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

OPENING CEREMONY OF GERMAN DAY 2015
WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 2015; 10:00 AM; ASTAKA, UMP GAMBANG CAMPUS

SALUTATION

Yang Amat Berhormat Dato’ Sri Diraja Haji Adnan Haji Yaakob,
Menteri Besar of Pahang;

His Excellency Mr. Holger Michael ,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Federal Republic of Germany to Malaysia;

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);
1. First and foremost, it is with great pleasure that I have the honour of welcoming and greeting all of you this morning in conjunction with the official opening of UMP German Day 2015.
2. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest welcome to special guests, namely the Menteri Besar of Pahang, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato’ Sri Diraja Haji Adnan Haji Yaakob and the Ambassador of Germany, Mr. Holger Michael to the Gambang Campus of UMP to grace this event.

3. This occasion is indeed a momentous one. For UMP, 2015 marks the fifth year of our fruitful academic and strategic collaborations with our German partners; and for Malaysia, this signals a more promising future for her long existing economic and diplomatic ties with the Federal Republic of Germany.

4. The economic and diplomatic ties between these two countries, which was built 58 years ago when Malaysia became an independent sovereign nation, have enabled our people to benefit significantly in the true spirit of international co-operation and mutual understanding.
5. In addition to its robust economic excellence, political stability and global presence, the passion towards perfection and excellence that characterize the discipline of German people is a great quality that we Malaysians look highly upon Germany.

6. This great quality has enabled Germany to augment her global presence, particularly in commercial and educational sectors, and Malaysia is indeed fortunate to have Germany as one of her major trading partners with RM 23.6 million in total trade in 2014.

7. With that encouraging diplomatic and economic ecosystem, it is certain that much could be further explored by both countries, and UMP is privileged to have her share in this venture, as Germany provides us with endless opportunities to augment our brand.

8. As mentioned earlier, 2015 marks the fifth year of UMP’s formal collaboration with the Federal Republic of Germany, a smart linkage that has brought this university closer to German universities and their academic excellence.
9. This has enabled UMP to benefit from her partnership with Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences (HsKA) and Reutlingen University which is principally facilitated by the German Embassy, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and UMP’s own German Academic & Career Centre (GACC).

10. With these successes, we are determined to explore the possible opportunities further, thus strengthening our partnership agenda with Germany. I am glad to note that on February 20 this year, UMP concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with another German university, namely Osnabruck University of Applied Sciences (OS UAS) in Lower-Saxony state.

11. That MoU calls for collaboration in student and staff mobility between the Faculty of Industrial Management of UMP and the Faculty of Business Management & Social Sciences of OS UAS.
12. And today, in conjunction with this occasion, another MoU will be concluded between UMP and her latest industrial partner from Germany, namely Bosch. We are very much proud to welcome Bosch as our new collaborative partner, where UMP could benefit significantly from Bosch’s 129 years of technological achievement as a German multinational engineering and electronics company and one of world’s largest supplier of automotive components.

13. Looking back, the efforts toiled for the past five years have enabled UMP to strategically position herself on global higher education map, an achievement that is significant for a thirteen-year old Public University, giving her the competitive edge to emerge as a first choice technological university as aspired in UMP Strategic Plan 2011-2015.

14. With this encouraging trend, it is my firm belief that within the next phase of its strategic plan, UMP could successfully position itself as a competitive player in higher education segment, both regionally and internationally.
15. This is not just a dream; in fact with the strategic tools and potential talents that it has, UMP is confident that with the right strategies and constructive initiatives, this agenda could be pursued with great success.

16. The challenge that lies ahead of us now is to align UMP’s internationalization agenda with the strategic target put forth by the Government of Malaysia through the implementation Malaysia Education Blueprint (Higher Education) 2015-2025 that was launched recently by the Prime Minister.

17. As far as our internationalization agenda with Germany is concerned, in addition to the strong support that we currently enjoy both from the German Embassy and DAAD, UMP also looks forward to embarking on a more serious ventures with German corporations in Malaysia. This includes industrial collaboration in the areas of research, development and commercialization and academic development in the area student and staff training.
Therefore, German Day 2015 is the right platform for that purpose, not only to celebrate our present achievement in this co-operation, but beyond that, this is the avenue for UMP and other German institutions and corporations to explore new opportunities for our common benefit.

Thus, I see that UMP German Day 2015 is one of the many enablers that we could rely on to enhance the ties between Malaysia and Germany and to put that bond on a more competitive coordinate towards a promising future for both countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Honouring the efforts made to organize German Day 2015, I would like to extend my heartiest appreciation to the German Embassy and in particular, the Director of German Academic & Career Centre of UMP and the organizing team for their unwavering commitment and dedication.
21. I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Pahang State Government, various government agencies, private corporations and departments in UMP for the support and assistance rendered in organizing this event.

Thank you,

*Wabillahi taufiq walhidayah,*

*Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.*