

# UMT NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 11, November 2023

OCEAN OF DISCOVERIES FOR GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY



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eISSN 2805-5578



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Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) is proud to announce that 11 of our researchers have made it to the Stanford University's World Top Two Percent Scientists list for 2022. This list that came out in October is based on bibliometrics from Scopus which analyze the number of citations, h-index, hm-index, and a composite score of the top 100,000 researchers worldwide.

The excellent work by the researchers at UMT is one of the main contributors to the university's achievements in various ratings and rankings at the local and international levels. Their research brings innovations with new technologies that promote the growth of industries and enrich the lives of communities and societies. They enhance the academic reputation of our university through impactful research, publications in top journals, and recognitions awarded locally and internationally.

Through their collaborations in research, they are able to attract students, academics, and partners that further foster the culture of quality and excellence. These researchers become good mentors to their students, providing great advice and guidance and nurturing them to become great researchers. This is true in the case of Professor Dr. Lam Su Shiung, who mentored Dr Wan Adibah Wan Mahari as his doctoral student. Dr Wan Adibah has excelled and is now also on the list of the top two percent most cited scientists in the world.

Researchers at UMT play an instrumental role in advancing knowledge, fostering innovation, and contributing to the growth and development of both the university and the surrounding communities. Their works not only benefit academia but also have a profound impact on society, the economy, and the future. As UMT continues to invest in and celebrate the accomplishments of its researchers, it will undoubtedly remain a leading force in the pursuit of knowledge and progress.

Professor Dr. Fauziah Hj. Abu Hasan  
Executive Editor



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# UMT Confers Honorary Doctorate to Two Prominent National Figures

Rozita Alias@Abdul Latiff, Corporate Communications Office - UMT



In conjunction with its 21<sup>st</sup> Convocation Ceremony held on 22 October, UMT awarded an honorary doctorate to two prominent national figures.

The conferment to both recipients was to recognize their contributions in the respective fields, said UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar.

An Honorary Doctorate of Biodiversity Conservation and Management was awarded to Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr. Abdul Latiff Mohamad and an Honorary Doctorate of Management to Dato' Seri (Dr.) Michael Tio. The awards were presented by Her Royal Highness Sultanah Nur Zahirah, UMT Chancellor.

Professor Abdul Latiff is a pioneer in tall plant taxonomy and conservation biology research. His studies on flora, plant taxonomy, and biological diversity in Malaysia for the past 40 years have contributed to the progress of knowledge regarding taxonomical science and conservation biology and the importance, values, and benefits of environmental conservation in the country. He has led various projects on plant taxonomy, ethnography, and phytochemistry of natural products.

Dato' Seri (Dr.) Michael possesses expertise in logistics management. He is currently the Chief Executive Officer and the Managing Director at PKT Logistics Group Sdn. Bhd., a renowned company in Malaysia offering logistics services. The company has carried out several social corporate responsibility (CSR) programmes, and one of them was the establishment of PKT Foundation, which

offers scholarships to Malaysian students with high academic achievement. This is part of the company's continuous effort to develop human capital for the future.

Each year, PKT Logistics allocates RM1 million to the foundation. To date, the company has given out scholarships totaling RM2.4 million to more than 400 students at local and international tertiary institutions.

Dato' Seri (Dr.) Michael has set an example of how the industry can contribute to the enhancement of education in Malaysia. Through PKT Logistics, he has established collaborations with several public and private institutions of higher learning locally and overseas including UMT.

At the same ceremony UMT also presented several awards to the graduands. These include the Royal Education Award, the Chancellor's Gold Medal Award, the Pro Chancellor Award, the Board of Directors' Chairman Award, and the Vice Chancellor Award (for each faculty). Also presented were two new awards introduced for the first time, which were Higher Education National Fund Special Award and Best Diploma Graduate Award.

The ceremony lasting six sessions saw 2,388 UMT graduands being honoured. Of the total, 46 were conferred PhD degree and 150 master's degree. A total of 2,081 graduands were conferred bachelor's degree and 111 diploma.

# UMT Works with Its Strategic Partners to Produce Student Digital Entrepreneurs

Nur Aaminah Azhar, Career and Entrepreneurship Centre

UMT, Sultan Mizan Royal Foundation, and Telekom Malaysia Foundation have recently implemented a special programme for university students through a strategic collaboration between the three.

The unique programme is called Terengganu Student Digital Entrepreneur Programme (SISDIT), and it is the first of its kind in the state.

The implementation of SISDIT was made possible when the three organizations earlier signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

Under the five-year MOU, selected UMT students are invited to undergo the programme and are recognized as Digital Entrepreneurs after its completion.

Students are taught using structured and strategic training that corresponds to the latest digital development. The modules are prepared by the appointed training provider Multimedia University.

The running of SISDIT is coordinated by UMT's Career and Entrepreneurship Centre (CEC), which is responsible for strengthening the entrepreneurship ecosystem among graduates to improve their quality as they head into the work world after completing their studies.

The first batch of UMT students completed the training after undergoing SISDIT at MMU for 20 days from August to September. The seven students are from the Faculty of Business, Economics, and Social Development (4), the Faculty of Science and Marine Environment (1), the Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology and Informatics (1), and the Faculty of Maritime Studies (1).

Two other universities, namely the Multimedia University and Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin, also signed the said MOU. The signing was witnessed by His Royal Highness Al-Wathiqu Billah Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin ibni Almarhum Sultan Mahmud Al-Muktafi Billah Shah, Sultan of Terengganu and also the patron of Sultan Mizan Royal Foundation.



Also present during the event at The St. Regis Kuala Lumpur were Telekom Malaysia Berhad Chairman Datuk Zainal Abidin Putih, Telekom Malaysia Berhad Chief Executive Officer Amar Huzaimi Md Deris, and senior officers from each agency involved.

# Eleven UMT Researchers Included in Latest World's Top 2% Most-Cited Scientist List

Suhaili Safei, Office of Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research & Innovation)

Eleven UMT scientists have been included in the latest list of World's Top 2% Most-Cited Scientists, published by Stanford University in October.

Professor Ts. Dr. Lam Su Shiung and Professor Dr. Meisam Tabatabaei, both from the Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries (AKUATROP), and Professor Ts. Dr. Mohammad Ismail from the Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology and Informatics are among the most-cited scientists in the field of energy.

Professor Dr. Mhd Ikhwanuddin is among the most-cited scientists in the field of fisheries, and Professor Dr. Mohammed Yusuf Chisti is among the most-cited scientists in the field of biotechnology. Both researchers are from AKUATROP.

Professor Dr. Mohd Lazim Abdullah (Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology and Informatics) is among the most-cited scientists in the field of artificial intelligence and image processing. Associate Professor Dr. Amin Beiranvand Pour (Institute of Oceanography and Environment) is among the most-cited scientists in the field of geological and geomatics engineering.

Professor Dr. Yusliza Mohd Yusoff (Faculty of Business, Economics, and Social Development) is among the top-cited scientists in the field of sustainable human resource management. Professor Dr. Wan Iryani Wan Ismail (Faculty of Science and Marine Environment) is among the top-cited scientists in the field of plant biology and botany.

Two young researchers have also made the list. Dr. Wan Adibah Wan Mahari (AKUATROP) is among the most-cited scientists in the field of environmental science, while Associate Professor Ts. Dr. Norizah Mhd. Sarbon (Faculty of Fisheries and Food Science) joins the list for the field of food science.

Stanford University's Professor John Ioannidis works with



a team of experts to prepare the World's Top 2% Most-Cited Scientist List, now in its third year of publication. The list was first published in 2019.

The ranking is based on standardized and consistent citation parameters, such as the total number of citations, the H-index, the hm-index corrected by co-author, citations of articles based on the position of the author, as well as composite indicator.

For the latest list, the team assessed scientists based on the research carried out, starting from the outset of their career up to 2023. They classified the scientists into 22 scientific fields and 174 subfields. The latest data is publicly available on Mendeley (<https://dx.doi.org/10.17632/btchxktzyw.6>). Currently the list has over 100,000 scientists from around the world in various disciplines.

"This is indeed a remarkable achievement for UMT, considering it is still a young university," said Professor ChM. Dr. Marinah Mohd Ariffin, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Research and Innovation. "The achievement is a proof that UMT is able to excel as well as other more established universities, and the quality of its researchers' works is on par with those of other global researchers."

# UMT Students Win National and International Awards

Associate Professor Ts. Dr. Suriani Mat Jusoh, Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology; Izhar Mohd Mustaat, Sailing Training Centre



Two UMT students have recently received awards at the international and national levels for their excellent achievement.

Solehah Salim from the Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology and Informatics (FTKKI) has been named as the recipient of the The Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA) - Marine Professionals - IMarEST (IMarEST) Academic Excellence Award 2023.

The award was announced during a special dinner organized by the Malaysian Joint Branch of RINA & IMarEST at M Resort & Hotel Bukit Kiara Kuala Lumpur in October.

Solehah was selected based on her active involvement in maritime activities and research. During her study at UMT, the graduate of a Bachelor of Applied Science (Maritime Technology) attended the 2nd International Undergraduate and Postgraduate Conference on Engineering, Technology and Science (IUP 2022), Apprentice and Research Exhibition (AIREX2022), International Summer School Programme 2022 under Saint Petersburg State Marine Technical University, Russia, International Virtual Course Tropical Coastal Zone Development with HumanE (TROCOZ2022), and MJB RINA – IMarEST Undergraduate Thesis Competition. Solehah’s final year project attracted plenty of attention for its excellent solution. The project titled Hull Form Optimization Modelling Towards Reducing Total Ship’s

Resistance successfully found a way to reduce a ship’s resistance by maintaining an ideal hull form.

Another UMT student, Puteri Nur Ivy Antasya Mohd Zaidi, has been crowned the Best Female Trainee for the His Majesty Sailing Ship Tunas Samudera Voyage 457/23 Self-Identity Programme, organized by the Malaysia’s Ministry of Youth and Sports. The ship was built in November 1988 at Brooke Yachts International LTD, Lowestoff, Suffolk, United Kingdom was commissioned on 15 October 1989.

In addition to the award, Puter Nur Ivy has also won the Sail Raising Competition (Group) and Motto and Logo Competition (Group).

She was among the 23 participants chosen as trainees in the programme. The twelve-day sailing journey started on 2 October from Lumut. The aim of the programme was to provide exposure to the participants regarding the sailing skills and instil an element of leadership. The other goals were to improve self-discipline and camaraderie among the participants. They were expected to become youths with good physical, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual traits after completing the training.

During the programme, participants learned about the skills of sailing, including understanding navigation, weather prediction, and characteristics of the oceans.

# UMT Welcomes Overseas Visitors Seeking Potential Collaborations

Siti Nur Sabrina Sidik, International Centre

UMT received important visits between September and October from three overseas delegations that were looking for opportunities to establish strategic partnerships with the university.

In September, UMT welcomed the delegation of Australian Higher Education Institutions Familiarization Visit to Malaysia (FAM Visit 2023) programme. UMT was one of the selected hosts for the event organized by Education Malaysia Australia (EMA) in collaboration with Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS). The delegates consisted of representatives from EMA and 14 Australian Higher Education Institutions.

The familiarization visit to Malaysia is part of the mobility initiatives by Malaysia's Ministry of Higher Education to enhance educational connections between the two nations and increase the number of inbound Australian students in Malaysia.

While at UMT, the delegates were taken on a tour to several important places, including Chagar Hutang Turtle Sanctuary, where UMT's Sea Turtle Research Unit (SEATRU) is located.

In October, UMT welcomed the Hong Kong delegation, who visited the university to conduct a seminar on the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS). The scheme has been established by the Research Grants Council (RGC) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government, with the primary objective of attracting the most outstanding and accomplished students from around the world to pursue their research degree programme in Hong Kong institutions. A number of UMT students attended the seminar to learn more about the opportunities offered.

As the outcome of the visit, UMT and Hong Kong institutions have agreed to facilitate research degree programmes that will foster academic collaborations and research opportunities between the two regions. Under this arrangement, UMT students will have the opportunity to pursue their studies at institutions in Hong Kong.

Also in October, UMT welcomed the delegation from Oriental University in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The visit to UMT was led by the Rector, Prof. Dr. Murodjon Akhmedov, who was accompanied by key members of the Oriental University, including Assoc. Prof. Dr. Iminokhunov Abdulkokhor, Vice-rector for Academic Affairs; Mrs. Iminokhunova Dildorakhon, Senior Lecturer; and Dr. Sattorov Abboskhujja from the International Office, who also served as the interpreter.



The visit provided both institutions an opportunity for exchanging knowledge and experiences, potentially paving the way for future collaborations that will benefit both institutions and their respective academic communities. UMT's willingness to welcome the Uzbekistan university to its campus also served as a testament to its dedication towards enhancing the global education and fostering international relationships.



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