

**WELCOMING SPEECH BY**  
**BRIG. GEN. DATUK PROF. DR. KAMARUDIN HUSSIN**  
**VICE CHANCELLOR OF UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA PERLIS**  
**FOR AUPF 2013**  
**ON 7TH OCTOBER 2013**  
**AT UniMAP MAIN CAMPUS, PAUH PUTRA**

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh dan Salam Satu  
Malaysia

**Salam Ilmu, Keikhlasan, Kecemerlangan UniMAP**

**SALUTATIONS**

**Yang Amat Berbahagia Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad**, The  
Former Prime Minister Of Malaysia And **Yang Amat Berbahagia**  
Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah Mohd. Ali.

**Yang Amat Berhormat Tuan Azlan Man**, The Chief Minister Of  
Perlis And Wife.

**Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Idris Jusoh,** Minister Of Education Malaysia And Yang Berbahagia Datin Seri.

**Yang Berhormat Tuan Haji Hamdan Bahari,** Speaker Of State Legislative Assembly.

**Yang Berhormat Dato' Azizan Hamid,** State Secretary Of Perlis.

The Honourable Members Of State Legislative Assembly.

**Yang Berbahagia Dato' Profesor Emeritus Ir. Dr. Zainai Mohamed,** Chairman Of Board Of Directors Of Universiti Malaysia Perlis.

The Honourable Members Of Board Of Directors Of Universiti Malaysia Perlis.

The Honourable Presidents, Vice Chancellors, Rectors And Senior Officers.

Distinguished Participants Of The AUPF 2013.

Media Representatives.

Ladies & Gentlemen.

1. I am very excited to be here today. I am sure that you feel the same way too. We at UniMAP have been waiting for a long time for this, and now that today is finally here, I am almost lost for words.
  
2. Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone most cordially to the official opening of the 12<sup>th</sup> Asian University Presidents Forum, AUPF. All the 11 AUPF have been hosted by higher education institutions in Thailand, China, Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia, Cambodia and India. And now, for the first time ever – a Malaysia university has been given the honour to host. It seems like yesterday when Prof Jekuk Chang of Dongseo University asked me whether UniMAP would be willing to host in 2013. Therefore I would like to thank the AUPF Standing Committee for entrusting us with this task. My sincere gratitude also goes to Dr Zhang Mingying the honorary President of Chaosan College for the guidance and the Secretariat of AUPF Guangdong University of Foreign Studies for their support. Hopefully we will be able to deliver to your expectations. And we hope that this will be a forum that will be in everyone's heart for a long time.
  
3. I would like to especially thank and welcome the Malaysian Minister of Education II, Dato' Seri Idris Jusoh for agreeing to officiate at today's event, and Datin Seri; the Honourable Tun Dr Mahathir for agreeing to share with us his views in the

forum keynote speech, and Tun Dr Siti Hasmah; and the Chief Minister of Perlis, Tuan Azlan Man, and wife; your presence here indeed marks the stature of the forum, and for that, once again, we say thank you. Also to my good friend Prof. Ciaran O’Cathain of Athlone Institute of Technology and Janusz Szpytko, Chair of UNESCO from AGH University, Poland for being here with us.

4. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Malaysian Higher Education Leadership Academy (AKEPT) for co-organising the Forum with Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP). AKEPT’s involvement is extremely meaningful to us, not only as befitting the theme of the forum, but also due to AKEPT’s role as an international centre of excellence in higher education leadership development. We are indeed very privileged.

5. This year’s forum is a natural progression from the past 11 fora that have taken place, starting from the very first time when it was hosted by Srinakharinwirot University in the year 2000. At the time, this community of only four institutions then, moved under the name of “Cooperation Conference between Universities of China and those of Thailand”. The four founding members are: Srinakharinwirot University of Thailand, the Siamese University of Thailand, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies and Chaoshan College, both in

China. However, when the second forum was held by Guangdong University of Foreign Studies in China, participants from six Asian countries attended, and the conference was renamed “Asian University Presidents Forum.”

6. Since 2002, the Forum has continued to be held annually. We have seen deliberation of new ideas in each session. We have seen the expansion of AUPF membership. Now, the community comprises institutions of higher learning from many countries in Asia. Today we are privileged to have 74 institutions with us, from 22 countries, with 67 institutional presidents and representatives. We have seen new friendships develop, we have witnessed existing friendships further strengthened. We are becoming very close brothers and sisters – a family united. Together.

Ladies and gentlemen,

7. The AUPF community makes up the space and platform for meaningful academic exchanges and collaboration within the Asian community. Throughout the years, the Forum has played an active role in achieving the objectives of AUPF; enabling Asian institutions of higher learning to move forward – to communicate with each other, share information, exchange experiences and realize common development.

Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished guests, my dear brothers and sisters,

8. As the host institution, we take great pleasure in introducing to you the AUPF 2013 Official Song, aptly entitled ***“Together We Are”***:

***Together we are  
Nations of Asia  
Asian University  
Presidents Forum***

***Heart, soul, imagination  
We are for Asian education***

***Together we are  
Together AUPF***

The song is about us. It is about our strong sense of friendship. It is about us becoming strong through the oneness of our hearts and the resilience of our Asian souls. It is about fuelling our imagination; garnering all aspects of collaborative undertakings, to intensify Asian higher education.

9. This year, we hope to deliberate on leadership challenges and opportunities ahead of us, in the light of the transformation of

Asia. We are all very aware on the importance of positioning ourselves on the world map. We also agree that we need to come together in the region to form a force that the rest of the world will have to contend with.

10. We have a long way to go, and many tasks ahead of us. But I am confident, and I know many among friends here today will agree with me, that only through the joint effort and friendship that we have fostered over the years, and will continue to strengthen, will we be able to reach the fundamental goal of AUPF -to realize common development, and to grow and prosper together.

11. As the host institution, along with AKEPT, it is our most sincere wish to see that deliberations in the next few days will positively contribute to the strengthening of Asian higher education institutions.

12. Please do enjoy the 12<sup>th</sup>AUPF, enjoy making new friends, explore what UniMAP has to offer your institution, your students; and may this be the beginning of many more enriching and rewarding experiences and exchanges.

Thank you.