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Advancing Family and Work-Life Balance Policies

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The Officiation session by H.E. Tan Sri Dato' (Dr.) Johari bin Abdul, Speaker.

Universiti Malaya at AFPPD-Malaysia 2025

– By Raja Jamilah Raja Yusof

On February 14, 2025, Universiti Malaya was represented through the participation of Dr. Raja Jamilah Raja Yusof, Chair of IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) Malaysia and academic staff member at Universiti Malaya. IEEE WIE Malaysia, together with policymakers, academics, and industry leaders, took part in the Asia Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD)-Malaysia 2025, held at the Malaysian Parliament in Kuala Lumpur. The event focused on the theme "Empowering Family Institution: Achieving Work-Life Balance and Addressing Population Development." The forum began with officiation by H.E. Tan Sri Dato' (Dr.) Johari bin Abdul, Speaker of the House of Representatives, followed by a keynote address by Hon. Dr. Halimah Ali, Chairperson of the Cluster for Women of AFPPD Malaysia. Participants then engaged in three thematic sessions.

Session 1, Family-Centric Policy and Support Systems, addressed demographic challenges, explored strategies for strengthening social stability, and proposed

enhancements to family support frameworks. Session 2, Work-Life Balance Policies and Challenges, focused on the importance of developing inclusive policies, particularly to support women's reintegration into the workforce after family-related career breaks. Session 3, Technology and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), examined the societal impact of technological advancements and emphasized the need for frameworks that promote responsible digital engagement in line with sustainable development goals. During the event, key suggestions were highlighted to advance family well-being and workforce resilience in Malaysia, including:

- Facilitating workforce reintegration for women following family obligations through supportive and inclusive policies that optimize their professional potential.
 - Addressing the root causes of work-life balance challenges by examining work structures, encouraging more effective and efficient workflows, and minimizing unnecessary bureaucracies.
 - Introducing tax incentives to promote continuous improvement in work processes across both private and government sectors.
 - Implementing synchronized national holiday schedules for schools, universities, and workplaces to enhance family bonding and employee well-being, inspired by extended breaks practiced in several developed countries.
- Establishing regulatory certification standards for digital technologies to ensure ethical use, user protection, and responsible consumption.



Participants during tour around the Parliament.

During the break, interested participants were given the opportunity to join an informal tour around the Parliament building, led by one of the Women Members of Parliament, providing valuable insights into the nation's legislative environment and parliamentary history.

This event reflects the university's commitment to national dialogues that influence policy directions, particularly in areas that impact families, work-life balance, and technology use in Malaysia.