

SPEECH FOR
BRIG. JEN. DATO' PROF DR KAMARUDIN HUSSIN, VC OF UNIMAP
DURING CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION
15 FEBRUARI 2010
DEWAN KAPITOL, KANGAR

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Mengadap Raja Muda Perlis, Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Tuanku Syed Faizuddin Putra Ibni Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Jamalullail merangkap Tuanku Canselor UniMAP serta Raja Puan Muda Perlis, Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Tuanku Hajjah Lailatul Shahreen Akashah Khaleel, merangkap Pro-Canselor UniMAP.

Terlebih dahulu patik bagi seluruh warga kerja Universiti Malaysia Perlis ingin menyembah takzim, merafak sembah, menjunjung kasih yang tidak terhingga di atas perkenan Tuanku berdua bercemar duli berangkat dan menyerikan **MAJLIS SAMBUTAN PERAYAAN TAHUN BARU CINA BERSAMA PELAJAR ANTARABANGSA UniMAP** pada hari ini.

Sesungguhnya kehadiran Duli Tuanku berdua ke majlis ini amat besar ertinya buat kami semua, ibarat kecil tapak tangan nyiru kami tadahkan. Kami warga UniMAP amat beruntung kerana dikurniakan Canselor dan Pro-Canselor berjiwa rakyat yang sanggup bercemar duli bersama-sama kami untuk meraikan Perayaan Tahun Baru Cina bersama pelajar-pelajar antarabangsa yang berada jauh dari keluarga

masing-masing ini.

Ampun Tuanku, sembah Patik Mohon Diampun,

Patik mohon untuk menyampaikan ucapan kepada hadirin sekalian di dalam Bahasa Inggeris. Ampun Tuanku.

Yg Bhg. Prof Dr. Zul Azhar Zahid Jamal, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation),

Yg Bhg. Prof Sazali Yaacob, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and International),

UniMAP's Exco Committee, Deans, Head of Department, UniMAP's Staf and All International students.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Selamat Tengah Hari, Good Afternoon, Ni Men Hao (bahasa Cina), Vanakkam, Masaa El Khir (Arab), Magandang Hapon (Tagalog).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are gathered here today to celebrate the Chinese New Year. The people who are present here today are from many different countries and are different from each other in many ways. But there is one thing that you all have in common; it is that you are living away from your families. You miss being with them, especially on special occasions like this.

Being away from your family and friends, having to adapt to a way of living that is new to you, and missing important celebrations in your country, however, are just some of the things that you knew you have to deal with when you finally said, "Yes, I'm going to study abroad."

This celebration has become more than just a Chinese New Year celebration. It becomes an occasion where our international students and staff come together and make each other feel at home. It is one of the many university activities that you will be a part of while you are studying in UniMAP. It is our way of showing that you are part of a family.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This celebration is indeed a very important one for our Chinese friends. But why bother to invite the non-Chinese? John Lennon once said, "When you embrace diversity on college campuses, you are better preparing yourself for life." This is exactly what embracing diversity is all about.

You are now part of an international community. This international family is diverse, which makes it more interesting. You get to meet people who do not speak your language, people who grew up in a different culture. You get to take a peek at how people from other countries live their lives and eventually learn something out of it.

Some of you have said that UniMAP is placing too much control over your lives here. I can understand your feeling. But let me explain why we do so. Your parents have entrusted you with us when they allowed you to come to study at UniMAP. They expect us to look after you like how they look after you. I have promised them that I will. Literally, we are your parents now.

I am very sure that you parents look after you in exactly the way we do. Am I right? We are not controlling your lives; we just want to make sure that you are well care of and is out of the harm way. It is our responsibility to ensure this.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

If your only reason for coming here is just to get a degree, then you will miss the the chance that you can use to make yourself a global person. You should open your mind to the many opportunities found in the unique environment you are in now.

At UniMAP, we strive to provide you with a holistic experience. You see, **we just do not want you to earn only your degree. We want you to feel at home. We want you to embrace diversity. We want to prepare you for life.**

Lastly, thank you for joining this celebration and making it a wonderful one. I would like to wish you all a very Happy Chinese New Year. " Zhu Da Jia Xin Chun Kuai Le, Whan Shi Ru Yi ".

Ampun Tuanku,

Sekian sahaja sembah ucapan patik. Akhir kata patik mewakili seluruh warga UniMAP ingin merafak sembah, menjunjung kasih yang tidak terhingga sekali lagi ke bawah Duli Tuanku berdua kerana sudi mencemar duli berangkat ke majlis ini.

Patik juga merakamkan penghargaan kepada semua tetamu yang turut memeriahkan majlis ini dan terima kasih kepada semua pihak yang membantu membuat persiapan untuk menjayakan majlis ini.

Sekian, Wabillah Hitaufik Walhidayah, Wassalamualaikum wbt.