

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

**WELCOMING CEREMONY TO THE DELEGATES OF  
EMERGING LEADERS' DIALOGUES ASIA (ELDA 2016)**

**WEDNESDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2016; 3:15 PM;  
BANQUET HALL, TUN ABDUL RAZAK CHANCELLERY, UMP PEKAN**

**[READ BY DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC & INTERNATIONAL)]**

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**SALUTATION**

Distinguished delegates of ELDA 2016;

My colleagues from UMP:

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, Registrar, Bursar and Chief Librarian;

Deans and Head of Departments;

Ladies and gentlemen.

*Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,*

*Salam sejahtera* and a very good afternoon.

1. First and foremost, it gives me great pleasure to welcome all the 10 delegates of ELDA 2016 to the Pekan Campus of Universiti Malaysia Pahang this afternoon in conjunction with your study tour sponsored by the Commonwealth Study Conference Association of Malaysia (COSCAM) and Association of Emerging Leaders' Dialogue (AELD).
2. I would like to take opportunity to convey the warmest regards from the Vice-Chancellor of UMP, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim who is unable to join us this afternoon due to other pressing official engagements. He has asked me to represent him to deliver this welcoming address to commemorate this auspicious occasion.

3. The management of UMP is indeed very delighted with the kindness of this study tour organiser for choosing this University as one of the key target points throughout ELDA 2016 visit to the state of Pahang. As one of Malaysia's emerging Public Universities, UMP shares the same aspiration with both COSCAM and AELD that leadership competencies could be best identified, encouraged and built through constructive participation of high-potential leaders from both emerging and developed economies in meaningful discussions on challenges, systems and solutions.
  
4. In that regard, throughout her 14-year existence as a public higher learning institution, UMP is committed to provide high quality education, research and services in engineering and technology in a culture of creativity and innovation towards becoming a world-class technological university. This certainly requires precise strategies and appropriate initiatives to position UMP on the right coordinate according to its strategic development timeline.

**5. Ladies and gentlemen,**

Even though this University's age is relatively young as compared to Malaysia's other premier universities like the University of Malaya or Universiti Sains Malaysia, I can say that UMP is somehow unique in its stature because of its focussed nature. 14 years ago, when this University began as the University College of Engineering & Technology Malaysia (KUKTEM), it was the intention of the Malaysian Government that this University should develop its distinct engineering and technical characters to distinguish it from other comprehensive universities.

6. The change of higher education policy in the year 2007 saw the rebranding of six public university colleges, including this University to full-fledge universities without altering its unique stature and focussed nature as an institution specializing in engineering and technical education. Therefore today, UMP, along with Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM), Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM) and Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UNiMAP) stand proudly in a strategic alliance called Malaysian Technical Universities Network (MTUN) to spearhead competency-based engineering and technical education in this country.

7. Therefore, the management is committed to augment UMP's potential in engineering and technical education by continuously exploring collaborative opportunities with credible potential partners, both locally and internationally. I am pleased to note here that at present, UMP is seriously embarking on strategic academic alliance with two German universities, namely Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences and Reutlingen University to offer dual-degree programme in Mechatronic Engineering, Automotive Engineering and Business Engineering at the undergraduate levels.
  
8. This partnership, which saw the introduction of the Germany's renowned *Fachhochschule* model into UMP's engineering education system is highly regarded by the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia. I am also glad to note here that with the autonomous status that it enjoys since October 2015, UMP now has more liberties in determining its strategic and operational directions, particularly in the areas of institutional governance, academic governance, human resource governance and financial governance within the parameters of that guided autonomy. This also means that UMP could reach out more potential partners and engage in constructive strategic ventures to internationalise its presence.

9. Therefore, the opportunity to meet ELDA 2016 delegates here in the Pekan Campus of UMP this afternoon is indeed very timely and precious, for I believe that new opportunities for strategic, professional, research and academic collaborative ventures could materialize in the course of our discussion today. I am quite optimistic in stating that because the multinational membership of the visiting ELDA 2016 today with diverse professional and corporate backgrounds.
  
10. This I believe is in line with the theme of ELDA 2016 that is “Creating Globally Connected Leaders”. In the same spirit, UMP is also committed to create matured and high-performing leaders from amongst its academicians, bureaucrats and students and connecting them to global forums of this sort is the way forward to internationalize this University through mental and operational transformations.

**11. Ladies and gentlemen,**

Transformation too is the underlying wisdom behind the unique locations of both campuses of UMP here in Pekan and another in Gambang. Both campuses are located not in urban areas, but rather rural areas. Thus, the presence of UMP campus in both locations should be regarded as key socioeconomic transformation nucleus and that is what we are currently doing through UMP Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

12. In that regard, I share the same concern with the Patron ELDA 2016, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Princess Anne that leadership is not necessarily about making the whole world a better place, but it is about making an impact that will improve life; that will make life better in your immediate business and social communities.

13. In fact, what UMP is currently pursuing through the strategic agendas such as University Community, MyGift, Empower ECER and Corporate Social Innovation is to drive socioeconomic transformation in the society through impactful engagements with UMP's technical experts and researchers under the tagline "Communitising Technology".
14. Therefore, I look forward to having a fruitful dialogue with ELDA 2016 delegates shortly and I am sure we could benefit from this brief constructive engagement and through the exchange of ideas, experience and best practices.
15. This is my brief welcome on behalf of the management of this University to all ELDA 2016 delegates and again, thank you for visiting this campus and I hope that you will have a pleasant and enjoyable time here with the warmth of UMP's hospitality.

Thank you.