

UMT NEWSLETTER

Vol. 6, Issue 9, September 2026



A vibrant and inclusive campus environment that nurtures knowledge, encourages collaboration and fosters meaningful connections among students as they embark on their academic journey at Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT).



**OCEAN OF
DISCOVERIES
FOR GLOBAL
SUSTAINABILITY**

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LEADERSHIP INSIGHTS

- Driving Maritime Education and Research to Meet Global Industry Transformation

As Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) celebrates its Silver Jubilee, this edition of the UMT Newsletter offers more than a collection of stories and achievements. It provides a glimpse into a university that has spent 25 years building its identity and expanding its contribution to society.

UMT began with a distinctive foundation in marine and aquatic sciences. Today, that identity continues to evolve through maritime studies, fisheries, oceanography, biodiversity, sustainability, blue economy and other areas addressing national and global challenges. Our journey is not defined by history alone, but by how effectively we translate knowledge into impact.

From UMT's growing partnerships with European institutions and the launch of UMT Global Connect, to strategic collaborations with Universiti Malaysia Sabah, our international outlook continues to expand. These initiatives create opportunities for research, mobility, talent development, knowledge exchange and institutional growth.

The same is evident in our research and engagement. UMT continues to bring knowledge beyond the classroom and laboratory. Research becomes meaningful when it addresses real challenges, creates solutions and improves lives.

As we look towards the next chapter, our greatest strength remains our people: academics, researchers, staff, students, alumni and partners.

After 25 years, we have much to celebrate. But the Silver Jubilee should not merely mark how far we have travelled. It should inspire us to ask where we want to go next.

The future belongs to a UMT that is more impactful, connected, sustainable and globally engaged.

Our legacy is our foundation. Our impact will define our future.



Zukiferee Ibrahim
Executive Editor

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Leadership Insights

Driving Maritime Education and Research to Meet Global Industry Transformation

The global maritime sector is undergoing rapid transformation. Advances in digital technology, vessel automation, artificial intelligence, smart navigation systems, decarbonisation efforts, and increasingly stringent safety and sustainability requirements are reshaping the maritime industry. These changes are affecting not only vessel and port operations, but also the competencies and knowledge required of the maritime workforce of the future.

In response to these developments, the Faculty of Maritime Studies (FPM) continues to strengthen its role as a centre for maritime education, research, and knowledge transfer aligned with national needs in the international maritime industry.

FPM integrates maritime education with a range of related fields, including maritime management and operations, maritime safety and security, navigation, sea transportation, maritime technology, maritime law and governance, logistics, sustainability and the blue economy. This approach ensures that graduates understand conventional maritime operations and are prepared for an increasingly complex and technology-driven industry environment.

Recent developments in Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS), remote vessel operations, artificial intelligence and maritime data integration are opening new dimensions. These technologies require a balance between innovation and safety, human competency, legislation, and governance. Maritime education institutions therefore must ensure that technological development progresses alongside human capital development.

In research, FPM continues to focus on issues of direct relevance to Malaysia. These include navigational safety, maritime risk assessment, maritime safety and security, digitalisation, sea transportation, maritime governance, marine environmental protection, recreational boating and marina operations, as well as sustainable maritime development.



Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Ahmad Faizal Ahmad Fuad

Dean

Faculty of Maritime Studies (FPM)

The distinctiveness of FPM's research lies in its approach of connecting academic research with real-world challenges. Engagement with government agencies, maritime authorities, industry players, port and marina operators, and maritime communities enables research undertaking based on stakeholders' actual needs. This approach creates opportunities for research outcomes to contribute to improvements in maritime operations, safety, policy and governance in the country.

Malaysia holds a highly strategic position as a maritime nation, with extensive waters and a location near some of the world's busiest international shipping routes. Also, the growth of the blue economy, marine tourism, recreational boating, smart vessel technology and the transition towards green shipping is creating new opportunities requiring expertise and skilled workforce.

FPM will continue to strengthen university-government-industry partnerships, expand its international networks, and develop impactful research for society and industry. Students' exposure to real-world industry environments will continue to be enhanced to produce graduates who are competent, adaptable, and prepared to navigate the transformation of the maritime sector.

Through quality education, impactful research, and strategic partnerships, FPM will continue to strengthen UMT's position as a university focused on marine science and aquatic resources, while becoming a key reference point for the development of the maritime sector in Malaysia and the wider region.

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EU Heads of Mission Visit UMT

By Syarifah Noormaisarah Tuan Besar, International Centre



Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) had the honour of hosting a distinguished delegation recently. The European Union (EU) Heads of Mission and representatives from European embassies in Malaysia paid a visit to the campus to obtain more information about the university's long-standing involvement in international programmes.

The delegation was led by His Excellency Rafael Daerr, Ambassador of the European Union to Malaysia, and comprised ambassadors and diplomatic representatives from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, and Sweden.

They were in Terengganu for an official engagement with the Terengganu State Government, a Royal Audience with His Royal Highness the Sultan of Terengganu, and a courtesy visit to the Office of the Minister of Terengganu.

The contingent requested a visit to UMT to be briefed on the university's partnerships with several European institutions and its participation in the TROPIMUNDO Erasmus Mundus Master's Programme.

Upon arrival on campus, they were welcomed by UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Suriyani Muhamad. Two presentations from UMT showcased the remarkable outcomes of its collaborations with European institutions.

One of the strongest examples of UMT's international engagement is its partnership with Ghent University (UGent), Belgium, which has evolved into a strategic collaboration encompassing joint research, postgraduate supervision, academic mobility, and joint degree programmes. The partnership has contributed significantly to capacity building, scientific advancement, and talent development in marine biotechnology, aquaculture, climate adaptation, and environmental sustainability.

The delegation was briefed on the success of the TROPIMUNDO Erasmus Mundus Master's Programme since 2015. To date, the programme has welcomed students from more than 40 countries, including Belgium, France, Germany, Brazil, Colombia, Ethiopia, India, and the United States.

UMT's collaboration with European partners has also translated into substantial research achievements. The university is currently involved in several EU-funded initiatives, including SustainaBlue, ECO-MARIN, ENTER, and other Erasmus+ projects focusing on sustainable blue economy development, environmental conservation, climate resilience, and higher education capacity building.

Beyond research grants, UMT has maintained an active

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portfolio of academic and scientific engagements across Europe. Between 2021 and 2026, UMT researchers and students participated in numerous conferences, mobility programmes, collaborative projects, research attachments, and strategic visits involving institutions in Belgium, Germany, France, Greece, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Poland, Hungary, Norway, and several other European countries.

Currently, UMT maintains active cooperation agreements with several European institutions, including Ghent University, Université Libre de Bruxelles, the University of South Brittany, Heriot-Watt University, Solent University, the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the University of Palermo, and other strategic partners. These collaborations continue to support research excellence, student mobility, staff exchange, and institutional development.

His Excellency Rafael Daerr said following the visit that he was very impressed with UMT's active involvement at the international level.



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Former Leaders Share Reflections on UMT's 25-Year Journey

By Norhafizah Mohd Suib, Centre for Talent Development and Innovation



Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) marked its 25th anniversary by bringing together three of its former Vice-Chancellors to reflect on the university's leadership journey, development, and aspirations for the future.

UMT has embarked on a 25-year journey as a higher education institution that has grown with its own distinct identity and strengths within the country's higher education landscape. Throughout this period, the university has undergone various phases of development, challenges and transformation, with university leadership playing an important role in shaping its direction and sustaining institutional excellence.

The discourse served as a platform to reflect on UMT's leadership journey, draw inspiration, and learn lessons from the experiences of figures who have previously led the university, and highlight aspirations for UMT's future direction. The discourse featured three former UMT Vice-Chancellors, namely Professor Dato' Ts. Dr. Aziz Deraman, currently a professor at the Faculty of Computer Science and Mathematics; Professor Dato' Ir. Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim, currently a professor at the Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology; and Professor Dato' Dr. Nor Aieni Haji Mokhtar, currently a principal research fellow at the Institute of Oceanography and Environment.

The session was moderated by Professor Ts. Dr. Mohd Fadzil Mohd Akhir, UMT Pro Vice-Chancellor (Strategy, Performance and Corporate).

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During the discourse, the three former Vice-Chancellors shared their experiences and perspectives, including the challenges of steering the institution and the changes that shaped UMT's development during their tenures.

The discussion offered the UMT community an opportunity to learn more about their educational and career journeys, as well as the experiences that shaped their leadership approaches.

Their reflections also highlighted UMT's strengths and identity over the past 25 years, as well as their aspirations to continue the legacy of excellence in the future.

The discourse, themed "25 Years of UMT: Reflections and Future Aspirations", was held on 12 August at the Sulaiman Auditorium, and jointly organized by the Centre for Talent Development and Innovation (PPBI) and the Sultanah Nur Zahirah Library (PSNZ).

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UMT Lecturer One of Three Researchers Worldwide Selected for King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives Programme

By Engku Nurul Aima Tengku Amri, Corporate Communication Office

A Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) lecturer is one of three scholars worldwide who have been selected for the King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives (DARAH) programme.

Assoc Prof Dr Riswadi Azmi has been appointed a Visiting Researcher under the foundation's inaugural programme in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

He is the first researcher from Southeast Asia to be selected for the programme. The other researchers are from Germany and the United Kingdom.

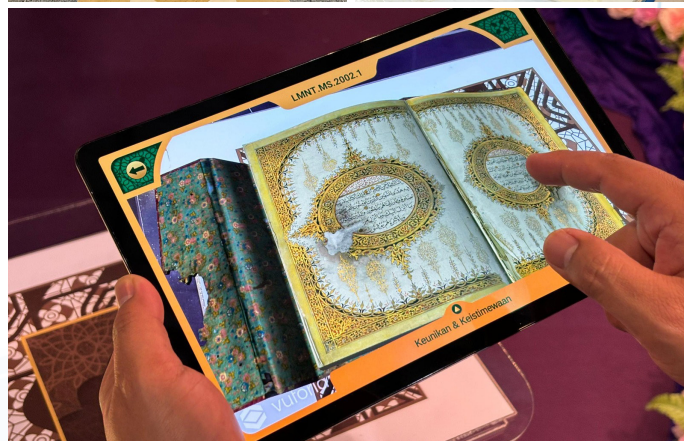
A lecturer at the Department of Nationhood and Civilisation, Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education, Dr Riswadi specialises in manuscripts of the Malay world, particularly the Terengganu Royal Qur'an manuscripts.

Dr Riswadi's research combines the study of manuscripts with work on royal correspondence and historical photographs. He has led research on Terengganu royal letters and photographic collections at the National Archives of Thailand documenting relations between the Malay sultanates and Siam.

He also played a key role in the nomination of the Terengganu Royal Qur'an manuscripts for National Heritage status and chaired the Scientific Committee pursuing their recognition under UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme.

Riswadi has produced more than 50 scholarly publications. His international academic service includes advisory and editorial appointments with journals in Brunei and Indonesia, as well as membership in academic associations in the United States, Australia, and Britain.

His appointment reflects international recognition of his contributions to Qur'anic manuscript studies and Southeast Asian Islamic heritage. It also provides UMT with opportunities to develop research partnerships in manuscript studies, Islamic art, and cultural heritage.



During his three-month stay, Riswadi will study 54 Qur'anic manuscripts in DARAH's collection, with a focus on illumination, calligraphy, codicology, and textual features. He will also have access to rare materials that will support his research.

The study will compare the collection with Qur'an-copying traditions in Southeast Asia, particularly the Terengganu Royal Qur'an manuscripts. It will examine how the manuscripts were produced and illuminated and explore influences and connections between the traditions.

His participation in the DARAH programme brings UMT's expertise in Southeast Asian manuscripts to a wider scholarly audience and creates opportunities for further collaboration in the study and preservation of Islamic heritage.

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UMT Forges New Strategic Alliance with UMS

By Ts. Dr. Mohd Ihwan bin Zakariah and Associate Professor Ts. Dr. Khor Wai Ho,
Higher Institutional Centre of Excellence (HiCoE), Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries (AKUATROP)

In a move to strengthen its academic and research collaboration as well as solidify its strategic alliance, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS).

Key highlights of this strategic partnership include developing collaborative academic courses and programmes to align with the universities' ongoing focus on future dual-degree planning.

Both institutions will share laboratory facilities and equipment to elevate their research capabilities and collaboratively organize joint conferences, seminars, and workshops.

The MoU will encourage mobility and exchange of faculty members for attachments, research, and lectures, alongside promoting the exchange of graduate and undergraduate students for courses, research, and internships.

Additionally, both parties will be committed to sharing educational materials, research publications, and library resources in both printed and electronic formats.

This partnership unites UMT, a well-established public university renowned for its niche areas in marine sciences and aquatic resources, with UMS, an institution dedicated to enhancing its academic cooperation and educational excellence.

To ensure the successful implementation of these collaborative initiatives, coordination will be spearheaded by the Higher Institution Centres of Excellence (HiCoE) for both universities: the Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries (AKUATROP) at UMT and the Borneo Marine Institute (BMI) at UMS.

The MoU was signed by Professor Dr Suriyani Muhamad, Acting Vice-Chancellor of UMT, and Professor Datuk Dr Kasim Haji Mansur, Vice-Chancellor of UMS.

According to Professor Suriyani, the signed MoU is not just a document, but a mutual commitment to combine expertise, expand networks, and create new opportunities in academic, research, innovation, and talent development.

"I believe the combined strength and expertise of both universities will allow us to explore more impactful initiatives that benefit our society and nation," she said.



Meanwhile, Professor Kasim said the synergy between these two HiCoEs will harness the strengths and expertise of both universities, thereby producing research and innovation that not only impacts the academic world but can also be translated into real-world solutions for industry and society.

"May this MoU serve as a catalyst for more high-impact research, innovation, and expertise sharing between UMS and UMT in the future," he said.

Designed as a long-term commitment to shared academic innovation, the MoU will remain in effect for a period of five years.

The signing ceremony was held alongside the Public University Vice Chancellor Meeting in August and was attended by the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Higher Education (KPT), Datuk Professor Dr. Azlinda Azman.

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UMT Brings Academia and Industry Together to Shape the Future of Logistics

By Tengku Nuriah Tengku Abdul Rahman, Centre For Knowledge Transfer, Industry and Community Linkages

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) successfully hosted a three-day event that served as a strategic leap forward for the region's entire supply chain ecosystem.

The International Logistics Symposium (ILS) & Logistics Industrial Forum (LIF) 2026 took place from 15 to 17 August at The Ship Campus, Batu Kawan, Penang, carrying the theme "Accelerating the Workforce for ASEAN Logistics Integration" and the tagline "Malaysia as the Next ASEAN Logistics Education Hub."

The 2026 edition concluded the four-year strategic roadmap designed to break down the barriers between classroom theory and real-world execution. To date, the flagship initiative has impacted nearly 1,000 students, creating a platform for them to gain practical industrial exposure.

This year's event brought together 256 students from 25 higher education institutions, including four international universities, alongside 12 strategic industry partners and 150 academic and industry leaders dedicated to exchanging game-changing insights.

In her officiating speech, Dr. Noraisah Spahat, Deputy Director General of Higher Education (Governance and Development) at the Department of Higher Education (JPT), said the event was a vibrant showcase of the national agenda in action under the Ministry of Higher Education's Research & Industry-Infused Incubator (MRI3) programme, aligning perfectly with the Malaysia Higher Education Plan 2026–2035 to integrate universities directly into the national innovation ecosystem.

Central to this transformative vision is the Malaysia Logistics Consortium (MLC), established in 2025 with UMT appointed as the Lead University. The consortium is spearheading an ambitious mandate to nurture 237,000 qualified logisticians by 2030 through robust Quadruple Helix Collaboration involving academia, industry, government, and the community.

Professor Dr. Suriyani Muhamad, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International) performing the duties of UMT Vice-Chancellor, said the future of global trade relies entirely on the quality of talent nurtured today, making MLC the first university-industry consortium dedicated to



preparing job-ready graduates tailored for the evolving demands of IR 4.0 and digital supply chains.

In addition to facilitating strategic discussions, the symposium also celebrated academic excellence and impactful research. Highlights included the official launch of the groundbreaking book titled "Waves of Change: Advancing Sustainability and IR 4.0 Adoption in Malaysian Major Seaports," which offers crucial insights into modern port operations.

UMT showcased its academic prowess by emerging as the champion of the International Logistics Quiz, bringing home a trophy and a cash prize of RM1,000, while Indonesia's Universitas Airlangga (UNAIR) secured second place.

Events such as this International Logistics Symposium (ILS) & Logistics Industrial Forum (LIF) 2026 demonstrate that UMT is not merely preparing students for future employment but is actively steering Malaysia toward becoming the leading logistics education hub in the ASEAN region.

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UMT Launches New Strategic Initiative to Strengthen International Presence

By Syarifah Noormaisarah Tuan Besar, International Centre

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) has taken another significant step forward in strengthening its internationalisation agenda with the official launch of a new strategic initiative recently.

The initiative, called UMT Global Connect, features a more coordinated approach to UMT's international engagements, covering academic and research collaboration, international mobility, networking, funding opportunities, and alumni engagement. These will be catered through a range of carefully planned programmes and specific platforms.

UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Suriyani Muhammad said that these strategies are designed to expand international networks, strengthen global collaboration, and create greater opportunities for the university community and its strategic partners.

"By bringing together academic networking, international cooperation, mobility opportunities, funding support and alumni engagement, UMT Global Connect provides a broader framework for strengthening the university's international presence," she said.

Among the strategic components under UMT Global Connect is the UMT Global Academic Network (U-GAN), a strategic platform aimed at establishing and strengthening a global academic network involving international partner universities, academics, researchers and global alumni.

U-GAN serves as a platform for connecting international expertise with UMT's academic community to support academic excellence, research development and broader international engagement. Through the network, UMT can strengthen connections with experts and institutions worldwide while creating opportunities for knowledge exchange and collaborative initiatives.

Another component is the Cooperation Initiative Grant (APAC), which supports the development of international cooperation with partners across the Asia-Pacific region. The initiative provides opportunities for UMT academics to develop and strengthen collaborations with institutions in the region through strategic activities and joint initiatives.

The Malaysia International Enrichment Matching Fund (MIEMF) further supports UMT's internationalisation efforts by providing opportunities for academic and student mobility as well as collaborative activities with international



partner institutions. Such initiatives allow members of the UMT community to gain international exposure while strengthening institutional relationships through academic exchange, knowledge sharing and joint activities.

UMT Global Connect also includes the establishment of alumni chapters in different countries to strengthen the university's international alumni network. These chapters can serve as important links between UMT and its alumni overseas while creating opportunities to develop connections with institutions, organisations and communities in their respective countries.

As part of the Global Connect ecosystem, there will be a dedicated publication called UMT International Insight that showcases the university's international achievements, global partnerships, academic and research collaborations, mobility initiatives and stories from its international community.

"We need to ensure that every internationalisation initiative undertaken carries strategic value and delivers a clear impact on the University's development," Professor Suriyani said in her address during the launch of UMT Global Connect on 18 August. "I want UMT Global Connect to become one of the catalysts that helps UMT move from visibility to recognition, and from recognition to global impact."

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UMT Organizes Kayak Merdeka UMT 2026 to Advance Youth Development

By Amalul Asyraf Rosli, Sports and Recreation Centre

As part of the efforts to advance holistic youth development, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) recently organized an experiential expedition called **Kayak Merdeka UMT 2026: The Merdeka Voyage – Conquering the Blue to Bidong**.

Held from 20 to 22 August in conjunction with Malaysia's 69th Independence Day and UMT's 25th anniversary, the three-day, two-night expedition featured a challenging 22-kilometre kayaking journey from UMT Beach to Pasir Tenggara Beach, Pulau Bidong.

Conceived as a platform for developing character and leadership beyond the classroom, the demanding maritime journey required participants to demonstrate discipline, teamwork, communication, strategic planning, and collective decision-making while navigating a challenging natural environment.

UMT Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni), Professor Dr. Mohd Izani Mohd Zain, described the initiative as a creative approach to transforming the meaning of independence into a lived experience.

"Independence is not merely a historical event that we commemorate every year, but it is a value that must be understood and translated into action," he said. "Through this expedition, participants were challenged physically while learning the importance of leadership, cooperation, discipline and courage in confronting adversity."

He emphasised that holistic student development must extend beyond academic achievement, incorporating resilience, leadership and essential human skills needed to navigate an increasingly complex future.

"We want our students and young people not only to excel academically, but also to possess resilience, leadership qualities, interpersonal skills and a strong sense of responsibility towards society and the nation," he added.

The expedition involved 69 participants, comprising students from local higher education institutions, international students, higher education staff, UMT alumni and members of the community.



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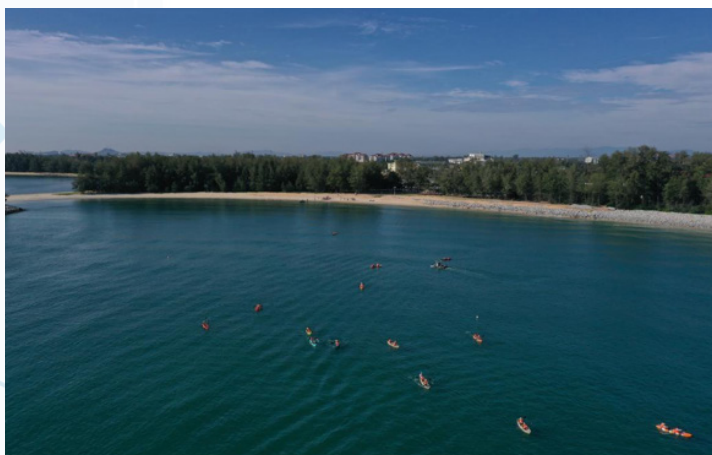
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According to Professor Mohd Izani, the choice of Pulau Bidong as the expedition's destination further strengthened the programme's educational significance.

"As a university with a distinctive identity in marine and ocean-related disciplines, UMT used the expedition to deepen participants' appreciation of the marine environment and highlight the importance of conserving the nation's natural heritage," he said.

Strategic collaboration with Molek FM Akademi Kenegaraan Malaysia, Discovery Terengganu and Yayasan Perkasa Siswa further expanded the programme's reach. The special participation of Molek FM presenter Mat Dan generated significant public engagement and helped promote the initiative across the country.

As UMT marks its 25th anniversary, Kayak Merdeka 2026 reflects the university's commitment to nurturing a generation that is resilient, responsible and connected to both the nation and the marine environment, said Professor Mohd Izani.



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UMT Hosts Global Young Leaders Summit on Blue Justice and Sustainability

By Munirah Mansor, Student Affairs and Alumni Division

In line with its commitment to nurturing students who are not only academically excellent but also equipped with leadership capabilities, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) organized the ESG Global Young Leaders Summit 2026 from 5 to 10 August.

The international summit served as a platform for developing young leaders, translating knowledge into action, and championing justice and the sustainability of marine ecosystems.

The concept of *Blue Justice* was at the heart of the summit, emphasising the balance between marine ecosystem conservation, the well-being of coastal communities and the development of a fair, inclusive and sustainable blue economy. Themed Mobilizing Young Leaders as Catalysts for Blue Justice, the event brought together 130 local and international student leaders to explore the role of young people as catalysts for change in addressing environmental, social, and governance (ESG) challenges at the global level.

Participants took part in various activities, including forums, ESG leadership sessions, industry presentations, ESG poster and video competitions, and field activities at Setiu Wetlands. They gained a closer understanding of the realities faced by local communities and sustainability challenges through modules such as A Day as a Fisherman, Adopt-A-Tree, Sustainable Fisherman Lab, Community Culture Class and mangrove ecosystem exploration.

Director General of Higher Education, Datuk Professor Dr Azlinda Azman, said in her closing speech that universities must move beyond their traditional role as institutions for knowledge delivery and become solution hubs for national and global challenges.

"Universities are not merely centres for knowledge delivery, but also solution hubs for national and global challenges," she said. "Universities must produce problem-solvers, not merely job seekers, and build leaders, not simply produce graduates." The summit's resolution was presented to Datuk Professor Dr. Azlinda by Rasyidah Mohamed Farrook from Sultan Idris Education University.

The recipient of the ESG Icon Award 2026 said in her speech that major change does not necessarily begin with power, but with the courage to act.



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"If the younger generation fails to lead change today, history will judge us as a generation that inherited crises without striving to create solutions," she said.

Several major awards were presented, including the Best ESG Poster Award, Best ESG Presentation Award and ESG Icon Award 2026.

The ceremony also featured the launch of a Malay-language book, *Memaknai Pengalaman Mahasiswa Memperagakan Kemanusiaan* (Making Meaning of Students' Experiences in Demonstrating Humanity)

The summit became successful through strategic collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), Yayasan Perkasa Siswa, and RHB Bank, as well as cooperation with the Wetland School of Setiu, Astro AWANI, industry partners, and community organisations.



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UMT Athletes Excel at SUKUM 2026

By Amalul Asyraf Rosli, Sports and Recreation Centre

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) athletes delivered an outstanding performance at the 46th Malaysian Universities Staff Sports Championship (SUKUM) 2026, securing five gold, two silver, and 10 bronze medals.

Held from 6 to 15 August at Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin, Kuala Nerus, SUKUM 2026 brought together university staff athletes from across Malaysia in a competitive sporting environment that celebrated excellence, sportsmanship, and camaraderie among members of the higher education community.

The five gold medals were contributed by athletes competing in archery, badminton, and tennis, demonstrating the university's strength across both individual and team-based sporting disciplines.

The two silver medals came from the men's beach volleyball team and the veteran men's javelin throw, while 10 bronze medals were secured through footgolf, veteran football, netball, women's beach volleyball, women's table tennis, and archery.

The contingent successfully achieved the gold-medal target. UMT had set its sights on five gold, five silver, and 17 bronze medals for the championship.

UMT fielded a contingent comprising 17 teams and 189 athletes, supported by 37 officials responsible for ensuring the effective coordination, management, and welfare of the contingent throughout the championship.

According to the UMT Registrar and Head of the UMT SUKUM 2026 Contingent, Ts. Wan Abdul Manan Wan Abdullah, the achievement was the result of collective commitment and strong teamwork among athletes, officials, coaches, and supporting personnel.

"This achievement reflects the commitment, discipline and fighting spirit of the entire UMT contingent," he said. "Beyond the medals, SUKUM provides an important platform for our staff to strengthen teamwork, build meaningful relationships, and uphold the spirit of excellence that represents UMT."

He further emphasised that staff participation in sports contributes significantly to a positive organisational culture, promoting physical well-being while strengthening values such as resilience, leadership, mutual respect, and teamwork. The success at SUKUM 2026 also reinforces UMT's commitment



to developing a vibrant and inclusive sports culture among its staff, Wan Abdul Manan said.

The five gold, two silver, and 10 bronze medals are more than a collection of sporting accolades, but they represent the determination, perseverance, and unity of the UMT community in pursuing excellence, he added.

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UMT Nurtures Ocean-Literate Generation

By Amirul Salam Hasan, Corporate Communications Office

For a child, the sea may begin with a wave, a sandy beach, or a glimpse of marine life. But through a recent special initiative, that first sense of wonder can become something more – an understanding of the ocean, its importance, and the responsibility to protect it.

At the heart of this effort is Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), which was entrusted with serving as the national coordinator for this initiative, called Blue School Malaysia.

With its strengths in marine science, biodiversity, fisheries, oceanography, and conservation, UMT is well positioned to bring the university's expertise closer to schools, teachers, students, and communities.

Blue School Malaysia is part of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO-IOC) Blue School Global Network. The global platform encourages schools to use the ocean as a learning medium across multiple disciplines.

The programme was established to play a role in nurturing ocean literacy among young people so that they not only know about the ocean but also understand its value and are prepared to protect it from marine pollution, coastal erosion, biodiversity loss, and climate change.

Through Blue School, students can learn about plastic pollution through field projects, discover the importance of mangrove forests, understand marine biodiversity, explore sea turtle conservation efforts, or witness first-hand the impacts of climate change on ecosystems.

"The strength of Blue School lies in authentic learning experiences that enable students to build a closer connection with the ocean," said Dr Afiq Durrani Mohd Fahmi, Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Marine Science and Environment (FSSM), who serves as a member of the UNESCO-IOC Ocean Literacy Expert Group.

"Blue School gives students the opportunity to learn with nature, not merely about nature," he added. "When students venture into the field, observe coastal ecosystems, and discover marine biodiversity, they gain more than knowledge and develop a sense of responsibility towards the environment." For Muhammad Haris Mikhail Mansor of Sekolah Kebangsaan Durian Mas 1, Terengganu, taking part in Blue School opened up a new perspective on the marine world.



"The programme was very enjoyable because we were able to learn directly about marine life and the environment," he said. "The experience helped me better understand why pollution must be reduced and the ocean protected, so that its treasures can be enjoyed by future generations."

"Blue School Malaysia carries the message that major change can begin in a classroom, with a student's curiosity, a teacher who encourages them to ask questions, and the experience of getting closer to nature," Dr Afiq Durrani said.

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UMT, MOHE Join Forces to Nurture Student Entrepreneurs in Food Security

By Hazniyati Hassan, Centre for Entrepreneurship and Graduate Employability (UMT-GEM)

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) and the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) recently collaborated to organise FEAST 2.0, a platform bringing together and developing student entrepreneurial talent in the field of food security.

Held from 20 to 23 August at Hotel Permai and Pulau Redang, Terengganu, the programme brought together 35 teams from higher education institutions in Malaysia and Indonesia for various knowledge-sharing sessions.

With food security as its theme, FEAST 2.0 supported this agenda as a key aspiration for student businesses while providing students with opportunities to explore and develop their entrepreneurial potential.

Participants were guided through modules covering Entrepreneurial Support Ecosystems, Strategies for Commercialising Student Start-Up Ideas and Innovations, Human-Centred Design, Creative Thinking with AI, Start-Up Finance, Pitching, Digital Technology, and Intellectual Property.

The modules were delivered in collaboration with SME Corporation Malaysia, the Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC), and the Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO).

These sessions provided participants with an opportunity to view their ideas not merely as projects, but as potential businesses that could be further developed and commercialised with the support and guidance of relevant agencies, said Associate Professor Dr Nor Fazliana Mohtar, Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Graduate Employability (UMT-GEM).

During the closing ceremony, the 35 teams that completed the programme were presented with certificates recognising their commitment, involvement, and dedication to developing ideas and entrepreneurial projects centred on food security.

Participants will continue developing their projects at their respective higher education institutions, leading up to the Final Presentation at the FEAST 2.0 Convention, scheduled for March 2027. The initiative aims to develop 35 student start-ups in the field of food security.



At the end of the programme, participants engaged in snorkelling, visited Turtle Point, and took part in activities with Hermie's Hub, a UMT student start-up. These included a recycling and reuse programme and a demonstration on transforming waste materials into souvenirs.

The activities taught participants to appreciate the beauty of the local environment and heritage while fostering awareness of environmental sustainability, creativity, and the importance of developing solutions that create value for the community, said Dr Nor Fazliana.

Student participant Isma Arrif Iskandar from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak said he and his team members enjoyed the activities.

"We were very happy to gain new knowledge through the heritage appreciation session at Pulau Redang," he said.

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