

UMT NEWSLETTER

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Vol. 2 Issue 12, December 2022

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Participating in extracurricular activities helps university students build their confidence, sharpen their soft skills, and become a well-rounded holistic graduate. The Malaysia Education Blueprint 2015-2025 (Higher Education) and UMT's Strategic Plan both have thrusts aimed at producing balanced graduates possessing both ilmu (knowledge and skills) and akhlak (ethics and morality). Equipping students with the necessary tools is important in order to help them navigate through life beyond the campus. The needed tools can be imparted through various extracurricular activities that will add value and provide comparative advantage for the graduates. Employers look beyond the graduates' degree and cumulative grade point average; they seek graduates that already have the necessary abilities and attributes and are able to hit the ground running.



As UMT's niche area is Marine Science and Aquatic Resources, all its first-year students are required to undergo a sea survival and heritage appreciation programme. This extracurricular programme includes water confident activities, kayaking, snorkelling, and heritage trail activities. This programme will not only hone the various soft skills but also impart knowledge about caring for, conserving, and preserving the oceans' ecosystem.

Recently, UMT students made a name for themselves at the international arena when they won third place at South Korea's Yisunsin Cup International Yacht Race, which had participants from many other Asian countries including Japan, South Korea, and Singapore. Being able to participate in this kind of activities will develop UMT students' soft skills such as team working, innovation, leadership, and problem-solving skills and subsequently improve their employability.

Professor Dr. Fauziah Hj. Abu Hasan
Executive Editor

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UMT Sailing Team Finishes in Top Three at International Race in South Korea

Mohd Hafzi Said, UMT Sailing Centre



UMT Sailing Team has recently won at the 16th Yisunsin Cup International Yacht Race in Tongyeong City, South Korea, taking home the bronze trophy and a cash prize of 1,500,000 Won.

A UMT staff, Ku Anas Ku Zamil, and two students from the Bachelor's Degree of Nautical Sciences and Maritime Transport, Ahmad Zubir Zulkefly and Muhammad Faris Aiman Basri, made up the crew. This race was held from 3 – 5 November, and other Asian teams from China, Singapore, Taiwan, Japan, Thailand, and South Korea competed.

It was UMT's first international participation in a yacht race in Korea. The team was required to use a J/70 category yacht, which is unfamiliar to Malaysians and not available in the country.

"We were able to explore the J/70 yacht and learn how to handle it by watching YouTube videos and taking a series

of training sessions using the UMT F36 yacht, which is available at Duyong Marina in Terengganu," Ku Anas said.

"Despite the yacht's different specifications, we were able to handle it, and we were also able to deal with other difficult issues such as unfamiliar race areas and weather conditions that were different than the ones in Malaysia," he added.

According to another crew member, Muhammad Faris, the sailing sport offers several career opportunities. Sailing enthusiasts can choose to become sailing coaches, sport managers, or even athletes who represent their countries. He also encourages other UMT students to enrol in sailing classes offered by UMT's Sailing Training Centre in each semester.

The success of the UMT Sailing Team has been widely publicised in the local media, which will further help UMT to establish itself as the leader in sailing programmes in Malaysia.

UMT Professor Receives National Icon of Academia 2022 Award

Wan Zulkifli Wan Kassim, Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education



A UMT professor in the field of Sustainable Human Resource Management has recently been named the National Icon of Holistic Academia in conjunction with the celebration of the Academia Day 2022 at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM).

Professor Dr. Yusliza Mohd Yusoff from the Faculty of Business, Economics, and Social Development was chosen as the recipient in recognition of her excellent contributions in teaching and learning, research, administration, supervision, consultation, publication, community service, and academic leadership at the university, national, and international levels.

The award was presented by Director General of Higher Education Professor Dato' Dr. Husaini Omar. UKM Vice Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr. Mohd Ekhwan Hj. Toriman delivered the welcoming speech.

Professor Yusliza was among the 19 academics chosen as the recipients of the Icon of Academia 2022 award. Eight of the academics were from the public universities and 11 from polytechnics and community colleges.

The Academia Day 2022 was observed to recognize the contributions of higher institution academics who have put in the efforts to elevate the country's higher education to a global level after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ministry of Education has celebrated the Malaysia Academia Day every 5th October since 2019 and has acknowledged October as the Academia Month in recognition of the contributions by of academics from public and private universities, polytechnics, community colleges, teachers' training institutes, matriculation colleges, and vocational training institutes. The academia community comprises about 70,000 educators.

The theme for this year's Academia Day was "Academia Drives the Community Wellbeing." The theme was chosen based on the Ministry of Higher Education's commitment in focussing more on trainers, teachers, and lecturers who has become icons, experts, models, and changemakers to students.

Professor Yusliza said to achieve success individuals must be willing to help with their universities' visibility, become positive thinkers, have high confidence, believe in their abilities to succeed, and always ask for God's blessings.

"I am grateful for the award, and this is an achievement that has made me, my family, and UMT proud," she said.

Professor Yusliza has also been listed in the World's Top 2% Scientist ranking in single recent year (2021), announced by Stanford University recently. The world's Top 2% Scientists is regarded as the most prestigious global recognition. It is based on data released by Elsevier BV, Stanford University, since 2019.

Stanford University scientists have created a database of top-cited scientists that provides standardized information on citations, h-index, co-authorship adjusted hm-index, citations to papers in different authorship positions and a composite indicator (c-score). The selection is based on a percentile rank of 2% or above in the sub-field. They classified scientists into 22 scientific fields and 176 sub-fields. The publicly available database of over 100,000 top scientists provides standardized information on citations, h-index, and citations to papers in different authorship positions and a composite indicator.

REEFS RIG Team Receives The International Seakeepers Asia Achievement Award 2022

Dr. Siti Nurtahirah Jaafar, Faculty of Science & Marine Environment

The collaboration between UMT’s REEFS (Research and Education on Environment for Future Sustainability) RIG Team and The International SeaKeepers Society Asia is not new.

Within 5 years of dynamic collaborations, both parties have organised many activities related to scientific works on marine environmental protection, citizen-science, and marine edu-awareness programmes.

The highlight of the high-impact partnership was the Bring Our Turtles Back (BOTB) campaign. The campaign was filled with programmes related to turtle conservation such as booth exhibition, fund raising, beach clean-up, and turtle sculpture competition.

The campaign with the slogan “Our Icon, Our Heritage, Our Legacy” received strong support from key corporate partners that included luxury timekeeper BALL Watch, Malaysia Rail Link (MRL), Star Vista Education, Aculife, and Primula Beach Hotel. Several individual sponsors also contributed to the cause.

Through this BOTB campaign, REEFS and Seakeepers managed to raise fund to continue working together on marine educational programmes for Terengganu and habitat monitoring particularly at the coral reefs, and to support the operation of local NGO, Kapas Turtle, which focuses on turtle conservation activities.

With REEFS RIG’s extraordinary commitment to marine conservation education, and efforts on science and environmental conservation through community, government, and civil organisations, the team has recently been awarded “The International SeaKeepers - Asia Achievement Award 2022” by The International SeaKeepers Society Asia as a sign of appreciation. The award was presented during a prestigious event held in Singapore recently.

The recognition was greatly appreciated not only by the REEFS RIG’s researchers, but also by the UMT community as a whole.

The team hopes that the established collaboration between REEFS RIG and The SeaKeepers Society Asia will grow stronger and both parties will work harder together for the benefits of Our Oceans!



CVASU Students Participate in Externship Programme at UMT

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Hanafi Idris, Faculty of Fisheries & Food Science



Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU), Bangladesh, in 2016 to jointly develop student's activities such as student exchange programmes and training. UMT's Faculty of Fisheries and Food Science (FPSM) received 345 CVASU students for an Externship Training within 2016 - 2020. The students were given 2 credit hours for credit transfer after the completion of the externship training. Lecturers from the Faculty of Fisheries, CVASU, also attended the training. The objectives of the programme were to implement one of the activities under the MoU signed by the UMT and CVASU, initiate the student Mobility Programme (Inbound), which is one component of the Key Performance Index (KPI) under the Critical Agenda Programme (CAPS), and promote the programmes of study at UMT to increase the intakes of international undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The MoU was renewed in 2021 for six more years until 2026. Professor Dr. Mohammed Nurul Absar Khan, Dean of Faculty of Fisheries, CVASU, expressed his desire to send CVASU's students for an Externship Programme at FPSM to learn more breeding techniques, fish diseases, and fish nutrition. A total of 51 fisheries students attended the 25-day externship training starting from 22 October until 17 November 2022. The programme was the first to be conducted after the COVID-19 pandemic. Students were divided into 3 groups to undergo Externship Training at

FPSM, in which they were trained on fish nutrition, fish diseases, and fish breeding. For fish nutrition, students were introduced to fish feed and fish nutrition aspects. The activities were conducted at the Fish Nutrition Management Laboratory, FPSM, under the supervision of Dr. Sharifah Rahmah Syed Muhammad and Dr Mimi Iryani Mat Taib. For fish health, students were exposed to health management aspects of aquatic culture as well as parasitology, virology, and bacteriology. The activities were conducted at FPSM Aquatic Organisms Laboratory and Postgraduate laboratory under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Najiah Musa, Associate Prof. Dr. Sandra Catherine Zainathan, Dr. Nurul Aqilah Iberahim, and Dr. Hassan Ibrahim Sheikh Mohamed. For hatchery technology and fish breeding, students were exposed to hatchery management and ornamental fish seeding. The group of students carried out activities at FPSM hatchery under the supervision of Dr. Lokman Nor Hakim Norazmi, Dr. Ivan Koh Chong Chu, and Dr. Muhammad Abduh Yazed.

During the 25-day externship programme at FPSM, all the CVASU's students had the opportunity to gain more knowledge particularly in advanced laboratory and hatchery techniques for fish nutrition, fish diseases, and hatchery technology. Through this fruitful programme, experts at FPSM were able to impart knowledge to international students from CVASU. The students, in return, will be able to apply the techniques, skills, experience, and knowledge gained once they are back at their campus.

INOS Holds Two-day Conference on Sustaining Oceans' Future

Azida Abdullah, Faculty of Ocean Engineering Tecnology & Informatc



The 3rd Tropical Ocean and Marine Sciences International Symposium (TOMSY2022) was held at Universiti Malaysia Terengganu Conference Centre (UMTCC) from 6-7 November. The biannual event was organized by the Institute of Oceanography and Environment (INOS).

At this year's event, over hundred attendees were present, including industry partners and marine science communities, such as Hidrokinetik Technologies Sdn. Bhd., Marine Coastal and Delta Sustainability for Southeast Asia (MARE), and Institute of Oceanography and Maritime Studies (INOCEM) at International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM).

UMT's collaborations with local industries will provide a great platform to enhance the university's presence and help it become more relevant in the marine-related industry.

The MARE project, co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, aims to provide support to academicians in Asian higher education institutions (HEIs) in designing and implementing new and improvised syllabus of courses related to the marine environment and sustainability. The project highlights the issues of marine ecosystem and sustainability, which have become an environmental governance challenge in the Asian partner countries. MARE partners at 13 institutions from four different countries including Malaysia, Vietnam, Germany, Italy, and Estonia joined the five-day TOMSY-MARE Conference Meeting. Seven MARE members presented in TOMSY Special Session for MARE "Enhancing Learning in Higher Education through Advancement in Marine Science Research".

TOMSY began in 2018 as a platform for marine communities to spread knowledge in marine science

research. For TOMSY2022, the theme was "Ocean Research for a Sustainable Future". The theme is relevant to the global agenda on achieving a sustainable and healthy ocean, as indicated in SDG14 and UN Ocean Decade. The third symposium provided a high-impact research discourse that can be further translated or transformed into scientific-based management to achieve a global goal of a healthy ocean for a healthy planet.

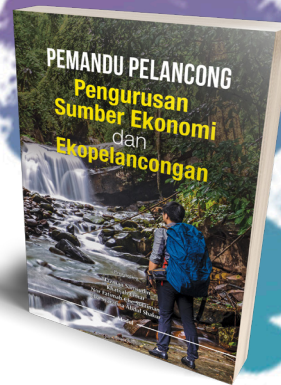
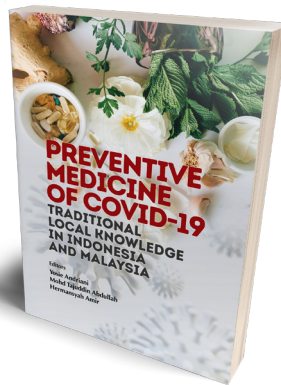
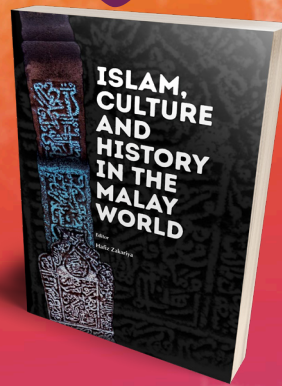
The keynote speaker was Prof. Dr. Biswajeet Pradhan, Director of Centre for Advanced Modelling and Geospatial Information Systems (CAMGIS), University of Technology Sydney, Australia. Prof Pradhan highlighted that the applications of machine learning and spatial intelligence are rapidly gaining the attention of marine scientists due to their ability to provide reliable data in less time compared to laborious manual monitoring.

The first plenary talk was given by Dr. Salvatore Aricò from UNESCO's Natural Sciences Sector. He discussed the challenges in bridging science to policy implementation and how the scientific community and policymakers can work together to facilitate scientific advice for implementing the SDGs.

The other two plenary speakers were Prof. Shing Yip (Joe) Lee from The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Prof. Dr. Wan Izatul Asma Wan Talaat, Head of Centre for Ocean Governance, INOS. Prof. Shing gave a talk entitled 'Mangrove microphytobenthos - a neglected driver of estuarine trophodynamics'. Prof. Dr. Wan Izatul Asma delivered a talk entitled 'The Role of Ocean Governance in Translating Science into Policies ~ Accelerating the National Delivery to the Ocean Decade'.



Highlights



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