

## **WELCOME REMARKS**

Yang Berbahagia  
Professor Datuk Ts. Dr Hajah Roziah Mohd Janor  
Vice-Chancellor  
Universiti Teknologi MARA

**The 10<sup>th</sup> Ambassadorial Lecture Series (ALS)**  
by  
**His Excellency Vanu Gopala Menon**  
**Singapore's High Commissioner to Malaysia**

**16 March 2023**

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**His Excellency**  
**Vanu Gopala Menon**  
Singapore's High Commissioner to Malaysia

**Dr Hajah Zainab Haji Mohd Noor**  
Director  
Department of International Affairs (DIA)  
UiTM Global

**Distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen.**

**(Salutations)**

**To be confirmed by the organiser on the day of the event.**

**Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and very good morning to all.**

1. On behalf of the Vice–Chancellor of UiTM, Professor Datuk Ts. Dr Hajah Roziah Mohd Janor, I am pleased to welcome everyone to the **10<sup>th</sup> Ambassadorial Lecture Series** organised by the **Department of International Affairs (DIA), UiTM Global**. Professor Datuk sends her warmest regards to everyone.
2. It is a great honour to be here today and to welcome our distinguished guest, **His Excellency Vanu Gopala Menon, The High Commissioner of Singapore to Malaysia** who will speak on **“Singapore-Malaysia Relations and Our Role in ASEAN.”**
3. Thank you, High Commissioner Menon, for being willing to share your point of view and first–hand insights with us.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

4. Please let me briefly mention His Excellency's diplomatic responsibilities and achievements aside from the appointment as Singapore's High Commissioner to Malaysia in November 2014.
  
5. High Commissioner Menon is a graduate of the **National University of Singapore in Business Administration**. He later furthered his education with a **Master of Science in International Relations** on a Raffles Scholarship at the **London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London**.
  
6. In 1985, his Excellency joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He became the Permanent Representative from Singapore to the United Nations in New York from 2004 to 2011 while assuming the post of High Commissioner to Canada from November 2004 to May 2008.

7. His Excellency also served as Deputy Secretary from August 2011 to October 2014 and was posted as Singapore's Ambassador to Turkey (Türkiye) as well.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

8. Let us also briefly look into the **history of Singapore and Malaysia's bilateral relationship.** The Malaysian–Singaporean relations refers to the bilateral relations between Malaysia and the Republic of Singapore, after the exclusion of Singapore from Malaysia in 1965.
9. Singapore and Malaysia enjoy close bilateral relations. The strong ties between us are not just through the sharing of significant and cultural affinities or cross-border family ties, but multiple other aspects, too.

10. Today, Singapore has a High Commission in Kuala Lumpur and a Consulate General in Johor Bahru, while Malaysia has a High Commission in Singapore. Both countries are full members of the Commonwealth of Nations and ASEAN.
11. This solid bond between our countries is evident with the **annual Singapore–Malaysia Leaders' Retreat** held for bilateral talks between the two countries.
12. In fact, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur could potentially be linked up as **smart cities**, pointing to the **themes of resilience and innovation** that Singapore has chosen as chair of ASEAN in 2018. Emphasising the digital economy is also something both countries can work on together.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

- 13.** The world is changing rapidly day by day. Mutual relations and cooperation are very important for every country. It is almost impossible for any country to develop on its own. Hence, to progress, we need assistance and cooperation from other countries.
- 14.** Both nations need to determine their course to diversify the economy's sources of growth in order to survive.
- 15.** The Strategic Road Maps guides the restructuring of the National Economy Perspective and Main Sectors of the Economy of the country. It envisions an economy that is more integrated regionally and globally.
- 16.** I am sure Malaysia and Singapore can help one another develop stronger ties in the economy, social, and education realms.

17. As Malaysia's largest and most comprehensive university, UiTM wishes to establish strong ties with the Embassy of Singapore in Malaysia by opening up space and opportunities and increasing internationalisation activities between the two countries.
18. We hope to maximise mobility opportunities for the university students, staff, and experts to discover the best methods to manage issues professionally and ethically through authentic field exploration.
19. This international relation ascertains UiTM's determination to be **Globally Marketable** through effective international relationships and cooperation between UiTM and diplomatic missions in the country.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

20. This lecture is undoubtedly relevant, timely, and impactful.

21. It also enhances the university's collaborative efforts with the Embassy and the citizens of the Republic of Singapore.
  
22. Hence, I truly hope that this event could open up opportunities for UiTM to network with more universities in Singapore. On that note, I would like to thank those in UiTM who have made this Ambassadorial lecture series a success.
  
23. Without further ado, I would like to return the stage to our guest of honour – **His Excellency, Mr Vanu Gopala Menon**, to officially deliver his talk for the **10<sup>th</sup> Ambassadorial Lecture Series** on **“Singapore-Malaysia Relations and Our Role in ASEAN.”**

**Thank you.**

**Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.**