SIGNING CEREMONY OF LETTER OF INTENT BETWEEN UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH AND WUYI UNIVERSITY

Date : 30th October 2017 (Monday) Time : 9.30 am Venue : The Gallery, Level 3, Chancellory Building, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

Welcoming Speech by

YBhg. Prof. Datuk Dr. D Kamarudin D Mudin, Vice Chancellor, Universiti Malaysia Sabah

Mr. Liang Caide, Consul-General of the People's Republic of China

YBhg. Datuk Susan Wong Siew Guen, President of the United Sabah Sze Yip Association

Prof. Zhang Kun, Chancellor of Wuyi University, China

Principal and Senior Officers of Universiti Malaysia Sabah

Delegates from Wuyi University, China

Distinguished Guests

Media Representatives

Datuk-Datuk, Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamualaikum WBT, Salam Sejahtera, Salam Negaraku Malaysia, Salam EcoCampus

Good Morning and a very warm welcome to Universiti Malaysia Sabah.

On this historic day, I am pleased to announce that Universiti Malaysia Sabah will mark another milestone in the academic arena with the signing of Letter of Intent with Wuyi University, China. The LOI between our two universities is greatly significant since it will create pathways for mutual cooperation and collaboration in various academic expertise with the aim of encouraging and nurturing the long-term development of both institutions.

This mutually beneficial networking between Wuyi University and UMS is very welcome and timely as we seek to expand globally and create platforms and opportunities for international engagement and relevance. We would like to record our appreciation to Prof. Zhang Kun, Chancellor of Wuyi University and YBhg. Datuk Susan Wong, President of the United Sabah Sze Yip Association for your strong and unwavering support in ensuring the realisation of this LOI.

I would also like to thank Mr. Liang Caide, Consul-General of the People's Republic of China in Kota Kinabalu who is here to witness this memorable event. I feel it is perhaps not too late for me to offer my congratulations to the Honourable Consul on his appointment to the post. Thank you for gracing today's ceremony and I look forward to more mutually beneficial China-UMS collaborations in the education of our young minds and talents. Indeed, the China 'One Belt One Road' (OBOR) or 'Belt and Road Initiative' (BRI) philosophy of nurturing connectivity, cooperation and global engagement would be very much welcomed in UMS given our close geographical locations, similar cultural values and education aspirations.

Allow me to also extend my sincere appreciation to YBhg Datuk Susan Wong for her tireless efforts in bringing together Wuyi University and UMS. Your committment Datuk reflects your trust in the strength of our Institution, and your faith in the worth and rigour of our academic community. Thank you.

The beginning of this Wuyi University – UMS collaboration also serves to reaffirm our Universiti's ties with the Chinese community in Sabah. To our distinguished guests, thank you for gracing this ceremony with your presence. UMS as a comprehensive public University is established not only as a centre for tertiary education, but also in response to the specific needs and conditions of Sabah. Our primary aim is to provide education access and opportunities to those who might otherwise be left behind due to economic, social and geographical factors. Monetary profits and accumulation as such are not and have never been the main focus of UMS. This is why we value greatly the support and commitment extended by industry and the private sector in the development and progress of our beloved University. This Wuyi University - UMS networking will incorporate collaborations in two aspects: staff and student mobility, and joint research projects in areas such as education, engineering, science and technology, economics and management, and medicine. The LOI to be signed this morning will also provide opportunities for student development in both institutions through joint activities such as conferences, lectures, special short training courses, seminars, symposiums and many more. Our hope is for this collaboration to lead to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the near future. This will definitely produce a positive impact on top of strengthening the ties between both countries and institutions where we would develop and nurture mutually beneficial relationships with all parties positioned at Win-Win.

Before I end my speech, allow me once again to extend my sincere Thank You to each and every one present here today to witness this Letter of Intent signing ceremony between Wuyi University and UMS.

Salam.