

**SPEECH BY**

**BRIG. GEN. DATUK**

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**VICE CHANCELLOR, UniMAP**

**ASIA SUMMER PROGRAM 2014**

**CLOSING CEREMONY**

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera dan Salam Satu Malaysia

**Salam Ilmu, Keikhlasan, Kecemerlangan UniMAP**

**SALUTATION**

**Yang Berbahagia Dato' Prof. Emeritus Ir. Dr. Zainai Mohamed** Chairman of Board of Directors, UniMAP

**The Honourable Mr. Sabur Khan**, Chairman of Daffodil International University (DIU), Bangladesh.

**Yang Berusaha Prof. Dr. Harshita Aini Haroon**, Director Centre for International Languages, UniMAP, cum Chairman of Asia Summer Program 2014.

**Yang Berusaha En. Rusli Abdul Hak**, Representative of the General Manager of Telekom Malaysia, Alor Setar,

Deputies Vice Chancellor of UniMAP

Senior Officers, Deans and Heads of Department Lecturers,

Participants of The Asia Summer Program (ASP) 2014.

Media Representatives, Committee members of ASP 2014 Ladies and Gentlemen

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. I would like to begin by expressing my utmost gratitude for giving me the opportunity to say a few words at on this occasion. It feels like it was yesterday when we received all of you and held the opening ceremony. The Asia Summer Program this year gathers 230 students from 28 universities and 12 different countries. Amazingly, the students are comprised of 19 different nationalities in this program such as Nigerian, Kyrgis, Turkish, Iraqi, and many more. We also offer 30 courses with 44 lecturers taking turns to teach the students.

## **OBJECTIVES OF ASIA SUMMER PROGRAM**

Ladies and gentlemen and dear students,

2. The Asia Summer Program aims to equip students as the future leaders with a strong Asian perspective. The five founding leaders believed that our youths must be able to appreciate our own values rather than losing our identity in the global context.
3. I am sure it must have been a tough experience for all of you to suddenly immerse in a different culture, environment and most of it all food and weather!
4. But being able to withstand the 3 long weeks has shown that you have managed to adapt yourselves and carry through right to the end of the program. Please give yourselves a big round of applause.

Ladies and gentleman and dear students,

5. To achieve the objectives of Asia Summer Program, we possibly have crammed numerous activities for all of you aside from the academic routines:

- **Cycling & Community Service Project**
- **The Green Initiative Project (planting trees in the UniCITY)**
- **International Food Festival & Eid Celebration**
- **Cultural Night**
- **Teh Tarik & Roti Canai Contest**
- **Traditional Padi Planting Activity**
- **Educational Tour to Langkawi**

- **Malaysian Traditional Kite Making Workshop**
- **Sports Day**
- **Gua Kelam Excavation**
- **Woodball Games**
- **Royal Gallery Visit**

### **CROSS CULTURAL CONTEXT**

Ladies and gentlemen dear students,

6. In a cross cultural context, people may react differently to the host culture. Some may become excited and fascinated by the changes while most people may disagree and make disapproving remarks about features of the new culture and surrounding, making comparisons with their home culture or what they are used to. But that is the essence of being in a cross cultural context, ideally to adapt we must not fight against it and put ourselves in depression which later may even lead to aggression.
7. To survive this cross cultural encounter, one must be willing to accept their new host culture and become less affected by the cultural differences. For example by now, perhaps you are more willing to accept our **nasi lemak** or **roti canai** instead of **Toppoki, Sushi, Prata Bread** or **Pasta**. It is not easy to adapt, but this is one of the reasons why we have started this Asia Summer Program and move from one country to another.

### **FUTURE ENDEAVOUR & HOPE**

Ladies and gentlemen dear students,

8. It is my deepest hope that you have made more friends during the course of 3 weeks and learn from one another. It is easy to measure a person's technical skills or achievement in academic discipline rather than how competent a person can work with others from other countries. But in the end the balance between the academic

intelligence and social skills will bring you to greater success both in life and your career.

9. I am proud to announce that in the recent meetings with the five founding leaders, we have agreed to initiate the **Asia Summer Program Alumni Network**, basically to widen the networking between participants of ASP, of those from the year 2012 in Surabaya, 2013 in Busan, 2014 in Perlis and beyond. Officially all of you belong to the special group of ASP participants and forever it may last.
10. For this purpose, UniMAP was given the responsibility to be the caretaker, as a start we have established the ASP Alumni Network Facebook Page and Public group. We will soon gather the entire database of students from previous ASP.

### **CLOSING**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. I do not wish to continue my speech any further; I hope that everybody had a fulfilling time during your stay here in Perlis.
12. I would like to congratulate the team at UniMAP for their hard work in making ASP 2014 a success. As the Vice Chancellor of UniMAP and the host of ASP 2014, I would like to apologize if there are any shortcomings in our programme. Finally, I wish all of you the best and have a safe journey home.

**Thank you, Kap Khun Kraab, Arigatogozaimas, Kamsa Hamida, Tashakkullah and Terima Kasih**

Sekian,

Wabilahitaufig Walhidayah,

Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.