

Opening Speech
YBhg. Prof. Datuk Dr. Mohd. Harun Abdullah
Vice-Chancellor, UMS

**International Conference on Marine Science &
Aquaculture 'New Frontiers in Sustainable
Development of Marine Bioresources'**

14 March 2017 | 8.00 am
The Magellan Sutera, Sutera Harbour Resort
Kota Kinabalu

Assalamualaikum WBT, Salam Sejahtera and Salam
Negeraku Malaysia

Salutations

- Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Panglima Madius Tangau, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Malaysia
- Yang Berusaha, Prof. Dr. Rossita Shapawi, Director, Borneo Marine Research Institute, UMS
- Yang Berusaha, Associate. Prof. Dr. Julian Ransangan, Chairperson of the Conference

- Distinguished delegates, organizers & all the participants
- Representatives of the press, &
- Ladies & gentlemen

Good morning to you all

I am indeed pleased to be here today at the opening of the **International Conference on Marine Science & Aquaculture 2016** organized by Borneo Marine Research Institute of UMS.

On behalf of UMS, it is my privilege to welcome Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Panglima Madius Tangau, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Malaysia, distinguished keynote speakers and all the delegates to the conference.

I wish to compliment Borneo Marine Research Institute for organizing the conference on such an important theme of **'New Frontiers in Sustainable Development of Marine Bioresources'**.

I am aware that this conference will deliberate on two very important topics, namely, the ocean ecosystem that is vast and complex, and shapes our existence, and the aquaculture, on which heavily depends the seafood security. Since knowledge is infinite, there will always be new frontiers to be traversed in both the ocean science and aquaculture. By identifying new frontiers in sustainability of marine bio-resources, we can avoid repeated discussion of the same issues.

Rather, the idea seems to be to identify emerging topics that are promising in terms of their solution-oriented potential through further research and trials.

A great deal of knowledge has been generated in both the broad subjects but there are knowledge gaps that should be filled and problems addressed. I hope during the technical sessions, these issues will be examined and discussed to save research time and resources.

Ladies & gentlemen,

In recent years, it has become clearer that the emerging areas of marine science and aquaculture embrace elements of both the so-called basic and applied research. For instance, we use basic information on marine biodiversity to deal with problems of applied aspects of fisheries management. We use fundamental aspects of biology and behaviour of fish to address issues of importance in the applied subject of fish farming.

The frontier research reflects this new reality and is undoubtedly at the forefront of creating new knowledge which is driven by the need to find purposeful outcomes whether in sustainable fisheries, sustainable aquaculture, marine bio-prospecting, climate change mitigation and other challenges. This is the kind of research that we need to be able to make a positive difference in socio-economic development.

Ocean science and aquaculture are entering a new era of interdisciplinary integration and collaboration for understanding the complexity of biological systems and the living environment, and using that knowledge to model aquaculture systems. Even sub-disciplines of basic sciences are combining with areas dedicated to applied work because of the changing paradigms, development of new methods, technologies and more stringent funding requirements.

Ladies & gentlemen,

In this context, I think the focus of this conference on new frontiers in sustainable management of marine renewable resources makes a great sense. The chances of purposeful innovation, invention and path-breaking findings are brighter when problems are attacked from many different angles. With seafood security linked to rational development of marine resources, and the marine ecosystem services playing an increasingly important role in socio-economic development,

it is timely that experts indulge in brainstorming to come to grips with the practical problems and find ways and means of addressing the issues constraining the development of marine biological resources.

Perhaps, all of you will agree with me that discovering solutions that drive ecologically compatible and commercially viable models for fish catch as well as farm-raised seafood are among the important issues of this 21st century.

I have no doubt that finding new ways to produce more fish without causing more harm to the environment is challenging. However, I am optimistic that working together, the scientists, forward-thinking fish farmers and entrepreneurs will be able to design sustainable seafood production systems and play a more active role in developing the blue economy.

Last but not the least, I wish successful deliberations during the various sessions and look forward to meaningful output of this conference.

Thank you very much for your attention.