

# East Meets West - LOI Signing Ceremony between UiTM and the University of Ottawa, Canada

**Angeline Ranjethamoney Vijayarajoo (PM Khas Dr.), Abdul Fattah Abd Gani,**

**Aeimi Ruzanna Abu Hassim & Mohd Ikram Mohd Nor Rizan**

Akademi Pengajian Bahasa, UiTM Kampus Seremban

Rome was not built in a day. Neither was the tie that has been fostered between UiTM Cawangan Negeri Sembilan (UiTMCNS) and the University of Ottawa, Canada. Spearheaded by the Academy of Language Studies, Seremban Campus, the negotiations on collaborative efforts between UiTM and the University of Ottawa took months of hard work and countless late-night meetings to cater to the different time zones of both countries. After many negotiations and much goodwill in force, they culminated in the signing of a Letter of Intent (LOI) between the two universities. The historic date was the 25th May 2022, 9.00 am at the Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Chancellery Building, UiTM Shah Alam. On the side of UiTM, the Vice Chancellor gave a speech followed by the President (equivalent to the Vice Chancellor) of the University of Ottawa, before the signing of the document took place. Both heads of Universities, Prof. Datuk Ts. Dr. Roziah Mohd Janor and Mr. Jacques Frémont, were visibly pleased with the visit and the signing event. As for the ownership of the LOI, it is held and headed by Prof. Dr. Yamin Yasin, the Rector of UiTMCNS. The event was also graced by the attendance of Mr. Khairil Azwan Abu Mansor, Senior Principal Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, as well as Mrs. Nur Ezira Mahadi, Principal Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The University of Ottawa team had already planned a visit to Malaysia earlier, on their own agenda. Hence, getting the LOI had to be worked on fast in order to make it in time for the visit of the Canadian team on the 25th of May. Everything was attended to with swiftness that led to the smooth completion of the document by this date. For this, only a great committee could have pulled this off! On the side of UiTMCNS, the Rector was the main driving force in dealing with UiTM Shah Alam. The Corporate Communications and Global Team personnel were super-efficient and fast, as time was of the essence in this endeavour. Though it was not a case of building Rome in a day, it was a great task of building a relationship to reach fruition – the LOI – within a few months. This is surely close to building Rome in a day.

A major highlight of the short but action-packed trip of the delegates from the University of Ottawa was their visit to UiTM's College of Engineering. The reason for this was because the Dean of the Engineering Faculty, Mr. Jacques Beauvais, was on this visit. The University of Ottawa was also keen on this area for future collaboration. Hence, Prof. Dr. Yamin Yasin made arrangements with our Engineering counterparts to take the Canadian delegates on a tour of the College of Engineering.

This tour was guided and explained in detail by Prof. Sr. Ir. Dr. Suhaimi Abdul Talib, the Assistant Vice Chancellor of the College of Engineering. The tour later ended with a meeting to discuss possible collaborative areas between the two institutions. This part of the trip took close to two hours, after which the delegates were whisked away to Hotel UiTM to savour a lovely “Keluarga Malaysia” lunch; depicting the various Malaysian delicacies and cultures. The menu of the lunch was precisely curated by the Executive Chef of Hotel UiTM to showcase the diversity and uniqueness of flavours that Malaysian cuisine is famous for.



UiTM CNS team with the delegation from the University of Ottawa



Speech by the Vice Chancellor of UiTM



Speech by the President of the University of Ottawa

The visit ended at 1.30 pm as the Canadian delegates had to rush to their next destination. Though it was a wet day, the constant rain did not dampen our spirits but only showed us how blessed we were to have this meeting together. As we said farewell to the Canadian delegation, we knew it was not goodbye but only a momentary parting, for we would be working together on more projects in the not-too-distant future.

Suddenly, it dawned on us that all the weeks of preparation for this half-day visit were over. We felt a surge of emotions – a sense of relief, joy, anticipation, hope, and many more – it was surely a cocktail of feelings. A tiring day but one that was fulfilling and we knew that we were truly blessed and could not have asked for more.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Rector, for all his support throughout, to the upper management and staff of UiTM, to every member of this committee and to the entire Academy of Language Studies, UiTMCNS, Seremban Campus. This is for ALL of us.

*Au revoir, till we meet again.*



The official signing of the LOI



Members of the audience





Meeting to further discuss the collaborative partnership



The Canadian delegation visiting UiTM's College of Engineering



Mr Abdul Fattah, Co-Head of the LOI Committee, emceeding the event



Late night meeting with the Malaysian High Consulate of Canada

### List of Committee Members from UiTMCNS:

1. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Angeline Ranjethamoney Vijayarajoo, Co-Head of the LOI Committee (Academy of Language Studies)
2. Abdul Fattah Abdul Gani, Co-Head of the LOI Committee (Academy of Language Studies)
3. Mohd Ikram Mohd Nor Rizan (Coordinator, Academy of Language Studies)
4. Aeimi Ruzanna Abu Hassim (Academy of Language Studies)
5. Dr. Siti Nor Atika Baharin (Liaison Officer, UiTM Global UiTMCNS)
6. Dr. Nor Monica Ahmad (Coordinator, Corporate Communications Unit UiTMCNS)
7. Razif Sazali (Corporate Communications Unit UiTMCNS)

### List of Members from the University of Ottawa:

1. Jacques Frémont, President and Vice-Chancellor
2. Jacques Beauvais, Dean, Faculty of Engineering
3. Anne McIlroy, Executive Director, Strategic Engagement (External Relations)
4. Olga Golovachova, Manager of International Relations, Faculty of Engineering