

Speech By

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**Vice Chancellor of UniMAP**

For Opening Ceremony Micotribe Conference  
On 12 December 2009 At PWTC, Kuala Lumpur.

**Theme: "Value adding indigenous bioresources  
through bioprocess engineering"**

Bismillahir-rahmanir-rahim

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and Salam  
1Malaysia.

Yang Berbahagia, Prof. Dr Sazali Yaacob, UniMAP's Deputy  
Vice Chancellor (Academic and International),

Yang Berbahagia, Prof. Dr. Zul Azhar Zahid Jamal, UniMAP's  
Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research & Innovations),

Yang Berbahagia, Prof. Dr Mohamed Zulkali Mohamed Daud,  
Dean, School of Bioprocess Engineering, UniMAP,

Distinguished Participants Of Micotribe Conference

Distinguished Guests, Senior Officers Of Universiti Malaysia  
Perlis.

Deans & Head Of Departments Of Universiti Malaysia Perlis.

Media Representatives, Ladies & Gentlemen.

Alhamdulillah, Thanks to Allah S.W.T for giving us the opportunity to gather here this evening; in the opening ceremony of Micotribe Conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee and Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP), I would like to extend to all of you a very warm welcome to this conference. I think all of you have made a smart choice in choosing to be a participant in this conference. At the end of this two days forum I am sure you would be enriched with a lot of new knowledge and making new friends, be it local or international and sharing experiences as well as extending your networking portfolios. For foreign participants, I would advise you to spare some of your time to see more of the capital city Kuala Lumpur, if not Malaysia, after the conference.

Malaysia is a tropical country rich in its flora and fauna biodiversity. The trends of biotechnology development in Malaysia during the last few years have shifted our interest towards exploring and looking back at the indigenous bio resources we have in this country.

Some developed and developing countries have managed to capitalize on the bio resources obtained elsewhere in the world for commercial gains. In contrast, we tend to take for granted what we have at our doorstep. By now we should have realized that through value added processing and manufacturing of new products from our indigenous bio resources we are in business, especially in the health, beauty and food industries.

The business is no longer confined to our boundaries. It has to be global. It is timely that Malaysia and countries in these regions with similar ecosystems explore what is in store for us. To do this we need a forum to benchmark our current R&D and market position and this conference is an effective means of achieving that objective.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To embark on value adding processing of our bio resources we need to give emphasis on the vehicle or means to do it. In accordance to the theme of this conference which is “Value adding indigenous bio resources through bioprocess engineering”, bioprocess engineering is the appropriate discipline at the forefront of research and development responsible for translating life sciences discoveries into practical products, processes or systems for the benefit of human being.

In Malaysia, bioprocess engineering is applied in processing the rich biodiversity and the indigenous bio resources into value added products. Towards this end, I would like to ask the gathering of scientists here today – “Have we done enough on home ground?” Are we keeping pace with the development elsewhere as to be competitive in the global market? Do we formulate new technologies to maximize processing and manufacturing protocols? We need these answers to crosscheck our progress and development. I hope some of these answers will be evident from the papers that will be presented and the posters that will be exhibited. Maybe, the panel discussion can provide some answers.

We can continue to explore and exploit new species or new crops if we are so much blessed with indigenous bio resources. Do you agree with that as a challenge for all of you gathered here today? This includes the development of new concepts, methods and applications of bioprocess engineering in the production of biomaterials useful to human life.

Applying bioprocess engineering with the latest technologies and innovative ideas would lead to a quality life and serve the global needs. If we pursue this mission with a high commitment, I am confident that Malaysia and countries within this region with a wealth of potential indigenous bio resources yet to be explored will be at the forefront of bio resource products such as biomaterial, bio energy, bio

fertilizer and biopharmaceuticals for the local and global markets.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizers who worked hard for the last few months to make this conference a success. Thank you also to paper and poster presenters, exhibitors and to all participants, local and foreign, for your contributions.

Lastly, I sincerely hope that after the deliberations during the conference all participants will be equipped with a wealth of knowledge about the potential of indigenous bio resources to bring home and the role of bioprocess engineering towards value adding our efforts to enrich what Nature has given us.

With Bismillahirrahmanirahim, I hereby officiate the opening of this MICOTribe conference.

Thank You,