

OFFICIATING ADDRESS
TokushimaU-UTeM CENTRE

by

PROF. DR. SHAHRIN BIN SAHIB
VICE CHANCELLOR, UTeM

9.15 AM, 23ND SEPTEMBER 2014

BISMILLAHIRRAHMANIRRAHIM

SALUTATION:

(Salutation will be cited according to the attendance later)

Yang Berusaha Dr. Ibrahim bin Abu Ahmad

Senior Deputy Under-Secretary of Strategic Planning Division of
Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI)

His Excellency Dr. Makio Miyagawa

Japanese Ambassador to Malaysia

Honorable Professor Dr. Susumu Kagawa

President, Tokushima University, Japan

Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Dato' Ir Dr. Haji Ahmad Zaidee bin Laidin

Chairman, Board of Directors of UTeM

Yang Berusaha Encik Mohd Yazid Sairi

Senior Principal Assistant Director, Industry Relations Division, Higher Education Department

Yang Berhormat Tuan Haji Md. Rawi bin Mahmud

Deputy State Exco of Education, Higher Education, Science and Technology, Green Technology and Innovation

Yang Berbahagia Associate Professor Dr. Mohd Rizal bin Salleh

Dean, Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering & Co-Director
UTokushima-UTeM Academic Centre

Senior Officers of UTeM, Distinguished Tokushima University
Delegates, UTeM Staff, Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Good Morning and Ohayou Gozaimasu. Selamat datang.

1. Alhamdulillah praise be to Allah SWT the Almighty for with his grace, has enabled all of us to be gathered here in the UNESCO World Heritage City of Melaka for the Officiating Ceremony of the TokushimaU-UTeM Academic Centre.
2. First and foremost, let me extend my warmest welcome to HE Dr. Makio Miyagawa, the Ambassador of Japan and the Honorable Professor Dr. Susumu Kagawa, President of Tokushima University together with the Japanese delegates, to Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM). We are deeply honoured and delighted

to receive the presence of our eminent guests from the 'Land of the Rising Sun' to our Main Campus for today's auspicious ceremony.

“Minasama’, UTeM e Youkoso!”

Ladies & Gentlemen,

3. Over the years, Japan and Malaysia have enjoyed a productive and successful relationship on many fronts. On July 1981, the 4th Malaysian Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad had announced the initiative for Malaysia to emulate Japan's diligence in the country's effort towards nation-building. Tun Mahathir expressed his admiration towards the secret to the Japanese's success and how its remarkable attainment lies in its exemplary labour ethics, high morale, and insightful management capability.

Subsequently, it was felt that a special programme enabling young Malaysians to garner adequate and accurate knowledge in Japan would eventually contribute to the economic and social development aspired by Malaysia. This initiative is later known as the "Look East Policy" and after more than 30 years of the introduction of the Look East Policy, the fervor still continues, and what we will all be witnessing today is a testimony of the continuity that will undoubtedly bring about much benefits to both countries.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

4. As the first technical public university in Malaysia, UTeM aspires to forge, enhance and intensify strategic relations with our international counterparts, with the noble hope of exploring collaborative pursuits in research, academia and cultural

exchange. In its 14th year of establishment, UTeM has built numerous formidable ties with international corporations, which have led to advancements in research collaborations and consultations, internships and knowledge, expertise, and technology transfer.

5. Thus far, UTeM has linked up and signed several Memorandum of Understanding with renowned universities in the world including the prominent Tokushima University, in which a Memorandum of Understanding was duly signed on 31st January 2013. The significant MoU fostered an academic partnership under the academic agreement. This MoU has opened up avenues of expertise, knowledge and information sharing between the two universities in many areas such as:

- Exchange of staff and students in the course of academic development to address problems related to the area of Engineering and Information Communication Technology (ICT). For this year, we have sent five (5) students for the mobility programme to the Tokushima University;
- The exchange of scientific materials, which are made available by both parties;
- Collaboration in teaching and research in the areas of mutual interest to both parties, in which students may be included;
- Sponsorship of combined seminars, workshops and other scientific meetings on matters of mutual interest. I have been informed that the next International Conference on Design and Concurrent Engineering, iDECON 2015 will be held at the Tokushima University.

- Sponsored training programmes, including degree and non-degree programmes;
- And also global double-degree programme.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

6. Based on this MoU, we have also consented on establishing an academic center known as the **TokushimaU-UTeM Academic Centre**. The main goal of the TokushimaU-UTeM Academic Centre is none other than to strengthen the international and academic relationships which have long prevailed between UTeM and Tokushima University. The formation of this Academic Centre will be a catalyst to the Look East Policy sustainability and strengthen the Malaysia-Japan relationship.

7. Additionally, we hope this Academic Centre will benefit all staff and students of UTeM and Tokushima University in its function as a platform, among others, in the placement of students from Tokushima University in industries around Melaka, and meanwhile providing Japanese language learning classes online to students and staff of UTeM. Additionally, the center will also coordinate academic activities in the form of seminars, conferences, lectures and cultural programmes for students from Tokushima University who are currently pursuing their studies at UTeM.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. At this juncture, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to HE Ambassador of Japan for his unstinting support towards this meaningful collaboration, to the delegates from Tokushima

University, especially the President of the Tokushima University, Prof. Susumu Kagawa and those who have contributed to the setting up of the TokushimaU - UTeM Academic Centre.

9. Finally, I would like to congratulate the committee members of TokushimaU - UTeM Academic Centre led by the Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering, for their effort in organizing this officiating ceremony. I hope that the Academic Centre will further amplify our ties and collaborations bringing about more fruitful outcomes to both the University of Tokushima and Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka.

With that, I thank you. Dōmo arigatōgozaimashita. Jikai mo kite kudasai!

Wabillahi taufik walhidayah, wassalamualaikum wrt. wbt.