



UMT NEWSLETTER

Ocean of Discoveries for Global Sustainability

Volume 1, Issue 9, December 2021



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UMT is finishing the year 2021 with a bang, despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and the various social and physical restrictions. The university hosted the Malaysia Launch of the 2020 Report on the Lancet Countdown for the second year running. This prestigious event was broadcast live through online platforms. This year, the speakers were from the UK and Malaysia, and there was a special performance from our young Ocean Protectors, who are preschoolers from various local schools. Another international event hosted by the university was the launching of ASEAN Underwater Mini Landmark, a project in which eleven ASEAN landmarks were placed at the seabed near Bidong Island, Terengganu. The project is a collaboration between the National Heritage Department, the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, and UMT, with funds provided by the ASEAN Cultural Fund. Both the events hosted by the university emphasized the protection of the environment and preservation of the ecosystem for global sustainability. In terms of university rankings, 2021 was indeed a great year for UMT. In the latest Emerging Economies Rankings by the Times Higher Education, UMT has been placed at 501+. In the subject rankings, UMT has been ranked 501-600 in Business and Economics and 601+ in the Social Sciences. UMT will continue to strive and excel in all these fields especially in our niche area of marine science and aquatic resources. May the university achieve greater excellence and success in the year 2022.



Professor Dr. Fauziah Hj. Abu Hasan
Executive Editor

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First ASEAN Underwater Mini Landmark Launched



UMT has been working closely with the Ministry of Tourism, Art, and Culture (MOTAC) and the National Heritage Department to set up the first ASEAN Underwater Mini Landmark (AUMiL) near Bidong Island, where UMT's Marine Nature Research Station is located. The completed project, monitored and approved by all ASEAN member nations, was recently launched by Dato' Sri Hajah Nancy Shukri, Minister of Tourism, Arts, and Culture, and UMT was the event's main organizer. The event was held at the research station at Bidong Island, with delegates from ASEAN countries among the attendees.

The AUMiL, funded by the ASEAN Cultural Fund, is the first ASEAN underwater cultural heritage exhibition in the ASEAN history. Eleven iconic ASEAN landmarks have been placed on the seabed near Bidong Island at a depth of 10-15 metres.



The AUMiL consists of monuments from all ASEAN member nations, namely Petronas Twin Towers KLCC (Malaysia), Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque (Brunei), Cambodia Independence Monument, Patuxai Monument (Laos), Indonesia National Monument, Shwedagon Pagoda (Myanmar), José Rizal Monument (Philippines), Merlion (Singapore), Wat Arun Ratchawaram Ratchaworamahawihan (Thailand), Tran Quoc Pagoda (Vietnam), and ASEAN Symbol of Unity Monument.

The monuments were built using materials that are eco-friendly and safe for marine lives including corals reefs. Experts from UMT guided the monuments' construction to ensure every aspect complied to the specifications.

Dato' Sri Hajah Nancy said that the AUMiL is one of the Ministry's efforts to foster the protection of underwater cultural heritage, promote sustainable cultural tourism, increase ASEAN awareness and identity, and foster greater cultural appreciation amongst the ASEAN peoples. She also hopes that the underwater monuments would bring in more scuba divers from the region to Bidong Island.

UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Mazlan Abd Ghaffar said that UMT is grateful to MOTAC for choosing the waters of Bidong Island as the location to place the ASEAN Symbol of Unity Monument, which will become one of the artificial reefs there.



Professor Mazlan said that Bidong Island is the perfect location for the AUMiL. The area is home to natural and historical heritage as well as a shipwreck artifact.

This cultural project was approved during the 20th ASEAN-COCI Sub-Committee on Culture (20th SCC) meeting and the 8th ASEAN Plus Three Cultural Cooperation Network (8th APTCCN) Meeting in Siem Reap, Cambodia in June 2019.

The AUMiL launching was held in conjunction with the five-day ASEAN Seminar on Preservation and Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, co-organized by UMT and the National Heritage Department. Taking place at UMT's Sultan Mizan Hall, the seminar brought together experts from ASEAN nations to exchange knowledge and experience in managing challenges in the protection of underwater cultural heritage and archaeology.

UMT Hosts Another Malaysia Launch of Lancet Countdown Report

UMT was once again selected by Lancet Countdown commission to organize and host the Malaysia Launch of The 2021 Report of the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change, which took place in November. UMT successfully organized and hosted the same event last year, which factored into this year's selection by the commission.

The event was broadcast from UMT's Sultan Mizan Hall and streamed online, with more than 3000 people watching, including those from China, Turkey, Indonesia, Taiwan, Brunei, Singapore, Denmark, Ireland, UK, UAE, India, and Korea.

Datuk Seri Dr Noraini Ahmad, Minister of Higher Education, officiated the launching event.



The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change report is an international, multidisciplinary collaboration that aims to monitor the evolving health profile of climate change and provide an independent assessment of initiatives taken by governments worldwide, which have been decided under the Paris Agreement.

The Lancet Countdown was established following the 2015 Lancet Commission on Health and Climate Change. The report is published annually in The Lancet journal after independent peer review.

The Lancet Countdown tracks 43 indicators across five key domains, namely climate change impacts, exposures, and vulnerability; adaptation, planning, and resilience for health; mitigation actions and health co-benefits; economics and finance; and public and political engagement.

More than 120 leading experts collaborate to produce the Lancet Countdown, and their areas of expertise

include climate scientists, engineers, economists, political scientists, public health professionals, and doctors from 35 leading academic institutions and UN agencies across the world, including the World Health Organisation, World Meteorological Organisation, World Bank, European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, and many of the world's leading academic institutions. The work of The Lancet Countdown on health and climate change is supported by the Wellcome Trust.

As part of the three-hour launching event, three speakers were invited to give their keynote speeches. Professor Elizabeth JZ Robinson, Director of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, LSE, UK, presented the highlights of the Lancet Countdown 2021 Report. Dato' Seri Ir. Dr Zaini Ujang, Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment and Water, shared about Malaysia's aspirations. Mark Stevenson, advisor on peace, safety, and climate change to the Ministry of Defence, United Kingdom, enlightened the audience with his speech titled "Future and what to do about it!".



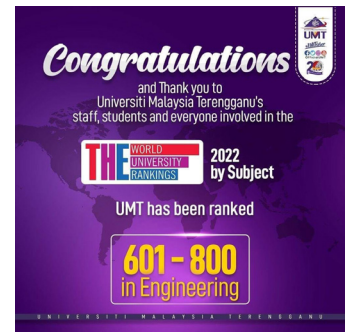
During her officiating speech, Datuk Seri Dr Noraini urged everyone to take climate change issues more seriously and implement immediate actions to prevent the issues from becoming worse.

In his welcoming remarks, Professor Dr Mazlan Abd Ghaffar, UMT Vice Chancellor, spoke about the role of universities including UMT in producing knowledgeable and responsible individuals who will take the initiatives to conserve the environment and manage the world's development in a sustainable way to be inhabited by future generations.

UMT Listed in THE World University Rankings for the First Time



In addition, UMT has been ranked at 501-600 for Business and Economics subject, 601+ Social Science, 601-800 Engineering, 801+ Life Science, and 801-1000 Physical Science.



UMT's continuous efforts throughout its young years to improve its global recognition came to fruition when the university has been listed for the first time in Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2022, placing at number 1200+ overall.

THE World University Rankings is often considered one of the most widely observed university rankings. For the year 2022, the rankings included more than 1600 universities across 99 countries and territories, making them currently the largest and most diverse university rankings.

UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Mazlan Abd Ghaffar said that the first-time achievement for UMT indicated that the university is intent on improving the quality and the performance of its teaching and learning, research and innovation, and knowledge transfer, with the aim of becoming a well-respected institution of higher learning not only at the national level but also at the global level.

The achievement is also a proof that the strategies outlined in UMT's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 have been effective, Professor Mazlan said.

In addition to being listed in the overall rankings, UMT also performed quite respectably in the specific rankings by various categories. In THE Emerging Economies University Rankings 2022, UMT sits at 501+ among universities from countries dubbed as emerging economies. The definition of emerging economies is based on the classification by the FTSE Group, London Stock Exchange.

This was UMT's second participation in THE World University Rankings. Based on the results, the university scored higher than in earlier participation in almost all key performance indicators.

In THE World University Rankings, institutions' performance is based on four areas, namely teaching, research, knowledge transfer, and international outlook, with 13 performance indicators used as measurements, which include citations, income from industry, global visibility, research, and teaching. For the current rankings, more than 108 million citations were analysed, covering over 14.4 million research publications. Survey responses were collected from almost 22,000 scholars globally.

According to Professor Mazlan, UMT has a great vision despite being only recently established, and that is to become the leading marine-focused university. The top management has outlined several objectives to make UMT a 3R (Respected, Referred, Relevant) and 1D (Distinctive) University, a pioneer in research on marine science and aquatic resources, and a point of reference at the national and global level.

Following the improved recognition of UMT at the international level as reflected in THE World University Rankings 2022, the university has every potential to keep on progressing and advancing in various areas of knowledge, research, and innovations, which will benefit the local and international communities, Professor Mazlan said.

International Conference Co-organized by UMT a Success



An online conference recently co-organized by UMT and a non-profit organization in Turkey proved to be a success, having drawn more than 250 researchers and students from countries across the world, including Malaysia, Turkey, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Nigeria, Iran, Iraq, USA, and Australia.

UMT's Ocean Pollution and Ecotoxicology (OPEC) Research Group worked together with the Inter-Islamic Network on Oceanography (INOC) in Turkey to hold the conference called the International Event on the Latest Developments on Marine Science.

OPEC Research Group is one of the three research groups under the Faculty of Science and Marine Environment that focus on marine environmental sustainability. Established in January 2020, the group consists of a team of scientists with a wide range of experience in all types of pollution and ecotoxicology studies. The group's mission is to empower marine and aquatic resource-based research through robust research networks with national and international collaborators for global sustainability.

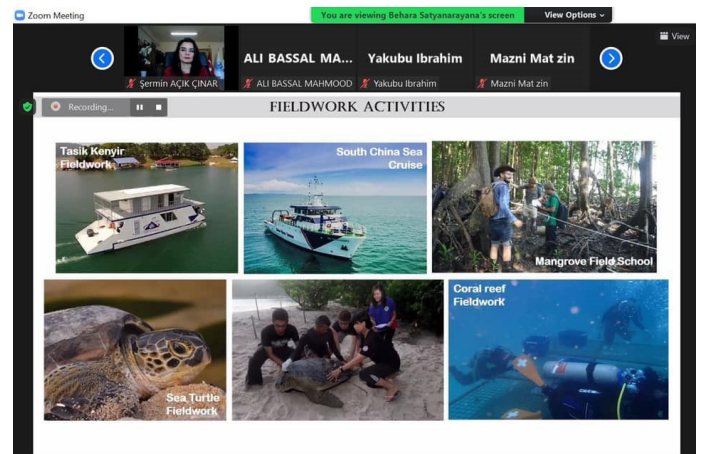
Meanwhile, INOC was established in November 1987 and became operational in April 1989. The organisation is hosted by the Republic of Turkey, with its headquarters in Izmir. Its mission is to foster closer cooperation among Islamic countries in the field of development and management of marine resources, by generating ideas and policy directions through intensive dialogue and research on a continuing basis.

This event was organized for the second time following

the success of the earlier event in August, which was co-hosted by UMT and Dokuz Eylul University, Turkey. More than 200 people throughout the world attended the event then.

In the latest conference, six researchers from Malaysia, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, and Turkey were invited to share their research findings and experiences regarding current issues on plastic and microplastic, infestation of salps, barrel-shaped, planktic tunicates, in Malaysian waters, climate change and its effect on marine ecological system, and current technologies used by scientists in oceanographic studies.

INOC President Professor Dr Sermin ACIK CINAR officiated the conference, while INOC Secretary Professor Dr Bulent CAVAS and head of OPEC Research Group Associate Professor ChM. Dr Ong Meng Chuan became the moderators during the conference.



UMT researchers invited as speakers for this conference were Associate Professor Dr Behara Satyanarayana and Dr Nurul Huda Ahmad Ishak. Dr Behara is a lecturer from the Institute of Oceanography and Environment (INOS). Dr Behara shared about the Mangrove Research Unit (MARU) and the Tropimundo Masters programme. Dr Nurul Huda from the Faculty of Science and Marine Environment explained about the plankton and Salp explosion in Malaysian waters.

At the end of the two-hour event, INOC President invited all researchers to collaborate with the organization for the attainment of marine environmental sustainability. Both UMT and INOC also expressed hope that this kind of event can be regularly held in the future and that more researchers and students will participate.

Turtle Lab Helps UMT Campaign for Turtle Conservation



At the lobby of The Taras Beach & Spa Resort at Redang Island is a glass-walled laboratory run by UMT. Since its first establishment three years ago, more than 5700 visitors from 36 countries have come to visit the place. The name of that mini laboratory is Turtle Lab.

The existence of the Turtle Lab at Redang Island has encouraged turtle conservation efforts among the local communities and has helped in the dissemination of information to local and international visitors on the importance of turtle conservation for the stability of marine ecosystem.

“The Turtle Lab was successfully set up as a result of a collaboration between UMT and Berjaya Corporation Berhad, with the Department of Fishery extending its full support,” said Dr Mohd Uzair Rusli, lead researcher for the Sea Turtle Research Unit (SEATRU) who oversees the Turtle Lab.

Collaboration between SEATRU and Berjaya Corporation Berhad has existed since 1993. Berjaya’s owner Tan Sri Dato Vincent Tan is the biggest supporter of the turtle conservation effort by SEATRU, having helped the cause through financial contributions for the purchase of turtle eggs from licensed egg collectors. This continued until the beach was declared as a turtle sanctuary in 2005.

In 2017, there was a need to have a laboratory at the island to facilitate research activities. However, UMT’s Turtle Research Station by the Chagar Hutang beach lacks proper electricity facility. So, a mini laboratory was set up at the lobby of Berjaya-owned The Taras Beach & Spa Resort at the island.

The Turtle Lab is the first and only laboratory in Malaysia that applies the concept of open laboratory for turtle research. It is no wonder that the innovation won the gold medal and Judges’ Special Award during the Research and Innovation Week 2019.

The Turtle Lab was officially in operation in 2018. Initially, two UMT postgraduate students were stationed there to conduct research activities on a full-time basis.

The lab has become a medium for SEATRU researchers to carry out their studies. “Facilities at the Turtle Lab has also attracted outside researchers to collaborate with us on turtle research,” Dr Mohd Uzair said.

Visitors to the island will make time to see the Turtle Lab, where they can obtain more knowledge and greater understanding of issues concerning the turtle population in the country.

Apart from outside visitors, the local community also takes the opportunity to visit the Turtle Lab. Students from the nearby school get to observe scientists at work at the Turtle Lab when they participate in the annual Turtle Camp organized by SEATRU.

“SEATRU hopes that more visitors will come to see the Turtle Lab and participate in the turtle conservation efforts so that we can protect these species that are becoming more extinct by the day,” Dr Mohd Uzair said.



INNOVATION Carnival @UMT 2021

INNOVATION COGNITION FOR A SUSTAINABLE GENERATION

INNOVATION COMPETITION CATEGORY

AIPP INNOVATION PRACTICES IN TEACHING AND LEARNING
(AMALAN INOVASI PENGAJARAN & PEMBELAJARAN)

AIPN INNOVATION PRACTICES IN MANAGEMENT
(AMALAN INOVASI PENGURUSAN)

AIPY INNOVATION PRACTICES IN RESEARCH
(AMALAN INOVASI PENYELIDIKAN)

AIPJ INNOVATION PRACTICES OF STUDENTS
(AMALAN INOVASI PELAJAR)

CONTEST FORMAT

Participation is open to individual or by group not more than 7 members.

The presentation on the innovation can be made either in Malay or English language.

Every innovation must be submitted with a poster in JPEG format specified by the organizer.

Presentation can be made by using the poster submitted or accompanied by any type of slide in preferable format.

Each participants are given 10 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for Q&A session.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIAS

Usability and practices of the innovation (50%)

- Creativity and Originality
- Practicality and Ease of use
- Cost effective
- Potential to be developed

Impact (30%)

- Effectiveness to students/ program/ section/ department/ organisation

Presentation (20%)

- Creativity
- Comprehensible

Date

19th Dec. - 23rd Dec. 2021

Platform

Online Streaming via 

Registration Fee

Participant from UMT : RM50 / innovation

Student from UMT : Free

Participant from Other Institution : RM150 / innovation

Student from Other Institution : RM50 / innovation

Entry Form



Registration Closing Date
4th December 2021

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