

WELCOME SPEECH

Yang Berbahagia
Professor Ts. Dr Hajah Roziah Mohd Janor
Vice-Chancellor
Universiti Teknologi MARA

Virtual Signing Ceremony:
Memorandum of Understanding
between Universiti Teknologi MARA and
Vels Institute of Science Technology and Advanced
Studies (VISTAS)

2 February 2023

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Our distinguished guests from Vels Institute of Science
Technology and Advanced Studies (VISTAS)

Dr S. Sriman Narayanan

Vice-Chancellor

VISTAS

Dr P. Saravanan

Registrar

VISTAS

and,

Dr P. Shanmugasundaram

Director of the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences
VISTAS

Professor Dato' Dr Abu Bakar Abdul Majeed

Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy
Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)

Executive members of both VISTAS and UiTM,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

1. A very good afternoon to everyone joining us here in UiTM Shah Alam, Malaysia and to our guests and viewers in Chennai, India.
2. I am pleased to welcome everyone to today's special event. Thank you for making time to join us and grace the occasion with your presence.
3. It is indeed an honour for me to be here at the virtual Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony between **Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)** and the **Vels Institute of Science**

Technology and Advanced Studies or better known as **VISTAS**.

4. Today marks an important milestone for UiTM and VISTAS. It is also a testament to the continued effort made by both academic institutions to forge global partnerships in hopes of achieving academic visibility and excellence.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. For the benefit of our international guests, please allow me to briefly acquaint you with UiTM. Universiti Teknologi MARA, better known as UiTM was founded in 1956, where it initially started as a training centre for the Rural and Industrial Development Authority (RIDA). Various restructuring occurred over the years and in 1999, the institution was designated as a full-fledged university.
6. As the largest and the most comprehensive university in Malaysia with 34 campuses

nationwide, UiTM is home to close to 190,000 students enrolled in more than 500 academic programmes ranging from Foundation to PhD level.

7. Throughout its 66 years, UiTM has been at the forefront of producing competent and capable graduates in various disciplines. To date, we have an alumni strength of over 600,000.
8. In line with our vision to be a globally renowned university in science, technology, humanities, and entrepreneurship, we have been working closely with local and international academic and industry partners. We are steadfast and focused on our goal of producing quality and highly skilled human capital.
9. On the research front, currently, UiTM has established 13 Centres of Excellence (CoE) to promote research and development. These establishments are aligned with our objective to

champion impactful research through a stronger research ecosystem.

10. Two of these CoEs – The Integrative Pharmacogenomics Institute, more fondly known as **iPROMISE**, and the Atta-Ur-Rahman Institute, or **AURINS**, were born, so to speak, from UiTM's Faculty of Pharmacy.
11. UiTM's research initiatives have led to various praiseworthy achievements including a record of more than 16,000 indexed publications for the past 5 years as well as securing more than 4000 active research grants. Such achievements have aided in improving our academic standing where we are now ranked 104 in the QS Asia University Rankings 2023.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. I believe that a partnership with VISTAS, an institution ranked 34 in the India Ministry of Education Ranking for pharmacy education with

established academic and research reputations, will be a significant opportunity for UiTM to enhance academic growth for greater international connection and networking.

13. VISTAS aspires to make the institute an epitome of excellence in higher education. Its School of Pharmaceutical Sciences is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities which enable international standards research undertakings.
14. VISTAS is strong in formulation and pharmaceutical industry work. VISTAS's sturdy network with the pharmaceutical industry in India can help UiTM attain wider networking in the future. With this MoU, we hope to collaborate in research endeavours as well as in staff and student attachment and programmes to learn from one another.
15. With diverse interests between our organisations, I'm certain that future collaborative work will address some of the current key global challenges,

especially in pharmaceutical sciences. Together we strive for excellence in pharmaceutical education and instil societal and ethical values for greater impact in our mission.

16. On that note, congratulations to both UiTM and VISTAS on this exciting new collaboration and I look forward to a successful long-term collaboration between our two institutions.

Thank you.

**Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum
Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.**