

TEKS UCAPAN NAIB CANSELOR UTM

**PROFESSOR DATUK DR. IR. ZAINI BIN UJANG**

**THE LAUNCHING OF UTM-MIT BLOSSOMS PROJECT**

**DATE: 8 JANUARY, 2013**

**TIME: 10.30 AM**

**VENUE: UTM, KL**

## بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

**الحمد لله رب العالمين**

**والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين،**

**وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين.**

## السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

**And A Very Good Morning**

**(SALUTATIONS)**

**Yang BerbahagiaEn.Mohd.Kholil Mohammad**

Deputy Director, Sektor Pembangunan KemanusiandanKepemimpinan SBP, BahagianPengurusanSekolahBerasramaPenuhdanSekolahKluster Ministry of Higher Education

**Prof. Dr. BaharuddinAris**

Director of Center for Teaching and Learning, UTM

**Prof. Dr. Mohamed Noor Hassan**

Deputy Director of Center for Teaching and Learning, UTM

I would also like to welcome our distinguished guests from MIT

**Professor Dr. Richard Larson**

Principal Investigator of the MIT BLOSSOMS Initiative

**Associate Professor Dr. Dan Frey**

Co-principal Investigator of the MIT BLOSSOMS Initiative

and

**Ms Elizabeth Murray**

Project Manager of the MIT BLOSSOMS Initiative

Welcome to Malaysia, and UTM International Campus.

**Ladies and gentlemen**

In line with the current global climate which is becoming more competitive, there is a need to expose our students in schools as well as institutions of higher learning with innovative and creative ways of learning so that they will be able to compete at the global stage.

With the current decline in interest in science and mathematics among school children especially at secondary level, there is a need to make the learning of science and mathematics more interesting and meaningful for the students.

As such UTM has undertaken a special initiative to promote and excite young people about mathematics, science and technology education which will consequently enhance their interest and motivation in the field.

To this end, UTM has agreed to collaborate with MIT under the project of BLOSSOMS = ***Blended Learning Open Source Science Or Math Studies***. It is an educational project of MIT, aimed at high school classes in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (“STEM”). <http://blossoms.mit.edu>. The project creates interactive video lessons for high school STEM classes. This initial one-year collaborative effort between UTM and MIT is viewed as Phase I of an anticipated larger multi-year program.

With this project, Malaysia, through UTM, will join other BLOSSOMS country partners: Jordan, Pakistan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Brazil and the USA to develop critical and creative thinking skills among students and encourage teachers away from a lecture format to a more active, problem-based style of teaching. This strategy hopefully will foster meaningful learning and help student to acquire not only the fundamental knowledge but also higher order thinking skills in STEM fields.

So, it gives me great pleasure to be here for the Launching of **UTM-MIT BLOSSOMS PROJECT**. We hope that this international collaboration will strengthen UTM's contribution to society, particularly to STEM Education in Malaysia and help address the national aspiration to enhance interest in the learning of mathematics and science.

Thank you.

**وبِالله التوفيقُ والهداية،**

**والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.**