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

OPENING CEREMONY OF
THE ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
MALAYSIAN TECHNICAL (ETIC)

10 AUGUST 2015; 09:30 AM;
PENDAWA ROOM, WINA HOLIDAY VILA KUTA BALI

SALUTATION

Professor Dr. Zularisam Ab Wahid,
Dean of the Faculty Engineering Technology, UMP;

Dr. Hadi Manap,
Chairman of ETIC 2015;

ETIC 2015 distinguished speakers:

Professor Dr. Robert F. Cox,
Associate Dean for Globalization, Purdue University;

Professor Dr. Cliff Mirman,
Chair for Department of Technology,
College of Engineering & Engineering Technology,
Northern Illinois University;
Yang Hormat Professor Dato’ Ir. Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz, Director for Rare Earth Centre, UMP;

Conference presenters, delegates and participants;

Ladies and gentlemen.

Assalammualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,

Salam Sejahtera and a very good morning.

1. It is with great pleasure that I have the honour say a few words of welcome to all of you this morning that marks the commencement of the inaugural Engineering Technology International Conference or ETIC 2015 which is organized by the Faculty of Engineering Technology, Universiti Malaysia Pahang.

2. I am very much delighted to have the company of our distinguished speakers from the United States and Malaysia, as well as the delegates that represent various higher education institutions from all over the world.
3. Universiti Malaysia Pahang is indeed very proud to be elected as the organizer of this inaugural conference, the first to do so among the four technical universities in Malaysia under the auspices of the Malaysian Technical Universities Network or MTUN.

4. Today and tomorrow, researchers and technologists converge here at this conference to engage in constructive intellectual discussion and technical dialogue, as well as benefitting from the scholarly insights and enlightenments from the ETIC 2015 keynote speakers.

5. The theme of ETIC 2015, namely “Towards Outstanding Engineering Technology for Global Industries” aptly addresses the increasing interest towards the significance of engineering technology as technical discipline of its own that is distinct from pure or traditional engineering.
6. While recognition and accreditation of engineering technology programmes can take form in either one of Sydney or Dublin Accord, the profession itself is a unique one, for it combines the knowledge of mathematics and natural sciences gained by higher education and experience, and the practice is devoted primarily to the implementation and extension of existing technology for the benefit of humanity.

7. As a discipline which is distinct from pure engineering, and the fact that this discipline has an established accreditation frameworks in the Accords that I mentioned just now, engineering technology deserves a more visible angle within the scientific and academic circles.

8. Malaysia, for example has gone over a trying and lengthy process to get engineering technology graduates recognized as professional technologists under its own professional body.
9. Quite recently, on April 2, 2015, the Malaysian Parliament’s House of Representatives (Dewan Rakyat) had passed the Technologists and Technicians Bill 2014 which provides for the establishment of the Malaysian Board of Technologists (MBOT) in the future.

10. The Bill, which was moved by the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation is something that 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.

11. The encouraging attitude shown by the Malaysian Government in this regard signifies the growing interest in Malaysia towards the field of engineering technology as one of the primary propellers for economic growth and national development.
12. Malaysian 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.

13. 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.

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. In this regard, UMP will produce its first batch of Engineering Technology graduates in 2016 in the fields of electrical; manufacturing; and energy and environmental technologies.
14. Ladies and gentlemen,

Having understood that realities, it is evident that constructive dialogues and intellectual engagements are significant to enhance our understanding towards the field of engineering technology, as well as acknowledging the need to address current issues in that field for the benefit of expanding our knowledge and experience.

16. As an avenue that serves that purpose, I believe that ETIC 2015 will be effectively utilized by the more than 100 conference participants to share their insights in relation to the seven main areas namely, Electronic and Electrical Engineering; Civil Engineering; Chemical Engineering and Natural Resources; Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering; Education, Social Science and Technology Management; Science; and Information and Communication Technology.
17. In addition to that, the pleasant atmosphere here in Bali is also conducive for the delegates and participants to engage in networking sessions for potential strategic partnerships and alliances.

18. **Ladies and gentlemen;**

Honouring the efforts made for this conference, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Technology, Professor Dr. Zularisam Ab Wahid who is the advisor of ETIC 2015, the Conference Chair, Dr. Hadi and ETIC 2015 team for their commitment and contribution towards the success of this conference.

19. It is my sincere hope that this Conference will successfully achieve its objectives through the exchange of ideas, knowledge-sharing and constructive discussions that would ensue.
20. I wish you all a truly fruitful discourse and a pleasant stay in Bali, and to our guests, it is my humble hope that you will enjoy the warmth of UMP hospitality. Finally, it is with great pleasure that I hereby declare the Engineering Technology International Conference 2015 officially open.

Thank you,

Wabillahi taufiq walhidayah,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.