

**OPENING ADDRESS
BY YANG BERHORMAT DATO' SERI IDRIS JUSOH
EDUCATION MINISTER II
AT TAYLOR'S 6th TEACHING AND LEARNING CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 23, 2013**

YBhg Professor Dato' Dr Hassan Said

Vice Chancellor and President, Taylor's University

YBhg 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,

Good morning and Salam 1Malaysia.

It is my pleasure to be here today on familiar ground and around such brilliant minds. I would like to take the time to thank Taylor's University for inviting me to its 6th Teaching and Learning Conference.

I was quite pleased to learn that this event is organised together in partnership with Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM). Taylor's has proved time and time again that it is keen in forging relationships with public universities. If I remember right, Taylor's also has established a working relationship with University Malaya and has organised a few joint events. Private-Public Partnerships like this are beneficial to the greater sphere of higher

education as it allows for a platform for academicians to grow from each other's experiences.

Congratulations to both institutions for successfully organising this conference. I understand that this is the first time this conference has been opened up to an international audience. I hope more of such partnerships will be forged by other institutions of higher learning from both sectors.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Malaysia has always placed an importance on equipping the next generation with the necessary knowledge and skills for them to succeed at a global level. This commitment is part of our aim to become a regional education hub by the year 2020.

We recognise that educators are a crucial element towards this aim and endeavour to provide as much support as possible to ensure that you are able to meet with the demands of the profession.

Teaching from the time when I was a student to what it is now has evolved greatly. Gone are the days of teachers instructing students in just a classroom setting. As seen in teaching modules in Taylor's University, elearning is now an effective tool to reach out to students.

With the advent of technology, barriers have definitely been shattered and it is something that the Ministry aims to inculcate at the level of primary and secondary education. In the recent tabling of the 2014 budget, the Prime Minister shared that more than RM150 million has been allocated towards expanding the current Internet access in schools, especially in rural areas.

As more and more of our students become proficient at learning with technology, there is a need for educators to master this skill as well and conferences like this will equip academicians with the necessary skills.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Earlier this year during the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, business and political leaders were captivated with the concept of massive open online course (MOOC) after hearing from the Presidents of Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The concept in itself is quite remarkable but the response to such courses has been amazing. In sharing about edX, the nonprofit organization created by Harvard and MIT to make high-quality educational content and courses available online, Harvard's President, Drew Faust shared that nearly 200,000 people, half of them from outside of the United States, enrolled in the initial edX courses.

Closer to home, I have come to know that Taylor's University is the first university in the country to offer this option through its School of Engineering. I heard that the Entrepreneurship course is quite well-received as more than a thousand students from 110 countries registered to attend the course.

It is quite an impressive feat for a home-grown private institution and I hope that more universities, public or private, are able to offer such courses in the future.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I hope that each of you seated here will be able to glean as much information as possible throughout the day. I look forward to witnessing the change in the education sector here in Malaysia and encourage more platforms such as this to take place.

Thank you and I wish you a fruitful day ahead.

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