

**Universiti Malaysia Sabah Vice Chancellor' Speech on
MOU between Universiti Malaysia Sabah and University
of Wollongong, Australia on 30th October 2008 at Resital
Hall, School of Arts,Universiti Malaysia Sabah**

Yang Berbahagia Professor Dr Diana Kelly, Chair of Academic Senate, University of Wollongong, Australia

YBrsh Professor Dr Sanudin Haji Tahir Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and International), Universiti Malaysia Sabah

YBrsh Prof Dr Rosnah Ismail, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Universiti Malaysia Sabah

YBrsh Prof Dr Amran Ahmed, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Universiti Malaysia Sabah

YBrsh Mr Abdullah Haji Mohd Said, Registrar of Universiti Malaysia Sabah

YBrsh Prof Dr Vincent Pang, Director of Centre for Academic Advancement,
Universiti Malaysia Sabah

YBrsh Associate Professor Dr Asmady Idris, Dean of School of Social Sciences,
Universiti Malaysia Sabah

Universiti Malaysia Sabah Senior Officers, Universiti Malaysia Sabah

Deans, Directors of Research Centres, Head of Research Units, Universiti Malaysia Sabah

Invited guests,

Students

Good morning.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This morning, we are fortunate to be present here to witness the signing ceremony of the MOU between Universiti Malaysia Sabah and University of Wollongong, Australia. Australia has a strong shared history with Malaysia in the areas of education and this MOU will provide an umbrella for everyone to work under and will strengthen this international relationship.

The intention of University of Wollongong to have collaboration through this MOU is very welcome and appreciated by the Universiti Malaysia Sabah. We would like to thank Prof. Gerard Sutton Vice Chancellor of University of Wollongong, Australia who for his strong support in ensuring this MOU is realized. I also thankful to Prof Dr Diana Kelly, Chair of Academic Senate, University of Wollongong who is here to witness on behalf of University of Wollongong's Vice-Chancellor.

We are proud and feel deeply honoured that Universiti Malaysia Sabah has been chosen amongst many premier universities in Malaysia to work together with University of Wollongong, especially since University of Wollongong is one of the top ten universities in Australia. I understand that several Universiti Malaysia Sabah academic staff have received their Masters and PhD degrees from University of Wollongong in many fields such as industrial relations, education, human resource economics, accounting, finance and management. Moreover, our links with University of Wollongong have been strengthened with visit of Professor Dr Peter Kell from the Faculty of Education, University of Wollongong to the School of Education and Social Development, Universiti Malaysia Sabah. This MOU became a reality after Professor Dr Diana Kelly was selected as an Assessor for Industrial Relations Program, School of Social Sciences, Universiti Malaysia Sabah. Professor Diana Kelly who is a renowned and respected scholar in the field of industrial relations will assess Industrial Relations Program in order to ensure that this program attains world class standard. Currently, Universiti Malaysia Sabah is the only university in Malaysia that conducts an Industrial Relations Program in the School of Social Science, with offerings at degree and post-graduate levels. Since its establishment in 1994, the Industrial Relations Program at Universiti Malaysia Sabah has progressed steadily. In fact, Universiti Malaysia Sabah is also a centre for excellence in the area of industrial relations and employment relations studies and research in Malaysia.

Ladies and gentlemen...

This agreement will incorporate a range of joint collaboration including student exchange, staff exchange, and joint research in industrial relations and labor studies as well as other fields such as education, engineering, science and technology, biotechnology, management, medical and others. The MOU to be signed this morning will further enhance the Industrial Relations Program, School of Social Sciences and also other schools and research institutes at Universiti Malaysia Sabah through the following activities:

- a) Involvement of Universiti Malaysia Sabah in conducting joint research with University of Wollongong academic scholars working in various field of academic research.
- b) Conducting a joint conference
- c) Academic staff exchange
- d) Student exchange program
- e) Post doctoral program
- e)f) Joint research grant
- f)g) _____ Joint publication

In very many ways, the signing of the MOU today certainly marks the beginning of collaboration between Universiti Malaysia Sabah and University of Wollongong. We hope that the final outcome of this collaboration will be a showcase that Malaysia can be proud of.

I do hope Professor Dr Diana Kelly during her visit to Universiti Malaysia Sabah and Sabah in general will enjoy the beauty of flora and fauna and the rich culture of people in Sabah.

Thank you.