



# VICE CHANCELLOR REFLECTS ON UMT'S ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE YEARS



Vice Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr Nor Aieni Mokhtar recently released a media statement reflecting on UMT's achievements over the years. An excerpt from her statement appears below:

UMT's background and achievements qualify the university to help realize Tun Mahathir's aspiration of turning Malaysia into a maritime nation as mentioned in the agenda Malaysia: a Maritime Nation. UMT's role in the field of marine science at the national level is duly recognized, as evidenced by its Institute of Oceanography and Environment given the status of Higher Education Centre of Excellence for Oceanography and the status of Industry Centre of Excellence for the Maritime cluster by the Malaysia's Ministry of Education. UMT's involvement in maritime transport and logistic is also recognized by the professional body The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport following the establishment of Malaysia's first Maritime Logistic and Transport Centre by UMT. UMT has also set up the Sailing Center and is actively establishing UMT Teaching Port and National Marine Repository Centre.

The contributions by UMT experts (85% PhD holders) at the international level through strategic collaborations are recognized by various bodies, such as the UNESCO International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange, who has appointed INOS as the Regional Training Centre for Asia Pacific for the Ocean Teacher Global Academy Programme. Marine data management system at INOS was certified as being in compliance with the international standards when it became the sole recipient of the Associate Data Unit accreditation status. UMT will be entrusted to manage the National Oceanographic Data Management System (MyNODC) by the Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC).

UMT, as a public university first established in 1979 as UPM's Centre of Fisheries and Marine Science, has played a huge role in the country's higher education development. To date, UMT has expanded rapidly and has become a university focussing on marine science and aquatic resources. UMT has contributed towards the country's development in marine education and the sustainability of marine resources by providing skilled workforce in related fields.



UMT is in a strategic position to support the development of the country's maritime industry, the new seed for Malaysia's economic growth which was termed Blue Economy by Tun Mahathir in his keynote speech during LIMA'19 National Maritime Conference 27 March this year.

UMT has produced 30,180 graduates that are now employed all over the country and overseas, with a sizable few holding significant posts including Director General of Fisheries of Malaysia, policy makers at ministries, senior manager of port operation and supervision, successful agropreneurs, and curator at World Maritime Museum, Dubai.

UMT's teaching and research facilities especially in maritime are of international standard. It has four nature research stations situated on an island, by the lake, and near the coastal areas in Terengganu and the first vessel navigation simulation centre in the East Coast. UMT is the only university that owns a research vessel (RV Discovery), mobile laboratory, and 17 servicing boats that have been successfully utilized in several research and oceanographic data collection expeditions, carried out in collaboration with overseas universities in the United Kingdom, the USA, Japan, Australia, Belgium, France, China, Thailand, and Indonesia.

UMT has become a point of reference for multinational companies dealing with marine and aquatic resources such as PETRONAS, Schlumberger, REPSOL, Port of Tanjung Pelepas, Kuantan Port Consortium, Blue Archipelago Berhad, Mhk Aquaculture, World Wide Fund Nature Malaysia, Aerospace Malaysia Innovation Malaysia, Sime Darby Sdn. Bhd, Exxon Mobil and Shell.

UMT has also forged regional collaborations in fisheries and maritime with renowned international universities such as University of South Brittany (France), National Taiwan Ocean University (Taiwan), Incheon National University (Korea), Shantou University (China), University Bung Hatta (Indonesia), Heriot-Watt University (UK), Korea Marine Equipment Research Institute (Korea), Busan Technology Park (Korea), SAMWOO

Immersion (Korea), Australian Maritime College (Australia), Mokpo National Maritime University (Korea) and others.

UMT's contribution in research has helped the country prepare policy outlines for 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), especially SDG14 Life Below Water, for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development it adopted in 2015 as a member of the United Nations.

UMT is committed to helping the island and peripheral communities improve their quality of life through innovative social programmes. It has organized various knowledge transfer programmes, including fish and prawn breeding technology, fish and crab catching equipment design, creation of artificial reefs, advice on identifying optimal fish location, and building of floating jetties for fishermen's convenience. UMT's contribution in the form of various knowledge transfer programmes has benefitted more than 50,000 people, especially the Terengganu locals. In 2017, UMT received the strategic research fund from the Ministry of Education for the purpose of implementing the Translational Research projects. Fifteen projects were approved, with the total allocation of RM8.7 million.

UMT has succeeded in achieving the aim of improving the socioeconomic standard and the welfare of the community by implementing high-impact translational projects including the Social Innovation Project-Stingless Bee Stevia Honey, Community Based Ecotourism (CBE) Development and Local B40 Community Empowerment, Integration of Expressive Arts Therapy Module towards the Wellbeing of Single Mothers, Improving Setiu Fishermen's Quality of Life Based on Tourism Activities, Women and Setiu Flora Social Entrepreneurial Project, and Translational Programme of Culturing of ARTEMIA for Kuala Nerus and Setiu communities in Terengganu.

\*Professor Dato' Dr. Nor Aieni Binti Haji Mokhtar\*  
Vice Chancellor, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT)



© UNESCO/C.ALIX



# UMT HOSTS BIDONG MERDEKA DIVE TO PROMOTE CORAL REEF CONSERVATION



UMT showed its continuous commitment in the coral reef conservation effort by hosting the 2019 coral reef clean-up programme Bidong Merdeka Dive last month at Bidong Island. The event held from 22-25 August at UMT Nature Research Station at Bidong Island was the eleventh to date.

UMT Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Mazlan Abd Ghaffar, who officiated the event, said that Bidong Merdeka Dive has become one of UMT's signature events which allows the university to play its role in marine conservation, befitting its status as a marine-focused university.

UMT first introduced Bidong Merdeka Dive in 2008, with the aim of raising public awareness of the need to conserve the coral reef ecosystem and urging relevant agencies to play a role in the conservation effort.

This year's programme was organized by UMT Centre of Research and Field Services (CRAFS). Its Director Associate Professor Dr Hasrizal Shaari said that the programme aimed to inject the love for the oceans in the participants through scuba diving activities and talks on the effects of plastic pollution towards marine environment.

Around 150 scuba diving enthusiasts participated in the four-day

programme which carried the theme Dive for Debris. Most belonged to scuba diving clubs and associations from around the country, such as Malaysia Coral Foundation, Darul Iman Scuba Diving Association, Kak Limah Diving Team and UMT.

The participants worked together to clean up several strategic areas and diving sites around Bidong Island. They removed marine debris from around the coral reefs on the seabed, which included plastic items, beverage containers, fishing line and nets, and other wastes that had fallen off or thrown from the ships.

In addition, the participants listened to a talk about the threats faced by marine lives because of human activities, such as plastic pollution.

They also took a break from the clean-up activity and waved the Malaysian flag underwater to show their patriotism.

This year, the Terengganu office of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture helped co-organize the event.

Source - [riz@umt.edu.my](mailto:riz@umt.edu.my)



# PROFESSOR ROHKMIN CALLS FOR MORE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN UMT AND INDONESIAN UNIVERSITIES



UMT can look forward to more strategic partnerships with Indonesian universities in the future. Former Indonesia's Marine Affairs and Fisheries Minister Professor Ir. Dr Rohkmin Dahuri made a courtesy visit to UMT on 20 August and included in his agenda a discussion on further collaborations with UMT.

The general aim of his visit was to know more about UMT as the leading marine-focused university in the country. Thus, Professor Rohkmin was given a briefing on UMT and its niche area, which is marine science and aquatic resources.

He was also briefed on the current strategic partnerships between UMT and Indonesian universities. This was followed by a discussion on the possibility of more strategic partnerships that would enable more beneficial programmes including staff exchange, student exchange, and research collaborations in Marine and Oceanography.

Professor Rohkmin was taken on a brief tour around the campus to provide him with more information about UMT. He visited the Research Gallery of the Institute of Oceanography and Environment (INOS). He also spent some time at the Akuatrop hatchery and was briefed by its Director Professor Ikhwanuddin on the research activities which include research on mangrove crabs and seahorses.

Later, Professor Ikhwanuddin accompanied Professor Rohkmin to visit Kenyir Lake and UMT Nature Research Station. They were welcomed by Professor Dato' Dr Mohd Tajuddin Abdullah and senior management personnel of the Institute of Tropical Biodiversity and Sustainable Development and were briefed on lacustrine ecosystem research at Kenyir Lake.

Professor Rohkmin is currently the President of Indonesia Aquaculture Council and a lecturer at Bandung Institute of Technology, with an expertise in coastal Marine resources. As part of the schedule, he delivered his inaugural speech entitled "Enhancing Indonesia and Malaysia Cooperation in Sustainable Maritime Economic Development" at the INOS auditorium. In his speech, Professor Rohkmin mentioned the need for both countries to cooperate with each other to enjoy greater benefits.

Professor Rohkmin also met with Indonesian lecturers and students here, who expressed gratefulness for the opportunity to work or study at UMT.

During his visit to UMT, Professor Rohkmin was accompanied by an entourage from the Prime Minister's Office and Malaysian Embassy in Indonesia.

Source - [izwandy.idris@umt.edu.my](mailto:izwandy.idris@umt.edu.my)

## UMT STUDENT CIVIL DEFENCE CORPS TEAM WINS FOR THE FIFTH TIME



UMT's Students Civil Defense Corps (Kor SISPA) team became champion for the fifth time in the Kor SISPA Skills Competition, held in conjunction with the 10th National Kor SISPA Commissioning Ceremony 2019 at UPM, Serdang.

The Skills Competition which took place 15-16 August was also attended by 13 public and private institutions of higher learning.

UMT Kor SISPA became champion in three events: Marching, Building Evacuation, and Explorace Challenge. Thank to the team came in second in Road Accident Management Skills event.

A total of 34 students represented UMT Kor SISPA, led by Senior Cadet Officer Zulfazli Zul.

Associate Assistant Commissioner (CD) Professor Dr. Dato Saharuddin bin Abdul Hamid, head of UMT Kor SISPA contingent, said that he was grateful for the achievement and would like to express appreciation and thanks to team for doing well in all the skills events.

"They trained very hard starting 2 weeks ago," Professor Dr. Dato Saharuddin said.

"In addition, this has been the best achievement so far as we became champions in three events," he said.

A total of 48 UMT Cadet Officers received the accreditation as Junior Officers at the National KOR Sispas Commissioning Ceremony held at UPM.

Source - [mjuhari@umt.edu.my](mailto:mjuhari@umt.edu.my)

# UMT OFFERS FREE ACCOMODATION TO PARENTS DURING NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION



**CARAVANSERAI @MASJID UMT 2019**

Serikan Caravanserai di Cappadocia, Turki dibina pada tahun 1238

**APA ITU CARAVANSERAI?**  
Caravanserai/karavansaray ialah kemudahan penginapan dan rehat sementara yang disediakan secara percuma kepada para musafir. Caravanserai merupakan bentuk waqaf peringgitan peradaban yang Turki Islamiyah yang dititah oleh badan pengurusan waqaf pada waktu itu, bertujuan untuk meringankan beban sesama muslim.

Kemudahan yang disediakan di Caravanserai @Masjid UMT sesi 2019/2020

**PERCUMA!**  
Ruangan rehat dan tidur Sarapan pagi Pemeriksaan kenderaan

**2-3 SEPTEMBER 2019**

Untuk tempahan dan pertanyaan sila **whatsapp / telefon :**  
019 - 3974274  
09 - 668 4274/4587

**ATAU:**  
Boleh juga mengimbas kod QR ini untuk mendaftar.

**PELUANG MELAKUKAN INFAQ!**  
Kami mengalu-alukan sumbangan daripada anda untuk berinfaq dan berwaqaf melalui:

**CIMB BANK 86023 81189 MASJID UMT**

Atau boleh hadir ke pejabat:  
Sekyen Zakat, Waqaf dan Infaq (ZAWIN), Pusat Islam Sultan Mahmud UMT  
Tel: 09 - 668 4274 / 4587



A kind gesture made by UMT during new student registration recently enabled some parents to breathe a sigh of relief. UMT offered free accommodation, termed Caravanserai@UMT Mosque, to parents and families who accompanied the new students for their first day at the campus on 3 September.

Sultan Mahmud Islamic Centre was given the responsibility of managing the service for the second year. Dr Rizwadi Azmi, its Director said that the service was offered again this year following the positive responses given by the parents last year.

Dr Rizwadi said that Caravanserai@UMT Mosque was offered to help families who came from afar and could not afford renting hotel rooms or guesthouses for an overnight stay, but those who did not wish to spend additional money were also welcome to use the service.

A total of 102 people including non-Muslims used the service during the registration period from 1-3 September. They slept inside the mosque

in partitioned areas. The next day, they were served free breakfast. Dr Rizwadi said that the service was for everyone in need, regardless of their spiritual faiths. "An act of kindness knows no boundaries," he said.

Parents were made known of the Caravanserai@UMT Mosque service through announcements in newspapers and on UMT Facebook. Bookings were managed online via UMT Facebook.

Dr Rizwadi said that free lodging, or caravanserai, is not a new concept but goes way back during the Uthmaniyyah Empire, where the service was placed under the management of the public amenity division. "We took the concept of caravanserai and adapted it to today's situation," he said.

A portion of the money to fund the Caravanserai@UMT Mosque came from public donation.

Source - [riswadi@umt.edu.my](http://riswadi@umt.edu.my)



# About UMTSohor eNewsletter

UMTSohor eNewsletter is a monthly online newsletter, published as one of the platforms to let the public know more about Universiti Malaysia Terengganu. In each issue, we highlight some of the significant and memorable events happening recently at UMT.

UMTSohor is a term coined by the top management as a branding strategy. Since UMT is located in Terengganu, befittingly a local word "sohor" is added to the university's acronym. "Sohor" means

renowned in English. So UMTSohor in essence means UMT is renowned, famous. And if UMT is not already is, it is certainly working towards achieving that stature.

We hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter, and subsequently marked the calendar for the release dates of future issues, so you can be constantly updated.

