

SPEECH
PROF. DATUK DR. AHMAD YUSOFF BIN HASSAN
VICE CHANCELLOR
UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL MALAYSIA MELAKA

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL DAY 2011

27 October 2011 (Thursday), 2.30pm, Pusat Persatuan Pelajar

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Assalamualaikum and good afternoon to

Y.Bhg. Dato' Prof. Dr. Mohd Nor bin Husain, Deputy Vice
Chancellor (Academic and International)

Y.Bhg. Engr. Prof. Dr. Marizan bin Sulaiman, Assistant
Vice Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni)

Senior Officers, Students (International and local), Ladies
and Gentlemen.

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Alhamdulillah, praise to Allah SWT the Almighty. Today we are deeply blessed to gather and attend the UTeM's International Cultural Day 2011. First of all, I would like to congratulate the International Office for taking the initiative to conduct this simple event, yet very meaningful to all of us.

This International Cultural Day should be the platform for the International Students to share and to introduce their culture, traditional customs, foods, cloths, etc. This is also the suitable time to celebrate cultural, ethnic and racial diversity at UTeM whereby we can educate one

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another on globalization and its impact on sharing the different cultural experiences on campus.

As been mentioned by Prof. Nanna, until now, UTeM has 311 international students coming from various countries such as Yemen, Iraq, Indonesia, Somalia, Somaliland, Jordan, Palestine, Sudan, Nigeria, Ghana, and many more. With the variety of cultures and customs, I'm sure that there are lots of new things to be learned and understood.

Through this kind of event, we can raise levels of consciousness in understanding, awareness and

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tolerance of inter-culture differences. As been mentioned by the Director of International Office, this is the good opportunity for the students to strengthen the relationships among them. This is also a good chance to create cooperativeness among the students.

In its endeavour in cultivating student's outlook on culture pluralism, UTeM shoulders both academic and social responsibilities. This kind of event will not only helping the University in terms of academic progress, but also contribute to the harmony and stability in campus life.

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As you know, University is a window of society and world civilization. University internationalization is a current tendency and trend, and also a driving force of universities' development. The word of "University" is sometimes explained in the capacity that includes diversity not only in academic views and thoughts, but also in religions, culture and people of different races.

I can see here, we have booths from 8 countries, which are the major in the number of students they have here in UTeM, namely the Yemenis, Iraqis, Jordanians, Palestinians, Indonesians, Sudanese, Somalilands and

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last but not least, Malaysians. I shall congratulate all of you for the hard works in making this day an actuality.

The world is colourful and so is the university. Every race and nationality has its own unique culture and strong points. In the background of globalization, it's inevitable for different cultures to engage one another. We hope that this engagement is based on equality, tolerance and mutual respect, and helpful to learn from each other. Only in this way, could the clashes of civilization be avoided, and could it be the guaranteed that either the small unit or big society is full of vigour and charm, live

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together in peace and harmony. This is actually the kind of campus we are yearning for.

I've been understood that this is the first International Cultural Day conducted in UTeM and I hope that this kind of event would be the annual activity in order to expose the existence of the international students in UTeM and I wish everyone here an enjoyable and a fruitful experience.

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Lastly, with Bismillaahirrahmanirrahim, I sincerely officiate this International Cultural Day 2011.

Thank you.