The 5th cohort of TROPIMUNDO at UMT had a most exciting opportunity to visit, study and understand the mangrove biodiversity at Matang Mangrove Forest Reserve (State Perak) and Setiu wetlands (State Terengganu) in Peninsular Malaysia. This whole practical episode went off for almost two weeks from 21 March to 2 April 2019, with different activities on each day, under the leadership of Assoc. Prof. Dr Behara Satyanarayana. In simple words, this is a life and learning experience to the students by staying close to the mangrove nature in both locations.

In this context, the students were exposed to various mangrove conservation and management activities such as ecotourism, silvicultural rotation, community participation, etc. In addition, all these international students took an initiative of creating mangrove awareness among the local communities. As part of it, they went to SK Laksamana at Kuala Sepetang and conducted different thought-provoking activities with the school children of class 4-6 groups.
Field School Activities

Understanding the concept of eco-tourism for efficient mangrove conservation and management at Kuala Sepetang

Mangrove herbarium

Learning the process of mangrove charcoal production at Matang Mangrove Forest Reserve

Participation in the International Day of Forests 2019 event organised by the Forestry Department at Matang Mangrove Forest Reserve

A grand success at the end.

Assessment on the socio-economic status of the mangrove charcoal workers through questionnaire-based interviews

Mangrove awareness project with school children
Field School Testimonials

“Having the opportunity to spend two weeks in an intensive study of the mangrove forests of Malaysia was an incredible experience. Together as a group we were able to not only explore this beautiful country, but also begin to see its diversity through observing so many unique aspects of its environment. This field school provided each of us with skills in conducting research that prepares us for our own we will be conducting in the future.”

Abigail War, USA

“For me this trip has been the first real contact with mangroves. I had never been inside a mangrove, let alone lived in it. The trip has been full of surprises, living with all my classmates, learning every day has been a great experience. Now I feel like I have a little bit more knowledge and understanding of these amazing ecosystems”

Rosa Mar Dominguez Martinez, Spain

“It was such a great opportunity to be able to go physically experience the mangroves I had only read off. The possibility to see the green gradients of their pigments, feel their soft pneumatophore bark, smell the mud they grow in and hear the wind blowing through their leaves was an immense thrill. I deeply thanks the UMT and all the accompanying staff for such a great field-trip”

Thibault, Belgium
UMT was proud to receive a courtesy visit by the Norwegian Ambassador, Her Excellency Gunn Jorid Roset on the 21st March 2019. This marked the first visit by a Norwegian Ambassador. Her Excellency was delighted to share about Norwegian maritime and fisheries industry with all UMT staff and students. It was a good sharing session with Her Excellency as many questions were asked by the audience especially regarding fisheries and environmental issues.

Among the things that Her Excellency shared, were on how Norwegians educate their young generation in conserving the environment whereby everything starts from home. This fact is true to herself as she said that 3R is practiced in her home whereby three different receptacles are used for the occupants to sort their wastes. The sharing session was also attended by UMT's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dato' Dr. Nor Aieni Haji Mokhtar. In her remarks, she said that UMT would be very glad to collaborate with any Norwegian universities or maritime industries in achieving mutual benefit that can contribute to the students and staff of UMT.

A COURTESY VISIT FROM NORWEGIAN EMBASSY
Delegates from four of Indonesia institutions visited UMT to discuss collaboration programmes. The delegates were from Politeknik Negeri Media Kreatif Medan, Politeknik LP3i Medan, STMIK Logika Medan, and STMIK Kaputama Binjai. The aim of the discussion was to moot the possible exchange of their lecturers and postgraduate students with UMT. It is estimated a combined total of 100 staff and postgraduate students would be joining the programme.

Other than that, the goal of such collaborations is also to improve the quality of education, research, publications, and papers for international journals as well as other partnerships that would benefit both countries. Among the fields of interest during the collaboration programme discussion were Manufacturing, Computer Information System, Mechanical Engineering, Science and Technology and Electrical Power.

The Director of UMT International Centre, Assoc. Prof Dr. Ahmad Faisal Mohammad Ayob and other postgraduate lecturers of UMT also attended the discussion which was held on Thursday 21 March 2019.
Located at Kuala Tahan, Jerantut, Taman Negara is home for various aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species. As Malaysia’s premier national park, Taman Negara also has the highest concentration of bird diversity in the country. Thus, Taman Negara Bird Count (TNBC) is organised by the Bird Group Taman Negara (BGTN) yearly since 2014 for various objectives: to promote Taman Negara as the destination for avitourism and edutourism, to nurture the spirit of togetherness among communities and participants in conservation of rainforest and environment within Tembeling River Basin, Tembeling Hornbill Valley and Taman Negara, and to update bird checklist in Taman Negara and its surrounding.

The TNBC 2019 was set on 8th and 9th March 2019, and officiated by Tahan Assemblyman, YB Ustaz Zakhwan Badarddin. The program was also participated by the Pahang’s Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Arts; government agencies, local universities and schools, Bateq community (indigenous people) and local people. The TNBC Organising Committee Chairman, Mr Roslan Abu Kassim welcomed about 200 participants from Malaysia and overseas for the 2019 event. The participants were divided into groups of 13 to 15 members to do the birding around Taman Negara.

At the end of the program, more than 100 species of birds were counted and identified. Mr Aki in his speech also announced that TNBC 2020 will include a seminar to be co-hosted by BIO-D TROPIKA. The Tahan Assemblyman also officiated the book launching ceremony entitled “Birds of Tembeling Hornbill Valley”. The book is co-authored by Abdul Jalil Abdul Rahman (Aki), Candyrilla Vera Bartholomew, Muhamad Aidil Zahidin, Mohd Tajuddin Abdullah with contributions from fellow BGTN members and researchers from the Institute of Tropical Biodiversity and Sustainable Development (BIO-D TROPIKA), Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT). Dr Bryan Nelson and Muhamad Aidil of BIO-D TROPIKA also assisted as facilitator of the TNBC.
THE UMT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CLUB was established last year to look after the students’ welfare and represent the interest of growing number of international students in UMT. The club has many different roles to assist international students in UMT together with the help of the UMT International Office. They have been doing their best to facilitate different aspects of international students’ life in UMT as well as student ambassadors in promoting UMT to their homelands.

Supervised by the club patron, Mohammed Hamood Al-Mashregy, the President of UMT International Students Club also helps new international students to settle in UMT in terms of visa process, registration, accommodation and interaction with other international students through events organized by UMT. The club also provides academic assistance to international students by organizing workshops on research methodology and data analysis. In addition to that, it also arranges refreshment trips from time to time around Terengganu and other places in Malaysia, with the help of international centre, for better social experience and understanding various unique cultures in Malaysia.

Mohammed Hamood Al-Mashregy
President of UMT International Students Club
UMT are glad and honoured to invite you and your postgraduate students under your supervision to submit research paper and also to participate in our upcoming conference, The International Conference on Ocean, Engineering Technology and Environmental Sustainability 2019 (I-OCEANS 2019), which will be held in Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Kuala Nerus, Terengganu, Malaysia (5-7 August 2019). All accepted full papers will be reviewed and considered for publication in The International Journal of Engineering & Technology (Scopus Indexed).

For more detail please visit: oceans2019.umt.edu.my or email to: oceans@umt.edu.my

**STEAKERS:**
- Professor Ketut Aria Priy Utama
  Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember, Surabaya (ITS)
  “Coastal and Offshore Engineering”
- Assoc. Professor Dr. Rapee Uteke
  School of Chemistry, Institute of Science, Suranaree University of Technology (SUT)
  “Electronics and Instrumentation”
- Professor Dato’ Dr. Abdul Wahab Mohammad
  Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)
  “Energy, Environment and Sustainability”
- Capt. Jaffar Lamri
  Centre of Maritime Excellence Sdn. Bhd. (CME)
  “Nautical Science and Maritime Transportation”

**IMPORTANT DATES:**
- Full Paper Deadline: 15 March 2019
- Acceptance Notification: 5 June 2019
- Early Bird Deadline: 15 June 2019
- Camera-ready Deadline: 5 July 2019
- Conference Date: 5-7 August 2019

**CONFERENCE FEES:**
- Early Bird (Before 15 June 2019)
  - Local Presenter: MYR 1,400.00
  - Local Presenter (Student): MYR 1,100.00
  - Local Participant: MYR 1,000.00
  - International Presenter: USD 450.00
  - International Presenter (Student): USD 400.00
  - International Participant: USD 250.00

- Normal
  - Local Presenter: MYR 1,900.00
  - Local Presenter (Student): MYR 1,600.00
  - Local Participant: MYR 1,000.00
  - International Presenter: USD 500.00
  - International Presenter (Student): USD 400.00
  - International Participant: USD 250.00

**CONFERENCE TOPICS:**
- OCEAN ENGINEERING AND OCEANOGRAPHY
  - Naval Architecture
  - Marine Engineering
  - Coastal and Offshore Engineering
  - Computational Fluid Dynamic
  - Engineering Material
  - Thermo Fluid
  - Hydro Dynamic
  - Ship Structure
  - Marine Renewable Energy
  - Remote Sensing

- ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
  - Water and Wastewater Technology
  - Solid and Schedule Waste
  - Air Pollution
  - Safety and Health
  - Environmental Law and Management
  - Environmental Impact Assessment
  - Green Technology
  - Energy Efficiency
  - Sustainable Material
  - Hydrology and Water Resource
  - Energy Policy
  - Renewable Energy

- NAVAL SCIENCE AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION
  - Marine Navigation System
  - Hydrography
  - Maritime Communication
  - Marine Cargo Operation
  - Marine Transportation
  - Maritime Safety
  - Maritime Security
  - Ship Handling
  - Shipboard Operation
  - Maritime Education and Training
  - Port Operation
  - Maritime Policy
  - Shipping Management

- ELECTRONICS AND INSTRUMENTATION
  - Robotic
  - Antenna and Communication
  - Internet of Things
  - Analytical and Numerical Method
  - Automation and Control
  - Computational Modelling and Simulation
  - Energy Monitoring
  - Advanced Material
  - Energy Storage and Smart Grid