

Acceptance Speech by Dato' Michael Yeoh at University of Nottingham Malaysia  
Campus Graduation Ceremony on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2011 at Putrajaya International Convention  
Centre on being Conferred the Doctorate of Laws Honoris Causa

Professor Christine Ennew, Pro Vice Chancellor,  
Prof. Ian Pashby – Vice President & Provost,

Firstly, I would like to thank the Public Orator Prof. Lee Chew Ging for the kind words said about me. I convey my deepest appreciation and grateful thanks to the Vice Chancellor and the Council of the University of Nottingham for conferring upon me the degree of Doctor of Laws Honoris Causa. I am truly humbled with this conferment and deem it a great honour to be conferred this Honorary Doctorate of Laws from one of Britain's if not one of the world's great Universities. I feel humbled and honoured to be among your Alumni today.

I recall way back in 1995, I travelled to the beautiful lake view campus of the University of Nottingham in Britain to meet with the then Vice Chancellor Sir Colin Campbell to discuss and persuade Nottingham to establish a branch campus here in Malaysia. Its so heartening to see the University of Nottingham a branch campus in our country celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary recently. Today the University of Nottingham is a truly global university and you should all feel justifiably proud to be granduands of this great Institution.

As you leave this University and embark on your career, may I share with you some possible strategies for success. Firstly, don't ever think that when you graduate you stop learning. No one ever stops learning. There is so much knowledge out there. Continue to seek knowledge and pursue excellence in whatever you do. Continual learning and continuous improvements will

ensure you stay ahead of competition. Seek the truth and promote the truth no matter how much hurt the truth can entail. The relentless pursuit of knowledge, justice, truth, excellence will set you apart from others. You need to also respect and uphold democratic values and human rights.

As University graduates, you belong to the intelligentsia of this country. You are opinion leaders whom many others look up to. Do not merely live in your ivory towers. Do not merely seek riches and financial rewards. Be aware of the needs society expect from its intellectual leaders.

I wish to also call upon all of you to be transformers. Be agents of transformational change to create a better society for all of us. Malaysia has embarked on a transformational journey with the Government Transformation Programme and the Economic Transformation Programme. These are exciting days ahead as our country is being transformed. You can play a critical role by contributing to this Journey of transformation. Begin by transforming your outlook, your perspectives and your attitudes. Become change agents or catalysts for change to build and create a better nation for us all. As young leaders, you have the energy and tenacity to make a difference.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

We live in exciting times with the centre of gravity in the world economy shifting to Asia. It has been estimated that 3 of the world's largest economies will be based in Asia, with China as the No. 2, Japan as No. 3 and India at No. 5. The centre of gravity in global economic power is shifting to Asia even though we live in this era of globalization and rapid global changes. In fact, this future era is one characterized by irreversible globalization, the speed of change,

quantum technological achievements and greater connectivity, all contributing to making the world we live in, a smaller world but a better place.

I am confident that your Nottingham education will equip you for a challenging future. I urge you to plan for the future and live your dreams.

In conclusion, I would like to once again thank the University of Nottingham for this great honour bestowed upon me today. I am confident the University of Nottingham will continue to contribute significantly to Malaysia's future and to the global world of education.

Let me end with two quotations with the thought that you will be humble and kind all the time.

TS Elliott wrote "Humility is the greatest virtue. Humility is endless"

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote "You cannot do a kindness too soon for you never know how soon it will be too late"

So I hope you will be kind and humble at all times.

Pro Vice Chancellor , I thank you.