

**SPEECH BY
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CHANCELLOR OF UniMAP
FOR
"ASIA PACIFIC SYMPOSIUM ON ADVANCEMENTS
IN ERGONOMICS AND SAFETY 2011"
5 DISEMBER 2011 AT HOTEL SRI MALAYSIA**

SALUTATION:

Yang Berbahagia Encik Idris Abdul Rahman
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Yang Berbahagia Encik Mohd Jais Suratman
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Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahiwabarakatuh

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all participants to this enchanting state of Perlis and in particular, to Universiti Malaysia Perlis.

Congratulations are in order to the School of Manufacturing Engineering for organizing this Symposium, entitled, the "Asia Pacific Symposium on Advancements in Ergonomics and Safety" or ERGOSYMS in short. This is the second time the symposium is organized, after the first event in 2009. The theme chosen is very timely and comprehensive, namely, "Ergonomics and Safety for All: Academia, Industry and Community".

Indeed, as the field of ergonomics makes its rise as a very important discipline in many parts of the world, so has the significance of our gathering today. We know that ergonomics or "human factor" has great influence in not only the way we work, but also in whatever activity we do. This includes when we are resting, for all human-made apparatus that we use everyday affect our comfort, health and safety. This, in turn, will affect the quality and productivity of our output.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Alhamdulillah, I have been made to understand that the symposium has successfully attracted the attention of both local as well as international participants. You have made your way from Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, India, Iran, Korea, and of course – Malaysia, to join in this intellectual discourse which I am sure will be interesting, informative, educational, and stimulating.

I have also been informed that the number of accepted papers this time around has increased from the last time, no doubt a small indication that the field of ergonomics has become very important in the lives of many amongst us. More than 25 areas or topics will be duly presented in the coming sessions. You will have the opportunity to expand your knowledge on recent advances, current trends, and current practices in the area. I hope this symposium accords the opportunity for all of us to think of the means and ways to promote the quality of working life for us and those around us.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my hope that we will all benefit from this get-together. In the hours to come, please interact with one another to build closer relationships, so that it will be easier to explore new areas and possibilities to work together in the near and far future.

For your information, UniMAP is very keen to make our contribution to expand the boundary of knowledge in ergonomics. The School of Manufacturing Engineering, in particular, has always been involving its staff in activities that promote ergonomics and safety practices both inside and outside the campus. It has also recently formed the "Ergonomics Research, Consultancy and Training Group", or ERCAT in short, as a team to carry out research and promote ergonomics among staff and students alike. With the purchase of equipments such as the EMG, "Motion Analysis software", electrogoniometer and several

others, the ERCAT research group is on to a good start, insya Allah.

In addition, ERCAT is also involved in consultancies especially in the northern region of Malaysia. If the group is able to produce encouraging "output", Insyaallah one day it will be upgraded into a full-blown 'research cluster' of the University. As Vice-Chancellor, I take pride in supporting such efforts. I am sure this symposium forms part of the journey to that possibility, and I invite all of you to participate in the projects that the team is working on.

Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to make an announcement. We now have our very own 'Malaysian Journal of Ergonomics (MJEr)'. The journal, which is the brainchild of this School, is already in 2 volumes, and they will be launched today. The first volume, which is the "Malaysian Journal of Ergonomics (Volume 1)", contains research papers from Malaysian researchers in the last several months, while the second one, which is "Special Issues 2011", includes the best papers submitted in today's symposium. Congratulations to researchers whose papers have been selected to be published in this special issue.

Before I conclude my speech, I would like to express my gratitude to the Social Security Organization (Socso) for sponsoring this event. In addition, thanks are also due to the Occupational, Safety and Health Association (OSHA), the Malaysian Society for Engineering and Technology (MySET) and other agencies for their

contribution in making this symposium a reality. Special thanks are also accorded to our distinguished "keynote speakers" and the technical committee that has been appointed to ensure the success of the symposium.

With Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, I officially launch Ergosyms 2011.

Thank you, Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh..