

## Foreword by the Vice-Chancellor

*Assalamualaikum W.B.T.* and greetings to everyone.

First and foremost, congratulations to the **Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies (FSPPP), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)** and the **International University of Sarajevo (IUS)** for their outstanding joint initiative in organising the **International Conference on Public Policy and Social Sciences (ICoPS) 2023**.

This year, the conference theme is “**Contemporary Public Administration & Governance**” with subthemes such as **Education, Policy Studies, and Sociology**. As women have come a long way in establishing themselves in various industries and fields, the subtheme **Women and Gender Studies** is especially close to my heart. Let us not forget the numerous accomplishments of women, thanks to the remarkable individuals who have fought and challenged initial practices throughout history.

There is still, however, a huge gender gap in many countries around the world which was worsened and increased by the COVID-19 pandemic as recent studies suggest. The public administration and governance sector, specifically via **Gender governance**, can therefore play a vital role in closing this gender gap in which gender regimes can be changed by structuring new policies, procedures, and values through global and multilevel governance. Apart from that, it is equally important to educate society on the importance of closing the gender gap, women's empowerment, and its benefits to the nation.

As much as gender governance empowers women, it also educates and encourages men to understand the needs of the opposite gender. More organisations should step up and include **Gender governance** as part of their organisational structure. This includes how men can contribute to closing the gender gap and improving the overall performance of an organisation or country. It is undeniable that good public policy and governance will pave the way to ensuring gender equality and equity.

Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all young researchers to attend and present their ideas and findings at international research conferences. This will give you wider exposure and access to a larger research community.

Dream big, work hard, and stay humble as that will take you a long way in the academic and research world.

My best wishes to all presenters and participants and I hope that you will have a great time at **ICoPS 2023**. Thank you.

**PROFESSOR DATUK DR HAJAH ROZIAH MOHD JANOR**

Vice-Chancellor

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