SALUTATION

Yang Berbahagia Dato' Dr. Mohd Gazali Abas;
Secretary General, Ministry of Education Malaysia;

Deputy Vice-Chancellors and Heads of Departments;

Representatives of UMP’s strategic partners;

Conference Chair and members of the organizing committee;

Conference speakers and delegates;

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,

Salam Sejahtera and a very good morning.
1. *Alhamdulillah*, I am particularly delighted and grateful to have the honour of welcoming all of you to this auspicious occasion that marks the official commencement of the International Conference of Chemical Engineering and Industrial Biotechnology (ICCEIB) 2018.

2. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest greetings and welcome to our Guest-of-Honour, Yang Berbahagia Dato’ Dr. Mohd Ghazali Abas, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Education. Thank you Yang Berbahagia Dato’ for kindly accepting our invitation to officiate ICCEIB 2018.

3. Your presence Yang Berbahagia Dato’, manifests the cordiality of the strategic relations between the Ministry of Education and UMP, which in my opinion is not only significant, but also vital in ensuring the continuance of the Ministry’s timeless support towards UMP’s agenda and aspiration to become one of Malaysia’s top higher education providers.
4. With the merger of higher education and school education functions into a single ministry recently, UMP looks forward to maintaining good professional relationship with the Ministry of Education’s new leadership and at the same time supporting the Ministry’s new strategic direction and implementation policy.

5. This certainly requires constant professional engagement and dialogue between both sides, be it formal or informal, top down or bottom up to ensure better understanding towards the Ministry’s new strategic direction and implementation policy.

6. Yang Berbahagia Dato’, ladies and gentlemen;

With the theme "FEW: Emerging for the Sustainable Future", this fourth edition of ICCEIB focuses on the issues relating to Food, Energy and Water in the context of Earth’s survival and global security. This context can be better understood through cross-disciplinary discourse as intended by the conference organizer in addition to the chemical engineering and industrial biotechnology perspectives.
7. In that regard, UMP is very much aware of translating the global strategies laid down by the United Nations through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into positive and constructive initiatives to disseminate the relevant information not only to the academic community on campus, but also the community at large.

8. This is manifested by us through the operational framework of UMP 2016-2020 Strategic Plan which is driven by the tagline – “Communitising Technology”. UMP is aware of the critical role that must be played by higher learning institutions as agents for social change, the role that requires universities to lend their hands in building a Malaysian society with first-class mentality; an arduous, yet noble task that involves strategic placement of our intellectual and technical expertise on the ground.

9. Therefore, “Communitising Technology” is UMP’s strategic commitment to create a better Malaysian society with inputs of hard and soft technologies which enable the members of the target groups to actualize socioeconomic transformation on their own. I must admit that the challenge is great, but if we did not begin now, I fear the rural-urban digital gap will broaden even more.
10. Thus, the discourse and discussion throughout ICCEIB 2018 should also look at the direct or indirect scientific impact of Mother Earth’s exploitation from the perspectives of chemical engineering and industrial biotechnology to human beings’ survival.

11. Food, Energy and Water are three key elements that are so critical for our survival and the exploitation of Mother Earth to serve the global demands for food, energy and water must conform to certain standards of ethics that should subject to global monitoring with zero tolerance over any abuse or violation.

12. The Faculty of Chemical Engineering & Natural Resources of UMP which is the organizer of this conference, has all the technical expertise and capabilities in scientific matters relating to food, energy and water and as the Vice-Chancellor of UMP, I welcome any institution, organization or agency, public or private to cooperate and collaborate with us in research, consultation, publication or commercialization activities in this regard.
13. **Yang Berbahagia Dato’, ladies and gentlemen,**

I am glad to inform that ICCEIB 2018 receives 318 paper submissions on various topics which have been critically reviewed to qualify their publication several high impact factors journals such as Catalysis Today, Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research, International Journal of Hydrogen Energy, Chemical Engineering & Technology, Journal of Chemical Technology & Biotechnology, Journal of Environmental Chemical Engineering, Journal of Chemical Engineering & Industrial Biotechnology, Indonesian Journal of Chemistry and Bulletin of Chemical Reaction Engineering & Catalysis.

14. **We are also very delighted to have worldwide participation in this conference that represents almost all continents and the presence of these international guests in their capacities as speakers or delegates would enable broader perspectives of intellectual exchange with local participants and most importantly through this professional networking, better opportunities for potential research or strategic collaboration could be discovered.**
15. Honouring the efforts made to organize this conference, I would like to extend my heartiest appreciation and congratulations to the Dean of the Faculty of Chemical Engineering & Natural Resources, the Conference Chair and the members of the organizing committee for their unwavering endeavour, commitment and dedication.

16. To all conference speakers, delegates and participants, I wish you all a fruitful discourse and deliberations and it is my earnest hope that you enjoy the warmth of our hospitality and a pleasant stay in Kuala Lumpur throughout the ICCEIB 2018.

Wabillahi taufiq walhidayah,
Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.