



SPEECH BY:

**HONOURABLE
PROF. DATUK TS. DR. AHMAD FAUZI BIN ISMAIL
VICE CHANCELLOR OF UTM**

**INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (ICHRD 2021)**

**Future of HRD: Adapting to the New Norm Through
Reskilling and Upskilling**

5th – 6th April 2021

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

and A Very Good Day to Everyone

الحمد لله رب العالمين

والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين،

وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

[Salutation]

Respectable Professor Dr. Zaidatun Bt. Tasir,

Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, UTM,

Respectable Mrs. Betty Hassan,

Senior Director, Institute of Labour Market Information &
Analysis Division, Department of Statistics Malaysia,

Respectable Mr. Shazmi Ali,

Country HR Director for Shell Malaysia as well as FSSH Adjunct
Professor,

Deputy Deans, Chairs and Directors as well as administrative
staff of FSSH, fellow lecturers, participants, presenters, students
and all members of the floor.

1. I would like to welcome all of you to ICHRD 2021, one of the many virtual seminars organised by UTM. As an internationally renowned research university, UTM has always been committed to intellectual discourses, knowledge dialogues and sharing as this will prosper creation of new knowledge, dissemination of technologies and critical analysis of current and past epistemological outlook of our disciplines.
2. Indeed this process of knowledge externalization will lead to the “leap of faith” in the academic world and wondrous innovations for the good of mankind, as been claimed by scholars in knowledge management, Nonaka and Takeuchi.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Technology and humans have had a complimentary as well as symbiotic relationship down the lane of history. Webster’s as well as Oxford dictionaries have defined technology as the study of improving techniques and processes, instrument, and tools to achieve some value and benefit for the humankind.
4. Since the dawn of time, in order to enhance the quality of life and ease in perfecting tasks, humans have constantly evolved their technologies, sometimes baffling historians and

scientists alike. The techniques of building big pyramids in the time of Pharouh Kufu and his father Kifre, which is as if two sisters, and twin pyramids, used great mathematical precision as well as astrophysics planning. Both the pyramids needed extra ordinary innovations in work process, machineries, technique as well as expert artisans and craftsmen.

5. This is unchallenged until today. Another very big feat is the technologies that sprung out from the study of the central as well as South American regions. Studies in the Mayan, Aztecs, Inca, Tiothihuacan Tikal and many more civilizations have shown great advances in technology such as architecture, town planning, water supply, agriculture and many more.
6. In Peru, the lost city of Machu Pichu built on a mountain plateau of nearly 8,000 feet above sea levels, was built by King Pachachuti believed to have been reigning in the mid 15th century. A stronghold on top of a mountain, it would have been a tremendous effort, planning, building and maintaining them.
7. And, what about the Nazca Lines in southern Peru with geometrical and mathematical precision, lines which could only made sense from the sky. This feat has baffled many and had shown to us the level of technology, sophistication and

development of the human mind and socio-politics as well as economic prosperity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. Indeed, we are also following the footsteps of our ancestors.

We innovate and develop our strategy, systems, technique, instrumentations and tools on a daily basis. And UTM is proud to be at the thick of it. Established as a university in March of 1972, the aim at the time was to equip Malaysians, mainly *Bumiputera* with knowledge and skills of science, technology and related studies.

9. Back then, the aspiration was also to exalt Bahasa Melayu or the Malay Language as the language of knowledge, science, technology and tertiary education. The colonization of the Portuguese, Dutch and English has left the Malay Language weak and lacklustre, only being used as administrative language, used for religious purposes and above all, for daily usage.

10. Thus, it falls upon our shoulders as people of a modern and free country to upheave the national language and make it an internationally recognized language not only for daily activities but in science, technology, knowledge, arts, culture etc.

Japanese, Koreans and Indonesians have done extremely well in achieving this. So UTM has taken up the challenge, implementing the Malay Language as the language of learning and conduct.

11. So, today and now, UTM has gone a long way. We are internationally known for our schools and programs in engineering, architecture, geo-information and computing. In fact, FSSH, has also been ranked as one of the top, if not the best social sciences school in Malaysia. But we must always remember our roots. Technology, sciences and development must always be rooted in the value adding and beneficial properties it could provide to the humankind.

12. That is why, we are always proud of our motto, “In the Name of God, for Mankind”. This shows our conviction to technology and study of knowledge and the sciences to provide a better life for our fellow countrymen and the international society. This is a part of our *amal soleh* or good deeds which we would present to Allah the AlMighty on the day of Judgement.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

13. In connection to this effort, UTM always welcomes the organization of seminars, conferences, public lectures and any intellectual discourses. This seminar for example, is a forum for the sharing of knowledge, ideas, and recent development in human resource development and psychology.

14. The global industry and businesses have taken a beating post COVID-19 from the pandemic. Scholars from Stieglitz to Janet Yellen, Aya Yoshida to Malaysian Jomo K. Sundram, have emphasized on the need to reinvent the socio-economic sector, to empower the workforce with multi-skills and multiple intelligent ability to cope with the situation.

15. The new world now will see a very vibrant but yet flexible workforce, with cutting edge thinking skills to provide critical analysis of current organizations, businesses and services. People need to come up with innovative and creative solutions to problem to keep up with the overwhelming demand of the market and consumers.

16. The theme of ICHRD2021, which is “Future of HRD. Reskilling & Upskilling. New norm IR 4.0.” sums up the

importance to develop the competencies as well as professionalism of the workforce in this post COVID-19 era. I bid you all good luck and have a fruitful academic grilling and exercise.

17. Last but not least, I would like to thank Professor Ts Dr Zaidatun Tasir, the Dean of FSSH, in inviting me to officiate ICHRD2021. My appreciation to the administration of SHARPS, Assoc. Prof. Dr Siti Aisyah and her team, as well as the ICHRD2021 organizing committee headed by Dr Zulkifli Khair. Congratulations for a job well done.

18. Not forgetting our distinguished invited speakers Mr. Shazmi and Mrs. Betty. I hope that our cooperation together will be lasting. And of course all paper presenters and participants of ICHRD2021, have a fruitful conference.

19. In the name of Allah God AlMighty,
Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, I officiate ICHRD2021.

Thank you.

وبِاللّٰهِ التَّوْفِيقُ وَالْهُدَايَةُ
وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ