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

AGREEMENT SIGNING CEREMONY
BETWEEN UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA PAHANG
AND NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2014, 2:30 PM;
BANQUET HALL, CHANCELLERY BUILDING, UMP GAMBANG CAMPUS

SALUTATION

Our distinguished guests from Northern Illinois University:

Dr. Omar Ghrayeb,
Associate Dean (Outreach & Undergraduate Programs),
College of Engineering & Engineering Technology, NIU; and

Dr. Cliff Mirman,
Professor and Chair, Department of Technology,
College of Engineering & Engineering Technology, NIU;

My colleagues from UMP:

Yang HORMAT Professor Dato’ Dr Mortaza Mohamed,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International);
Yang Hormat Professor Dato' Dr. Yuserrie Zainudin,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni);

Professor Dr. Mashitah Mohd Yusuff,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation);

Senior Officers, Deans, Directors and Heads of Departments;

Associate Professor Dr. Zularisam Abdul Wahid,
Dean, Faculty of Technology;

Representatives from our partners in the Malaysian Technical Universities Network, Universiti Kuala Lumpur, German-Malaysia Institute and the Department of Polytechnic Education;

Members of the press corps;

Ladies and gentlemen.
Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,

Salam 1Malaysia and a very good afternoon.

1. It is indeed a greate pleasure that I have the honour to say a few words of welcome and appreciation this afternoon, in conjunction with this auspicious occasion.

2. On behalf on UMP’s top management, I would like to thank our distinguished guests from NIU who have come all the way from the United States to be present with us this afternoon.

3. The strategic tie and academic linkage between UMP and NIU was inaugurated three years ago with the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding that saw NIU’s active involvement in designing UMP’s engineering technology programmes.

4. These engineering technology programmes, which fulfil both the standards of Malaysian Qualification Agency (MQA) and the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) in the United States are offered at UMP’s Faculty of Technology beginning the 2012/2013 academic session.
5. The three technology engineering programmes, namely Energy and Environment, Electrical and Manufacturing were well-received from the outset and the enrolment currently stands at 162 students.

6. With improved and upgraded teaching and learning facilities, together with recruitment academic staff, it is our hope that student’s intake for these three programmes in the upcoming 2014/2015 academic session could be increased.

7. While engineering technology studies is certainly not something alien in the United States, it was quite a great challenge for us in UMP to convince the relevant authorities and boards about the prospect and potential of these programmes.

8. Nevertheless, with the enormous assistance accorded by our colleagues from NIU, and the support from the then Minister of Higher Education, these challenges had been successfully engaged and overcame by UMP.
9. With better understanding about the distinction between an Engineer and a Technologist, the public now has the correct picture about what Engineering Technology is and its significance.

10. Ladies and gentlemen,

    When I mentioned about the bright future and high potential of engineering technology just now, it was not a mere statement, it was actually a firm belief that further initiatives will be placed in order to strategically position it as a competitive academic discipline.

12. This has in fact becomes the priority and main agenda of Malaysia Technical Universities Network (MTUN) that comprises of UMP, Universiti Malaysia Perlis, Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka and Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia.
13. With a comprehensive roadmap and plan of action at the Ministry of Education’s level, each of these technical universities is expected to produce 60% to 70% “practical-oriented” engineers through unique engineering programmes that are more practical-based, but are professionally recognized.

14. This requires strategic and serious attention on our part, thus necessitating further constructive engagement with our NIU colleagues as we are now embarking on the second phase in this collaboration.

15. Therefore, the Project Agreement that we are about to witness shortly will be focusing on two main initiatives namely the special workshop of ABET accreditation framework and the discussion on dual degree programmes.

16. As an extension of the initial Memorandum of Understanding between UMP and NIU three years ago, this Project Agreement enables the strategic partnership between both universities to stand on a more solid ground, and of course, sustainable.
17. The workshop and discussion were commenced yesterday and will continue until their conclusion on Friday, February 14. To my colleagues from UMP and NIU, it is my hope that the discourse that are currently taking place will be a fruitful, beneficial and constructive one in the true spirit of collaborative and diplomatic goodwill.

18. Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to once again thank our guests from NIU for their presence and contribution and I hope both Dr. Omar and Dr. Cliff enjoy the warmth our Malaysian hospitality and have a pleasant stay here in Kuantan.
19. I also take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to the team members from the Faculty of Technology for successfully staging this event and coordinating all the related initiatives.

Thank you,

Wabillahi taufiq wal hidayah, Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.