

**Welcoming Speech by**

**YBhg. Prof. Datuk Dr. Mohd. Harun Abdullah  
Vice-Chancellor  
Universiti Malaysia Sabah**

**Soft Launching of American Corner Sabah  
May 24, 2017 (Wednesday) | 10.00 am  
Level 1, UMS Library**

***Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim***

**Her Excellency  
Ms. Kamala Shirin Lakhdhir  
U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia,**

**Puan Dg. Rukiah Ag. Amit  
Chief Librarian  
Universiti Malaysia Sabah Library,**

**Deans,  
Heads of Departments, Lecturers, Staff, Beloved Students,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

***Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,  
Salam sejahtera, Salam 1UMS and Salam Negaraku  
Malaysia.***

First and foremost, let us extend our gratitude to Allah SWT for giving us the opportunity and good health to come together this morning to witness the soft launching of the American Corner Sabah in Universiti Malaysia Sabah. To Her Excellency Ms. Kamala Shirin Lakhdhir, the U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia, we are indeed honoured to have you with us on this auspicious occasion. Thank you for gracing us with your presence and for jointly officiating the American Corner Sabah.

I am elated at the selection of the Universiti Malaysia Sabah Library as the first academic library in the country to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the US Embassy Public Affairs Section. The establishment of the American Corner Sabah in the Library is the direct outcome of this MoU. Through this Corner, the UMS community has been given the opportunity to acquire knowledge and information on the American society and way of life, culture and values.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Since the signing of the MoU on 23rd September 2016, numerous activities have been organised by the American Corner Sabah.

Among these are the Scuba Diving Programme, 'Meet and Greet' with the American cello band Break of Reality, and recently a 'Depression and Anxiety' talk in conjunction with World Health Day. Exhibitions on a diverse range of subjects or points of interest have also been held by the Corner.

I would like to encourage students, lecturers and staff to participate in the events organised by the American Corner as I am sure they will benefit us immensely in terms of knowledge, exposure and insights into other cultures and perspectives. All these would definitely help enrich our personal learning and outlook, and could become added resources for teaching, research, and publication.

On behalf our University, I would like to thank the US Embassy for this partnership. We look forward to expanding our collaboration and networking with you and playing our small part in building and strengthening the ties between our two countries.

Thank you.

*Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.*