



**OCEAN OF
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FOR GLOBAL
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Smiles, colours, and laughter fill the Jungle School at Kampung Sungai Berua — a heartfelt initiative by Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) that brings education beyond classrooms, nurturing confidence, curiosity, and connection among the Orang Asli children through the beauty of learning in nature.

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Over the past month, UMT has reached several key milestones that underscore our mission and progress in advancing the country's green transition. The establishment of the Centre of Excellence for Offshore Renewable Energy (CEFORE) at Pantai Tok Jembal, graced by His Royal Highness the Sultan of Terengganu and Her Royal Highness the Sultanah of Terengganu, further enhances UMT's role as a major contributor to Malaysia's renewable energy objectives. CEFORE will focus on research, talent, and partnerships for offshore wind, wave, and hybrid systems by aligning our marine expertise with national priorities.

Showcasing grit and global innovation, our team's Gold Medal at DICE 3.0 (Digital Innovation Creativepreneur) elevates UMT from merely a learning center to a hub of ideas that mixes and spreads creativity, entrepreneurship, and digital fluency to tackle real-world challenges.

Regarding research achievements, we hosted the Second Food Sustainability and Security: An International Conference (FUSE 2.0) on September 23–24, 2025. The event brought together researchers, policymakers, and industry partners to develop evidence-based solutions for sustainable food systems. This exemplifies UMT at its best: translating science into impact, both locally and internationally.

These successes show that a university is more than just a "factory for jobs." A university is, and must be, a garden of ideas and character, where scholarly rigor grows alongside ethical purpose, and where what students learn is used to take action. Even as A.I. and the digital economy change work, we will keep combining disciplinary excellence with literacy in emerging technologies, entrepreneurial thinking, and community engagement. Our goal is simple: to graduate adaptable, ethical students who are ready to create value wherever they go. To our students and staff, thank you for your quiet excellence, which exemplifies success. Our partners and alumni: your trust fuels our ambition. And to the Class of 2025: The sea is vast, but your compass is true, guiding UMT's spirit of service, curiosity, and integrity into everything you do.

We look forward to honoring our graduates at this October's Convocation. Convocation is more than just an event; it's a collective statement that knowledge, character, and service must go hand in hand. To our graduating class: Your journey has prepared you for a constantly changing world. May you leave our shores as an entrepreneur, a value creator, and an ambassador of "UMT Togetherness." In the meantime, let's keep the momentum by listening deeply, working together generously, and acting intentionally.

Best regards,

Zukiferee bin Ibrahim
 Executive Editor



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UMT, PETRONAS Launch CEFORE to Power Malaysia's Sustainable Energy Journey

By Associate Professor Dr. Mohd Asamudin A. Rahman,
Director of Centre for Offshore Renewable Energy,
Universiti Malaysia Terengganu.

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) and its strategic partner PETRONAS have recently launched the Centre for Offshore Renewable Energy (CEFORE), further cementing the university's leadership in advancing the nation's renewable energy aspirations.

CEFORE stands as one of the world's first integrated offshore renewable energy facilities, combining wind, solar, and wave energy with advanced storage and management systems. Located off the coast of Kuala Terengganu, it is designed to generate reliable, clean energy while supporting Malaysia's National Energy Transition Roadmap and Terengganu's sustainability goals.

The launch event, held at Pantai Tok Jembal, was graced by His Royal Highness the Sultan of Terengganu, Al Wahtiqu Billah Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin ibni Almarhum Sultan Mahmud Al Muktafi Billah Shah, and Her Royal Highness the Sultanah of Terengganu, Sultanah Nur Zahirah. Also present were Terengganu Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Ir Dr Ahmad Samsuri Mokhtar, PETRONAS Chairman Tan Sri Mohd Bakke Salleh, UMT Chairman Prof Dr Mohamad Salmi Mohd Sohod, and UMT Vice Chancellor Prof Ir Ts Dr Mohd Zamri Ibrahim. "We are honoured to partner in this landmark initiative," said Prof. Zamri, expressing pride in the university's pivotal role.

"CEFORE is the physical manifestation of UMT's commitment to a sustainable future. It provides the perfect ecosystem to power our newly launched Bachelor of Renewable Energy Technology programme, ensuring our students receive a world-class, hands-on education. This centre will be their living laboratory, bridging the gap between theory and real-world application," he said.

He added this initiative solidifies UMT's position at the forefront of sustainable technology and education.

"This collaboration allows us to nurture future ready talent directly aligned with national energy needs," Prof. Zamri said. In his address, PETRONAS Chairman Tan Sri Mohd Bakke Salleh underscored the strategic importance of the collaboration



"PETRONAS places great emphasis on sustainable development for the future," he said. "We hope CEFORE can serve as a catalyst for the development of renewable energy among future generations."

Beyond its technical and educational contributions, CEFORE is set to become a hub for community engagement and edu tourism. Local communities, including fisherfolk, will benefit from free cold storage and ice making facilities powered by renewable energy, supporting local livelihoods while reducing carbon emissions. The centre also aims to raise public awareness about renewable energy, offering interactive learning experiences for visitors and school groups.

Developed through a partnership between industry, academia, and technology providers including Arema Energies, Schneider Electric, Citaglobal, and Honeywell, CEFORE underscores UMT's growing influence in the global renewable energy landscape. Through this initiative, UMT continues to strengthen its role as a university that not only educates but also innovates for a sustainable future.

ASEAN Underwater Archaeological Meet Up 2025 Becomes More Prestigious with Tengku Puteri Utama Raja's Presence

By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hasrizal Shaari

A recent programme jointly organized by Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) and the Department of National Heritage (JWN) became more prestigious and meaningful with the presence of Her Highness Tengku Puteri Utama Raja, daughter of His Royal Highness the Sultan of Terengganu, in her capacity as UMT's Conservation Ambassador.

The programme, the ASEAN Underwater Archaeological Meet Up 2025 and the Bidong Shipwreck Excavation Phase Five was successfully held from 18 – 22 September, making Bidong Island, long renowned for its maritime history, the centre of attention once again.

Tengku Puteri Utama Raja is well known for her deep passion for scuba diving and underwater photography. This keen interest has led her to take part in the shipwreck excavation activities carried out in the waters of Bidong Island.

Her Highness was not merely a guest of honour but actively participated, diving and assisting the underwater archaeology team in excavation work at the historic site.

Her involvement drew much attention from participants, especially as she showed great enthusiasm in observing the process of uncovering and recording the ship's remains, such as planks, keel timbers, and pegs found at the Bidong Shipwreck site.

She also made a brief visit to the Bidong Island Marine Natural Research Station to observe the conservation process of artefacts salvaged by UMT staff and postgraduate students. According to Baharim Mustapa, UMT's technical director for archaeological diving and scientific diving instructor, Tengku Puteri Utama Raja's involvement greatly motivated the research team.

"Her Highness demonstrated strong interest in the nation's maritime heritage and even joined other divers underwater. This is an honour and a symbol of support for efforts to preserve our national treasures," he said.



The programme brought together underwater archaeologists from Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, and experts from Flinders University, Australia.

The rescued artefacts will undergo an initial desalination process to prevent damage, as centuries of immersion in a marine environment have left salt deposits that can harm the physical integrity of each item.

The fifth phase of the excavation is considered a success as its main objective, examining the original wooden structure of the Bidong Shipwreck, was achieved. The discovery of flooring and keel sections provided clearer insights into shipbuilding technology and maritime trade networks of the 16th century.

It is hoped that this historic programme will elevate UMT and JWN's reputation internationally as leaders in Malaysia's underwater archaeology, while also promoting Bidong Island as a national heritage site worthy of pride.

“Microbial Multiverse” Shines with Gold at DICE 3.0

By Dr. Nor Omaina Harun, Faculty of Science and Marine Environment

A team of undergraduates from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) has once again excelled on the international stage by securing a Gold Medal for its project at the prestigious Digital Innovation Creativepreneur (DICE) 3.0 competition, held from 1 – 4 September at the Persada Convention Centre, Johor Bahru.

DICE is organized by the Ministry of Higher Education to provide an important platform for cultivating digital creativity and innovation among students of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). With categories spanning short animation, short film, interactive media (VR/AR), and digital game applications, the event highlights the ingenuity, potential, and competitiveness of Malaysian students in the creative digital industry.

The winning project titled MICROBIAL MULTIVERSE: A Visual Journey was developed under the Interactive Media (VR/AR) category by Muhammad Nur Firdaus Mohd Khairul Anuar, Fong Siew Mei, Eee Hui Ning, and Nurin Qamarina Bajuri from the Faculty of Science and Marine Environment (FSSM). They worked under the guidance of Dr. Nor Omaina Harun, who provided mentorship to ensure the project struck a balance between academic depth and digital innovation.

These students from the Bachelor of Marine Biology and Bachelor of Science in Chemistry programmes created a virtual reality experience that offers an immersive journey into the world of marine microorganisms. Aligned with DICE 3.0 theme of Water, the project combined scientific knowledge with cutting-edge digital technology to deliver an engaging and educational platform.

What started as a simple effort to deepen understanding of marine biodiversity gradually transformed into an innovative storytelling medium. By incorporating imaginative character design alongside scientific accuracy, the team successfully created a digital space that was both visually compelling and informative. This originality, scientific rigor, and creative execution impressed the judges and ultimately secured UMT the coveted Gold Medal.

Beyond the victory, the project highlighted the development of essential soft skills such as creativity, problem-solving, and communication. These skills, integrated with digital literacy, play a vital role in boosting students' confidence while equipping them to thrive in fast-evolving professional environments.



The success reflects UMT's commitment to preparing students for the demands of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0) and further strengthens its standing as a research-driven university with global influence. The Gold Medal achievement adds to the institution's growing list of accolades while inspiring future innovation and cross-disciplinary collaboration. It also underscores UMT's mission of producing graduates who are not only strong in theoretical knowledge but also capable of applying creativity and technology to address real-world challenges.

With this success, UMT continues to assert its leadership in marine sciences, education, and digital innovation, reflecting its vision to nurture graduates who are globally competitive, adaptable, and future-ready.

UMT successfully co-hosts MASUM Games 2025

By Siti Noriam Yaakob, Sports and Recreation Centre, PHEP

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) and Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA) successfully co-hosted the Malaysian Universities Sports Council (MASUM) Games 2025 from 15 – 20 September.

The MASUM Games serves as a platform for students to demonstrate their athletic skills. The competition is widely regarded as a key event in identifying new talent within higher education institutions to represent the nation in university sports at the ASEAN, Asian, and world levels.

The opening ceremony was held at UMT's Sultan Mizan Hall and officiated by Higher Education Director General Datuk Professor Dr. Azlinda Azman.

A total of 10 core sports were featured. Beach volleyball, chess, pencak silat, and taekwondo were held at UMT, while volleyball, archery, petangue, and softball took place at UniSZA. Karate was held at MRSM Kuala Terengganu, and lawn bowls took place at the Gong Badak Sports Complex.

Students from 20 public universities across the nation participated in the sports carnival. Around 2342 student athletes and officials gathered for the six-day day event. The carnival saw a thrilling distribution of medals, with a total of 98 gold, 98 silver, and 152 bronze medals contested and won by the successful athletes.

UMT Vice-Chancellor Professor Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim said this was the second time UMT has hosted the MASUM Games after the first one in 2014.

"Despite having to wait for our turn with 20 other higher education institutions, UMT has proven that this national level sports event has been brilliantly organized and become a memorable event for all the athletes and officials involved," Professor Zamri said.

He added the event was more than just a competition, it also served as a platform for students nationwide to build networks, friendship, and cooperation between universities. The organization of the carnival reinforced the spirit of unity and solidarity among the youth, aligning with the national aspiration to cultivate a disciplined, competitive, and visionary younger generation.

The seamless execution of the event was made possible by the hard work of numerous partners, including the National Sports Association, National Sports Council, media partners, the organizing committee, technical staff, and the volunteers, Professor Zamri said. They were the backbone of the carnival's success, he added.



"The MASUM Games has officially concluded, leaving behind a legacy of high-level competition and stronger inter-university bonds in the Malaysian tertiary education landscape," Professor Zamri said.

UMT Launches New Pilot Project to Boost Local Economy

By Nurhasmira Abu Hassan, Centre for Knowledge Transfer, Industry and Community Linkages

As another initiative to empower the local economy through knowledge transfer, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) has recently launched a new pilot project in Kampung Budak Badak.

The project involves a rainwater harvesting system (SPA), an integrated aquaculture, and oyster mushroom entrepreneurship. It is a sustainable water resource management initiative. The integrated aquaculture combines fish farming with agriculture, while the oyster mushroom entrepreneurship programme provides training in cultivating, managing, and processing mushroom-based products.

Kampung Kubang Badak was chosen as the project site due to its strategic location and proximity to the campus, which makes it easier to coordinate and monitor the activities.

To ensure the success of the project, over RM100,000 of fund has been channelled through various sources including the Sejahtera MADANI@KPT (SejaTi MADANI@KPT), Komuniti@UniMADANI, and Service Learning Malaysia-University for Society (SULAM) initiatives.

The project will not only enhance food security but also open new economic opportunities for the community. A total of 30 participants from diverse backgrounds including housewives, single mothers, retirees, and youth are involved in the project. They are expected to earn a monthly income of between RM1000 and RM2000.

"This effort is a strategic initiative that reflects the university's commitment to empowering the local community through knowledge transfer, innovation, and sustainable development," said UMT Vice-Chancellor Professor Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim during the launching ceremony at Surau At-Taqwa, Kampung Kubang Badak on 12 September.

"It is also in line with the university's agenda to promote inclusive and progressive social values, in accordance with UMT's slogan, U & Me Together."

"The collaboration between the university and the community, with the support of government agencies, is hoped to elevate Kampung Kubang Badak into a model of a progressive, competitive, and sustainable rural community," Professor Zamri said.



As the project's symbolic launch, Professor Zamri also released 1,500 catfish fry into a breeding tank, representing a new phase in UMT's commitment to serving as a strategic partner in community development.

UMT is confident that, with continued support from all parties, the project will continue to grow and benefit more segments of society in the future.

FUSE 2.0: Strengthening Global Collaboration in Food Sustainability and Security

By Dr. Roslizawati Ab Lah, Faculty of Food Science & Agrotechnology

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) has once again marked a significant milestone in advancing the global dialogue on food sustainability through the successful organization of the 2nd Food Sustainability and Security: An International Conference (FUSE 2.0).

Themed “Blue and Green Frontiers: Transforming Challenges into Global Solutions,” the event from 23 – 24 September brought together researchers, policymakers, and industry professionals from diverse backgrounds.

The conference was graced by three distinguished keynote speakers from government, academia, and international institutions. Their thought-provoking lectures set the tone for dynamic exchanges of knowledge and research ideas that spanned multiple disciplines and continents.

Dato’ Luqman bin Ahmad, Deputy Secretary-General (Development) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), Malaysia, highlighted national policies and strategic initiatives aimed at strengthening food resilience. Prof. Dr. Lan Kuo-Wei from the National Taiwan Ocean University delivered insights into the intersection of fisheries and climate change, while Prof. Dr. Amin Mousavi Khaneghah from ITMO University, Russia, discussed emerging frontiers in food safety and biotechnology.

The two-day event featured oral and poster presentations, as well as online sharing sessions, addressing various aspects of sustainable food systems.

The subthemes encompassed advanced technologies, aquaculture and fisheries, blue economy, food innovation, policy and governance, education, and community empowerment, reflecting the conference’s comprehensive approach toward achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The event also coincided with the 12th East Asia Fisheries and Technology Association (EAFTA) Symposium, further strengthening regional cooperation and scholarly exchange in fisheries and food technology.

Selected papers from FUSE 2025 will be published in indexed journals, including the *Journal of Sustainability Science and Management* (Q3), *Italian Journal of Food Science* (Q2), and *Quality Assurance and Safety of Crops and Food* (Q1), to ensure the conference outcomes continue to contribute to the global scientific community.



FUSE 2.0 was jointly organized by three UMT entities, namely the Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries (AKUATROP), the Faculty of Fisheries and Food Science (FSPA), and the Faculty of Food Science and Agriculture (FSMA). Each played a vital role in bringing together expertise from aquaculture, fisheries, food science, and agricultural disciplines. In his officiating speech, UMT Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ir. Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim commended the collaborative efforts of the co-organizers in uniting experts and scholars from around the world.

The event concluded with a closing ceremony led by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ikhwanuddin bin Abdullah, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation), who presented awards to outstanding presenters and expressed appreciation to all participants and partners.

FUSE 2.0 succeeded in achieving its goal of transforming scientific discussions into actionable strategies. The event not only strengthened global partnerships but also demonstrated Malaysia’s growing role in promoting sustainable and secure food systems for the future.

Healing with Science: The Story of Dr. Khairul Anuar Mat Amin

For some, wound care is a matter of treatment. For Dr. Khairul Anuar Mat Amin, it has been a lifelong passion. As an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemical Sciences at Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), Dr. Khairul has spent over 15 years investigating the most basic and yet significant question of all: What is the best wound dressing material?

His research began when he developed an early interest in biopolymers such as gellan gum, a naturally occurring compound with immense biomedical potential. From that point on, his research expanded into the production of wound dressings using various methods—films, hydrogels, and scaffolds—with the goal of facilitating faster, safer healing.

But what makes him even more interesting is the way he brings these materials to life. By incorporating them with stingless bee honey, collagen, titanium dioxide, clay, and plant extracts, he produces dressings that combine scientific rigor with nature's healing touch. Even palm oil-based polyurethane has made its way into his work, showing his commitment to sustainability as well as innovation.

Dr. Khairul's lab is not the only place where his work is pursued. As a mentor, he has mentored two PhD students and seven Master's students, nurturing the next generation of researchers who will continue the search for better wound care solutions. He is equally impressive in his own achievements—17 competitive research grants secured, over 70 papers published in high-impact journals, and an h-index of 19 on Scopus—all strong markers of a researcher whose reach extends far beyond his field.

But research is only a piece of his story. Since 2016, Dr. Khairul has held management positions, ranging from Acting Deputy Dean (Talent and Research) at the School of Fundamental Science to Head of Business Development at UMT Jaya Holdings, and Deputy Director of the Centre for Research Innovation Management. Today, he serves as the Director of Innovation and Commercialization Center (ICC), leading efforts to translate scientific discovery into real world applications, a mission close to his heart.

His entrepreneurial mission is manifested in his venture, Bee Lab Sdn. Bhd., a company that he founded to spread the word to the general public about wound care developments. During his tenure, his products MediMadu Paste, HoneyGel wound dressings, and Kelulut Paste have brought honey



Dr. Khairul during a courtesy visit to the Embassy of Malaysia in Bucharest, Romania

to the forefront of modern medical application. Under his hands, honey has emerged as an essential part of wound care products in medicine. Of these, MediMadu Paste is one of the best-known as it has been scientifically proven to be effective and has also been recognised by the Ministry of Health (MOH), Malaysia.

To patients and health care workers, these are not just medical supplies; they are the real results of many years of research.

He has received multiple awards over the years for excellent teaching and research, and for exemplary service at UMT. Outside of the awards and titles, though, what distinguishes Dr. Khairul is his sense of mission: to embrace science as a means of repairing the world and to ensure its lessons move beyond journals into hospitals, clinics, and the communities they serve.

From the laboratory and classroom to the boardroom and the marketplace, Dr. Khairul Anuar Mat Amin is that rare combination of scientist, mentor, leader, and entrepreneur. His mission is a reminder that innovation is not only about finding something new, but also about changing people's lives.

Alumni Spotlight

Remarkable achievements of UMT's alumni across various fields continue to make the university proud. Syaizatul Noor Hidayah Ishak, a graduate of the Bachelor of Policy and Social Environment Management programme, Class of 2016, is one of these alumni.

Throughout her studies, Syaizatul demonstrated excellence not only in academics but also in student leadership at the university, national, and international levels. Among her notable accomplishments were winning the 2013 Interfaculty Debate Competition, representing UMT at the National Student Conference (2013–2015), and securing a programme grant worth RM10,000 from the Ministry of Higher Education under the Bureau of Higher Education Institutions (Biro IPT).

She also represented Malaysia at the ASEAN Young Leaders Exchange and Action in Singapore and the ASEAN Young Leaders Women Conference 2015. Her dedication and active involvement were ultimately recognized when she received the Nadi Negara Award 2015, presented to outstanding student leaders nationwide.

After completing her studies, Syaizatul gained valuable experience as a Student Affairs Officer under the Ministry of Higher Education, an Information Officer at JASA, and subsequently as an Administrative Officer at the Prime Minister's Department for two years.

She later served as a Senior Executive in the private sector before venturing into entrepreneurship in 2021, establishing her own bakery business.

Currently, she is expanding her career in the field of professional training and consultancy. Armed with expertise and certification as a Certified Professional Image Consultant registered with HRDC, Syaizatul offers training services in image grooming, team building, and corporate consultancy for various government agencies, private companies, universities, and related organizations.

Syaizatul also remains deeply committed to community service and youth leadership. She has been active with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) since her university days and continues to contribute as a policy think tank panel member, committee member of the Women's Division, Malaysian Youth Council, and frequent presenter of grant and youth development project proposals.

In 2022, she was listed among the Global 100 Women, and in 2025, she once again brought honour to Malaysia when she received the ASEAN Young Leaders: Creating a Better World for All award at the Women Economic Forum ASEAN 2025.



The success of Syaizatul Noor Hidayah Ishak stands as a testament to how university experiences and active participation can serve as a strong foundation for building a distinguished career. Her dedication to leadership, entrepreneurship, and professional training not only enhances UMT's reputation but also inspires the next generation to strive for excellence in their respective fields.



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