

OFFICIATING SPEECH

Yang Berbahagia
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**International Conference on Sustainable
Development for Community Empowerment
(unitE 2023)**

22 – 23 August 2023 (Event Date)

XX August (Recording Date)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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Distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen

Salutations

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

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.
Salam Sejahtera and good morning.

1. *Alhamdulillah*, praise be to Allah S.W.T. for His abundant blessings that made it possible for us to gather for this very significant event.
2. I am pleased to join you today at the virtual **International Conference on Sustainable Development for Community Empowerment or unitE 2023**, organised by the Community Network Centre (CNC), Office of Industry, Community and Alumni Network (ICAN), Universiti Teknologi MARA.
3. First, please allow me to extend a very warm welcome to all our esteemed Keynote Speakers for making time to be with us today.

4. Thank you very much, **Professor Dr Abang Zainoren Abang Abdurahman** from **UiTM Sabah Branch**; **Associate Professor Sulikah Asmorowati** from **Airlangga University Indonesia**; and **Dr Esyin Chew** from **Cardiff Metropolitan University UK**.
5. I am sure our audience eagerly awaits your insights and best practices on sustainable community projects. And not forgetting, a very warm welcome to all conference guests and participants.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. Reflecting on the strong momentum towards building a better and more sustainable world, along with the challenging economic, technological, and climate circumstances, it is more than ever imperative to come up with agile strategies to initiate and protect our valuable resources for future generations.

7. As institutions of higher learning, we are responsible for transitioning to more sustainable practices and reducing our carbon footprint to minimise further damage.
8. Our students will, therefore, need worthwhile skills and knowledge to respond to these present challenges and those yet to come. We need to lead by example. We need to be an able, innovative and collected academia that can formulate practical solutions.
9. It is equally important to take advantage of our connected world to offer new ways to build value, unlock new opportunities, and maximise success.
10. Hence, I am happy to see the strong emphasis on impactful community projects that are aligned with the **United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** in many of the projects involving UiTM and our tertiary and industry partners, particularly in the ASEAN region.

11. Among these SDGs worth noting are:

- i. **SDG 1 – No Poverty** where we employ strategies to tackle poverty within vulnerable communities and create livelihood opportunities for them.
- ii. **SDG 4 – Quality Education** where we offer access to quality education which resonates closely with UiTM's role as a premier higher education institution that champions lifelong learning.
- iii. **SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities** where we strive to enhance elements like housing and public space access to ensure communities are more inclusive and secure.

Lastly,

- iv. **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals** where effective collaboration is highly encouraged among local authorities, non-governmental organisations, businesses, and stakeholders to harness resources and expertise for sustainable development of communities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. One of the notable projects that involve UiTM includes **University for Society (U4S)** which has received support from the Ministry of Higher Education.
13. This ongoing collaboration with the **University of Malaya (UM)** and the **International Islamic University (IIUM)** aims to help the urban poor through the **Financial Independence Strategy for Community Entrepreneur (FISCENT)** project.

14. The project, which also attracted participation from **Kuala Lumpur City Hall** and **Pfizer**, provided training in entrepreneurship and digital marketing to targeted communities.
15. Another collaborative project involving UiTM is the **Agrofarm2U** project which aims to assist the local community enhance its crop yield and productivity using homegrown fertigation techniques and digital farming.
16. These highlighted projects underscore UiTM's commitment to impactful endeavours which cultivate positive outcomes and contribute to community empowerment.
17. Thus, I assure you that UiTM remains steadfast in its commitment to such ventures, further solidifying the university's role as a catalyst for community progress.

18. On that note, I congratulate everyone at **ICAN** and **CNC** for your tireless efforts in uplifting collaborative engagements to expand a more sustainable and efficient community ecosystem.

19. I wish everyone a beneficial time at **unitE 2023** and may you use the knowledge and skills that you gain from the sharing sessions to impact the lives of others positively.

**With *Bismillahirrahmanirrahim*, I hereby declare
The International Conference on
Sustainable Development for Community
Empowerment (unitE 2023) officially open.**

Thank you.

***Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum
Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.***