

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

**OPENING CEREMONY
OF THE NATIONAL GEOSCIENCE CONFERENCE (NGC2016)**

MONDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2016; 9.00 AM; MS GARDEN HOTEL, KUANTAN

SALUTATION

Yang Hormat Professor Dato' Dr. Zularisam Ab Wahid,
Dean, Faculty of Engineering Technology;

Dr. Mohd Fakhurrazi b Ishak
Chairman of the National Geoscience Conference (NGC16)

Distinguished conference speakers:

Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr Ibrahim Komo;

Professor Dr. Felix Tongkul; and

Associate Professor Dr. Tajul Anuar Jamaluddin;

Faculty members and conference delegates;

Ladies and gentlemen.

Assalammualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera, Salam 1Malaysia and a very good morning.

1. First and foremost, I am truly delighted that I have the honour of welcoming our distinguished guests to this edition of the National Geoscience Conference 2016 here in Kuantan town, the state capital of Pahang Darul Makmur.
2. We in Universiti Malaysia Pahang in particular are very pleased to receive all delegates with the warmth of UMP hospitality and to host this conference to the best of our ability. In this regard, the organizing team from the Faculty of Engineering Technology has put the best of their efforts to ensure the success of NGC16.

3. Ladies and gentlemen;

Being an annual event that is jointly organized with the Department Minerals and Geoscience, this conference in my opinion, is an ideal platform for constructive intellectual engagement between the delegates to address current environmental issues, particularly those relating to geoscientific studies, research and practice.

4. The theme of this edition the conference namely “Geoscience and Environmental Technology for a Better Future” aptly addresses the global concern over the issues relating to earth’s sustainability and the impact of physical development to our natural ecosystem.

5. Thus, serious efforts are needed both at the national and international levels to deter human greed from destroying our mother earth and this certainly requires the political will from the government, the awareness among our lawmakers, the business ethics of the commercial circles and the strong determination among the educated community of academia, researchers and scientists to promote the earth's sustainability agenda.

6. In that regard, I believe that conferences of this sort provide the knowledge needed to understand the links between global environmental change and human well-being and development.

7. It has been suggested that the 'Future Earth' recognizes a new 'social contract' between science and society that focuses global environmental change knowledge on the most pressing problems of human development namely, providing safe and adequate food, water, energy, health, settlements and other ecosystem services for all without degrading the environment, losing biodiversity or destabilizing the earth system.

8. Therefore, the following thought-provoking questions might be relevant for your consideration throughout the deliberation and discourses that will soon take place in this conference:

FIRST, what insights and innovations in basic earth, biological and social sciences are most important to the environmental bases of sustainable development?

SECOND, what are the implications of global environmental change, including climate change, for food, water, health, human settlements, biodiversity and ecosystems?

THIRD, how can climate services, ecosystem management and disaster risk assessment reduce these impacts and build resilience?

FOURTH, how socially and environmentally effective, efficient and equitable are alternative approaches for conceiving, measuring and implementing development projects and initiatives?

and FIFTH, how can the business and industrial sector contribute to development, prosperity and environmental stewardship through the management of their production and supply chains?

9. I am sure that the aforementioned questions could be deliberated, either conjunctively or disjunctively within the spheres of the main fields in the discipline of geoscience namely geohazard, geochemistry, geoheritage, hydrogeology and engineering geology.

10. With 120 participants of different professional backgrounds and industries, I believe that the ensuing discourses throughout this conference would enable the delegates the issues at hand and to identify possible scientific and technical solutions through your constructive debates and exchange of ideas and opinions.

11. This is also a great avenue for professional networking, and I hope that you will take this opportunity to explore new prospects inter-institutional partnership and collaboration, either strategic or research in nature.

12. Ladies and gentlemen,

Honoring the efforts made to organize this conference, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to Professor Dato' Dr. Zularisam Ab Wahid and his NGC16 crews for their unwavering commitment and dedication.

13. To all conference delegates, I wish you all a very engaging conference and a fruitful deliberation throughout NGC16. With that ladies and gentlemen, I hereby declare the National Geoscience Conference 2016 officially open.

Thank you,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.