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Message

from the Rector

This year 2018 is a year of change as we witness tremendous changes in the Federal Government after *Pilihan Raya Umum (PRU) 14*. These changes call for a need to adjust to new policies. I would like to thank UiTM Sarawak staff for exercising their right to vote. As a Federal Agency, UiTM Sarawak will collaborate with the new government to forge ahead for a New Malaysia. At the same time, we will continue to foster close ties and cooperation with the State Government which has been very supportive of UiTM Sarawak.

Sarawak has launched its Digital Economy Strategy 2018-2022 which strives to drive the state economy. The state has developed eight economic sectors that include agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, smart city, digital health, e-commerce, digital government, sports, social, arts and culture for Sarawak Digital Economy. As the Sarawak State Government is adopting the approach of "Transforming Sarawak Through Digital Economy", UiTM Sarawak will fully support this move and work towards supplying the qualified man power that is needed to achieve this.

With about 134,000 square kilometres of land occupied by only 2.7 million people, Sarawak has the capability to produce abundant food for export. Sarawak is targeting to be a net exporter of food by 2030 and this can be achieved by embracing technology in agriculture. In the agricultural sector, the state is keen to introduce ICT and digital technologies to drive innovation and enhance smart, precision farming as well as set up efficient distribution system for agriculture inputs and products. The government is transforming the rural economy through technology to help the rural folk to brace for the impact of technological advancement. There is an urgent need to reach out to the rural people and bring forth development that not only benefits the urban

people but also those who stay in the interior. UiTM Sarawak recognises Malaysia's rich legacy as an agricultural economy and supports the Government's vision to revitalise the sector by adopting ICT solutions. As such, UiTM Sarawak will focus on efforts in research on modern farming technology such as smart farming and precision farming.

Despite the numerous investments made by the government to modernise the agricultural sector, there are challenges that need to be tackled if Malaysia is to adopt better farming practices. The main challenge to modernising the agricultural sector is changing the mentality and mindset of the farming community. It is pertinent to attract and retain youths within the farming industry, particularly those who are technology-savvy, by providing suitable employment opportunities in rural areas. By creating modern high-tech farms with ample job opportunities for the youths, it will be easier to incorporate new farming technology and change farming culture. As an institution of higher learning in Sarawak that offers programmes in plantation and agriculture, UiTM Sarawak has a significant role to play in encouraging youths, who are very familiar with using electronic gadgets and information technology, to adopt smart or precision farming.

Youth leadership is an important aspect of nation building. It is important that our students lead clubs and societies to learn to persuade, influence and listen to others as they build up their social skills and develop community leadership. This is the process of training future leaders to lead our country. Our youths of today will be leaders of tomorrow. Thus, it is important that we train our future leaders who will lead our community towards a greater nation and a better tomorrow. As such, I would like to call upon the lecturers, who have close contact with the students, to develop their soft skills and leadership skills so that we have a pool of capable youths who will be able to take on leadership roles when they graduate and join the community. We need to produce holistic graduates who are employable and highly sought after in the industries. Therefore, our graduates should not only excel academically but also have soft skills and leadership skills so that they are highly marketable in this competitive job market.

I take this opportunity to thank the staff, particularly the lecturers, for their commitment and continuous effort in shaping and moulding our students to become the future leaders of tomorrow. I am very grateful for the team of dedicated staff who have worked extremely hard to enable UiTM Sarawak to win so many awards in quality, research, invention and innovation.

Thank you.



Professor Dato Dr. Jamil Hamali



Message

from the

Chief Editor

First, I would like to thank the former Deputy Chief Editor, Madam Lilly Metom, for her contributions and welcome the new Deputy Chief Editor, Madam Azlina Ghazali for taking over the post. I am also grateful to the members of the Editorial Board for their cooperation in contributing and editing the articles. To the contributors of the articles, thank you very much and I hope that you will all continue to support our campus newsletter.

Our Sarawak State Government aims to transform Sarawak into a digital economy powerhouse which will leapfrog the state's development and generate new job opportunities. An enhanced economy will accelerate growth and turn Sarawak into a high-income state by 2030. This high technology environment needs educated, skilled manpower who are proficient in English. The state government is taking steps to improve education in Sarawak to produce well-educated employable graduates for the digital economy. As such, UiTM Sarawak, which is supporting this effort, plans to upgrade itself into a smart campus as part of its initiative to support the state's vision of digital development. This move is in line with the state government's effort to turn Kuching into a smart city. To embrace a digital economy, digital knowledge and cyber security are important. Therefore, UiTM Sarawak with UiTM Sarawak Alumni Association (MITSA) and Cybersecurity Malaysia jointly organised 'Ops Jelajah Cyber' Sarawak edition. This shows that UiTM Sarawak is committed to support the State Government in the successful implementation of a digital economy in the state.

The Sarawak State Government is making efforts to instil interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects among Sarawakian students. UiTM Sarawak is playing a significant role in generating interest in these subjects by organising innovation, invention and design expositions every year since 2004 for its own students and lecturers. School students are also invited to take part in SIIDEx, to develop their creativity and to express their creativity through inventions, innovations and designs. The goal of SIIDEx, is to nurture and propagate a creative and innovative culture in Sarawak, especially among school children, in line with the Talent Development Strategy of the state's Digital Economy Blueprint. As such, UiTM Sarawak is very fortunate to collaborate with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Research which provides the necessary fund to organise SIIDEx.

As an institution of higher education in Sarawak, UiTM Sarawak has always supported the initiatives by the Sarawak State Government to provide better education for the youths in the state so that they remain marketable and employable in this competitive job market. The vision of achieving a high-income state by 2030 through embracing a digital economy will come to fruition with the close cooperation of all those who are involved. Together we will achieve much now and in the years to come.

Let us join hands and work together for a better tomorrow for all.

Roselind Wee

Majlis Iftar

PELAJAR UiTM 2018 BERSAMA TYT YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI SARAWAK

Oleh: Ardiana Mazwa Raudah



KOTA SAMARAHAN – 6 Jun Para pelajar Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Sarawak telah menganjurkan Majlis Iftar Pelajar UiTM bersama Tuan Yang Terutama Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, Yang Di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak, serta isteri Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan Datuk Patinggi Hajjah Raghad Kurdi Taib di perkarangan Pusat Pelajar Kampus Samarahan 2.

Menurut Profesor Dato Dr Jamil Haji Hamali, Rektor UiTM Cawangan Sarawak, majlis ini merupakan acara tahunan yang dianjurkan oleh Majlis Perwakilan Pelajar serta Bahagian Hal Ehwal Pelajar UiTM. Agenda utama majlis ini diadakan adalah untuk menyampaikan sumbangan khas kepada anak-anak yatim yang sedang menuntut di UiTM.

“Kita berharap agar dengan adanya sumbangan yang diberikan ini, ia akan dapat serba sedikit menceriakan para pelajar kita untuk balik kampung dan beraya bersama sanak-saudara walaupun telah kehilangan ibubapa”, kata Profesor Dato Dr Jamil Haji Hamali yang berharap agar anak-anak yatim ini terus cekal dan tabah dalam menghadapi apa jua dugaan yang mendatang.

Seramai 82 orang anak yatim telah menerima sumbangan berupa wang ringgit yang merupakan derma daripada para pelajar, pensyarah dan staf UiTM Cawangan Sarawak serta Yayasan Rafulin, Kelab Kakitangan UiTM Sarawak (Kekita) dan Persatuan Wanita UiTM Sarawak (Pewani).

Sumbangan tersebut disampaikan oleh Tuan Yang Terutama Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, Yang Di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak, serta isteri Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan Datuk Patinggi Hajjah Raghad Kurdi Taib.

Turut hadir ke majlis tersebut adalah Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Dato Sri Safri Awang Zaidell, Pro Canselor UiTM serta isteri, Yang Berbahagia Puan Sri Lilia Hj Mohd Salleh, Profesor Dato Dr Jamil Hj Hamali, Rektor UiTM Cawangan Sarawak serta isteri YBhg. Datin Marilyn Edna Perreau, Tuan Haji Brahim Lumpu, Residen Bahagian Samarahan, barisan timbalan dan penolong rektor serta lebih kurang 350 orang pelajar UiTM Cawangan Sarawak dan staff.





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