

UMT VICE CHANCELLOR DELIVERS 2021 NEW-YEAR MANDATE

The time of the year to listen to the most important speech by the most important person at UMT just recently came.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dato' Dr Nor Aieni Mokhtar delivered her 2021 new-year mandate in specially held event on 22 March at the Sultan Mizan Hall. In observance of physical distancing to help limit the spread of the Covid-19, only invited audience was present in the hall. However, the event was also streamed live for online viewing.

In her speech, Prof. Nor Aieni expressed her delight at the speedy rate the university has managed to improve each year. This is a proof that the university has the strength in its own right to achieve its mission and vision while maintaining its niche area, Prof. Nor Aieni said.

She quoted one example of such case, the dramatic increase in the registration of intellectual properties by UMT. In 2019, the number of registered intellectual properties was 83. Last year, the figure rose to 103. That represented an increase of 124 percent.

Last year's number also far exceeded the target of 14 products as stated in UMT Strategic Plan 2018-2022.

This fact, according to her, served as a proof of UMT researchers' determination to ensure that their products are registered as intellectual properties, as part of the strategy for commercialization.

In her speech, Prof. Nor Aieni also said that UMT has outlined 10 key performance indicators (KPIs) for 2021 to further propel the current performance.

These include 80% graduate employability (GE), a ratio of 3 publications per lecturer, a ratio of 20 citations per lecturer, RM20.35 million total research grants, 60 research products registered as intellectual properties, RM3 million worth of consultation projects with industries, involvement of 200 communities in knowledge transfer programmes, 60 industry partner programmes, 700 international students, and income generation that exceeds administrative expenses by 14 percent.

According to Prof. Nor Aieni, the KPIs for 2021 are in line with the assessment by the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) and the ratings by international and national bodies such as QS Asia University Rankings, QS World University Rankings by Subject, UI Greenmetric Rankings, Webometric Rankings, Malaysia Research Assessment (MyRA), and Rating System

for Malaysian Higher Education Institutions (SETARA).

In keeping with the yearly increase in UMT students and staff, UMT has also planned several infra- and infostructure development projects to ensure that the university can provide improved learning and working conditions to its campus community, she said.

With proven leader Prof. Nor Aieni at the helm, UMT is bound to meet these KPIs without much difficulty.



UMT ORGANIZES NATIONAL MARITIME FORUM

UMT's specialisation in the maritime field has constantly been recognized at the ministry's level.

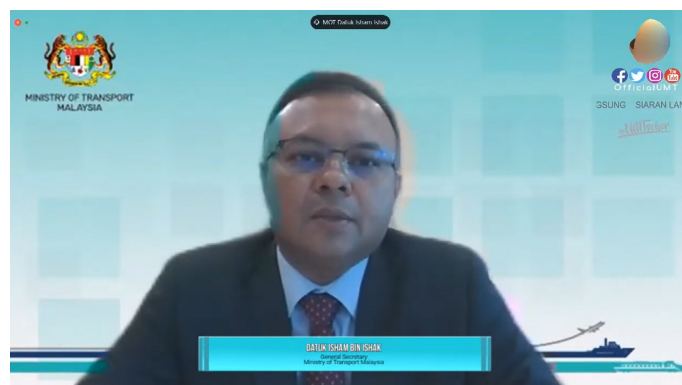
This time it was the Ministry of Transport (MOT) who took note and subsequently put the trust in UMT to organize a national maritime forum on 16 March via online platform.

The virtual forum was the first ever initiative between academia, the government, and the industry, and was made possible through special support from the Association of Marine Industries of Malaysia (AMIM), Port Klang Authority (PKA), Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA), and Malaysia Shipowners' Association (MASA).

The Togetherness in Moving Forward for Maritime Global Competitiveness Forum was held to achieve three objectives. They were to highlight new ideas for enhancing the maritime nation industry, discuss current critical issues in the maritime sector from industry

perspective, and decide on resolutions to forward to the related ministry to be tabled in parliament.

Invited to speak at the forum were six panellists from UMT, MOT, MIMA, MASA, LPK, and AMIM. The forum drew over 350 participants including maritime practitioners all over Malaysia.




TOGETHERNESS IN MOVING FORWARD FOR MARITIME GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS FORUM
16 MARCH 2021 (TUESDAY) | 9 A.M.

Keynote Speaker
Professor Dato' Dr. Nor Aieni Hj. Mokhtar
Vice Chancellor Universiti Malaysia Terengganu

Keynote Speaker
Datuk Isham Ishak
Secretary General
Ministry of Transport Malaysia

Logos: Ministry of Transport Malaysia, UMT, AMIM, MASA, MIMA, Port Klang Authority, Cisco Webex, Facebook LIVE, OfficialUMT.

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UMT Vice Chancellor Prof. Dato' Dr Nor Aieni Mokhtar in her welcoming speech said that UMT was honoured to have been asked to lead the forum. UMT is ready to embrace innovations in maritime education and apply them in accordance with the Industry4WRD policy and SDG 9 (Industry Innovation and Infrastructure), she said.

Prof. Nor Aieni hoped that the forum will be one of the many more to come to spark long-lasting relationships between academia, the government, and the industry that will lead to many collaborations. She added that this is one of the ways to help the country achieve SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals).

Prof. Nor Aieni reiterated that the government should not be expected to transform the maritime education sector alone. What is needed is to strengthen quadruple helix ecosystem involving academia, the government, the industry, and the local communities so that they can work together through smart partnership to develop the green and blue economy.

The keynote speaker was Datuk Isham Ishak, Secretary General of the Ministry of Transport Malaysia. He said

in his speech that more emphasis should be placed nowadays on progressive maritime governance. The advent of technology, efficiency in communication, and close collaborations have required changes to the laws and regulations. New conventions should emphasize protecting the environment while ensuring fair competition.

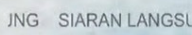
Datuk Isham said that effective maritime governance should help the development of strong, stable maritime nation. He said that archaic maritime rules and regulations can be modified and amended, and the ministry will help facilitate the process. UMT has a very important role to play in this process and needs to work with ten ministries as regulators and 31 related enforcement agencies and monitoring bodies associated with maritime governance.

Given UMT's experience in the maritime field, it should be able to make great contributions whenever its expertise is needed. That will make UMT even more recognized at the top.




TOGETHERNESS IN MOVING FORWARD FOR MARITIME GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS FORUM








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UMT SIGNS MOU WITH INDIAN UNIVERSITY

UMT's newest addition to its long list of strategic partners is a university in the largest country in South Asia.

UMT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 10 February with Mizoram University (MZU), India. The signing ceremony was held online due to the Covid-19 pandemic that did not make international travelling possible.

The interesting aspect of the MOU signing is that the documents were signed by each university at its home turf, with the signed documents from both institutions later merged for official endorsement.

MZU is located in Aizawl, the capital city of Mizoram. Established in 2001, the university was ranked the top 100 universities in India in 2016, 2017, and 2018. It offers degrees in different disciplines, including economics, education, forestry, life and physical sciences, and medical.

Several collaborative projects will be carried out following the MOU signing to leverage the opportunities the partnership offers. Student exchange programme will be implemented between both institutions. Applications for international research grants will be

jointly submitted. In addition, journal articles will be jointly published.

Several immediate collaborative activities have also been planned, such as Webinar Series on New Horizons in Science and Technology and Stingless Bee Workshop.

Speakers from MZU have been invited to give talks in 1st South East Asia Meliponine Symposium 2021 of which UMT is one of the organizers. The event is scheduled to take place on 20 May in connection with this year's World Bee Day.

The documents were signed by UMT Vice Chancellor Prof. Dato' Dr Nor Aieni Mokhtar and MZU Vice Chancellor Prof. KRS Sambasiva Rao.

In her speech prior to the signing, UMT Vice Chancellor Prof. Dato' Dr Nor Aieni Mokhtar said that it is a privilege for UMT to be associated with such a successful and inspirational university as MZU, who has had some impressive international collaborations.

She believes that the partnership between UMT and MZU will enable the universities to harness the associated synergistic benefits that will lead to improvement in teaching and learning as well as research.



According to Prof. Nor Aieni, the MOU signified a historic moment for UMT as it is the university's first formal collaboration with an Indian university. She hoped that this will help open more opportunities for collaborations with other Indian universities for shared benefits.

UMT and MZU have been in touch with each other since 2019, and Prof. Rao is no stranger to UMT. He was appointed a Visiting Professor in September of that year. During his visit, Prof. Rao shared with UMT models of incubation centres developed by MZU and helped prepare two proposal to develop Marine Biotech Park and APIS-Beekeeping Incubation Centre.

Prof. Rao invited five academic staff and three students to an international conference in India in 2019, with him sponsoring the costs. In his capacity as General Secretary of the Association of Biotechnology and Pharmacy (ABAP), Prof. Rao has honoured Prof. Shamsul Bahri Abd. Razak of UMT with Fellow Award of ABAP.

Based on what Prof. Rao had done before the MOU, UMT can expect more contributions from him now that the partnership is official. UMT will also return the favour to MZU by offering its expertise. It shall be a win-win MOU.



UMT'S OWN PRODUCT TO BE SOLD WORLDWIDE THROUGH BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

The public everywhere can soon purchase a unique, nutritious food product created by a UMT researcher.

UMT formed a partnership on 7 February with a local bee specialist company Bayu Gagah Marketing (M) Sdn Bhd that gave the company the licensing rights to sell energy bars from stingless bee bread created by Assoc. Prof. Dr Wan Iryani Wan Ismail.

The company has already drawn up a plan for Bee Ready Kelulut Energy Bar to not only be sold in the country but penetrate the international markets, its chairman Rahim Yusoff said. The company would begin promoting the energy bar across the globe starting with Saudi Arabia, Japan, Taiwan, Turkey, Germany, and China once the partnership with UMT is official.

The company has also registered the energy bar as superfood at Gulfood Innovation Awards 2021 in the Most Innovative Health & Wellness Product Category.

Currently, the energy bar can be purchased online on Bayu Kelulut website at <https://agent.bayugagah.com/shop/000015>, under the category Bayu Active.

Dr Wan Iryani said that the energy bar is the first product in the world produced using natural bee bread of local stingless bees from Malaysia's tropical rain forests.

Bee Ready Kelulut Energy Bar is high in nutrition, containing high amount of carbohydrate, protein, amino acid, and antioxidant. The product is low in fat and does not contain preservative and artificial colouring.

The energy bar supplies instant energy twice as much as other similar products in the market. It is suitable for busy as well as active people, such as workers with tight work schedules, students, and those who enjoy outdoor activities. It may be used as a complete source of nutrition during natural disasters, Dr Wan Iryani said.

Dr Wan Iryani started her research on Bee Ready Kelulut Energy Bar in 2015, after she found out about the issue of food supply shortage for flood victims in 2014. That gave her an inspiration to produce instant nutritious food product.



She came up with idea of using bee bread for her energy bar while conducting field work at stingless bee farming centre. She noticed that the farmers never utilized the bee bread, sometimes just throwing it away. In that moment, she decided to study the nutritional value of bee bread.

One of her inclinations to use bee bread is the healthy compound it contains. Based on her research, she found that bee bread is high in antioxidant.

She received a grant totalling RM120,000 under Prototype Development Research Grant Scheme (PRGS) to complete her product.

The energy bar first underwent sensory analysis in 2020 involving local soldiers who were asked to provide their feedback. Based on their positive reactions, Bee Ready Kelulut Energy Bar was finally launched as a commercial product.

And now the public everywhere can enjoy the unique taste and health benefits of a nutritious food product by UMT's very own researcher.



UMT HOLDS FIRST-TIME HYBRID CONVOCATION

Nothing could stand in the way of the most awaited university event taking place, not even a pandemic.

UMT successfully held the first series of the 18th convocation ceremony on 27 March. Due to the outbreak of Covid-19, the university for the first time held the ceremony in two modes, face-to-face on a smaller scale and virtual.

Twelve graduands receiving special awards, their parents,

a recipient of Honorary Degree, and a recipient of Professor Emeritus status were physically present during the ceremony. The remaining graduands attended the event virtually via online platform.

UMT ensured that all rules and regulations were followed, including the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) outlined by the National Security Council and additional SOP enforced by Terengganu state government, to protect those in attendance.



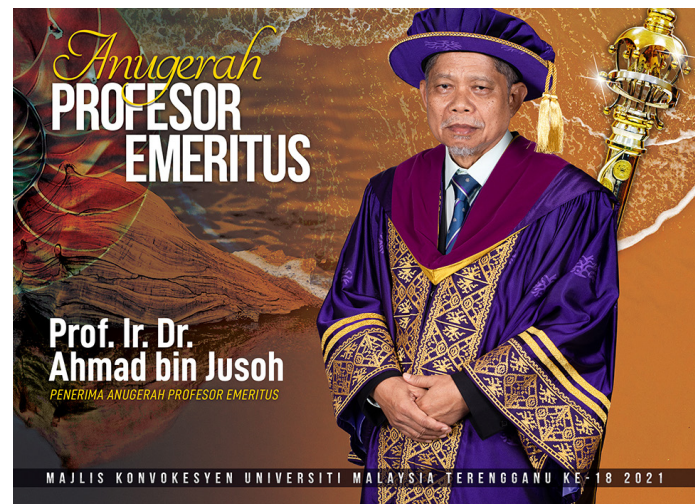
The event proceeded ceremoniously and received the blessing from Sultanah of Terengganu Sultanah Nur Zahirah, also the Chancellor of UMT, who graced the event through a virtual platform.

A total of 2878 graduands were conferred degrees and diploma, with 52 conferred doctorate degree, 152 master's degree, 2559 bachelor's degree, and 115 diploma.

Twelve award recipients were presented with the Royal Education Award, the Chancellor's Gold Medal Award, the Pro Chancellor's Award, the Chairman of the Board of Director's Award, and the Vice Chancellor's Award.

First Admiral Dato ' Ir. Dr. Haji Ahmad Murad bin Haji Omar (Retired) was awarded Honorary Degree of Doctor of Technology. This marked the first time such degree was presented to a figure from the navy community. He was selected in recognition of his continuous high-impact contributions towards education and professional bodies in the country. He is currently a member of Malaysian Board of Engineer (BEM).

Prof. Ir Dr Ahmad Jusoh was awarded Professor Emeritus status. He was a full professor at UMT until his retirement in 2015. During his tenure, he was highly regarded for his wide experience in research, consultation, and administration. He is an expert in water engineering and has been invited to be a member of several national committees, through which he has made significant



contributions to the nation and society.

Sultanah Nur Zahirah in her speech delivered virtually urged all graduands to equip themselves with knowledge, skills, and physical preparedness that will make them more competitive in the job market and to take up the challenge of venturing into entrepreneurship.

UMT Vice Chancellor Prof. Dato' Dr Nor Aieni Mokhtar in her speech expressed her gratefulness that UMT was able to hold the convocation ceremony for the graduands who have successfully completed their studies amid the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Seen in a positive light, the pandemic was the catalyst that has helped expedite the occurrence of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR4.0) whereby digitalization is the norm rather than the exception, Prof. Nor Aieni said. In the context of education, it means virtual teaching and learning via online platforms.

In response to the pandemic, UMT shifted to online teaching and learning as early as March last year. During the first six weeks of its implementation, 4356 classes had been conducted online, she said.

UMT Pro-Chancellor Tan Sri Samsudin Osman presented the awards on behalf of Chancellor Sultanah Nur Zahirah.

Different from those in previous years, the 18th convocation ceremony is likely to be more remembered, especially by UMT and its Covid-19-era graduates.





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