Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) is an International Cooperative Information System which comprises an abstracting and indexing service covering the world's literature on the science, technology, management, and conservation of marine, brackish water, and freshwater resources and environments, including their socio-economic and legal aspects. Overwhelmingly cited by the majority of aquatic and marine science researchers, information professionals as their primary database, the ASFA database is the premier reference in the field of fisheries, aquatic and marine sciences. Input to the ASFA database is provided by a growing international network of information centres monitoring over 3,000 serial publications, in addition to books, reports, conference proceedings, translations and grey literature covering the science, technology and management of marine, brackish water, and freshwater environments. Publications in over 40 other languages are translated, indexed and included in the database. Published since 1971, the ASFA database at present contains more than 2,500,000 records.

The ASFA database is produced under the auspices of the ASFA Partnership, a network that includes four United Nations sponsoring agencies and more than 50 international and national partners as well as further 45 collaborating institutions and the ASFA Publisher. Each ASFA Partner is tasked with abstracting and indexing the aquatic and marine science literature published in their region.

UMT has joined ASFA partnership since June 26, 2017, as National ASFA Partner and representing Malaysia as a sole public university due to the strength of research materials related to fisheries, aquatics and marine science. The partnership also allows universities to access the quality information resources for free with a broader research topic in aquatic and marine abstract or full record that was submitted by global marine-focused institutions. In 2019, Malaysia was chosen to host ASFA Advisory Board Meeting from September 22-26, at Universiti Malaysia Terengganu. The meeting involved participation from 22 countries with the number of 32 participants has confirmed their attendance. The meeting will discuss details on the policies, strategies, digital initiatives and best practices in fostering quality information resources and global information exchange. Apart of the program, UMT and ASFA will also organize Joint Conference: Enabling Grey Literature Discovery Benefits Aquatic Sciences, Fisheries and Aquaculture Research. Six presenters presents their research papers and Professor Dr. Mhd Ikhwanuddin, the Chief Editor of Journal of Sustainability Science and Management (JSSM) has been given a task to elaborate on JSSM, one of UMT research products. The conference was attended by stakeholders such as regulators, researcher, and students from various institutions like Aquaculture Association, SEAFDEC and faculty. The opening of the meeting and conference was officiated by Professor Dato’ Dr. Nor Aieni Binti Haji Mokhtar, UMT Vice-Chancellor.

At the end of the program, ASFA Partners were also taken to Kenyir Lake as part of UMT strategy in promoting the UMT research, beauty of the flora and fauna to the participants. It is an honour for UMT to represent Malaysia as one of the focal centres in fulfilling its core business to be a leading institution in marine and aquatic niche as well as increasing access to the database, particularly in developing countries.

Source: Mohd Shahrulnizam Zuraimi; mszn@umt.edu.my & Abu Hassan Ghazali; ahg@umt.edu.my, Perpustakaan Sultanah Nur Zahirah (PSNZ)
Successful first day for #ASFA_ABM19, ASFA partners voted to approve:

- New publishing agreement
- New partnership agreement
- Digitisation best practice guidelines

Thank you to our hosts @UMT_Official for such excellent facilities... and lunch!

Feeding the « king » of the Malaysian river was a great way to end the meeting! Thank you Shah for all the organising!

The fish known as a king of the Malaysian river not for no reason — the expensive and elusive fish is the dream catch of any angler or the sought-after dish of any gourmet.

Thumbs up from #FAOASFA and @UMT_Official - we're excited for the #ASFA_ABM19 meeting and joint conference on grey literature discovery for #fisheries and aquatic sciences.
Asia Technological University Network (ATU-Net) is a strategic international alliance with the purpose of connecting technology-focused institutions of higher learning in Asia. Its mission is to support member universities in achieving world-class quality of education and research in engineering and technology through strategic international alliance. Membership of the network is open to all technology-focused institutions of higher learning in Asia. On 25th August 2019, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu hosted the 6th Asia Technological University Network (ATU-Net) Board Meeting. Welcoming Dinner and ATU-Net Logo Launching were also held a day before the meeting. A total of 20 members throughout Asia Technological University attended this program. The Welcoming dinner was also enlightened with the cultural performances from Cultural and Arts Division of UMT and Persada Tari Club.

The Vice Chancellor of UMT, Professor Dato’ Dr. Nor Aieni binti Haji Mokhtar mentioned that “This Board Meeting is a significant one for us to review the current programmes in 2019 and to chart future initiatives for the year 2020”. Additionally, the Vice Chancellor of UTM, Professor Datuk Ir. Dr. Wahid Omar expected that through such activities, member institutions’ knowledge and expertise will be able to be showcased and there will be an increase of the visibility of network.

There was a campus visit organized for the board members in which they were shown the Ship Simulator, AKUATROP Hatchery and INOS Gallery.

Source: Syarifah Noormaisarah Tuan Besar; noormaisarah@umt.edu.my, International Centre
The Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology and Informatics, welcomed Associate Professor Dr. Sean Semple from the University of Stirling, Scotland for his first official visit to UMT. During his visit, Dr. Semple gave a public lecture on the ‘Power Of Measurement’ which explored the use of industrial hygiene measurement to influence and change public health policy with examples relating to his work on smoke-free legislation in the UK over the past 15 years. During his visit he also assisted in academic teaching, postgraduate supervision, research collaboration and review of publications with members of the faculty. As an expert in Industrial Hygiene, Dr. Semple will help the faculty to review the Industrial Hygiene elective course syllabus offered to undergraduate Environmental Technology students this semester to ensure that it covers current issues related to workplace health.

Dr Semple also worked with Dr Tengku Azmina Engku Ibrahim on a joint research proposal to the Newton Fund Impact Scheme to develop work to encourage parents to make their homes smoke-free. This RM760,000.00 proposal has now been submitted for consideration and, if successful, will lead to an 18-month collaboration between the University of Stirling and UMT that will build research capacity at UMT around the use low cost air quality monitors to help behaviour change interventions. Drs Semple and Ibrahim also discussed work to establish a network of outdoor air quality monitors in Terengganu to increase public awareness of the impact of air quality on respiratory health.

The visit also included a meeting with the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and International) Prof Ir. Dr. Noor Azuan Abu Osman to discuss the potential for establishing a memorandum of understanding between UMT and the University of Stirling with the aim of increasing research activity and opportunities for teaching exchange and development between Malaysia and Scotland.

Dr Semple said “I am delighted to be part of UMT and to have the opportunity to meet with so many fantastic academics on campus. I really look forward to working with faculty and students during the next two years and being able to work to develop research projects and publish high impact scientific papers with Dr Ibrahim and her team.”

Source: Tengku Azmina Engku Ibrahim (PhD); tengkuazmina@umt.edu.my, Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology and Informatics

OFFICIAL VISIT OF UMT’S VISITING PROFESSOR
As Dr Jamilah Salim@Halim, Dr Akmal Raffi and Prof Taj stepped into the Hutan Lipur Jambu Bongkok, Dungun, in the broad daylight, they were greeted with glorious musical sounds of various species of cicadas assemblage.

The unique patch of tropical lowland forest contains mixed species of dipterocarps including majestically durable Chengal and endemic Balau Pasir. We wish that the authority will ensure close monitoring of this Shorea materialis stand heritage and the last coastal forest of lowland mixed Dipterocarp.

In an abandoned building three individuals of Nycteris species were roosting on the ceiling. There were fresh feeding signs of wild boars digging the ground for earthworms.

The bonsai-like gelam trees nicely scattered in the rain-fed seasonal lake near the sandy coastline of the fragile BRIS ecosystem. During the monsoon, from November to February, the low-lying areas will store rainwater and turn into large beautiful lagoon locally called Tasik Jambu Bongkok. Breathing roots will sprout from the underwater trunk of gelam trees. During the dry season, the water dries out leaving the dead breathing roots covering the flaky trunk. Do visit these exceptionally rare natural ecosystems before they succumb to our destructive anthropogenic activities.

Source: Jamilah Salim@Halim (PhD); jamilah@umt.edu.my & Mohd Akmal Mohd Raffi (PhD); akmalraffi@umt.edu.my, Institute for Tropical Biodiversity and Sustainable Development (Bio-D Tropika)
“UMT can focus on development of Incubator centers for student and community groups to enhance the entrepreneurship activities”, said Prof. KRS Sambasiva Rao, Vice Chancellor of Mizoram University (MZU), India during his visit to Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) from 22nd to 28th September, 2019 as Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Fisheries and Food Sciences. Prof. Rao mentioned the idea about the establishment of Incubation Centres in UMT to develop the skills and opportunities for student and community groups to become as entrepreneurs. He explained about the model of Incubation centres, which is successfully practiced in MZU. UMT is known for its unique identity in the field of Marine research, thus the field of Marine Biotechnology can be further developed with the establishment of an incubation centre.

During his visit, Prof. Rao met with Prof. Ir. Dr. Noor Azuan Abu Osman, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International) and discussed about possible research collaborative activities between UMT & MZU, and also a student and faculty mobility programmes. He mentioned both the universities can share successful practices in research and academic activities through a MoU.

Prof. Rao visited the Faculty of Fisheries and Food Sciences, delivered several talks to Faculty and students. Accompanied by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Shamsul Bahari and Dr. Mannur Ismail, Prof. Rao also visited the Translational Kelulut Project unit at Masjid Al-Mustqim and observed the Bee keeping units, UMT campus at Bukit Kor, and the Chagar Hutang Turtle Sanctuary.

Source: Mannur Ismail Shaik (PhD); mannurismail@umt.edu.my , Faculty of Fisheries and Food Sciences
A TOTAL of 500 undergraduates from all public universities took part in the 2019 English Language Carnival held at the Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) and Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA) campuses in Kuala Nerus from Sept 26 to 27.

The carnival was jointly organised by UMT and UniSZA with the support of the Higher Education Department (JPT).

The aim of the carnival was to provide exposure to students and give them chances to explore and use the language in order to strengthen its usage at universities.

Higher Education Department director-general Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir said these activities as well as the competition emphasised student-centred and communicative-based learning at the B1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

Under the CEFR, language proficiency is measured in relation to the four communicative skills on a scale starting with A1 and progressing to A2 (basic user), B1 and B2 (independent user), and C1, C2 (proficient user).

The carnival also focused on activities using augmented reality and technology in line with Education 4.0.

“Students can demonstrate their competency in using English through the activities at the carnival. "These are among our efforts to motivate students and build their self-confidence to speak in English," she said when opening the carnival.

UMT vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Nor Aieni Mokhtar said the carnival also increases students’ confidence in the language and prepares them for the Malaysian University English Test (MUET).

The closing ceremony of the carnival was held at Dewan Sultan Mizan at UMT.

Also present were UMT board of directors chairman Tan Sri Halim Mohammad, Prof Nor Aieni, UniSZA vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Hassan Basri Awang Mat Dahan as well as senior officials from both universities.

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- Application can be made online via http://gsea.umt.edu.my throughout the year.
- Application will only be processed on receipt of full supporting documentation required.
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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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- MBA program is offered at UMT Off-Campus Cyberjaya

Contact Person: Dr. Noor Fadhiha Mokhtar
E-mail: noorfadhiha@umt.edu.my
Tel: +609 668 4231

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Marhana Mohamed Anuar
E-mail: marhana@umt.edu.my
Tel: +609 668 4197