

**SPEECH BY**  
**LT. KOL. PROF. DATO' DR. KAMARUDIN HUSSIN,**  
**KUKUM'S RECTOR**  
**AT 'KUKUM DINNER WITH INDUSTRY 2006' ON 19 MEI 2006,**  
**AT EASTERN AND ORIENTAL HOTEL, PENANG.**

Bismillahir-rahmanir-rahim

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh dan salam sejahtera.

My respected colleague Prof. Dr. Ali Yeon Md. Shakaff, KUKUM's Deputy Rector (Academic and Internationalization),

My respected colleague Prof. Madya Dr. Zul Azhar Zahid Jamal, KUKUM's Deputy Rector (Research and Inovation),

KUKUM's deans of engineering schools, heads of departments,

Our 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 KUKUM staff.

First and foremost, I am most grateful to Allah, the most gracious and most merciful, for His blessings in giving us this opportunity gather this evening on the occasion of KUKUM's Annual Dinner With Industry 2006. This dinner is a show of appreciation and acknowledgement to KUKUM's partners -- the Malaysian industry -- for their endless and continuing support to the University. The Malaysian industry has indeed been very helpful in helping KUKUM in its journey to produce world class engineers that fulfill Malaysia's aspirations.

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you, the Malaysian industry community to this humble yet pleasant dinner. Let us give a round of applause to our distinguished guests.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I feel highly delighted and honoured to be amongst you. I am very pleased that after four years since our establishment, KUKUM has successfully conducted various programs, and has received full co-operation from members of the industry.

As you know, we are the second youngest university in Malaysia. Being this young, KUKUM believes that a good relationship with the industry is crucial. It cannot be denied that education, especially engineering education, is very much

relevant and most needed to make this world a better place. A good engineering education requires much input from the industry. Without industry input, the curriculum we offer may just as well be hollow. This is where you, ladies and gentlemen -- distinguished industry players -- come in to perform your significant roles in contributing to the education of KUKUM's students. Allow me to express my heartfelt gratitude to you in making our working relationship a great success.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is our common objective to produce high quality graduates who are able to satisfy the needs and requirements of the industry. KUKUM has this mission in mind not only for the development of the local industry, but also for the world. That is why KUKUM, mainly through the Centre for Industrial Collaboration, has arranged many programmes to this end. For example, for students, we have Industrial Training program (InTra), Industrial Exposure program (IndEx), Engineering Entrepreneurial Program, 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) in the last two years, we have received a lot of positive comments from you. Among them

are the outstanding skills and confidence demonstrated by our student during their stay in the industry. This has no doubt been made possible through our rigorous academic curricular that pay much attention to the development of skills that suit the needs of today's industry.

In addition to the programmes that I mentioned, I welcome further suggestions to collaborate with KUKUM in different research or industrial programmes. We have thus far signed a number of MOU's with big names such as CIMA, Permintex, ACM, Agilent, and many others. Through these MoUs, various collaboration activities have started. Among the collaboration activities are short courses that lead to certificate programmes, shop floor improvement programs, and several others.

For many semesters now, KUKUM has tried hard to acquire the best brains of the industry to give lectures to KUKUM students. This scheme is called the Guest Industrial Lecturer scheme, and has been seen to be very successful indeed. The students, KUKUM lecturer, and the guest industrial lecturer have interacted with one another in more ways than one. As a result, the students' industrial and academic experience have been enriched tremendously. With at least 50% of KUKUM'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 KUKUM has the best

equipment in its teaching labs – specially for the use of students everyday. Our investment in this area is acknowledged by many parties, including the Malaysian Engineering Accreditation Council. Indeed, KUKUM has devoted much time and money to build up its teaching infrastructure that parallels those in use in the industry itself. I humbly invite all of you to pay us a visit sometime and see if you want to use some of our facilities in mutual projects that involve both KUKUM and the industry.

With KUKUM's first batch of students graduating in a few weeks time, it is my hope that members of the industry, represented by our distinguished guests in this dining hall tonight, 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. I ask that they be given the opportunity to do so.

Lastly, may I ask that we work hand-in-hand in our effort to develop the appropriate human capital with first class mentality that this country and the world needs, as stated by our Prime Minister, YAB Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi not too long ago. With your continuing support and interest in us, I am sure this is not going to be difficult.

Before I end, I would like to thank the organising committee of this event for their superb organisation in making this dinner a success. The committee has been very hardworking and determined, which is along the same lines with the University's mission and vision.

With that, ladies and gentlemen, let's enjoy our dinner. Thank you.  
Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi taala wabarakatuh and blessings to all of you.