Selamat menyambut Hari Merdeka ke-62
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON OCEAN, ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY 2019 (I-OCEANS 2019) is the first initiative of the Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology and Informatics, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu in organizing international conferences which involved three major fields; marine, engineering technology and sustainable environment. Therefore this year, the theme “Ocean Of Discoveries For Global Sustainability” has been chosen as I-OCEANS 2019 theme. The theme reflects our commitment in exploring aspects of scientific research, particularly in maritime, without comprising the global sustainability in protecting the natural environment, human and ecological health. The theme is further divided into four sub themes, namely, Ocean Engineering and Oceanography; Nautical Science and Maritime Transportation; Electronics and Instrumentation; and Energy, Environment and Sustainability.

I-OCEANS 2019 which held from 5th – 7th August 2019 has successfully attracted a large number of participation from students and academics. The ability to bring nearly 100 participants from various countries such as France, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Iran, India, Sri Lanka and Mexico as well as local participants is a positive indication of higher awareness about research and innovation.

I-OCEANS 2019 officiated by Dato’ Haji Baharin bin Dato’ Abdul Hamid, Director General Marine Department of Malaysia. Also present at opening ceremony Professor Ir. Dr. Noor Azuan bin Abu Osman, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International); Associate Prof. Ir. Dr. Mohammad Fadhli bin Ahmad, I-OCEANS 2019 Chairman; and UMT senior officers.

Dato’ Haji Baharin, as Director General Marine Department of Malaysia in his speech mentioned, “Academician, as well as industry players and regulators have a sacred duty in ensuring that the advancement in marine technology and its application are not only economically viable but also environmentally sustainable. We owe it to ourselves and future generations to safeguard the continuous use of seas and ocean as well as its resources.”

“Sustainability in the marine industry does not mean abstaining from marine development nor does it mean forgoing the harvest of marine resources. To address sustainability as profit adverse is a false dichotomy. Ensuring sustainability in the marine industry would mean continuous prosperity.”

“Protection and conservation of the marine environment is the only way forward. Development of the marine environment and harvest of its resources can and must be done in a less harmful and ways to avoid permanent impact. We need to change our view, means of production and rate of consumption with regard to our marine resources.”

“Toward that end, joint and holistic approach needs to be carried out by the regulators, industry players and academics to tackle these issues. The marine industry needs better technological tools and methods in improving the means of production, reducing the rate of consumption and preventing as well as mitigating harm to the environment, all in the name of greater sustainability.”

Source: Wan Salida Wan Mansor (wansalida@umt.edu.my), Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology and Informatics
On 23rd July 2019, another significant signing took place at UMT. The National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM) has agreed to collaborate with UMT, and the agreement was formalized through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two institutions under the Malaysian Government. This signing was held as part of UMT’s strategy to strengthen its research excellence in oceanography as the university’s niche area.

The objective of the MOU is for the parties to collaborate in the preparation, promotion and research development in marine science, meteorology, physical oceanography, biological oceanography, geological oceanography and chemical oceanography as well as facilitating training and teaching activities, besides enhancing expertise, data and facilities that exists in both organizations.

The main activities that are on-going between both organizations are in the development of expertise, geological databases and research innovation encompassing Malaysian waters. To further strengthen the field of oceanography in Malaysia, UMT and NAHRIM will work together to promote marine science, oceanography biodiversity, and also contribute to the community. This collaboration is the starting point for strengthening the field of oceanography at the national and international level.

Source: Effi Helmy Ariffin (effihelmy@umt.edu.my), Faculty of Science and Marine Environment
A research paper on the variations on the effect of tax avoidance on analyst forecast in companies across 36 countries, led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Akmalia M. Ariff of the Accounting Programme, was recognized for its originality during the Malaysian Finance Association (MFA) Conference 2019 which was held from 31st July to 1st August 2019, at Sunway University.

The paper was co-authored with Dr. Khairul Anuar Kamarudin of Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM). It is one of the authors’ research series that focuses on incorporating the perspectives of the variations in institutional environment across countries, in order to understand corporate accounting and reporting practices. The paper was selected for the MFA Best Paper Awards 2019, with the authors receiving a cash prize of RM1,000 and a publication opportunity in Capital Market Review.

Dr. Akmalia and her co-author would like to express their gratitude to Professor Ferdinand Gul of Deakin University and their colleagues who gave their thoughts and valuable insights on the earlier version of the paper during the Visiting Professor’s Research and Consultation Session for the Bachelor of Accounting programme at UMT. Their utmost appreciation also goes to Universiti Malaysia Terengganu and the School of Maritime Business and Management for the financial support to attend the conference.

Source: Akmalia Mohamad Ariff (akmalia.ariff@umt.edu.my), Faculty of Business, Economics & Social Development
International Conference on Natural and Environmental Sciences (ICONES 2019) was held in Banda Aceh, Indonesia from 26th-27th July 2019 with the theme of “Sustainable Nature and Environment in the Industrial Revolution 4.0”. The conference was organised by the University Syiah Kuala (Unsyiah Kuala), Banda Aceh and focused on four main topics namely: i) Green and renewable energy, sustainable food, ii) Advanced material, iii) Biodiversity preservation and drug discovery and iv) Development and big data for better life.

Four presenters were chosen as best presenters for each topic and Dr. Norasmah Basari from the School of Marine and Environmental Sciences (now known as Faculty of Science and Marine Environment) was chosen as the best presenter for the topic of “Biodiversity Preservation and Drug Discovery”. She presented her work on food exploitation by stingless bee, Heterotrigona itama for colony sustainability.

Another researcher from UMT, Dr. Nur Aida Hashim, from the School of Food Science and Technology (now known as Faculty of Fisheries and Food Sciences) also joined the conference as invited speaker presenting her work on assessing the abundance of dengue vector by cluster analysis.

Following the conference, researchers from Unsyiah Kuala are highly interested to collaborate with both UMT researchers for future research activities especially in the field of Entomology (study of insects).

Source: Norasmah Basari (norasmah@umt.edu.my), Faculty of Science and Marine Environment
A workshop on Parasitology of Aquatic Animals was held at Institute of Tropical Aquaculture (AKUATROP) on 8th – 10th July 2019. It was organized and delivered by Associate Prof. Dr Marina Hassan, who is an expert in fish parasitology and pathology. The lecture on molecular detection of parasites was delivered by Mrs. Norainy Mohd Husin. 12 fish farmers, 5 government officials and 3 technicians participated in this workshop. It focused on delivering training in both theory and practical including hands-on activities like relating to fish parasites detection, diagnosis, treatment, control and management. The workshop is beneficial to the fish farmers as they learned how to manage fish parasitic infections. They have gained new knowledge and technical skills. All the participants were engaged in hands-on practical sessions, active in asking questions and discussions. We would like to thank all participants who gave positive feedback on the workshop.

Source: Farizan Abdullah (farizan@umt.edu.my) & Marina Hassan (marina@umt.edu.my), AKUATROP
Conference Date: 25th September 2019
Conference Location: University Malaysia Terengganu, Terengganu, Malaysia

The ASFA Secretariat is pleased to announce that for the first time in its almost fifty year history, ASFA is combining its Advisory Board Meeting with a one day Conference on Grey Literature, open to all members of the aquatic sciences, fisheries and aquaculture community to attend. The Conference is jointly hosted by ASFA and the Malaysian National Partner, the University Malaysia Terengganu (UMT). The theme of the conference is how information services, such as ASFA, can improve the discovery of grey literature in order to benefit aquatic sciences, fisheries and aquaculture research. Improving discovery is vital to ensure that grey literature is not overlooked or forgotten and that it remains available to researchers beyond specific project cycles or conference dates. Grey Literature is often described as literature not controlled by commercial publishers but of sufficient quality to be collected and preserved by libraries and institutions. This Conference will demonstrate the wide variety of formats and content Grey Literature can encompass, and how innovative information services can facilitate their discovery to the advantage of scientists and researchers. The Conference will bring together information managers and those working as researchers, policy makers or scientists in the fields of aquatic sciences, fisheries or aquaculture. During this Conference, ASFA's strategy on the monitoring and coverage of grey literature will be presented, with options for attendees to provide feedback.

Conference Topics:

1. How new technologies are improving the discovery of Grey Literature
2. The role of A&I services in enabling discovery of global grey literature
3. Changing formats of grey literature in a digital age
4. Researchers’ grey literature storage and retrieval priorities

Call for Abstracts

If you are interested in presenting a paper at this conference, please email your abstract to ASFA-Secretariat@fao.org by no later than 16th June. Abstracts should be 300-400 words, and please ensure to include in your email the title of your paper, the full author name and author institution, and also indicate which Conference topics your abstract relates to. Authors will be notified by 19th June 2019 whether their abstract has been selected.

Conference Registration

There is no cost to attend the Conference, however ASFA is unable to provide sponsorship for those wishing to attend. There are only a limited number of places available. Therefore if you wish to attend the Conference, please email the ASFA Secretariat; (ASFA-Secretariat@fao.org) citing your full name; Organization/Institution; and Job Title. You will then receive confirmation of your registration in due course.
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- Please include any other relevant documents e.g. Curriculum vitae, supporting letter(s) and professional certificates (if any).
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