

**Officiating Speech**  
**By**  
**Vice Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Perlis**  
**Brig. General Datuk Prof. Dr. Kamarudin Hussin**  
**At**  
**SYMPOSIUM OF INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES AND KNOWLEDGE (SILK)**  
**2014**  
**OPENING CEREMONY**  
**14 FEBRUARY 2014, HYDRO HOTEL PENANG,**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam Satu Malaysia

**Salam Ilmu, Keikhlasan, Kecemerlangan UniMAP**

and a very good morning.

**SALUTATION**

**Our Co-Organizers**

**The Honourable Dr. Yutthana Pongpiriyadecha, Vice President of Rajamangala University of Technology Srivijaya Songkhla**

**And The Honourable Assoc. Prof. Dr. Amara Changsub, Vice President of Walailak University**

Yang Berbahagia Prof. Dato' Dr. Zul Azhar Zahid Jamal, UniMAP Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and International)

Yang Berbahagia Assoc Prof Dr Fo'ad Sakdan, UniMAP Deputy Vice Chancellor (Student Affairs)

Prof Dr Harshita Aini Haroon, Director of Centre for International Languages, UniMAP,

UniMAP EXCO members and staff

Deans and heads of departments

Our keynote speakers

Delegations from Rajamangala University of Technology Srivijaya Songkhla and Walailak University

Staff of the Centre for International Languages,

Our Media friends and participants of the Symposium of International Languages and Knowledge 2014.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone to the Symposium of International Languages and Knowledge (SILK) 2014. For our International participants, 'Selamat Datang' which means "Welcome to Malaysia".
2. First and foremost, I would like to congratulate the organizing committee, paper presenters and participants for making this event a great success. The idea of organizing this joint symposium was mooted during an academic visit to our partner universities, Rajamangala University Technology of Srivijaya Songkhla and Walailak University in the south of Thailand in 2012.
3. UniMAP and our partners from Southern Thailand have been very active in organizing student mobility programmes such as the International Soft Skill and Leadership Program (ISOL) and language camps in the past years.
4. SILK 2014 is indeed another feather in our cap by way of our collaboration. I am truly overwhelmed to see the symposium finally materialised, and for that I am indeed thankful to our close associates

from Rajamangala University of Technology Srivijaya Songkhla and Walailak University.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) is a premier university focusing on engineering, technology and entrepreneurship. Nevertheless, we do recognise the importance of the development of language and communication skills, to equip students to face the global job market.
6. Essentially, when we talk about higher education today, foremost on our agenda are matters such as producing high impact research, marketability of students and international visibility.
7. These are some of the criteria, which contribute to the ranking systems and instruments for institutions including language competencies and communication skills. In line with this, UniMAP established its Centre for International Languages in March 2013.
8. I am very happy to note that CIL has done a good job in fulfilling the university's expectations. The hard work and dedication of staff at the centre has enabled us to gather here today to share and learn from one another on developments in language and language teaching and education.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. I hope that the Symposium of International Languages and Knowledge (SILK) 2014 will be an impetus for more academic activities related to language education, at the same time kick-starting research collaborations with our strategic partners.
10. The theme of our symposium is appropriately chosen which is 'Unity through Diversity'. This symposium marks a result of joint-collaboration between three established universities; Rajamangala

University of Technology Srivijaya Songkhla, Walailak University and Universiti Malaysia Perlis.

11. The organization of this symposium is timely for us, as we approach the ASEAN Economic Community 2015 to unite and leverage on each other's strengths and overcome challenges together. SILK 2014 will pave the way for us, towards the ASEAN community 2015.

Ladies and gentlemen,

12. I would really like to see SILK continue through next year, and for years to come, symbolic of our friendship, networking and partnership.
13. Last but not least, to the Presidents of Rajamangala University Technology of Srivijaya Songkhla and Walailak University thank you from the bottom of my heart for your unwavering support.
14. Many thanks also due to the organizing committee, keynote speakers, paper presenters and all participants who have made SILK 2014 possible. And to our foreign guests, have a pleasant stay in Perlis and Malaysia. And please take time to see our beautiful country.
15. In the name of Allah, I now declare open SILK 2014.

Thank you.