



UMT NEWSLETTER

Ocean of Discovery for Global Sustainability

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UMT Top-ranked among Young Universities in THE Impact Rankings 2021



UMT has done respectably well in the recently published Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2021, which indicates it has been making meaningful contributions towards world's sustainability.

In the third edition of the rankings that came out last April, UMT received an overall score of 59.2% and has been ranked 401-600th among 1115 universities for overall ranking. Among the newly established Malaysian universities that participated, UMT has led the list.

THE Impact Rankings measure universities' impact on society based on their success in meeting the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Universities' performances in these SDGs

are evaluated based on four broad areas, which are research, stewardship, outreach, and teaching.

In its first participation ever, UMT submitted its data for all 17 SDGs to be evaluated. UMT's best achievement is for SDG 2–Zero Hunger, where it has been ranked 82nd among 442 institutions.

The achievement has put UMT among the world's top 100 universities that strive to solve hunger, one of humanity's greatest challenges, said Associate Professor Dr Roshaliza Taha, Deputy Director of Transformation, Strategic Planning, and Risk Centre. The centre coordinates UMT's participation in the rankings.

According to Dr Roshaliza, among activities that

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have contributed to such achievement are *Gerobok Rezeki* (Cupboard of Keeps) and Act of Kindness, two projects that serve free food and basic needs to students, initiated by a team of UMT lecturers; Happy Box, a programme that gives away food packs to less fortunate UMT staff, initiated by UMT Bursar's Office; and *Dermaiswa*, a financial aid programme for the needy students, offered by UMT Sultan Mahmud Islamic Centre.



In addition, UMT has been ranked 101-200th for three SDGs, SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

The encouraging achievements for the three SDGs can be linked to UMT Sustainable Campus Blueprint designed in 2015, said Dr Roshaliza. It has helped ensure that university activities have been executed according to the sustainability goals.

The blueprint contains seven components, which are Academic Excellence-“Blue is Green”, Environmentally Friendly Facilities, Green Energy and Water Resources, Sustainable Food Ecosystems, Natural Heritage Conservation, Sustainable Procurement, and Environmentally Friendly Transportation.



Although achieving top ranks is definitely a goal UMT has been trying to achieve, it has never neglected its primary goal, Dr Roshaliza said. It has always kept at the forefront the purpose of its establishment, which is to create and disseminate knowledge.



BANTUAN KEWANGAN DANA ASNAF ZAKAT UMT

Dermaiswa Al-Islah Etika Family Takaful

- 1 Log In MYNEMO
- 2 Klik Menu NEPA
- 3 Pilih MYHSAN
- 4 Klik PERMOHONAN SAHIB Istikomunikasi PROFIL PEMOHON
- 5 Pilih DANA ASNAF 'Isi Makhsum' Berkaitan
- 6 Hantar Untuk PENGESAHAN

KAEDAH MOHON BANTUAN

etika Takaful

TARIKH PERMOHONAN : 19 - 23 Ogos 2020

- Bantuan ini merupakan sumbangan zakat daripada ETIQA FAMILY TAKAFUL BERHAD
- Sumbangan berkala SELAMA 3 SEMESTER
- Hanya TERBUKA kepada pelajar IJAZAH & DIPLOMA

SYARAT PERMOHONAN:

- Terbuka kepada semua pelajar berpendapatan keluarga RM3,000 dan ke bawah serta menghadapi masalah kewangan.
- Keputusan 3.00 ke atas DUA semester berturut-turut
- Keutamaan kepada yang tidak pernah menerima bantuan

PERHATIAN!!
Pastikan PENYATA AKUAN BANK yang ditampikan terdapat maklumat BERKETAK seperti berikut:
I. Nama II. No. UIC III. No. Akaun Bank
*jika gagal berbuat demikian, permohonan anda tidak dapat diproses.

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Tel: 09-6684307 / Fax: 09-6684309

UMT and Chiang Mai University Co-organize Stingless Bee Symposium



An active research group at UMT has co-organized a symposium that brought together many people from different countries but who share similar interest.

UMT's Apis & Meliponine Special Interest Group, a research team that focuses on honey bees and stingless bees, has organized a two-day international stingless bee symposium, in collaboration with Chiang Mai University, Thailand.

The event was held from 20-21 May to coincide with the World Bee Day 2021 celebration.

The aim of The 1st Southeast Asia Meliponine Symposium 2021 (SEAMS2021) was to create a platform for various individuals to share research results, brainstorm, and build networks that will lead to improved quality of research on stingless bees, or kelulut as they are known in Malay.

The symposium, co-organized with Chiang Mai University's Faculty of Agriculture, was held virtually via an online platform, in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Themed Stingless Bee Sustainability for Global Harmony, the two-day symposium was filled with presentations from 16 plenary speakers from various countries, namely Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, and India. They delivered talks on four sub-themes: current development in meliponiculture, innovation and product development, community engagement and knowledge transfer, and sustainable meliponiculture.

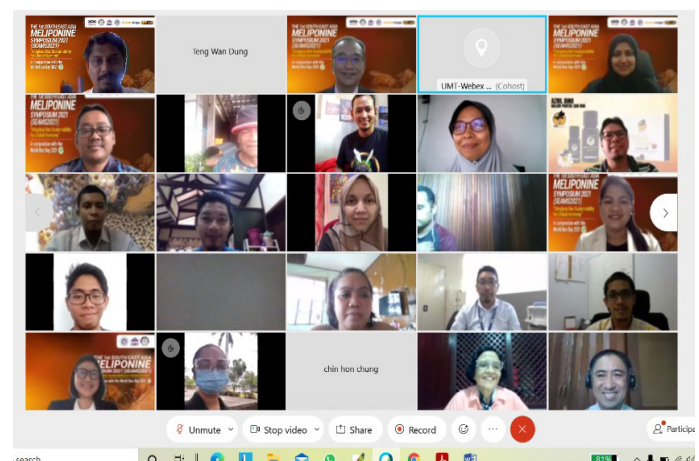
The keynote speaker was UMT's very own Professor Dr Shamsul Bahri Abd Razak. He is head of the Apis & Meliponine Special Interest Group. He is also well-recognized internationally as an expert in stingless bees and has given talks at international conferences, including as invited speakers.

In his speech entitled Current Development of Stingless Bee Industry in Malaysia, Professor Shamsul addressed the current strategies and opportunities for the development of stingless bee industry in Malaysia. He said that one of the ways to develop the industry is by having more stingless beekeepers, and for this to happen there is a need to provide awareness among the community of the benefits they will gain by venturing into this lucrative business.

Professor Shamsul also said that UMT has initiated several international collaborative research activities on beekeeping.

The symposium was attended by more than 140 participants, comprising academicians, researchers, industry people, and students, from several countries, including Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia, India, Taiwan, even Brazil.

The symposium was officiated by Professor Dr Mazlan Abd Ghaffar, UMT Acting Vice Chancellor. He said in his speech that UMT has been leading the fields of Apiculture and Meliponiculture and is capable of engaging in groundbreaking beekeeping research.



INOS Seminar Highlights Important Studies on Dolphins



The Institute of Oceanography and Environment (INOS) recently held its monthly seminar in which participants from several universities and organizations received valuable information regarding endangered species including the dolphins.

The seminar's focus on recent techniques in studies of marine endangered species was timely in light of dugongs, whales, turtles, and dolphins getting smaller in population each year and becoming among endangered species due to pollutions, illegal fishing activities, and other oceanic threats.

The old methods of monitoring the population status and studying the behaviours of endangered species by being at sea for a long period have not been fast enough to help overcome the process of their extinction.

Thanks to new developments in this field, there are now several methods that can be applied in dolphin population studies that can offer more immediate results, thereby increasing researchers' ability to carry out conservation efforts.

The monthly seminar featured two fellow researchers from INOS's Marine Endangered Species Research Group, Dr Hairul Masrini Muhamad and Professor Dr Zulqarnain Mohamad, who discussed the latest techniques in dolphin research.

Dr Hairul Marini, UMT alumni currently teaching at Xiamen University, said that dolphins travel in groups and are known to communicate amongst

themselves. In her presentation, she explained the technique of recording sounds made by dolphins underwater.

Dr Hairul Marini said that each dolphin produces a unique sound, and sounds from adult and young dolphins are different.

Variations in the sound waves produced during interactions and activities such as meal hunting or playing can provide meaningful data to researchers and help them estimate the population and movement of dolphins at sea.

Professor Dr Zulqarnain meanwhile said that survivability of specific species of dolphins can be estimated through better understanding of their genetics.

The researcher from Universiti Malaya who has been involved in many human genomic studies also shared some of the challenges he has faced in his studies. For example, to obtain samples of dolphin tissue for genetic studies, a long special rifle needs to be used and must be targeted precisely at the fins of the dolphins. This is done while standing in a small boat that gently rocks on the ocean's surface. The special bullets then penetrate the fins without causing injury to the dolphins, and the tissue pieces float on the surface, ready to be collected.

The seminar was attended by more than 130 participants from UMT, UMS, UM, and environmental NGOs.

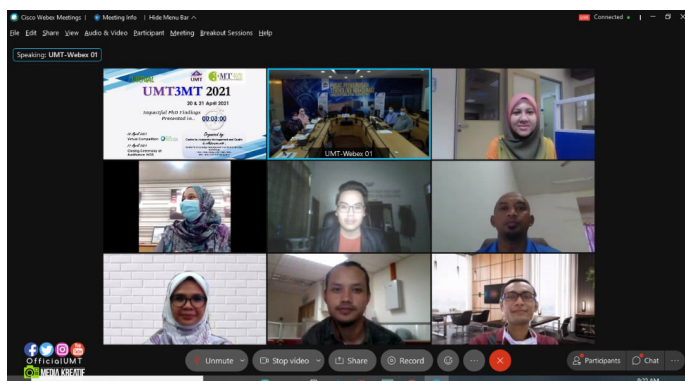
UMT3MT 2021 Winners to Represent UMT at National Competition



The Centre for Academic and Quality Management recently organized a three-minute thesis competition, UMT3MT, to choose three winners to represent UMT at the national competition.

UMT3MT requires students to present their research to a general audience using plain, non-technical language. It is closely based on the format used by the University of Queensland, Australia, the inventor of the three-minute thesis competition.

Unlike previous events, this year's UMT3MT was held online via a virtual platform in observance of the standard operating procedure amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Participants did not present live but submitted their pre-recorded videos for judging.



Thirty-four postgraduate students from several faculties and institutes participated in the competition, the most since it was first organized in 2016.

Three winners took home cash prizes and certificates of participation. They will be representing UMT at the national competition on 9 June, coordinated by International Islamic University, Malaysia (IIUM).

First-place winner was Wan Mohamad Ikhmal Wan Mohamad Kamaruzzaman from the Faculty of Science and Marine Environment. He presented his research entitled Changing the Perspective of Plants in Paint and Coating Industry.

"I'm so grateful for being selected as the winner, and I will work harder to achieve success at the national level," he said. "The competition was a good platform for training students to share their research with the public and increase its awareness of the importance of research in helping to improve the quality of life of Malaysians".

Second place went to Noratqah Sazelee from the Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology and Informatic, who presented her research entitled Hydrogen: Future Energy, and third place went to Nor Azri Shah Nordin from the Institute of Tropical Aquaculture (AKUATROP), who shared his research on transmission of flatworms from red-claw crayfish to native giant freshwater prawns.



The competition was judged by a panel of jury that comprised five lecturers with expertise in various fields.

The event was officiated by Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Mazlan Abd Ghaffar. He expressed his delight and pride that UMT managed to organize the competition this year after it was postponed in 2020 due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

"Although the competition this year is held in a different format, I can still see the high commitment given by the participants, and this has led to a positive competitive spirit among them," he said.



UMT's Efforts Make Ramadan Merrier for Students



The Student Affairs and Alumni Office (HEPA) collaborated with two outside agencies—Coop Bank Pertama and PTPTN—to organize two events during Ramadan for the students.

HEPA partnered with Coop Bank Pertama, a Malaysian cooperative banking institution, to serve free food to the students for breaking the fast during the third week of Ramadan.

Coop Bank Pertama gave away 800 packed food, which HEPA helped to distribute to the students.

Deputy Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Alumni, Associate Professor Dr Hafiz Zakariya, said that the event was part of the initiatives to foster a closer relationship between UMT students and agencies from the industry.

"The main objective of the event is to promote the concept of helping each other during the holy month and make Ramadan celebration merrier for the students," he said.

This was the second collaboration between HEPA and Coop Bank Pertama, with the first taking place a month before Ramadan, where the agency donated food items.

The cooperative banking institution decided to lend a helping hand after being drawn by initiatives taken by UMT to help the less fortunate students through a project called AOK-GR, which stands for Act of Kindness and Gerobok Rezeki (Cupboard of Keeps).



HEPA collaborated with National Higher Education Fund Corporation, PTPTN, a tertiary study loan agency under the Ministry of Higher Education, to prepare *Bubur Lambuk*, Malay rice porridge dish, and distribute to the students during the last week of Ramadan.

PTPTN played its part in the collaboration by sponsoring the ingredients for the dish and other related items, such as the containers for the dish.

The event was part of the initiatives to foster closer relationships between the staff, the agency, and the students.

"This event is held to allow UMT, PTPTN, the student leaders, and the students themselves to observe Ramadan with a full realization of the importance of helping one another," Dr Hafiz said.

Dr Hafiz also said that through this event it is hoped that the negative perception towards PTPTN among the public and the students will change.





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