

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

**In Conjunction with The Official Visit by YB Yeo Bee Yin
Minister of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment & Climate
Change (MESTECC)**

**The Official Opening of UTP STEM Exploration Centre
&
Closing Ceremony of CCM STEM UP X UTP**

**Tuesday, 24 September 2019
1.30 pm at Multipurpose Hall, CETaL**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Yang Berhormat Yeo Bee Yin
Minister of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment & Climate Change

Dr Mohd Suhaimi Mohamed Ali
Pengarah, Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Perak (JPN)

Puan Nik Fazila Nik Mohamed Shihabuddin
Group Managing Director, Chemical Company of Malaysia Bhd

The delegates from the Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology,
Environment & Climate Change

Distinguished Guests, our STEM Partners from the government, industry
and other institutions

Members of the University Executive Management Committee and
Senate

UTP staff and students

Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh, salam sejahtera and a very good afternoon.

First and foremost, on behalf of the university, let me extend my warmest welcome to all our distinguished guests especially Yang Berhormat Yeo Bee Yin, the Minister of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment & Climate Change (MESTECC) to this momentous occasion this afternoon.

Thank you Yang Berhormat for graciously accepting our invitation and coming all the way to Seri Iskandar to officially open UTP's new landmark, the UTP STEM Exploration Centre and officiate the closing ceremony of CCM STEM UP X UTP. We truly appreciate your presence here and we hoped YB have had a wonderful enriching half day here on campus.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our partner, Chemical Company of Malaysia Bhd and the schools involved for today's event. It's a measure of your commitment to the STEM cause and underscores the pivotal role you play in driving STEM education. With all of your support, UTP is more than ready to forge ahead and contribute widely to the science, technology and engineering needs of the country and industry at large.

Yang Berhormat Yeo Bee Yin, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the era of globalisation, digitisation and Fourth Industrial Revolution, the need for talents in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is becoming more pronounced to move the country

forward. However, the interest in mathematics and science in schools and, consecutively, universities seems to be waning as reflected in the poor enrolment into science stream at secondary schools, and the lack of good candidates for STEM-based programmes at universities. Our education system plays a key role in equipping students with the knowledge, skills and dispositions to advocate STEM in ensuring we have an engaged society and a highly skilled workforce in place.

Thus, these STEM outreach programmes we have jointly organised with our many industry partners namely Chemical Company of Malaysia Bhd and the UTP STEM Exploration Centre that will be officially open today by our Honourable Minister is a testament of the university's determination in advocating for STEM. We need to make it a priority so our younger generation will have a strong foundation to be digital citizens and future innovators in a rapidly evolving world.

And we have chosen this day to commemorate this special occasion. With YB Yeo officially opening the centre, this event will be forever etched in our minds and hearts. With the launch of this centre, UTP is sending a clear, strong message to all our stakeholders that by strengthening our involvement in STEM, we will become an accelerator of sustainable development. Our efforts in STEM will be more concerted not just for schools and higher institutions but also to the industries to come to us and collaborate. We value educational experiences and opportunities that enhance academic success as the link we have with various industries and institutions both locally and abroad remain pivotal to our success.

Yang Berhormat Yeo Bee Yin, Ladies and Gentlemen,

UTP STEM Exploration Centre establishment was part of a STEM project for school children funded by MOSTI, now MESTECC, Social Innovation Fund amounting RM 268,000. The project was championed by UTP and SIRIM Measurement Technology which covered a 6-months programme for rural school children, involving UTP students and staff as volunteers. Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC), through its Digital Maker programme, has also contributed RM 20,000, in establishing this centre. We thank MDEC for making UTP as their Northern Region Digital Hub through this initiative.

At this juncture, let me take this opportunity to thank the sponsors of the UTP STEM Exploration Centre; SIRIM Measurement, Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) Technology and the MESTECC Social Innovation Fund as well as UTP for the development of the centre, which is located at Block L. We would also like to thank Chemical Company of Malaysia Bhd for contributing a total of RM80,000 and generously providing the funding for our STEM initiatives and especially for the unwavering support.

My heartiest appreciation also goes to my team in UTP – the STEM Exploration Centre UTP team led by Associate Professor Dr Shahrina Md Nordin and this CCM STEM UP X UTP team led by Professor Dr Noorhana Yahya, for all of your hardwork in making these initiatives a reality.

I would like to therefore invite our collaborators to continue to jointly develop STEM programmes with us and together with UTP in our efforts to realise the ambition set out by our government and continue to become a modern, forward looking and technologically advanced society.

Yang Berhormat Yeo Bee Yin, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In closing, let me again, on behalf of UTP graciously thank Yang Berhormat Yeo Bee Yin and all of our partners once again for your continued support towards the university. Your presence is indeed a great encouragement to us at the university, and we look forward to your support in our efforts to bring UTP to achieve global prominence.

Thank you and Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.