



# UMT NEWSLETTER

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Ocean of Discoveries for Global Sustainability



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Vol. 2 Issue 9, September 2022

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UMT is deeply honoured to have received the constant patronage of His Royal Highness Sultan of Terengganu time and again.

In August, His Royal Highness was at Bidong Island to officiate UMT Diving School, the first in the country to be set up by a university. The Sultan also presented diving certificates to several recipients, including a double-amputee special ability diver.

In the same month, the Sultan's daughter Her Royal Highness Tengku Puteri Utama Raja, whom he recently consented to be appointed as UMT's Environmental Conservation Ambassador, visited Kampung Pengkalan Atap in Setiu, Terengganu, to see UMT's stingless bee farming project and the community's efforts in preserving the local traditions. She saw how stingless bees are cultivated for honey, food is made based on little known local plants, and mats and other handicraft are constructed using natural materials such as kercut and pandan plants.

Under the auspices of the Sultan of Terengganu and Tengku Puteri Utama Raja in her capacity as UMT's Conservation Ambassador, the university will continue with its efforts of protecting life below water, as advocated by the United Nations through its Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.



Professor Dr. Fauziah Hj. Abu Hasan  
Executive Editor

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# UMT Sets up Its Own Diving School to Offer Improved Services



UMT is now the country's only higher education institution with a scuba diving school when one officially became the university's newest addition in August.

The UMT Diving School was officiated in a ceremony on the 8th of the month at UMT's Marine Natural Research Station on Bidong Island.

Terengganu's Sultan His Royal Highness Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin consented to visit the station to complete the ceremony. He was accompanied to the island by his daughter Her Royal Highness Tengku Puteri Utama Raja Tengku Nadhirah Zahrah, who is also UMT's Environmental Conservation Ambassador.

Vice Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar said the school's establishment is in line with the UMT's niche area, which is marine science and aquatic resources. The school will play an important role in supporting the university's research works and the teaching and learning process, and most of the activities will take place either on campus or at the research station on the island, he added.

The school offers scuba diving courses up to the professional level, and courses will be conducted based on UMT Scuba Diving Manual (1st Edition). UMT received in 2020 the ISO 9001: 2015 (Quality Management System) certification for the scope "Management of Training Related to Scuba Diving Licensing Course," and became the first university to receive such certification, as has been acknowledged by the Malaysia Book of Records.

In addition to diving courses, the school also offers services to researchers, lecturers, and students for all scuba diving activities. Services include equipment rental and engagement of professional divers for underwater research works and teaching and learning activities. The school also entertains requests for services for recreational activities.



Besides Professor Mazlan, also present on the island for the ceremony were Chairman of UMT Board of Directors Tan Sri Dato Sri Shamsul Azhar Abbas and UMT's principal officers.

UMT has actively hosted various scuba diving events and worked with other scuba divers' associations. The university has partnered with Diveheart Malaysia to encourage participation from students with disability in a programme called Special Ability Divers. This is part of its effort to support the Ministry of Higher Education's PwD (Persons with Disabilities) Inclusion Policy in higher education institutions.



# UMT's Stingless Bee Project Helps Improve Local Community's Economy



UMT's steady effort to improve the economy of a local community in Setiu through a stingless bee farming project has thus far shown encouraging results. Since 2019, the university has been helping the residents of Kampung Pengkalan Atap in the district to become stingless bee entrepreneurs.

The results of the project were recently seen by UMT's Environmental Conservation Ambassador Her Royal Highness Tengku Puteri Utama Raja Tengku Nadhirah Zahrah when she visited the project's site in August.

The project led by Professor Dr. Shamsul Bahri Abd Razak initially involved only one family from the village. Tengku Azam Tengku Mat, more popularly known as Ayohku, was then given 15 stingless bee beehives.

At present, the number of beehives has increased to 200, and more than 20 families are participating in the project after they became aware of the high market demand, low operating cost, and simple maintenance using smart hive innovative technology.

The project is being financed by two agencies. Pharmaniaga Bhd. has contributed some funds to the project under the company's corporate social responsibility, or CSR. Malaysia Innovation Foundation, an agency under the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation, has done likewise through its social innovation fund.

The fund has enabled the project to be expanded, with more beehives added. Professor Shamsul Bahri said this will lead to more production of honey to meet the market demand.

According to Professor Shamsul Bahri, the project not only focuses on helping the community earn additional income but also emphasizes the element of environmental sustainability. He said the Setiu Wetlands is rich with a variety of flora such as Gelam trees, Palm trees, and mangroves that provide sources of food for the stingless bees they are rearing, and for this reason, they are reminded to appreciate and protect these resources that have contributed to their livelihood.

Vice Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar said it has always been UMT's aspiration to improve the socioeconomic status of the communities. UMT intends to produce many highly skilled stingless bee honey entrepreneurs that participate in the agrotourism sector, he said.

He added that Tengku Puteri Utama Raja's involvement will encourage the communities especially the youths to venture into stingless bee projects and join in efforts to protect and conserve the environment.

In addition to the current project, UMT's Bee and Stingless Bee Research Group led by Professor Shamsul Bahri has successfully carried out other similar projects involving single mothers, low-income individuals, students, and farmers around Besut, Kuala Nerus, and Marang districts.

# UMT Enters The Malaysian Book of Records Once Again



UMT has entered the Malaysia Book of Records one more time when the programme it recently organized has made the university the owner of the record for the nation's largest release of clownfish into the waters.

In the "Terengganu Inggu Back to Nature" programme in August, more than 1000 baby clownfish were simultaneously released into the waters of Bidong Island.

The project was a joint effort between two centres at UMT. The Hatchery Centre under the Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries (AKUATROP) was responsible for rearing the baby clownfish. The entire process was monitored by the project leader, AKUATROP's Associate Professor Dr. Liew Hon Jung.

The Centre for Research and Field Services (CRAFS) meanwhile provided the expertise in sampling activities and the services of experienced scuba divers familiar with the waters of Bidong Island. All activities were carried out under the supervision of the CRAFS Director Associate Professor Dr. Hasrizal Shaari.

Vice Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar said the programme was not carried out only to set the record. Through the programme, UMT also played a role in educating the public to appreciate the clownfish species and refrain from engaging in activities that can endanger the population, he said.

The project was also part of the initiative to conserve the underwater ecosystem and create a balance between all the marine lives, he said.

It was also intended to encourage the communities to help maintain global sustainability for the sake of future generations, he added.

Professor Mazlan hopes the project will motivate the local communities to support the tourism development at Bidong Island, a place filled with historical heritage and unique nature, and home to underwater archaeological artefacts.

The release of the clownfish was carried out in conjunction with the launching of the Terengganu Dive Month 2022 at Bidong Island. The event was a collaborative effort between UMT and the Terengganu Department of Tourism and was organized as a lead-up to the 65th National Day celebration. Various activities were held to promote Terengganu's islands, including Bidong Island, Perhentian Island, and Tenggol Island, as tourism destinations.

The launching of the event carrying the theme "Dive for Freedom" was completed by Director of Terengganu Tourism Department Fadli Yusof Zakaria.

As part of the Terengganu Dive Month 2022, UMT also organized the Bidong Merdeka Dive 2022. The university's annual event had been absent for two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

# UMT To Partner With KRU on Entrepreneurship Projects



Two well-known organizations in the country have formally agreed to become UMT's latest collaboration partners.

KRU Foundation and KRU Entertainment recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the university. The three aim to work together and utilize their industrial and academic resources for greater benefits.

The signing of the MOU in July took place at KRU headquarters in Kuala Lumpur. Vice Chancellor Professor Dato' Mazlan Abd Ghaffar signed on behalf of UMT. Dato' Norman Abdul Halim, KRU Foundation president, signed on behalf of the foundation while Zarina A. Rahman, Vice President of Operations, signed on behalf of KRU Entertainment.

Professor Mazlan said UMT will work together with the two organizations in several collaborative programmes. UMT's Centre for Knowledge Transfer and Industry Networking will be representing the university in joint

projects especially in the fields of digital entrepreneurship and creative industry.

According to Professor Mazlan, there are several collaborations UMT can establish with KRU in the field of creative industry. These include book publications in the forms of eBooks and audiobooks, and establishment of iLike, an eCommerce platform similar to Shopee and Lazada for displaying innovative products by student and staff entrepreneurs.

Dato' Norman said KRU is actively establishing collaborations with higher education institutions as part of its effort to elevate the status of digital entrepreneurship and creative industry platforms. He believes universities such as UMT can contribute in many ways to help achieve the goals even though the nature of their activities is mostly academic-oriented.

Dato' Norman hopes collaborations between the industry and academicians will produce creative entrepreneurs that will find ways to generate incomes and in turn help boost the country's economy.

# UMT Keeps in Touch With International Alumni



UMT has stayed true to its plan of maintaining a close relationship with its former international graduates when it recently held the second series of the International Alumni Talk (IAT).

The event with the theme “International Alumni Engagement and Contribution to Alma Mater” was organized by UMT’s Alumni Centre.

Alumni Centre Director Associate Professor Dr. Yusof Shuaib Ibrahim said the objectives of the second IAT were to obtain responses from two international alumni on how strategic collaborations can be established between alumni’s current organizations and UMT, what transfer knowledge programmes are suitable, and how to set up programmes that will allow alumni to contribute back to the university.

The two former UMT graduates are from Nigeria and Indonesia. Nigerian Dr. Okomoda Victor Tosin is an alumni of 2018 class and graduated with a doctorate in Fisheries. Currently he is a lecturer with the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture at Federal University of Agricultural Makurdi in Benue State, Nigeria.

Indonesian Sherly Hanifarianty is an alumni of 2011 class and graduated with a degree in postharvest technology. She is presently attached to the Research Center for Rubber Technology at Indonesia Rubber Research Institute.

Joining the two as a special guest was Deputy Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Alumni Associate Professor Dr. Hafiz Zakariya.

The panel agreed it is important for alumni to continuously support their alma mater and contribute back to the university they had graduated from.

The panel also agreed UMT needs to consider its alumni as one of the most important stakeholders as several among them are academicians, industry players, entrepreneurs, managers, and activists that can provide honest inputs regarding the status of the university on the international front.

The panel concurred UMT must further highlight and promote its uniqueness, such as its strategic location within the marine environment, to attract more international students.

Khairul Hakimi Mohd Naw, president of UMT’s Alumni Association and member of UMT’s Board of Directors, who attended the event remarked the integration between UMT and international alumni needed to be strengthened for the university’s development.

He believed programmes such as IAT can serve as a good platform for creating a closer bond with former UMT graduates from other countries.

Dr. Hafiz said UMT always looks to improve its networking with international alumni so that the university can remain relevant in international higher education.

Meanwhile, Dr. Yusof Shuaib said the Alumni Centre has conducted programmes to help UMT achieve one of its Key Performance Indicators, which is the organizing of internationalisation programmes with international alumni. This has been included in UMT’s Strategic Plan (2018-2022) under Thrust 6: Global Visibility.

# ICABEC 2022

7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Accounting, Business and Economics

“Green Business towards Sustainable Development”



OFFICIATING SPEECH BY

**TAN SRI (DR) MOHAMMED AZLAN HASHIM**  
Executive Chairman  
Marine & General Berhad



OPENING REMARKS BY

**PROFESSOR DATO' DR MAZLAN ABD GHAFFAR, FASc.**  
Vice Chancellor  
Universiti Malaysia Terengganu

24 – 26 OCTOBER 2022 HYBRID (UMT CAMPUS AND WEBEX)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**PROF. DR. KHALED HUSSAINEY**  
Professor of Accounting  
University of Portsmouth, UK

INDUSTRY SPEAKER



**MR. MOHD SUHAIMI ABDUL HAMID**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Standard Chartered Saadiq Malaysia

PLENARY SPEAKER 1



**PROF. DR. ABDUL RAHIM ABDUL SAMAD**  
Professor of Economics  
Universiti Putra Malaysia

PLENARY SPEAKER 2



**DR. IR. BOB FOSTER**  
Rector  
Universitas Informatika dan Bisnis Indonesia

Conference Theme

The conference welcome papers in the following, but not limited to, research areas:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Accounting, Business and Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accounting, Auditing and Assurance</li> <li>Commercial Law</li> <li>Corporate Governance</li> <li>Corporate Social Responsibility</li> <li>Cost and Management Accounting</li> <li>Environmental Accounting</li> <li>Green Reporting</li> <li>Human Resource Management</li> <li>Islamic Accounting</li> <li>Logistics Management</li> <li>Marketing</li> <li>Taxation</li> <li>Tourism and Hospitality</li> </ul> | <p><b>Finance and Economics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Behavioural Finance and Market Efficiency</li> <li>Big Data and Artificial Intelligence</li> <li>Corporate Finance</li> <li>Cryptocurrencies and Fintech</li> <li>Financial Economics and Econometrics</li> <li>Financial Markets and Institutions</li> <li>Health, Labour and Public Economics</li> <li>Insurance and Actuarial Science</li> <li>International Economics</li> <li>Investment and Portfolio Management</li> <li>Islamic Banking and Finance</li> <li>Islamic Economics</li> <li>Micro and Macroeconomics</li> <li>Risk Management and Modelling</li> </ul> |
|---|---|

Important Dates

- Extended Abstract Deadline  
**24 Aug 2022**
- Acceptance of Conference Participation  
**1 Sep 2022**
- Registration and Payment Deadline  
**24 Sep 2022**
- Full Paper Deadline (for Proceedings Publication)  
**1 Nov 2022**

Organized by

Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Development  
Universiti Malaysia Terengganu

	Categories	Fees	
		Online	On Site
Local	Normal Participants	RM550	RM950
	Students (Malaysian Universities)	RM400	RM550
International	Normal Participants	USD200	USD350
	Students (International Universities)	USD150	USD250

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<https://bit.ly/icabec2022>





PUSAT PENDIDIKAN ASAS DAN LANJUTAN  
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# VGLEP 2022

VIRTUAL CULTURE, LANGUAGE & ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM 2022

**3 - 4 DECEMBER 2022**

**8 A M - 5 P M**  
(Malaysia Time)

## TOPICS

- To know Malaysia is To Love Malaysia.
- Insight to Malaysian Culture.
- Let's Learn Malay Language.
- Intro to Malaysia Biodiversity.
- Terengganu virtual tour.
- Sanggar Budaya : Traditional Dance

## BENEFITS

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- IMMERSE in the LOCAL CULTURE!

## PARTICIPANTS

**ONLY OPEN FOR  
UNDERGRADUATES!**

## FEES

**FREE ADMISSION**

## MEDIUM



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Organised by :  
Centre of Foundation and Continuing  
Education, in collaboration with the  
National Department For Culture and  
Arts, Terengganu, Ministry of Tourism,  
Arts and Culture

**REGISTRATION**  
Deadline:  
**25 OCTOBER 2022**



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