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

SECTOR FOCUSED CAREER FAIR 2015
SATURDAY, 24TH MAY 2015; AT 10:30AM;
ASTAKA, UMP GAMBANG CAMPUS

[READ BY THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH & INNOVATION)]

SALUTATION

Yang Berusaha Associate Professor Dr. Arham b. Abdullah,
Director of Industry Relations Division,
Ministry of Education;

Yang Berusaha Miss Nurul Azwa Hussein,
Manager of Malaysian Talent Development;

My colleagues from UMP:

Professor Dr. Zulkefli Yaacob,
Director of Industry Partnership & Community Relation Division;

Senior Officers Deans, Directors and Heads of Departments;

Representatives from Companies and Industries;
Students and visitors;

Ladies and gentlemen.

Assalamualaikumwarahmatullahiwalabarakatuh

Salam Sejahtera and Salam 1Malaysia.

1. *Alhamdulillah*, it is with great pleasure that I have the honour to welcome all of you to this auspicious occasion this morning, which marks the opening of the Sector Focused Career Fair or SFCF 2015.

2. I would also like to convey the warmest regards from Yang Hormat Professor Dato’ Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim, the Vice-Chancellor of UMP who is unable to be here with us this morning.

3. UMP is particularly honoured with the opportunity to once again co-operate and collaborate with Talent Corporation Malaysia Berhad (TalentCorp) in organising the second edition of Sector Focused Career Fair in conjunction with another event namely University and Industry 2015 or ‘u2iu 2015’.
4. Talent development is among the key focus in the Malaysian Education Blueprint (Higher Education) 2015-2025 that was launched by the Prime Minister on April 7, 2015. This is certainly a critical area that demands our attention at the university level.

5. As one of Malaysia’s public universities, UMP is also challenged to embrace this new reality with high level of readiness, especially in terms of curriculum and co-curriculum development that enables our students to become highly competent upon their graduation, and thereafter remain highly competitive in the job market.

6. While UMP is about to finish its 2011-2015 phase of its strategic development, talent development has been identified as one of the key aspects for the next phase, as we are now preparing for the implementation of UMP Strategic Plan 2016-2020 that aims at generating glorious achievement for this University.

7. In that regard, our talent development agenda will be aligned and streamlined with the planning at the Ministry of Education’s level which aims at generating Learned Values-Driven Talents within the framework of knowledge economy towards achieving the New Academia agenda in the Eleventh Malaysia Plan (RMK-11).
8. Thus, SFCF 2015 is indeed very timely, for it addresses current government’s concerns over talent development, graduate employability and student competency, the issues that require our serious attention – the policy makers at the Ministry of Education and the top management of this University alike.

9. I am glad to note that a total of 28 companies from various industries and business segments have agreed to participate in this edition of SFCF 2015. The commitment shown by the commercial and industrial sectors towards this career fair also indicates their commitment to work alongside the government and universities to address issues relating to graduate employability.

10. As a strategic platform that bridges the industry and the university, SFCF provides win-win opportunities for both sides. For our students and graduates, this is the avenue for them to meet and interact with CEOs and senior Human Resource representatives from the participating companies.
11. As for the companies, I believe that this is a great opportunity for them to scout for potential talents on the ground and more importantly, through the interaction and career consultation that will take place, corporate insight and advice may be directly communicated to our students and graduates for the benefit of their career mapping.

12. Therefore, the two-way communication that takes place within the casual ambience of this career fair allows a more informal flow of relevant information, thus enabling our students and graduates to really understand the current reality of the job market in Malaysia and are the expectations of these future employers towards them.

13. To facilitate the communication of the relevant information, the activities organized throughout SFCF 2015, such as interview sessions, exhibition and Career and Coffee Talk should not be missed by the visitors, students and graduates.
14. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the representatives of various industries and business segments for participating in SFCF 2015 to engage our students and graduates and to share with them the wide variety of exciting career opportunities available at your respective organizations.

15. Ladies and gentlemen,

Honouring the effort to organize this event, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the teams from the Ministry of Education and TalentCorp and from UMP, the Industrial Partnership & Community Relations Division, Student Affairs & Alumni Department and other departments for their commitment and dedication.

16. I sincerely hope that the existing collaboration between us can further expanded and sustained for future editions of SFCF for our common benefit, and most importantly, this is our contribution to nurture competitive young Malaysians who will eventually build an economically-robust and resilient Malaysia as aspired by our government in the year 2020, Insyia-Allah.
17. With that, I wish you all a truly fruitful moment and exciting experience throughout SFCF 2015 and let us pray that the Sector Focussed Career Fair 2015 will achieve its noble objectives and targets.

Thank you, wabillahitaufiqwalhidayah,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.