

**DRAFT SPEECH BY**  
**COL. PROF DATUK DR KAMARUZAMAN HJ AMPON,**  
**VICE CHANCELLOR OF UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH**  
**ON THE OPENING OF THE SITF 4<sup>TH</sup> RESEARCH DAY**  
**AT THE SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL FORESTRY, UMS**  
**ON 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2009**

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Terima kasih Sdr/i Pengacara Majlis

**BISMILLAH....**

***(Salutation)***

**TNC-TNC/PEGAWAI UTAMA**

**PM DR MAHMUD SUDIN, DEKAN SEKOLAH PERHUTANAN TROPIKA  
ANTARABANGSA**

**DEKAN-DEKAN/KETUA JABATAN**

**DR MICHAEL FISCHER, GTZ CHIEF TECHNICAL ADVISOR FOR MALAYSIAN-  
GERMAN FORESTRY EDUCATION PROJECT**

**PN RAFIDAH MD SALIM, PENGARAH HARI PENYELIDIKAN KALI KE-4, SEKOLAH  
PERHUTANAN TROPIKA ANTARABANGSA, UMS**

**DATUK-DATUK, WARGA TENAGA AKADEMIK DAN KAKITANGAN UMS**

**PARA PEMBENTANG, TETAMU JEMPUTAN, PARA PELAJAR**

**TUAN/PUAN YG DIHORMATI SEKALIAN**

**ASSALAMUALAIKUM WBK & SALAM SEJAHTERA & VERY GOOD MORNING**

First and foremost, my thankfulness to Allah SWT for his blessings that we could gather here today.

Also, thanks to the Organizer, the Sch. of Int Tropical Forestry (SITF), for inviting me to give speech and to grace the SITF Research Day this morning. I would like to take this opportunity, to congratulate the Dean and his Committee for organizing this event again. I was made to understand that, this is the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) since it was introduced by Assoc. Prof. Dr Mahmud, when he took over as Dean.

**Ladies & Gentlemen,**

Research (and of course innovation and development) is a principal business in a higher learning institution like UMS. Without doing research, there will be deficiencies on ideas, thoughts and advancement to be offered to the society and the general scientific world. I am pleased to note that, in UMS, research is escalating and ever-increasing. Interdisciplinary research (culture) has intensifying; research groups being formed and many have secured funding from various sources such as MOSTI's (Min. of Science, technology & Innovation) eScience, KPT's (Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi) FRGS (Fundamental Research Grants) and other sources either from local as well as the international agencies. Various initiatives have taken place that helped develop the research skills of UMS staff. This would certainly reinforce our efforts to establish UMS as a research university.

**Ladies & Gentlemen,**

Effective R&D activities in SITF (School of the International Tropical Forestry) are noticeable. SITF, if I may say so, is among the most active in UMS in conducting Research and Development (R&D) as well as Innovation activities and taking part in the R&D competition either local or overseas. The school enriched the UMS successful participation in various R&D conventions at local, national and international levels. In 2008 alone, UMS was honored with a Gold Medal through SITF's 'Bioplas Wood' at the 24<sup>th</sup> Invention & New Products Exposition (INPEX) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA; and a silver at the 19<sup>th</sup> International Invention, Innovation & Technology Exhibition (ITEX), Kuala Lumpur. Earlier in 2005, SITF won a gold medal at the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Exhibitions & Inventions of New Techniques and Products, Geneva, Switzerland. Before

that, in 2004, the school secured a Bronze in Geneva, as well as Silver at the Seoul International Invention Fair (SIIF), South Korea. The school has a tribute of winning various awards for UMS.

In terms of landscape in our campus, SITF also has contributed to make UMS emerged as the winner of the Gold Medal for its best or most beautiful landscape among higher learning institutions in Malaysia.

**Ladies & Gentlemen,**

I see the success and research tradition and the essence of research culture and teamwork in SITF (and UMS) is continued with this SITF's 4<sup>th</sup> Research Day this morning. I am grateful with SITF especially the Dean and all the staff for all initiatives in making Research Day an annual event. I believe research results can be disseminated and be communicated to others outside the school, for future collaboration and cooperation. The theme "**Awakening Society through Research**" is in line with the paradigm that recognizing the important role of people for their prosperity and sustainability through interdisciplinary research.

**Ladies & Gentlemen,**

As the Vice Chancellor, at this juncture, I would like to encourage lecturers, young and 'old' ones, to continue fostering strong research spirit, research attitude, research atmosphere among us. We are putting a lot of efforts and energy to promote research and development in order to promote our university - our beloved UMS, as among the top IPT in the country. As you may aware, at the moment there are 20 public universities and many more private universities in the country. Each year, we will be taking students enrolment; and in order for us to continue getting good students to enroll into UMS, one way we conduct and promote quality research, by staff and the students under their supervision. I am happy to note that, SITF is formulating its Strategic Research Plan under the auspicious of the MGFEF project.

**Ladies & Gentlemen,**

I strongly encourage all the academic or lecturers to work and secure research grants to enable them to conduct advance research in their respective areas of expertise. Joint projects, collaboration, cross discipline-cooperation can certainly enriched us with research skills. Especially to young lecturers, working with your senior college will be very beneficial. I am sure many senior lecturers also would welcome this idea. Once cooperation is established, the publication in terms of refereed articles or papers should instinctively, comes after this.

Sometimes came across to my mind that the university should also giving monetary awards to lecturers and students for their publication in high-impact journals. I heard others like USM and UTHM (?) has considered doing so. I think RM5,000 is good for publication in high-impact journals (?). The lowly ranked journal will enable them to secure at least RM500 per article. What do you think?

**Ladies & Gentlemen,**

*(If YBhg Datuk want to highlight some recent advances in UMS?)*

I Wish you all a fruitful event and keep up the good work.

**Ladies & Gentlemen,**

Before I end my speech, once again, congratulation to the SITF and all of you for coming here to make this event a success. I am optimist that it set off opportunities for discussion, networking and collaboration. To all the agencies from outside UMS thank you for your support & cooperation.

Finally, with the gracious kalimah "Bismillahirrahmanirrahim", I hereby declare the SITF 4<sup>th</sup> Research Day 2008/2009, opened.

**Sekian, WABILLAHl TAUFIK WALHIDAYAH, WASSALAM..and Thank you.**