

## **Welcoming and Opening Speech**

**PROF. DATUK DR. D KAMARUDIN D MUDIN**  
**Vice-Chancellor**  
**Universiti Malaysia Sabah**

**Borneo International Social Work Symposium 2017**  
**(BISWS 2017)**

**12 Oktober 2017 | 11.30 am**  
**Seminar Room 5, Psychology Block,**  
**Faculty of Psychology and Education**

## **Salutations**

Prof. Dr. Haji Mohd Dahlan Bin Haji A. Malek,  
Dean of Faculty Psychology and Education

Prof. Dr. Adi Fahrudin,  
Chairman of Borneo International Social Work  
Symposium 2017

Distinguished speakers;  
Prof. Dr. Tatsuru Akimoto,  
Director Asian Research Institute for  
International Social Work, Shukutoku University

Prof. Dr. Choi Wongyu,  
Dean, College of Social Science, Chonbuk  
National University

Mr. Udhia Kumar Mukaya,  
Social Worker at Tanjong Pagar Family Service  
Center

Ladies and gentleman

Assalamualaikum wbt, welcome and good  
morning.

Alhamdulillah, all praise for Allah S.W.T and to the great Prophet Muhammad S.A.W, with His permission we can get together for the Opening Ceremony of the Borneo International Social Work Symposium (BISWS) 2017. It is my pleasure to be here today with all of you.

I wish to extend a warm welcome to fellow speakers and participants from the various countries to this symposium.

I am sure that you are committed to participate in this two days symposium but I do hope you will also take time to enjoy fascinating Sabah with its tropical setting, friendly people and multicultural cuisine.

Congratulations to the Faculty of Psychology and Education, specifically Social Work Program and committee members who have been successfully organized the symposium in partnership with other strategic partners like Chonbuk National University in Korea, Shukutoku University in Japan, Pasundan University, Universitas Muhammadiyah Jakarta and Universitas Bengkulu in Indonesia, Asian Social Work Journal and Sabah Council of Social Welfare.

I hope that this Borneo International Social Work Symposium will become annual event for social work program in faculty.

***Ladies and gentleman,***

“Social Work in Multiculture Society” as a theme for this symposium is really appropriate as Malaysia is a multicultural country which made up of different ethnic groups including Malay, Chinese, Indian and the Native.

State of Sabah is a multicultural society involving more than 40 ethnics and other subethnic groups. With diverse cultures, languages, customs, norms and conventions represents new and different challenges for social worker practitioners.

***Ladies and gentleman,***

Our lives become more challenging nowadays. As social workers, we have responsibilities in promoting healthy society for all people regardless their ethnic or culture. This healthy society has three important elements:

**First**, it is a society in which men and women are encouraged to accept responsibility for themselves and their families, and live their lives with the maximum of independence and self-reliance.

**Second**, it is a society where everyone feels themselves as responsible members in community, where he is inspired to ensure the well-being of their community; and, in particular, where he shown a practical concern for others regardless of age, occupation or disability.

And, **third**, the healthy society is one founded in the family. Family life is the bed-rock on which the healthy society must be built.

These three elements are as main philosophy in life which has been taught since we as a child and has remained ever since.

***Ladies and gentlemen,***

In closing, I wish to express my gratitude to all speakers, participants and committee members for their full participation, cooperation and contribution to this first Borneo International Social Work Symposium.

I take this opportunity to thank joint organizers for organizing this symposium.

I wish the speakers and participants will have a very fruitful and productive session and with that, I declare the opening of **Borneo International Social Work Symposium (BISWS) 2017.**

Thank you.