

WELCOME SPEECH

Yang Berbahagia
Professor Datuk Ts. Dr Shahrin Sahib @ Sahibuddin, FASc
Vice-Chancellor
Universiti Teknologi MARA

**Virtual Signing Ceremony
Memorandum of Understanding
between
Universiti Teknologi MARA
and**

**The Higher Institute of Biotechnology of Beja,
University of Jendouba (HIBB-UJ), the University of
Jendouba (UJ), and Global Escapades Sdn Bhd
(GESB)**

17 January 2025

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Esteemed guests:

**Representatives from the University of Jendouba,
Tunisia:**

Chancellor Prof. Dr Hichem Sebai

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr Mejri Mondher

Dr Ing. Mourad Jeridi

Director of the Higher Institute of Biotechnology of Beja (HIBB-UJ)

and

Dr Lobna Essid

Director of the Career Centre at the Higher Institute of Biotechnology of Beja (HIBB-UJ)

Representatives from Global Escapades Sdn Bhd (GESB):

Dato' Sia Cheong Lin

Director of GESB

Joseph Marinus

CEO of GESB

Saraswathy Dharamandy

Business Development Manager, GESB

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Salutations

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

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Good evening, everyone.

1. *Alhamdulillah*, all praise is due to Allah for this blessing and this gathering.
2. It is with great pleasure that I warmly welcome everyone to the **Virtual Signing Ceremony of the Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** between **Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)** and the **University of Jendouba**, the **Higher Institute of Biotechnology of Beja** under the **University of Jendouba (HIBB-UJ)**, and our strategic partner, **Global Escapades Sdn Bhd (GESB)**.
3. I am delighted that we have finally reached this day, as it is a pivotal moment for our institutions and the future of the entrepreneurship ecosystem for our students.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. We recognise that entrepreneurship is a powerful catalyst for change. It is the driving force behind

innovation, economic growth, and societal transformation.

5. Over recent years, we have seen how entrepreneurship has gained traction on a global scale. It transcends borders and cultures, shaping a new generation of thinkers and doers eager to tackle challenges head-on.
6. What's more, the university landscape is evolving. Hence, it is paramount that we equip our students with the skills and mindset necessary to navigate this competitive world.
7. Essentially, these collaborations are the starting point for a thriving exchange of ideas, knowledge, and opportunities to empower our future leaders.
8. Establishing these partnerships allows our students to engage in collaborative projects, stimulating their entrepreneurial potential.

Ladies and gentlemen,

9. Our central goal—strengthening academic ties and laying the groundwork for rich educational experiences—lies at the heart of today's collaborations.
10. By uniting our efforts, we create a dynamic platform where students can share ideas and collaborate on innovative projects.
11. The signing of these memorandums promises that we will work together to ensure our students have access to **unparalleled academic resources, state-of-the-art facilities**, and, most importantly, **mentorship and guidance** that nurture their entrepreneurial aspirations.
12. Through these MoUs, we reaffirm our partnership with new cooperation modalities and activity types. We aim to provide programmes supporting entrepreneurial skills development, such as

workshops, training sessions, and guest lectures featuring successful entrepreneurs and industry leaders.

13. The goal is to create a vibrant ecosystem of innovation and creativity, encouraging students to think critically, solve problems, and embrace the challenges of entrepreneurship.
14. By instilling these values, we empower our students to transform their ideas into viable business ventures that can fundamentally change communities and economies.

Ladies and gentlemen,

15. These collaborations will also provide valuable opportunities for our staff and students to participate in **international mobility programmes** and **benchmarking visits**.

16. In **October 2023**, we had the privilege of hosting **Dr Lobna** and the **Start-Up Academy Team** during their visit to UiTM, which proved productive and insightful.
17. UiTM also hosted benchmarking visits for two consecutive years in collaboration with **Rajadhani Business School (RBS), Kerala, India**, as part of GESB's initiative.
18. Such exchanges deepen our understanding of entrepreneurship, inspiring our students to build networks, gain exposure to diverse perspectives, and foster essential relationships supporting their long-term career development.

Ladies and gentlemen,

19. Preparing our students for an interconnected world is crucial amid these changing times. They are the future of entrepreneurship, so they must have the capacity to think globally.

20. With this partnership, we can ensure that our students are not confined to local markets but are encouraged to explore international opportunities.
21. Reflecting on UiTM's vision of becoming a **Globally Renowned University**, preparing the students to stand at the forefront of global entrepreneurship, armed with the knowledge and skills to compete internationally, is imperative.
22. Recognising the significance of this upcoming venture, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the leaders and members of the project from the **University of Jendouba**, especially **Professor Dr Hichem Sebai, Professor Dr Mejri Mondher, Dr Ing. Mourad Jeridi, and Dr Lobna Essid**.
23. I must also thank the esteemed **Dato' Sia Cheong Lin, Mr Joseph Marinus, and Saraswathy Dharamandy** from **GESB** for their part in this endeavour.

24. Not forgetting, a big thank you to the **Malaysian Academy of SME and Entrepreneurship Development (MASMED)**, led by **Associate Professor Dr Badrul Isa**, and the committee responsible for facilitating and coordinating this MoU.
25. With our concerted efforts, the agreements we are about to sign will deliver the benefits it promises.
26. I look forward to the incredible opportunities these collaborations will bring for all of us.

Thank you.

Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.