

UMT NEWSLETTER

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OCEAN OF DISCOVERIES FOR GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY



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Recently, UMT welcomed our new chairman of the Board of Directors. Professor Dr Mohamad Salmi Mohd Sohod has extensive experience in private and public higher education and will bring new ideas and strategies to guide UMT in achieving our aspirations.

In any institution of higher learning, leadership plays a crucial role in steering it towards achieving its vision and mission, and this is especially so for UMT. Along with the top management, the board will advise the university on how to lead and foster innovation and growth, such as by offering new, highly demanded programmes or by engaging in cutting edge research. A strong leadership will give a sense of purpose and direction, and in UMT's case, it will guide the university towards becoming a center of excellence in the marine, fisheries, aquaculture, and maritime fields.

Good, effective leadership at all levels of the institution will enable collaborations and cooperations among the different faculties and institutes. This will allow UMT to implement cross-disciplinary research and academic programmes, thus paving the way for the university to be the pioneer and leader in marine research especially that relating to biodiversity and sustainable development.

With a unique niche area, UMT has the potential to lead the country and the region in overcoming the urgent challenges of climate change, ocean acidification, threatened marine life, and sustainable development. To become a leader in these fields, the university needs strong leadership and great teamwork.

On a sad note, UMT has lost a dear friend and a leader in the field of fish parasitology. Professor John Lewis of Royal Holloway, University College of London, had played an important role in the initial development of the studies at UMT. We send our heartfelt condolences to Professor Lewis's family and friends.



Professor Dr. Fauziah Hj. Abu Hasan
Executive Editor

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UMT Welcomes New Chairman for Its Board of Directors

Zahirah A. Razak, Registrar office



UMT recently received a new chairman for its Board of Directors when the Minister of Higher Education appointed Prof. Dr. Mohamad Salmi Mohd Sohod to hold the post. His appointment took effect from 10 July 2023 and will be for three years. Prof. Mohamad Salmi replaced Tan Sri Dato' Seri Shamsul Azhar Abbas.

As far as his educational background is concerned, Prof. Salmi received his PhD in management from the University of Bradford, United Kingdom. He also has a master's degree in manufacturing/industrial management and a bachelor's degree in manufacturing from Western Michigan University, USA. His fields of expertise are strategic management, operations and industrial management, and human resource and entrepreneurship management.

Prof. Salmi has more than 40 years' experience in public and private higher education. He has been with Universiti Utara Malaysia, Universiti Tun Abdul Razak, and Sheik Hamdan University in Dubai, UAE. He is currently a Professor at Asia Metropolitan University. Because of his wide experience, he has been appointed to sit in many committees at various higher education institutions in the country.

At present, he is the chairman of the Board of Directors of Uniutama Management Holding Sdn. Bhd., a member of Malaysia's Communication and Multimedia Commission,

a member of the Board of Governors of Asia Metropolitan International School, Kings University College, and Cyberjaya University, a member of the Board of Trustees of Yayasan Foodbank Malaysia, and Managing Director of In-Fusion Solution Sdn. Bhd. (ISSB).

His professional expertise in strategic and entrepreneurship management was proven when he was appointed as Advisor to Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia from 2018-2020. In addition, he was given the trust to head a few agencies/institutes, namely In-Fusion Education Sdn. Bhd. (IESB), In-Fusion Solution Sdn. Bhd. (ISSB), Cyberjaya University College of Medical Science, and UUM's Entrepreneurial Development Institute as Director/Managing Director.

As an academic, he has published various types of books and scholarly articles, and presented academic papers at the national and international levels. He has also conducted research and engaged in consultations in the fields of technology, entrepreneurship, and corporate strategies.

Prof. Salmi's expertise and his wide involvement in public education institutions, public administration, and corporate world make him the perfect leader to help UMT further progress as a leading marine-focused university that is well-known both nationally and globally.

Excellent Researchers Recognized for Their Contributions

Khor Wai Ho, Azmie Ghazali, Ahmad Shuhaimi Draman, AKUATROP

UMT held the 2023 Research and Innovation Appreciation Ceremony (MAPI2023) recently as a way of appreciating its staff who have excelled at research and innovation.

The event saw researchers from various faculties and institutes being presented with all sorts of awards. A total of 311 of them received Research Grant Awards, Publication Awards, Innovation Awards, Best Awards, and Special Awards.

Best Awards were presented to 19 most active researchers that have received various recognitions and have achieved high citations, publications in journals, and research grant amounts.

The Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries (AKUATROP) became the recipient of the Special Award. The institute was awarded a research grant of RM100,000 for its excellent MyRA achievement in 2022, where it received a score exceeding that of the benchmark.

UMT recognizes the contributions from its researchers in research and development, commercialization, and innovation (RDCI), which helps to elevate the university's name, said Vice Chancellor Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar in his speech read during the ceremony by Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Prof. ChM. Dr. Marinah Mohd Ariffin.

The Research and Management Centre and the Innovation and Commercialization Centre, the co-organizers of the event, have been playing their part to encourage research and innovation in various fields recognized as the university's niche areas.

The university sets aside each year a special fund totalling RM3 million for research activities, he said.

"I would also like to mention that the Research and Innovation Thrust Special Fund has been increased to RM3 million per year as part of the effort to improve UMT's RDCI achievement, Prof. Mazlan said.

He also added UMT has exceeded the performances of other universities in the same category, which is those with less than 15 years of existence.

UMT has managed to consistently achieve a five-star rating in SETARA for Emerging University with less than



15 years of establishment, and in 2021 it achieved a six-star rating.

"The success is due to the strong commitment and cooperation from everyone at UMT," Prof. Mazlan said. Prof. Mazlan also urged researchers to ensure that new research discoveries and innovations are taken to the next levels so that they can benefit many people.

"Researchers should be thinking about commercializing their research-based products," he said. "Commercialization of registered intellectual properties will allow the university, community, and industry to generate additional income."

UMT's Student Research Day 2023 a Success

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mahirah Kamaludin, Faculty of Business, Economics, and Social Development

This year's Student Research Day (SRD) was a resounding success! The event held in July offered a robust platform for UMT students to present their research work.

Organized by the Faculty of Business, Economics, and Social Development (FBESD) and held at Auditorium Mahyuddin, SRD 2023 centred around the theme "Shaping the Future Thinkers."

SRD 2023 marks the sixth installment of the event. SRD was initiated in 2018 and has been successfully implemented every year since then. However, the event was conducted online in 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

SRD is part of UMT's efforts to cultivate innovative graduates, said Prof. Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International). The objective of the SRD is to inspire students to be innovative and showcase their research to the local community and industry.

SRD highlights the practical application of UMT students' research works in various fields, which will benefit the industry and society, he added. Industry representatives are engaged to offer students direct assessment opportunities, and this in turn will enhance their prospects of receiving job offers from relevant companies.

The half-day event showcased the final year projects of 25 top students from each program. The selected projects had undergone a thorough screening at the respective faculties earlier. Hence, the event featured high-quality projects with a significant impact.

The cream of the crop from each program presented their research posters to a panel of 10 guest judges that included representatives from WWF-Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi MARA, TDM Plantation, Venator Asia Sdn. Bhd., Tengah Island Conservation, and other notable organizations.

The winner of Final Year Project I (FYP I) was Hen Siew Teng from the Bachelor of Science in Agrotechnology (Plant Science) programme. The Final Year Project II (FYP II) winner for the Social Science category was Nur Farah Aliah from the Bachelor of Accounting programme. The Final Year Project II (FYP II) winner for the Science category was Dhipan Raj from the Bachelor of Science (Marine Biology) programme. The winners were granted



cash prizes, certificates, and plaques in recognition of their outstanding achievements.

Over 1700 UMT students took the Final Year Project I (FYP I) and Final Year Project II (FYP II) courses. The projects from FYP I were collected in a Book of Abstracts, and the projects from FYP II were compiled in the UMT Undergraduate Research Proceedings 2023 as a follow-up of the event.

Synergizing the Expertise for Greater Benefits

Muhd Nurazuar bin Mohammad Razmi, Centre for Knowledge Transfer, Industrial Networks and Community
 Muhamad Safre Bin Muhamad Sani, Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology and Informatics
 Dr. Anuar bin Abu Bakar, Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology and Informatics

UMT has signed Memorandums of Understanding with several agencies over the last month as part of its effort to synergize the expertise for greater benefits not just for both parties but for a wider audience.

UMT has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with **SME Corp.** Malaysia to establish a strategic partnership with each other and collaborate together to achieve the agenda of maintaining the entrepreneurship sustainability at higher education institutions.

SME Corp. Malaysia is the central coordinating agency (CCA) under the Ministry of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives (MEDAC) that coordinates the implementation of development programmes for small and medium enterprises across all related Ministries and agencies.

The MOU is expected to increase entrepreneurship interest among UMT students and also staff. Beginning 2021, eight start-up companies have been set up by UMT academics under the supervision of the university's Innovation and Commercialization Centre (ICC).

UMT has signed an MOU with **Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS)**, Indonesia, to establish collaborations in various areas, including academic matters, joint offerings of academic programmes, joint research and consultancies, student mobility, and staff exchange programmes over the next five years.

The MOU is hoped to promote the strength of both institutions as leaders in the field of maritime engineering technology. The ultimate goal of the collaboration is the development and offering of a dual degree programme that includes the Bachelor of Applied Science (Maritime Technology) from UMT and a Master (S1) of Ocean Engineering from ITS by 2024.

UMT has renewed its MoU with **Pelabuhan Tanjung Pelepas Sdn Bhd (PTP)**, a member of MMC Group, to continue the collaboration in talent development, research and development and sharing of expertise in maritime technology, port management, and other related fields of interest as part of the efforts in boosting the maritime sector in Malaysia.

Over the past five years, UMT and PTP have successfully collaborated and delivered Work-based Learning (WBL) programmes for internship as well as industry attachment programmes. In addition, UMT graduates who were part



of PTP's Port Operations Planning Apprentice (POPA) are now part of PTP's young talents that are being groomed to assume leadership roles in the future.

UMT has signed an MOU with the **Department of Agriculture Sarawak** to collaborate on agriculture, food security, farming, and agribusiness in the state nicknamed Land of the Hornbills.

Over time, the collaboration will expand to include other strategic areas with potential to provide high impact towards socio-economic development and the well-being of the people in Sarawak.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar said UMT is always willing to share its research findings and innovations in fields related to fisheries, aquaculture, and agriculture to other parties for the interest of the country.

Outbound Programme for Strengthening Strategic Partnership

Dr Khor Wai Ho, Nurul Hayati Ismail, Mohd Shafiq Mohd Razak, Gusti Afiz Gusti Ruslan Noor

UMT's Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries (AKUATROP) and the Faculty of Marine Science and Fisheries (FIKP), Hasanuddin University (UNHAS), Makassar, recently conducted an outbound programme between the two. The programme provided an opportunity for UMT students to experience the various aspects, such as the economy, industries, education, multicultural, and historic value, of another country.

The programme also acted as a platform for expanding research collaborations between UMT researchers, UNHAS, and Makassar's government agencies and local industries.

The programme was part of the several plans outlined in the new MoA and MoU that were recently re-signed between UMT and UNHAS. The two agreements are aimed to strengthen research collaborations, facilitate more staff and student exchanges, and increase joint publications between both parties.

The programme began after the 6th International Marine and Fisheries Symposium that took place on 11th June 2023. UMT and UNHAS co-organized the event that took place at UNHAS Hotel & Convention, Makassar, Indonesia.

Participants for the outbound programme were eight AKUATROP's postgraduate students under the Fisheries Research Scholar Program and Fisheries Post Harvest Research Scholar Program. Three technical staff accompanied the students in their capacity as liaison officers. Financial support for participating students came from UMT's International Centre and AKUATROP.

The programme held at FIKP lasted seven days, from 13 – 19 June, and was under the supervision of FIKP Deputy Director herself, Dr. Asmalyah, and Dr Kasmiasi, senior researcher.

Among the highlights of the programme were a General Lecture by Dr. Khor Wai Ho, Senior Lecturer from AKUATROP, held online via Zoom Meeting, and a Talk on International Journal Publication by Prof. Dr. Dahlang Tahir, Senior Researcher, Publication Management Unit, UNHAS.

Through such intellectual exchange activities, students were able to learn about new research concepts, laboratory works, technologies, and findings related to research works from another country. By being exposed to a new environment and culture, students can further improve their self-development, social and emotional development, teamwork, and leadership skills.



The students were also given the opportunity to visit the government's aquaculture centres under the Fisheries Department of Indonesia, such as Aquaculture Centre Barru, Aquaculture Centre Takalar, and MAROS, to learn more about the hands-on aspects of aquaculture from local farmers.

One of the most exciting experiences for the students was perhaps when they had the opportunity to harvest seaweeds at Takalar Beach by themselves using a wooden canoe. Or it may be the time when they explored the Historical Forest of BantiMuring in Makassar, which has an outstanding limestone cave with its own historic value.

Prof. John Lewis's Connection with UMT

Emeritus Prof. Dr. Faizah Mohd Sharoum

My friendship with John started when I was on sabbatical leave at University of Cambridge. My project was to use the Confocal Microscope to study the migration of the bloodfluke *Cruoricola lates* in the blood vessel of the marine fish *Lates calcarifer*. I had read about John's research on bloodflukes. Hence I was able to go and meet him at Royal Holloway, University College of London.

On my first visit to his lab, I was awestruck by his research, especially on the use of the electric fish *Gnathonemus petersii* to detect pollution. As a follow up to that visit, on my return to Malaysia after my sabbatical stint, I proposed a project to Petronas, and we managed to get a research grant to undertake a similar project. This was the beginning of my academic relationship with John.

I was able to invite John to give talks at the then University College of Science and Technology Malaysia, now upgraded to be Universiti Malaysia Terengganu. As the university college progressed from its humble beginnings, and I was involved very much in its development, John was a staunch friend helping with ideas and encouragement.

Apart from being in Terengganu by invitation for talks, he also used to come with his beautiful loving wife Anne for self sponsored holiday visits here. He was given special discount rates at Primula Hotel which he loved very much.

On one such visit, he came to our university and helped give ideas to the first librarian of UMT, Cik Aishah, to transform the KUSTEM backwater reading room to the awesome grand library building that is equipped with internet facilities and, according to one user, has the most online periodicals and books available. Those were exciting times, to see the progress in the development of the library. Initially, fishery and marine science students in their final year had to go every weekend in the university bus to UPM Serdang to browse the library there for their final-year project report literature. The alumni students used to marvel at the new UMT library when they came for a visit.

John also loved the pristine beauty of Lake Kenyir. Once on a holiday visit to Terengganu, I took him and Anne to ride on one of the houseboats. But when he looked at its condition, he was not keen on boarding the boat. One of the reasons was he was not happy with the toilet facilities. When I was appointed head of Kenyir Research Station, I set about making a proper houseboat for researchers and students.

John's last visit to Malaysia was in 2018, when he was invited to give a talk at UMT. He initially stopped at Universiti Malaya to catch up with Prof Sheena, his former PhD student. He came down with severe fever when he arrived at UM and was admitted to UM hospital.



He was adamant on coming to Terengganu, but he was sick and hence the talk was cancelled. He cut down his visit and flew back to England. Later, he was diagnosed with lymphoma.

My last message to him was on 23 January 2022, when I was discussing with him about bringing my British husband, Ahmad Daud Abdullah alias David Harrison, who had severe dementia. He advised me that it was rather expensive, to the tune of 3000 British pounds per month. As I was busy taking care of Daud, and I was not able to access UMT email, there was not much communication between John and me after that. In fact, I also lost connection with Daud's last living next of kin, his sister Sheila, as she used to communicate using the university email.

Hence, it came as a shock to me when Anne informed me that John had passed away on December 13, 2022, after a three-year battle with Hodgkins Lymphoma. She was wondering why there were no condolences from myself and other UMT academics. Her curiosity was answered when Prof Sheena from UM visited her recently and told her that UMT academics and I were most likely not aware of John's demise. When she at last contacted me via Whatsapp, I informed her that I no longer had access to UMT email and hence was not aware of what was happening to my foreign counterparts. I even lost contact with Sheila, Daud's sister, whose means of communication with me was via the university email. Saddened by the news, I contacted UMT for access to my email again as most of my connections to foreign friends had been via the university mail.

I have lost a dear friend whose love for Parasitology knew no bounds, and whose jovial and friendly demeanour towards colleagues and students had placed him on a revered pedestal.



Global Tourism Innovation Challenge (GTIC) 2023

An innovation competition in conjunction with GTC 2023

27 September 2023
Mode: Online & Onsite
Medium: English & Malay

'Tourism, Hospitality & Entrepreneurship'



WIN PRIZES!

IMPORTANT DATES:

CLOSING DATE EXTENDED
UNTIL 31st July 2023

Submission of Abstract & Payment via Google Form	
Submission of Video Presentation	31 st August 2023
Poster Presentation (Face-To-Face Participants only)	27 th Sept. 2023

A chance to win:

Many prizes, including vacation packages* from various tourism players, cash up to RM500 & Gold bars!

*Terms and conditions may apply.

CATEGORY & FEES:

PARTICIPANTS	LOCAL		INTERNATIONAL	
	*Online	**Face-to-Face	*Online	**Face-to-Face
Category A - Professional (Academic, Staff & Industry)	RM 150	RM 280	USD 50	USD 70
Category B - Senior (University, College & Institute)	RM 120	RM 250	USD 30	USD 60
Category C - Junior (Primary & Secondary Schools)	RM 100		USD 25	

INDIVIDUAL or MAXIMUM 7 MEMBERS PER GROUP

*Inclusive of medal and e-certificate

**Inclusive of meals, medal, e-certificate, and conference dinner. Participants are also entitled to join Redang Island Day Trip with discounted price of only RM100.

CALL FOR SUBMISSION:

The GTIC2023 offers a distinct chance for academics, innovators and students to contribute their specialized knowledge in the mission to shape the future of tourism. Participation are open to a diverse range of SCIENCE and SOCIAL SCIENCES disciplines including, but not limited to Tourism & Hospitality, Business & Marketing, Accounting & Finance, Information Technology, Engineering, Food Science, Environmental science and Artificial Intelligence. We welcome all innovative ideas, frameworks, processes, designs, and products that have practical applications in the tourism industry.

Join us as we embark on this exciting journey of innovation and exploration in the field of tourism!

REGISTRATION:

For registration and more information visit:

<https://forms.gle/S8ZVPLPFjRK9Bumf9>

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Beautiful Terengganu
Malaysia

4th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMICS DEVELOPMENT (ICSED 2023) UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA TERENGGANU

CO-HOST:



"Good Governance on Social & Economics Development" 14-15 NOVEMBER 2023

THEMES:

1. ECONOMICS
2. SOCIAL AND POLICY STUDIES
3. COUNSELLING & PSYCHOLOGY
4. ANY OTHER RELEVANT TOPICS CAN BE CONSIDERED

IMPORTANT DATES:

Abstract Deadline	:15 July 2023
Abstract Acceptance Notification	:15 August 2023
Full Paper Deadline	:15 September 2023
Camera-ready Paper Deadline	:31 October 2023
Conference Date	:14-15 November 2023

CONFERENCE FEE:

PRESENTER (FACE TO FACE)		PARTICIPANT (FACE TO FACE)		ONLINE	
LOCAL	RM 450	LOCAL	RM 100	LOCAL	RM250
INTERNATIONAL	USD200	INTERNATIONAL	USD50	INTERNATIONAL	USD150
STUDENT (LOCAL)	RM300	STUDENT (LOCAL)	RM50	STUDENT (LOCAL)	RM150
STUDENT (INTERNATIONAL)	USD 150	STUDENT (INTERNATIONAL)	USD 25	STUDENT (INTERNATIONAL)	USD100

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



PROF. DR. IR. AI KOMARIAH
(UNIVERSITAS WINAYA MUKTI)



PROF. DR. IR. BOB FOSTER
(UNIVERSITAS INFORMATIKA
AND BISNIS INDONESIA)



PROF. DR. CLEVO WILSON
(QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY)

More Info



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Payment Information
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All accepted paper will be published in chapter in book and selected papers will be recommended for publication in SCOPUS indexed journal (subject to peer-review process and additional fees)

Organized By: Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Development