

UMT NEWSLETTER

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DISCOVERIES
FOR GLOBAL
SUSTAINABILITY

Antarctica is more than a frozen wilderness—it is a powerful indicator of our changing climate. As global temperatures rise, melting ice contributes to sea-level rise, with impacts felt far beyond the polar region.

Through the Yayasan Penyelidikan Antartika Sultan Mizan (YPASM) and the National Antarctic Research Centre (NARC), Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) contributes to international polar research, advancing scientific knowledge to better understand and protect our changing planet.

IN THIS ISSUE

- UMT Marine Experts Elevate Malaysia's Profile on the Global Stage
- Partnerships to Practice: Advancing Artemia Research for Sustainable Aquaculture
- UMT Leads Science-Based Coral Restoration Initiative at Pulau Redang
- UMT, Terengganu Inc. Explore Strategic Partnership to Drive Innovation, Sustainable Development
- UMT, NTOU Strengthen Research Collaboration and Academic Exchange
- UMT Hosts National Programme on Financial Literacy, Integrity and Anti-Corruption
- UMT Welcomes New Students with Opportunity and Support
- UMT PhD Student Appointed Coral Watch Asia Ambassador
- Hosting National Environmental Debate Reflects UMT's Commitment to Sustainability

LEADERSHIP INSIGHTS

- Leading with Purpose: Building People, Driving Impact

RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT

- Associate Professor Ts. Dr. Mohd Sabri Mohd Ghazali

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As Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) continues to celebrate its Silver Jubilee, this edition of the UMT Newsletter marks far more than recent achievements. It honours a remarkable 25-year journey defined by vision, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to excellence, shared across generations of educators, researchers, students, alumni, and partners.

From humble beginnings, UMT has emerged as a premier centre for marine and aquatic sciences in Malaysia and beyond. Yet our story has never been defined by rankings alone. It is driven by a deeper purpose, creating knowledge that matters, nurturing transformative talent, and delivering real-world solutions for our nation and global community.

The stories in this edition capture that mission in action, from shaping ocean governance and driving sustainable coral restoration to fostering future-ready, ethical leaders. UMT is not merely participating in global conversations; we are helping lead them.

As we look ahead, the challenges facing humanity, whether climate change, biodiversity loss, food security, or sustainable ocean governance, demand bold thinking and deeper collaboration. UMT embraces this responsibility with confidence as we drive Malaysia's Blue Economy agenda and expand our global impact.

Our greatest strength remains our people. Every milestone reflects the passion and dedication of the UMT community. As we honour our legacy, we renew our commitment to pushing boundaries and inspiring future generations. To our staff, students, alumni, and partners, thank you for shaping these first 25 years. Together, let us write an even more ambitious and impactful chapter.



Zukiferee Ibrahim
Executive Editor

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Leadership Insights

Leading with Purpose: Building People, Driving Impact

By Prof. ChM. Ts. Dr. Nor Azman Kasan
Director, AKUATROP, Universiti
Malaysia Terengganu

Leadership is often measured by achievements, rankings, or milestones. While these are important indicators of progress, I believe the true measure of leadership lies in the people we inspire, the culture we cultivate, and the impact we create together.

At AKUATROP, I have the privilege of working with talented researchers, dedicated staff, and aspiring young scientists who share a common passion for advancing aquaculture and fisheries sustainability. My leadership philosophy is simple: people are the greatest asset of any organisation. When individuals are trusted, empowered, and given opportunities to grow, they will often exceed expectations and transform challenges into opportunities.

The rapidly evolving landscape of higher education and research demands more than technical excellence. It calls for leaders who embrace change, encourage innovation, and foster meaningful collaboration. In today's interconnected world, impactful research is rarely achieved in isolation. It is built through partnerships that bring together universities, industry, government agencies, and communities to address real-world challenges and create sustainable solutions.

As a research leader, I believe we must also nurture a culture of curiosity and continuous learning. Scientific excellence is not simply about publishing papers or securing grants; it is about asking the right questions, challenging conventional thinking, and translating knowledge into tangible benefits for society. Every research project should contribute not only to academic advancement but also to national development and global sustainability.

Leadership also means investing in future generations. One of the most fulfilling aspects of my journey has been mentoring students and early-career researchers. Their success is a reflection of an environment where ideas are encouraged, diversity of thought is respected, and learning is viewed as a lifelong pursuit. Developing future leaders is not an additional responsibility, it is one of the most important responsibilities we have.

As Director of AKUATROP, I remain committed to fostering a culture built on integrity, collaboration, innovation, and



excellence. These values not only strengthen our institution but also position UMT as a trusted leader in marine and aquaculture research, both nationally and internationally.

Leadership is not about standing at the front; it is about creating opportunities for others to move forward with confidence. When we lead with purpose, empower our people, and remain steadfast in our values, we do more than achieve organisational goals, we build a legacy of excellence that will continue to benefit future generations.

News & Events

UMT Marine Experts Elevate Malaysia's Profile on the Global Stage

By Amirul Salam Hasan,
Corporate Communications Office

Two researchers from Universiti Terengganu (UMT) have been selected to contribute their expertise to the Third World Ocean Assessment (WOA III), the United Nations' flagship assessment of the state of the world's oceans, released in conjunction with World Oceans Day 2026.



Associate Professor Dr. Izwandy Idris from the Institute of Oceanography and Environment (INOS) and Dr. Khaira Ismail from the Faculty of Science and Marine Environment and currently attached to the Centre for Blue Economy Advancement are among more than 600 experts from around the world selected to participate in the preparation of the assessment. Their selection reflects international recognition of UMT's expertise in marine science and its growing contribution to global ocean governance.

WOA III is the world's most comprehensive assessment of the environmental, economic and social dimensions of the oceans. The report provides scientific evidence to support United Nations Member States in developing policies and actions for the sustainable management of marine resources. The selection reinforces UMT's standing as Malaysia's leading university in marine and aquatic sciences, in line with its

aspiration as the nation's Niche of the Nation (NIC). Through high-impact research, international collaboration and recognised expertise, the university continues to strengthen its presence in the international marine science community.

The participation of the two researchers in WOA III is expected to further strengthen the link between research, education and policymaking. Their expertise will help inform international discussions on marine ecosystem conservation, the blue economy and the sustainable management of ocean resources.

As the global community places greater emphasis on evidence-based decision-making, UMT remains committed to advancing ocean science, nurturing internationally recognised researchers and delivering innovative solutions that benefit Malaysia, the region and the wider global community.

News & Events

Partnerships to Practice: Advancing Artemia Research for Sustainable Aquaculture

By Ts. Dr. Thirukanthan C.S. (ICAMB)

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) recently hosted the “Partnerships to Practice, an Artemia Workshop,” bringing together leading global and regional organisations to strengthen the role of Artemia in sustainable aquaculture development. The selection of UMT as host reflects the university’s growing position as a regional centre for marine science, aquatic resources and Blue Economy research.

Artemia is an important live feed used in global aquaculture, especially during the early life stages of many cultured aquatic species. Its reliability, nutritional value, and suitability for hatchery operations make it a critical component in aquaculture production.

At UMT, Artemia research has been developed for years through studies on production technology, nutrition, hatchery management, selective breeding, and sustainable biomass production using locally available agricultural by-products.

UMT’s contribution to Artemia research has been strengthened through the establishment of the UMT Artemia Production Hatchery and the implementation of the Artemia Translational Research Grant awarded by the Ministry of Higher Education. These initiatives have expanded UMT’s research infrastructure, enhanced production capability and created training opportunities for researchers, students and industry stakeholders.

Another important feature was the long-standing collaboration between UMT and Ghent University, Belgium, particularly through Emeritus Prof. Dr. Patrick Sorgeloos, a globally respected aquaculture scientist. His contribution to mentoring, research collaboration, and human capital development has helped shape UMT’s Artemia research ecosystem over almost a decade.

The workshop convened representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Ghent University, Belgium, the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), the Department of Fisheries Malaysia, industry partners, researchers and aquaculture practitioners from Malaysia and abroad.



Discussions centred on scientific advancement, practical adoption, capacity building, and industry relevance, in response to aquaculture systems facing increasing pressure to become more efficient, resilient and environmentally responsible.

The workshop also highlighted the leadership of Prof. Dr. Yeong Yik Sung, Director of the Institute of Climate Adaptation and Marine Biotechnology (ICAMB), whose work in Artemia research has brought wider recognition to UMT and Malaysia. The recent recognition of ICAMB as a Higher Institution Centre of Excellence (HICoE), effective January 2026, further strengthens UMT’s role in advancing marine biotechnology and sustainable aquaculture innovation.

The workshop also aligned with UMT’s broader commitment to the Blue Economy, green technology and renewable energy. Future aquaculture systems will need to integrate circular bioeconomy approaches, efficient resource use and lower-impact production methods. Artemia research offers a practical entry point into this transition, linking live feed technology with sustainability, food security and industry competitiveness.

Through this workshop, UMT reaffirmed its commitment to building meaningful international partnerships, strengthening regional expertise and supporting aquaculture systems in Malaysia, ASEAN and beyond. The programme marked an important step in turning scientific collaboration into practical value for industry, society and future generations.

News & Events

UMT Leads Science-Based Coral Restoration Initiative at Pulau Redang

By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tan Chun Hong, Faculty of Science and Marine Environment

Reinforcing its role as one of Malaysia's leading institutions in marine conservation research, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) has recently launched a new coral restoration initiative at Pulau Redang, one of Malaysia's most ecologically significant Marine Park areas.

The initiative is a strategic collaboration between UMT, the Department of Fisheries (DOF) Malaysia, and Aquaria KLCC (Aquawalk Sdn. Bhd.), bringing together scientific expertise, government support, and industry commitment to strengthen the resilience of Malaysia's coral reef ecosystems.

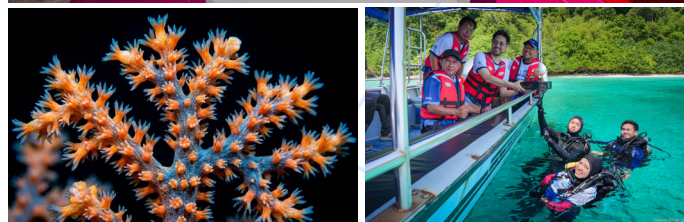
Under the new initiative, UMT researchers will oversee the restoration of 500 coral nubbins, ensuring that all restoration activities are implemented using science-based methodologies supported by long-term ecological monitoring.

Led by Associate Professor Dr. Tan Chun Hong (James) from the Faculty of Science and Marine Environment, the project applies the One-For-All (OFA) coral restoration methodology, an innovative restoration approach developed through years of research and field implementation. The OFA system is designed to stabilise loose coral rubble, enhance natural coral recruitment, improve coral survivorship, and allow restoration structures to be relocated when necessary, such as during mass coral bleaching events.

The initiative is expected to achieve success similar to UMT's earlier coral restoration programme at Pulau Bidong, which was carried out in collaboration with Aquaria KLCC following the severe destruction caused by Tropical Storm Pabuk in 2019. The shallow reefs surrounding Pulau Bidong experienced more than 80% coral mortality, leaving behind unstable coral rubble that severely limited natural reef recovery.

Since 2022, UMT researchers have successfully restored approximately 800 m² of degraded reef habitat by transplanting more than 1,000 coral fragments using the OFA methodology. Mature coral colonies capable of natural spawning have begun to develop, indicating that the restored reefs have begun to function as new sources of coral larvae, contributing to the natural recovery of surrounding reef ecosystems.

The recovering reef has also shown a remarkable increase in fish abundance and species diversity, transforming what was once a barren coral rubble field into a thriving marine habitat. The return of ecologically important species, including



the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), further demonstrates the restoration of habitat quality and the ecosystem's growing ecological resilience.

The coral restoration programme represents another milestone in UMT's long-standing commitment to translating scientific research into practical conservation solutions. The methodology used reflects UMT's continuous efforts to develop practical, science-driven solutions that address the increasing challenges faced by coral reef ecosystems under climate change and other human-induced pressures.

Through these initiatives, UMT continues to demonstrate how research, innovation, and strategic collaboration can contribute meaningfully to the conservation and sustainable management of Malaysia's coral reef ecosystems while supporting the nation's commitment towards biodiversity conservation and sustainable ocean management for future generations.

News & Events

UMT, Terengganu Inc. Explore Strategic Partnership to Drive Innovation, Sustainable Development

By Associate Professor Dr. Mohd Asamudin A. Rahman, Centre for Offshore Renewable Energy

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT)'s growing portfolio of commercially viable technologies and innovations have caught the interest of state-owned Terengganu Incorporated Sdn. Bhd. (Terengganu Inc.), who visited the campus last month to discuss possible strategic collaboration and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing.

Led by its President and Group Chief Executive Officer, Dato' Burhanuddin Hilmi Mohamed@Harun, the delegation from Terengganu Inc. met with UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Ir. Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim at the Vice Chancellor's Office.

UMT is known to produce technologies and innovations that can be commercialised, and many of them have successfully progressed through UMT's startup companies and innovation ecosystem. These market-ready products, combined with UMT's strong research capabilities, provide significant opportunities for industry adoption, technology commercialisation, and the creation of high-value economic activities. The university has always sought industry collaborations as it is well-positioned to support industry partners not only with research expertise but also by delivering innovative solutions with strong commercial potential that can be scaled for wider industrial and market applications.

Established in March, 2006, Terengganu Inc. is the strategic investment holding company for the State Government of Terengganu. It manages commercial business activities, drives state investments, and develops key economic sectors to generate financial returns and fund local socio-economic growth.

During the meeting, both parties recognized the importance of fostering stronger linkages between academia, industry, and the government to support the development of a dynamic innovation ecosystem. Such collaborations can encourage interdisciplinary research, enhance knowledge exchange, and cultivate highly skilled talent capable of supporting the state's future economic transformation.

The two sides exchanged views on expanding strategic collaboration in areas including research and development, innovation, technology transfer, talent development, and



commercialisation of research outputs. The discussion focused on identifying opportunities to leverage the strengths of both institutions in addressing emerging challenges while creating greater socio-economic impact for the state of Terengganu. Both parties also explored the possibility of signing an MoU as a strategic framework for long-term collaboration to pave the way for joint initiatives that promote innovation, strengthen industry readiness, and accelerate the transition of research into practical solutions that benefit industries, government agencies, and local communities.

The visit also enabled both parties to explore potential collaborations in renewable energy development after the delegation was brought to UMT's Centre for Offshore Renewable Energy (CEFORE) at the Tok Jembal Beach to gain first-hand insight into its research capabilities in offshore renewable energy and sustainable technologies. By leveraging CEFORE's expertise alongside Terengganu Inc.'s strategic development initiatives, both organisations aim to create greater value through innovation, capacity building, and technology adoption.

News & Events

UMT, NTOU Strengthen Research Collaboration and Academic Exchange

By Roslizawati Ab Lah, Faculty of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (FSPA)

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) further strengthened its international collaboration when a professor from the National Taiwan Ocean University (NTOU) recently visited the Faculty of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (FSPA).

Professor Dr. Chia-Hui Wang came to UMT under the FSPA Visiting Professor Programme to strengthen academic collaboration, promote knowledge exchange, and explore future research partnerships between the two institutions.

The Visiting Professor Programme reflects UMT's continued commitment to internationalisation and academic excellence by fostering strategic partnerships with leading universities worldwide. Such initiatives provide valuable exposure for researchers and students while enhancing UMT's global visibility in marine science, fisheries, and aquaculture research.

The collaboration between UMT and NTOU has been built over many years through continuous academic engagement and mutual commitment to excellence in marine and fisheries sciences. Among those who have played a significant role in strengthening this partnership is Associate Professor Dr. Seah Ying Giat, whose active involvement has contributed substantially to research collaboration, academic networking, and institutional cooperation between the two universities. The collaboration has also contributed to the development of UMT's academic talent, with Dr. Muhammad Naimullah bin Muhammad Ikhwanuddin, a lecturer from the Faculty of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences, having successfully completed his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) at NTOU. These achievements demonstrate the strong and sustainable relationship between both institutions while providing a solid foundation for expanding future collaborations in research, postgraduate education, academic mobility, and innovation.

Professor Wang met with Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Professor Dr. Muhammad Ikhwanuddin Abdullah to discuss potential collaborations in marine science, fisheries, aquaculture, postgraduate



education, and international research initiatives. Both parties agreed to strengthen their long-standing partnership through collaborative research, academic exchanges, and innovation.

Professor Wang also participated in a series of academic engagements with FSPA lecturers. Discussions focused on curriculum enhancement, postgraduate supervision, research collaboration, and opportunities for staff and student mobility.

She delivered a public lecture entitled "Spawning Grounds, Spatial Distribution, and ENSO-Related Early Life History Variation of Three Mullet Species in Taiwan," held on 4 June at FSPA, and attended by postgraduate students, researchers, and academic staff from various faculties across UMT.

During the lecture, Professor Wang presented her latest findings on the spawning ecology, spatial distribution, and recruitment patterns of three mullet species in Taiwan. She also highlighted the influence of the El-Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) on the early life stages of these species and discussed its implications for fisheries management and marine ecosystem sustainability. The session stimulated active discussions among participants and provided valuable insights into contemporary fisheries research and climate-related challenges affecting marine resources.

The academic interactions created new opportunities for collaborative research projects, postgraduate supervision, scientific publications, staff and student exchange programmes, and future international grant applications.

News & Events

UMT Hosts National Programme on Financial Literacy, Integrity and Anti-Corruption

By Rosfazila Bakar, UMT Integrity Unit

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) further strengthened its role in national student development after being entrusted by the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) as a strategic partner and selected to host the Financial Literacy, Integrity and Anti-Corruption Student Programme 2026. The appointment highlights UMT's capacity to advance initiatives that promote financial literacy, integrity, and ethical leadership among university students.

Held at Dewan Sultan Mizan on 6 June 2026 under the theme "Empowering Integrity and Strengthening Student Financial Management," the programme brought together approximately 1,000 students from UMT and public higher education institutions across the East Coast.

A key highlight of the programme was the launch of the MACCAMPUS digital application, an initiative by MACC aimed at strengthening integrity awareness, increasing understanding of corruption risks, and fostering ethical leadership among university students.

In attendance were UMT Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the EPF Board, Tan Sri Dato' Seri Mohd Zuki Ali; Chief Commissioner of MACC, Datuk Seri Abdul Halim Aman; and UMT Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ir. Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim, underscoring the collaborative commitment of the higher education, financial, and enforcement sectors to developing responsible future leaders.

In his welcoming address, the Vice-Chancellor reaffirmed UMT's commitment to producing graduates who combine academic excellence with strong integrity and sound financial literacy. He also expressed appreciation to EPF and MACC for their trust in appointing UMT as both strategic partner and host of the national programme.

Delivering the keynote address, Tan Sri Dato' Seri Mohd Zuki Ali emphasised the importance of sustained collaboration in equipping young people with sound financial management skills, ethical values, and an anti-corruption mindset. He noted that higher education institutions play an important



role in developing graduates who possess not only academic competence but also integrity, professionalism, and leadership qualities.

Participants attended a series of talks delivered by representatives from MACC, EPF, the Credit Counselling and Debt Management Agency (AKPK), and the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM). The sessions addressed financial planning, savings, credit management, integrity, and online scam awareness, providing practical knowledge to help students navigate financial and ethical challenges beyond university. The programme also featured nine exhibition booths by EPF, MACC, PDRM, AKPK, PTPTN, Tabung Haji, the Terengganu Human Resource Development Centre (THRDC), the Terengganu Department of Labour, and CelcomDigi. The exhibition enabled students to engage directly with participating agencies and obtain information on financial services, career opportunities, and public programmes.

The opening ceremony included a War Cry performance by UMT's Royal Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTU) cadets, showcasing discipline, teamwork, and leadership as part of the university's co-curricular development.

The programme reflected UMT's continued collaboration with government agencies in supporting national efforts to develop graduates who are financially literate, ethically grounded, and socially responsible, while strengthening partnerships that contribute to the nation's human capital development.

News & Events

UMT Welcomes New Students with Opportunity and Support

By Amirul Salam Hasan, Corporate Communications Office

For one young woman, arriving at Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) to begin her studies represented far more than the start of a new academic year. It marked the fulfilment of a dream once clouded by financial hardship, and the continuation of a journey made possible through UMT's compassion and support.

Nur Qaira Damia Amir Abdullah, who enrolled in UMT's Diploma in Fisheries programme for the 2026/2027 academic session, described her admission as a life-changing opportunity for herself and her family. Coming from an *asnaf* household, she never imagined that pursuing a university education would one day become a reality.

"I am very grateful for the opportunity to study at UMT," she said. "This opportunity motivates me to keep striving and prove that life's challenges are not barriers to success."

Her story had previously attracted media attention, prompting UMT's senior management to extend assistance to her family. In a gesture reflecting the university's commitment to student welfare, Vice-Chancellor Professor Ir. Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim personally visited her home to provide support and words of encouragement before she embarked on her university journey.

For Nur Qaira Damia, that encouragement became an important source of motivation as she prepared to begin a new chapter in her life.

Reflecting on her experience, Prof. Zamri said UMT is committed to ensuring that access to higher education remains available to students from all backgrounds, regardless of socioeconomic circumstances.

"At UMT, we do not simply produce graduates; we shape future generations capable of leading change," he said while welcoming students and their families during the registration programme. "Every student has the potential to grow and contribute positively to society, the nation and the world."

He added that stories such as Nur Qaira Damia's demonstrate how education, coupled with timely opportunities and meaningful support, can transform lives and create pathways to a brighter future.

A total of 743 new students, out of the 980 offered places for the 2026/2027 academic session, came to UMT to register for the university's STEM Foundation and Diploma in Fisheries programmes.



Across the campus, registration day was more than a routine administrative exercise. While students completed documentation and collected the keys to their residential colleges, they also took their first steps towards new aspirations, lifelong friendships and future careers.

Among them was 18-year-old Marissa Irdina Mohamad Idris from Kuala Lumpur, who chose UMT's STEM Foundation Programme because of her ambition to pursue data analytics. She said her decision followed a visit to the university's booth during the *Jom Masuk Universiti* education fair, where she learned about the academic opportunities and career prospects available.

"I hope this programme will provide a strong foundation for me to further my studies in data analytics in the future," she said.

The new intake reflects the continued confidence of students and parents in UMT's role as a leading institution of higher learning, particularly in science, technology, marine studies and fisheries. More importantly, it underscores the university's belief that every student deserves not only access to quality education but also the encouragement and support needed to realise their potential.

As the newest members of the UMT community begin their academic journey, they do so in an environment committed to nurturing talent, creating opportunities and empowering future leaders to make meaningful contributions to society.

News & Events

UMT PhD Student Appointed CoralWatch Asia Ambassador

By Amirul Salam Hasan, Corporate Communications Office

A Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) doctoral student made the country proud after being appointed CoralWatch Asia Ambassador during the CoralWatch Asia Workshop 2026, held in Taiwan from 14 to 17 May.

The student, Ong Chai Kee, is pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Marine Ecology at UMT's Faculty of Science and Marine Environment. She also received full sponsorship from the Marine Affairs Research Center of the National Kaohsiung University of Science and Technology (NKUST), with support from Taiwan's Ocean Conservation Administration, to participate in the four-day programme, which brought together participants from across the Asia-Pacific region to strengthen collaboration in coral reef conservation and citizen science.

UMT Vice Chancellor, Professor Ir Ts Dr Mohd Zamri Ibrahim, said the recognition reflects the capability of the university's young researchers to compete and gain recognition on the international stage.

"This recognition is not only a proud achievement for UMT but also reflects the university's commitment to nurturing competent, globally competitive young researchers who are able to contribute to international ocean sustainability initiatives," he said.

"UMT will continue to support the participation of its students and researchers in global collaborative networks that advance marine conservation and sustainable development."

Ong described the appointment as an encouragement to further expand public awareness of coral reef conservation.

"I am truly grateful for the opportunity to participate in this workshop and to be appointed as a CoralWatch Asia Ambassador. I hope to share the knowledge I have gained with local communities to strengthen awareness of coral reef conservation," she said.

"I also hope to promote CoralWatch monitoring methods to more Malaysians, encouraging greater public participation in citizen science initiatives to monitor the health of coral reefs in Malaysian waters."

Program berkenaan dianjurkan oleh The University of Queensland menerusi inisiatif CoralWatch dengan kerjasama Marine Affairs Research Center of National Kaohsiung University of Science and Technology (NKUST), serta disokong oleh Taiwan's Ocean Conservation Administration dan Ocean Affairs Council.



The CoralWatch Asia Workshop 2026 focused on strengthening coral reef monitoring, advancing citizen science and building capacity for marine conservation across the Asia-Pacific region. Organised by The University of Queensland through the CoralWatch initiative in collaboration with the Marine Affairs Research Center of the National Kaohsiung University of Science and Technology (NKUST), the programme was supported by Taiwan's Ocean Conservation Administration and the Ocean Affairs Council.

The workshop brought together participants from the fields of marine science, environmental education, scuba diving, museums, government agencies and environmental organisations from Taiwan, Malaysia, the Philippines, the United States and Finland, reflecting growing international collaboration in protecting marine ecosystems and promoting ocean sustainability.

News & Events

Hosting National Environmental Debate Reflects UMT's Commitment to Sustainability

By Muhammad Hisyamuddin bin Sazali, Student Affairs and Alumni Division

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) reaffirmed its status as an eco-conscious institution by playing host to the 32nd Inter-Higher Education Institution (IPT) Environmental Debate Competition 2026.

The four-day tournament held in June formed a key component of the university's strategic initiative to drive environmental awareness and foster an intellectual culture among tertiary students.

UMT Vice-Chancellor Professor Ir. Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim said that hosting the national-level competition reinforces UMT's role as a premier institution advocating environmental conservation and green leadership.

He stressed that as a university dedicated to marine and environmental sustainability, UMT takes immense pride in offering a platform where the nation's brightest young minds can critically engage with pivotal topics such as the blue economy, climate change, and sustainable development.

"Our collaboration with the Department of Environment (DOE) and strategic partners reflects UMT's ongoing commitment to cultivating future leaders equipped to address complex environmental realities," he said.

Meanwhile, UMT Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni) Professor Dr. Mohd Izani Mohd Zain, who also serves as Chairman of the Malaysian Universities Debate Council (MADUM), said the initiative aligns with the Ministry of Higher Education's (MOHE) mission to produce holistic and globally competitive graduates.

He noted that public debate serves as a crucial medium to build self-confidence and analytical thinking skills while deepening students' understanding of national environmental policies.

"Debate serves as an effective platform to amplify youth voices for environmental justice, in line with the nation's sustainable development agenda and the aspirations of Malaysia Madani," Dr. Mohd Izani added.

Held at the UMT Convention Centre (UMTCC) and Sultan Mizan Hall, the event coincided with World Environment Day on June 5. Organised by DOE in collaboration with MADUM, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP), and strategic partner Noor Arfa Batik Sdn Bhd, the competition drew 104 debaters across 26 teams from public and private universities.



At the grand finale, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK) emerged as champions while International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) finished as runner-up.

The tournament also served as an experiential learning ground for 59 UMT students who made up the student organizing committee. They were exposed to national-level event management that helped build critical soft skills such as leadership, strategic planning, cross-agency coordination and teamwork. Working directly alongside government bodies and corporate entities, they gained practical experience in stakeholder management and problem-solving, adding significant value to their career readiness and personal development.

Beyond conventional debate competitions, under UMT's leadership, MADUM has also progressively broadened its scope to embrace a wider spectrum of public speaking arts. A key milestone of this initiative is "Podcast JIWA SISWA," produced in strategic partnership with *Yayasan Perkasa Siswa*, which offers tertiary students a contemporary digital platform to articulate ideas, debate current issues, and engage in meaningful public discourse.

Researcher Spotlight

Associate Professor Ts. Dr. Mohd Sabri Mohd Ghazali

Associate Professor Ts. Dr. Mohd Sabri Mohd Ghazali is currently attached to the Faculty of Science and Marine Environment (FSME). His primary research focuses on materials science and nanophysics, specifically in the study of varistors, solar cells, anti-corrosion coatings, and oil absorbents. His work involves technological innovations in nanostructures that address various industrial and maritime challenges, such as exploring materials for oil-water separation and developing protective coatings capable of withstanding seawater conditions.

As an active innovator, Dr. Mohd Sabri has registered numerous intellectual property rights, including copyrights and trade secrets, resulting from his dedicated efforts. Notable innovations include "NanoSilTM", an innovative foliar fertilizer and plant growth regulator for rice plants, inventing "CAPSEAL-Rupture, Release Recover" smart corrosion coatings, and the creation of "Green Aerogels", which are efficient oil sorbents designed to expedite oil spill recovery.

His academic expertise and research potential have garnered various recognitions locally and internationally. He was appointed as a Visiting Scientist at the Institute of Advanced Technology, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), from October 2018 to October 2021. His excellence on the global stage is evidenced by winning the prestigious Oil & Gas Award at both the Institute of Chemical Engineers (IChemE) Global Awards 2024 and the IChemE Malaysia Awards 2024.

Beyond the academic and laboratory spheres, Dr. Mohd Sabri is also committed to community development and public service. He contributes his expertise through consultation and knowledge-transfer programs, including his role as a co-founder and co-researcher in the Oil Sorbent Technology Project with UMT Holdings, through a spin-off company, JSORB Spill Tech Sdn Bhd, in 2024. Furthermore, he actively serves in local leadership, acting as a Board Member of the Mosque Kariah Cooperative, Padang Nenas (2021–2026).

With an outstanding scientific publication record comprising 117 manuscripts in the Scopus database and 1,278 citations, Dr. Mohd Sabri continues to demonstrate that his interdisciplinary approach elevates the quality of the pure sciences and engineering technology. His continuous efforts ensure that scientific discoveries do not remain merely on paper but generate sustainability and real-world applications for the betterment of society and the nation.



Dr. Mohd Sabri holds multifaceted roles at the university, serving as a senior lecturer, laboratory instructor, academic coach, and academic coordinator for the industrial training of the Nanophysics Programme. He currently leads the university's quality management as the Deputy Director of the Centre for Quality Management and Assurance, UMT, a position he has held since January 15, 2026.



2nd International Biodiversity Symposium 2026 (IBDS2026)

8 - 10 September 2026

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT)

**Connecting people and nature:
Advancing biodiversity and climate resilience for a sustainable future**

Scopes

- Biodiversity & Climate Resilience
- Biodiversity in Sustainable Living & City
- Biodiversity, Ecosystem & Restoration
- Biodiversity & Community
- Biodiversity, Education & Society
- Biodiversity Innovation & Policy

Important dates

**Abstract
Submission**

3 March 2026

**Early Bird
Deadline**

30 Apr 2026

**Normal Rate & Full
Paper Deadline**

31 July 2026

**Conference
Day**

8 Sept 2026

Register Now



Conference fees

Physical

Virtual

Local Participants

Early bird

Normal rate

Early bird

Normal rate

Presenter (Researcher)

RM400

RM500

RM300

RM400

Presenter (Student)

RM300

RM400

RM200

RM250

Poster presenter

RM300

RM350

-

-

Listeners

RM300

RM350

-

RM250

International Participants

Early bird

Normal rate

Early bird

Normal rate

Presenter (Researcher)

USD200

USD250

USD150

USD200

Presenter (Student)

USD150

USD200

USD80

USD120

Poster presenter

USD150

USD180

-

-

Listeners

USD150

USD180

-

USD120

Contact us:

ibdssecretariat@umt.edu.my

Organizer



Co-Organizer



A PARTNER FOR OCEAN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMMES FOR MASTER AND DOCTORAL STUDENTS IN THE FOLLOWING FIELDS :

- ACCOUNTING AND TAXATION (NEC CODE :0411) BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATION (NEC CODE: 0410)
- BIOLOGY AND RELATED SCIENCES NOT FURTHER DEFINED (NEC CODE: 0510)
- COMPUTER SCIENCE (NEC CODE: 0613)
- CROP AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION (NEC CODE: 0811)
- EARTH SCIENCE (NEC CODE: 0532)
- ECONOMICS (NEC CODE: 0311)
- ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (NEC CODE: 0521)
- ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TECHNOLOGY (NEC CODE: 0717)
- ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING TRADE (NEC CODE: 0710)
- FISHERIES (NEC CODE: 0831)
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- HUMANITIES (NEC CODE: 0220)
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- PHYSICAL SCIENCE (NEC CODE: 0530)
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- SOCIAL WORK AND COUNSELLING (NEC CODE: 0923)
- TRANSPORT SERVICES (NEC CODE: 1041)

MASTER PROGRAMMES BY COURSEWORK :

- MASTER OF SCIENCE (AQUACULTURE)
- MASTER OF SCIENCE IN TROPICAL FISHERIES
- MASTER OF MANAGEMENT (INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE)
- MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
- MASTER OF COUNSELLING
- MASTER OF ECONOMICS
- MASTER OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
- MASTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- MASTER OF MATHEMATICS
- MASTER OF STATISTICS IN MARINE SCIENCE
- MASTER OF SCIENCE (ENVIRONMENTAL FORENSIC)
- MASTER OF SCIENCE IN TROPICAL MARINE ENVIRONMENT
- MASTER OF SCIENCE IN TROPICAL BIODIVERSITY
- MASTER OF SCIENCE (MARITIME STUDIES)
- POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MARITIME STUDIES
- POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN MARITIME STUDIES

Gain deeper understanding of the Sunda Shelf, while tapping into a universe of resources and research potential. UMT welcomes visitors, especially those in :

- Nautical Science
- Oceanography and Marine Science
- Marine Management and Technology
- Coastal and Island Socioeconomics and Development
- Marine Informatics and Applied Mathematics

CALLING ALL ACADEMICIANS, FELLOWS AND PROFESSORS... **COLLABORATE WITH US!**



**Menerajui Agenda
Ekonomi Biru Negara**
Leading the National Blue Economy Agenda

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