

**SPEECH BY**  
**BRIG. JEN. PROF. DATUK DR. KAMARUDIN HUSSIN, VICE**  
**CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA PERLIS,**  
**ON THE OCCASION OF THE SOIL SCIENCE CONFERENCE OF**  
**MALAYSIA 2014**  
**at**  
**PUTRA PALACE HOTEL, KANGAR**  
**ON 8 APRIL 2014**

**SALUTATION**

Yang Berusaha, Saudari Pengerusi Majlis

**Yang Berhormat, Dato' Seri Dr. James Dawos Mamit**, Deputy Minister,  
Ministry Of Natural Resources & Environment Malaysia

**Yang Berbahagia, Associate Professor Dr. Ahmad Husni Mohd Haniff**,  
President, Malaysian Society of Soil Science,

Deputies Vice Chancellor of UniMAP,

UniMAP' s Senior Officer,

Deans And Heads of Department,

**Government Heads of Department,**

Distinguished Guests,

Distinguished Conference Participants,

Ladies and Gentleman,

**Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam 1 Malaysia,**  
**Salam Ilmu, Keikhlasan, Kecemerlangan UniMAP**

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. Welcome to all of you to the Soil Science Conference of Malaysia 2014. We are particularly honored to have **Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Dr. James Dawos Mamit, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia** for his presence at this conference. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to **Malaysian Soil Scientists Society (MSSS) and Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)** for their kind invitation to Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) to jointly host this conference with the theme – "Soil Management and Environment".
2. This conference will focus on soil management and environment taking stock of available information and current development in research and development in these disciplines. I hope through this forum we will form a networking of expert groups among those that generate current information on soils pertaining to our agricultural needs and those that integrate these information to enrich their respective needs or disciplines. The engineering circle, for instance, need to harness knowledge on soils and environment to further develop advances in applied engineering.
3. Thus I congratulate both **Malaysian Soil Scientists Society (MSSS) and Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)** who respond to that challenge by bringing together, not only scientists, members of the broader soil community, and a varied group of stakeholders, policy makers, and others to participate and benefit from this conference.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. Global projections suggest that there will be a 77% increase in world demand for food by 2050. On the domestic front, there will be a demand for Malaysian farmers to increase thier productivity radically during this period. Unless well managed, this in turn could place

pressure on our resources base – particularly on the sustainable productivity of our soils. Thus, we can envisage challenges for agricultural production in the coming decades, with emphasis on the fundamental importance of soil management and sustainability.

5. At Universiti Malaysia Perlis, our researchers will focus on adopting the evolution pathway to meet these challenges through innovation and technology in the engineering sciences and managerial entrepreneurship.
6. Therefore, in 1st March, 2007 Universiti Malaysia Perlis has the foresight to see the field of agrotechnology as a need to catalyze the development of agriculture product through utilizing sustainable innovation.
7. We have introduced the Agrotechnology Development Unit (ADU) in Sg. Chuchuh, nearby Padang Besar with purpose to mainly contribute to local community particularly farmers so that thier product will be more visible and high impact. The primary role of ADU is to coordinate and plan the direction of research and develop programs that specialize in the field of agricultural sciences.
8. After the establishment of the Nothern Corridor Economic Region (NCER) the role of ADU improved in line with the Malaysian's aspiration to increase the contribution to economic development in the agricultural sector. Therefore we also want Unimap and Perlis to be part of this noble effort.

Ladies and gentlemen,

9. ADU has been tasked to develop Agrotechnological Research Station (ARS) in an area of 50 hectares, and proudly the latest Agrotechnological Research Station (ARS) has developed more than 6 hectares and equipped with basic research.

10. ARS is to be a landmarks commitment for UniMAP in driving the generation of knowledge and talents in the fields of bioscience-based, biotechnology, agricultural science and environmental science which I believe will be a mover to the emerging national economies, especially in agriculture sector including export foods, fruits and vegetables globally.
11. We try to build from a strong history on-ground localized weed and pest control to a more strategic platform of national surveillance, shared data and coordinated action.
12. Our selected crops are temporal vegetables and medical resources such as *misai kucing* and *kemunting cina*. Not to miss the *Harumanis* tree that has fruits throughout the year in Perlis. To those who have time, I welcome all of you for a visit in Agrotechnological Research Station (ARS).

### **CLOSING**

Ladies and gentlemen,

13. In conclusion, I suggest all the researches, scientists and the related stake-holders will take responsibility for the way we live in the landscape to ensure a better and sustainable future. There is a major role for government in supporting this vision and remains at the forefront of natural resource management with the delivery of a smart, resilient, productive and sustainable agricultural future with strong environmental management outcomes.
14. I hope the next two days at the conference will provide you with an opportunity to reflect on the Landcare movement of the past, the present and most of all the future.

Thank you