

**Welcoming Speech by  
Brig. Jen. Datuk Prof. Dr. Kamarudin Hussin  
Vice Chancellor of UniMAP  
The Official Opening Ceremony - 2nd IMTGT Convention (DSAATI) 2014  
20<sup>th</sup> September 2014, TH Hotel Kedah**

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**Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera,  
Salam Ilmu, Keikhlasan, Kecemerlangan UniMAP**

**SALUTATION**

Yang Berhormat Datin Noor Sabrina Mohamad Nor, Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Sains Inovasi dan Teknologi Maklumat, Komunikasi dan Teknologi Tinggi Kerajaan Negeri Kedah

Yang Berbahagia, Prof. Dr. Zul Azhar Zahid Jamal, Timbalan Naib Canselor Akademik dan Antarabangsa UniMAP

Yang Berbahagia Prof. Dr. Abdul Hamid Adom, Timbalan NAib Canselor Penyelidikan dan Inovasi UniMAP

Yang Berbahagia Prof. Madya Dr. Mohd. Fo'ad Sakdan, Timbalan Naib Canselor Hal Ehwal Pelajar dan Alumni

Pegawai-Pegawai Utama Universiti

Dekan-dekan dan Ketua-Ketua Jabatan

Para pembentang Kertas Kerja, Peserta Konvensyen

Wakil-wakil media, Seterusnya hadirin dan hadirat sekalian

Alhamdulillah, bersyukur kita ke hadhrat Allah SWT kerana dengan izin dan InayahNya jua, dapat kita berkumpul bersama-sama pada malam ini bagi menyempurnakan Perasmian Konvensyen IMTGT Kali Ke-2 (DSAATI).

Terlebih dahulu, sebagai Naib Canselor UniMAP, saya ingin mengambil kesempatan ini untuk merakamkan ucapan penghargaan dan terima kasih yang tidak terhingga buat semua Sekretariat dan petugas yang bertungkus lumus tanpa mengira waktu bagi menjayakan konvensyen ini. Terima kasih juga kepada Yang Berhormat Puan Sabrina atas kesudian hadir bersama kami seterusnya melancarkan konvensyen ini.

**Kuning emas masakanya padi  
Mawar merah dalam jambangan  
Terima kasih daun keladi  
Budi Puan jadi kenangan.**

**Akar keladi melilit selasih  
Selasih tumbuh diujung taman  
Kalungan budi junjungan kasih  
Mesra kenangan sepanjang zaman.**

Bagi menghormati majlis pada malam ini, izinkan saya meneruskan ucapan di dalam bahasa Inggeris.

Ladies and Gentlemen

### **FOREWORD**

1. It is indeed a great pleasure for me to welcome keynote speakers, paper presenters and all distinguished guests and participants tonight to this beautiful venue. Thank you for your overwhelming support to the 2nd IMTGT Convention (DSAATI) 2014.
2. As we all are aware, drug abuse and alcoholism and their damaging effects on society involving the younger generation, is not only a national issue but also a global issue. This is a very good platform for all participants to exchange ideas and put our thinking caps together to solve these highly critical issues towards a drug free and alcohol free tertiary institutions. I am confident that your expert views will help to spur strategies to solve this important problem especially amongst our younger generations.
3. For your information, research and studies related to drugs abuse are not foreign to me. I have been involved with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) such as Persatuan Pemadam Kebangsaan with drug related issues and problems. I have been very active with various programmes and activities at the national and international level. It is becoming a social menace and we need to handle it at the tertiary institutional level as a preventive measure so that students are not influenced by its abusive use and the monetary award from drug trafficking.
4. In 2005, I was appointed to head a research team looking into drug abuse among students in institutions of higher learning. Up till 2009, a total student population of 13,453 students of IPT including those in Polytechnics and Community Colleges were involved in this study. The outcome of the study done by the research team had been compiled as a

book titled: “Penyelahgunaan Dadah Di Kalangan Pelajar Institusi Pengajian Tinggi Awam Malaysia” – Drug Abuse among students of Institution of Higher Learning in Malaysia.

## **THE CHALLENGES**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. As we are aware, drugs were declared the nation's number one enemy 28 years ago by our former 4<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed. Today, that label remains unchanged and become a worldwide problem and one of the most harmful threats to our society, especially students.
6. Based on reports, it was found that Students from Institution of Higher Learning and graduates are actively involved in international drug trafficking syndicates which tarnished the institution’s reputation. This is a serious problem spreading across the globe. It is very sad and disheartening to note that students who are educated could succumb to this criminal act of drug trafficking. Institutions should therefore plan and develop a systematic approach to monitor and control the abuse of drugs and alcohol, and on a serious note drug trafficking.
7. I am positive that we shall be able to reach consensus in attaining four main goals in this conference. Firstly, to view issues on drug, substance and alcohol abuse. Secondly, the goal is to synthesize current status on drugs and alcohol abuse. Thirdly, to examine drugs and alcohol abuse in Higher Learning Institutions. And lastly, to summarize the social impact on drugs and alcohol abuse. I hope that with your active participation in the discussion and deliberation on the four goals, the draft resolution could be adopted for implementation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. I believe that this conference could result in not only new regional cooperation, but also in practical measures and a forward action plan to deal with drug abuse and drug trafficking. The demands and challenges are great and so will be the outcome if we work together and strive for it. The world will be a better place for this generation and the next generation – free from drug abuse.
9. Finally, on behalf of the organizing committee, my sincere thanks to our local and foreign participants for making this event a success. To our foreign delegates, welcome to Malaysia. Have a fruitful deliberation and a pleasant stay in Kedah and please spend some time to see our beautiful country, Malaysia.

10. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the organising team for their tireless commitment and involvement in ensuring the success of this conference. A conference of this magnitude would not have been possible without the dedication, support and concerted efforts from committee members, industry, sponsors, academic institutions and all supporting organizations.

Thank you.

Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.