

Welcoming Speech

Brig. Jen. Dato' Prof. Dr. Kamarudin Hussin

Vice Chancellor of UniMAP

At the Meeting with the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Malaysia

at the Palace Of The Golden Horses Hotel on 13th May 2010

Bismillah Hirrahman Nirrahim

His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Reda Abu Hamayel, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Malaysia

The Honourable Prof. Musa'id Ahmad Al-Jarh, Education Attaché of the Embassy of Saudi in Malaysia

The Honourable, Mr. Sheikh Abdul Rahman 'Atallah Islamic Counsellor of the Embassy of Saudi in Malaysia

UniMAP's Head of Department,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Ahlan Wasahlan Wa Marhaban Bikum.

Alhamdulillah, all praises are due to Allah, with His grace and inayah that we could finally gather here today to discuss the proposal on the establishment of an Islamic Centre in Universiti Malaysia Perlis.

Although it was unable to arrange a visit for His Excellency to Perlis and UniMAP, I highly appreciate the opportunities for us to meet and discuss this morning.

Your Excellency and ladies and gentlemen,

UniMAP was established in 2002 by the Malaysian government as an engineering-based institution with the aim to produce competent graduates to meet market needs.

Since its establishment until now, UniMAP has managed to seek approval from the Ministry of Higher Education to offer 20 Bachelor of Engineering programmes, 2 Bachelor of Business programmes and six Diploma in Engineering Programmes.

At the same time, UniMAP is also offering 20 Masters programmes and PhD in Engineering in research Mode as well as mixed mode.

Today, UniMAP has 1 525 staff and 5 461 students and of which 80% of them are Muslims.

For your information, Your Excellency, the UniMAP's Muslim students come not only from Malaysia but also from Muslim countries like Yemen, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Bangladesh and China.

The projected increase to 10,000 students by 2015 underlies the importance for UniMAP to have its own Islamic Centre so as to allow religious activities to be carried out more efficiently and effectively.

This Islamic Centre is proposed to be built at UniMAP permanent campus in Ulu Pauh which sits on 1,050 acres of land. The main function of this Islamic Centre would be to offer a place for solat and to serve as centre for the dissemination of Islamic knowledge among the Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand – Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) member countries. The estimated cost to establish this centre is about RM38.37 million.

Detailed presentation on the Islamic Centre will be conducted shortly by the representative of UniMAP's Department for Development.

It is our sincere hope that the Government of Saudi Arabia will be willing to consider contributing funds towards the establishment of this Islamic Centre in UniMAP for the benefit of its Muslim staff and students and also the ummah from IMT-GT.

This morning, I look forward to a very fruitful meeting which will produce concrete beneficial results for all of us all in UniMAP.

With that I would like to end my speech with Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.