

WELCOME SPEECH

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

**Launching of
Digital Certification Partnership Initiative between
Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM),
International Certification of Digital Literacy (ICDL),
and
NAMA Foundation**

16 March 2023

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**The Honourable
Mr Niall Collins**
Irish Minister of State for Skills and Further Education

**Her Excellency
Ms Hilary Reilly**
Ambassador of Ireland to Malaysia

Yang Berbahagia (Menteri)
XXX

Distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen.

(Salutations)

To be confirmed by the organiser on the day of the event.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh. Salam Malaysia Madani and very good morning to all.

1. Alhamdulillah, all praise is due to Allah the Almighty as it is with His grace and blessings that we are gathered here today to commemorate and celebrate this valuable partnership.
2. On behalf of the **Vice-Chancellor, Professor Datuk Ts. Dr Hajah Roziah Mohd Janor**, who could not be with us today, I am pleased to welcome everyone to the **Launching of the Digital Certification Partnership Initiative between UiTM, the International Certification of Digital Literacy (ICDL), and the NAMA Foundation.**

3. The Vice–Chancellor sends her warmest regards to everyone, especially to our invited guests. She also thanks everyone for coming and wishes everyone an enjoyable and fruitful time at this event.

4. I am delighted to be here to witness the official beginning of UiTM’s collaboration with the **International Certification of Digital Literacy (ICDL)** and the **NAMA Foundation**, both of whom are leaders in their respective fields.

5. Congratulations and thank you to all committee members from the **Faculty of Business and Management (FBM)** for their hard work in putting this event together as well as for inviting me today.

Ladies and gentlemen,

6. We are aware that digital literacy is no longer an optional skill in today's world but a necessity. The pandemic has made it even more apparent when we were forced to digitalise every aspect of life to survive and thrive in this new world.

7. That is where the ICDL and the NAMA Foundation come in. The ICDL is a globally recognised certification in digital literacy while the NAMA Foundation is an established international grant provider for Sustainable Development. Together, they have the expertise and experience to impact society by improving digital literacy.
8. Every individual, regardless of age, gender, or social status, should have access to **digital literacy training** that is necessary for economic and social development.
9. ICDL and the NAMA Foundation share the same vision of providing opportunities and the means to support education and societal development in which we at UiTM are eager about the possibilities of this collaboration.

Ladies and gentlemen,

10. Digital literacy skills allow you to find, use, and create information online productively and practically. Having a good understanding of digital literacy means you can use technology safely and help you avoid its dangers.

11. And so, digital literacy has become indispensable for every global citizen, whether to communicate, find employment, receive comprehensive education, or socialise. Acquiring the right set of digital skills is extremely vital not only for learning but also for workforce readiness.

12. Now, I would like all of you to ask yourselves these questions:
 - *Am I capable of checking my emails using my phone?*
 - *Can I find the answers to my questions using Google?*
 - *Or maybe – create another profile on a social media platform?*

- 13.** If you answer **'YES'** to all these questions, congratulations, you are among the **75%** of Malaysians that have basic digital skills.

- 14.** It is interesting to learn that digital literacy has become a more important factor in education from a younger age especially when these young ones grow up with technology surrounding them.

- 15.** In some ways, we will always run into trouble when we use technology without a clear understanding of its purpose. Be it, children, or adults, we need to understand how any digital platform or medium works, who can view us, and what digital footprint we leave behind.

- 16.** Learning digital literacy skills is crucial to ensure we can face safety challenges online, responsibly apply digital usage, improve social opportunities, enhance digital equity, and support lifelong skills.

17. This is why a digital literacy curriculum has become more imperative than ever.

Ladies and gentlemen,

18. As the largest and most comprehensive public university in Malaysia, the collaboration between UiTM, ICDL, and NAMA Foundation could initiate the development of innovative digital literacy programmes to meet community needs.

19. I believe such programmes could empower individuals with the skills to navigate the digital world optimistically and efficiently.

20. Moreover, the programmes will create a more inclusive and equitable society that will aid our country in producing human capital well-equipped with digital literacy to meet global demands, creating job opportunities while contributing to economic growth.

- 21.** Hence, I would like to reiterate how a higher education institution like UiTM, a digital skills training provider like ICDL, and a grant provider like the NAMA Foundation, could strategically partner up to increase digital literacy among public citizens to be **Globally Marketable**.
- 22.** I am sure we are all anticipating our next step to work together and create a better future by providing educational access to digital literacy for all.
- 23.** Before I end, please allow me to again congratulate everyone involved in this amazing partnership.
- 24.** On that note, I wish you all the best and may the launch today open doors to many more beneficial initiatives for the nation and beyond.

Thank you.

**Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum
Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.**