

SPEECH BY

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THE 5TH BIOTECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM 2017

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MING GARDEN HOTEL AND RESIDENCE,
KOTA KINABALU**

Assalamualaikum WBT and very good morning,

Salutations (TBD)

Distinguished guests, speakers, students, representatives of professional bodies, ladies and gentlemen, you are all Welcome to the 5th Biotechnology Symposium 2017.

It always pleases me to see all those individuals involved in the same field sitting together under one roof. Like today, among those attending this symposium are outstanding scientists and technicians in various fields, highly able technical innovators, model labourers in a scientific-based industry, and cadres devoted to the country tasks in the scientific field. You have all worked diligently for the progress of science and technology in your university and country, and made outstanding contributions in this regard.

On behalf of the Universiti Malaysia Sabah, I welcome you to Kota Kinabalu, Sabah and thank you for attending this symposium.

Ladies and gentlemen

I think, though we come from different branches of biotechnology, and we come from different countries, but somehow, we share a joint value and interest, which is science and technology.

Although it hurts to say this, we also share the same problem, of global challenges - climate change, food safety and security, endemic diseases, natural disasters, environmental destruction, living organism evolution, and many more. This has hit us and the world on an unprecedented scale and with unprecedented speed. Rather, profound changes in the environment due to these global issues that have taken place force us to take new leaps in almost all areas. No nation can deal with this on its own.

This is a problem that needs to be addressed by all nations working together by sharing resources and technologies. So, I strongly agree with the organizers of this symposium, the Biotechnology Research Institute, UMS to highlight the theme of 'Biotechnology for sustainable development to meet global challenges'.

And I also feel, the community that is here on this day, is able to highlight this theme. Why?

Because today, in these rooms, are gathered many participants who come with various expertise; biochemistry, molecular biology, microbiology, natural product and fermentation, bioinformatics, and more, and more proudly, they come here from both inside and outside the country. Although our committee is small, but surely, this committee is complete. Complete enough to highlight the global problems that confront us.

I'm confident that at the end of this symposium, various partnerships and ideas can be shared to discuss measures and to map out a sustainable programme from a biotechnology perspective.

Speaking about solutions to global problems, of course, we expect new technologies and discoveries, which can be commercialized and applied by the community.

In the past, perhaps the commercialization of this technology was challenging, especially for academicians, due to lack of funding and business linkages with the industry. Now, however, the nation is setting out with tremendous enthusiasm on the march towards the modernization of our science and technology. Understanding that science and technology are part of productive forces, ministries have now offered various forms of support for science-based products.

Splendid prospects lie before us, thus I urge us to take this opportunity, to respond to this call, to equally participate in this venture. In fact, many of our friends in the field of biotechnology have succeeded in doing so.

However, as most of the attendees today are academicians, and as an academician myself, I know we are spending time teaching and performing top notch research.

Also as scientists, we throw new hypotheses to try to challenge theories and to create new technologies. Maybe the research we carried out today has not solved the problem as of now, but know that the theories that we challenge today, are the theories that will be referred to by our future generation. Gregor Mendel, Watson and Crick, and Charles Darwin, these are names known by us, who worked on fundamentals not known in their era but referred to later by the world.

Make this a trigger for our spirit to continue contributing to the advancement of science and technology. Remember that, "A science of today is the technology of tomorrow".

It is crucial that we continue to move towards modern science and technology, because without it, it is impossible to keep up with the global issues and challenges. Without the rapid development of science and technology, there can be no rapid solution to the global challenges.

I urge myself, and all fellow scientists, to open up to the newly emerging technologies. Make use of the many new instruments, industries, and especially new topics of theoretical research. History has proved the fact that once a major breakthrough is achieved in theoretical research, it leads, sooner or later, to enormous progress in production and technology.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In concluding, I wish you every success in your deliberations and a very pleasant stay in Kota Kinabalu. May science flourish and grow. May this symposium be a complete success.

Thank you.