

MJIIT NEW DEAN



Prof. Datin Rubiyah Yusof (Dr.), MJIIT new Dean with Prof. Norio Sugiura (Dr.), Professor in MJIIT and Director of Tsukuba University Kuala Lumpur Satellite Office

February 10th 2014 - Prof. Datin Rubiyah Yusof (Dr.) is the new Dean of Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIIT) starting from February 2014 replacing the former Prof. Ir. Megat Johari Megat Mohd Noor who ended his tenure as MJIIT Dean on 31st January, 2014. Prior to the new post, Prof. Rubiyah is the Director of Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIRO), University Technology Malaysia (UTM), International Campus Kuala Lumpur. She received her BSc. (Honour) in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from University of Loughborough, United Kingdom in 1983 and Master Degree in Control System from Cranfield Institute of Technology, United Kingdom in 1986. She obtained her doctorate (PhD) in Control System from the University of Tokushima, Japan in 1994. Throughout her career as senior lecturer and researcher in UTM, Prof. Rubiyah has been acknowledged for her many contribution in Artificial Intelligence, Process Control and Instrumentation design. She is recognized for her work in biometrics systems, such as KenalMuka (Face Recognition System) and Signature Verification System which won both national and international awards. CAIRO had recently developed the SYCUT or Syariah-Compliant

Automated Chicken Processing System to detect Halal chicken in slaughtering process which contributed to the Halal industry and at the same time it will overcome the Halal issue especially among Moslem in Malaysia. Prof. Rubiyah is wife to the late Allahyarham Prof. Datuk Dr. Marzuki Khalid, former CAIRO Director.

Upon resuming her new post, Prof. Rubiyah, in her speech during handing over duties ceremony in MJIT, said that she has a greater task ahead but she is more than ready to face it, with the cooperation and support from all, be it the academia, the management and the administrative side, to fulfill the aspiration of MJIT. She emphasized that she must accomplish what aspires by the government of Malaysia and Japan. She is at the same time excited and challenged to present forward MJIT to the world.

During an interviewed with her, Prof. Rubiyah said that, since the government moved on to the second wave of the Look East Policy (LEP), MJIT also is looking forward for a two way collaboration with its counterpart none other than the government of Japan. MJIT was given a task to give a proposal planning to the relevant Ministry of Education and Higher Learning on behalf of the government. This planning must include the aspect of educational, research base, support activities and an integrated approach in order to strengthen the LEP. She was thinking of setting up a task force or a think tank committee to discuss the proposal of activities MJIT should really focus by exploiting the advantage of collaboration between MJIT and those 25 Japanese Universities Consortium (JUC). The outcome of the proposal will be a policy for the Malaysian government to expedite the second wave of LEP.

When later asked by Prof. Sugiura about her plan towards MJIT academic development, she later on stressed out that she want a concrete collaboration, something that will emulate the uniqueness of Japan through MJIT. At the moment she said, MJIT still don't have the niche but rather just the average like the other universities in Malaysia. She knows that to set up more lasting work is difficult to do like for an instant to imitate how University of Tsukuba and Tsukuba City related and supported the industries and as a model in setting up an academic town with the support of the industries in Tsukuba City itself. She aimed for something different from others so that people see MJIT as something they want to emulate. But she does welcome the same old practice such as twinning or joint degree program, exchange of students and etcetera. Prof. Rubiyah said that since MJIT is still young, this is the first time MJIT will facilitate the University of Tsukuba with joint degree programme for master course students.

Finally she was eager to work together for the big project between MJIT and University of Tsukuba which will become a signature project or a flagship project to benefit both universities. Prof. Rubiyah was hoping that the collaboration between MJIT and University of Tsukuba will not just focus on the green technology or sustainable technology but a long lasting technology perhaps in the field of robotics technology since University of Tsukuba has three Nobel Prize laureates and is world leading of human-assistive technology supporting a healthy life.