

OPENING SPEECH

Y.BHG. PROF. DATUK DR. SHAHRIN BIN SAHIB

VICE CHANCELLOR

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON RESEARCH IN INNOVATION
AND SUSTAINABILITY 2014**

(ISORIS'14)

15 OCTOBER 2014, 8.30 AM

AUDITORIUM PPS, UTeM

Bismillah Hirrahman Nirrahim

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Taala Wabarakatuh
Salah Sejahtera, Salam Satu Malaysia

Salam Melaka Maju Negeriku Sayang, Negeri Bandar Teknologi Hijau,
Melaka 752 tahun, Melaka Maju Fasa 2, Berkat, Cepat, Tepat.

Bismillahir rahmanir rahim.
Assalamualaikum warahmatullah and salam sejahtera.

ISORIS Chairperson and the Dean of the Centre for Graduate Studies,

Y. Bhg. Prof Dr Mohd Razali Muhamad,

members of the organizing committee,

Participants and Distinguished Guests.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all the speakers, participants and guests to the International Symposium on Research in Innovation and Sustainability 2014. I am pleased to announce that this is an inaugural symposium, which is jointly organised by three inter-disciplinary research groups: the ; Innovative Software System & Services (IS3) under (C-ACT Centre of Excellence), Sustainable and Responsive Manufacturing Research Group (SUSREM) under The Advanced Manufacturing Centre (AMC) Centre of Excellence, and Sustainable Industrial Community

(SICOMM) under the Institute of Technology Management and Entrepreneurship.

This symposium demonstrates a successful collaborative effort and commitment of three research groups from different background – manufacturing engineering, software engineering and social science - that share similar aspirations and interests in research activities. I congratulate the groups for the initiative taken, and I hope efforts of similar nature could be emulated by other research groups.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The theme for this year's symposium, "Innovative Solutions towards Sustainability" is timely, considering the global emphasis of innovation as the catalyst for economic development. In today's economy, being competitive and innovative is the key for our survival. Within the context of our nation, the government has taken various initiatives to inculcate innovativeness at all levels of society.

According to the Global Competitiveness Index 2013-2014, Malaysia is ranked 24; an improvement from 25 in 2012-2013 ranking. This

competitive index is based on 12 pillars of competitiveness, among which innovation is one of the pillars.

In addition, the Global Innovation Index 2014 ranks Malaysia at number 33. This innovation index is based on seven (7) innovative factors; wherein ecological sustainability, innovation linkages and creative outputs are some of the factors taken into consideration. Thus ISoRIS'14 is a step in the right direction to promote scientists including the social scientists, information and communication technologists and engineers to promote innovativeness and sustainability in their research towards providing solutions for the betterment of our society.

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A quote from one of the Management Gurus, Peter Drucker:

“Innovation is the specific instrument of entrepreneurship ... the act that endows resources with a new capacity to create wealth.”

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This symposium is a perfect platform for researchers as well as practitioners to deliberate on issues and ideas related to innovative solutions towards sustainability. I understand that the symposium offers six (6) tracks related to the fields of manufacturing engineering, software engineering and social science. These tracks provide platforms for

participants to discuss and share knowledge as well as find new ideas. Using this platform, I would like to invite all of us to be open and creative in our discussion.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am proud that the ISORIS'14, which is the first to be organized, is held in Melaka, specifically at the Centre of Graduate Studies, UTeM Main Campus. Especially for the international participants, I would like to highlight that the city of Melaka is one of UNESCO's heritage cities with several interesting and historical places to visit. I suggest you take some

of your time to visit these places and recommend them to your colleagues and friends back home.

Once again I would like to thank you for coming. Your experience, expertise and readiness to share your valuable knowledge and ideas are highly appreciated. I wish all of you fruitful discussions, and more importantly to use this priceless opportunity to generate new friendships and networking.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With the enthusiasm and support from all the presenters, participants and collaborators, and the hard work of the Organizing Committee, I am fully confident that this symposium will be a great success. Last but not least, I hope you will have a pleasant stay and an enjoyable experience in Melaka.

With the lafaz “ Bismillah hirrahmaa nirrahiim” I hereby declare this symposium officially open.

Thank you. Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh and salam sejahtera.