

OPENING ADDRESS
BY YANG BERBAHAGIA PROFESSOR DATO' DR HASSAN SAID
VICE CHANCELOR AND PRESIDENT OF TAYLOR'S UNIVERSITY
AT TAYLOR'S 6th TEACHING AND LEARNING CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 23, 2013

Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Idris Jusoh,
Education Minister II

Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Dato' Sri Prof. Ir. Dr. Sahol Hamid Abu Bakar
Vice Chancellor, University Teknologi MARA

Mr. Pradeep Nair
Deputy Vice Chancellor, Taylor's University

Dr Tang Siew Fun
Chairperson Taylor's 6th Teaching & Learning Conference 2013

Prof. Dr Haji Mustafa bin Mohd Ghazali
Co-chairperson, Conference Partner Organiser, UiTM

Respected academicians,
Members of the media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to welcome you to the Taylor's 6th Teaching and Learning Conference.

Today is indeed a day to remember as educationists from all over the country and abroad gather for a common purpose; to promote transformative teaching and learning. I understand some of our participants come from as near as Australia and as far as Libya and Tanzania. It gives me great honour to be in the company of such experienced and dedicated educationists who are equally eager to bring Malaysia's teaching and learning practices to greater heights.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our collaborative partner, Universiti Teknologi MARA, the Ministry of Education and also the participants. Your support has enabled us to organise this conference and continue the culture of knowledge sharing.

This year, I must say, we have a wide range of interesting themes related to the issues surrounding the incorporation of technology into pedagogy in higher education. I trust we will have some interesting ideas to share today which will ultimately enhance the teaching and learning environment for the benefit of both our academicians and students.

At Taylor's University, we are just as motivated to create an engaging environment which appeals to our learners. In line with the changing education landscape in Malaysia and its progression, Taylor's University launched our five-year Strategic Plan. The plan was created to be an effective guideline for the university to move towards achieving its mission of becoming a 'Top Employers' Top Choice University' by 2016. The development of the plan consists of six strategic thrusts, one of which focuses on transformational teaching and learning.

The task of producing graduates who fulfil the needs and demands of top employers in today's workplace is achievable simply by providing the best and most conducive environment for effective learning. As Albert Einstein once said, "I never teach my pupils, I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn."

Ladies and gentlemen,

In line with this year's theme, Transformative Higher Education Teaching and Learning in Practice, we are very excited to tap into the knowledge and experience of our esteemed educators, researchers and practitioners present here.

I understand that Dr Tang and her team have received a total of 76 papers for presentation today, 57 of which are full-refereed. That is quite an impressive number of submissions and I would like to congratulate each and every one who submitted their papers. The full-refereed papers will be published in the conference's proceedings, *Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences* by Elsevier and later, on sciencedirect.com.

This will allow the outcomes of this conference to be accessed by academicians from the world over. As a former lecturer myself, I personally view teaching as one of the noblest of professions. Your commendable sense of selflessness as you strive to promote a high level of motivation, learning and achievement for our learners is truly inspiring. For this, I congratulate and thank all educators in Malaysia and the world for their undying dedication.

As a university which values excellence in teaching and learning practices, we have embarked on several initiatives to remain competitive and relevant.

The first is the use of e-Education platforms which promotes flexible learning. We believe e-learning holds a great deal of potential. It is a complementary method to not only make learning interactive and interesting for today's generation of "Linksters" but also accessible and borderless. Some examples include Blackboard, Moodle and the Massive Online Open Course.

Respected guests,

Through careful observation and research, Taylor's University is confident that by making learning more student-centred, we can develop a demand driven higher education system. This is where students have a say in what and how they learn.

A good example of this is the development of our School of Engineering module by our very own students. This is a big accomplishment as our young people are beginning to take ownership of their learning. Rest assured, we will continue to encourage such practices within our halls.

We will also continue to look for ways to strengthen our university's system. Taylor's University will be investing a total of RM100 million to develop a 'Blended Learning' environment. The investment will include the integration of technology into innovatively designed learning spaces. Consideration will also go into the design and arrangement of furniture which plays a crucial part in promoting social and collaborative skills.

Other aspects which we intend to look at are ways to increase sustainability and capacity in Taylor's University. We look to grow our faculties and the number of sought after academicians which in turn strengthens our position as a prestigious institution of higher learning.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Before I end, I thank you once again for your support and attention. I look forward to today's exciting presentations and believe this conference will offer value to everyone here.

Thank you and have a good day ahead.

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