

**Keynote Remarks by UTAR President Ir Prof Dato' Dr Ewe Hong Tat for the  
“MRED Networking Session - Talent Development & Industry-Academia  
Collaboration” on 15 June 2026**

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**Chairman of REHDA Institute, Dato' Jeffrey Ng Tiong Lip,**

Distinguished representatives from REHDA Institute,

Esteemed industry partners,

Members of UTAR Management,

Students and alumni,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon and a very warm welcome to all of you.

It is my pleasure to be here today for this meaningful session, which brings together academia and industry in support of talent development and stronger collaboration in the real estate development sector.

On behalf of Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to REHDA Institute, Dato' Jeffrey Ng Tiong Lip, and all industry partners for your continued support and commitment to professional development and industry engagement.

The real estate development industry today is facing a more complex and demanding environment. Developers and professionals are required to respond to market uncertainty, rising development costs, housing affordability concerns, sustainability expectations, regulatory requirements, and rapid technological change. Real estate development is no longer only about buildings and investment returns. It is also about creating liveable communities, sustainable cities, and long-

term value for society. The increasing complexity of the industry highlights the need for professionals who possess both technical expertise and strategic insight.

This is where the **UTAR Master of Real Estate Development, or MRED programme**, plays an important role. The programme is designed to develop graduates with multidisciplinary knowledge in property development, planning, valuation, investment, law, market analysis, project management, sustainability, and strategic decision-making. More importantly, it aims to nurture graduates who are industry-aware, ethical, analytical, and capable of responding to real-world challenges.

At UTAR, we believe that meaningful education must go beyond the classroom. This commitment is reflected in our efforts to develop professionals who are socially responsible, adaptable, and able to contribute meaningfully to society. The same spirit is embedded in the direction of the MRED programme.

Ladies and gentlemen,

One of the key challenges in higher education today is ensuring that graduates are truly ready for industry. While academic knowledge remains important, preparing graduates for professional practice requires continuous engagement with industry partners. Therefore, strong collaboration between academia and industry is essential.

Through engagement with industry advisors, guest speakers, developers, and alumni, the MRED programme aims to bridge academic learning with professional practice. Students are exposed to real industry issues, case studies, site visits, seminars, and applied research so that they can better understand how development decisions are made in practice.

As the real estate development industry continues to evolve, it requires talents who are not only technically competent but also able to think critically, communicate effectively, analyse data, manage risks, understand sustainability, and work with diverse stakeholders. Future real estate professionals must also be ethical, innovative, and adaptable in responding to changing market conditions.

This is why our partnership with REHDA Institute is highly valuable. REHDA Institute serves as an important bridge between education and industry, allowing students to learn directly from practitioners and gain insights into current trends, challenges, and expectations within the property development sector.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Ultimately, the greatest beneficiaries of such collaboration are our students. Through platforms such as today's networking session, they gain valuable exposure to industry perspectives, professional networks, and emerging developments in the field. Today's session is not only a networking platform but also a starting point for deeper collaboration. I sincerely hope that through this engagement, we can identify more opportunities to work together in talent development, industry exposure, professional training, and strategic partnerships.

To REHDA Institute, and especially to Dato' Jeffrey Ng Tiong Lip and our guest speakers, thank you for your leadership, support, and commitment to strengthening industry-academia collaboration. Your contribution is valuable not only to UTAR, but also to the development of future real estate professionals in Malaysia.

To our students, I encourage you to take full advantage of this opportunity. Listen, ask questions, build connections, and learn from the experience of industry leaders.

The future of real estate development will require capable, ethical, and innovative talents and that future begins with your willingness to learn and engage.

In closing, let us continue to work together to build a stronger bridge between academia and industry. Through meaningful partnerships, we can develop future-ready talents, support sustainable real estate development, and contribute to a more resilient and progressive property industry. UTAR is committed to playing its role through the MRED programme by nurturing graduates who are knowledgeable, practical, responsible, and prepared to contribute meaningfully to the industry and society.

Finally, I hope today's session will open more opportunities for meaningful collaboration between UTAR and REHDA Institute. Together, we can strengthen industry-academia partnerships, develop future-ready talents, and contribute to a more resilient, sustainable, and progressive real estate development industry.

Thank you.