

# UMT NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 2, February 2024

Ocean of Discoveries for Global Sustainability



## Congratulations

For being awarded research grant

### HEIs for Sustainable Blue Economy in Malaysia and Indonesia (SustainaBlue)

PROJECT DURATION: 01 DECEMBER 2023 TILL 30 NOVEMBER 2026

TOTAL GRANT: € 797,838.00 ~ MYR4.088 MILLION

FUNDER: EUROPEAN UNION-ERAMUS CBHE-LS

In collaboration with:

Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia | Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia | Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember, Indonesia | Symplexis, Greece | Aegean Rebreath, Greece | University of Cyprus, Cyprus | CSI Center for Social Innovation Ltd, Cyprus | Malaysia Aquaculture Development Association, Malaysia | PT Pandu Bina Sejahtera, Indonesia



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UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA TERENGGANU



"Terokaan Seluas Lautan, Demi Kelestarian Sejagat"

"Ocean of Discoveries, for Global Sustainability"

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It is with great pleasure and an overwhelming sense of pride that I extend my warmest congratulations to each member of UMT team for the extraordinary accomplishments in 2023.

The year 2023 stands as a testament to our collective dedication, creativity, and unwavering hard work. Within the pages of our monthly newsletter lies our reflection of the profound and unyielding commitment to the pursuit of knowledge that characterizes our esteemed university.

As we enter the upcoming phase of 2024, we are on the verge of what specialists refer to as the "post-normal" period. In an era characterized by swift transformation, intricacy, and unpredictability, it is imperative that we navigate the ocean of knowledge with agility and resilience. The challenges we face call for a creative and innovative approach to our work, coupled with an unwavering commitment to the enduring values that have defined our institution for decades.

As we confront the challenges of 2024, let us seize this opportunity to redefine and elevate UMT as the preeminent champion of higher education, particularly in the realms of teaching and research in marine science and aquatic resources.

I am confident that, with the dedication and exceptional talent of our staff, we will not only meet the challenges of the post-normal times but emerge stronger, more resilient, and more united than ever before. Together, let us continue to celebrate the achievements of our community, amplify diverse voices, and contribute to the rich intellectual and cultural tapestry of our university.

I extend my deepest appreciation to UMT team for the steadfast commitment, and here's to a year of continued growth, exploration, and success.



**Zukiferee bin Ibrahim**  
Executive Editor

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# UMT Awarded Project Grant Worth Over RM4 Million

Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Kesaven Bhubalan,  
Faculty of Science and Marine Environment

UMT has recently been awarded an international project grant worth €797,838.00, equivalent to RM4,088 million.

The university has been appointed as the coordinator for the ERASMUS+ Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE) project by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) under the European Commission (EC).

The project, the HEIs for Sustainable Blue Economy in Malaysia and Indonesia (SustainaBlue), is scheduled to be completed in three years' time.

SustainaBlue is a transdisciplinary effort aimed to support Malaysian and Indonesian higher education institutions (HEIs) in their effort to boost their relevance in the labour market and society, for a sustainable blue economy and green transition.

The project will be managed by a team of nine UMT researchers, led by Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Kesaven Bhubalan. Team members are experts in diverse fields, including marine and aquatic sciences, chemistry, biology, geology, and social science.

SustainaBlue is a multinational project consortium consisting of ten partners from Asia and Europe. The partners are Universiti Sains Malaysia and Malaysia Aquaculture Development Association (Malaysia), Universitas Indonesia, Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember, and PT Pandu Bina Sejahtera (Indonesia), University of the Aegean, Symplexis, and Aegean Rebreath (Greece), and University of Cyprus and CSI Center for Social Innovation Ltd. (Cyprus).

In line with the EC's goals in fostering partnerships for transformation in higher education, the SustainaBlue project intends to establish Sustainable Blue Economy Centres in the HEIs with goals of developing networks of collaboration with blue industries and other



stakeholders, analyse skills needs in sectors of the sustainable blue economy and aid in the development and operation of regional Blue and Green Acceleration Platform for capacity building of HEIs staff.

The awarding of SustainaBlue project to UMT was prompt, as the university is currently profiling its Blue Economy prospects and initiating establishment of a regional Blue Economy Centre.

SustainaBlue also aims to develop and pilot new courses on blue skills most needed and improve student and current labour force talent development.

The team will participate in knowledge transfer and awareness raising activities for the local communities and HEI students, to boost their awareness of sustainable blue economy and blue careers.

SustainaBlue marks the success of UMT in gaining international recognition in its niche area of marine science and aquatic resources.

The outcomes of this project are expected to fuel UMT's mission of generating knowledge for the prosperity of the community and world sustainability.



# UMT Organizes Impactful Community Programme

Sulwani binti Abd Rahman, Mohd Rozam bin Abdul Wahab, Centre for Knowledge Transfer, Industry & Community Linkages. (PPIJIM)



A community programme has benefitted more than 350 local residents when UMT organized the event at Kampung Sedili Besar, Kota Tinggi, Johor, in January.

The programme, Sedili Madani Community Carnival, was conducted in response to the government's aspiration of making communities more involved in activities to achieve one of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The programme was officiated by Datuk Seri Haji Mohamed Khaled Nordin, Defence Minister and also Kota Tinggi Parliament member. Also present during the ceremony were ministry's top management, Sedili state representative, state officers, UMT's top management, and strategic partners.

The two-day carnival consisted of several components including knowledge transfer by UMT researchers, university social responsibility (USR) programme, student community service programme, and strategic collaborations for community development with local agencies.

Three Knowledge Transfer Programmes were carried out by UMT researchers with selected residents as participants. These programmes were DIY Soap-making from Used Cooking Oil, Stingless Bee Farming, and Oyster Mushroom Cultivation. These were research projects UMT scientists undertook with grants provided by Higher Education Ministry. UMT believes impactful knowledge transfer and assimilation to the communities is important to increase their income and socio-economic standards and subsequently their quality of life.

Activities organized for the student community service programme were a workshop titled "Kemas Ikatan Kuat Simplan" based on SULAM UMT 2023 Project, a fishing

net sewing competition, an Eco-Brick project and a colouring contest among school students, a cooking course by Kota Tinggi Community College, a briefing on disaster safety by students from UMT Uniform Body, and a clean-up of areas around Kampung Sedili Besar.

The student community service programme was successful with cooperation from UMT's Cocurricular and Student Development Centre, Marine Science Club from the Faculty of Science and Marine Environment, the SULAM (Service Learning Malaysia-University for Society) team from the Faculty of Fisheries and Food Science, Kota Tinggi Community College, and Sedili Besar Primary School.

The carnival has also led to agreed collaborations between UMT and several agencies for improving the socio-economic standards in Sedili. Three high-impact projects worth RM108,300.00 have already been approved by Higher Education Ministry.

During the carnival, the release of fish seed was also completed as part of a special programme. The programme involves three public universities, UMT, Universiti Putra Malaysia, and Universiti Malaysia Sabah. The programme's main objectives are to increase the population of fish resources in the Malaysian waters and boost fishermen's income through larger amounts of catch.

The event was held in collaboration with Higher Education Ministry and Kota Tinggi Parliament Office.

UMT also distributed Post Flood Aid Kits to 100 people around Kota Tinggi who had been affected by the recent flood.

# UMT Welcomes Delegation from Thailand University

Syarifah Noormaisarah Tuan Besar, International Centre



A Thailand university has recently paid a courtesy visit to UMT to explore a possible strengthening of networking between both parties.

The six-member delegation from Rajamangala University of Technology Srivijaya was led by its President, Prof. Dr. Suwat Tanyaros.

Welcoming the delegation upon its arrival at UMT were Vice Chancellor Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and International) Prof. Ts. Dr. Zamri Ibrahim, Director of International Centre Prof. Dr. Lam Su Shiung, Director of Institute of Climate Adaption and Marine Biotechnology (ICAMB) Prof. Dr. Yeong Yik Sung, Director of AKUATROP Prof. Dr. Mhd Ikhwanuddin Abdullah, and representatives from Faculty of Business, Economic, and Social Development.

The courtesy visit from the Thailand university was a result of ongoing efforts by UMT to foster international partnerships and enhance cooperation in academic and research, Prof. Mazlan said. Both parties had a

unique opportunity to share insights, explore potential collaborations, and deepen their understanding of each other's expert research focus, he added.

As part of the visit, the delegation met with UMT's top management and engaged in a fruitful discussion on fostering knowledge exchange and establishing the groundwork for future collaborative initiatives. The group was then taken on a campus tour, where one of the places it visited was the research facilities at ICAMB.

The visit provided an excellent opportunity for exploring potential areas of collaboration, research partnerships, and joint initiatives that can benefit both parties, Prof. Mazlan said. UMT is excited about the prospects of this courtesy visit and the positive impact it will have on the relationship between the two universities, he said.

UMT is committed to ensuring a productive and mutually beneficial outcome from this collaborative endeavour, Prof. Mazlan added.



# UMT and Two Indonesian Universities Seek Academic Synergy

Prof. Dr. Khatijah Omar & Tuan Mohd Najwa Fuad Tuan Man,  
Institute of Tropical Biodiversity and Sustainable Development (IBTPL)

In a significant leap towards international cooperation and academic advancement, UMT has entered into a collaborative agreement with two Indonesian universities.

UMT, through its Institute of Tropical Biodiversity and Sustainable Development (IBTPL), has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Universitas Jambi (UNJA) and Universitas Karimun (UKa).

Through this collaboration, the three universities aim to focus on several key areas, including:

- Academic enrichment and continuing education**  
 All parties commit to facilitating knowledge transfer through academic courses, micro-credentials, lecture series, workshops, and training programmes, providing students and professionals with valuable learning opportunities.
- Collaborative research and consultancy**  
 The collaboration extends to collaborative research initiatives, including external examination for viva voce, field supervision, co-authorship in publications, sabbatical opportunities, and joint research grants, contributing to the academic and research excellence of each institution.
- Corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities**  
 Recognizing the importance of social responsibility, UMT, UNJA, and UKa commit to engaging in meaningful CSR activities, addressing societal challenges and contributing positively to the communities they serve.
- Student research attachment programme**  
 A student research attachment program has been established to provide students from all three institutions with hands-on research experience, fostering a culture of exploration and innovation.
- Advertising benefits**  
 All parties will enjoy advertising benefits as per mutually agreed terms. This will enhance visibility and outreach for collaborative projects and programmes.
- Other areas of mutual cooperation**  
 The collaboration also remains open to exploring and mutually agreeing upon other areas of cooperation that align with the academic goals and aspirations of all three institutions.

In his speech, UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar said the signing of the MoU stands as



a testament to the collective dedication of IBTPL, UNJA, and UKa towards fostering international cooperation and knowledge exchange and towards broadening their global academic networks.

Through this MoU, a structured framework is established, providing a solid foundation for enriching opportunities that extend to students, faculty, and staff, Professor Mazlan said. The outlined initiatives are strategically poised to contribute significantly to the academic and research excellence of all three institutions.

UMT reiterates its commitment to translating the outlined objectives into tangible and mutually beneficial cooperation, he added.

He also said UMT looks forward to a future of shared achievements and collective progress as the partners collectively embark on the transformative journey in academia.

Professor Mazlan signed the agreement on behalf of UMT, while Prof. Dr. Junaidi, Dean of Faculty Economic and Business, represented UNJA, and Said Nuwrun Thasimmim, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs and Research Development, represented UKa. Also present were Assoc. Prof. Amirudin Ahmad, IBTPL Director, and delegations from the two Indonesian universities.

# UMT's Subsidiary Forms Alliance with Government Agency

Khairuddin Fikiri, UMT Jaya Holding



UMT's subsidiary company, UMT Jaya Holdings Sdn Bhd (UMTJ), has recently agreed to collaborate with a government agency for the benefits of the country.

UMTJ signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Malaysian Fisheries Development Authority (LKIM) to develop, strengthen, and advance Malaysia's fisheries industry.

The MoU focusing on the research and development of the fisheries industry will introduce the drone technology, Internet of Things (IoT) sensor, and Super Apps to modernize, advance, and strengthen Malaysia's fisheries industry, especially in the aspects of Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) and Sustainability, Security and Health, Productivity Improvement, Income Increase, and Expenses or Operations Cost Saving.

Present during the signing ceremony were LKIM Chairman Tuan Muhammad Faiz Fadzil, UMTJ Chairman Dato' Dr Din Adam, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar, UMTJ CEO Dato' Dr Ahmad Ramzi Mohamad Zubir, Akuatrop Sdn Bhd Chairman Dato' Munir Haji Mohd Nawi, and LKIM Director General Hamdan Mamat.

The LKIM delegation was taken to see UMTJ's tilapia fish project that uses the Rapid Bloc technology created by one of UMT researchers. Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Nor Azman Kasan, the inventor, has won several medals and awards at the national and international levels for his technology. Rapid Bloc enables biofloc to be formed as early as five days. In comparison, the conventional way, which is letting biofloc form naturally, takes up to 30 days. Biofloc is a protein-rich live feed formed as a

result of conversion of unused feed and excrete into a natural food upon exposure to sunlight. Dr. Nor Azman's technology enables the cost of fish food to be reduced by as much as 30 percent.







# JOURNAL OF MARITIME LOGISTICS

Is an open-access journal and peer-reviewed journal that provides the results of the latest research and analysis on the foreland, seaports and hinterland. It also explores several substantial areas including logistics, policy, operation, logistics, management and navigation-related to three main agenda: Ocean activities, seaports and hinterland.



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- MYJURNAL
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## SCOPES OF THE JOURNAL

- MARITIME TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS
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- MARITIME CLUSTERS
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- MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY
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- TECHNOLOGIES AND MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
- WISE USE OF RESOURCES

### INDEXING

- WEB OF SCIENCE (ZOOLOGICAL RECORD)
- SCOPUS (Q3)
- SCIMAGO
- ASEAN CITATION INDEX
- CHEMICAL ABSTRACT
- GOOGLE SCHOLAR



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# UMT JOURNAL OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH



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- THERMODYNAMIC ANALYSIS OF PRODUCTION/CONSUMPTION CYCLES
- ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION, MANAGEMENT, AND MITIGATION
- WASTE VALORIZATION THROUGHOUT FOOD PRODUCTION/CONSUMPTION CYCLES
- POST COVID-19 SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES



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