

## Message

from Director of Centre for Civilisational Dialogue (CCD)

Raihanah Abdullah

**F**IRST of all, on behalf of the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue, University of Malaya (UMCCD), I would like to send greetings of peace to all participants of the “Intercivilisational Dialogue towards Peace, Harmonious Coexistence and Sustainability”. The Centre is honoured to be part of the organizing committee for the inaugural symposium in Malaysia and to collaborate especially with esteemed organizations of international stature such as The Institute of Oriental Philosophy, Japan and Soka Gakkai Malaysia.

### **Bridge the World through Dialogue**

The symposium fills an urgent need, especially in times when the human race must re-learn the concepts of peaceful coexistence through mutual understanding. Recently we have heard of atrocities to ethnic groups that are either religiously or ethnically-motivated that is intolerable for a modern human to accept, if we do indeed call ourselves human. We pray that there will be peace and harmonious coexistence in countries such as Myanmar and Syria and in all other countries in conflicts. We also hope that more discourses and dialogues could take place to nurture the spirit of humanism that would start and would not end with this symposium. I personally believe that we would be able to reach out through all the differences by bridging the world through dialogue.

Next, I would like to extend my utmost gratitude to all, directly or indirectly, who had made this symposium a reality. My thanks go to the hardworking staff of UMCCD, the University of Malaya’s various departments as well as the National Integration Department. It is my sincere hope that all participants would benefit from this symposium that promises to provide the best platform for the engagement of dialogue on peace and harmonious coexistence. Give peace a chance. To all international participants, we wish you “Selamat Datang” and hope you will enjoy your stay here in Malaysia.

*O mankind, We have created you from male and female, and have made you nations and tribes that you may know one another, the noblest of you, in the sight of ALLAH, is the best in conduct, ALLAH is knower, Aware.*

Sura Al-hujarat verse 13

Thank you. Domo Arigato Gozaimasu.