



UMT NEWSLETTER

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Ocean of Discoveries for Global Sustainability



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UMT recently organized an international talk on maritime to highlight how careers in maritime might be challenging for women but can also provide great opportunities and be highly rewarding for them. Women still face many challenges not only in the maritime sector but in other sectors too. In the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields, women are still highly underrepresented. The Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5), Gender Equality, emphasises the importance of the role of women and strives to empower them in society and nation building. At UMT, 67.5 percent of the student population and 56 percent of the teaching force are women. The university's student body is currently led by a female student, and three other women student leaders have helmed the top post in the past twenty years. Additionally, about forty percent of the university's top management posts are led by women. One of the goals of SDG 5 is to ensure women's participation and leadership in decision making. A study found that countries with greater gender equality have better economic growth and institutions with more women leaders perform better. Thus the maritime sector will definitely benefit by improving the participation of women and making this male-dominated sector more balanced in terms of gender diversity. UMT will definitely play its part in ensuring SDG 5's goals are achieved for the maritime sector in Malaysia.



Professor Dr. Fauziah Hj. Abu Hasan
Executive Editor

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Special Seminar Informs Audience about Women's Involvement in Maritime Field

A special seminar held on 30 June enabled the audience to come away with more knowledge about women's involvement in the maritime field when it invited four women as guest speakers.

The seminar, called International Talk on Maritime, was organized by UMT's Faculty of Maritime Studies, in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education and the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Noraini Ahmad officiated the online seminar. Vice Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar gave an opening remark.



The seminar carrying the theme "Training, Visibility, and Recognition: Opportunities and Rewards for Women in Maritime" invited the four women speakers, who are deeply involved in maritime affairs, to share their stories, advice, and useful information.

One of the speakers was Sanjam Sahi Gupta, director of Sitara Shipping Ltd. based in India and founder of MaritimeSheO, a company that creates solutions for businesses in the maritime industry to help them improve, especially in terms of diversity and inclusion. Sanjam shared with the audience what inspired her to choose a career in the maritime field.



Another speaker was Reshma Yousuf (CMILT), founding president of WISTA Malaysia, the Malaysian chapter of an international association WISTA that aims to support

women leaders in maritime, shipping, and trading. She is also founder and director of CLLB Sdn. Bhd., a company that provides training in logistics and supply chain management, and committee member of CMILT Malaysia.



Reshna shared with the audience the challenges and some of her experiences being in the industry so far.

Also invited as a speaker was Hakimah Saiful Bahri, senior dynamic positioning officer of a diving support vessel.

She explained what graduates need to do if they ever wish to embark on a career in the maritime field. Hakimah also offered a few tips on how to become an excellent maritime professional comparable to others in the field.

The last sharing session featured Dr. Izyan Munirah Mohd Zaideen (CMILT), senior lecturer with the Faculty of Maritime Studies.

Dr. Izyan shared with the audience a list of maritime courses offered by higher education institutions, the scope of study for these courses, and career prospects for maritime graduates.

She also shared her experience meeting industry players and the appointments she has received during her involvement in the field.

She ended her session by saying women have as good a chance as men to succeed and become recognized in the maritime field if they remain strong-willed and constantly seek relevant knowledge.

According to the seminar organizer, the sharing sessions have opened many eyes regarding the challenges women face in the maritime field and also the opportunities and recognitions that await those who remain determined and put in hard work.

UMT, RHB Islamic Continue Marine Conservation Effort with Bidong Summit



Another joint effort between UMT and RHB Islamic Bank Berhad on marine conservation is in the books when an event both partners co-organized in July concluded successfully.

The Bidong Summit was held from the 14th – 16th of the month at UMT’s Marine Natural Research Station on Bidong Island. The station is used for marine-based teaching and learning, and research activities.

The event was intended to help participants learn and understand more about the oceans. Sessions during the event were facilitated by experts from UMT, particularly from the Faculty of Science and Marine Environment (FSME), the event’s main organizer.



Thirty-six participants, mostly employees of RHB, learned about the importance of marine protection and preservation through various activities.

RHB Islamic Bank Berhad Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Dato’ Adissadikin Ali said RHB, under its Ocean Harmony initiative, intends to intensify the ocean sustainability and conservation campaigns to more than 14,000 of its employees in nine ASEAN countries, and the partnership with UMT is paving the way.

“We hope that UMT can help us achieve our objective under this campaign,” Dato’ Adissadikin said.

UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Dato’ Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar said that UMT has benefitted from the partnership with RHB Islamic, as it has allowed the university, whose focus is marine science and aquatic resources, to convey messages on marine conservation to RHB Bank’s large group of clients and business associates.

“We hope that this collaboration will complement our efforts to improve the national ocean literacy and help us achieve our mission in becoming a globally respected marine-focussed university,” Professor Mazlan said.

Participants attended a session that focussed on the appreciation of the heritage treasures of Bidong Island and another that introduced them to sea turtle conservation. They also dived into the oceans to take part in underwater clean-up. As a bonus, they were also given a crash course on underwater photography.



Participants said they learned to value the significance of ocean literacy after attending the event. They also enjoyed the underwater beauty around Bidong Island. Several representatives from Kapas Conservation Society (KCS) and Malaysian National News Agency (BERNAMA) also took part in the event.

The relationship between UMT and RHB Islamic has existed for more than three years. The two signed an MOU in 2019 to work together as strategic partners to campaign for the sustainability and conservation of the oceans, focusing on the SDG 14 Life Below Water.

Various activities have been successfully organized under the Ocean Hope programmes, such as the development of the Ocean Hope educational portal, Ocean Arts competition, and seminars. Some of the activities were able to be completed despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

UMT, Strategic Partners Campaign for Turtle Conservation

An on-ground community event with a worthy cause was successfully organized in July.

The event that took place at Batu Burok Beach 17 km away from UMT was part of the Bring Our Turtles Back (BOTB) campaign that the university is conducting in partnership with International SeaKeepers Society and Kapas Turtles, a small community-based project focusing on turtle conservation in Kapas Island.



The team held the event to engage with the local communities of Kuala Terengganu and create awareness of the importance of turtle conservation. Several interesting activities were planned for the purpose.

The event kickstarted with a beach clean-up. Volunteers during the activity included the people from MRL, UMT, SeaKeepers, PRIMULA, Trash Hero KT, Kuala Terengganu City Council (MBKT) lent a helping hand.



Then there was the turtle sand sculpting competition that was open to the public. The competition was split into four categories, individuals, families, groups, and schools. Some participants travelled from as far as Singapore to show their support.

The event also featured a beautiful sand sculpture showcase by Malaysian visual artist Ikhwan Saloot. His work depicted the journey—past, present, and future—

of three leatherback turtles and the critical role humans play in preserving the sea creatures that are part and parcel of Malaysia's heritage.

Also held were some educational programmes and an awareness exhibition about turtles and their threats.



BOTB campaign intends to raise by December this year a sum of RM150,000, which will be used towards hatchery research, education programmes, and habitat monitoring in hopes of saving the majestic sea creatures and bringing them back to nest on Malaysian shores.

The campaign, with the slogan "Our Icon, Our Heritage, Our Legacy," has received strong support from key corporate partners that include luxury timekeeper BALL Watch, Malaysia Rail Link (MRL), Star Vista Education, Aculife, and Primula Beach Hotel.

Several individual sponsors have also contributed to the cause.

In addition, the team has created a petition at an online petition platform Change.org. The team is collecting signatures to urge Minister of Agriculture and Food Industries Datuk Seri Dr. Ronald Kiandee to conduct thorough and scientific fact-based investigations to ascertain the causes of stranded turtles' death.

These investigations may take the forms of autopsy or bacterial swabs and be conducted with the help of ocean modelling. To date, over 3,600 signatures have been obtained.

BOTB campaign will be continued with educational visits to schools around Kuala Terengganu and Kuala Nerus, the team said. The team hoped the campaign will receive support and cooperation from more parties.

Professor Dr. Marinah Mohd Ariffin, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, officiated the community event.

UMT Leaves Lasting Impression on UNHAS Students

After spending 14 days at UMT as participants of an outbound programme, a group of students from an Indonesian university was very impressed with UMT that they expressed their intention of choosing the university for their postgraduate study.

In July, UMT welcomed a delegation of 10 students and 10 lecturers from the Faculty of Marine Sciences and Fisheries, Hasanuddin University, Makasar (UNHAS), Indonesia, after the faculty had for the second time chosen UMT for the 4th Aquaculture Outbound Student Exchange (AOSE#4) programme.

The UNHAS annual programme aims to provide opportunities for the university's undergraduate students and lecturers especially in the aquaculture field to establish research collaborations and explore postgraduate study options in Malaysia.

Professor Dr. Yushinta Fujaya, programme advisor, and Dr. Ir. Badraeni, AOSE#4 delegation chief, led the delegation.



While at UMT, the group participated in several activities. Participants were introduced to the university's research programmes including those at the Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries (AKUATROP).

They were taken on a tour around campus to see the provided research facilities.

They were also taken on a tour at UMT natural research stations to allow them to see up close the turtle conservation activities at Chagar Hutang and explore the Vietnamese refugee camp at Bidong Island.

As one of the activities, AKUATROP organized a public lecture that focussed on a research niche area under the theme "Food Source Sustainability."

Two UNHAS researchers were invited to give their lectures. Dr. Kismiati's lecture was titled "Development and Utilization of Tropical Seaweeds in Food Industry" while Dr. Sri Suro Adhawati's was titled "Business Ethics: Perspective of Innovation and Diversification of Processed Crab Products for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMES)."

UMT researchers and postgraduate students attended the public lecture.

A sharing session was also held where five UNHAS alumni who have become international postgraduate students at AKUATROP talked about their experiences.

A discussion was held between AKUATROP researchers and UNHAS lecturers to outline potential collaborations in research projects and inbound and outbound programmes. Both parties came out of the discussion with a clearer understanding of what they can implement collaboratively in the coming years.

The group was treated to a special dinner on a chartered boat that travelled along the Terengganu River. UMT management including Vice Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar also attended the event.

Participants were also taken to several tourist destinations and shopping centres around Kuala Terengganu, including Payang Market, Crystal Mosque, and KTCC Mall.

At the conclusion of the programme, participants expressed their appreciation for the hospitality given by UMT.

The delegates also expressed their intention to choose UMT as the preferred institution for AOSE programmes in the future.



SRD2022 Trains Students to be Better Researchers

One of UMT's annual traditions popular among its students took place recently, and it was more exciting when the event could be held face-to-face again.

The Student Research Day (SRD), held on 26 June at UMT Convention Centre, saw 23 student finalists doing their best to impress the judges with their research projects, hoping to be among the prize winners.

The finalists were selected out of 1303 UMT final year students that had participated in this year's SRD edition, also called SRD2022.



UMT has held SRD every year since 2018 to provide a platform for final-year students to showcase their undergraduate research projects. The university believes this is one of the holistic approaches to take to ensure UMT graduates will be able to conduct research independently, become competitive, and think critically. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the two previous editions of SRD had to be hosted online.

Organized by the Faculty of Fisheries and Food Science, SRD2022 ran with the theme "Living into the Endemic Era of COVID-19."

The screening process to select the finalists was implemented at the respective faculties beginning March. The committee wanted to ensure the projects that qualified for SRD2022 are high-quality and high-impact projects.



On the day of SRD2022, the finalists, each from the 23 academic programmes, were required to present their

research projects to a jury that comprised 12 experts who had been invited from the industries and other universities.

The overall winner for the Final Year Scientific Project (PITA 1) category was Mohd Raziq Mohd Nizam from the Bachelor of Technology (Environment) with Honors programme. Meanwhile, Siti Nur Hanani Zainuddin from the Bachelor of Science (Marine Geosciences) programme was the overall champion for the Final Year Scientific Project 2 (PITA 2) category.



Overall winners took home cash prizes along with certificates and trophies.

Prizes were also presented to 115 students whose projects were chosen as best projects for each programme.

Vice Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar presented the prizes to the winners. In his speech before the prize giving session, Professor Mazlan said the organizing of a programme such as SRD that encourages generation of products and ideas is important in producing quality graduates.

Before SRD, undergraduates' research work stopped when they had finished their final year projects, Professor Mazlan said. But with SRD, the research can now be showcased, which can lead to the studies being the solutions the industry's and society's problems, he added.

Professor Mazlan added that SRD is also a strategy to provide more employment opportunities to the students, since the event is usually attended by the industry people.

The 1303 project abstracts participating students had submitted to SRD2022 have been compiled into SRD2022 book of abstracts.



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IMPORTANT DATES

- 15 AUGUST 2022
Abstract Submission
- 15 SEPTEMBER 2022
Full paper deadline
- 30 AUGUST 2022
Abstract Acceptance notification
- 15 SEPTEMBER 2022
Registration
- 15 DECEMBER 2022
Payment confirmation deadline
- 27 - 29 DECEMBER 2022
Conference date

Submission

<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=icets2022>

REGISTRATION FEES

Registration Fee	Presenting Participant		Non-Presenting Participant
	Abstract	Full Paper	
Physical (Local)	RM300	RM800	RM200
Online (International)	USD100	USD200	USD50

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