



UMT NEWSLETTER

Ocean of Discoveries for Global Sustainability

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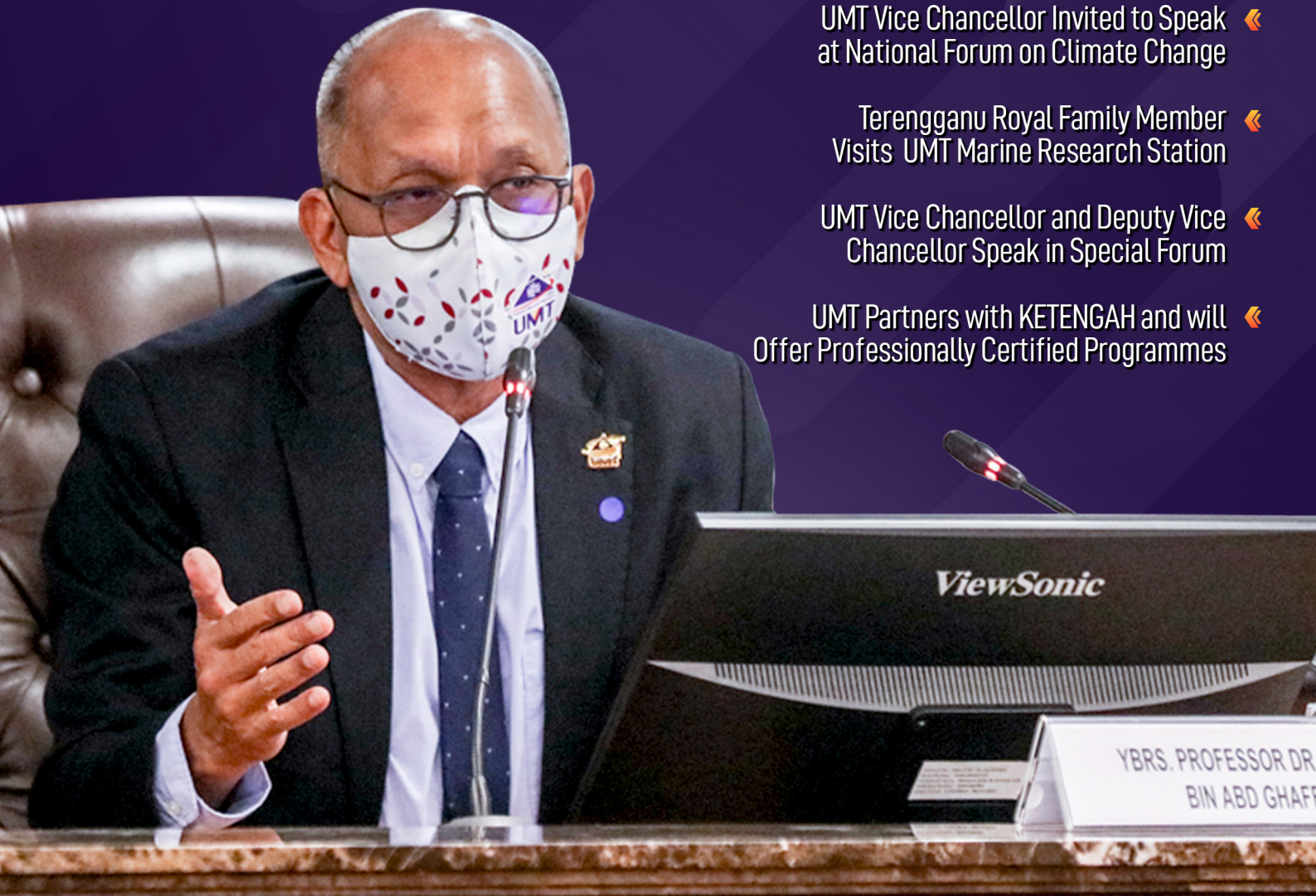
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October saw a series of events marking the impact of climate change on the environment, whether at the global level, such as The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-26) in Glasgow, or local, closer-to-home level, such as the special discussion titled Road to COP-26: How Climate Impacts Poverty, in which Professor Dr Mazlan Abd Ghaffar, our Vice-Chancellor, was invited to speak at the Malaysian Parliament. Professor Mazlan is leading the research on climate change. Through the establishment of a climate change adaptation laboratory that is equipped with cutting-edge technology, he will be leading the research on Malaysian aquatic species and climate adaptation. This November, UMT will be hosting another prestigious event—The Malaysia Launch of the 2021 Report of the Lancet Countdown. The report presents the research findings from world's scientists on the impact of climate change on health. The Malaysia launch is part of the series of 30 events co-hosted all around the world, and UMT's Institute of Aquaculture and Fisheries (AKUATROP) has been chosen for the second year running to host this event for the Southeast Asian region. May the event be a success and put UMT and Malaysia at the forefront of research on climate change and its impact on aquaculture, fisheries, and human health.



Professor Dr. Fauziah HJ. Abu Hasan
Executive Editor

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Higher Education Minister Visits UMT



UMT received a special guest in early October. Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Noraini Ahmad came to Terengganu, and the first item on her agenda during the trip was to visit UMT. It was her first working visit to an institution of higher learning after the government allowed interstate travel beginning October.

Datuk Seri Dr Noraini was in Terengganu to complete another round of MOHE’s special programme, Sentuhan Kasih Mahasiswa@KPT Walkabout Programme, meant to help university students in need across the country.

On her arrival to UMT in the morning, she was welcomed by Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Mazlan Abd Ghaffar and several of UMT Principal Officers.

As part of the event, she launched three UMT books, two written in Malay and one in English, namely *Universiti Malaysia Terengganu Prihatin: Mengharungi Cabaran Pandemik COVID-19 (18 Mac – 31 Mei 2020)* (*Universiti Malaysia Terengganu Cares: Surviving the Challenges of Covid-19 Pandemic (18 March – 31 Mei 2020)*), *Perjuangan yang Belum Selesai: Bahagian Hal Ehwal Pelajar UMT Mendepani Cabaran COVID-19 (An Unfinished Battle: UMT Student Affairs Division Confronted the Challenges of COVID-19)*, and *Strengthening Government-University-Industry and Community Collaboration*.

Datuk Seri Dr Noraini also witnessed the exchange of MoU documents at INOS Auditorium between UMT and Sina Resources Sdn Bhd (SRSB) for commercialisation of *Mannheimia Haemolytica* Intranasal Spray Vaccine (KustemVax).

KUSTEMVax is a product created from research by Professor Dr Mohd Effendy Abd. Wahid from the Faculty of Fisheries and Food Science, and it has been registered as an intellectual property under the Patent category at MyIPO.

Through the collaboration, UMT will license the rights to KUSTEMVax to SRSB.

After her visit to UMT, Datuk Seri Dr Noraini visited several students listed under the special programme to present the aids, accompanied by Professor Mazlan; Professor Dr Fadzli Adam, UniSZA Acting Vice Chancellor; Datuk Seri Dr Mazlan Yusoff, MOHE Secretary General; Dato’ Professor Dr Husaini Omar, Higher Education Director General; and Ts. Zainab Ahmad, Director General, Polytechnics and Community College Education Department.



Three of the visited students are studying at UMT. Jesline Mohd Sabri Lee, first year undergraduate from the bachelor’s degree programme in nanophysics, said she felt honoured to have received a visit from the minister and been made her foster daughter.

“I believe I will be able to improve my family’s lives one day,” she said. “So, I always try to do my best in academics and involve myself in various programmes.”

Jeslina received a laptop computer, RM1000 pocket money, data plan worth RM120+RM200 (MOHE voucher), RM300 Dermasiswa Zakat, and groceries worth RM150.

Two other UMT undergraduates also received similar contributions. They were Abdul Hakim Yahya from the biodiversity conservation and management programme and Nur Ain Farhana Mohd Ariffin from the biological science programme.

UMT Vice Chancellor Invited to Speak at National Forum on Climate Change



Malaysia branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) has held a national forum on climate change recently in collaboration with the Parliament of Malaysia, and a familiar face from UMT was involved in the event.

UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Mazlan Abd Ghaffar was invited as one of the forum’s panel members.

Professor Mazlan is a renowned researcher in the field of climate change and has carried out several related studies on a national scale. One of them, titled “Ocean Climate Change: Potential Risk, Impact, and Adaptation towards Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Services in Malaysia”, was funded by the Long-term Research Grant Scheme and carried out in collaboration with several other public universities.

In his presentation during the forum, he talked about UMT’s role in helping to manage negative impacts of climate change.

“With the establishment of a climate change adaptation laboratory equipped with cutting-edge technology, UMT is ready to lead sophisticated research on Malaysian aquatic species and climate adaption,” Professor Mazlan said. “This will promote the development of valuable scientific outcomes and databases for the benefit of the people and the country.”

Dato’ Seri Ir. Dr Zaini Ujang, Secretary General of Ministry of Environment and Water, and Dr Kelvin Yii Lee Wuen, Member of Parliament of Bandar Kuching, were the other two panel members. Lavanya Rama Iyer, Head of Policy and Climate Change, WWF Malaysia, moderated the forum.

Datuk Azhar Azizan Harun, Speaker of Dewan Rakyat, officiated the forum. Higher Education Minister Dato’ Dr Noraini Ahmad, also the Honorary Secretary of Malaysia branch of CPA, was in attendance.

The forum was held physically at the Malaysian Houses of Parliament, but live broadcast of the event could also be viewed on Parliament of Malaysia YouTube channel.

The forum titled “Discourse on COP26: The Impact of Climate Change on Poverty” was held to serve as a medium for sharing knowledge and brainstorming ideas related to the impact of climate change on poverty in Malaysia, identifying best practises in confronting climate change issues, and strenghtening the roles of Members of Parliament in managing the challenges of climate change and poverty.



The forum was organized as a lead up to the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties, also known as COP26, which was held between 31 October and 12 November in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom, under the co-presidency of the United Kingdom and Italy.

CPA is one of the organisations in the Commonwealth and is the oldest, having been found in 1911. It brings together members who are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms, and by the pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy. There are over 180 branches in nine geographic regions of the Commonwealth, including one in Malaysia.

Terengganu Royal Family Member Visits UMT Marine Research Station



In conjunction with the celebration of the National Environment Day 2021, Her Highness planted a mango tree as a sign of her support for environmental conservation activities. The event was witnessed by a group of UMT students who are members of Persatuan Anak Terengganu (PERMATA UMT), or Association of Children of Terengganu.

Professor Mazlan said that the support shown by Her Highness will become an inspiration to the younger generation to be involved in environmental conservation activities.

Her Highness Tengku Nadhirah Zaharah binti Al-Wathiqu Billah Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin, the Tengku Puteri Utama Raja, deigned to visit UMT Marine Research Station on Bidong Island recently, in conjunction with the celebration of National Environment Day 2021.

Her Highness spent some time scuba diving around the island and nearby locations including Karah Island and Geluk Island to see the coral reefs and other marine lives up close. Her Highness was taken to see the 600-year-old artifact on the seabed.

On her arrival on the island, Her Highness was welcomed by Professor Dr Mazlan Abd Ghaffar, UMT Vice Chancellor; Professor Dr Fauziah Abu Hasan, Pro Vice Chancellor (Corporate Affairs and Industrial Networking); and Associate Professor Dr Hasrizal Shaari, Director of Centre for Research and Field Services.



“Her Highness was briefed on the history of Bidong Island, which used to be a settlement area for Vietnamese refugees during 1978-1991,” Professor Mazlan said. “Her Highness was also informed that UMT is the only university to own a research station on the island.”

Marine Research Station on Bidong Island is used by UMT researchers and students to conduct studies on marine lives. The station is also well-known among outsiders as it offers scuba diving licensing package. Among the popular activities are snorkelling, kayaking, fishing, and jungle trekking. Through these activities, UMT hopes to create awareness among participants that it is important to preserve the sustainability of the ecosystem and the coral reefs near the island’s waters.

Her Highness was taken on a brief tour to some of the places on the island, including the abandoned camp of Vietnamese boat people, where monuments including temples and churches are mostly still intact.



Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) is in full support of these environmental conservation initiatives and makes every effort to increase people’s awareness wherever they are, including at its Marine Research Station on Bidong Island, Professor Mazlan said. Conservation efforts towards the environment and cultural heritage are needed to preserve the country’s marine treasures and aesthetics, he added.

UMT Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor Speak in Special Forum



Academics at UMT need to make appropriate adjustments in how they work and think under the new norms, whether it concerns teaching, research, and services to the communities, said UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Mazlan Abd Ghaffar to an online audience recently.

Elaborating on Professor Mazlan’s statement, UMT Deputy Vice Chancellor of Academic and International Professor Ts. Dr Zamri Ibrahim told the same online audience that one of the obvious changes academics have to be accustomed to is the move to online teaching, and its success depends on the competence of academics in managing technological devices and applications.

He said that education has shifted to virtual face-to-face learning under the new norms, and several teaching and learning methods are suitable in this digital era, which include Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC), micro credential, open and distance learning, and blended learning.

Professor Mazlan and Professor Zamri were speaking in an online forum titled Academia in New Norms, organized by UMT Academic Staff Association (PASAK) in conjunction with 2021 Academia Day on 5 October.

The forum was moderated by PASAK Vice President Associate Professor Dr Faridah Mohamad. Both speakers took turns giving opinions and advice on current matters during the session that lasted almost two hours.

The discussion revolved around the welfare of academics in the current situations, a topic rarely talked about in most discourses, with emphasis given to the importance

of good mental health, emotional stability, and willingness to face the current challenges while fulfilling the responsibilities of academics.

Both speakers agreed that it is not just teaching that requires adjustments to comply with the new norms, but research and services must also adopt new methods.

Speaking about research, Professor Mazlan and Professor Zamri agreed that all academics need to be professional when carrying out their research and that they should appreciate each other’s expertise irrespective of age and position.

What is more important is group cooperation, where each member makes the best use of their expertise for the benefit of the whole group, Professor Mazlan said.



Professor Zamri added that UMT’s visibility at the global arena will improve, and so will its standing when UMT is strong, and its publications are of top-notch quality.

Professor Mazlan said that he was proud of UMT academics for their efforts in making the university become more reputable and as a form of recognition labelled them Excellent Academia of UMT.

At the end of the forum, both reminded the audience to cultivate the spirit of one UMT family, remember academia’s pledge of oath, be adaptable to change to remain relevant in the new norms, and work as a team for the sake of UMT’s excellence.

The online forum was attended by more than 200 academics.

UMT Partners with KETENGAH and will Offer Professionally Certified Programmes



UMT and Central Terengganu Development Authority (KETENGAH), an agency under the Ministry of Rural Development, have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate with each other as part of the strategy to improve their standings and give them a competitive edge going forward.

UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Mazlan Abd Ghaffar said that the partnership will enable UMT and KETENGAH to share resources, facilities, experiences, and knowledge for physical and socioeconomic development; collaborate on research in strategic fields; and work together in the development of education and training to produce upstanding, skilled, and competitive human capital.

In addition, Professor Mazlan also said that the partnership is expected to produce impactful programmes that can be commercialised.

“The partnership will enable us to offer professionally certified commercial scuba diving programme,” he said. “Also, we will be collaborating on an academic programme, a diploma in tourism, where UMT will assist in training nature guides to make them more competent and subsequently enable them to be certified.”

Professor Mazlan added that both parties plan to collaborate on research projects that will involve not only UMT and KETENGAH but also other stakeholders in the future.

He also invites KETENGAH staff to further their studies at UMT in any of the various academic programmes offered if they yearn to fulfil their lifelong learning aspiration.

“I hope that the partnership between UMT and KETENGAH will benefit both parties for a long time,” Professor Mazlan said. “I also hope that it helps to strengthen the collaborative networking between the universities and the industries.”

Professor Mazlan signed the document on behalf of UMT while KETENGAH General Manager Tengku Ahmad Nadzri Tengku Musa did so on behalf of the organization during the signing ceremony that took place online. Also present to witness the signing were KETENGAH Chairman Senator Datuk Razali Idris and UMT’s senior officers.

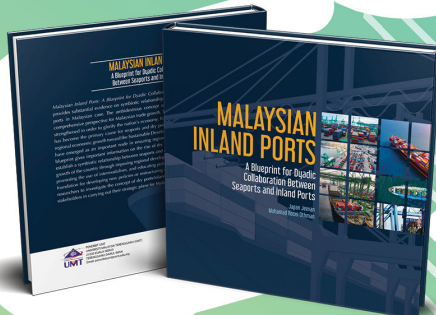
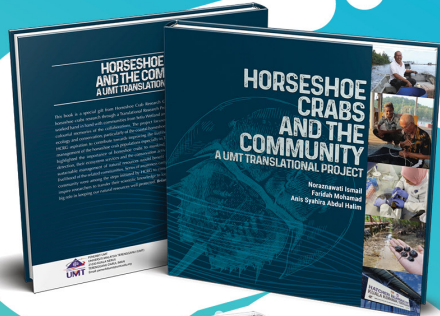
The plan for the strategic partnership had been discussed for quite a while by the top management of both organisations. The discussions had focused on ten major scopes, namely academic reinforcement, tourism partnership programme, resource and knowledge sharing, research and development (R&D) collaboration, support for grant applications in R&D, human capital development, industrial training, mobility and attachment, co-organizing of programmes, and joint publication.

KETENGAH was incorporated on 12 April 1973 through Parliament Act No 104/73 and subsequently given the authority to carry out economic and social development in an area covering 448,876 hectare that spans across the districts of Dungun, Kemaman, and Hulu Terengganu.

On 12 June 1993, Tasik Kenyir Development Area in Hulu Terengganu, an area of 209, 199 hectares, was gazetted as belonging to KETENGAH. Thus, all together the size of KETENGAH territory is about half of the whole Terengganu.



Highlights



Available at



PENERBIT UMT

Menjara Khazanah Amanah



Catalogue