

**SPEECH BY**  
**LT. KOL. PROF. DATO' DR. KAMARUDIN HUSSIN**  
**AT 'KUKUM DINNER WITH INDUSTRY 2006' IN KUALA LUMPUR**  
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Bismillahir-rahmanir-rahim

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh, salam sejahtera, and a very good evening,

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

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 very grateful to Allah for His blessings in giving us the 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 reliable partners -- the Malaysian industry -- for their endless and continuing support to the University. The Malaysian industry has indeed been very supportive in helping KUKUM produce world class engineers who 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,

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 participation from the industry. Without industry input, the curriculum of the academic programmes offered may just as well be hollow. In actual fact, the

founding of KUKUM, and a few other university colleges, began during the days when the quality of local graduates was questioned, and it was thought that a different model of education – one that would take into account much input from the industry – was needed. After all, the industry is at the receiving end of the education process, and it only makes sense that it be consulted always. That led to the birth of the education brand that we adhere to in KUKUM. With this education brand, we hope to produce graduates who are of “readily employable quality”.

For the case of KUKUM, the target segment of the industry at that time was electronics, where suitable local talent for design and development work was very difficult to find. As we all know, availability of professionals in the electronic industry, as well in all other industries, is the critical factor for the Malaysian industry to evolve from basic assembly work to the more sophisticated upstream pre-manufacturing and manufacturing processes. Of late, the University has expanded into areas outside of electronics, to help ensure a steady growth of human

resource supply that can satisfy the electronics industry and other industries that support it.

I am very pleased that since our establishment, KUKUM has successfully conducted various industry-related programs, which have received full co-operation from you. You have been with us every step of the way – from the time when the curriculum is first developed, to the time when it is delivered and duly reviewed every few years or so. More importantly, you stay with us all along the way during the delivery of the courses. Thus, you have all this while, been performing your crucial role in contributing to the education of KUKUM's students, whom we hope will take their place as engineering leaders of the Nation in due time. 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 – both at local as well as international levels. Mainly through the Centre for Industrial

Collaboration, KUKUM 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 leave to be spent in the industry, and it is mandatory for our Teaching Engineers to go through industrial attachment from time to time.

During the course of the various KUKUM-industry interactions, we have received a lot of positive comments from you. Among them are the outstanding skills and confidence demonstrated by our students during their stay in the industry, which have been said to exceed those of their counterparts from conventional universities. This has no doubt been made possible through our rigorous academic curricular that pay much attention to the development of knowledge and skills that suit the needs of today's market place.

We are aware that apart from good technical know-how, the industry is concerned about the level of soft skills mastery amongst Malaysian

students in general. Rest assured that at KUKUM, we take this very seriously. The cultivation and enhancement of language, communication, leadership, team building and social skills is always given priority. The last thing we want is to produce graduates who are well versed in the field of engineering, but are not capable of adjusting appropriately within the community.

That is why, ladies and gentlemen, in addition to the various KUKUM-industry programmes that I mentioned previously, I welcome further suggestions from you to collaborate with us. We have thus far signed a number of MOU's with big names such as Silterra, CIMA, Permintex, ACM, Agilent, and many others. Through these MoUs, various collaboration activities have started. Among them are short and long duration courses that lead to certificate programmes, shop floor improvement programmes that involve higher degree students, student-industry dialogues, and several others.

With the University's first batch of students graduating in a few weeks time, it is my hope that members of the industry, represented by our

notable 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 organisations. I ask that they be given the opportunity to do so. I am sure they will not let you down.

Please allow me to convince you on this. We have gone a long way to ensure industrial participation during the students' 4-year stay in the University. With at least 50% of KUKUM's teaching staff having industrial experience prior to them working here, I am sure our 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 laboratories – especially for the use of students everyday. I dare say that the equipment we have is among the best, if not *the* best, in this country. 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.

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 lecturers, and the guest industrial lecturers have interacted with one another in more ways than one. As a result, the students' industrial and academic experience has been enriched tremendously.

Moreover, we also have a handful of prominent members of the industry who work with us as Industry Advisors and Academic Consultants. They come at designated times to advice on various academic matters and perform dialogues with the students. In addition, members of the industry make up a portion of the University's Board of Director, and hence, they play a big role in defining KUKUM's future directions.



I would like to make it known that KUKUM is always on the look out for means and ways to improve its academic system so as to accommodate industry requirement. This we do not only through informal gatherings such as this dinner, but also through the numerous formal dialogues and other activities that we organise from time to time. We also pore over reports where industry input and requirement is documented. Still, we look forward to yet more feedback from you.

May I end this speech by asking that we continue to 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 such invaluable asset that we produce together, our country and nation will be the ultimate winner. 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, and I must say that I am very proud of them.

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

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi taala wabarakatuh and blessings to all of you.