

WELCOME SPEECH

Yang Berbahagia
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**The Malaysia Launch of the 2023 Report of the
Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change**

1 December 2023

Hospital Al-Sultan Abdullah, Puncak Alam, UiTM

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

YAB Dato' Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid bin Hamidi
Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia

**The Esteemed
Dr Muruga Raj Rajathurai**
President of the Commonwealth Medical Association
(CMA)

Dr Marina Romanello
Executive Director of The Lancet Countdown

YBhg. Professor Dato' Dr Mazlan Abd Ghaffar
Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Terengganu

YBhg. Professor Emeritus Datuk Dr Raduan Bin Che Rose

President of the National Council of Professors (MPN) and Chairman of the UiTM Board of Directors

YBhg. Professor Dr Meisam Tabatabaei

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) and Lead Collaborator of The Lancet Countdown

Distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen

Salutations

(To be confirmed by the organiser on the day of the event)

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and good evening.

- 1) *Alhamdulillah*, praise be to Allah S.W.T., the Sustainer of all worlds, for granting us the opportunity to gather for this significant event.

- 2) I am truly honoured to stand before you today, to address one of the most pressing challenges of our time – the intersection of climate change and public health.

- 3) On behalf of UiTM, I extend a warm welcome to everyone gathered here for the **Launching of the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change 2023 Report**.

- 4) A special acknowledgement and a warm welcome to our esteemed **Deputy Prime Minister, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi**. Thank you for making time to join us on this auspicious day. Your presence adds great value to our collective efforts.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- 5) As we delve into the **Lancet Countdown 2023 launch**, we are not merely dissecting data but are confronting the reality that climate change is unequivocally a health crisis.

- 6) This issue transcends boundaries, affecting every corner of our globe and impacting the well-being of communities, societies, and ecosystems.
- 7) As a leading institution in education, UiTM is always committed to playing a vital role in research, addressing the challenges posed by climate change, and recognising the urgent need to integrate health considerations into the broader discourse on climate action.
- 8) We are dedicated to fostering an environment that encourages innovation and collaboration to propel us towards sustainable solutions.
- 9) As ascertained in the **Lancet Countdown 2023 findings**, it is imperative to consider the local context, acknowledging the unique challenges faced by our communities.
- 10) Significantly, UiTM is positioned to be a catalyst for change, leveraging our expertise, resources,

and partnerships to drive initiatives that contribute to both climate resilience and public health.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- 11) Climate inaction is costing lives and livelihoods. The **2023 Lancet Countdown Report** tracks the relationship between health and climate change **across five key domains and 47 indicators**, providing the most up-to-date assessment of the links between health and climate change.

- 12) This year's report shows several key findings such as:
 - Health hazards, exposures, and impacts
 - Adaptation, planning, and resilience for health
 - Mitigation actions and health co-benefits
 - Economics and finance, and
 - Public and political engagement in health and climate change.

- 13) It was reported that health risks of climate change are increasing across all dimensions. Regardless of various adaptation efforts, it is still insufficient to protect people from the growing hazards, and global health inequities.

- 14) However, millions of lives **can be saved** every year through health-centred climate action. It is, therefore, imperative to seek transformative climate action to enable a future where present and future generations can thrive.

- 15) Overall, there are transformative opportunities for a healthy, prosperous future, and with our diverse disciplines and expertise, we should be able to take necessary action toward our common global goals.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- 16) In the spirit of collaboration, I encourage active participation and knowledge exchange among our academics during this event.
- 17) Let us deploy the best available science to track progress on health and climate change, and commit to initiatives that propel us towards a future where the health of our planet and its inhabitants is safeguarded.
- 18) In closing, thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this event, and may you find this experience beneficial and rewarding.

Thank you.

**Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum
Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.**