



Vice Chancellor's Speech – Opening Ceremony

**International Public Seminar:
Commercialising R&D Products and Services
3 Ogos, 2008**

Bismillahir-Rahmanir-Rahim

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Taala Wabarakatuh dan Salam Perpaduan.

Salutations

Syukur alhamdulillah with the blessing Allah s.w.t. we are gathered here and first of all, I would like to thank the Honourable Minister of Higher Education for his time to grace the opening ceremony of a 2-Day International Public Seminar: Commercialising R&D Products and Services. This is the first ever seminar of this kind and I hope we will continue to have more deliberations and discussion with concrete plans of action, of course, to find ways and means leading to commercialisation of R&D by universities.

Since time immemorial, humans invent objects and methods that can make jobs to be carried out in a new or different way. Usually, with a new invention, the job becomes faster, simpler, and more economical. Inventions and research findings can change lifestyles, and make an impact to civilisation. Technology is the back bone of most research and development endeavors. The application of technology through the invention of objects, methods and processes has successfully elevated the world to where it is today.

Because the process of invention requires long and continuous research, UniMAP pays much attention to it. It is our ultimate aim to not only do well in this undertaking, but to commercialise our research findings as well. Hence, this seminar is aimed to focus and bring about changes in the way we do research, our line of thoughts on research and what kind of research are we pursuing this time and in the near future. A paradigm shift is much needed and I would like to suggest the Ministry lead the way and allow more discussions with private sectors and industries with clear guidelines and policies.

Please allow me to relate briefly UniMAP's research quest. Since we first started about 7 years ago, we have been very keen at making a researcher out of every lecturer we have. We have been somewhat successful – with research grants totalling **RM18,757,125.79** since 2002. We have also participated in numerous exhibitions and expositions that showcase research products all over the world. These expositions include the International Exhibition of Inventions of New Techniques and Products, Geneva 2006, 2007, and 2008, the Malaysian Technology Expo (MTE) 2007 and 2008, the International Warsaw Invention Show (IWIS) 2007, INPEX (Pittsburgh USA) 2007, the International Trade Fair – Ideas, Inventions, New Products (IENA 2007), Germany, and Brussels Innova Energy (EUREKA) 2007.

At the national level, we participate in ITEX 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008, PECIPTA 07, and IPTA R&D. I am proud to say that we have, since 2005, won 22 gold, 53 silver and 63 bronze medals. One of our researchers

has won the Hungarian 'Genius Award', while another researcher's invention has been named, 'Best Invention' by the International Federation of Inventors Association (IFIA). Still, I feel that we should not rest on our laurels. We intend to go all out to commercialise our research findings. Already we have four or five products that have very high potential to be commercialised. I am sure the experience of the experts in this seminar will go a long way to materialise this dream of ours.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all distinguished speakers of this seminar, namely Professor Dr. Vasant Kumar (Cambridge University), Professor Dr. Seeram Ramakrishna (National University of Singapore), Haji Saat Shukri Embong, (Freescale Semiconductor), Professor Dr. Zaharin Yusoff (Universiti Multimedia Cyberjaya), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jackrit Suthakorn (Mahidol University), Professor Dr. Asmah Ismail (Universiti Sains Malaysia), and Professor Dr Zul Azhar Zahid Jamal of UniMAP.

I would also like to say thank you to Professor Dato' Dr Jamaludin Mohaiadin, Director of UniMAP's Sustainable Development Unit, Assoc. Prof. Che Mohd. Ruzaidi Ghazali, the Dean of the School of Materials Engineering, Prof. Zuraidah Mohd. Zain from the Center for International Affairs and all the Organising Committee members, for their hard work and dedication in making this event a success. I am sure participants of this seminar leave with new ideas and new insights on how to commercialise R&D products and work closely with the industries.

To all, I wish you the very best. Thank you.