

SPEECH BY:

**PROFESSOR DATUK DR. D KAMARUDIN D MUDIN
VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ECONOMICS 2017
OPENING CEREMONY SPEECH**

**29 NOVEMBER 2017 (WEDNESDAY) | 8.30 AM
KOLEKSI PERDANA, UMS LIBRARY**

Assalamualaikum wbt. and Salam Sejahtera.

Salutations (TBD)

Principal and Senior Officers of UMS

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

First, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy for inviting me to officiate the 1st International Conference in Economics 2017.

I wish to also take this opportunity to welcome distinguished speakers and conference participants from the United States, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and not forgetting our friends from West Malaysia. I bid you a very warm welcome to Sabah, the Land Below the Wind, and in particular to Universiti Malaysia Sabah.

I find this conference to be in line with the current talked about issues on integration and sustainability. Sustainability has its own agenda. It is an advocacy that surrounds issues on climate, women empowerment, poverty eradication, competitiveness, minimum wage, financial stability, the role of government as well as health.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Sustainability is a commitment to society and the environment. For that reason, it is extremely important that we use and manage resources in a sustainable manner.

Efficient usage of resources has lead to the development of green economy. Green economy or green market has developed a huge potentials. For example, the solar panels created by Romag, a British manufacturer finds new market in Andra Pradesh.

Thus efficient usage of resources has lead to the development of new markets. This encourages integration as well as sustainability.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Some countries are expecting the private sector to stimulate the effort. But this will not be possible without the help of the government in getting the right platform in terms of rules, regulation, infrastructure and human capital skills that leads to such development.

There is no contradiction between fast growth, integration and sustainability. The Malaysian government has come up with its transformation policy which is currently attracting foreign investors into the country with the capital and skills needed to move towards the sustainability. It is now our effort to materialize the opportunity put in front of us.

Malaysia has a lot to offer, **Tax exemption, High skilled labour, Relatively low cost of production, Strategic location,** and many more.

Integration works hand in hand with sustainability. This will be possible by first integrating ourselves with practitioners like businessman, politician, policymakers, academicians and so on.

The organization of this conference therefore, I believe is timely and serves as a platform for businessman, policymakers and academician to gather to understand the issues and challenges faced by decision makers in the quest to achieve economic integration and global sustainability in the modern world.

Massive increases in population growth and resource constraints imply that all of us need to work hand in hand to achieve the global sustainable development goals suggested by the United Nation. Policymakers, practitioners and researchers can contribute to this effort through the accumulation of information and the implementation of informed decisions by policy makers at the national and global levels. Done right everyone can enjoy sustainable development.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let us begin our journey towards realising the vision of the country by integrating and sustaining our efforts first. The 1st International Conference in Economics will be our first step towards our effort. Lets take our pride to the future generation.

With Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, it is my pleasure to declare the first “International Conference on Economics 2017” open.

Thank you.