

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

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT SIGNING CEREMONY
BETWEEN UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA PAHANG
AND POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE OF HEBEI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY (PCHEBUST)**

**30 DECEMBER 2016; 3.00 PM;
BANQUET HALL, TUN ABDUL RAZAK CHANCELLERY, UMP PEKAN**

SALUTATION

Mr. Ma Yinfeng,

Secretary of the Communist Party of China

Branch of the Polytechnic College of Hebei University of Science

and Technology and the members of his delegation;

Ms. Li Shijun,

Vice Director of Foreign Affairs Office

and Head Teacher of International Education School

of Hebei Science and Technology University;

My colleagues from UMP:

Yang Hormat Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International);

Yang Hormat Professor Dato' Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni);

Professor Dr. Mashitah Mohd Yusoff,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation);

Deans, Directors and Heads of Departments;

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen;

Assalamualaikum rahmatullahi wabarakatuh,

Salam Sejahtera and a very good afternoon.

1. It is indeed a great pleasure that I have the honour of welcoming all of you this afternoon, and I would like to extend my warmest greetings to our special guests from the Polytechnic College of Hebei University of Science and Technology (PCHEBUST) and Hebei Science and Technology University who have travelled all the way from the People's Republic of China for this momentous occasion.

2. Not only that the formalization of the Memorandum of Agreement between UMP and PCHEBUST this afternoon is strategically significant to the strengthening of academic cooperation between these two institutions, it is also diplomatically significant to the bilateral relations between Malaysia and the People's Republic of China.

3. The diplomatic relations between Malaysia and the People's Republic of China enters its 42nd year in 2016, and throughout that period, both countries have significantly benefitted from the cordiality of that relations in many areas, most notable being trade, investment, tourism, culture and education.

4. The series of state and official visits by Malaysian leaders to the People's Republic of China since 1974 to date are self-explanatory to the cordiality of that bilateral ties and the recent official visit by the Malaysian Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak to Beijing last October has reinforced Malaysia's timeless commitment in that context.
5. Thus, on the micro side of that bilateral relations, the visit by Mr. Ma Yinfeng and Ms. Li Shijun and their delegation to UMP this afternoon further strengthens our cooperation in the area of education.
6. **Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is important for me to note that UMP has been working very closely with a number of Chinese universities and institutions in various fields for the past seven years with great success, most notable being the establishment of UMP's own Mandarin Language & Culture Centre (MLCC) in collaboration with Hebei University in 2011.

7. Therefore, I am pleased that PCHEBUST has shown great interest to collaborate with UMP within a concrete framework and the formalization of the Memorandum of Agreement this afternoon is a strategic move towards offering the dual programme at the undergraduate level as agreed upon by both institutions. This is indeed another historic milestone in the context of UMP's internationalization agenda with the People's Republic of China.
8. The formalization of UMP-PCHEBUST cooperation through this Memorandum of Agreement enables both institutions to pursue a common agenda and to implement the initiatives that have been agreed upon in a structured setting and practical framework to produce the desired outcome.
9. This Memorandum of Agreement specifically addresses our dual degree initiative for undergraduate level that involves three programmes namely Bachelor of Civil Engineering with Honours, Bachelor of Electrical Engineering (Electronic) with Honours and Bachelor of Computer Science (Computer Systems & Networking) with Honours.

10. I am glad that the details of this collaboration have been thoroughly discussed prior to its formalization this afternoon. Judging from the strong interest and enthusiasm shown by our Chinese partners, I believe that this Memorandum of a Agreement will also become the catalyst for future collaborations between UMP and PCHEBUST.

11. As proficiency of English, being the globally recognized international language is a great advantage in today's world, UMP looks forward to sharing its expertise in that field with PCHEBUST by introducing our Preparatory Intensive English (PiE) program, the first of its kind in the People's Republic of China.

12. I understand that discussions in relation to this initiative are still on-going between UMP and PCHEBUST officials, and with the appropriate framework and right arrangements, it is my ardent hope that the programme could materialize in the near future.

13. As far as the formalized Memorandum of Agreement is concerned, not only that we are highly anticipating the actualization of the dual degree initiative, I also believe that this collaboration would also benefit both UMP and PCHEBUST in terms of student development where students from both institutions could experience the extended mobility program that enables them to learn different cultures. Here lies the fertile breeding ground for the continuation of the warm and friendly ties between Malaysia the People's Republic of China.

14. Ladies and gentlemen,

What matters now is the commitment from both parties to put the strategic initiatives that are specified in this Memorandum of Agreement into constructive and practical actions afterwards.

15. This challenge is to be borne collectively by us, and I believe, with that consistent synergy, both UMP and PCHEBUST could explore other potential areas of cooperation, thus enabling the expansion of our present perimeter of collaboration.

16. To our colleagues from Polytechnic College of Hebei University of Science and Technology, we warmly welcome you as our newest strategic partner and I wish our Chinese guests a pleasant stay in Malaysia with the best experience of Malaysian hospitality. Finally, I would like to wish you all Happy New Year 2017 with most sincere wish of every good fortune during the coming 12 months.

Thank you.

Wabillahi taufiq wal hidayah,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.