

**Speech by
Professor Ts. Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Abdul Mutalib
Vice Chancellor, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS**

Perak Region Company Engagement 2019

**Tuesday, 10 December 2019
9.00 am – 12.30 pm
Seminar Room 7, Undercroft, UTP**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Encik Izran Abdullah
Director, Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) Perak

Puan Rosazliza Azman
Director, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) Perak

Encik Luqman Hakim Muhammad Hafni
Assistant Manager, Investment Promotion Department Invest Perak

Associate Professor Dr Nor Hisham Hamid
Deputy Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs and Alumni
Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS

Associate Professor Dr Nurlidia Mansor
Director, Centre for Student Development
Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

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

On behalf of Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP) let me, first and foremost, welcome our distinguished guests and all the Perak representatives', the industry players to our campus. We truly appreciate your presence here.

It gives me great pleasure to be the host for this engagement today and I am grateful for this opportunity. The link we have with various industries and organisations both locally and abroad remain pivotal to our success. The university is constantly expanding and growing our network and collaborative efforts in the realisation that one of the keys for growth is networking with the right partners and as we are a part of the community, you have always remain at the heart of UTP's agenda.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since its inception in 1997, UTP has continuously provided excellent services for its students in terms of diverse study options, relevant curriculum and teaching methods, on-going partnerships with leading universities worldwide, strong industry linkages, up-to-date facilities and a well-equipped campus. Our mission is to produce well-rounded graduates who possess technical competence, lifetime learning capacity, critical thinking, communication and behavioural skills, business acumen, practical aptitude and solution synthesis ability.

We welcome collaborations and industry inputs that can help us shape our holistic education that results not just in excellent academic accomplishments but also in graduates with qualities that are highly sought after in the global marketplace. Industry-relevant learning activities and curriculum are widely incorporated into all tertiary courses in close

partnership with the relevant industries. UTP's insistence on preparing its graduates to be future proof and professionally competent has proven to have given our graduates an added edge. This is evident in the high employability rate of our graduates, which is 90% within six months of graduation, with many securing jobs even before they have completed their final examinations. Currently, UTP has a 19,000-strong alumnus which continues to grow annually, and many of them are now leaders in their respective fields locally and globally.

There was a time when our students used to look for jobs in the Oil & Gas sectors but now, they are much sought after by various industries. And non-engineering and technology industries are also keen to tap into our graduates' skills and talents. I hope that today will be the start of your companies and organisations looking to take in our students and further building their skills and capabilities to enable them to rise to real-world challenges.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Through this engagement, we have this platform to promote and share about potential collaborations especially on employment opportunities, student industrial internship, career-related programmes as well as on incentives provided by government to companies. With outstanding academics and researchers and research facilities that UTP currently has, this engagement will also be the impetus for many more collaborations in future.

Hopefully we can open up many more opportunities for all parties to collaborate and promote knowledge exchange, recruitment information, networking, and job opportunity for UTP students. It is well-known that currently over 1,500 companies are operating in Perak and this means that we can explore more opportunities with all of you for the benefits of our students and the industry.

Our relationship with industry partners is crucial for our ongoing success, and this partnership is in line with our industry engagement strategy which focuses on developing links with key industry partners in order to drive our vision of excellence in education and research. Without the strong support from the industries, the challenges that we are currently facing would hugely impede our progress.

At this juncture, I would like to thank everyone who have given their relentless support to the university, either directly or indirectly, over the past 22 years. I would also like to welcome everyone present today to continue working hand-in-hand with us to build a better future and write a new chapter in history for Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS.

Again, let me extend my heartfelt gratitude for making this engagement possible. We definitely look forward towards an enhanced and robust cooperation between all the Parties.

Thank you.