

Closing ceremony speech by

YBHG. PROF. DR. D KAMARUDIN D MUDIN
VICE-CHANCELLOR
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH

THE THIRD COUNTRY TRAINING PROGRAMME (TCTP)
26 SEPTEMBER 2017 | 11:00 AM
SEMINAR ROOM
INSTITUTE FOR TROPICAL BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION
(ITBC), UMS

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh
and a very good morning.
May the Grace of the Almighty be with all of you.

(SALUTATIONS)

Ladies and Gentleman,

Approximately 20 days ago, on September 7th, 2017, the Third Country Training Programme or 'Sabah TCTP' participants for the 2nd programme of the 3rd cycle have arrived in the capital city of Sabah, Kota Kinabalu.

The participants for this training are from 6 countries, namely Botswana from Africa, Sri Lanka from South Asia, The Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand from ASEAN.

Sabah TCTP is based on the arrangements made between Malaysia and Japan, which are long known for the many collaborations accomplished in order to share Sabah's experiences in the implementation of integrated biodiversity and ecosystem management. Therefore, we would like to thank the governments of Malaysia and Japan for supporting the training programme expenses incurred.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme or MTCP, Malaysia has already conducted more than 20 of such training programmes annually throughout the country in different areas of specialization. Universiti Malaysia Sabah or UMS is proud to be one of them that offers a programme under the theme of Biodiversity and Conservation.

Sabah TCTP which involves a partner donor country, namely Japan, and the third party being the participants, is one of the programmes under the MTCP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia.

Ladies and Gentleman,

I am very proud to mention that Sabah TCTP, a partnership with the Government of Japan through the Japan International Cooperation Agency or JICA, is the only TCTP under the MTCP in Sabah presently. In collaboration with Sabah State agencies through the Natural Resources Office or NRO, the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation or ITBC, UMS coordinates the programme.

Relevant Sabah State agencies are also the support behind the success of the previously concluded 'Bornean Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation' project or also known as the BBEC Project (Phase I and II).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today is the day that all the participants for this year's TCTP conclude their training in Sabah. They have attended numerous lectures given by various personnel from key state agencies and departments, as well as NGOs that have taken part in the BBEC Project. Participants have undergone a series of discussion and workshops to come up with project proposals or plans of action for their own countries by emulating and considering the experiences, knowledge and skills that they have garnered and gained in Sabah.

Subsequently, the Sabah TCTP secretariat will follow-up on the progress of the implementation of the plans of action by all participants who are now the alumni of the TCTP.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Overall, I am proud to note Sabah has become a consistent international training ground for integrated biodiversity and ecosystem management.

This is an approach we take to embrace the Industrial Revolution 4.0 with the application of learned knowledge and holistic skills from formal learning, as well as other unique experiences acquired by other local Sabah based institutions and NGOs that are independent from the BBEC programme, which we hope can be applied by the participants in their respective countries.

As much as the IR 4.0 will be shaped by futuristic technologies, it must be defined by a development model that respects the biodiversity and sustains the healthy ecosystems.

I am utmost certain that the training programme will be continued and further enhanced and strengthened in the nearest future under the coordination of ITBC, UMS, with other Sabah State agencies, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia, and JICA, Japan.

I would like to thank all parties involved,

- The Institute for Tropical Biology & Conservation, UMS
- Natural Resource Office of Sabah,
- Sabah Forestry Department,
- Sabah Wildlife Department,
- Sabah Parks,
- and Sabah Biodiversity Centre,

for their concerted effort and expertise in making this training programme an absolute success.

I must also extend my gratitude to the Malaysian government, particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia and MTCP, and also the Government of Japan through JICA for their continuous support towards this training programme in Sabah.

To all the participants, you have my heartfelt commendation for successfully completing your training in Sabah.

I believe that the experiences, knowledge and skills you have accumulated while in Sabah will be very useful and beneficial to your respective career. Please bring all your sweet memories back to your home countries, and share them with your families, friends and colleagues.

Thank you, and hope to see all of you again in the future.