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

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNING CEREMONY
BETWEEN UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA PAHANG
AND
SULEYMAN SAH UNIVERSITY, SAKARYA UNIVERSITY
AND KARABUJK UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY, 14 MAY 2013, 11:00 AM
ROYALE BINTANG HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR

SALUTATION

Professor Dr. Durmus Gunay,
Member of the Executive Board of Turkish Higher Education Council;

Professor Dr. Muzaffer Elmas,
Rector of Sakarya University;

Professor Dr. Huseyin Eklz,
Rector of Suleyman Sah University;

Professor Dr. Burhanettin Inem,
Rector of Karabujk University;
Dr. Alettin Duman,
President of Malaysian-Turkish Dialogue Society;

and members of the Turkish delegation;

My colleagues from Universiti Malaysia Pahang:

Yang Hormat Professor Dato’ Ir. Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz,
Deputy Rector (Academic & International);

Yang Hormat Professor Dato’ Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus,
Deputy Rector (Research & Innovation);

Senior Officers, Deans and Directors;

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

and a very good morning.
1. First and foremost, it is with great pleasure that I welcome all of you to this auspicious occasion, which marks another important milestone in the context of Universiti Malaysia Pahang’s global network.

2. This event is indeed historic for us in UMP, it is reflective of our commitment to globalize our existence through constructive collaboration with foreign higher learning institutions of high repute, and Republic of Turkey seems to have all the advantages, potentials and prospects in that regard.

3. The seeds of this collaboration were sown exactly two months ago, when this University concluded a memorandum of understanding with the Malaysian-Turkish Dialogue Society (MTDS) on 14th of March 2013.

4. *Alhamdulillah*, that initial move comes to fruition today, and we are really delighted and proud to have three Turkish universities – Suleyman Sah, Sakarya and Karabuk, which are well-known for their quality and achievements.
5. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Executive Board of Turkish Higher Education Council and Malaysian-Turkish Dialogue Society for facilitating this collaboration.

6. From the diplomatic viewpoint, I believe that this collaboration will further strengthen the warmth of the existing friendly relations between the governments of the Federation of Malaysia and the Republic of Turkey.

7. Higher education sector is undoubtedly has broad potentials and prospects to be explored by both countries. Thus, the exploration of these opportunities needs to be strategized and could only be successfully achieved through constructive measures that are mutually initiated and collectively taken by both parties.

8. The implementation of UMP Strategic Plan 2011-2015 calls for serious effort of our part to work hard to ensure that all the identified Key Result Areas do contribute towards our primary agenda to make UMP a First Choice Technological University by the year 2015.
9. In that regard, two of that Key Result Areas, namely *Enhancement of Academic Quality* and *Branding for Strategic Positioning* are very much related to this collaboration. While UMP is relatively a young university, being only 11 years of age, as compared to Sakarya’s 42 years history, we still have a common ground to work together.

10. I believe that young universities like UMP, Suleyman Sah and Karabujk have something in common, that is the passion to stand out of the crowd. It is through the blend of the experience, expertise and advantage that we all have – UMP, Sakarya, Suleyman Sah and Karabujk alike, that I believe, that this collaboration can be successfully driven, *Insyā-Allāh*.

11. I am delighted that details of this collaboration have been thoroughly discussed prior to its formalization in this event. Judging from the strong interest and enthusiasm shown by our Turkish partners, I believe that this memorandum of understanding will become the catalyst for our future collaborations.
12. Thus, six general areas of co-operation have been identified for us to work on namely, research collaboration, academic collaboration, post-doctoral, short-term academic programme for undergraduates, dual-degree programme for undergraduates and post-graduates and other related areas.

13. As the Vice-Chancellor of UMP, I have high hopes for our staff and students to benefit from the exchange programmes that includes industrial attachment, credit transfer, sabbatical and industrial advisory that are expected to materialize from this five-year collaboration. In consideration to that, we also welcome staff and students from Sakarya, Suleyman Sah and Karabujk to UMP to take part in the initiatives that will be drawn up in the spirit of this collaboration.

14. Ladies and gentlemen,

Honouring the efforts made to organize this event, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the International Office of UMP, and not forgetting the Turkish Higher Education Council and Malaysian-Turkish Dialogue Society for their kind support and assistance.
15. It is my hope that our Turkish guests will enjoy the warmth of our Malaysian hospitality throughout their stay in Malaysia and I pray to Allah Ta’ala for your safe journey home. To our colleagues from Sakarya, Suleyman Sah and Karabujk Universities, it is with great pleasure and pride that we welcome you as UMP’s latest global partners!

Thank you,

Wabillahi taufiq walhidayah,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.