

**Dato's speech for official visit of
His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan
to UniMAP**

6 October, 2008

His Excellency Masahiko Horie and Mrs Horie, The Ambassador
of Japan to Malaysia,

Deputy Vice-Chancellors,

Friends from Perlis State Government

Academic Staff and students

Ladies and gentlemen

Assalamualaikum and a very good morning. May I extend a
warm welcome to our special guests from the Embassy of
Japan, Malaysia.

We are delighted this morning to have you with us here in
Universiti Malaysia Perlis (or UniMAP in short). It is not
often that we have the honour of having prominent guests
from the 'Land of the Rising Sun'. I have been made to
understand that you will be delivering a talk entitled,
"The Japanese Working Environment", for which we are very
much looking forward to.

Your Excellency,

Over the years, Japan and Malaysia have enjoyed a
productive and successful relationship on many fronts.
Indeed, in the age where technology has made our world one
small global village, there is no excuse for us to not find

means and ways to foster closer links between our two great countries.

Since 2005, some of UniMAP's academic staffs have visited Japan to foster working relationships with our counterparts there, as well as to present research papers and attend meetings, seminars and conferences. As a result, we have signed a couple of Memorandums of Understanding (MoU), and have, at the moment, almost 20 academic staff who are currently pursuing higher studies in 13 universities in Japan. The universities include University of Yamanashi, Kagawa University, Ibaraki University, Toyohashi University, Oita University, Kyushu University, Osaka University, University of Tokushima, and several others.

In addition, many of our academic staffs have graduated from Japanese universities, and are now working in UniMAP. Several of them are with us here in this hall this morning.

Apart from our numerous visits to Japan, we have been privileged to welcome Japanese guests from time to time. We had visitors from Yamanashi University and Muroran Institute of Technology some time back. We also had the privilege of having Professor Masanori Sugisaka from Oita University to be our External Examiner for UniMAP's School of Mechatronic Engineering three years ago. Professor Sugisaka worked in partnership with some local researchers in a project entitled, 'Climbing Tree Robot', which has been successfully completed.

I would now like to give you a brief history of UniMAP. Formerly known as KUKUM, we are a public institution of

higher learning, specialising in Engineering. We now have a workforce of approximately 1000 people comprising academic and non-academic staff, and around 4000 students. We offer 16 undergraduate academic programmes, 6 diploma programs and 12 post graduates programmes. The programs are offered through the School of Computer and Communication Engineering, School of Microelectronic Engineering, School of Materials Engineering, School of Electrical Systems Engineering, School of Mechatronic Engineering, School of Manufacturing Engineering, School of Bioprocess Engineering, and the School of Environmental Engineering.

UniMAP aims to produce highly skilled engineers who are capable of planning, designing, building, testing and maintaining devices, systems, and processes, as well as being capable of solving engineering problems in an innovative and creative manner. These qualities, among others, are in line with the characteristic of the 'global engineer'. Our graduates are expected to not only exhibit excellence in knowledge and skills directly related to their respective academic fields, but are also proficient in communication and ICT skills, as well as possessing unsurpassed traits of professionalism and patriotism. So far, our graduates have successfully entered the labor market with placements in many prominent organizations such as Siemens VDO Components, SONY, Agilent, Intel and many others.

UniMAP's campus is virtually everywhere in Perlis, hence it is being dubbed 'UniMAP distributed campus'. In a few years' time, our permanent campus will be built at two locations. It is envisioned that the permanent campus will

be built as a 'nature campus', which takes into consideration the many aspects that ensure a healthy and conducive environment for students, staff and the community at large, to live, work, and interact with one another.

Your Excellency,

We look forward to listening to your talk, as well as to the opportunity of discussing with you topics of mutual interest. Your sharing of experience with us will be invaluable in our quest for greater knowledge. Following this meeting, I am sure we will be able to pave the way to a more healthy and fruitful relationship in the future.