

**CHAIRMAN OF ORGANIZING COMMITTEE'S SPEECH
PROF. DATUK DR. AHMAD YUSOFF BIN HASSAN
VICE CHANCELLOR
UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL MALAYSIA MELAKA**

**GRAND DINNER & AWARD PRESENTATION
NATIONAL IMAGINE CUP COMPETITION 2011**

5 May 2011 (Thursday), 8.00pm, Pullman Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak

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*Bismillahirrahmanirrahim
Assalamualaikum & a very good evening*

(i) Salutation:

- 1) Y.Bhg. Datuk Ab. Rahim Md.Noor
Secretary General, Ministry of Higher Education
representing
Y.B. Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin
Minister of Ministry of Higher Education
- 2) Y.B. Datin Hajah Fatimah Abdullah
Minister in the Chief Minister's Office of Sarawak
- 3) Y.Bhg. Prof. Datuk Dr Khairuddin Ab. Hamid
Vice Chancellor
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

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- 4) Vice Chancellors
Public & Private Universities
- 5) Mr. Ananth Lazarus
Managing Director
Microsoft Malaysia
- 6) Dr Abu Hassan Ismail
Chief Executive Officer
Prestariang (M) Sdn Bhd
- 7) Encik Muhamad Imran Kunalan Abdullah
Head, Talent Business Unit
Multimedia Corporation (MDec)

Honourable Judges

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Invited Guests

Staff and students from participating universities

Ladies & gentlemen,

(ii) Greetings

1. Welcome to the Imagine Cup 2011 Malaysia Finals Grand Dinner and Award Presentation Ceremony. First and foremost, I'd like to bid a warm welcome to Y.Bhg. Datuk Abd. Rahim Md Noor, the Secretary General at the Ministry of Higher Education, who is with us tonight representing the Minister of

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Higher Education Malaysia, who could not be with us due to a tight work commitment.

I would also like to welcome Y.B. Datin Hajah Fatimah Abdullah, Minister at the Sarawak Chief Minister's Office, honoured guests, Vice Chancellors and all of you who are here today to celebrate the winners of the Imagine Cup 2011 Malaysia Finals.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

(iii) Related Fundamentals

2. **Holistic Student Development** is a substantial element outlined in the Higher Education Transformation Plan (PSPTN) which among others includes eight main core areas

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fundamental in elevating the quality and employability of future graduates and thus, meeting the demand and standard set by industries. The eight core areas include **Initiatives, Innovation and Entrepreneurial skills** which are embedded in the main co-curricular programmes made compulsory for students in the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL).

3. The Imagine Cup is not just a competition. Since its debut in 2003, the Imagine Cup has never ceased to intrigue the enthusiasm of young technologists wanting to experiment on their invention and innovation to the benefits of the world population. This competition focus is set at the United Nations **8 Millennium Development Goals (MDG)** which are endorsed by 189 nations throughout the world for the past nine years.

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Now less than 4 years from the date of 2015 where the MDG which uphold global human rights such as ending poverty and hunger, universal education including environmental sustainability are to be achieved. It is time that we join the forces and initiate a move that may take us to the ultimate objectives.

4. Every software designed in the IC 2011 will be **judged** from a number of aspects which include the vitals of technical, business viability and certainly the immaculate presentation and communication skills. The invited **judges** for the IC comprise of experts in related fields from both government and private agencies.

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(iv) Competition objectives & participation

Ladies & gentlemen,

5. The Imagine Cup has a noble aim of **nurturing young talents** in our bid to solve some of the world's toughest problems through the use of technology. This year's Imagine Cup is all geared towards developing the use of high technology that will not only benefit the participants but also meet the demands of new innovations in today's highly challenging world, especially in Software Design. It's an opportunity, a chance to show the world **what our students can do**, and more than that – it's a gateway to **greater future success** for students via the experience gained which nurtures wholesome student

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attributes essential in today's workforce. We hope these elements will help increase the quality of entries and heighten Imagine Cup Competition reputation as the cultivator of quality and innovative excellence particularly in IT.

6. The Imagine Cup has grown by leaps and bounds from year to year. For this year competition, we received **30** groups consisting of 18 teams from the public universities and 12 teams from the private universities. This encouraging response is a testament of the success of the Imagine Cup or popularly dubbed as 'The Olympics of Technology' in reaching out to the hearts of the students. This year's theme challenges students to 'imagine' a world where technology helps solve the toughest problems facing us today. Tonight the **top three teams** will be

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showcasing their inventions and the eventual champion of technology will be crowned.

(v) **Wish & Appreciation**

Ladies & gentlemen,

7. To all participants, kudos and congratulations for taking up the Imagine Cup challenge and to the Champion that will be announced towards end of the event tonight, all the best in your journey forward– representing Malaysia in the Worldwide Finals in New York, USA later in July. We hope you continue to strive and we wish you continuous success in New York.

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8. Before I end, as the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Imagine Cup 2011 Malaysia Finals, please allow me to thank all those who are involved in putting this Imagine Cup 2011 Malaysia Finals. First and foremost special thank you to Ministry of Higher Learning for its continuous commitment in providing ample opportunities and avenues for students in IHL to explore and put their inventions to a viability test.
9. I'm also proud to announce that this year's Imagine Cup has received full support from a number of organizations. Our deepest gratitude to Microsoft Malaysia, Prestariang, MDeC, Telekom Malaysia and also to Malaysia Airlines for the contribution given to the competition.

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10. Thank you very much to Sarawak State Government, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Sarawak Tourism Board, Sarawak Convention Bureau and Sarawak Cultural Village for the support towards the Imagine Cup 2011 Malaysia Finals. In fact, the Secretariat has made arrangements for a special collaboration with the Sarawak Convention Bureau in our effort to bid for the **Imagine Cup Worldwide Finals in 2013** to be held in Kuching, Sarawak.
11. Finally, once again we extend our deepest appreciation to our honoured guest, Y.Bhg. Datuk Datuk Abd. Rahim Md Noor, the Secretary General at the Ministry of Higher Education for being with us tonight. These unyielding supports towards the initiative goes beyond the competition – as the outcome of

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today's innovations and solutions may one day be adopted to help feed world's population, protect the environment, improve general health and ensure universal education. To the Secretariat and the whole crew members, thank you for your unstinting effort and commitment in ensuring the smooth running of this event.

Thank you and Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.