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**WELCOMING SPEECH
VICE-CHANCELLOR
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA
PROF. DATUK TS. DR. AHMAD FAUZI ISMAIL**

**ERASMUS+ CAPACITY BUILDING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
ANGEL - Virtual Kick-off Meeting
ASEAN NETWORK FOR GREEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND
LEADERSHIP
22-25 February 2021
HOST INSTITUTION: UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA (UTM)**

22nd FEBRUARY 2021 (MONDAY)

EXACT TIME: 17.20-17.35

**In the name of Allah the Most Gracious, the Most
Merciful**

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

A Very Good Afternoon to **Our Distinguished Guests
and Partners** in Malaysia and ASEAN, and a Very Good
Morning to our fellow Guests in Greece and Cyprus.

His Excellency Michalis Rokas,
The EU Ambassador for Malaysia

Ms. Ellen Flanagan,
**Political Section Professional, EU Delegation to
Malaysia**

Associate Prof.Dr. Mohd. Ismid Mohd Said
Pro ViceChancellor International
UTM

**Distinguished EU and ASEAN institutional and
research industry partners,**

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to join this virtual
kick-off meeting by UTM. UTM is delighted to host the

**ERASMUS+ CAPACITY BUILDING FOR
HIGHER EDUCATION ASEAN NETWORK FOR
GREEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND LEADERSHIP,
which we together call it, ANGEL.**

UTM thanks all of you for joining this first important step toward implementing ANGEL. The COVID 19 pandemic has been a challenge across the globe and it has affected a lot of activities since then. How we wish to greet you face to face and having you here, in Kuala Lumpur. Nonetheless, “the show must go on” and let us embrace the new normal.

I especially thank **His Excellency Mr. Michalis Rokas** and **Ms. Ellen Flanagan** for graciously participating in this kick-off meeting. Your presence and support stand as a strong motivation for us, as a project consortium.

My fellow colleagues,

ANGEL is meant to be a bridge between EU and ASEAN higher education to precipitate birth of green entrepreneurial-leaders among our students and across our communities.

At UTM, we value partnership towards a trajectory that focuses on integrity, synergy, excellence and sustainability (ISES). In this aspect, I am certain that we are truly here for the same goals. We do best when we do it together. So, this kick-off event is a good first step in the right direction to forge synergy between all of us for the goals we all want to achieve through ANGEL.

Distinguished participants,

Entrepreneurship is about mindset. In most ASEAN environments, we are challenged with environmental degradation, low quality jobs for graduates, social inequality and technological disparity. Hopefully, through ANGEL, we could liberate a larger number of graduates who not only gain fresh entrepreneurial mindset, but also **skills, grit and agility** to foster green innovation businesses.

ANGEL will be a pillar for us to create life-ready talents. Their success shall boost opportunities and employment for marginalised and disadvantaged groups. As such, I relay my hope and gratitude to EU partners in supporting this capacity building process.

And, to my fellow ASEAN partners, let's together transform our regional and local reality. A transnational ecosystem is the best, sustainable solution to grow green entrepreneurial leaders.

Last but not least, my words to all partners:

When we have the desire to get started, we shall together build the courage and ability to get it accomplished;

in between, we must celebrate and appreciate every dot we connect, every milestone we conquer.

With that, I Thank you.

وبإلله التوفيقُ والهداية، والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته.