

WELCOME ADDRESS

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

International Conference on e-Learning (ICeL) 2023

14 September 2023

Raia Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Yang Berhormat

Datuk Roland Sagah Wee Inn

Minister of Education, Innovation, and Talent Development
Sarawak

Yang Berhormat

Datuk Dr Hj. Annuar Rapae

Deputy Minister of Education, Innovation, and Talent
Development I
Sarawak

Yang Berhormat

Datuk Francis Harden Anak Hollis

Deputy Minister of Education, Innovation, and Talent

Development II

Sarawak

Yang Berbahagia

Tuan Haji Azmi Haji Bujang

Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Education, Innovation, and Talent Development

Sarawak

Yang Berbahagia

Datuk Professor Dr Azizul Halim Bin Yahya

Chief Executive Officer

Institute of Continuing Education and Professional Studies

Universiti Teknologi MARA

Yang Berbahagia

Professor Dato Dr Jamil Hj. Hamali

Rector

Universiti Teknologi MARA, Sarawak Campus

Members of the media,

Distinguished guests, presenters, and participants,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Salutations

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

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Salam Sejahtera. Good morning to all.

1. Alhamdulillah, praise be to Allah S.W.T whose bounty and grace enable our gathering today for the **8th International Conference on e-Learning (ICeL) 2023.**
2. On behalf of the Vice-Chancellor who unfortunately cannot be here with us today, I am pleased and honoured to welcome all delegates and participants to this prestigious event. Thank you for your dedication and commitment towards education and digital technology.
3. A big congratulations on a job well done to the organising committees and everyone else who lent

their help and support. Your hard work has not gone unnoticed.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. As we know, technology has taken its pace and we are here to promote a very important aspect of the nation's education priorities which is the betterment of teaching and learning in addressing the needs of 21st century learners.
5. It was believed that new technologies are now threatening **40% of existing jobs** in the United States and **two-thirds of jobs** in the developing world.
6. Moreover, *“Around **85% of the jobs** that today's learners will be doing in **2030** haven't been invented yet.”*

7. If the future is not going to be what it used to be, then it follows that **jobs** in the future are not going to be what they used to be either.
8. This is indeed true as many of the jobs we have in our current society did not exist many years ago either.
9. The speed of technological change and the fluidity of factors driving socioeconomic trends make it impossible for universities to keep up with market demand.
10. The idea of universities producing industry-ready graduates is, therefore, a fallacy. Hence, university education today is not so much about preparing for the immediate job market but more about developing one's intellect and critical thinking skills.

Ladies and gentlemen,

11. *“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future”.*
12. This saying by Franklin D. Roosevelt denotes the importance of **Quality Education** where universities have a significant role to play in coming up with innovative ways of preparing the young for *“the future that is **not** going to be what it used to be”.*
13. One starting point in the preparation for the future is accommodating **UNESCO’s 21st Century Skills** comprising **13 components** that have been condensed into **Critical Thinking, Technology Literacy, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity.**
14. These skills blend well with the generally accepted graduate attributes for the future that emphasise **4Cs Soft Skills** namely **Critical Thinking, Creativity, Communication, and Collaboration.**

Ladies and gentlemen,

15. Despite having identified graduate attributes that are necessary for future jobs, we are compelled to also delve into the effective ways to deliver the skills.
16. These much more progressive ways must be explored beyond the formal, non-formal, and extracurricular formats. This is why the sharing of e-learning practices and ideas at international conferences is essential as they provide insights into the current and more innovative pedagogies.
17. It is encouraging to see **more than 200** presenters and participants from local and international higher education institutions taking part in this conference virtually and physically.

18. This indicates the growing interest and determination of professionals, educators, instructional designers, and students to develop professionally in e-learning while gaining the opportunity to network and receive acknowledgment for their innovations.

19. Before I end, allow me to once again extend my thanks and congratulations to everyone for being here and taking part in this exciting conference. Here's to a conference filled with productivity and enjoyment.

Thank you.

***Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum
Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.***