SALUTATION

Our guest speaker,
Emeritus Professor Dr Robin King,
Chair of the Sydney Accord;

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);

Professor Dr. Wan Azhar Wan Yusof,
Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International);
Seniors Officials, Deans, Professors, Directors

and Heads of Departments;

Distinguished guests;

Ladies and gentlemen;

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Taala Wabarakatuh
Salam Sejahtera and Salam 1Malaysia.

1. *Alhamdulillah*, by the grace and blessings of Allah Ta’ala, we are able to meet here this afternoon, for another edition of UMP International Public Lecture Series.

2. On behalf of the management of Universiti Malaysia Pahang, I have great pleasure in extending my warmest welcome to all of you to this auspicious occasion.
3. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation for your participation and interest in events of this sort and nature, an avenue for knowledge dissemination to the public, which is done within formal setting, but with casual approach.

4. That is indeed the very idea behind the inception of UMP International Public Lecture Series since 2010. As an institution of higher learning and a public university, UMP is not only charged with the responsibility to disseminate knowledge to its academic community, but also responsible in educating the global community.

5. Here lies the great responsibility of a university, that is facilitating knowledge transfer to the public, and making her presence seen, her existence felt and her voice heard, a heavy, yet noble task that requires serious commitment from the academic community of this university.
6. **Ladies and gentlemen,**

The topic of today’s lecture, which is “Engineering Technologists: Occupational Roles and Educational Formation” is indeed very timely, for Malaysian Government is currently giving serious commitment and special attention towards strengthening the framework of Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

7. Recently, on April 2, 2015, the Parliament’s House of Representatives (*Dewan Rakyat*) had passed the Technologists and Technicians Bill 2014 which was moved by the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation which provides for the establishment of the Malaysian Board of Technologists (MBOT) in the future.

8. As a statutory body, MBOT would be tasked with setting up training and teaching syllabus to enable the existing 30,000 technologists and technicians nationwide to be recognized as professionals.
9. This development has been very much awaited by us in UMP and our counterparts in the Malaysian Technical Universities Network (MTUN), namely UTHM, UteM and UNIMaP to resolve accreditation and recognition issues in relation to our engineering technology programmes.

10. Our government’s commitment in putting forth this agenda is also evident within the frameworks of the Malaysian Education Blueprint (Higher Education) 2015-2025 and the Eleventh Malaysia Plan which were launched and presented by the Prime Minister on April 7 and May 21 respectively.

11. In the last phase towards becoming a developed high income country, the Malaysian Government aims to produce 400,000 engineering technology graduates by the year 2020, in line with our national strategic vision, which was laid down 24 years ago, in 1991.
12. With these strategic moves at the national level, it is certain that engineering technology is an academic field which has great prospects and bright future, and its present reality challenges us in UMP and other MTUN universities to put the best of our effort to meet the government’s expectations.

13. **Ladies and gentlemen,**

Having understood that reality, it is particularly important for us to stand prepared on the right path and direction, and we are so fortunate this afternoon that Emeritus Professor Dr. Robin King is able to make his time to enlighten us on this interesting subject.

14. Dr. Robin King is the present Chair of Sydney Accord and former Chair of Accreditation Board, Engineers Australia. A PhD holder from University of London, his research interests in electronics and communication engineering later expanded to accreditation and outcomes-based engineering education, the area that made him known both nationally and internationally.
15. Although he had officially retired from the University of South Queensland, Dr. Robin King remains dedicated to strengthening engineering educations accreditation, quality assurance and innovation through several positions and projects.

16. In addition to his responsibility as the Chair of Sydney Acocord, Dr. Robin King is also vested with other honorary positions at present, namely Emeritus Professor at the University of South Australia, Adjunct Professor at the University of Technology, Sydney and Visiting Professional Fellow, University of New South Wales.

17. **Ladies and gentlemen,**

With that brief introduction, please join me in giving a big round of applause to welcome our guest speaker for this edition of UMP International Public Lecture Series, Emeritus Professor Dr. Robin King.

Thank you.