

WELCOME REMARKS

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

**The 9th Ambassadorial Lecture Series by
His Excellency Jose Luis Pardo Cuerdo
Ambassador of Spain to Malaysia**

15 March 2023

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**His Excellency
Jose Luis Pardo Cuerdo**
Ambassador of Spain 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 **9th Ambassadorial Lecture Series.**

2. Professor Datuk sends her warmest regards to everyone, especially to our distinguished guest, **His Excellency Jose Luis Pardo Cuerdo**, Ambassador of Spain to Malaysia who will speak on **“Malaysia and Spain: Crossed Realities.”**

3. Thank you, Mr Ambassador, for taking the time out of your busy schedule to be with us today and share your insights on the topic.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. His Excellency Mr Jose Luis Pardo Cuerdo’s impressive biodata includes his appointment as the Ambassador–Designate of Spain to Malaysia in 2022.

5. Ambassador Jose Luis Pardo Cuervo has a **Law Degree** from the **University of Salamanca**, a **Master's in European Law** from the **College of Europe Bruges**, and a **Degree in History of Art** from the **National University of Distance Education, Spain**. More interestingly, His Excellency speaks multiple languages that include Spanish, English, French, German, and Italian.
6. Ambassador Cuervo first joined the Spanish Diplomatic Service in 1993. He was later posted abroad as Deputy Head of Mission at the Spain Embassy in Libya (from 1996 to 1999) as well as Jordan (from 1999 to 2002), after serving in the Directorate for Europe (OSCE). From 2002 to 2005, His Excellency served as the Counsellor for EU Affairs at the Embassy of Germany.
7. His Excellency also served as Director General for EU Foreign Policy and Trade Affairs from 2007 to 2014.

8. He was then appointed as Ambassador of Spain in the Republic of Niger for the period 2014 to 2017. Since July 2017, His Excellency has been the Ambassador at Large for Migratory Issues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EU, and Cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

9. Spain and Malaysia established diplomatic relations in May 1967. The opening of both embassies in Kuala Lumpur and Madrid in 1985 marked the very first important steps in the relations between the two countries.
10. The two countries opened their embassies respectively in 1986. In July 1992, Malaysia's 9th Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Azlan Shah made the first state visit while King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofía of Spain visited Malaysia on 4 April 1995.

11. Since then, both countries have built stable and **trusting bilateral relations** far from any friction. At first glance, given that the two countries are so distant geographically, it leads to the thought that Malaysia and Spain have little in common.

12. However, from geographical to socio-cultural aspects, both countries share a series of common realities that make bilateral relations a favourable scenario for mutual knowledge and growth, creating opportunities to strengthen the existing ties and open new paths for reciprocal cooperation in areas such as economy, trade, science, education, and culture among others.

Ladies and gentlemen,

13. Our world is changing swiftly day by day. There is no doubt that mutual relations and cooperation are very important to develop a country. To progress, assistance and cooperation from other countries are essential.

14. In 2021, the total of Malaysia's Exports to Spain was **USD 1.13 billion** while Spanish Exports to Malaysia were worth around **USD 550.1 million** in 2022.
15. With a large presence of Spanish companies in the country, Malaysia has the largest Spanish investment in Southeast Asia.
16. We also learn that both countries are working on increasing trade relations, especially in tourism and the marine industry.
17. Moreover, an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation and fiscal evasion has been signed together with the establishment of the **Malaysian Spanish Chamber of Commerce and Industry**.
18. In recognising the importance of strengthening bilateral relations between Malaysia and Spain, UiTM wishes to establish strong ties with the Embassy of Spain in Malaysia.

19. This would be a beginning for us to facilitate various activities and visits for closer cooperation between the Embassy and UiTM in academics and areas of mutual interest.
20. As Malaysia's largest and most comprehensive public university, international relation is another substantiation of the university's determination to become a **Globally Renowned University (GRU) by 2025**.

Ladies and Gentlemen

21. This special event with the Spanish Ambassador is relevant and timely as it further enhances UiTM -Embassy collaborative efforts. Consequently, we hope that this event could provide opportunities for UiTM to network with more universities in Spain.
22. Without further ado, I would like to give the stage to our guest of honour – His Excellency, Mr Jose Luis

Pardo Cuervo, to deliver his lecture on **“Malaysia and Spain: Crossed Realities.”**

My best wishes to everyone and thank you.

**Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum
Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.**