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Executive Editor

Professor Dr. Fauziah Abu Hasan

Editor

Muhamad Khairul Zakaria

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Rozita Alias@Abdul Latiff
Amirul Salam Hasan

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Adli Hashim

Photographers

Mohd Sharwan Abd Ghani
Mohd Shukry Tahar
Nur Hafiza Ellias
Tengku Iskandar Zulfahmi Tengku Mohamad

Corporate Communications Office
Universiti Malaysia Terengganu
email : pro@umt.edu.my

The vibrant fusion of academia and industry has long served as the cornerstone of human progress, fostering innovation, and creating opportunities for mutual growth. Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) exemplifies this illustrious tradition, forging strong alliances in training and research with industry giants such as IBM, the Port of Tanjung Pelepas, Salihin, Petronas, ACCA, and CCM Polymers. As a result, our graduates emerge from our esteemed institution equipped with invaluable work experience, diverse skills, and powerful connections that propel them to success in an increasingly competitive world.



In the pursuit of transformative knowledge, UMT has embarked on collaborative research ventures that have left indelible marks on various industries. Recently, our partnership with Taiwan's Opportunity Biotechnology birthed the UMT-OPPTY joint lab, a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to revolutionizing crab farming through cutting-edge technology and research. Likewise, our collaboration with MAPA Gloves Malaysia highlights our commitment to fostering innovation, as we share our expertise in the latest technological advancements to bolster the thriving glove production industry.

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu takes immense pride in our unwavering dedication to this noble mission. As we continue to forge new partnerships, explore uncharted territories, and push the boundaries of knowledge and innovation, we remain steadfast in our belief that these collaborations are vital to shaping a brighter, more prosperous future for our nation and the world. Through our ongoing efforts, we aim to inspire the next generation of leaders to embrace the transformative power of industry-academia collaboration and carry the torch of progress forward.

Professor Dr. Fauziah HJ. Abu Hasan
Executive Editor

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Bridging Oceans: UMT's Momentous Collaboration with NTOU and OPPTY in Taiwan

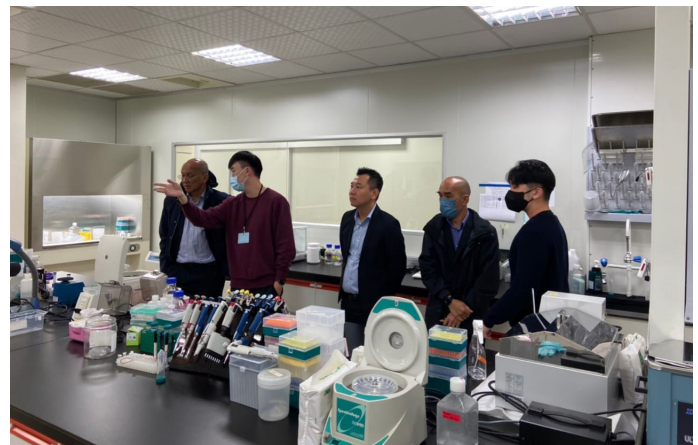
Liew Hon Jung, Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries
Muhamad Khairul bin Zakaria, Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education

The Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) is proud to announce the recent visit of its esteemed Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd. Ghaffar, to Taiwan, where he, along with the Director of the Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries (AKUATROP), Prof. Dr. Mhd Ikhwanuddin Abdullah, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Liew Hon Jung, solidified UMT's commitment to global cooperation and academic excellence. The journey to Taiwan heralded the renewal of UMT's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Taiwan Ocean University (NTOU) and the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Opportunity Biotechnology Co. Ltd. (OPPTY).

Over the years, the MOU partnership between UMT and NTOU has flourished, resulting in numerous inbound and outbound programs that have enriched the experiences of students, staff, and academicians alike. The renewed MOU aims to bolster cooperation in various avenues, including the development of post-graduate programs, capacity-building endeavours in marine sciences and fisheries-related fields, the establishment of research projects, the organization of a summer camp, and the realization of numerous other joint projects, heralding an era of unprecedented collaboration.

The international MOA collaboration with OPPTY represents a bold step forward, focusing on AKUATROP's consultation services to support OPPTY in the comprehensive development of crab farming technology, breeding programs, and crab culture training services in Taiwan. As part of this ambitious initiative, UMT and OPPTY are in the process of establishing a joint commercial laboratory at AKUATROP, known as the "UMT-OPPTY Joint-Laboratory." This state-of-the-art facility will serve as a beacon of innovation, providing invaluable benefits to students, staff, the community, and industry partners through genome-transcriptome services.

UMT's unwavering commitment to fostering international partnerships and academic excellence is exemplified by the Vice Chancellor's visit to Taiwan and the strengthening of bonds with NTOU and OPPTY. As we celebrate these momentous achievements, UMT stands proud in its mission to cultivate a global network of collaboration and innovation, forging a path toward a brighter future.



UMT Embarks on Transformative Collaborations with PLANMalaysia and MAPA Gloves Sdn. Bhd.

Nor Hafzan binti Abd. Rasid, Institute of Oceanography and Environment
 Nazli bin Aziz, Institute of Oceanography and Environment
 Kesaven A/L Bhubalan, Faculty of Science and Marine Environment
 Muhamad Khairul bin Zakaria, Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education

In a remarkable display of academic and industrial synergy, the University of Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) has entered into groundbreaking partnerships with PLANMalaysia and MAPA Gloves Sdn. Bhd. These collaborations, marked by the signing of Letters of Intent (LOIs) for each partnership, serve as a testament to UMT's unwavering commitment to advancing knowledge, innovation, and sustainable development.

On February 27, 2023, a momentous ceremony took place as the Institute of Oceanography and Environment (INOS) and UMT presented YBhg. TPr. Dr. Alias bin Rameli, Director General of PLANMalaysia, with the prestigious appointment as an INOS Visiting Principal Research Fellow. This auspicious event also saw the signing of an LOI for cooperation between UMT and PLANMalaysia. This strategic alliance, aimed at enhancing collaborative research and bolstering initiatives such as the National Coastal Zone Physical Plan 2, builds upon the strong foundation laid by INOS and PLANMalaysia since 2017.

UMT's pursuit of excellence continued with a vital collaboration with leading glove manufacturer, MAPA Gloves Sdn. Bhd. On March 12, 2023, a celebratory handover ceremony marked the signing of a contract research and licensing agreement, solidifying the partnership between UMT and MAPA. Beginning in late 2019, this joint venture has focused on the cutting-edge research of biodegradable polymers and their applications in glove manufacturing. Under the expert guidance of Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Kesaven Bhubalan, the innovative project centered on incorporating polyhydroxyalkanoate (PHA) microbeads into latex films and evaluating their environmental degradation.

Dr. Kesaven's collaboration with MAPA was further enriched by his six-month tenure in the Academic Industry Attachment program. During this time, the team successfully completed Phase 1 of the study, launching discussions on Phase 2, which explores the degradation of PHA-latex films in diverse natural environments and compost soil. On November 21, 2022, UMT and MAPA formalized their partnership by signing a Contract Research Agreement valued at RM 55,057.00



for a period of 12 months and a Licensing Agreement granting MAPA the privilege to employ the patented technology developed by Dr. Kesaven and UMT in their research and development of glove manufacturing.

These extraordinary collaborations underscore UMT's dedication to strengthening academia-industry linkages and propelling the commercialization of revolutionary products born from the ingenuity of its academic community. UMT's partnerships with PLANMalaysia and MAPA Gloves Sdn. Bhd. promise to yield long-term benefits, contribute to the sustainability of our oceans and environment, and fulfill crucial aspects of UMT's strategic plan. As we celebrate these achievements, we eagerly anticipate the inspiring progress that these collaborations will undoubtedly bring to UMT, our nation, and the world.



A Beacon of Hope: UMT's Jungle School Initiative Empowers Indigenous People Community

Khatijah Omar, Institute of Tropical Biodiversity and Sustainable Development
Muhamad Khairul bin Zakaria, Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education

In pursuit of a brighter future for the indigenous people community, the Malaysian government has made concerted efforts to implement various development programs, primarily through the Jabatan Kemajuan Orang Asli (JAKOA). Alongside these initiatives, higher education institutions and government bodies have come together to support the indigenous people in their journey towards modernization and improved living standards. The University Malaysia Terengganu's Tropical Biodiversity and Sustainable Development Institute, formerly known as the Kenyir Research Institute, has been at the forefront of these endeavors, actively collaborating with several government and non-governmental agencies to organize community-focused activities.

Under the guidance of the Tropical Biodiversity and Sustainable Development Institute, the University Malaysia Terengganu has spearheaded the Jungle School and Digital Jungle School Learning Activities project, a transformative program designed to assist students from indigenous community in Kg Sungai Berua. With the backing of JPNT, SK Sg Berua, PPDHT, JAKOA, and the State Park Management Council, this project has flourished, funded by the Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO and steered by Professor Dr. Khatijah Binti Omar, alongside seven other dedicated researchers.

As of March 2023, the Jungle School project has successfully conducted 20 relaxed learning sessions and eight activity slots. The Rimba School has gained significant recognition, having been selected for evaluation as part of the Kenyir Geopark agenda. Garnering widespread media attention, including newspapers, radio, and television coverage, the Rimba School has also been chosen for evaluation as part of the Kenyir Geopark agenda.

In preparation for the evaluation process scheduled for March 8, 2023, the University Malaysia Terengganu orchestrated a University Social Responsibility (USR) program on March 6, 2023. This communal cleanup effort, dubbed "Keceriaan Pondok Sekolah Rimba," aimed to rejuvenate the Rimba School hut area, including painting the hut, repairing the roof and floor, clearing nearby bushes, constructing a small drain, collecting



trash, and cleaning both the interior and exterior of the hut.

This inspiring USR program united participants from various backgrounds who collaborated to empower the indigenous people community. Concluding with a light refreshment, this event exemplifies the unwavering dedication and collaborative spirit of UMT in supporting the indigenous people on their path towards a brighter, more sustainable future.

Crafting a Legacy: UMT Debaters Set a New Benchmark at the 2023 Darul Ta'zim Debating Championship

Aisyah binti Nor Hisham, Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology and Informatics
Muhamad Khairul bin Zakaria, Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education

In a remarkable display of intellectual prowess, the debate teams from the University of Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) etched their names in history at the prestigious 2023 Darul Ta'zim Debating Championship. Rising above the fray, both UMT teams demonstrated unwavering tenacity as they earned their spots in the quarterfinals, with UMT A clinching an impressive fourth position overall.

UMT B proved their mettle by winning two of the four preliminary rounds, handily securing the fifth overall place, and advancing to the quarterfinals. Though their journey was halted by eventual winners USM A in a fiercely contested match, UMT B showcased the exceptional talents of debaters Arveend Phraseart A/L Ma Noon, Nur Quratul Widiana Binti Mohammad Saufi, Aliff Najmi Bin Mohd Nazri, and Ameerul Iskandar Bin Abdullah.

Parallel to this, UMT A displayed grit and determination, capturing two preliminary round victories and facing the league champions, UPM A, in the quarterfinals. Their spirited performance led them to triumph over UPM A and advance to the semi-finals, where they went head-to-head against USM A. Despite a narrow defeat, UMT A's Puteri Nur Amirah received the honour of being named the best debater, a testament to the team's formidable skills.

The championship witnessed fierce competition among 14 teams from public and private higher education institutions nationwide. Hosted by Sultan Idris Education University from March 4–6, 2023, the event culminated in an electrifying third and fourth place deciding round. UMT A faced off against UPSI in a heated debate surrounding the topic "Government of National Unity Coalition: Like a House of Cards, Break One and All Will Fall". Though UPSI emerged as the third-place winner, UMT A's fourth-place finish carried great significance, marking the final competition for its esteemed debaters Nur Azmina Binti Mat Jamail, Aisyah Binti Nor Hisham, Puteri Nur Amirah Binti Suhaimi, and Hegabisek Kumar A/L Rajan.

Held in conjunction with Johor Student Week V and themed "Students as Catalysts for National Political Maturity", the 2023 Darul Ta'zim Debating Championship



brought together the brightest minds from across the country. Organised by the Johor Student Association, the event showcased the pivotal role of students in catalysing the nation's political maturity. Employing a parliamentary debate format, the competition required teams to feature at least one debater born in Johor, further highlighting regional pride and unity.

As the three-day championship drew to a close, the University of Malaysia Terengganu stood tall, its debaters exemplifying the power of perseverance, the pursuit of excellence, and the transformative impact of intellectual discourse. The resounding success of UMT's debaters at the 2023 Darul Ta'zim Debating Championship is a testament to the bright future that awaits them and the university as a whole, inspiring future generations of students.

The Triumph of Tenacity: UMT Students' Remarkable Journey through the 2022 Indonesian Internship Program

Hayatul Safrah Salleh, Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Development
 Yuary Farradia, Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Development
 Muhamad Khairul bin Zakaria, Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education

In an era of rapid globalization and fierce competition, the University Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) continues to empower its students to soar to greater heights. Ten ambitious students from UMT's Bachelor of Management (Marketing) program ventured beyond their nation's borders for an unparalleled six-month internship experience in Indonesia. From August 8, 2022, to January 20, 2023, these young talents honed their skills in the bustling cities of Jakarta and Bogor, plunging into the dynamic world of marketing and business.

As part of the MOU between UMT and Universitas Pakuan (UNPAK), Bogor, Indonesia, this internship program was set up. UNPAK facilitated the companies' allocation, permit, and visa arrangements for the students and acted as a parent campus on behalf of the Faculty of Business, Economics, and Social Development, UMT.

Distributed across seven prestigious companies, the UMT interns delved into a wide array of marketing programs, ranging from market research and customer service to retail distribution and social media management. These enterprising individuals seized every opportunity to immerse themselves in company life, participating in exhibitions, events, staff gatherings, field sales, promotions, distributor and retailer visits, and even sports activities. In doing so, they gained invaluable insights into the practical applications of their academic knowledge and expanded their horizons in the dynamic world of marketing.

At vOffice Indonesia, an international provider of shared office services, Muhammad Nazmi Fitri Bin Yusof showcased his adaptability and eagerness to learn, developing marketing content for multiple subsidiaries, including Izin.co.id, Hellolive.id, and Spaze.id. His supervisor, Mr. Nasrul Ja'far, praised Nazmi's fast learning and ability to excel in his tasks while also acquiring new product knowledge and skills throughout his internship.

Meanwhile, at PT Superintending Company of Indonesia (SUCOFINDO), Nur Aqilah Bt Alias and Thanuscha Devy a/p Kesavan contributed to the inspection and certification company by conducting market research, analyzing customer segmentation data, and crafting compelling website copy. Their efforts contributed to the company's understanding of current market trends in Asia and the identification of competitors.

Nik Muhammad Nabil Bin Nek Rosli and Mohammad Afiq Ikhwan Bin Mohd Ariffin demonstrated their commitment to customer service excellence at PT



Teknologi Karya Digital Nusa tbk, a technology company focused on integrated Smart Cities and the Internet of Things (IoT).

At PERUMDA Tirta Pakuan, Bogor, Aqilah Bt Su Azmi and Nur Syaidatul Ayu Bt Mazalam supported the local government company's mission to provide clean water to the community by focusing on customer service and promotional activities.

In the agricultural sector, Wan Nazran Bin Wan Yusoff lent his expertise to PT Agricon Indonesia (ACI), a national distribution company for agricultural products. His internship activities encompassed administrative support for retailer activities, supplier relations, and buyer engagement.

Kama Firdaus Bin M. Kamaruzlan immersed himself in the transportation sector at PDJT (Perumda Transportasi Pakuan), working with a three-business system involving accounting, content management, and deposit systems.

Finally, at Bank Perkreditan Rakyat (BPR) Bank Kota Bogor, Nur Nabihah Afiqah Binti Mohd Shawari dove into credit administration and marketing research, striving to uncover niche markets for rural banks and foster business growth.

This exhilarating journey in the 2022 Indonesian Internship Program exemplifies the University of Malaysia Terengganu's commitment to providing its students with unparalleled educational opportunities. By nurturing their skills and knowledge in real-world settings, UMT ensures its graduates emerge as confident, capable, and globally competitive professionals, poised to excel in their chosen fields.

Consequently, the unwavering dedication and resourcefulness of these UMT students exemplify the university's commitment to cultivating future leaders. As the Indonesian Internship Program came to a close, these ten trailblazers returned home with a wealth of knowledge, skills, and experiences, poised to make a lasting impact on the global stage.



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Tel : +609-668 4532 | 4336 Fax : +609-668 4143

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