

WELCOME SPEECH

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

**Opening Ceremony
International Soil Science Conference (SOILS 2023)**

9 May 2023

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Yang Berhormat

Datuk Seri Haji Mohamad bin Sabu

Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Malaysia

Yang Berusaha

Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr Shukor Sanim Mohd Fauzi

Rector, UiTM Perlis Branch

Yang Berusaha

Dr Khairun Nisa Kamarudin

Chairman of SOILS 2023

Yang Berusaha

Dr Rosazlin Abdullah

President of Malaysian Society of Soil Science

Distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and good morning to all.

Salutations

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

1. Alhamdulillah, praise be to Allah S.W.T. for His grace and blessings that made this momentous occasion possible.
2. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the opening ceremony of the **International Soil Science Conference 2023 (SOILS 2023)**. I am delighted that UiTM has been entrusted to organise the conference this year.

3. Congratulations to the **Faculty of Plantation and Agrotechnology, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Perlis Branch**, and the **Malaysian Society of Soil Science (MSSS)** for organising yet another reputable scientific conference for our brightest academics to share new findings and discoveries in the field of soil science.

4. My heartfelt and sincere gratitude to our guest-of-honour, **Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Haji Mohamad Bin Sabu, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security**, who is here with us to officiate today's ceremony.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. It is widely known that sustainable agriculture has become an integral part of the global agenda.

6. With the theme – “***Sustainable Soil Management Towards Food Security and Climate Change***”, this year’s International Soil Science Conference embraces global aspirations to increase food production, improve food nutrient content, and adapt to mitigate climate change that will eradicate hunger, food insecurity, and malnutrition issues.
7. The conference is a platform that helps bring together researchers, academicians, managers, policymakers, and relevant parties to discuss their findings and share their experiences in related themes and topics of interest.
8. Although research in recent years has predominantly focused on COVID-19, it is evident from this conference that scientific abstracts in other areas have not been neglected.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. Food security is about having consistent, reliable access to safe food. It is determined by four components namely the **availability** of food, **access** to food, **utilisation** of food, and **stability** of food.
10. These components are interrelated with other dimensions such as climate change, modernisation of agriculture, social capital, and many more.
11. There is no doubt that when we talk about food security we are also referring to sustainable food and agricultural elements, which concern soil science and management.
12. Hence, the organising of this **International Soil Science Conference** is timely and worthwhile to address and at the same time will lead to greater efforts to fortify the country's food system and economic growth.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

13. In line with several **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** mainly **Zero Hunger, Climate Action,** and **Life on Land,** the conference will pave the way for important discussions and exchanges of ideas, especially pertaining to soil management in this era of artificial intelligence and cyber challenges.
14. We at UiTM are definitely grateful and appreciate the undeniable support given by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security** and for the time and effort invested into this meaningful event.
15. Before I end, allow me to express my utmost gratitude to our keynote speakers for participating in this conference. Your knowledge and expertise will bring great value to this conference.

16. To the participants of **SOILS 2023**, I urge you to use this platform to exchange ideas, learn from one another, and expand your networking for future collaborations.
17. Not forgetting, thank you to the organising committee of **SOILS 2023** consisting of academics and experts in the field, for your dedication and commitment to making this conference possible.
18. I wish you all a fruitful and enjoyable experience at this conference.

Thank you.

**Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum
Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.**