



# UMT NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 6, June 2022

Ocean of Discoveries for Global Sustainability



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## UMT NEWSLETTER

Vol 2 Issue 6, June 2022

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In order to stand out, universities need to have a unique and distinctive focus, which will set them apart and increase their visibility both at the national and global levels. For UMT, having a unique focus in marine science has indeed been a blessing. It is in fact UMT's vision to be a marine-focused university that is reputed nationally and respected globally. Owing to this unique niche, over the past several years UMT has seen many national and international organizations become its partners and engage in collaborative projects. These include academic and research projects in fisheries, maritime, oceanography, and marine biotechnology. Among the universities UMT has inked collaborative agreements with are the Third Institute of Oceanography, Guangdong Ocean University, and China Oceanic Development, all located in China. UMT has also collaborated with the ASEAN-FEN, International Sea Keepers Society, and the National Taiwan Ocean University. This past month, UMT has formed partnerships with the Marine Department of Malaysia and WorldFish to further expand its research in maritime, fisheries, and aquaculture. The way forward for UMT is to continue focusing and strengthening the academic, research, and knowledge transfer programmes in its focus area as the university looks to improve its brand recognition and subsequently its global visibility.



Professor Dr. Fauziah Hj. Abu Hasan  
Executive Editor

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# UMT Strives to Empower Women Entrepreneurs



UMT has recently organized the Empowering Women in Entrepreneurship Programme in collaboration with various agencies including the industry players. The event was attended by more than 500 people, most of whom women.

UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar said UMT held the event in support of the government's aspirations, which are documented in the National Entrepreneurship Policy.

"UMT is always committed in its effort to transform women entrepreneurs in the state of Terengganu, so that they become more competitive and progressive and are able to think in a global sense," he said.



Professor Mazlan said that UMT sees itself as a university for society, and thus it takes it upon itself to help with the development of women entrepreneurs in the community.

The event was filled with interesting and attractive activities, including briefing sessions by financing agencies on entrepreneurship opportunities and initiatives being offered, sales of products by local entrepreneurs, a forum titled "Empowering Women in Entrepreneurship", and Entrepreneurship Clinic.

"It is my hope that this programme will help the local women increase their income and improve their quality of life, which is in line with the state government's aspiration," Professor Mazlan said.

Professor Mazlan also said that UMT has received a fund totalling RM2.25 million from the East Coast Economic Region Development Council (ECERDC) to implement entrepreneurship projects at the community level.



"ECERDC has entrusted UMT to implement a programme called Micro Enterprise Programmes (Empower ECER) in Terengganu," he said. "This programme will support the agenda of Terengganu socioeconomic development."

Professor Mazlan said that UMT has always been proactive in designing entrepreneurship programmes involving the local community in its effort to create an entrepreneurship ecosystem that is holistic, conducive, and inclusive. UMT is equipped with relevant expertise to carry out the undertaking, he added.

As for the focus on women entrepreneurs, UMT has implemented various programmes and initiatives that may improve their skills and competencies in the field, and several other programmes are under way.

The event was officiated by Haji Wan Hapandi Wan Nik, Deputy Chairman of Terengganu Entrepreneurship, Human Resources, Micro Industry and Consumer Affairs Committee. Also taking place during the event was the presentation of certificates of completion to participants from seven high-impact knowledge transfer projects carried out by UMT academics.

# UMT and WorldFish Aim to Enhance World's Food Security



UMT has gained another internationally renowned partner to collaborate with for greater global impact when it recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with WorldFish.

WorldFish is a non-profit research organization presently headquartered in Penang, Malaysia, with regional offices in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Egypt, Myanmar, Solomon Islands, and Zambia. The organization carries out studies to identify ways to improve fisheries and aquaculture, with the aim of enhancing food and nutrition security. Its areas of research include sustainable aquaculture, resilient small-scale fisheries, and contributions of fish to nutrition of the poor. At present, WorldFish is conducting studies in more than 15 countries in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific.

Through the partnership, UMT and WorldFish will be working together to further develop and strengthen each other's aquatic food system to help improve world's food and nutrition security.

They will be conducting short- and long-term research projects to determine new fisheries and aquaculture technologies that will benefit the industry and the community. In addition, there will also be exchanges of staff, joint supervision of students, and joint seminars and academic meetings.

The collaboration is expected to produce new fisheries and aquaculture technologies, publications in high-impact journals, postgraduate students, licensing agreements, and registered intellectual properties.

UMT will be participating in the collaboration through its Institute of Marine Biotechnology (IMB). Established in 2006, IMB is tasked with spearheading the research and development as well as commercialisation activities in

the field of marine biotechnology, helping UMT further strengthen its focus on the niche area of marine science and aquatic resources.

UMT and WorldFish have had a close relationship since 2017. It started when UMT invited Dr. John Benzie, WorldFish Research Program Leader for Sustainable Aquaculture Project, to give a lecture on genetics and breeding. Both institutions have been collaborating with each other since then, after they realized they could mutually benefit from research collaborations in aquatic food systems.



In 2018, WorldFish assisted UMT in securing an international grant with Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University for a one-year research project. Several papers based on this project were published in high-impact journals between 2018 – 2020. In 2019, three UMT students underwent an internship at WorldFish headquarters. The internship programme however was later suspended temporarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

WorldFish was UMT's collaborator in the Horizon 2020 international research grant and the Erasmus Mundus AquaH international academic programme.

The MOU exchange ceremony was held at UMT, completed by Professor Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and International) and Professor Dr. Edward Allison, WorldFish Interim Director of Science and Research. Dr. John Benzie and IMB Director Professor Dr. Yeong Yik Sung were also present.

# UMT Ready to Lead Underwater Archaeology Research

Underwater archaeology needs to be further highlighted as it may become a new field of study that is intriguing enough to be explored by the young generation interested in studying a branch of knowledge involving marine and aquatic applications, said a UMT senior researcher with relevant expertise.

Associate Professor Dr. Hasrizal Shaari, also a senior lecturer in the field of Paleoenvironment and Geochemistry at the Faculty of Science and Marine Environment, said that the time has come for a drastic and proactive measure to be taken to enhance research in the field of underwater archaeology so that more historical details from around the world can be discovered.

UMT is willing to take the initiative to turn a shipwreck area into a learning and training site for underwater archaeology, said Dr. Hasrizal, who is also the Director of the Centre for Research and Field Services at UMT.



"We can provide training to those who are interested in learning more about underwater archaeology," he said. "Scuba diving enthusiasts are more than welcomed to participate as it will be a new experience for them."

"To realize the plan, UMT will collaborate with its strategic partners including UZMA Archaeological Research, Department of National Heritage, and Terengganu State Museum," he said.

According to Dr. Hasrizal, thus far more than ten shipwrecks have been discovered along the waters of Malaysia including Sabah and Sarawak.

Photo credit : Borhanudin Mohd Yusof @ Mohamed



"There were several popular shipwrecks, such as Turiang, Nanyang, Longquan, Nanhai Diraja, Xuande, Singtai, Wanli, Nassau, Risdam, Diana and Desaru," he said. "What is interesting is that three of the shipwrecks, Longquan, Singtai, and Wanli, are in the waters of Terengganu."

Dr. Hasrizal said that the discovery of these shipwrecks should become a motivation for relevant parties to plan some form of underwater archaeology research in Terengganu's waters in a more holistic manner so as to better understand the roles and functions of the waters as one of the primary trade routes.

In 2017, a shipwreck that subsequently became known as the Bidong Shipwreck was successfully excavated near the waters of Bidong Island. The process of excavation was made easier as the shipwreck was located at a depth of 18 metres, thus enabling recreational divers to explore the site and retrieve valuable artifacts, such as shiny stoneware ceramics that originated from Thailand during the 15th – 17th Century.

"The excavation was completely carried out by the locals, which is an amazing feat," Dr. Hasrizal said.



However, plenty of other artifacts are still buried in the waters near Bidong Island, so a follow-up effort to retrieve them needs to be planned, Dr. Hasrizal said.

# Malaysia's Pioneer Project to Benefit from UMT's Expertise

UMT will be using its expertise to help the city of Kuala Terengganu engage in sustainable marine development. The university has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Kuala Terengganu City Council to be involved in the Kuala Terengganu-Kuala Nerus Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) project.

MSP is a project by the state government of Terengganu in collaboration with PLAN Malaysia Terengganu. It is also a pioneer project in Malaysia. The project is undertaken to fulfil the main agenda of United Nation's Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021 – 2030).



UMT's contribution to the project will mainly come from the experts at the Centre for Ocean Governance (COG) under UMT's Institute of Oceanography and Environment (INOS).

COG was established in 2020 with the aim of developing innovative and integrated ocean governance by engaging in excellent transdisciplinary research and networking through a science-policy interface at the national, regional, and international levels. One of its strategies involves developing and strengthening partnerships with government agencies and NGOs to promote integrated ocean governance.

The experts at COG will utilize scientific information to assist the council in its decisions pertaining to the usage of marine resources, marine spaces, and the peripheral coastal areas between Kuala Terengganu and Kuala Nerus. This scientific information has been gathered over the years through joint research with other institutions,

which includes Fujian Institute for Sustainable Ocean at Xiamen University in China.

Several events in conjunction with MSP project have been planned, namely the solid waste management project sponsored by UNDP, the "Adopt a Beach" programme that will be implemented under the Ocean Hope programme in collaboration with UNIQLO and the Scouts Association of Malaysia, and the "E-Fence" translational project at Kuala Nerus beach to prevent natural erosion.



As a public university located within the area under the administrative jurisdiction of Kuala Terengganu City Council specifically and the state government in general, UMT is willing to share its expertise and the innovations produced by its researchers for the benefit of the local communities, said UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar, who was present during the MOU exchange ceremony.

He hoped that the collaboration is the beginning of a great, lasting relationship between the university and the council.



FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

# 4<sup>th</sup> BIOSES 2022

## SEMINAR ON BIOLOGICAL SECURITY & SUSTAINABILITY

28th - 29th June 2022

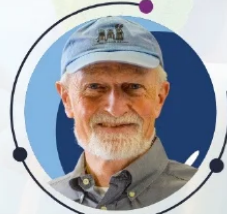
Universiti Malaysia Terengganu

Embracing Fundamental Science in Achieving Sustainable Development

### Keynote Speakers



Emeritus Prof. Dr. Chou Loke Ming  
National University of Singapore  
Singapore



Prof. Dr. Micheal P. Sheetz  
University of Texas  
United States of America



Prof. Dr. Sazaly AbuBakar  
Universiti Malaya  
Malaysia



Prof. Dr. Mohd Effendy Abd Wahid  
Universiti Malaysia Terengganu  
Malaysia



### Presentation Mode:

Oral & Poster

### Seminar Fee

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| UMT Participants           | RM150 |
| NON- UMT Participants      | RM200 |
| International Participants | USD50 |

### Payment link



### Register here



Further informations <https://bioses.umt.edu.my/>

Further inquiries, please contact us at [biosesumt@gmail.com](mailto:biosesumt@gmail.com)

Organized by



Online Seminar

SCOPE OF SEMINAR


- Environment
- Food
- Health

Registration Deadline 15/6/2022

Abstract Submission Deadline 15/6/2022


Payment Deadline 15/6/2022

1ST ANNOUNCEMENT  
SKAM34



## 06 - 08 SEPTEMBER 2022

PRIMULA BEACH RESORT, KUALA TERENGGANU



### SCOPES

- Green Chemistry and Technology
- Environmental Analysis
- Extraction and Separation Sciences
- Spectroscopic Techniques
- Organic and Inorganic Synthesis
- Analytical Biotechnology
- Nano and Advanced Materials
- Catalysis and Industrial Applications
- Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Analysis
- Foods and Trace Analysis
- Natural Products Analysis
- Radiochemistry and Nuclear Sciences
- Oleochemistry and Polymers
- Chemical Sensors and Biosensors

### FEES

Local ANALIS participant: **RM1000**  
 Local NON-ANALIS participant: **RM1200**  
 Graduate ANALIS student: **RM700**  
 Graduate NON-ANALIS student: **RM800**  
 International participant: **USD450**

# The 34<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Analytical Sciences SKAM34

<https://skam34.umt.edu.my/>

THEME  
DESIGNING TOMORROW : EXPLORING NEW CHEMISTRY  
BREAKTHROUGH DURING PANDEMIC ERA

### DATES

First announcement:  
**30 April 2022**

Deadline for registration and abstract submission:  
**15 June 2022**

Deadline for registration and abstract submission (extend):  
**30 June 2022**


Deadline for payment conference fee:  
**15 July 2022**

Deadline for full paper submission:  
**22 September 2022**

Announcement program tentative:  
**30 July 2022**

Conference Day:  
**06 - 08 September 2022**

### ORAL & POSTER PRESENTATION



REGISTER HERE

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**1 Keynote Speaker**  
Prof. Dr. James Wright  
University of Auckland

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Prof. Dr. Gyorgy Szekeley  
King Abdullah University of  
Science & Technology

**3 Plenary Speaker**  
Prof. Emer. Dr. Lee  
Hian Kee  
National University  
of Singapore

**4 Plenary Speaker**  
Prof. Dr. Hiroshi Ujii  
Hokkaido University

**5 Plenary Speaker**  
Prof. ChM. Dr. Wan Mohd  
Khairul Wan Mohamed Zin  
Universiti Malaysia  
Terengganu



Terokaan Seluas Lautan, Demi Kelestarian Sejagat | Ocean of Discoveries for Global Sustainability



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