



# siaran akhbar

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PEN. 11/81/131 (JPM)

SPEECH OF ACCEPTANCE BY YANG AMAT BERBAHAGIA  
TUN HUSSEIN ONN ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONFER-  
MENT OF THE HONORARY DEGREE OF DOCTORATE OF LAWS  
AND PUBLIC SERVICE BY OHIO UNIVERSITY AT PARLIAMENT  
HOUSE; KUALALUMPUR ON SATURDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 1981

Saya mengambil kesempatan ini untuk mengucapkan ribuan terima kasih kepada pihak Universiti Ohio di atas penghormatan yang diberikan kepada saya dengan penganugerahan Ijazah Doktor Undang-undang dan Ferkhidmatan Awam, Kepada Presiden Ping dan isteri serta ahli-ahli rombongan Universiti Ohio, saya dengan penuh ikhlas mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi terima kasih kerana kesudian tuan-tuan dan puan-puan sakelian membuat kunjungan yang jauh ini untuk membolehkan upacara ini diadakan di Kuala Lumpur.

2 . Penganugerahan ini bukan sahaja merupakan satu

penghormatan kepada diri saya tetapi juga sebagai satu penghormatan kepada Malaysia, Sebagai sebuah negara merdeka dan berdaulat kita sentiasa ingin berbaik-baik dan bersahabat dengan semua pihak yang ingin berbaik-baik dan bersahabat dengan kita, Sebagai negara membangun kita inginkan persahabatan kita mendatangkan faedah bersama kepada kita dan sahabat kita, Penghormatan yang diberikan kepada saya ini, merupakan satu jalinan persahabatan di antara dua negara yang inginkan persahabatan, kesejahteraan dan perdamaian.

Let me first and foremost take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for the high *honour* bestowed upon me by the Ohio University. I also take this opportunity to express my humble apology to President Ping for not being able to accept the invitation to be present on the campus of the Ohio University in Athens for the conferment ceremony.

I was told by my colleagues who had the good fortune to visit Athens - among whom are the Hon'ble the Prime Minister and the Hon'ble the Deputy Prime Minister - that Athens is a lovely place, especially at this time of the year. I hope that some day I will be able to visit the Campus of my new alma mater.

The highest officers of Ohio University have travelled more than 12,000 miles from the world's other side to be in Kuala Lumpur today to personally bestow this great honour upon me. President Ping, I am deeply touched by this kind gesture.

6. May I thank my dear friend Tun Suffian who has said so many kind words about my public career. While I greatly appreciate the personal honour extended to me by the Ohio University, I accept this honorary doctorate as something more significant than personal award. I consider this award as an American hand of friendship extended to me as a representative of the Malaysian people. It also symbolises the close relations between the two countries. I regard this ceremony as an opportunity to pay tribute to the contributions of the Ohio University to the development of higher education in Malaysia.

7. Malaysia places a high value upon the relationship with the Ohio University. It is not just another relationship with one of America's more than 3,000 institutions of higher learning. Ohio University's sixteen-year old relationship with Malaysia in the field of higher education is special and exemplary.

First, the Ohio University-Malaysia relationship founded on the belief and conviction of both the American and the Malaysian nation that education is essential to the achievement of our national aspirations in an interdependent world. It is a practical working example of our profound faith in education which manifested itself in the earliest days of independence in both the United States and in Malaysia. Both, the United States and Malaysia believe that education is essential for a free people operating a democratic political system under the rule of law, and that education must be for the many rather than the few.

9. The Malaysian and American peoples share the view that education can free mankind from ignorance.

education can also be the means for the discovery and the sharing of knowledge and technology for development, Education can map the path away from the poverty and disease towards better and enriched lives.

10. Secondly, this relationship is securely anchored upon the principles of mutual understanding and mutual respect.

As the United States cherishes its heritage as the world's "First New Nation", so too does Malaysia place the greatest importance upon her struggle for independence. Malaysia is committed to the ideals of peace, freedom and neutrality. In the field of diplomacy, we seek to be friends with all nations, irrespective of their political and social systems, based upon the principles of mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other. In our economic and commercial relations we to promote international cooperation and understanding for the establishment of a New international Economic Order based on justice and equality.

12. In the field of educational cooperation, no less than in the diplomatic and economic fields, Malaysia dives for relationships which are mutually beneficial and consistent with her aspirations. Malaysia's relation with the Ohio University perfectly meets these criteria.

13. As a former Minister of Education, I am proud to have been associated with the evolution of this relationship. In a world where "protectionism" has been creeping into some of the world's campuses as

as into corporate board rooms, America has kept gates of its campuses open. The Ohio University has been at the forefront of this worthy endeavour. More than 1,000 Malaysians have received the Ohio University degrees. Presently over 200 Malaysians are studying for their degrees in Athens,

Ohio University's scholarship program has enabled officials of the Ministry of Education, staff of the MARA Institute of Technology and the staff of Malaysia's five Universities to pursue their degrees. An area where the Ohio University has made its greatest impact is in the creation, growth and Development of the MARA Institute of Technology (ITM). Beginning in 1963 during Tan Sri Arshad Sab's 10 year term as dynamic director of ITM and continuing until today, the Ohio University has sent about 100 of its Professors as consultants and teaching staff in the ITM's Schools of Accountancy, Guidance and Counselling, Business and Management, Mass Communication, Engineering, Economic Education and Music.

15 Today in Shah Alam, in a unique Ohio University Business Administration Program, Malaysian students are completing requirements for Ohio University

degrees by taking courses offered by the Ohio University faculty on location in Malaysia.

16. Malaysia has learned much from Ohio University and seeks to learn more in the future. As Malaysia turns from its colonial past to the further development of a uniquely Malaysian educational system, the mark of American influence in Malaysian education can be clearly seen. Ohio University has played and continues to play an important part in this historic process.

17. A third feature of the Ohio University relationship warrants special mention; it is a partnership based upon mutual needs and reciprocal benefits. Today, with the interdependency of nations becoming more complex, the Ohio University celebrates its 177th anniversary with a proud history

concentrations of academic expertise on Malaysia outside of its borders. The University's Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, with its scholarly Monograph series and its superb Southeast Asian library specializing on Malaysia, are recognized as outstanding. At the Ohio University students can learn Bahasa Malaysia and take courses in Malaysian

literature, economics, culture and politics from recognized authorities.

In March of 1980, the then Malaysian Minister of education, Datuk Musa Hitam announced the establishment of the Tun Abdul Razak Chair in southeast Asian Studies at Ohio University. Jointly endowed by a US\$350,000 grant from the Government of Malaysia and by funds generously contributed by public spirited American firms doing business in Malaysia, this unique venture is the first of its kind by either Ohio University or the Malaysian Government. Terms of the agreement provide for prominent scholars, nominated by Malaysia, to travel to Ohio University for a one or two year period to teach, to do research, to travel to academic greetings, and to serve as Malaysian intellectual envoys to North America. The distinguished first chairholder, Professor Syed Mohd. Naquib al-Attas has already assumed his duties in the United States. The establishment of the Tun Abdul Razak Chair does not only perpetuate the memory of the late Prime Minister, but also marks a new dimension in the cordial relations between Malaysia and the United States. Malaysia is gratified that Ohio University has chosen to become a center of academic knowledge about Malaysia for North America. Acknowledging that

education is always a two way street, Ohio University

19. In the complex web of international relations education stands as an important area of cooneration which is no less important than economics, finance, trade, and diplomacy. More important than the market place of commerce, or the corridors of power, is the exalted market place of ideas, For education is for our children and our children's children, for the future of Malaysia, the future of America, and indeed the future of our small world. If the transcendent Asian-American hopes for a better world. are to get off the ground, they must take off from education is the airport of the ascendent aspirations of mankind.

20. Saya harap jalinan persahabatan di antara Malaysia dan Amerika Syarikat, khususnya dalam bidang pelajaran, di mana Universiti Ohio mempunyai perananan yang penting, akan menjadi bertambah kukuh dari masa semasa. Akhirnya, sekali lagi saya mengucapkan terima kasih kepada Presiden Ping dan Universiti Ohio di atas penghormatan yang tinggi yang telah diberikan kepada saya.

KUALA LUMPUR,  
28 November, 1981 (dikeluarkan pada pukul 11.00 pagi)



No. Siti .....	528
No. Penerimaan .....	2/82