

**Speech by Professor Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Abdul Mutalib
Vice Chancellor Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS
cum Patron
8TH INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON INDUSTRIAL BIOPROCESSING
(IBA-IFIBiop 2019)**

**Thursday, 2 May 2019
Imperial Hotel, Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Yang Berbahagia Encik Adam Yii Siew Sang
Mayor of Miri, Sarawak

Professor Dr Duu Jong Lee
Chairman IBA-IFIBiop, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan

Professor Dr Ashok Pandey
International Coordinator IBA-IFIBiop 2019

Professor Ir Dr Suzana Yusup
Chairman Of The 8th International Forum On Industrial Bioprocessing
(IBA-IFIBiop 2019)

Distinguished Speakers, Honoured Guests,

Members of the UTP Executive Management Committee,

Members of the Media,

My Colleagues from UTP,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh, Selamat Sejahtera and a very good morning.

I am deeply honoured to be present here today to address all of you at the 8th International Forum On Industrial Bioprocessing or in short, IBA-IFIBiop 2019 here in Miri, Sarawak. As the patron of the 8th edition of this

conference, I am proud to be a part of this major gathering of academia for knowledge sharing, intellectual discourse and networking on Industrial Bioprocessing. Let me first extend our deepest gratitude to Yang Berbahagia Encik Adam Yii Siew Sang, Mayor of Miri, Sarawak for being here with us to officiate IBA-IFIBiop 2019. Thank you for making time to attend this event despite your busy schedule. Your presence is indeed, truly appreciated.

I am delighted to see speakers and attendees ranging from countries all over the world. To all our international guests, I bid you 'Selamat Datang' and welcome to Malaysia. I wish all of you a pleasant experience during your stay here. My congratulations to both UTP and Curtin Malaysia for its initiative in organising this Conference in the birthplace of the Malaysian petroleum industry. This is timely indeed as UTP is gearing towards leaving our footprints here in Sarawak. In only the first quarter of the year, we have collaborated with Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus and now with Curtin Malaysia for this international conference. Sarawak stands to gain much from the discussions and resolutions that will emerge from this conference.

UTP has always supported conferences such as this as an avenue for academia and industries to showcase research findings in Industrial Bioprocessing. This conference not only builds research and business relations with global partners, but also enables knowledge sharing between academics of various nations, enforcing the idea of a worldwide community of academia. This is in line with the university's goal to become an internationally recognised partner of choice for industry and respected scientific community by the year 2025.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The role universities play in expanding the frontiers of knowledge and championing the development of technology to address society's imperative challenges need to continuously evolve, but at the same time remain pertinent. Those economic, societal and environmental challenges are in many ways daunting. But they also bring phenomenal opportunities. With this year's theme; 'Bridging Sustainability and Industrial Revolution through Green Bioprocessing', IBA-IFIBiop 2019 sheds light on how we can stay relevant in these challenging times, in the advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The challenge of Industrial Bioprocessing specifically Green Bioprocessing in today's world lies in identifying the needs of the industry and promoting technology transfer and training of engineers who will fit the wide range of markets, activities, and products that are being encompassed by biotechnology and bioprocess-engineering developments. The synthesis and innovation to develop the enabling technologies for industry to exploit the potential of modern biology and chemistry fully is a significant part of this challenge.

As we move forward, Green Bioprocessing continues to play a role in providing the world with the secure energy we need to power rapid development and sustainable long-term economic growth. That is why I see opportunities here in conferences such as this. These are exciting times for us to be addressing climate change which is one of the greatest issues that the world currently faces. There is still plenty which we can do to play a part (however small) in sustaining the world's resources for future generations. And that is why it is apt that the IBA-IFIBiop 2019 is happening now.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My heartiest appreciation goes to Yang Berbahagia Encik Adam Yii Siew Sang, Mayor of Miri, Sarawak, for your presence here today. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organising committee for their dedication in making IBA-IFIBiop 2019 possible. To the event partners from Curtin Malaysia and the International Association of Bioprocessing (IBA), all the event sponsors, your continuous support for educational and intellectual conferences such as this has made today's event the most memorable one. It is my sincere hope that IBA-IFIBiop 2019 will be a forum for fruitful deliberations and astounding presentations, demonstrating the value of education and research to humanity. To our speakers and delegates, I encourage you to be fully involved in the knowledge sharing that is provided in IBA-IFIBiop today. Let us all strive towards building an educated globalised world.

Thank you and Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.