

## Message

from Acting Vice Chancellor of the University of Malaya

Mohd Hamdi Bin Abd Shukor

**T**HE exertion to organize the International Symposium on Inter-civilisational Dialogue towards Peace, Harmonious Co-existence and Sustainability is creditable. I welcome this inventiveness and the University is glad to work in this effort through the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (UMCCD) together with The Institute of Oriental Philosophy (IOP), Japan and Soka Gakkai Malaysia (SGM).

Promoting international peace through a mosaic of intercultural dialogue and inter-faith exchange of ideas is central to any public or private educational institution and religious movement. As one of the premier universities in Malaysia, University Malaya through UMCCD is playing a vital role in promoting international peace. Since 1995, University of Malaya has given the mandate to organize and to promote this noble value and to instil in people the importance of respecting and tolerating the religions of all people, particularly, the intercivilisational dialogue between Islam, Japan and the West in 1996. In the same vein, the Soka Gakkai Buddhist movement through the understanding of the Lotus Sutra—*Nam-myoho-renge-kyo*—actively takes part in several intercultural programmes.

### **True Humanitarian Values of Religions**

Thus, this conference is being organized at a time when there is a fiery debate between freedom of expression and obnoxious provocation due to the lack of understanding towards one another with their faith and cultural background. I sincerely hope that the conference will bring us to limelight the true message of religions and its true humanitarian values. The dignitaries, speakers, participants and delegates from different parts of the world will reflect on the mission. I wish the conference every success and I hope the foreign delegates will have an opportunity to see Malaysia with an open mind, enjoy true Malaysian hospitality and you will be amazed with our unique diverse culture and religion.

I hope you make the most of your visit and stay here to experience the many wonders of Malaysia and enjoy our warmth hospitality. I extend to you a very warm “Selamat Datang”.