

BISMILLAH HIRRAHMAN NIRRAHIM

ASSALAMUALAIKUM WARAHMATULLAHI TAALA
WABARAKATUH AND BLESS TO ALL.

First and foremost, grateful to allah, praise to him, the most gracious and merciful for his blessings in giving us this precious opportunity and moments to gather at this beautiful and memorable morning in inauguration occasion for The Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT – GT) 2009 marks another historic and important carnival in University Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) as it is the first of its kind to be held in this university.

It is a great pleasure to welcome all the delegates and participants from 10 universities in Northern Malaysia, Northern Indonesia and Southern Thailand to this 11th IMT – GT Varsity Carnival 2009 organized by UniMAP. A warm “Selamat Datang” I bid to all of you.

Last year this carnival host by Universitas Sumatera Utara, Medan, Sumatera, Indonesia and UniMAP is very pleased to be given such a great opportunity to become a part of this carnival for this year. I would like to extend my appreciation to the committee for their trust and confident in working hand-in-hand with UniMAP to organize this varsity carnival.

Besides that, I would like to extend my sincere congratulation to the organising committee of this event for their superb organisation in making this occasion a successful one.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) is a tripartite agreement made in 1993, by Indonesia's President Suharto, Malaysia's Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohammad and Thailand's Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai. The main objectives of The IMT-GT are to function as an engine of growth to boost economic, social and cultural ties between the nations by exploiting their underlying complementariness' and comparative advantages within Northern Malaysia, Southern Thailand and Northern Indonesia as they share a great deal of similarities from the social and economic perspectives.

As a football tournament in 1995 at Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), it was agreed to continue holding regular sports tournaments for these same educational institutions within the IMT Growth Triangle to promote the spirit of cooperation of IMT-GT. UUM would host the first tournament called the IMT Growth Triangle Inter-Varsity Games.

In June 1995, regulations were adopted whereby cultural activities were included to enrich the experience of participating students, the time of the carnival falling in late November or December was also specified. The name IMT Growth Triangle Varsity Carnival, reflecting the addition of cultural element to the program, was adopted.

In addition, regulations also stipulated that two sports activities must be football and tennis. However, the host university has the privilege to propose and additional two to four sports activities. Cultural elements include performance of national and regional dance and music, as well as dance and music workshops.

At the 4th Carnival in 1999, the third element which was the student leader seminar was added to the carnival to foster the interchange of the thoughts and experiences amongst student leader of participating institutions. Therefore, at 5th IMT-GT Varsity Carnival at Thaksin University 2000, sports events, cultural shows, workshops and students seminars were held.

I also believe this varsity carnival, the combination of sports and cultural will give us great opportunity to learn and gain essential knowledge which are needed for better understanding on the different cultures and at the same time, gain good health through the sport activities.

For this Varsity Carnival we have six types of sports which are football, tennis, badminton, volley ball, basketball and table tennis for both female and male participants. Hopefully this year carnival will not only achieve its objectives yet creating a better bond between each participant of these three countries.

Today, more than a thousand participants gather at UiTM's stadium, to make a success of this IMT-GT carnival and UNIMAP as a host will give the best to fulfill all the needs in order to achieve this carnival.

Finally, I hope this carnival which starting from 27 Mac to 2nd April is going to be held successfully. And all the activities will give benefits to all the participants. And I would also like to wish all the participants an enjoyable and successful carnival and to the organizers , Thank you.