Blended learning is one of the important elements mentioned in Malaysia’s National Education Blueprint (2015-2025) of Higher Learning and has been specifically declared in the 9th Shift: Globalised Online Learning. The main objective is to increase access to quality education to all segments of Malaysian society. The Ministry has targeted 70% of courses in Malaysia higher education institutions to be in the blended learning mode and each university is expected to implement blended learning in their respective institution.

Blended learning is seen as a better approach as compared to traditional approaches as it conceptualizes learning as a continuous process rather than a single face-to-face event and encourages students to be independent learners outside the classroom. The inherent difficulty in using blended learning by the lecturers has been debated in detail in this book especially in the different courses that are being taught. Approaching from a system that has always encouraged instructor-centered learning, the switch to students centered learning is an uphill task. The drawbacks of blended learning among Malaysian students are discussed by the writers based on their experiences, especially, the issues of students’ participation.
APPROACHES THROUGH Blended Learning FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

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In line with the national inspiration, Universiti Malaya has taken some initiatives to increase awareness and provide continuous trainings especially through its Academic Enhancement and Leadership Development Centre (ADeC) in collaboration with academics and faculties. The birth of this book, thus, is timely and greatly an important contribution to these university-wide efforts.

I am certain that this book would contribute to the success of the implementation of blended learning in Universiti Malaya and the nation. I would like to congratulate editors and authors of this book for sharing their insights and best practices on blended learning in their teaching and learning contexts. May this effort become a catalyst to more knowledge sharing activities among academics in the university and the nation.

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