

Foreword

FOREWORD

Assalamualaikum wbt and Salam 1 Malaysia

Lifelong learning is the act of keeping your body and mind engaged through the pursuit of knowledge and exposure to new experiences. In the West, lifelong learning is well accepted, where people of any age are encouraged to pick up new skills or pursue university degrees later in life. They believe that a challenged and stimulated brain is the key to a vibrant and fulfilling life.

Today, lifelong learning is acknowledged as one of the imperatives that will help broaden Malaysia's talent base. For the country to be a high-income economy by 2020, emphasis on capacity building is critical to ensure that we have the necessary human capital to meet industry requirements and drive productivity.

In light of this, the New Economic Model has identified skills training as one of the driving forces behind human capital development. In particular, technical education and vocational training will be placed into the mainstream to raise the standard of qualifications from these institutions besides providing a viable alternative for individuals to realise their full potential based on inclinations and talents.

The Blueprint on the Enculturation of Lifelong Learning for Malaysia 2011-2020 has been developed as a road map for capacity and talent building. We want Malaysians to continue learning even after obtaining their first degree as this provides them with the opportunity to learn new competencies and upgrade existing skills that can improve their financial and social well-being. The only way for the country to forge ahead is for us to have skilled and talented people who continue to improve themselves.

As an offshoot of the Blueprint, this International Conference on Lifelong Learning 2011 (ICLLL 2011) has been organised. This Conference is indeed an excellent platform for us to learn about each other's efforts to promote lifelong learning; the policies that have been initiated and implemented; and the challenges faced in these noble endeavours.

To ICLLL 2011 organisers – the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia (MOHE), Open University Malaysia (OUM) and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), my congratulations for your efforts in putting this Conference together. It is my hope that this meeting of erudite and forward-thinking minds will result in fruitful outcomes for the benefit of everyone.



May I also take this opportunity to welcome our foreign guests who have come from far and near to our capital city, Kuala Lumpur. I wish you an enlightening, enjoyable and memorable stay here.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Muhyiddin'.

YAB Tan Sri Dato' Haji Muhyiddin Yassin
Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia

FOREWORD

Lifelong learning is a process of democratising education that includes the acquisition of relevant knowledge, skills and competencies via formal or informal programmes that provide hands-on experience and workplace training. Generally speaking, it involves continuous building of skills and knowledge throughout the life of an individual. For most people, lifelong learning will not only enhance their competitiveness but employability as well. In most cases, it also provides the opportunity or 'second chance' for late bloomers to acquire basic skills or learning opportunities at a more advanced model.

Workers today are required to develop new competencies and adopt to changes in their workplace while supporting and contributing to the development of a knowledge-based economy. Education, learning and knowledge therefore, are central for workers to become knowledgeable and innovative workers who can adapt and apply knowledge under changing conditions and are able to continue learning on their own.

In light of this, the Blueprint on the Enculturation of Lifelong Learning for Malaysia 2011-2020 has been developed as the Government believes that lifelong learning now plays an increasingly important role in enhancing the skills, competencies and academic qualifications of the working population. The Blueprint and the Conference today will serve as an important platform for Malaysia to chart its nation building initiatives in line with the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) and Economic Transformation Plan (ETP), the National Key Economic Areas (NKEA) as well as the New Economic Model (NEM) where lifelong learning will be one of the national main pillars of developing innovative and knowledgeable human capital to meet the national needs. It is also one of the seven thrusts of the National Higher Education Strategic Plan where lifelong learning is one of the objectives towards human capital development.

The involvement of the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) as one of the co-organisers of this Conference, together with Open University Malaysia (OUM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), and e-ASEM (e-Learning Asia Europe Meeting), reflects the Government's commitment to ensure that Malaysia has the required talents to bring the country to next level of development. I look forward to seeing this Conference achieve its aims especially from the presence of many outstanding speakers. I wish all participants a fruitful deliberation and a pleasant meeting of minds.



With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mohamed Khaled Nordin'.

YB Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin
Minister of Higher Education
Malaysia

FOREWORD

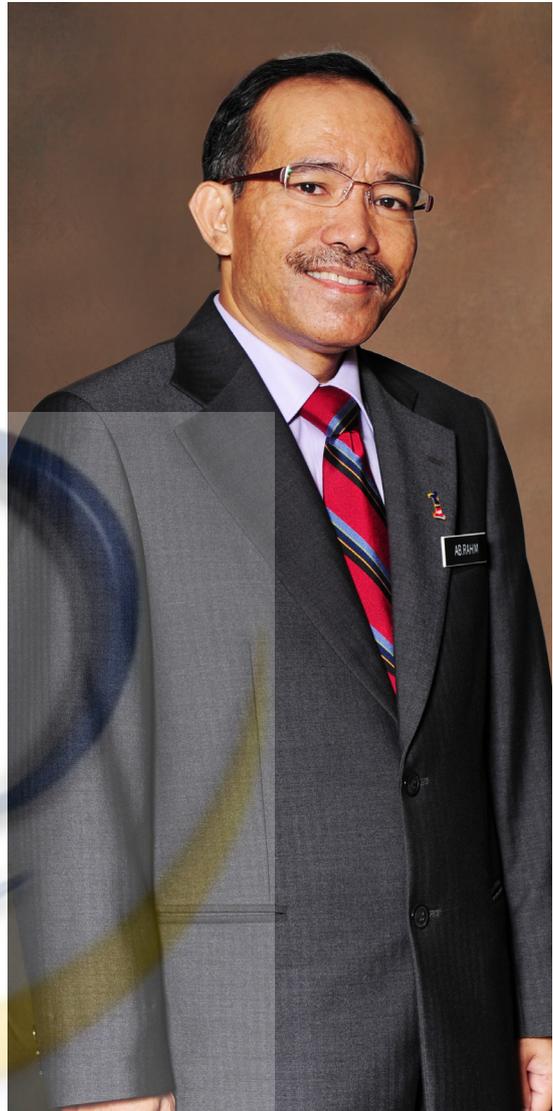
Lifelong learning has become an increasingly important issue globally. With globalization and economic integration, lifelong learning has become more important and critical as it is viewed as an effective vehicle that can develop well-trained work force that is the key to provide the nation with a competitive edge. There is a clear need for the nation to ensure that its work force are equipped with higher and different skills that will enable them to contribute and adapt towards global challenges.

The launching of the Enculturation Lifelong Learning for Malaysia Blueprint 2011-2020 in conjunction with this Conference is testimony to the Malaysian's Government's commitment towards enhancing the capability of Malaysians to contribute effectively to the knowledge and innovative economy. It is also in tandem with the Government's aspiration to develop Malaysia into a high income status nation by the year 2020.

The Blueprint outlines the Government's objectives and strategies that will drive the human capital transformation agenda for the country. The blueprint encapsulates initiatives that will support, promote and embed lifelong learning as a way of life for the community through exemplary best practices that can be emulated to widen the access to learning and training.

With the launching of the blueprint, the Ministry of Higher Education hopes for those who have the passion for learning and for those who have missed the opportunity of learning earlier in life will take this golden opportunity. The lifelong learning programmes that are now readily available nationwide, provides a perfect avenue for enhancing one's knowledge and skills, to enable one-self to be independent and self-reliant. More so with the advent of technology, learning can now take place everywhere and anytime at the convenience of learners.

In realizing the challenges of driving lifelong learning at the national level and translating the action plans into tangible outcomes, the ministry will advocate strategic collaborations with other Ministries and agencies. The International Conference organized by the Open University Malaysia and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia in conjunction with the launching of the blue print signify the strategic collaboration in promoting the lifelong learning throughout the nation. The conference is timely indeed as it provides an important platform for participants to share ideas and wisdom, and deliberate on issues and challenges towards the development of sustainable lifelong learning cultures among the communities. It is my sincere hope that the blueprint will serve as the guiding principles for an insightful discussion and deliberation among participants.



Best wishes ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ab Rahim'.

YBhg Datuk Ab Rahim Md Noor
Secretary General
Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia