

**Welcoming Speech by the Vice-Chancellor**  
**Book Launch of *Cabo de Hornos* — Malay Translation**

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Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,  
Salam Sejahtera, and Good Morning.  
Buenos días.

Distinguished guests,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

1. We are meeting at a time when the world is being tested on many fronts. Conflict is widening. Strategic rivalry is intensifying. Economic uncertainty is reshaping national choices. Technology is changing power, work and knowledge. Climate pressures, food security, energy volatility and social fragmentation are forcing nations to rethink how they cooperate and how they prepare for the future.
2. In such a world, universities cannot be ordinary institutions. A university that only teaches will fall behind. A university that only publishes will not be enough. A university that only looks inward will not be ready for the future.
3. A great university must become a strategic bridge between nations, cultures, ideas and civilisations. It must be a place where knowledge strengthens diplomacy, where culture builds trust, and where education becomes a force for resilience, stability and shared progress.

4. That is why today's gathering is important. We are not merely launching the Malay translation of *Cabo de Hornos*. We are affirming a larger conviction - that in an age of uncertainty, strong cooperation between universities, embassies and nations is no longer ceremonial. It is a strategic necessity.
5. For Universiti Malaya, our engagement with Chile, with the Spanish-speaking world, and with all the countries represented here today reflects the kind of high-level collaboration the future demands. We need partnerships that go beyond protocol. We need partnerships that create real value in higher education, research, innovation, sustainability, health, technology, public policy, culture, language, academic mobility and people-to-people relations.
6. This is the new architecture of global cooperation. Embassies are not only diplomatic missions. They are bridges of national identity, cultural memory and strategic partnership. Universities are not only centres of learning. They are engines of talent, research, ideas, leadership and social transformation.
7. When embassies and universities work together, we create a powerful framework of synergy - between diplomacy and knowledge, between culture and strategy, between national interest and human understanding. This is what the world needs now.

Ladies and gentlemen,

8. *Cabo de Hornos* comes from the literary tradition of Chile. It carries stories of endurance, courage, nature, memory and the human condition. Although it comes from a distant geography, its meaning is universal.

9. Through its translation into Bahasa Melayu, this work enters Malaysia's intellectual and cultural space. It allows our readers to encounter Chile not only as a country on the map, but as a civilisation of stories, memory, imagination and human experience.
10. This initiative strengthens Bahasa Melayu as a language of knowledge, scholarship and global engagement. A confident national language must never be narrow or inward-looking. It must have the courage to carry the world, interpret the world and speak to the world.
11. We also recognise Spanish as one of the great languages of global culture, literature, diplomacy and international exchange. When Bahasa Melayu and Spanish meet through this translation, we are building more than a literary connection. We are building a bridge between Malaysia, Chile and the wider Spanish-speaking world.
12. Indeed, language reflects how societies think, remember, imagine and understand the world. To translate a language is to honour the culture, dignity and humanity behind it. In a more divided world, cultural understanding is not soft power in the old sense. It is strategic power.
13. People-to-people relations are not secondary to diplomacy. They are the foundation of lasting diplomacy. Higher education is not separate from national resilience. It is one of its strongest pillars.
14. This is why Universiti Malaya values the presence of all ambassadors, diplomatic representatives and international partners here today. Your presence reminds us that the future of diplomacy must be built not only through formal negotiations, but also through universities, classrooms, research networks and cultural programmes.

15. This occasion should therefore be a starting point for deeper cooperation - Let this launch become more than an event. Let it become a platform.
16. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Embassy of Chile in Malaysia. I also record my deepest appreciation to all Your Excellencies, diplomatic representatives and friends from the international community who are present today. Universiti Malaya values your friendship, your trust and your partnership.
17. To the translators, Dr. Rozita Che Omar and Ms. Nur Adlina Hishammudon Shah, and to everyone involved in this project, my heartfelt congratulations.
18. Let this occasion remind us that in an age of division, culture can still unite. In an age of uncertainty, education can still guide. In an age of volatility, universities and embassies must work together to build understanding, trust and shared progress.

Thank you.

Wabillahi taufiq wal hidayah,

Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.