

OPENING REMARKS

Yang Berbahagia
Professor Datuk Dr Shahrin Sahib @ Sahibuddin
Vice-Chancellor
Universiti Teknologi MARA

Signing Ceremony Memorandum of Understanding between Universiti Teknologi MARA and Ohio University, Athens, U.S.A

(in conjunction with the Establishment of the Tun
Abdul Razak Chair at Ohio University)

24 January 2024

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Esteemed guests:

XXX

XXX (Overseas guests, non-UiTM)

Yang Berbahagia

XXX

XXX (KPT)

UiTM colleagues:

Yang Berbahagia

Professor Datin Dr Suzana Sulaiman

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International)

Yang Berbahagia

Associate Professor Ts. Dr Suriyani Ariffin

Director of Academic Development

Yang Berbahagia

Professor Ts. Dr Wardah Tahir

Director of Curriculum Affairs

Yang Berbahagia

Professor Ts. Dr Haryani Haron

Assistant Vice-Chancellor

College of Computing, Informatics, and Mathematics

Respected Heads of Departments, Assistant Registrars, Secretariats

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Salutations

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

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.
Salam sejahtera. Good afternoon, everyone.

1. *Alhamdulillah*, we give thanks to Allah for His grace and blessings in bringing us together on this significant day.
2. A sincere welcome and *Selamat Datang* to our honoured guests and attendees joining us for the **Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony between Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and the Ohio University of Athens, U.S.A.**
3. I stand before you with a profound sense of pride and excitement as we gather to witness a significant milestone in the longstanding partnership between our universities.
4. This commemoration of the establishment of the Tun Abdul Razak Chair at Ohio University opens a new chapter in our collaborative pursuit of academic excellence and cross-cultural understanding.

5. I am thrilled by the fantastic opportunities that lie ahead in this undertaking.

Ladies and gentlemen,

6. Establishing the Tun Abdul Razak Chair symbolises a dedication to strengthening the ties between Malaysia and the United States.
7. It displays a testament to both nations' shared vision of creating broader opportunities in the field of education and a reaffirmation of our dedication to mutual growth and academic advancement.
8. Under this MoU, UiTM and Ohio University will strive to advance, promote, and expand academic and research collaboration, encompassing a wide array of areas – from the establishment and administration of the Chair to joint research grants, student and faculty exchanges, joint publications, lectures, seminars, workshops, and conferences planning.

9. This comprehensive strategy reflects our commitment to fostering a dynamic and vibrant learning environment.

Ladies and gentlemen,

10. Let us take a moment to reflect on the history that has brought us to this significant juncture.

11. The Tun Abdul Razak Chair at Ohio University was instated in March 1980 – an acknowledgement of the long-standing collaboration between the Malaysian government and Ohio University.

12. This Chair has been a conduit for scholars in Malaysia to share their knowledge and expertise in the United States, deepening the understanding of Malaysia's cultural heritage, economics, social life, and politics.

13. **Professor Dr Habibah Ashari** – UiTM's former Professor of Education – held the prestigious position of **chairholder from 2011 to 2014,**

following in the footsteps of **Puan Sri Professor Dr Fatimah Hamid Don**, the first woman appointed to this role in **1983**.

14. Their contributions have enhanced the bonds between our institutions and made an ever-lasting mark on the academic landscape.
15. Among these shared accomplishments and milestones are the **collaborative programmes in Business Management, Accountancy, and Mass Communication**, which were also guided and shaped by Professors from Ohio University, paving the way for the internationalisation of education in Malaysia.

Ladies and gentlemen,

16. Let us seize the chance that this Tun Abdul Razak Chair offers as we prepare to embark on an exciting new phase in our partnership.

17. May the alliance solidified today lead to greater mutual understanding, shared knowledge, and more collaborative pursuits.
18. We will move forward together to write the chapters of a story that began decades ago, bound by a quest for academic excellence, cultural exchange, and the pursuit of knowledge.
19. Lastly, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has brought us this momentous occasion, especially to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor's office – YBhg. Professor Datin Dr Suzana Sulaiman and her team – and UiTM's College of Computing, Informatics, and Mathematics.
20. My best wishes to all, and thank you.

**Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum
Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.**