

**VC'S SPEECH**

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**2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RELIGION AND  
SOCIETY, 2017**

**22 AUGUST 2017 (TUESDAY) | 8.30 AM  
CENTRE FOR THE PROMOTION OF KNOWLEDGE DAN  
LANGUAGE LEARNING, UMS**

Assalamualaikum WBT., Salam Sejahtera and Salam Negaraku Sehati Sejiwa.

(Warm greetings to everyone)

*SALUTATION (to be finalized)*

Alhamdulillah, we are grateful that because of God's bountiful blessings, we are able to be here for the 2nd International Conference on Religion and Society, 2017.

It is a pleasure to welcome all of you, Sabah, the Land Below the Wind, a state often referred to as the model of ethnic relations that should be emulated in Malaysia. Its multifaith, multiethnic society still practices mutual respect for each other. We can see how multi-religious communities in Sabah live peacefully as a family under the same roof. Therefore, UMS is the right place to hold a conference themed, "Religion and Universal Harmony".

Today, we are living in a society where religious differences are not obstacles to a safe, peaceful and harmonious life.

**Respected presenters and participants,**

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Centre for Knowledge and Language Learning (PPIB), UMS for organizing this conference with the collaboration of International Islamic University College Selangor (KUIS), Islamic Studies Research Center School of Liberal Arts, Walailak University, and

UMS Four Wheel Drive Volunteer Club. I understand that a total of 183 papers will be presented by presenters from various countries that will discuss numerous subjects and religious issues from different perspectives. In addition to presenters from Malaysia, there are also presenters from the United States, India, Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and Brunei. I believe that the different academic backgrounds of presenters will make this conference more meaningful and rewarding.

This number of participations shows us that the theme "Religion and Universal Harmony" is important in today's society, and it needs be addressed in academic discussions. Hopefully, the outcome will benefit the entire community. We need to deliver the right message to the community that the philosophy of having a religion is to achieve peace, serenity and harmony.

It is hoped that the presenters and participants will be able to use this platform to discuss and share ideas in their respective expertise to create a more tolerant and mutually respectful society.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Before I conclude, allow me to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all involved in this conference. Hopefully this collaboration will continue in the future in other areas such as research, publications and so on.

And now, with Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, I hereby officiate the 2nd International Conference on Religion and Society, 2017.

Thank you.