

Opening Remarks by Acting Vice Chancellor UTeM,

YBhg. Professor Ir. Dr. Ghazali Bin Omar

1. Yang Berbahagia Professor Dr. Zamberi Jamaludin

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2. Yang Berbahagia Dr. Saat Shukri Embong

Director of MIMOS Berhad and Senior Fellow of Institut Masa Depan Malaysia (MASA)

Participants of SIMM 2021, members of the Organizing Committee, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

1. It gives me great pleasure to welcome all the speakers, participants and guests to the International Symposium on Intelligent Manufacturing & Mechatronics 2021, also known as SIMM 2021.
2. As we all know, this is the second year that the SIMM symposium has taken the virtual mode in light of the new normal effectuated by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the Movement Control Order is still in effect, with travels abroad being still curtailed, and physical restrictions strictly observed; consequently, the safety of our participants and attendees is unanimously our top priority.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

3. I am pleased to announce that this 4th SIMM symposium, is jointly organized with two other Malaysian Technical Universities specifically Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) and Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP), in collaboration with two student's associations, namely, the IEEE UTeM Student Branch and IEEE Robotics and Automation Society Malaysia Chapter.
4. We are deeply honored to be given the opportunity to host this symposium for the second time after the success of the first which was held in 2019. Thank you for the continuous trust and support towards UTeM.
5. This symposium demonstrates an impactful collaborative effort and commitment from higher learning institutions and student's associations 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,

6. SIMM 2021 brings together local and international researchers, experts, practitioners and students to share and discuss ideas, findings and research discoveries in manufacturing and mechatronics engineering. It also serves as a platform for participants to gain knowledge and share their experiences in riding the waves of Revolution 4.0.

7. Like the revolutions that preceded it, the Fourth Industrial Revolution has the potential to raise global income levels and improve the quality of life for populations around the world. Tremendous solutions of engineering, innovation and technology have made possible innovations of new products and services that increase the efficiency and drive economic growth and eventually boost national competitiveness.
8. Hence, SIMM 2021 is a way forward for engineers and technologists to promote innovativeness and sustainability in their research endeavours towards providing viable solutions for the betterment of our society.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. I am indeed glad when informed that this year's symposium epitomizes unabridged collaboration between the local and international strategic partners within the higher education and industry players namely IUT Bangladesh, University of Business & Technology Saudi Arabia, Universitas Negeri Malang Indonesia, USM, UTAR, UTHM, UiTM, UCSI, as well as Nexperia Sdn Bhd and Plexus Manufacturing Sdn. Bhd.
10. Subsequently, I am pleased to inform that all 53 accepted papers from SIMM 2021 will be published in the Lecture Notes in Mechanical Engineering – a Scopus based Springer publication, covering five tracks namely:
 - Intelligent Manufacturing and Artificial Intelligence,
 - Instrumentation and Control,

- Design, Modelling and Simulation
- Smart Materials
- Process and Machining Technology

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. At this juncture, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our sponsor, Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC) for the generous contribution to this event. Such beneficent contribution reflects the importance and significance of this international symposium.
12. With the enthusiasm and support from all the presenters, participants, and the commendable effort of the organizing committee, I am confident that SIMM 2021 will conclude into yet another fruitful venture. I take this opportunity to wish all participants a successful presentation, discussion and a pleasant meeting of minds.
13. On that note and with “Bismillah hirrahmaa nirrahiim”, I hereby declare the 4th International Symposium on Intelligent Manufacturing & Mechatronics 2021 officially open. Thank you.