

**SPEECH BY
KOL. PROF. DATO' DR. KAMARUDIN HUSSIN,
UniMAP's VICE CANCELOR
DINNER WITH INDUSTRY 2007' ON 6 APRIL 2007,
AT THE GURNEY RESORT HOTEL & RESIDENCES,
PENANG.**

Bismillahir-rahmanir-rahim

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh dan salam
sejahtera.

My respected colleague Prof. Dr. Ali Yeon Md. Shakaff, Deputy
Vice Cancellor (Academic and International),

My respected colleague Prof. Madya Dr. Zul Azhar Zahid Jamal,
Deputy Vice Cancellor (Research and Innovation),

UniMAP's Deans, heads of departments,

Distinguished CEO'S and representatives from the Malaysian industry,

Managing directors and executives, who also play the role of student supervisors,

Most respected members of the press, and staff of Universiti Malaysia Perlis.

May I first extend my heartfelt gratitude to Allah the Almighty for His blessings in giving us this opportunity gather this evening on the occasion of UniMAP's Annual Dinner with the Industry 2007.

It is my greatest pleasure to welcome all of you to this humble gathering. For your information, this is the 3rd time Universiti Malaysia Perlis (or UniMAP in short) organizes dinner, solely in appreciation and acknowledgement of our treasured partners in education -- namely the Malaysian industry -- for their endless and continuing support to the University. All this while, you have shown amazing cooperation and help to UniMAP, thus making it a little easier for us to strive in our journey to produce world class engineers that fulfill our country's aspirations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me spend a few minutes sharing with you my experiences of leading this University since we started in 2002. When I was first asked to lead the founding of a brand new engineering university in Perlis, I responded with a degree of both excitement as well as concern. On the one hand, here was an opportunity to try out something original and different -- one that, if accomplished properly, would bring about a tide of change in the way engineering education is practiced and perceived. On the other hand, I saw in front of me a job of phenomenal magnitude, which, if not carried out with detailed planning and meticulous attention, would lead to disastrous results at the expense of the country at large. It was an awesome responsibility, and it still is.

Approximately 5 years have passed, and it is indeed heartening to see how much has been achieved. The University keeps developing and growing with each passing day, and this is none other than the result of hundreds of individuals working together as a team.

Amongst the hundreds of individuals I mentioned are none other than many of you – ladies and gentlemen of the audience. You – members of the industry, have helped us every step of the way, so

much so that when our first batch of students graduated in July last year, they were taken up by the industry in no time at all. For your information, 90% of our graduates from last year are now employed in the industry and the government. The remaining 10% are working on their own. Indeed, I consider that as the highest honour, a testimony that what we have been doing in this University is looked very highly upon by you. We hope our graduates have not let us down in making it seen that they are the brand new breed of engineers who are competent in engineering theories and skills, and who possess unsurpassed traits of patriotism and professionalism.

As you know, starting February 2007, the University has undergone a change of name from Kolej Universiti Kejuruteraan Utara Malaysia (KUKUM) to Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP). This change of name is done due to a number of reasons, the main one being that of promoting a brand new image of academic and research excellence that this University has shown enormous potential for in the last five years or so of its establishment. As before, we still believe that a good relationship with the industry is crucial. Hence, we keep seeking industry input in our curriculum, so that our common objective of producing high

quality graduates who are able to satisfy the needs and requirements of the industry can continue to be fulfilled.

UniMAP, mainly through the Centre for Industrial Collaboration (CIC), has arranged many programmes with the industry, including Industrial Training program (InTra), Industrial Exposure program (IndEx), Industrial Technical Lecturer (InTeLect), Engineering Entrepreneurial Program (IndEnt), Industrial Visits, and many others. For lecturers and professors, we encourage sabbatical leaves to be spent in the industry, and our Teaching Engineers go through industrial attachments from time to time.

Since the introduction of the Industrial Training Programme (InTra), you have been telling us that our students exhibit great skills and confidence during their stay in the industry. We believe this is due to our rigorous academic curricular that pay much attention to the development of the appropriate skills. This year, a total of 639 students go for Industrial Training in 270 companies, including many multinationals. In the Northern Region, 98 companies have provided placement for 270 students. The rest of the 369 students are placed in Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Johor, Melaka, Negeri Sembilan, Pahang, Terengganu, Kelantan, Perak, Sabah, Sarawak and Wilayah Persekutuan Labuan.

In addition, we have now signed a number of MOU's with big names such as SILTERRA, ALTERA, CIMA, KTPC, ASTRONAUTIC, AMD, ACM, AGILENT, PSDC and many others. Through these MoUs, various collaboration activities have started, including short courses and shop floor improvement programs. We also collaborate with PSDC on Industrial Skills Enhancement Program (INSEP), where we provide lab facilities and lectures to engineers from the industry. Our Clean Room and Failure Analysis Labs seem to be very popular amongst our semiconductor friends from the industry.

For many semesters now, UniMAP has acquired the best brains of the industry to give lectures to UniMAP students through our Visiting Scholar program. Through this program, students, staff, and visiting scholars have interacted much with one another. Our students keep saying that their industrial and academic experience have been enriched tremendously.

With at least 50% of UniMAP's teaching staff having industrial experience prior to them working here, I am sure the students stand a very good chance of learning all there is to learn about work in the industry. This is not to mention that UniMAP has the best equipment in its teaching labs. Our investment - totaling more than

RM 130 million in 5 years or so - is acknowledged by many parties, including the Malaysian Engineering Accreditation Council (EAC) – who recently gave us full five-year accreditation for two of our pioneer degree programs. The EAC no doubt believes that our academic programs are very good and of world standards. We on the other hand believe that, that could only be true because you – members of the industry – have helped us make it possible.

Indeed, we have, over the years, invested much to build up our teaching infrastructure that parallels those in use in the industry. Ladies and gentlemen, you are all welcomed to visit our facilities whenever you want to. The University, through the Centre for Industrial Collaboration, will be too happy to oblige you.

Come August this year, we will have our second batch of students graduating. I hope all of you will employ them upon their graduation. We firmly believe that they have much to offer. They have gone through rigorous training and education, and hence they should be able to make a lot of difference and contribution in your organizations.

May I end this speech by asking that we continue to work very closely together to develop the appropriate human capital with first class minds that we so need in this country and this world. With your continuing support and interest in us, I am sure this is possible.

Before I end, I would like to thank the organising committee of this event for making this dinner a success. And thank you ladies and gentlemen for the time you take to spend with us. We are very grateful for your support and friendship all this while.

With that, ladies and gentlemen, let's enjoy our dinner. Thank you.

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi taala wabarakatuh and blessings to all of you.