

OFFICIATING SPEECH

YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul
Rahman Zohari bin Tun Abang Haji Openg
Premier of Sarawak

**1st International Conference on Biotechnology,
Smart Farming, and Entrepreneurship for Food
Security (BioSFE 2023)**

25 September 2023

Riverside Majestic Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Yang Berbahagia

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Yang Berusaha

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Distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen

Salutations

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

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.
Salam Ibu Pertiwi. Good morning to all.

1. *Alhamdulillah*, praise be to Allah S.W.T. for His blessings and the opportunity to gather here today for a very special academic event brought jointly by **Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Sarawak**, the **Ministry of Food Industry Commodity and Regional Development (M-FICORD) Sarawak**, and the **National Chung Cheng University of Taiwan**.
2. A warm welcome I bid to everyone in attendance, and a special welcome to guests and participants, from outside of Sarawak to our beautiful Land of the Hornbills.
3. It is my pleasure to be here today to officiate the **1st International Conference on Biotechnology, Smart Farming, and Entrepreneurship for Food Security (BioSFE 2023)**.

4. Congratulations to the organising committees comprising of dedicated individuals from **Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)**, the **Ministry of Food Industry Commodity and Regional Development Sarawak (M-FICORD)**, and the **National Chung Cheng University**.

5. My deepest gratitude also to everyone else namely state agencies, institutional partners, media representatives, and guest speakers who have contributed their time and effort in bringing this event to fruition today.

Ladies and gentlemen,

6. We must applaud the **BioSFE 2023** event for its successful collaborations in bringing together agricultural agencies, researchers, and academicians from within and beyond Sarawak.

7. The conference serves as a platform for fruitful interactions and presentations on critical issues such as **Sustainable Farming Techniques, Innovation, Technology, Community Food Systems, and National and Global Food Policies**, under the theme "**Bridging Technologists and Entrepreneurs towards Agriculture Revolution 4.0**".
8. The round table discussion comprising distinguished experts, policymakers, and key players will hopefully lead to valuable insights on sustainable agriculture and improving food security systems, subsequently contributing to the body of knowledge in the agricultural industry.
9. Significantly, the conference coincides with **Sarawak Agrofest 2023** which celebrates and showcases the achievements, innovations, and developments in the agriculture sector in Sarawak.

10. Hence, I hope that all stakeholders and participants will take the opportunity to experience the best agriculture and farming at this expo and see how far we have come in terms of agricultural development.

Ladies and gentlemen,

11. These past three years of the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in health crises, business disruptions, and food security concerns, and its aftermaths have posed significant challenges to all.

12. Nonetheless, I have always been optimistic that Sarawak would overcome these difficulties. We have succeeded so far in suppressing the severe economic and social impacts through the implementation of our own **post-COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS2030)**.

13. This strategy was implemented to address the critical aspects of sustainable agriculture and food security and aligns with national and global blueprints.
14. With that, we need to acknowledge the importance of innovation and efficient technology transfer to address current challenges and unlock new opportunities for the agriculture sector.
15. I would like to also emphasise that the Sarawak government is serious about the welfare of its citizens. I am certain that you can already see the fruits of our labour.
16. With careful planning, commitment, and hard work, together with perseverance and our **Anak Sarawak** spirit, I am confident that Sarawak will be a thriving society and achieve our dream of becoming a **fully developed state by 2030**.

17. On that note and before I conclude my speech, I must thank **Yang Berbahagia Professor Dato' Dr Haji Jamil Haji Hamali, Chairman of BioSFE 2023**, and respective ministries, government agencies, and committee members who worked tirelessly in ensuring a successful event.
18. Thank you for always supporting the state's initiatives. The role of the **UiTM Sarawak Branch** is especially crucial in conducting programmes and research relevant to knowledge transfer in Sarawak's agriculture industries.
19. We hope that all these initiatives will consequently encourage the younger generation to pursue careers in food production and agriculture.
20. My best wishes to everyone and I hope that you will have an enjoyable and rewarding time at this conference.

Without further ado, with *Bismillahirrahmanirrahim*,

**I am pleased to officially declare the
1st International Conference on Biotechnology,
Smart Farming, and Entrepreneurship for Food
Security (BioSFE 2023) open.**

Thank you.

**Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum
Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.**