

**TITAH UCAPAN RAJA MUDA PERLIS
MERANGKAP TUANKU CANSELOR UniMAP
DYTM TUANKU SYED FAIZUDDIN PUTRA JAMALULLAIL
DI MAJLIS SAMBUTAN TAHUN BARU CINA UniMAP 2011
DEWAN WARISAN KANGAR
2 FEBRUARI 2011**

BISMILLAHIRRAHMANIRRAHIM

ASSALAMUALAIKUM WARAHMATULLAHI WABARAKATUH.

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO DATO' VICE CHANCELLOR FOR INVITING US TO ATTEND THIS CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION. IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME AND PUAN RAJA MUDA TO CELEBRATE THIS LUNAR NEW YEAR, THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT, WITH ALL OF YOU.

1. MANY FIRST-TIME VISITORS WHO COME TO MALAYSIA DURING THE CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVE CELEBRATION MIGHT BE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED TO KNOW THAT OUR COUNTRY IS ONE OF THE FEW PREDOMINANTLY MUSLIM COUNTRIES THAT OFFICIALLY CELEBRATE THE CHINESE NEW YEAR.

2. ALONG WITH THE CELEBRATIONS OF MUSLIM, CHRISTIAN, AND HINDU HOLIDAYS, THE CHINESE NEW YEAR IS ONE OF THE MOST VISIBLE MANIFESTATIONS OF THE DIVERSE AND MULTIDIMENSIONAL CULTURE THAT IS UNIQUELY MALAYSIA'S. MALAYSIA CAN BE CALLED A CULTURAL

“MAIN RIVER” OF SORTS THAT CONNECTS AND BRINGS TOGETHER THE CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS OF CULTURAL “TRIBUTARIES” THAT ORIGINATED FROM VARIOUS REGIONS OF THE WORLD: FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND OTHER MUSLIM NATIONS, FROM CHINA, FROM INDIA, FROM EUROPE, AND FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA. PEOPLE COMING FROM ALL THESE PARTS OF THE WORLD CAN ALWAYS FIND SOMETHING REASSURINGLY FAMILIAR HERE IN MALAYSIA.

3. TONIGHT, MORE THAN 10 DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES ARE GATHERED IN THIS HALL TO CELEBRATE THE CHINESE NEW YEAR WITH THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM CHINA, WHO ARE AWAY FROM THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.

4. AS WE ALL KNOW, THE NEW YEAR TRADITIONS INCLUDE GETTING TOGETHER AT THE EVE WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND OTHER LOVED ONES TO RENEW KINSHIP AND TO PREPARE FOR THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT MAY COME. FOR OUR CHINESE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND STAFF, CHINESE NEW YEAR, NO DOUBT, WOULD BE MUCH BETTER IF YOU CELEBRATE IT WITH YOUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS AT HOME.

5. BUT YOU ARE IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY NOW, JUST LIKE MANY OTHER INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND STAFF PRESENT, SO WE DO WHAT WE HAVE TO DO TO MAKE THE MOST OF WHAT THE SITUATION PRESENTS US.

6. THERE ARE TWO OPPORTUNITIES THAT THIS CELEBRATION PRESENTS US.

ONE IS TO SHOWCASE OUR CULTURE, AND THE OTHER IS TO HAVE A GLIMPSE OF THE CULTURES OF OUR FRIENDS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. THE MORE WE LEARN ABOUT EACH OTHER'S CULTURE, THE BETTER WE UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT EACH OTHER'S DIFFERENCES. THE MORE WE LEARN ABOUT EACH OTHER'S CULTURE, THE EASIER IT WOULD BE FOR US TO ELIMINATE THE BIASES THAT WE MAY HAVE FOR EACH OTHER.

7. LET US CONSIDER THIS EVENT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATE OURSELVES OUTSIDE THE FOUR CORNERS OF OUR CLASSROOMS. LET US OPEN OUR EYES AND MINDS TO OTHER PEOPLE'S CULTURE THAT WE MAY BE ABLE TO THINK GLOBALLY.

8. THEN, WE BECOME SENSITIVE TO OUR FOREIGN FRIENDS' WAY OF LIVING, AND THEY, TO OURS. AS A RESULT, WE LIVE HARMONIOUSLY IN A COMMUNITY OF INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS. IN THIS COMMUNITY THAT WE ARE IN AT THE MOMENT, WE ARE MEMBERS OF A BIG FAMILY.

9. AND, JUST LIKE ANY FAMILY, WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER DESPITE OUR DIFFERENCES. SO LET US EMBRACE TONIGHT'S CELEBRATION WITH OPEN HEARTS AND MINDS AND APPRECIATE WHAT THIS GATHERING HAS IN STORE FOR US.

10. BESIDES, THE CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN MALAYSIA - THE CONFLUENCE OF MANIFOLD CULTURES AND FRAMES OF REFERENCE CAN, AND SHOULD PROVIDE US WITH MORE THAN A FEW VANTAGE POINTS AND OPTIONS

WITH WHICH WE CAN FIND WORKABLE ANSWERS TO MANY OF THE SOCIAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND TECHNOLOGICAL DIFFICULTIES AND UNCERTAINTIES THAT CAN IMPERIL THE COLLECTIVE FUTURE OF ALL NATIONS AND PEOPLES.

11. THE MAIN MISSION OF UNIMAP IS TO PROVIDE MALAYSIA AND THE WORLD WITH HIGHLY SKILLED, HIGHLY MOTIVATED, CREATIVE, AND RESPONSIBLE GRADUATES WHO ARE NOT ONLY CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR OWN PERSONAL SUCCESSES BUT ARE ALSO AWARE OF THEIR GREATER RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS OF THE ONE WORLD WE ALL LIVE IN.

12. I SINCERELY HOPE AND WISH THAT YOU WILL USE THE SKILLS AND ABILITIES YOU GAIN FROM UNIMAP TO FIND EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS TO THE VARIOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIETAL PROBLEMS THAT STILL AFFECT MANY PEOPLES AROUND THE WORLD, THEREBY PREVENTING THEM FROM FINDING AND REALIZING THEIR TRUE POTENTIAL.

13. AND FINALLY, REMEMBER ALSO THAT WE HUMANS MAKE THE WORLD AS WE GO ALONG – WE HAVE CONTROL. IF WE ONLY LOOK OUT FOR OWN PERSONAL INTERESTS AND NEGLECT OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS OUR FELLOWMEN THEN, THE RESULT CAN ONLY BE MORE OF THE SAME PROBLEMS THAT WE FACE TODAY.

14. IT IS YOUR CHOICES, OUR CHOICES THAT WE MAKE TODAY THAT WILL COUNT FOR OUR COLLECTIVE FUTURE. THEREFORE, CHOOSE NOT ONLY FOR YOURSELVES AND FOR YOUR FAMILY, BUT CHOOSE ALSO FOR THE WELFARE OF THE WHOLE SOCIETY.

ONCE AGAIN, WISHING ALL OF YOU A HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR.

GONG XI FA CAI.

XIN NIAN KUAI LE.