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Foreword

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and Salam Sejahtera

I would like to congratulate Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and Johor Biotechnology & Biodiversity Corporation (J-BioTech) for their efforts in creating public awareness of research findings in Reproduction and Conservation of Giant Clam species, a Johor heritage. The publication of this book is another commendable contribution towards our collective effort to enlighten the public of the importance of our biodiversity resources, particularly in Johor.

The Johor State Government is very deeply committed to take a balanced approach in bringing sustainable development to the state. Therefore, conservation efforts which protect our invaluable natural heritage are not only vital to a healthy and balance development of our natural resources but are also of great significance to the future of biotechnology and biodiversity sectors in the state.

The first phase of the Giant Clam project (1998-2001) has been successfully carried out with excellent results, while phase two of the programme (2008-2011) is currently on-going. Such programmes will continue to be encouraged by the State Government as we strive to build Johor into a centre of excellence and point of reference for biodiversity research in the country.

Furthermore, programmes such as these play a part in the development of biotechnology and biodiversity sectors in Johor which is in line with our mission in developing Johor to be a Spearhead of Malaysian Biotechnology Industry. It is also hoped that books of this nature will continue to be published to aid in increasing the level of public awareness and their appreciation of our natural treasures which need to be safeguarded and cherished.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alo Ghani'.

Y.A.B. Dato' Haji Abdul Ghani bin Othman
(Menteri Besar Johor)