

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

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNING CEREMONY
BETWEEN UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA PAHANG AND ASAHITECHNO CO., LTD
18 OCTOBER 2016; 9.00 AM; THE ZENITH HOTEL, KUANTAN**

SALUTATION

Mr. Shigeyoshi Takahashi,
President, Asahitechno Co., Ltd
and the members of his delegation;

Professor Dr. Masayuki Hyodo,
Professor Emeritus of Yamaguchi University
and the members of his delegation;

Dr. Liew Kian Heng,
President and Owner, Liew Strategics;

Mr. Taku Ohashi,
President, Ohashi Sokai Co., Ltd;

Mr. Tai Tsukamoto,
Senior Executive Director, Hokoku Engineering Co., Ltd;

Mr. Sachiaki Kagaya,
Vice Director, Central Japan International Airport Co., Ltd;

Mr. Ikhwan Al-Rashid Abd Rahman,
Manager, Investor Management Division,
East Coast Economic Region Development Council (ECERDC);

My colleagues from UMP:

Dr. Mohamad Idris Ali,
Dean, Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources;

Dr. Muzamir Hasan,
Director, Centre for Earth Resources Research & Management;

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen;

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,

Salam Sejahtera and a very good morning.

1. First and foremost, I am much honoured and delighted by the presence of all distinguished guests on this historic occasion, to witness the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between UMP and the Asahitechno Co., Ltd.

2. On behalf of UMP, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the President of Asahitechno Co., Ltd, Mr. Shigeyoshi Takahashi for his support in fostering this collaboration.

3. As a technical university that is committed to educational excellence, UMP adopts the academia-industry strategy to provide opportunities for our staff and students to gain training, practical knowledge and experience from the industry.

4. A good balance is necessary to ensure that our staff and students are well-equipped with sufficient industrial knowledge and relevant technical competencies to be able to contribute constructively to the growth and development of the nation.
5. In that regard, it is vital for UMP to engage credible strategic partners from the industry, both from Malaysia and abroad to enrich our technical expertise, as well augmenting our research capabilities. Thus, the formalization of UMP's collaboration with Asahitechno through this Memorandum of Understanding is most timely and relevant.
6. With progressive growth in construction industry in both countries, strong emphasis on emerging technologies and innovations is crucial to ensure the sustainability of this industry with its dynamic compatibility with current economic ecosystem.

6. **Ladies and gentlemen,**

As one of the Centres of Excellence established in UMP, the Center for Earth Resources Research & Management (CERRM) are combining their expertise and skills in the field of engineering to conduct research activities that are related to the branches of civil engineering and the environment, and this includes the field of geotechnical engineering and ground improvement.

7. Thus, I strongly believe that through our collaboration with Asahitechno through this Memorandum of Understanding will enhance CERRM's capacities to conduct high quality research, as well as augmenting its role as a leading Centre of Excellence by exploring potential aspects of future collaboration with Asahitechno.

8. It is my belief that, with high commitment from both sides, this strategic alliance could be sustained and will not merely end after the expiration of this Memorandum of Understanding. Therefore, I call both CERRM and Asahitechno to put the best of their effort through collective synergy to place a concrete foundation for the sustainability of this collaboration.

9. With its strong reputation as one of Japan's top companies, I am confident that Asahitechno is capable of providing the necessary added values that are essential to complement the development of teaching and research activities in the field of civil and geotechnical engineering carried out by UMP.

10. **Ladies and gentlemen,**

I am sure that the representatives from both CERRM and Asahitechno had discussed the scope of this collaboration in great length prior to the formalization of this Memorandum of Understanding today.

11. Therefore, I look forward to seeing fruitful outcomes from the all the three strategic scopes that have been identified through this Memorandum of Understanding namely:

First, joint research on ground improvement method in construction;

Second, Joint meetings, symposium, trainings, programs and lectures on ground improvement method in construction; and

Third, collaboration on any innovation, industrial research work and study project including the exchange of academic findings and publications related to ground improvement method.

12. What is important now is the pro-active implementation of the initiatives agreed upon by the UMP and Asahitechno and this challenging aspect certainly requires concerted effort and constructive participation by both parties.

13. **Ladies and gentlemen,**

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone whose dedication and initiative have contributed to the formalization of this Memorandum and Understanding, particularly to our colleagues from Yamaguchi University and my colleagues from CERRM.

14. For me, this Memorandum of Understanding is just the beginning of a greater cooperation and constructive partnership between UMP and Asahitechno. With strong commitment from both parties, that aspiration I believe is not beyond our reach. To Asahitechno, UMP warmly welcomes you as our latest strategic partner.

Thank you.