

**REMARKS BY YAB PRIME MINISTER ON THE CONFERRAL OF
AN HONORARY PROFESSORSHIP BY TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY,
SHANGHAI**

By : DATO' SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM

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DATO' SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM
PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA
ON THE CONFERRAL OF AN HONORARY PROFESSORSHIP
BY TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY
SHANGHAI
5th NOVEMBER 2024**

I am deeply honoured to accept this honorary professorship from Tsinghua University, a cradle of leaders and ideas that have driven China's remarkable rise. Indeed, as a higher learning institution particularly renowned for its cutting-edge advances in science, technology and innovation, Tsinghua is a dynamic university par excellence.

I accept this honour on behalf of the people of Malaysia, as a symbol of the lasting friendship between our nations and our shared aspirations for peace, progress and prosperity.

We live at a time increasingly marked by division and the tangled web of

identity politics. Narratives that presume that conflicts are inevitable are overshadowing our potential for cooperation. Yet, through dialogue, civilisational in essence, we can push back against this trend, choosing instead to elevate the ideals of understanding, mutual respect and knowledge.

In this spirit, I would like to acknowledge Tsinghua University's tradition of building connections across borders and cultures, a legacy that dates back to its founding in 1911. It embodies *lita'arafu* – the principle of learning from one another, of going beyond tolerance to cultivate true understanding. It is the bedrock of a vision I have described elsewhere as a “feast of civilisations,” where diverse cultures come together not in conflict, but in celebration, each bringing unique strengths to the table.

In today's world, the ethical teachings of Islam and Confucianism are more relevant than ever. The “Zhongyong 中庸”(Doctrine of the Mean) in Confucianism and the concept of *wasatiyyah* in Islam highlight the importance of balance – the “middle path” – as a means to nurture social harmony and sustainable progress. These values provide essential frameworks for addressing the urgent issues of our time. They serve as a lodestar that guides us toward solutions that genuinely serve the common good.

It is my earnest hope that this honorary professorship marks the beginning of even greater collaboration between Tsinghua University and Malaysian

institutions. Through academic and cultural exchanges, we can nurture a new generation of leaders grounded in a genuine appreciation of each other's cultures, perspectives and aspirations.

A great poet once said: "Wisdom ceases to be wisdom when it becomes too proud to weep, too grave to laugh, and too selfish to seek other than itself." Let us, therefore, learn from each other with humility, openness, and a spirit that reaches beyond itself.

Once again, I thank Tsinghua University and the Chinese government for this tremendous honour.

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