



UMT NEWSLETTER

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Ocean of Discoveries for Global Sustainability

In this issue :

- » UMT Organizes Special Community Programme in Parit Sulong
- » UMT Researchers Create Water-based Disinfectant Liquid
- » UMT Partners with IBM to Train Students
- » UMT Student Does Well in Asian Competition
- » UMT Signs MOU with Eastern Steel Sdn Bhd



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Vol 2 Issue 4, April 2022

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March was a busy month at UMT. With the country transitioning to the endemic phase, students returned to campus after two years of learning online. They returned in stages, with those showing symptoms of COVID-19 first quarantined in a designated residential block.

The current semester, which began in March, sees hybrid teaching and learning, as classrooms cannot be filled to capacity due to physical distancing enforcement. All classrooms are now equipped with state-of-the-art cameras, allowing students not physically present in the classrooms to follow classes online. Convocation for 2021 graduating students was also held in March, with more than 2000 receiving their scrolls and meeting their friends again after two years. Due to COVID-19, university life has changed, and the new normal is now different from before. The pandemic has also expedited universities' adoption of the IR4.0 technologies. As for UMT, it is now well-prepared to face teaching and learning challenges with greater flexibility and innovations. The university has been proactive in handling issues on online learning, ensuring that it is more effective for all students and can be accessed by B40 students. UMT is actively collaborating with industries to better prepare its graduates for the job market. Collaborations with IBM and Eastern Steel, respectively, will help equip UMT's graduates with the necessary skills so that they are market-ready and enable more UMT graduates from various disciplines to land employment with the company. The pandemic has disrupted teaching and learning at universities, but the resilient UMT has risen to the challenge and quickly adapted.



Professor Dr. Fauziah Hj. Abu Hasan
Executive Editor

CONTENTS

- 1 UMT Organizes Special Community Programme in Parit Sulong
- 2 UMT Researchers Create Water-based Disinfectant Liquid
- 3 UMT Partners with IBM to Train Students
- 4 UMT Student Does Well in Asian Competition
- 5 UMT Signs MOU with Eastern Steel Sdn Bhd

UMT Organizes Special Community Programme in Parit Sulong



UMT has recently organized a special community programme in Parit Sulong, Johor, in response to an earlier invitation by Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Noraini Ahmad, who serves as the town's Member of Parliament.

Datuk Seri Noraini took some time out of her busy schedule to come to Parit Sulong in February during the programme's launching event and officiated the programme.

Datuk Seri Noraini extended the invitation to UMT when she visited the university last year in October. Following her invitation, UMT researchers collaborated with the Centre for Knowledge Transfer and Industry Networking and Research Management Centre to conduct a field study in the area to determine the types of activities suitable to be implemented there.

Based on the results of the study, four high-impact projects have been selected, which are Stingless Bee Farming Project, KelulutPreneur Project, Giant Freshwater Prawn and Vegetable Crop Farming Project, and Johor Tour with SOHOR Programme.

The Stingless Bee Farming Project involves 20 participants comprising single mothers and army veterans. The project with a translational grant of RM100,000 is expected to provide participants with an opportunity to gain additional income.

The KelulutPreneur Project trains 20 participants who are university graduates to become stingless bee honey entrepreneurs. Both of these projects are led by Professor Dr. Shamsul Bahari from the Faculty of Fisheries and Food Science.

The Giant Freshwater Prawn and Vegetable Crop Farming Project is a high-impact project using aquaculture technology that integrates the farming of giant freshwater prawns, fish, and vegetables. The project that uses the Low-Cost Aquaponic System (L-CAPS) can be in operation for five years and allows participants to gain additional incomes. Professor Ts. Dr. Mhd Ikhwanuddin Abdullah from the Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries leads the project, which has received a translational grant of RM200,000. Participants for the project are the B40 community, including single mothers and youths.

To foster a closer relationship between students and the community, the Johor Tour with SOHOR Programme is organized. Forty UMT student volunteers will be organizing a few activities including an educational programme with local students, a knowledge transfer programme with the youths, and the We Care We Love programme with the poor and single mothers.

After the officiating ceremony, participants were introduced to stingless bee and giant freshwater prawn farming. In addition, participants were presented with KelulutPreneur programme offer letters, and student volunteers were ceremoniously accepted into the state tour programme.



UMT has been organizing community programmes at various places as part of its University for Society (U4S) agenda. These programmes are in line with its mission of Generating Knowledge for Society's Well-being and in keeping with one of HEI's seven main strategies, which is Striving towards Community's Well-being.

UMT Researchers Create Water-based Disinfectant Liquid



A team of UMT researchers has carried out a project to produce water-based disinfectant liquid that contains antibacterial and antivirus. This product is suitable for use as hand sanitizer and in misting devices.

The project is entitled "Enhancing the antimicrobial properties of water-based sanitiser X'bacafuTM using combinations of different active ingredients with proposed application in automated disinfection systems".

The team comprises Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Kesaven Bhubalan, Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Mustafa Man, and Dr. Suzanah Misbah.

According to Dr. Kesaven, the product is formulated using mineral water from Langkawi UNESCO Global Geopark. He said that the mineral water from this area is rich in minerals that are good for the skin.

There is high demand from consumers and the industry for water-based disinfectant liquid that contains antibacterial and antivirus, said Dr. Kesaven. Therefore, research and development in this field is highly needed, he added.

The project is funded through PPRN@UMT, a university-industry matching grant, provided by UMT and One Team Networks Sdn. Bhd., manufacturer of low-cost insect control products based in Selangor.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between UMT and One Team Networks Sdn. Bhd, and the MOA exchange was held in conjunction with the Malaysia Commercialisation Year 2021 Officiating Ceremony at Malaysia International Trade & Exhibition Centre (MITEC) in Kuala Lumpur in March.



Among the main objectives of the agreement are to establish a research collaboration between UMT and One Team Networks researchers on disinfectants and to develop new formulations for disinfectants from different active ingredients to achieve higher levels of antibacterial and antivirus.

Overall areas of collaboration include microbiology, virology, biotechnology, and the Internet of Things.

The improved water-based disinfectant liquid developed through the strategic partnership will be commercialized. The product will be licensed and registered as intellectual property. Articles will be written on the product and published in high-impact journals.



UMT Partners with IBM to Train Students



UMT has recently entered into a strategic partnership with International Business Machines Corporation (IBM), which will enable both parties to collaborate on several meaningful projects involving students from UMT's Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology and Informatics (FTKTI).

The partnership was formalized in February when both signed a Certificate of Collaboration. IBM sent three representatives to the signing ceremony while UMT had its principal officers and FTKTI management present at the event.

IBM is one of the top companies in the world that provides services related to technology, such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, design thinking, professional skills, and data science among others. These are the types of technology required in the 21st century job market.

The partnership will help FTKTI produce excellent graduates who are innovative and holistic, thereby increasing their employability in the job market, said UMT Vice Chancellor Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar. These graduates will in turn drive the development and progress of engineering technology in the country.

Through the partnership, FTKTI and IBM will be offering the IBMSkillBuild@UMT Learning Institute programme. In this programme, each year 1000 UMT students are expected to complete training given by IBM experts.

The training programme will enable students to have an added value, said Prof. Mazlan. They will not only obtain excellent academic achievement but will also be equipped with technological skills that will help them perform well at work.

IBM has also agreed to offer additional training programmes and webinars to further improve UMT students' theoretical and practical knowledge.

UMT is continuously making the effort to establish strategic partnerships with international agencies as it endeavours to keep increasing its graduate employability rate from year to year, Prof. Mazlan said.

UMT's graduate employability rate has seen a steady improvement over the years, and the rate in 2021 showed quite an increase at 81.7%. Graduates from FTKTI contributed to the increased rate the most, at 92.5%.

The increase shows that UMT graduates can go toe-to-toe with those from other universities in landing employment in the currently competitive job market, Prof. Mazlan said.



UMT will remain committed in its effort to add value to its students so that it can keep producing excellent graduates, Prof. Mazlan said. This will be achieved through reinforcement of student talents, strengthening of relationships with the industries, and enhancement of teaching and learning.

The strategic partnership with IBM presents UMT with a golden opportunity to further improve the quality of the graduates, Prof. Mazlan said.

UMT Student Does Well in Asian Competition



A UMT student fared quite well in the recently held 2022 Asian English Olympics (AEO). Alina A/P Pannirselvam from the Nautical Science and Maritime Transportation programme won the Best Table Topic Speech in the semi-final round and later became one of the Top 5 Finalists in the Speech category.

AEO is an annual event organized by Bina Nusantara English Club (BNEC), a student organization at BINUS University in Jakarta, Indonesia. The event began as a national competition but has evolved into an Asian-level competition, now becoming one of Asia's most anticipated English events. AEO aims to develop the English skills of Asian youths through seven competition categories, Speech, Debate, Newscasting, Storytelling, Spelling Bee, Radio Drama, and Short Story Writing.

The event is normally held in Jakarta, but 2022 AEO was held online due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The Speech category includes four rounds, preliminary, quarterfinal, semi-final, and final. For the preliminary round, Alina was one of the 70 competitors from around Asia who submitted a pre-recorded speech on the topic related to 2022 AEO theme "Echo Your Forte." Her speech video she took several days to create earned her a quarterfinal berth.

In the quarterfinal, Alina delivered a seven-minute oratorical speech on her chosen topic about how humans should use their ability to conquer the world. She had 20 minutes to prepare her speech after choosing the topic. Alina's speech convinced the committee to advance her to the semi-final, where she would compete against the other nine speakers.

In the semi-final, Alina delivered a two-minute Table Topics speech on an impromptu topic given by the committee. She had 30 seconds to prepare the speech after the topic was announced. Alina's speech made her one of the five speakers selected for the final round, and it was also announced as the Best Table Topics speech.

In the final round that involved an inspiring speech, Alina delivered a seven-minute speech based on a topic announced a day earlier. Alina finished the event as one of the five finalists.

Alina was grateful for the opportunity to represent UMT at the competition.

"It was difficult battling against those powerful speakers," Alina remarked, "but the experience was mind-blowing."

Alina's mentor Dr. Abdul Mutalib Embong, senior lecturer with the English Language Learning Centre, heaved praises on the 19-year-old and said she is the best speaker that has ever represented UMT.

"I am proud of Alina's efforts," he said. "She is a mature, clever, and goal-oriented young lady, and she is a valuable addition to UMT community."

UMT Signs MOU with Eastern Steel Sdn Bhd



UMT has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a steel manufacturing company Eastern Steel Sdn. Bhd. (ESSB) to collaborate on a special programme that will benefit both parties.

ESSB is strategically located in Kemaman, Terengganu, occupying 1200 acres of land approximately 7 kilometres away from Kemaman harbour. The company's core business is manufacturing and selling a range of steel products, and it caters not only the local but also the Southeast Asian market.

Through the joint programme, UMT and ESSB aim to produce human resources that are competent and able to meet the requirements of employers, especially in the iron and steel industry. To achieve the aim, the programme will offer a series of courses, workshops, and seminars on self-improvement, competence, and other related aspects, which will be organized by ESSB. UMT students will participate in the programme, and at its completion, they will be equipped with the required skills and knowledge.



In addition, UMT and ESSB are also planning to implement student and staff exchange, joint seminars/workshops, corporate social responsibility programmes, and other joint activities.

The agreement was signed by UMT Vice Chancellor Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar and ESSB Director Tee Choon Hock. The event was witnessed by Terengganu Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Samsuri Mokhtar, ESSB Chairman Tan Sri Abd Rahman, and ESSB Director Tan Sri David Law Tien Seng.



"It is hoped that this MOU can help develop a sustainable ecosystem for the industry and UMT and provide added values that will help increase the possibility of UMT graduates landing employment, especially in the iron and steel industry," Prof. Mazlan said.

It is also hoped that this partnership will help develop more skilled human resources, which will enable the government to reduce the country's dependency on foreign workers, he said.

"Producing graduates who are not only highly knowledgeable and competent but innovative and creative is UMT's focus, in line with the country's fourth industrial revolution (IR4.0) policies," Prof. Mazlan said. "It is also in line with UMT's aspiration of making the industries its strategic partners."

UMT and ESSB have entered into strategic partnerships since 2017. UMT's Centre for Knowledge Transfer and Industry Networking has held discussions with ESSB, and both agencies have engaged in various joint activities, such as industrial training, industrial talks, and knowledge sharing sessions.



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Prof. Dr. Dwia Aries Tina Pulubuhu, MA
Rector of Universitas Hasanuddin

Keynote Speaker



Ir. Sakti Wahyu Trenggono, M.M.
Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries

Welcome Speeches



Safruddin, S.Pi., MP., Ph.D.
Dean of FIKP Unhas



Prof. Dr. Mhd Ikhwanuddin
Director of AKUATROP, UMT

Invited National Speakers



H. A. Mughtar Ali Yusuf
Regent of Bulukumba Regency



H. Muh. Yusran Lalogau, S.Pi., M.Si.
Regent of Pangkep Regency



Prof. Harry Palm
Rostock University, Germany



Davin H. E. Setiarnaga, Ph.D.
National Institute of Technology, Japan



Dr. Amanda R. Lindsay
Luther College, USA

Invited International Speakers



Dr. Ing. Widodo S. Pranowo
Marine Research Center, KKP



Prof. Dr. Rajuddin, M.Sc.
FIKP, UNHAS



Dr. Ana Sousa
University of Aveiro, Portugal



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Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nurul Ulfah Karim
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- * Marine Ecotourism
- * Marine Technology
- * Marine & Fisheries Geographic Information System
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- * Maritime & Food Security Related Community Service

Supporting Publications

- Journals
 - * Canrea (Scopus)
 - * Forest and Society (Scopus)
 - * Journal of Science and Sustainability Management (Scopus)
 - * Spermonde, Torani and IPTEKS (Sinta)
- Proceedings
 - * IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science (Scopus)
 - * FIKP Unhas Proceedings

Important Dates



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15 March 2022

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Payment deadline: 1 April 2022

Video submission: 5 April 2022

Conference date: 11 - 12 April 2022

Full paper deadline: 25 April 2022

To register:



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For more information, Please contact
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