UMT has participated in the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education 2019 that was held on the 25th to 29th March 2019 at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. Representing itself as the country’s leading marine-focused university, UMT offered booth meetings to the current and future partner universities apart from the participation in workshops, receptions and dinner.

As an active member of Asia Technological University Network (ATU-Net), UMT as the new member since January 2019 has offered to host the next ATU-Net Board Meeting in UMT. Such membership shall serve to enhance students exchange activities and research projects between global technology universities.

UMT continues to engage and promote the inbound-outbound activities and has identified various potential programmes and partnerships with universities from all around the world e.g. Turkey, Japan, Russia, Korea, France, Australia, Singapore, Thailand and many more. UMT shall continue to play its active role in the global stage for short-term and long-term programmes.

Source – Ahmad Faisal Mohamad Ayob (ahmad.faisal@umt.edu.my) and Isma Rosila Ismail (ismarosila@umt.edu.my)
Global Ambassador Programme 2019 is the first internationalization program organized by Institut Pendidikan Guru Kampus Sultan Mizan in collaboration with Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, and other local universities. The participants consist of international students from Nigeria, Indonesia, Jordan, Syria, Bangladesh, Pakistan and many more. This program aims to give local exposure to participants who might not be aware of our Malaysian culture. Such programmes also allow trainee teachers to interact with participants from different nationalities. The Global Ambassador Program promotes cultural exchange which can give good exposure for all local and international participants. There were many activities conducted such as Gamelan Workshop, Dikir Barat Workshop and Trip to Balai Seni Ukir. This three day program began on 8th April and ended on 10th April 2019 at IPG Sultan Mizan.
A trip to Malacca and Putrajaya was organized as an initiative to expose international students to historical and cultural identity of Malaysia. The trip was participated by 26 international students, six student buddies and two officers from International Centre, UMT. They departed to Malacca on 14th March and returned to UMT on 17th March.

The trip started with the courtesy visit to Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM) where they had a small discussion session in exchanging idea and suggestion for mutual benefits. Then, they were brought to tour around Malacca city to see the heritage of Malaysia itself. They went to interesting places in Malacca such as Taming Sari Tower, A’Famosa, Pahlawan Walk, etc. Besides, the students were brought to Putrajaya on the final day of the trip before returning to UMT. It was an unforgettable memory for them to treasure.
“Studying at UMT has been an amazing experience thus far. There have been so many unique opportunities to learn and grow. This will be an experience I will always be grateful for” -

Abigail Ward, TROPIMUNDO 2019@INOS (USA)

“This has probably been the most intensive years of my academic career at UMT but with the support from my supervisor, Dato’ Prof. Dr. Aziz Deraman and peers, it has been nothing but an enjoyable experience. I used to be anxious and nervous about starting my Doctorate because of the stories my friends used to tell me about their own experiences in graduate school. Now, after spending almost three years of my degree at UMT, I realize I could not have asked for a better support system. Thank you UMT for your tremendous support” -

Ashok Kumar Gupta, Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science, School of Informatics and Applied Mathematics (India)

“I have done my diploma in one of private universities in Kuala Lumpur before, honestly UMT is better. I have surfed many universities in Google about maritime but UMT is the one catching my heart plus my lecturer at my previous university recommended me to select UMT. The facilities, the environment and accommodation is very good. Even when the first time I came here, International Centre welcomed me very well and I am very satisfied. The lecturers here are very friendly when compared with the ones in Bangladesh, there is like a gap between lecturers and students there but here at UMT, lecturers and students like a friend, they really help me a lot. They also give me a priority during the class.” -

Md Mahadi Hasan Imran - Bachelor of Maritime Technology (Intake 2018/2019) School Of Ocean Engineering (Bangladesh)
IMBAK CANYON RESEARCH CENTRE – SPURRING RESEARCH IN TROPICAL RAINFOREST

Photo By Mr. Jimmy Omar
Associate Professor Dr Jamilah Salim of Bio-D Tropika institute, UMT successfully made a long and challenging journey into the Heart of Borneo for the opening of the Imbak Canyon Studies Centre (ICSC). The 8-hour journey in a 4x4 vehicle to the research centre (including half of the distance made on gravel road) was all well worth it. Majestically located within 43,800 hectares of lush evergreen and pristine tropical rainforest in the heart of Sabah, Imbak Canyon Studies Centre (ICSC) was officially opened by The Honourable Chief Minister of Sabah, Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Mohd Shafie bin Haji Apdal on the 26th Mac, 2019. The event was the most anticipated since construction began in 2010. The ICSC opening ceremony was attended by more than 500 dignitaries and guests from various organisations.

One of the dignitaries present was Academician Tan Sri Dr Salleh Mohd Nor FASc, former Chairman of Board of UMT (from 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2007; then known as Kolej Universiti Sains dan Teknologi Malaysia, KUSTEM). As an avid forest and nature conservationist, and one of the key figures in his field and Academy Sciences of Malaysia (ASM), Tan Sri Dr Salleh Mohd Nor has championed various initiatives and efforts for nature conservation. It was he and his friends who mooted the idea of the need to establish a research centre in Imbak Canyon Conservation Area (ICCA). On the platform of ASM and various partnerships, Imbak Canyon Rainforest Research and Training Programme (ICRRTP) was launched in December 2017, aiming to produce internationally acclaimed leaders in tropical rainforest research.

ICSC infrastructures are fully supported by Petroleum Nasional Bhd (PETRONAS), whose funding of RM83 million is their largest commitment ever in supporting the conservation of tropical rainforest with local partnership of Yayasan Sabah Group. ICSC is built on the foundation of hosting the world-class biodiversity and environmental research, ultimately to spur research activities on tropical forest, as well as protect our precious rainforest heritage. PETRONAS through their corporate social responsibility (CSR) arm, Yayasan PETRONAS, has also indicated their plan to continuously support research related to biodiversity, carbon sink as well as in new energy in ICSC.

The Institute of Tropical Biodiversity and Sustainable Development (Bio-D Tropika), UMT is grateful for Yayasan Sabah Group's invitation to witness the above historical event. A take home message from Dr. Yap Sau Wai (Group Manager, Conservation & Environmental Management Division of Yayasan Sabah) is that UMT academicians and researchers are always welcome to participate in ICRC research activities. With advanced research facilities (researchers' complex, laboratory, education and research trails, weather station, internet and communication technology and others) within the rainforest itself, no doubt ICRC could be the best platform towards advancing our knowledge and understanding of our nature heritage of tropical rainforest.

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Prof. Dr. Lee Hian Kee
(National University of Singapore)
Prof. Dr. Sootawat Benjakul
(Prince of Songkla University, Thailand)

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