

OPENING REMARKS

Yang Berbahagia
Professor Ts. Dr Noor Hayati Saad
Assistant Vice-Chancellor
Universiti Teknologi MARA

**Exchange Ceremony
Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
between
Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)
and
Murdoch University (MU) Australia**

6 October 2023

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Honourable guests:

Professor Dr Jennifer Verduin
Pro-Vice Chancellor
Murdoch University, Australia

Dr Paola A. Magni
Associate Dean of Engagement
Murdoch University, Australia

Ms. Fiona Morris
Education Counsellor
Australian High Commission in Malaysia

Fellow UiTM colleagues:

Yang Berusaha

Associate Professor Dr Idaya Husna Mohd

Director of International Affairs

UiTM Global

Yang Berbahagia

Professor Dr Mohd Yusmiailil Putera Mohd Yusof

Director of The Institute of Pathology, Laboratory and Forensic Medicine (I-PPerForM)

UiTM Selangor Campus

Yang Berusaha

Associate Professor Dr. Noor Shafina Mohd Nor

Deputy Dean of Postgraduates and Professional Training

Faculty of Medicine, UiTM

The management team from the Faculty of Medicine and representatives from the Murdoch University, Australia

Distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen

Salutations

(to be confirmed by the organiser on the day of the event)

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Salam Sejahtera and good afternoon to everyone.

- 1) *Alhamdulillah*, praise be to Allah S.W.T, for His abundant blessings which enable us to gather here today to witness the beginning of a momentous collaboration.

- 2) On behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, **Professor Datuk Dr Hajah Roziah Mohd Janor**, and the UiTM community, I extend a warm welcome and *Selamat Datang* to all eminent guests, especially to the honourable **Professor Dr Jennifer Verduin** and **Dr Paola Magni** and their university delegates to the **Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Sungai Buloh Campus**.

- 3) It is an honour to join you today for the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Exchange** between **Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)** and the **Murdoch University of Australia**.

- 4) Heartiest congratulations to the Faculty of Medicine UiTM, especially to the **Institute of Medical Molecular Biotechnology (IMMB) UiTM**, for initiating and materialising this remarkable collaboration.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- 5) The Faculty of Medicine UiTM was first established in November 2002 by **Professor Dr Abdul Rahim Mohd Noor** as the Foundation Dean. The leadership of the Faculty was then continued by the late **Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff** from 2004 until 2013.
- 6) In **June 2003**, our first intake began with only **20 medical students** and today, the faculty has expanded to approximately **250 students intake yearly**.

- 7) The faculty acquired several acres of land in proximity to **Hospital Sungai Buloh** to build the new campus where we are now, which was completed in **2012**.
- 8) All administration work, pre-clinical and clinical classes are now located at the **Sungai Buloh campus**.
- 9) The faculty then went on to develop its own clinical services and in **2016**, these clinical services were formalised as the **UiTM Medical Specialist Centre (PPUiTM)**.
- 10) In congruence with the faculty's vision of becoming **Top 5% Medical Faculty in the World by the Year 2030**, we are proud to finally have our state-of-the-art teaching hospital, **Hospital Al-Sultan Abdullah UiTM** in Puncak Alam, Selangor – fully operational since early 2022.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- 11) Since its **establishment in 1974**, Murdoch University has always been associated with environment, conservation, social justice, and inclusivity.
- 12) I understand that Murdoch was the **first Australian university** to implement **flexible admissions**, ensuring access to education for those who had previously been excluded.
- 13) Operating across **three countries** and offering a diverse array of courses spanning all levels of education, including postgraduate and research programmes, Murdoch University now proudly boasts over **25,000 students and staff members from 90 different countries**.

- 14) Its strategic plan of "**Building a Brighter Future, Together**" and its dedication to excellence in education with the goal of fostering a welcoming, diverse and inclusive community is truly amazing and worthy of emulation.
- 15) The collaboration between **Murdoch University** and the **Faculty of Medicine, UiTM** took root in **2021** with the appointment of **Dr Paola A. Magni** as an external advisor for **IMMB UiTM**.
- 16) This initial step paved the way for extensive deliberations and academic exchanges, including the participation of **Assoc. Prof. Dr Heo Chong Chin** in the esteemed **New Colombo Plan Mobility Programme for 2021 and 2022**, under the leadership of **Dr Paola A. Magni**.

- 17) Fast forward, we now formalise this MoU with the aim of **increasing cooperation** in teaching and learning, sharing of expertise, as well as research and publication endeavours through staff exchange, and joint-organising activities.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- 18) We are also privileged to host **20 students** from Murdoch University who are currently participating in the “**Environmental Forensics Workshop: Science, Investigation, and Transnational Education to Fight Green Crimes**” at the faculty.
- 19) With that being said, I hope that this MoU will serve as a catalyst for more agreements and collaborations between our two institutions and are not limited to the fields of forensics.

20) Before I end, I hope that this partnership will help bring UiTM one step closer to becoming a **Globally Renowned University.**

21) On that note, my best wishes to everyone embarking on upcoming collaborative endeavours and congratulations to all who have made this event a success.

Thank you.

**Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum
Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.**