

## OFFICIATING SPEECH

YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul  
Rahman Zohari bin Tun Abang Haji Openg  
Premier of Sarawak

**1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Biotechnology,  
Smart Farming, and Entrepreneurship for Food  
Security (BioSFE 2023)**

**25 September 2023**

**Riverside Majestic Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak**

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

### **Salutations**

**(To be confirmed by the organiser on the day of the event)**

**Distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen**

***Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.***

***Salam Ibu Pertiwi. Good morning to all.***

1. *Alhamdulillah*, praise be to Allah S.W.T. for His blessings and the opportunity to gather here today for a very special academic event brought jointly by **Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Sarawak Branch**, the **Ministry of Food Industry Commodity and Regional Development (M-FICORD) Sarawak**, and the **National Chung Cheng University of Taiwan**.
2. I bid a warm welcome to everyone in attendance and a special welcome to guests and participants from outside Sarawak to our beautiful Land of the Hornbills.
3. I am pleased to be here today to officiate the **1st International Conference on Biotechnology, Smart Farming, and Entrepreneurship for Food Security (BioSFE 2023)**.
4. Congratulations to the organising committees comprising dedicated individuals from **Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)**, the **Ministry of Food**

**Industry Commodity and Regional Development Sarawak (M-FICORD), and the National Chung Cheng University.**

5. My deepest gratitude to everyone else, namely state agencies, institutional partners, media representatives, and guest speakers, who have contributed their time and effort to bring this event to fruition today.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

6. We must applaud the **BioSFE 2023** event for its successful collaborations in bringing together agricultural agencies, researchers, and academicians from within and beyond Sarawak.
7. The conference serves as a platform for fruitful interactions and presentations on critical issues such as **Sustainable Farming Techniques, Innovation, Technology, Community Food Systems, and National and Global Food Policies** under the

theme **"Bridging Technologists and Entrepreneurs towards Agriculture Revolution 4.0"**.

8. The round table discussion comprising distinguished experts, policymakers, and key players will hopefully lead to valuable insights on sustainable agriculture and improving food security systems, subsequently contributing to the body of knowledge in the agricultural industry.
9. Significantly, the conference coincides with **Sarawak Agrofest 2023**, which celebrates and showcases the achievements, innovations, and developments in the agriculture sector in Sarawak.
10. Hence, I hope that all stakeholders and participants will take the opportunity to experience the best agriculture and farming at this expo and see how far we have come in terms of agricultural development.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

11. These past three years of the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in health crises, business disruptions, and food security concerns, and its aftermaths have posed significant challenges to all.
12. Nonetheless, I have always been optimistic that Sarawak would overcome these difficulties. We have succeeded in suppressing the severe economic and social impacts by implementing our own **post-COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS2030)**.
13. This strategy was implemented to address the critical aspects of sustainable agriculture and food security and aligns with national and global blueprints.
14. With that, we must acknowledge the importance of innovation and efficient technology transfer to address current challenges and unlock new opportunities for the agriculture sector.

15. I would also like to emphasise that the Sarawak government is serious about the welfare of its citizens. I am sure that you can already see the fruits of our labour.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

16. I applaud the UiTM Sarawak Branch for accepting my challenge to conduct research on algae for sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). In making economic decisions for the state, we only have the best of our people in mind. We want to be inclusive and not leave out those outside the urban area.

17. As a community, they must be actively involved in the production of SAF and not just watch others doing it. We want to achieve high-income status by the year 2030. The goal is to shape Sarawak into a competitive and sustainable economy that uses renewable energy sources such as hydropower, floating solar, and hydrogen. We are making substantial progress in pursuing a Green Energy

Agenda, with a deliberate shift toward decarbonisation. This strategic move enables Sarawak to create a more sustainable energy future by actively facilitating emissions reduction locally and globally.

18. Prospective research endeavours hold the potential to establish the groundwork for a novel economic landscape within the state. We expect RM2bil to RM3bil a year. This development can generate significant economic value for the people of Sarawak while steadfastly upholding sustainability as a core priority.
19. With careful planning, commitment, hard work, perseverance, and our ***Anak Sarawak*** spirit, I am confident that Sarawak will be a thriving society and achieve our dream of becoming a **fully developed state by 2030**.

20. On that note, and before I conclude my speech, I must thank **Yang Berbahagia Professor Dato' Dr Haji Jamil Haji Hamali, Chairman of BioSFE 2023**, and respective ministries, government agencies, and committee members who worked tirelessly in ensuring a successful event.
21. Thank you for always supporting the state's initiatives. The role of the **UiTM Sarawak Branch** is especially crucial in conducting programmes and research relevant to knowledge transfer in Sarawak's agriculture industries.
22. We hope these initiatives will encourage the younger generation to pursue careers in food production and agriculture.
23. My best wishes to everyone, and I hope you will have an enjoyable and rewarding time at this conference.

**Without further ado, with *Bismillahirrahmanirrahim*,  
I am pleased to declare the officially  
1st International Conference on Biotechnology,  
Smart Farming, and Entrepreneurship for Food  
Security (BioSFE 2023) open.**

**Thank you.**

**Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum  
Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.**