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

VALEDICTION AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNING CEREMONY
GRG SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES SUMMER PROGRAMME 2018

THURSDAY, 12 JULY 2018; 8:00 AM;
ASTAKA, UMP GAMBANG CAMPUS

SALUTATION

Madam Nandini Rangaswamy,
Chairperson of GRG Institutions and GRG Trust;

Delegates from GRG School of Management Studies;

My colleagues from UMP:

Yang HORMAT Professor Dato’ Dr. Mashitah Mohd Yusoff,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation);

Yang HORMAT Professor Dato’ Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni);

Senior officers, Deans, Directors and Heads of Departments;

Distuinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,
Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,

Salam Sejahtera and a very good evening.

1. First and foremost, I have great pleasure in extending my warmest greetings and welcome to all of you to this evening's occasion which in my opinion, very much significant in the context of Universiti Malaysia Pahang’s international network in the area of academic cooperation.

2. Therefore, I am very much delighted to have Madam Nandini Rangasawamy, the Chairperson of GRG Institutions and GRG Trust and the members of her delegation who have come all the way from India as our most distinguished guests this evening.

3. For me, the academic cooperation between UMP and GRG School of Management Studies (GRGSMS) that is intended from Madam Nandini’s visit and our Memorandum of Understanding will further strengthen the existing friendly bilateral ties between Malaysia and India.
4. The Malaysians in particular, are very much grateful for the friendly relations with the Republic of India which has benefitted the peoples of both countries over the decades.

5. In fact, the recent official visit by the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi to Kuala Lumpur on May 31 in my opinion, reaffirmed the vital need to maintain our bilateral ties.

6. Malaysia and India enjoy close relations. Long before the diplomatic missions of both countries were established in Kuala Lumpur and New Delhi after Malaysia’s independence on August 31, 1957, the peoples of both countries were already linked, both culturally and historically.

7. These are evident at present with the large Malaysian Indians community, the Hindu-Buddhist remnants at the Bujang Valley temple complex in Kedah, as well as the Malaysians’ craving for Indian food, tailored to meet local tastes and served at Malaysia’s unique ’Mamak’ restaurants which are available nationwide!
8. These realities apparently show the significance of our unique linkages, and being higher leaning institutions, both UMP and GRGSMS in my opinion, are also responsible to play our roles in enriching the values of our bilateral ties through education partnership and academic cooperation.

9. Ladies and gentlemen,

Academic Prominence is one of the key strategic leaps within the framework of UMP 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. UMP aspires to become a prominent technological university, both locally and globally; and this certainly require us to find potential partners that are not only grand in brand, but more importantly partners that are highly credible, reputable and accredited.

10. That selective approach is crucial to maintain the integrity of our academic standards and the quality of our strategic initiatives, and in that regard, we find that so called ‘strategic chemistry’ with GRG School of Management Studies.
11. After examining its profile, I am very impressed with the significant progress and achievements made by GRGSMS over the years, and the fact that the institution is currently ranked A+ by Business India and recognized as one of India’s top 100 business schools makes GRGSMS the right and suitable strategic partner for UMP to work with.

12. In that regard, UMP’s Faculty of Industrial Management under the Deanship of Associate Professor Dr. Mohd Ridzuan Darun is tasked to explore the collaborative potentials with GRGSMS and to pursue relevant initiatives that constructive towards enhancing UMP’s present research and academic capacities in specific business management areas especially international business practice, business sustainability, entrepreneurship and corporate governance.

13. Since both institutions also offer master programmes in Business Administration (MBA), I see that the ’strategic chemistry’ between UMP’s FIM and GRGSMS is already there. This certainly requires the prime movers of this collaboration from both institutions to meet constantly and engage consistently to ensure the success of the intended strategic partnership.
14. **Ladies and gentlemen,**

The challenge to actualize the initiatives intended from this Memorandum of Understanding is to be borne collectively by us, and I believe, with that consistent synergy, both UMP and GRGSMS could achieve that aspiration.

15. This evening’s event for example, is a positive sign that manifests our mutual commitment in that regard, and the two-week Graduate Summer Programme between FIM and GRGSMS is one of the initiatives that we should maintain.

16. On that note, I wish every success to the teams from both FIM and GRGSMS for their present and future ventures. To our friends from GRGSMS, we welcome you as our newest strategic partner.
17. I hope that all of our Indian friends have had a pleasant stay in Malaysia with the best experience of Malaysian hospitality throughout the Graduate Summer Programme; and as the grand finale prior to your return to India, I hope you will enjoy the dinner and the special cultural performance from our talented UMPians this evening.

Thank you.

Wabillahi taufiq wal hidayah,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.