

**Speech by Professor Ts. Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Abdul Mutalib  
Vice Chancellor UTP**

**Launch of UTP-ALTAIR Centre of Excellence for Applied Scientific  
Computing**

**Saturday, 16 November 2019**

**4.30 pm at Information Resource Centre, Chancellor Complex, UTP**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Yang Berbahagia Datuk Ahmad Nizam Salleh  
Pro Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS  
and Yang Berbahagia Datin Zainab Jaafar

Mr Srirangam R. Srirangarajan @ Ranga  
Regional Managing Director, Altair ASEAN and Australia and New  
Zealand

Distinguished Guests  
Delegates from Altair Engineering Sdn Bhd  
UTP's Executive Management Committee Members  
Fellow colleagues from UTP

Ladies and Gentlemen

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

First and foremost, on behalf of Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP), let me extend my warmest welcome to Yang Berbahagia Datuk Ahmad Nizam Salleh, Chairman of PETRONAS and UTP's Pro Chancellor and our partners from Altair Engineering Sdn Bhd to this momentous occasion. We are happy to have everyone here for today's Launch of UTP-ALTAIR Centre of Excellence for Applied Scientific Computing.

While we celebrate UTP's 19th Convocation Ceremony, which will take place at the Chancellor Hall tomorrow, we take this time to convene to launch a first-of-its-kind Centre of Excellence here in Malaysia. Supported by one of our industry partners, this UTP-Altair partnership is timely as we adapt education to a changing world.

Yang Berbahagia Datuk Ahmad Nizam, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our relationship with Altair started in 2017 with a MoU to enhance scientific, technical and engineering competencies. Since then we have had seminars and hands-on training sessions to both UTP staff and students and the feedbacks have been positive.

We achieved another milestone on 3rd July 2018 when UTP-Altair Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Applied Scientific Computing has been established. For this year, Altair Hyperworks Unlimited Licence (HWUL) with a HPC system was successfully installed and configured. More than 30 engineering software and a HPC system with 128 cores are available for the university. With this infrastructure in place, I hope this centre can attract many consultancy works from industries in the future.

The university also takes pride in having this exclusive partnership with Altair. This collaboration allows us to subscribe the HWUL campus wide licence which comes together with many simulation-driven design software used by industries like aerospace, automotive, shipbuilding as well as oil and gas. This unlimited licence subscription enables UTP to not only leverage on teaching and learning activities but also research and consultancy work. Two of the Hyperworks software will be embedded in the Computer Aided Engineering course offered by our Department of Mechanical Engineering. The students will learn Hypermesh as the pre-processor software, Optistruct as the structural analysis solver and AcuSolve as the computational fluid dynamics (CFD) solver. Furthermore, the wide range of software in HWUL license package will allow many students from other departments to use the engineering solutions in their design projects as well as final year projects.

Yang Berbahagia Datuk Ahmad Nizam, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this new era, a comprehensive design platform and computing tools are important to design or create better products accurately and faster. The benefit of optimising the use of technology in teaching and learning is already evident in the remarkable increase in staff and student intellectual output. Since the license is unlimited, it allows the UTP community to employ Altair Hyperworks software for commercial works or consultancy.

Moving forward, UTP will look for more varied revenue streams by diversifying and intensifying our consultancy and commercialisation capability especially through this CoE. We will steer UTP towards becoming a self-sustainable university. With this Centre, we continue to seek and seal collaborative research that combines complex real-world business challenges with academic enquiry. It is our vision for this UTP-Altair CoE for Applied Scientific Computing to become a regional recognised resource centre for computational modelling.

In closing, let me again, on behalf of UTP graciously thank Altair Engineering Sdn Bhd 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 sustainable global prominence.

Thank you and Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.