

**HANDING OVER CERTIFICATE AND LETTER OF INVITATION FOR SETTING UP  
SHANGHAI JIAO TONG UNIVERSITY SARAWAK CAMPUS MALAYSIA**

13/04/2013

FOUR POINT HOTEL, KUCHING

Assalamualaikum WBT, Salam Sejahtera, Salam 1Malaysia and a very good afternoon to all of you.

YAB Pehin Seri Abdul Taib Bin Mahmud, Ketua Menteri Sarawak merangkap Menteri Perancangan dan Sumber Asli Sarawak;

YB Dato' Sri Peter Chin Fah Kui, Minister of Green Energy, Technology and Water Malaysia;

YB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Alfred Jabu Anak Numpang, Timbalan Ketua Menteri Sarawak;

YBhg Dato' Professor Dr. Rujhan Bin Mustafa, Director General, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia;

YBhg Datuk Professor Dr. Roziah Binti Omar, Deputy Director General (IPTS), Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia;

His Excellency Mr. Lee Suk Kang, Consulate General Sarawak from Peoples' Republic of China;

Yang Berhormat-yang terhormat, Datuk-Datuk, and all the community leaders;  
Chung Hua Middle School Board of Committee, and the Chinese Chamber of Sarawak;

Members of the Press;

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. Let us all give thanks to Almighty Allah SWT for blessing us with this honour to witness such a historical day. What we are about to witness today is the handing over of the Certificate and Letter of Invitation from the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia to the project proponent (SJT-UNI (MMALAYSIA) SDN BHD) for setting up the Shanghai Jiao Tong University Sarawak Campus Malaysia in Kuching, Sarawak.

2. I would like to take this opportunity to thank SUPP for inviting me to this meaningful function this afternoon. For your kind information, ladies and gentlemen, the idea of setting up the Shanghai Jiao Tong University Sarawak Campus Malaysia was a brainchild of SUPP, which is very much in line with our open education policy that encourages distinguished foreign universities to set up their branch campuses here in Malaysia.

3. That being said, we have had, with us here in Sarawak, two (2) private foreign universities - the Curtin University Sarawak campus in Miri and Swinburne University of Technology in Kuching. And in accordance with the handing over of the certificate and letter of invitation

ceremony that we are about to witness today, I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome the third university, Shanghai Jiao Tong, here in Sarawak, Malaysia.

Ladies and gentlemen,

## QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION

4. The establishment of this branch campus is parallel with the drive of our national education blueprint to provide quality tertiary education to our Malaysian citizens, in particular to the citizens of Sarawak. I am certain with the setting up of Shanghai Jiao Tong University Campus Sarawak, it will help turn Malaysia into an educational hub of excellence in the region.

5. The establishment of the university will provide golden opportunity for Malaysian students to pursue their higher learning at our home country, hence directly addressing the issue of brain drain. Apart from that, the establishment of this branch campus will also attract foreign students across the region to pursue their tertiary education in Malaysia, thus fuelling our country's aspiration to become the regional education hub, and provider of quality education, including in the areas of research and development.

6. Today's event is an affirmative action by the Government, in line with the National Higher Education Strategic Plan to propel Malaysia towards becoming a significant location in the global higher education fraternity. The seven strategic thrusts, encompassing:

- (1) Widening access and enhancing equity;
- (2) Improving the quality of teaching and learning;
- (3) Enhancing research and innovation;
- (4) Strengthening institutions of higher education;
- (5) Intensifying internationalisation;
- (6) Enculturation of lifelong learning; and
- (7) Improving the delivery system .

These form the basis of national higher education development that will bring wide-reaching benefits to the nation and in doing so, lift our higher education system to new heights.

7. In addition, we hope to continue strengthening the reputation of Malaysian higher education globally. Thus, apart from encouraging foreign universities to set up their branch campuses here, the Ministry of Higher Education has also been active in pushing for the internationalisation of Malaysian universities. This is done through the recruitment of foreign academic staff and aggressive intake of more foreign students, apart from conducting collaborative research with international partners and enhancing international networks.

8. Also, we have been encouraging the universities to facilitate lifelong learning by introducing different entry requirements and introducing flexible study programmes which will allow Malaysians to undertake higher degree studies without jeopardising and uprooting their living arrangements and employment.

9. For the record, apart from our public universities, to-date there are 507 private institutions of higher learning in the country, comprising of 58 private universities, 24 university colleges and 8 branch campuses of foreign universities. This is a good indication that the country will continue to inspire, and promote excellent tertiary education.

Honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen,

## TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

10. It is with great pleasure to share with you here that Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China is one of the best universities in its home country, and it now ranked among the Top 4. Many first-hand cutting edge technologies have been created by the university, including the first man-made satellite, first nuclear powered submarine, first carrier rocket, the world's first operation of rejoining a severed limb - and a lot more to quote. With this amazing capacity, we strongly hope that with the establishment of the branch campus, the university could transfer the technology it has to Malaysia. The expertise they possess will greatly aid and facilitate Malaysia in the development of high technology sectors such as the development of micro satellite to monitor environmental and natural resources, and in doing that, providing the state of Sarawak that added boost to produce manpower for the SCORE development corridor which would require a lot of engineers and managers.

11. Undoubtedly, it is with high hope that through the setting up of the university branch campus in Malaysia, we can further strengthen the bilateral relationship between China and Malaysia through the education sector, as an addition to the already good strategic cooperation in the various fields of academic, economic, trade, science and technology, cultural etc.

12. Personally, I foresee that the next step forward is the development of the recognition framework of China's bachelor degree and Malaysia's bachelor degree for both countries. At this juncture, the Malaysia Government has recently, through the Malaysia Medical Council recognized the medical degree from Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China. I believe this course of action serves as an evidence of the government's trust, confidence, encouragement and strong support towards the establishment of the Shanghai Jiao Tong University Campus here, in Sarawak, Malaysia.

Honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen,

13. The success of a nation in the future is highly dependent on the efforts of all parties in nurturing human capital which is outstanding, competitive and having value added skills which can significantly contribute towards further development of the nation, and guarantee the stability of the economy.

14. Let us together drive the development of our youth's rational foundation and cognitive capacity forward, through a stellar tertiary education, so that one day, they could shoulder the responsibility and deliver the promises they have all been entrusted to in this land we call home - the promise of everlasting peace, prosperity, development, and the better livelihood for thousand

of generations to come. The promises that the government of BN, has tirelessly given our best to fulfill, each coming day - JANJI DITEPATI.

Thank you.