Recently, during the coronavirus SARS-Covid-2 or Covid 19 movement control order from the 18th to 31st March 2020, we observed that wildlife were moving and feeding undisturbed in the Universiti Malaysia Terengganu campus at Gong Badak. There were resident birds singing in the trees and migratory birds feeding in the small mangrove stand near the Masjid Sultan Mahmud UMT. The lizards, zebra doves and long-tailed macaques peacefully walked on the sandy forest floor and semi opened areas. Wildlife should be left roaming freely in their natural habitat of the tropical rain forest. However, due to human interference of our natural terrestrial ecosystems, wildlife such as birds, monkeys, rodents, bats and pangolins are driven out of the forest to take refuge at the edges closer to the human settlements. Humans are also disturbing their natural populations by hunting wild animals and consuming bushmeat as exotic delicacy, status symbol, as aphrodisiac effect of dysfunctional males or as cultural and spiritual purposes. Hunting pressures lead to certain animals species to be locally extinct that will be affecting the niche or micro-ecosystems between parasite-animal host or microorganism-animal hosts. The protozoa, bacteria and virus that are normally circulated in the in forest ecosystems among those wild animal hosts or as transient hosts that are shifted to new environment will be adapted, evolved and jumped to human via an unknown or new vector.

For example, *Plasmodium knowlesi* jumped from macaques that were driven closer to rural human settlements through bite of infected *Anopheles* mosquito that inoculates sporozoites into the host. The sudden boomed of *Anopheles* mosquitoes were due to extensive forest harvesting leaving tractor and lorry tracks collecting rainwater. So zoonotic diseases spillover was human interference into terrestrial and wildlife ecosystems. In another case of Nipah virus, it can be hypothesised that the frugivorous *Cynopterus brachyotis* sucks the juice from fruits and spits off the pulp. Pig or other omnivores could consume the virus-contaminated pulp from the bat. Human who are consuming bushmeat or having exposed to new pathogenic viruses from wildlife would be affected by the virus became of lack of herd immunity.
Fruit eating bats are a cosmopolitan species found both in the wild and near human settlements that have been linked to reservoir of potentially pathogenic viruses and bacteria.

On the 2nd April 2020, the Covid 19 had affected one million people out of 7 billion population of the world, with mortality of over 50,000 while many untested invisible carriers are at the risk of facilitating spread of this pandemic infection. Malaysia experiences re-emergence episodes of zoonotic diseases from malaria, dengu, Nipah virus and SARS since 1990s to present day SARS-Covid-2. By the 6th April 2020, a Malayan Tiger housed in New York’s Bronx Zoo in USA was reported tested positive of new Covid 19 disease. Zooanthroponosis is the reverse zoonotic disease transmission from human to wildlife, domestic and companion animals. The lack of herd immunity will probably spillover to animals in zoological gardens and could spread to our local animals in the natural forest ecosystems.

This is a new area for scientific research on zoonanthroponosis that can focus on the rapid evolution of coronavirus in wild animal hosts that jumped to human (first reported three months ago in Wuhan, China) and now could be transmitted from human to wildlife which potentially impacting on the wildlife diversity globally.

The Covid 19 outbreak is an alarm call to the management authorities and zoological garden managers. In protecting wildlife, the zoos must practise high standards and strict protocols of hygiene in the daily routine husbandry to prevent transmission of Covid 19 to animals. To protect the ecosystem, human as part of the biodiversity, wildlife, plants and the economy, we need to discontinue the spread by reviewing the wildlife trade and consumption of bushmeat. In Malaysia, the commercial captive breeding of selected wildlife is legally permitted. Thus, it will be a wise move for policymakers to review the current wildlife commercialisation policy to curb on the emerging of any new diseases.

Source: Taj Abdullah YouTube at https://youtu.be/Cjm7NGH6Jgc; Professor Dato’ Dr. Mohd Tajuddin Abdullah mohd.tajuddin@umt.edu.my; Dr. Edinur Hisham Atan, email edinur@usm.my; Mr. Dennis Ten Choon Yung, dennis@wildlife.gov.my
KUALA TERENGGANU, April 10 -- Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) will set up a special online forum as a platform to help those in the fisheries industry during the Movement Control Order (MCO).

UMT Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries (Akuatrop) head, Associate Professor Dr Marina Hasan said the Forum on Aquaculture Services (FORAS) would provide advisory services and expert assistance on aquaculture services through the use of the Webex application.

“Through FORAS, aquaculture operators and farmers as well as fishermen can ask questions and interact with UMT Akuatrop’s aquaculture and fisheries experts and researchers through a two-way communication.

“For a start, FORAS will be broadcast for an hour, from 10 am to 11 am every Sunday and Tuesday, with the first session starting on April 12,” she said in a statement today. Marina said those interested to get more information on aquaculture technology could contact Akuatrop via WhatsApp at 011-10104582.


Prof. Dr. Mhd Ikhwanuddin Abdullah
Director Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries Research (AKUATROP)
UMT and Green2U Solution Sdn. Bhd. signed a Letter of Intent on 20 February 2020 to exercise joint effort in developing the collaboration in research and development activities, sharing of resources and expertise in the related field of interest, the establishment of a joint research laboratory, placement of industrial training and internship and any other activities agreed in the future.

Signed on behalf of UMT was the Dean of Faculty of Science and Marine Environment, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Marinah Mohd Ariffin and Green2U Solution Sdn. Bhd. which was represented by the Director of Corporate Development Mr. Tan Soon Yong. Also present during the signing is UMT Deputy Vice of Research and Innovation Prof. Dr. Mazlan Bin Abd. Ghaffar, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Industry Collaboration Prof. Dr. Fauziah Abu Hassan and Green2U Managing Director Mr. Koay Kean Teik and company Board of Directors and Senior Officers.

Green2U was established in 2011 as eco-friendly pest management services for households and businesses throughout Malaysia with the headquarter in Puchong, Selangor and branches in Kuala Terengganu, Kota Baharu, and Ipoh. Throughout the years, they have diversified their business activities by venturing into hygiene services and floor restoration. They believed in the concept of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), combining knowledge in hygiene control and expertise in pest management to their clients as an integrated solution for their premises.

Source: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chia Poh Wai; pohwai@umt.edu.my, Faculty of Science and Marine Environment
This Frequently-Asked Questions is issued to provide a quick guide on the learning and teaching beginning 5 April 2020, during the Movement Control Order and the rest of this semester.
Do the Learning and Teaching (L&T) activities conducted during the Movement Control Order (MCO)?

Yes, Learning and Teaching activities will be continued as usual starting on 5th April 2020 via online.

When is the implementation of distance and online L&T activities?

Implementation of distance and online L&T activities starts on 5th April until 31st August 2020 and 5th – 27th April 2020 is a Cold Start.

Are there any changes to the existing Academic Calendar due to MCO implementation?

The Academic Calendar for Short Semester 2019/2020 (Diploma and Foundation) and Semester 2, 2019/2020 (Bachelor Degree and Masters by Coursework) is remain.

Do the cancelled lectures during the MCO Phase 1 (18 - 31 March 2020) will be replaced?

The lectures will be replaced starting on 5 April 2020. Schedule of substitution classes will be issued by PPAK.

Where should the students be during the period of distance and online learning starting form 5th April until 31st August 2020?

Students must remain at home/hostel or at their respective accommodations to follow distance and online T&L activities for the entire semester.

Will the Final Examination also be implemented via online?

Yes, Final Examination will be implemented via online.

What about students who don’t have internet access?

UMT provides 2 months financial support for unlimited internet subscription specifically for all students in the B40 category.

How is the financial assistance for internet subscription allocated to the students?

Students can refer to Bursar’s Office for status checking and application process.

Will the Final Year Project (FYP) Course in Semester 2 2019/2020 and Short Semester 2019/2020 be continued?

Final Year Research Project (FYP) in Semester 2 2019/2020 and Short Semester 2019/2020 will be informed by Faculty.

Do Diploma Students need to register for courses as usual for the Short Semester 2019/2020?

Yes, All Diploma students must register the courses for short semester 2019/2020. The registration period is being extended until 3rd week (5 – 11 April 2020).

Do students need to take Industrial Training Course (LI) as usual after MCO ended?

Industrial Training Courses (LI) in Semester 2 2019/2020 and Short Semester 2019/2020 should be tailored to the program requirements and decided by Faculty.
13. Are the Masters by Coursework programme also subject to L&T activities via online as well?
Yes. L&T activities for Masters by Coursework programme is also implemented via online from 5th April – 31st August 2020.

14. Do the viva sessions of postgraduate (research) students carried out as usual after the MCO?
Yes, all viva sessions for postgraduate (research) students will be carried out as usual after the MCO. Viva session via online only conducted during the MCO.

15. How to submit Master’s and PhD thesis?
Submission of Master’s and PhD thesis should be in softcopy only.

16. Do the supervision and evaluation of Masters (Research) and PhD students carried out as usual?
All supervision and evaluation of Master’s (Research) and PhD students should be carried out as usual while all research activities are subjected to the regulations issued by the Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation).

17. If I have qualified to submit the thesis, can I submit the thesis for Viva?
During the MCO period, if you have completed the thesis, you can complete a form for thesis submission via online (PG-17 form). Thesis can be submitted via email to the person in charge of postgraduate studies in your faculty/institute.

18. Do the postgraduate students (research mode) will be evaluated for their research progress by the supervisors for this semester?
Yes, if the student’s status is active, the students will be evaluated for your research progress by the supervisors starting from 7th until 27th June 2020.

19. What is the platform used for online learning?
Learning activity will be using the UMT e-Learning platform or other platforms which will be informed by lecturers.

20. What is the type/form of Final examination questions via online?
The type/form of Final Examination questions via online will be determined by the Faculty/Center.

21. Can the final examination be replaced by another assessment method?
Yes, the final examination may be replaced by other suitable assessment methods. The mechanism should be able to evaluate students’ achievement based on the prescribed learning outcomes (LO).
MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
MBA UMT OFF-CAMPUS CYBERJAYA

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Our MBA Program is designed to train executive to think strategically and analytically through intensive series of stimulating lectures, energetic seminars, and conducive small team projects.

- The MBA adds value to your first degree by developing an integrated and deep understanding of management and leadership at organisational levels and in a global market.

- Enhance your knowledge and skills in any of the four concentrations of your choice namely Strategic Management, Marketing, Islamic Finance and Maritime Logistics.
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- Offers a wide range of competitive programs which are carefully designed and frequently revised to ensure their relevance to the real business world and the changing global economy.
- Integrated approach that combines core courses, elective courses, and a project paper. Four elective course concentrations are offered to meet your career goals: Strategic Management, Marketing, Islamic Finance, Maritime Logistics and Transport.
- Flexible and blended mode of delivery
- Competitive Tuition Fee
- Accredited by MQA

CORE COURSES
- Accounting for Managers
- Managerial Economics
- Organizational Management
- Electronic Commerce Technology
- Human Resource Management
- Financial Management
- Coastal Community Development
- Business Research Methods
- Business Ethics in Corporate Governance
- Operations Management
- Strategic Management
- Marketing Management
- Project Paper

MARKETING:
- Consumer Behavior
- International Marketing
- Sales Management
- Services Marketing
- Tourism Marketing
- Destination Marketing

ISLAMIC FINANCE:
- Governance and Applications of Syariah in Islamic Finance
- Islamic Financial Institutions and Markets
- Islamic Economics: Theory and Practice
- Financial Operations and Deposits of Islamic Banking
- Syariah Applications in Financial Transactions
- Estate Planning and Management in Islam

MARITIME LOGISTICAL AND TRANSPORT:
- Modern Port Management
- Marine Insurance
- The Law of Carriage of Goods By Sea
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- Maritime Logistics
- Custom and Forwarding Agent

ELECTIVE COURSE CONCENTRATIONS

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT:
- Change Management
- Strategic Entrepreneurship
- Organizational Behavior
- Innovation Management In Organization
- Strategic Leadership and Decision Making
- International Business

HOW TO APPLY

- 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.
- All application received will be processed and successful applicants will be notified without delay
- Recommendation by two (2) academic referees (sealed) for students with degree other than conferred by UMT.
- Please include any other relevant documents e.g. Curriculum vitae, supporting letter(s) and professional certificates (if any).
- Intake: September
- MBA program is offered at UMT Off-Campus Cyberjaya

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