accordance to the demands and expectations of a given region in accordance to established hazards map. The paramount concerns are protecting the civilians and safeguarding the infrastructures.

16. **Ladies and gentlemen,**

Honouring the efforts to organize this seminar, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the team from FKASA for their commitment and dedication. To our partners from the Malaysian Armed Forces and the Pacific Fleet of the United States Navy, thank for your support and UMP looks forward to working closely with you other constructive ventures in future.

17. To seminar participants, I wish you all a fruitful discussion and deliberation throughout SMEE and being our guests, I hope you will have an enjoyable time at our campus with the warmth of UMP hospitality.

18. With that, I hereby declare the Seminar on Engineering Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE) 2016 officially open.

Thank you.