

WELCOME SPEECH

**LAWATAN KERJA RASMI DUTA JEPUN DI
MALAYSIA KE UTeM**

PROF. DATUK WIRA DR. RAHA ABDUL RAHIM

VICE CHANCELLOR, UTeM

16 Mac 2021 (Selasa), 4.00 petang

His Excellency Oka Hiroshi
Japanese Ambassador in Malaysia

Madam Oka Rieko

Mr. NAKAGAWA Kazutaka
Economic Officer

Miss MASUBUCHI Kana
Political and Protocol Officer

Professor Dr. Zulkifilie bin Ibrahim
Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and International)

Professor Dr. Ghazali bin Omar

Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nurulfajar bin Abd Manap

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Student Affairs)

Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr. Md Nazri bin Othman

Assistant Vice Chancellor (Industry and Community Network)

Assoc. Prof. Ts. Mohd Rahimi bin Yusoff

Assistant Vice Chancellor (Development & Facility Management)

Mr Masdzariff Mahat

Chief Operating Officer

Assoc Prof. Ts. Dr. Muhammad Fahmi Miskon

Dean, Faculty of Electrical Engineering

Prof. Dr. Zamberi bin Jamaludin

Dean, Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering

Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Umar Al-Amani bin Haji Azlan

Dean, Faculty of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Technology

Prof. Ts. Dr. Burhanuddin bin Mohd Aboobaider
Director, University International Center

Prof. Dr. Mohd Rizal bin Salleh
General Manager, UTeM Teaching Factory

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Good
Afternoon and **Kon'nichiwa.**

Welcome and Selamat datang to Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka - UTeM.

1. First and foremost, let me extend my warmest welcome to His Excellency Hiroshi Oka, Ambassador of Japan in Malaysia and Madam Reiko Oka, together with the Japanese delegates to our main campus this afternoon.
2. We are deeply honored and extremely delighted to receive the presence of our eminent guests from the 'Land of the Rising Sun'
“Minasama’, UTeM e Youkoso!”

His Excellency, Ladies & Gentlemen,

3. As the first technical public university in Malaysia, UTeM is a member of the Malaysian Technical University Network – a network comprising of 4 technical universities mandated to develop and produce technical scientists and technologists for the nation's future.

His Excellency, Ladies & Gentlemen,

4. For your information, UTeM has just celebrated its 20 years of establishment last December (December 1st, to be exact!). Spread across 8 faculties, our current student enrollment has reached more than 15,000 and the number is expected to increase further in September when we welcome the new cohort. Throughout the two decades, UTeM has forged numerous dynamic ties with international partners and corporations, which have led to diverse advancements in research collaborations and

consultations, internships and knowledge, expertise, and technology transfer.

5. Moving forward, UTeM aspires to explore, enhance and intensify more strategic relations with our global counterparts, with the anticipated mission of prospecting collaborative pursuits in high impact research, eminent academia exposure and value-added cultural exchange.

His Excellency, Ladies & Gentlemen,

6. Thus far, UTeM has linked up and sealed several significant Memorandum of Understanding with renowned universities in Japan such as the prominent Tokushima University, Yokohama National University, Gunma University, Nagaoka University of Technology, and Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology.

7. These opportune strategic collaborations have opened up avenues of expertise, knowledge and information sharing between UTeM and the respective university in numerous areas such as staff exchange and student mobility.
8. Based on our record, to date, UTeM has received a total of 95 inbound mobility students and 60 outbound mobility students through the summer camp program, internship and exchange programs with our Japan University strategic partners.

9. Additionally, a total of four academic staff from UTeM have completed their PhD studies at Tokushima University, with two of them being fully sponsored by the Japanese Government. Besides, two of our students who enrolled for the UTeM – Tokushima University Double Degree Program have also successfully graduated.
10. In addition, we also continue to collaborate in teaching and research, co-organizing seminars and conferences, workshops and training programs on fields of mutual interest and expertise.

His Excellency, Ladies & Gentlemen,

11. Correspondingly, through substantial bilateral collaborations, we have also established a joint academic centre, specifically the TokushimaU-UTeM Academic Centre which was officiated in September 2014. This Centre is equipped with intercommunication facilities totaling to RM70,000 fully sponsored by Tokushima University.

His Excellency, Ladies & Gentlemen,

12. Prior to the establishment of this center, UTeM and Tokushima University have been co-organizing the biennial International Conference on Design and Concurrent Engineering or iDECON - a vital platform for the interaction, discussion, exchange of ideas on the latest techniques especially in the field of technology and manufacturing.

13. Besides that, Tokushima University has also generously provided 10 units of LEGO sets –amounting to RM50,000, for the robotics designing activities during the TMAC Design Workshop held at UTeM. This strategic synergy extends further to benefit our postgraduate students of whom have also received scholarship from The Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) for the 2-weeks' Summer Camp and Spring Camp organized at TU amounting to 80,000 Yen per person. Reciprocally, in 2019, UTeM received 74 students from Tokushima University for the Summer Camp at UTeM, and for your

information, currently, 7 TU students are following the online Summer Camp with UTeM until this coming Thursday. As strategic partners, all cost were jointly borne by TU and UTeM. Sincere appreciation to Tokushima University for your contribution and steadfast support towards this impactful cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

14. UTeM has also placed a dedicated emphasis on establishing favorable links and strategic ties with Japan-based industries in Malaysia. Konica Minolta Technology Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. has been our significant industry partner. Our students have been accepted as interns at the industry for several years now and our academics have also been given the opportunity to garner knowledge and onsite industry experience through the structured staff attachment programme.

15. Additionally, UTeM Japan Day has been a mandatory biennial event to amalgamate and amplify strategic cooperation between the Japan Embassy, Japanese companies in Malaysia, and the University, particularly in the business, education, and research sectors.

His Excellency, Ladies & Gentlemen,

16. At this juncture, on behalf of Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka, I would like to express my gratitude to His Excellency Ambassador of Japan together with the delegates from the Embassy of Japan for your unstinting support to the University. I sincerely hope that today's meeting will ameliorate towards more coherent and tenacious alliances, henceforth proffering mutual benefits to all.

17. With that, I thank you. **Dōmo arigatōgozaimashita.**

TOPIC OF DISCUSSION:

1. Potential Japan Scholarship for students
2. Expansion of Double degree programs
3. Joint-research, sponsored lab and Japan-industry labs
4. More sponsored trainings and academic attachments