Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic situation in Malaysia, on March 25, 2020, the government announced the extension of the Movement Control Order (MCO) until April 14, 2020. UMT’s teaching and learning activities for the remainder of the semester will be conducted online beginning 15 April 2020. Classes/lessons postponed during the MCO will also be replaced via online T&L activities.

All courses for Masters, Bachelor, Diploma and Foundation will be conducted via online teaching and learning platforms. Students and lecturers may use UMT’s e-learning platform and are allowed to use other platforms besides the UMT Learning Management System (LMS).
**Synchronous Sessions**

This kind of e-learning session involves online studies that are conducted in real time and allow instant feedback.

Here are the steps to conduct this synchronous e-learning session:

1. Identify the learning platform.
2. Inform the students about the online activities.
3. Conduct the activities synchronously via discussion, lecture, or task.
4. Conduct the online activities or exercises.
5. Ensure the activities meet the course learning outcomes.
6. Ensure the students regard their attendance.

If you face any technical difficulty, please contact the Learning Unit via online chat (Live helpdesk), info@umt.edu.my or directly call 09-6683574/4434/3628/4433, or visit https://app.s1.umt.edu.my/support.

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**Asynchronous Sessions**

This method can be carried out online and offline. It involves coursework delivered by web, email, and message boards that are posted on online forums and allows students to complete the work at their own pace.

All steps in synchronous can be followed but all online activities can be performed at any time. All T&L activities should be planned by weekly basis and the involvement of students should be recorded.

Lecture can use google drive to upload their video teaching materials and share the links using ‘add url function’ in e-Learning Platform (Lentera).

Recorded videos for T&L must abide by the guidelines of DPUH (Dewan Pengurusan Pembangunan) for example, an hour lecture is equivalent to 7 minutes of video material duration.

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**e-Learning Tools**

**Examples of Learning Activities**

**Synchronous Sessions**

- **Live Sessions**
  - BigBlueButton, Webex, Zoom, Google Meet,
  - Youtube Live, Fb Live
- **Student Presentation**
  - BigBlueButton, Webex, Zoom, Google Meet
- **Discussion/Forum**
  - Forum Activity
- **Online Chat**
- **Collaborative Group Work**
  - Padlets
- **Interactive Learning Activities**
  - Kahoot, Quizizz, Socratic, GoFormative
- **Coaching**
  - Online Chat, BigBlueButton, Webex, Zoom, Google Meet
- **Consultation**
  - Online Chat, BigBlueButton, Webex, Zoom, Google Meet

**Asynchronous Sessions**

1. **Recorded Lecture**
   - Youtube, SreenCast-O-Matic
2. **Audio Recording**
   - Voice Memo
3. **Interactive Contents**
   - HSP Activity, Kahoot, Quizizz, GoFormative
4. **Collaborative Group Work**
   - Workshop, Wiki, Glossery, Assignment
5. **Problem-Based, Scenario-Based, Challenged-Based Learning Activities**
   - Assignment, Quiz, Workshop, Forum
6. **Formative Assessment**
7. **Content Curation**
8. **Research**
   - Database, Wiki, Forum

**Note:**
1) Activity Available in Lentera LMS
2) External Tools: Lecturer can link/embed this activity using add url/label function in Lentera LMS.
The end of February marks the start of a new journey for 19 students ranging from 15 different countries to further their master’s study at UMT in a 4-month program starting from February till June; as the 6th cohort Erasmus Mundus Tropimundo Master of Science Students 2020. Came into force in September 2013, this Tropimundo program has accepted UMT as their full-partner, a year after its establishment and eventually received much participation from the students to do their study here in UMT, superintended by the Institute of Oceanography and Environment (INOS).

These students from diverse parts of the world were brought together with the same mission; which is to explore the tropical biodiversity and ecosystem in Malaysia. As briefed by the lecturer in charge during the orientation session, Assoc. Prof Dr. Behara Satyanarayana, the agenda of the Tropimundo program covers Sunday to Thursday classes held at the INOS Seminar Room, and also enticing field activities which have been excitingly anticipated by the students.

With all being well, the students will also get the chance to indulge themselves in stimulating content and language integrated learning through intensive contact with different cultures and languages, along the journey.

Source: International Centre UMT, ic@umt.edu.my
The Taman Negara (National Park) is the largest national park in Malaysia, as well as one of the world’s oldest tropical rain forests estimated about 130 million years old. The park's diverse ecosystems, beautiful scenic areas, plants, and wildlife attract many tourists both Malaysian and foreigners. However, people may tend to overlook that the beautiful nature and its wildlife also attract the local people.

The bird count at the Taman Negara is a unique annual event in Malaysia. It was started seven years ago by the local people who were interested in wildlife, and it is one of the few such events that have been continuously organised every year by volunteers. As it has become a popular event, nowadays as many as a few hundred people, including school children, are participating in it, making it not only an event for nature lovers but also
an excellent opportunity for environmental education for young people. We found that the imam of the local mosque talked about nature conservation in front of the audience on the day of the bird count.

This year, the local community around Taman Negara, in collaboration with the Pahang State Government, and Ministry of Tourism organised a bird count event on 14 March. In spite of that several groups had cancelled their participation due to the Covid-19 the event attracted more than 100 participants including tourists from France, the Netherlands, and the USA, and recorded 83 species of birds.

Nature and its wildlife have been providing opportunities for the local community to generate income. However, the flourishing tourism industry around Kuala Tahan may not bring only benefits to the local community. As the number of tourists would increases the existing infrastructures might not be able to cope with it. The development of new infrastructures may result in some problems, which could be socio-economic, political and environmental. For example, large non-local commercial firms may build a large hotel and solve some problems in the short term, and yet, may create new problems in the long term, such as conducting unsustainable developments without involving the local people. We hope that the local people of Kuala Tahan with a strong passion for nature and its wildlife will balance socio-economic-political priorities and environmental conservation, and contribute to sustainable developments around Kuala Tahan and Taman Negara.


Source: Assoc. Prof. Dr Nobuyuki Yamaguchi, nobuyuki.yamaguchi@umt.edu.my; Prof. Dato` Dr. Mohd Tajuddin Bin Abdullah, abdullahmt@gmail.com; INSTITUTE FOR TROPICAL BIODIVERSITY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (Bio-D TROPIKA)
For a few decades the community of Paya Kangsa at Pulau Tawar in the district of Jerantut, Pahang has been largely constituted of farmers planting wet paddy for subsistence. Their livelihoods have been supplemented initially by rubber in the 1950s and later by oil palm in the 1970s. Due to socio-economic structural changes, industrial agriculture, and improved education systems, there has been a major shift in the workforce in rural areas. The educated younger generations left the villages for better work and salaried jobs. What left in Paya Kangsa areas are older generations who slowly retire from tending the labour intensive paddy fields.

While the rice fields are left unattended, local people realise an interesting twist. The area starts to attract various wildlife including birds, some of which are migratory species for a stopover on the southwards or northwards migration routes. Thanks to interested groups of local people, now a floodplain near Pahang River in Paya Kangsa is recognised as an important wetland for birds and also a good site for watching birds.

The local community in Paya Kangsa, Pulau Tawar, in collaboration with Pahang State Government, Ministry of Tourism, and Bird Group Taman Negara organised a bird count event on the 15 March 2020. In spite of that several groups had cancelled their participation due to the Covid-19 the Paya Kangsa Bird count attracted about 100 participants. We recorded 27 species of birds in the site, including herons, egrets, Siberian stonechat, red-wattled lapwings, and Asian openbills. In the long term, this avitourism activity may provide opportunities for the local community to generate supplementary income through a small-scale sustainable tourism industry where local people may be employed as qualified nature guides.

Please view the Paya Kangsa Bird Count event in the YouTube at https://youtu.be/kdz0eeWruCU.

Source: Bird Group Taman Negara  https://www.facebook.com/events/d41d8cd9/taman-negara-bird-count/924676971257244/ & Assoc. Prof. Dr Nobuyuki Yamaguchi, nobuyuki.yamaguchi@umt.edu.my; Prof. Dato` Dr. Mohd Tajuddin Bin Abdullah, abdullahhtmt@gmail.com; INSTITUTE FOR TROPICAL BIODIVERSITY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (Bio-D TROPIKA)

AVITOURISM REENGINEERING OF ABANDONED PADDY FIELDS
YSEALI BOOT CAMP 2020 was a collaborative effort organized by the US Embassy Kuala Lumpur with Biji-biji Initiative as their implementing partner. Having civic engagement as its theme, this nationwide program was targeted to accept 100 participations from the youth per location where it first took place in Terengganu and UMT once again has been chosen to host this significant occasion; followed by other states such as Pahang, Kedah, Penang, Negeri Sembilan, Johor and many more. The participants from different states all around the country gathered together with the same mission, which is to initiate a campaign that suits the theme; civic engagement.

As mentioned by Mr. Rashvin Pal Singh as the Group Chief Executive Officer of Biji-biji Initiative, this program aims to educate them on how to be a very active citizen, a citizen who is aware of social issues, how to contribute back to the society, trying to create a better life for the community. 5 winning teams will receive RM6,000, supports for website development and video to launch the chosen campaigns.

Source: International Centre UMT, ic@umt.edu.my
MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
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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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- Recommendation by two (2) academic referees (sealed) for students with degree other than conferred by UMT.
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