

SPEECH BY
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DURING OPENING CEREMONY MTUN FORTUNE FORUM
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Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Salutation to be confirmed

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and A Very good Morning To all of you.

Alhamdulillah, 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 for the FORTUNE 2009 - the second forum of its kind, after being held last year in Universiti Teknikal Melaka Malaysia (UTeM).

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you, the MTUN's members and UniMAP community to this humble yet pleasant ceremony. Let us give a round of applause to our distinguished guests and graduates.

Ladies and Gentleman,

I feel highly delighted and honored to be amongst you. I am very pleased that after three years since MTUN's establishment, we has successfully conducted various

programs to strengthen our networks and one of it is this FORTUNE Forum.

This forum is very important to us – The MTUN members as it can work as a mechanism and platform that can be useful in enhancing the cooperation and collaboration between our partners in the industry and the public higher education institutions in the country.

The relationship and cooperation between the universities and industries are crucial to the development of the nation's economy and human capital, in line with making Malaysia a developed nation by year 2020.

I do hope, that this form of networking will help strengthen ties, and help universities to conduct research to produce beneficial products, human capital and research outputs alike, in ensuring that Malaysia be positioned alongside other developed nations.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Many hiring managers around the world complain that they are not getting graduates who understand the world of work and it has been reported that there are more than 25,000

jobless graduates registered with the Human Resources Ministry since the last two years.

It is also stated that one of the ways to tackle the problem of unemployment among graduates is for universities to assume leadership and work more closely together with the various industries in the country. There is an important needs to bring students closer to the professional world or industry.

And this brings us to the original intent of the establishment of the MTUN's which is to generate highly skilled engineers who can help realise the country's National Industrial Master Plan.

In this point of view, highly skilled engineer means they have a good mastery of engineering skills, which comprise both theoretical competency as well as practical competency. This means that they should be competent in carrying out practical tasks while having sufficient theoretical knowledge.

Ladies and Gentleman,

It is our common objective to produce high quality graduates who are able to satisfy the needs and requirements of the industry. We as the MTUN's members, has this mission in

mind not only for the development of the local industry, but also for the world.

I am very pleased that since the establishment of UniMAP we has always arranged periodic curriculum reviews, which is conducted to ensure relevancy of our course materials and scope, aligned to the needs of the industry. We are also proud that subject matter experts from industries are willing to participate in these exercises.

Spearheading the industrial-related initiatives, the Centre for Industrial Collaboration (CIC), headed by Assoc Prof Mohd Shuid Salleh, has to this end aggressively organized various activities, which have been proven effective and beneficial.

For students, we have Industrial Training program (InTra), Industrial Exposure program (IndEx), Industrial Technical Lecturer (InTeLect), Engineering Entrepreneurial Program (IndEnt), Industrial Visits, and many others.

These programs will never be a reality without industry's support. On the other hand, 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.

Ladies and Gentleman,

We are aware that apart from good technical know-how, the industry is also concerned about the level of soft skills mastery amongst Malaysian students in general. Rest assured that at UniMAP, 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.

It is my hope that this forum will help member universities, which are committed to implement industry driven learning, to achieve their objectives. On this occasion, I would also like to extend my invitation to the industry for further collaborations and cooperation, in identifying new formulas for mutual partnership and creating an industry-friendly environment for the benefit of the nation.

Finally, I am confident that with the industry's support and involvement, the country's hope of producing and retaining the best talent will not be impossible to achieve. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the organizing committee's

superb commitment in making this event a memorable and beneficial one. May God bless and reward you all for it.

Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and thank you.