REMOTE LEARNING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC @UMT

In the aftermath of the World Health Organization’s designation of the novel coronavirus as a pandemic on March 11, universities across Malaysia are shutting down in an attempt to slow its spread. On 5 April 2020, the Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) took the lead cancelling all in-person classes.

Week 1
5 April - 9 April 2020
Attendance: 90.72%
Online Session: 758

Week 2
12 April - 16 April 2020
Attendance: 93.02%
Online Session: 845

Week 3
19 April - 23 April 2020
Attendance: 94.26%
Online Session: 829

‘COVID-19 PANDEMIC’ ONLINE/VIRTUAL TEACHING AND LEARNING FOR ALL UMT ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES HAS BEEN A SUCCESS!

Thank you for the support, creativity and passion in making this online teaching and learning process a success throughout MCO period.

Prepared by
eLearning Unit, Data and Digital Development Centre, Ecosystem Digital
A NEW NORMAL OF UMT’S APPROACH IN ORGANISING REMOTE TRAINING FOR EDUCATORS DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced higher education institutions and training centers to ensure effective learning continues. Despite the temporary closure of UMT’s physical operations, learning and teaching continue through our remote learning approaches. Technology facilitates seamless migration of face-to-face learning to virtual platform accessibility especially during the movement control order. To ensure learning continues during this unprecedented time with the situation, UMT is adopting various educational technologies to mitigate the risk of interruptions to daily teaching and learning.

Talent Development and Innovation Centre with the collaboration of the eLearning Center and, the Knowledge Management and Communication Technology Centre have taken the prompt initiative to organize several types of training for educators (Figure 1). There were two phases of remote training. The training focused on the several major scopes in teaching and learning (TnL) that are delivery, learning tools, learning management system, and assessment. Among the topics covered were; how to create narrated slides, how to run effective live-streaming classes, how to design alternative assessments, and the use of online tools for assessments. Mostly our speakers are the prominent lecturers and practitioners from internal experts and different universities in Malaysia. We have also invited speakers from Hong Kong Polytechnic University for a sharing session. By having these remote training in place, we try to minimize confusion, disruption, and uncertainty for our educators. Sharing is caring, and based on this saying therefore, we opened our remote training to all other Higher Education Institutions in Malaysia.

![Figure 1: The six categories of UMT Remote Training conducted from 27th March until 14th April 2020.](image)
Before TnL was adjourned due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were 3 Webinars training especially for UMT educators was conducted from 15th till 17th March 2020 in preparing them for this current situation. In the first phase (as preparation for ‘Cold Start’ of online TnL), we introduced the usage of Learning Management Systems from basic to advance. We also trained our educators to use various platforms and software for recording, video editing, resource sharing, online collaborations, polling, and assessment (Figure 2). We introduced several numbers of free Web 2.0 apps available in the Internet that educators can apply to ensure more interactive TnL activities to attract students to get involved. Therefore that online TnL sessions can be done synchronously or asynchronously. Regardless of technology, the motivational talks, health, and data security topics were also conducted to instill educators to be more open-minded and aware of their responsibility on TnL online to replace the normal face-to-face session as before. At the end of this 1st phase with a combination from the above training, we managed to gather almost 3500 participants from UMT and other Higher Education Institutions in Malaysia (Figure 3). In this phase, we also collaborated with speakers from USM and Webex Malaysia in conducting the events based on expert’s expertise.

Figure 2: UMT Remote Training for Teaching and Learning conducted in the first phase comprising of 13 courses.
For the second phase, we aimed at more specific online training for assessment, which was based on various constructive alignment implementation methods and online final exams. Several topics covered such as open book tests, evaluation of rubrics, video, portfolio, and alternative assessment. In this 2nd phase, experts from other Higher Institutions have also been invited as a speaker in sharing their expertise in various topics as mentioned earlier like from Hong Kong Polytechnic University, UUM, UiTM, UTM, UniMAP, UPSI and UNIMAS.

It is a misconception to believe that online learning can be effective by merely posting an educator’s notes online or having a video recording of the lecture. Experience has shown that quality online learning requires that the teaching materials are prepared diligently, that the educator is pedagogically trained for delivering the lecture and the students are equally exposed to the pedagogy of online learning. The unprepared online delivery will have an impact on the quality of teaching and learning as a whole. COVID-19 pandemic and higher education environment is a blessing in disguise and becoming a new normal for all of us.

Sources: Prof. Ts. Dr. Noor Maizura Binti Mohamad Noor, maizura@umt.edu.my Talent Development and Innovation Centre & Dr. Nor Omaima Harun, omaima@umt.edu.my, eLearning Center.
The essence of the first phase of the movement control order (MCO) is to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among individuals by keeping the people out of public places and to stay at home. There are many law-abiding citizens who observed the law and restrict their movements or by staying at home after and move around only to buy essentials items such as groceries. Supermarkets and petrol stations are to operate between 8 am to 8 pm under the second phase of the MCO. However, there is another set of opportunistic individuals who take advantage of the situation by infringement the law. In the forest, during the MCO, it was observed using surveillance cameras indicated that wildlife were wandering freely in the forests as well as at the edges and along service roads.

Protected jungle fowls illegally caught by villagers in Kelantan (Photo by Ariffin Abdullah)

A protected Rusa using the same forest trail for foraging (Photo credit SET/SFD/YS)

A protected bull elephant using a service road to move between forest blocks (Photo credit SET/SFD/YS). Poacher hunts for the high prized ivory in black market
Apparently, poachers would take every opportunity to hunt big game animals, such as, Banteng and rusa at night. At the forest borders, villagers or plantation workers would put snares with the intentions to catch small mammals (like kijang or kancil and jungle fowls) to supplement their diets and free proteins. At times, protected mammals may get caught among some of these snares, where there has been evidence of wildlife with snares on their feet and having infections. Besides poaching for small animals in state land without legal permit, villagers at the same time searching for bees’ nests, as local honey or Tualang honey is lucrative during MOC period. During drought spell, belukar fire can easily be ignited by these honey hunters who smoked out the bees from the honeycomb.

It is an opportunity to optimise the MCO as a tool in wildlife management to control movements of poachers. When the MCO is lifted, there is a need to make certain rules that our local communities around protected forests are not allowed to move from dusk till down, from one district to another, or from one state to another without proper documentation. As the case in Sabah, section 33(1)(j) of Wildlife Conservation Enactment clearly spelt that it is an offence to “hunt any animal during the period between six in the evening and six in the morning” without the authorisation of the Director of Sabah Wildlife Department. Wildlife laws in Sarawak and Peninsular also made it illegal to hunt without permit.

At the same time, the wildlife management authorities in Sabah Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia must adapt to high technological changes and should be able to conduct monitoring in real-time through the use of IR4.0 5G IoT-enabled cameras and drones, plus rapid strike forces on the ground to be mobilised to the areas where illegal activities are identified. Such MCO model as hard rule of law can be a sustainable management tool to realise SDG15 for safeguarding of life on land for our future generations. In the 1960s to 1990s when the whole Belum Forest area was declared under military curfew to curb movements of insurgents, wildlife populations were plentiful. Therefore, MCO on all protected and forested areas could be reconsidered for wildlife management in Malaysia.

Source: Dr. Rahimatsah Amat, rahimatsah@set.org.my; Mr. Ariffin Abdullah, ariffinabdullah2019@g.mail & Prof. Dr. Mohd Tajuddin Abdullah, mohd.tajuddin@umt.edu.my; YouTube on elephant at https://youtu.be/23AbPzHKaSk
INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (BIO-D TROPIKA)
4TH MARITIME MONTHLY SEMINAR
[ONLINE VIA CISCO WEBEX]

"FORUM: COVID-19 AND ITS IMPLICATIONS ON MARITIME SECTORS"

Organised by:
Faculty of Maritime Studies (FMS)
Universiti Malaysia Terengganu

Presenting...

MODERATOR: PROF DATO’ DR SAHARUDDIN ABD HAMID

Panel 1: Adjunct Prof. Nazery Khalid (Head Group Corporate Communications, Boustead Heavy Industries)
Panel 2: Mdm Reshma Yousuf (Director of CLLB Sdn Bhd & Malaysia Logistics Council – MLC)
Panel 3: Mr Madzli Harun (Senior Lecturer, UMT) - Maritime Trade
The global pandemic began in late December 2019 with only a dozen cases in China. The coronavirus outbreak has now tightened its grip on the entire world, with Europe as its current epicentre. As of 29th April it has now infected almost 3.1 million people and claimed nearly 200,000 over lives. This was just the start of what was about to become a global crisis for the maritime industry especially the transportation industry particularly the shipping and logistic sectors, which was hit by slowing demand in goods' production, exports and oil. In terms of rate, the most significant affected have been the large crude tankers and the large bulkers.

In conjunction with UMT initiative to organize knowledge sharing sessions among educators, scholars, peers, community and to the public in general, Faculty of Maritime Studies (FMS) invited 3 distinguish maritime experts to deliberate current issues on the implications of COVID-19 on maritime sectors. The forum session was conducted on April 29, 2020 under 4th Maritime Monthly Seminar (MMS) via Cisco Webex platform. It was participated through on line by over 305 people across the country ranging from industry’s practitioners, academics, alumni and students.

This seminar is a special series since it was conducted in a forum-type session through on line, featuring two distinguish panellists from the shipping and logistic industry and a senior maritime trade lecturer from the faculty. It was moderated by Prof Dato’ Dr.Saharuddin Abd Hamid ( a senior Professor in the FMS). The panellists were:

- Adjunct Professor Nazery Khalid (Head Group Corporate   Communications, Boustead Heavy Industry)
- Madam Reshma Yousuf (Director of CLLB Sdn Bhd & Women in Logistics (WILAT CILTM)
- Mr. Madzli Harun (Senior Lecturer, FMS)

Summarizing the seminar, all three panels agreed that the present situation has affected the maritime industry and the pandemic to a bigger extend has badly affected the workforce and the supply chain in the industry which covers shipping, port, shipbuilding and ship repair and all auxiliary services. No doubt, maritime industry will always be relevant in the current situation as it is one of the essential services to help internal and external movements of goods. Nevertheless, in due time some sectors will get on track, but a longer time and process is required for the industry to be backed to normal. The panellist have agreed to the general advice for the industry to consider the 4Rs ie. Review order of businesses to be more resilient, Reconfiguration of supply chain and production to be more robust, Revitalization of the economy by clearing supply chain blockage to keep trade flowing and Rethinking the priorities focusing on our spirits and health. Through the chatting column, participants posted many pertinent questions to the panels and on top of that the participants have requested maritime seminar or alike should be frequently conducted. As the maritime industry covers many more sectors such as fisheries, oil and gas, maritime security and ecotourism which have been affected by the pandemic, this forum would surely be organised again soon.

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MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
MBA UMT OFF-CAMPUS CYBERJAYA

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MARKETING:
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- Tourism Marketing
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- 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

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- Marine Insurance
- The Law of carriage of Goods by Sea
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management
- Maritime Logistics
- Custom and Forwarding Agent

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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