

**WELCOMING SPEECH
SESI RAMAH MESRA BERSAMA DUTA-DUTA
KESATUAN EROPAH (EU)
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Dewan Bankuasi, Dewan Canselor**

Her Excellency Maria Castella Fernandez, Ambassador and
Head of Delegation of the European Union (EU) to
Malaysia,

Principal and Senior Officers of UMS,

Delegation of European Union (EU) Ambassadors to UMS,
Deans, Directors and Heads of Faculties, Departments,
Centres, Institutes and Units,

Lecturers and Students, Ladies and gentlemen

Assalamualaikum and a very good afternoon.

I am delighted to welcome the EU Delegation to Universiti Malaysia Sabah especially as November commemorates a big month of celebration for the University. Less than two weeks ago we celebrated our students academic achievements and accomplishments during our 19th Convocation right here in Canselor Hall. Family members travelled far and wide to be with us during the three day event to honor the 5,313 graduates representing diverse disciplines. Individually and collectively, these students embody our university's mission as a public

comprehensive university—to make the world a better place through our ideas, our innovations, and our engagement.

This auspicious month of November also marks the 23rd anniversary of Universiti Malaysia Sabah. Over the past two decades, the University has been relentless in achieving academic excellence and recognition. I believe an important reason for the University's success is its

balanced links with the community and the industry. We also value the importance of international collaboration in higher education and research, hence we value the partnerships we have established with regional and international universities over the years. And this we are certain, will include relations with the EU.

Since the delegates last visit in December 2013 to mark the successful end to UMS's partnership in the 3 year

MYEULINK project , academics researchers in the university continue to adopt teaching and learning strategies learnt. The necessity to transform teaching is even more important now as all universities prepare to meet the challenges of producing students in The Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0) who would be capable of driving the world and the digital economy with real, tangible, skills.

As during the time of the MYEULINK project, there remains to be two courses taught at History and International Programmes at the Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Heritage, in which Europe is the central theme. History of Europe as well as the introduction course on the European Union, are annually offered to undergraduate students at the faculty. However, courses which cover on key issue areas for the EU, such as human rights, and peace and conflict, are being strengthened within the faculty. In these course, case studies from the EU are

discussed at length. In fact, the undergraduate course on Human Rights offered by the International Relations program, is among the courses currently developed under UMS' Massive Open Online Courses or MOOC. Every university should be open and promote intellectual exchanges. Such openness is the cornerstone of all living knowledge, of all knowledge that is created and constructed, which invites comparison, asks questions of itself, can be dissected and, above all, be passed on.

As UMS strives for excellence, we recognise that we must ceaselessly push to do better. With 64 programmes of studies offered at 10 faculties across 3 campuses, our ultimate vision is of imparting high quality education to local and global community of students and scholars. To remain on this path, we look forward to strengthen and create more collaborations with academic institutions around the world.

This afternoon, I look forward to a very fruitful meeting which will produce concrete beneficial results.

With that I would like to end my speech with Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.