NEWS

Ocean of Discoveries for Global Sustainability

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UMT RESEARCHERS INCLUDED IN WORLD'S TOP 2/. SCIENTIST LIST







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UMT Creating Special Bond with Tokyo Olympics 2020 Silver Medalist



- UMT Listed in THE World 《 University Rankings 2022
- International Conference on STEM a Success
 - UMT Organises Global «
 Tourism Conference
- UMT Students Help Keep 《 Their Peers Motivated
- Virtual Postgraduate Open Day 🔇 **Enlightens prospective Students**



UMT NEWSLETTER

Vol 1 Issue 7, October 2021

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Corporate Communication Office Universiti Malaysia Terengganu email: pro@umt.edu.my September came with many wonderful surprises for UMT. For the first time, our young 20-year-old university has entered the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Ranking, joining the ranks with much older, prestigious universities in the world. This achievement came with another great news when THE World University Rankings by Subject 2022 has also ranked UMT in two subjects — Physical Sciences (ranked 801-1000) and Life Sciences (ranked 801+). The QS University Rankings Asia announced last



year saw UMT rise 48 places to secure a spot as the top 200 universities in Asia. Albeit these achievements, we have to continue to excel in all areas to climb the ladder and be world's top university. We are on the right track, with many planned strategies in academics and research designed to propel the university towards that goal. In this edition, we also highlight the five UMT researchers that have been included in the world's top two percent scientist list by Stanford University. Congratulations to all of them! We hope that this list will include many more entrants from UMT as the university continues its efforts to become a top university in the world, especially in our niche area of marine science and aquatic resources.

Professor Dr. Fauziah Hj. Abu Hasan Executive Editor

CONTENTS

1	UMT Researchers Included in World's Top 2%
	Scientist List

2	UMT Creating Special Bond with Tokyo Olympics
	2020 Silver Medalist









UMT Researchers Included in World's Top 2% Scientist List



Stanford University has recently published the latest list of the top two percent of the most-cited scientists in the world, and five UMT researchers from different disciplines "UMT is honoured to have the five researchers included are included in it.

Professor Ts. Dr. Lam Su Shiung, Associate Professor Dr Meisam Tabatabaei, and Associate Professor Ts. Dr. Mohammad Ismail are among the most-cited scientists in the field of energy. Professor Lam and Dr. Meisam are The achievement is a proof that UMT is able to excel from UMT's Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries (AKUATROP), while Dr. Mohammad is from the Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology and Informatics.

Professor Dr. Mohd Lazim Abdullah is among the mostcited scientists in the field of artificial intelligence and image processing. He is from the Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology and Informatics.

Associate Professor Dr. Amin Beiranvand Pour, from the Institute of Oceanography and Environment (INOS), is among the most-cited scientists in the field of geological Professor Zamri also added that UMT has been and geomatics engineering.

Stanford University's Professor John Ioannidis worked with a team of experts to prepare the list, which they originally published in 2019.

Their aim is to produce a consistent citation metric based on multiple factors, such as the total number of citations, the H-index, the hm-index, and the number of citations to papers as single, first, or last author.

The team assessed scientists from around the world based on the research they carried out, starting from the outset of their careers up to 2019. They classified the scientists into 22 scientific fields and 176 sub fields. Field and subfield specific percentiles are also provided for all scientists who have published at least 5 papers.

Professor loannidis has released an update of the data recently, which is publicly available on Mendeley (https://dx.doi.org/10.17632/btchxktzyw). Currently, the list has over 150,000 scientists from around the world in various disciplines.

in the list," said Professor Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Academics and International. "This is indeed a remarkable achievement for UMT, considering it is still a young university."

as well as other more established universities, and the quality of its researchers' works is on par with those of other global researchers, he said.

"Research is a key element in evaluating university's initiatives and contributions towards the advancement of science and technology as well as the development of the nations' human capital," Professor Zamri said. "UMT's excellent research performance has been proven on many occasions."

supporting the growth of its researchers while the university is working towards advancing its R&D.

UMT hopes that these achievements will motivate other researchers to follow similar footsteps, Professor Zamri said. "UMT wishes to see more and more of its researchers getting the recognition in the coming years."

UMT Creating Special Bond with Tokyo Olympics 2020 Silver Medalist



UMT will be seeing more of Tokyo Olympics 2020 Silver Medalist from now on.

Dato' Mohd Azizulhasni Awang, who won the medal in the keirin event, has recently been appointed as UMT's Karyawan Tamu Utama (Special Guest).

As Karyawan Tamu Utama, Dato' Mohd Azizulhasni will visit UMT and work closely with the Centre of Holistic Development and Co-curriculum to share with UMT staff and local community his experiences and expertise and possibly collaborate with UMT researchers on sports studies.

With the appointment, Dato' Mohd Azizulhasni is now the first Terengganu athlete to serve as Karyawan Tamu at Malaysian institutions of higher learning.

UMT Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar said that the appointment was based on Dato' Mohd Azizulhasni's great contribution to the country and to the state of Terengganu through his excellent achievements at the international arena.

At the same, the appointment is in line with the aspiration of the Ministry of Higher Education to produce thinking athletes, Prof. Mazlan said.

"Thank you UMT for this appointment," Dato' Mohd Azizulhasni said. "This is indeed an honour for me, to be recognized by a higher learning institution."

UMT has also offered a scholarship to Dato' Mohd Azizulhasni to further his study at doctorate level at the university.

The UMT Tuanku Canselor Scholarship is worth RM72,000 and is for a duration of three years.

He said that other universities have also offered him scholarships, but he may be more inclined to choose UMT, citing its location in his home state as the main determining factor.

"I am grateful for the offer, and I plan to further my study, not immediately, but when the time is right," he said. "My focus now is on 2024 Olympics in Paris."

He thanked UMT for not setting a specific time frame for him to begin his study but leaving the date open to accommodate his readiness.

UMT has also offered Dato' Azizulhasni Honorary Degree award, to be conferred during UMT's convocation in the near future.

"Dato' deserves the award as he has contributed greatly to UMT and made Terengganu proud with his achievements," Prof. Mazlan said.



Prof. Mazlan presented Dato' Mohd Azizulhasni with the letter of appointment and the letter of scholarship offer when the athlete came to UMT in late August to meet with several of UMT staff and to appear as a special guest on UMT's One Day Sports Webinar.

The track cyclist from Dungun, Terengganu, is popularly known as the Pocket Rocket Man due to his small stature and his ability to sprint towards the finish line at every racing event.

He also won the Bronze Medal in the same event in Rio De Janeiro Olympics in 2016.

UMT Listed in THE World University Rankings 2022



The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings are the most widely referred to rankings in the world. Surely, to be included in the list is a great honour. UMT recently had that honour when it was ranked at 1201+ in the 2022 edition of the rankings. Even more remarkable was that UMT's participation in the rankings was its first.

Among Malaysian universities included in the rankings, UMT was ranked at 12, with older, well-established, and larger local universities understandably occupying higher places.

In the rankings' breakdown by subject, UMT was ranked at 801-1000 in physical science, which includes mathematics and statistics, physics and astronomy, chemistry, geology, environmental science, earth science, and marine science.

UMT was ranked at 801+ in life science subject that comprises agriculture, forestry, biological science, veterinary science, and sports science.

THE World University Rankings 2022 include more than 1,600 universities across 99 countries and territories. They are the largest and most diverse university rankings to date.

"The achievement goes to show that UMT, despite its

young age, is already recognized internationally," said Professor Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar, UMT Vice Chancellor. "It is a recognition delightfully accepted by everyone at UMT who have worked tirelessly to ensure the university's excellence."

Professor Mazlan said that the strategies and initiatives outlined in 2018-2022 UMT Strategic Plan have worked well, especially those on internationalisation.

"We need to continue implementing the strategies already outlined to ensure continuous excellence," he said.

UMT will be formulating additional strategies to enhance teaching and learning quality, research and innovation excellence, international collaborations, global reputation, and income generation.

"I trust that everyone at UMT will work together to ensure that the university's vision, mission, and aims will be achieved," Professor Mazlan said.

THE World University Rankings rate universities based on 13 carefully calibrated performance indicators that measure their performance across four areas: teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook.

Teaching performance is evaluated based on a survey involving close to 22000 academics around the world, lecturer and student ratio, total of PhD holders among lecturers, and universities' incomes.

Research performance is rated based on the quality of publications, Academic Reputation Survey, research-based income, the number of high-impact publications, and citation data in Elsevier's Scopus database.

Knowledge transfer performance is measured based on universities' innovation activities, research discoveries, consultation, and implementation of knowledge transfer programmes.

International outlook performance is rated based on the number of international students as well as staff at the universities, and publication collaborations with international academics.

UMT was earlier listed in the 2022 edition of QS World University Rankings, another one of the most widely read university rankings in the world, and ranked at 1001-1200.

International Conference on STEM a Success



A total of 279 papers and 82 posters were presented during the recent 3rd International Conference in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (ICSTEM) 2021, making the virtual event organized by UMT's STEM Foundation Centre (PASTEM) a success.

ICSTEM is an initiative by the Ministry of Education, and it was PASTEM's turn to host the latest event, themed "Integration and Implementation of STEM Education", with the ministry's Education Planning and Research Division (EPRD) serving as co-host.

"We are honoured with the trust the ministry placed in us to co-organize the conference," said Assoc. Prof. Dr. Laili Che Rose, PASTEM director. "While it has been an online collaboration mostly, both parties especially UMT have gained new insights and come to value the relationship between Ministry of Education and Ministry of Higher Education."

A total of 794 participants followed the two-day event, including schoolteachers from the Ministry of Education and representatives from the Ministry of Higher Education. Papers and posters highlighted the different sub-themes of pedagogy, E-learning, assessment, digital technology, best practices, curriculum and others.

Two renowned STEM scientists, Prof. Manabu Sumida from Japan's Ehime University and Prof. Valarie L. Akerson from America's Indiana University, gave keynote speeches titled STEM Education for Society 5.0 in Japan, and Is It STEM, or Is It Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics: Going Beyond Disciplinary Instruction, respectively.

Plenary speakers were Prof. Dr. Mohan Chinnappan from

University of South Australia, Prof. Dr. Kamisah Othman from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, and Prof. Dr. Eng Ong Tek from Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), all experts in their respective fields.

Prof. Dato' Dr. Noraini Idris, Adjunct Professor at PASTEM and National STEM Association Chairman, moderated a forum titled "Integrated STEM Education: Issues and Challenges", held on the second day. Panelists were Prof. Dr. Choy Ban Heng from Singapore's National Institute of Education, Prof. Dr. Rachel Sheffield from Australia's Curtin Univesity, and Dr. Kessara Amornvuthivorn from Thailand's SEAMEO STEM ED.

All sessions were streamed on UMT Webex, UMT official Facebook, PASTEM YouTube TV, National STEM Centre official Facebook and YouTube.



Ministry of Education's Director General Datin Sri Hajah Nor Zamani Abdol Hamid opened the conference, while Prof. Ir. Dr. Robiah Yunus, Deputy Director General of Higher Education (Academic and Development), Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education, closed the event.

UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar, Deputy Vice Chancellors, and key officials attended the conference's opening and closing ceremonies.

Participants spoke positively about the conference. The committee took this as an indication that STEM empowerment has received attention at all educational levels.

As most schoolteachers were first-time conference presenters, PASTEM organized a few webinars for them before the conference to help them prepare for the main event, and the committee kept in close contact with them during the conference for support.

UMT Organises Global Tourism Conference



As a university that offers a bachelor's degree in tourism as one of its newer programmes, UMT felt that it should take the initiative to highlight current global issues on Tourism and Hospitality and at the same time help the state of Terengganu improve its tourism activities. Therefore, UMT recently organised the virtual Global Tourism Conference 2021 (GTC2021), in partnership with the Terengganu State Government and Victoria University, Australia.

In line with its theme "Tourism Innovation and Digitalisation: A New Way in Redesigning Tourism Landscape", GTC2021 invited distinguished scholars from three different continents as keynote speakers. They were Professor Cihan Cobanoglu from the US, Professor Michael Hall from New Zealand, and Professor Brian King from Hong Kong.

More than 100 people participated in the event, mostly as presenters. Almost half of the participants were from other countries, including Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Nigeria, Portugal, Japan, Australia, and Saudi Arabia.

Most conferences held worldwide typically comprise three traditional components of presentations, publications, and excursions, but GTC2021 was unique in many ways. First, GTC2021 invited the Tourism State Office and tourism players around Terengganu to be the conference's strategic partners, a distinctive approach most likely not yet practiced elsewhere. The strategy was intentionally designed not only to obtain sponsors for the conference, but also to increase the visibility of Terengganu tourism players at the global level.

GTC2021 also implemented several strategies to ensure



that its short-term and long-term positive impact on Terengganu tourism industry continues long after the conference has ended.

One of the strategies was the holding of Terengganu Unforgettable Moment Contest. Consistent with its tagline Building Connections, Extending Adventures, GTC2021 encouraged all participants to share their moments in Terengganu via their social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, or YouTube.

Another strategy was the awarding of five research grants to selected participants, which has never been granted in any conferences around the world. The main aim of GTC2021 research grants was to facilitate Research and Development (R&D) of Terengganu tourism. These grants were sponsored by the Terengganu State Government and allocated through the Tourism State Office.

Professor Ir. Dr Faizal Mustapha from Universiti Putra Malaysia was one of the research grant's winners, who received a fund of RM10,000 for his proposed project entitled, "Prototype Development of Augmented Reality Tourism Application for Terengganu".

GTC2021 has benefitted not only UMT but also The Terengganu State Government. For UMT, the conference has opened for its staff many opportunities, including research grants, knowledge transfer projects, publications and international connections.

For the state government, the conference has not only helped expand the networking between Terengganu tourism players and international universities, but also promoted Terengganu's attractions to potential local and international tourists.

UMT Students Help Keep Their Peers Motivated



Part of students' lives typically involves social interactions with other students. But these have not been possible because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

So, aiming to help their peers feel active, motivated, and less stressful in these tough and trying times, a group of UMT students took up the challenge of organizing on their own an online event for their peers to take part in.

The group of students, who are committee members of the Malaysian Youth Club (Kelab Rakan Muda) representing UMT, organized the Youth4Youth E-Festival for three days, from 19 - 21 August via UMT's online platforms.

The event was meant to get UMT students to become more involved in a healthy lifestyle, said Fatin Athirah Mohamed Termizi, event director and president of the Youth Club.

"We wanted our peers to have the opportunities to remain active and communicate with each other," she said.

Associate Professor Dr. Hafiz Zakariya, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Alumni, said that the event was a good training ground for the students.

"Through organizing this event, they were able to showcase their talents and skills," he said.

Dr Hafiz earlier had approved the club's proposal to hold the event using UMT's comprehensive online platforms, including UMT Cisco Webex, UMT Official Facebook live, and UMT Official YouTube live.

During the opening ceremony, Dr. Hafiz in his speech

said that youths today are the country's future, and thus it is important that they become aware of current issues and attempt to solve them in an intellectual manner, so that they will be better prepared if similar issues resurface later.

Activities taking place included traditional dance, exercising challenge, and National Day poster competition. In addition, two forums were held during the three-day event.

The first forum discussed the topic of youths, in terms of their current composition, issues, and views regarding current political landscape.

The second forum discussed issues on volunteerism and challenges faced by students in times of the pandemic.



Arisa Azami, applied mathematics student and one of the participants, said that the Youth4Youth E-Festival was very timely as it was held during the semester break. She hopes that a similar event can be held again in the future.

"It was one of the best events I have ever attended," she said.

Biological science student Farahiah Ayunie Mohd Indrus, meanwhile, was glad that she joined the event, as she learned a lot about issues facing youths nowadays.

"I enjoyed the virtual aerobic exercise the most," she said.

As for Nur Syafiqah Rusli, mobile computing student, she gained a lot about what is needed to ensure the country's bright future and enjoyed other activities as well.

"The aerobic exercise kept me active, and I think the concert on the last day was interesting," she said.

Virtual Postgraduate Open Day Enlightens Prospective Students



Prospective postgraduate students especially from other countries got to know more about master's and PhD programmes offered by UMT and what a student life on its campus will be like after they recently attended UMT Postgraduate Open Day 2021, streamed live on official UMT Facebook.

"We decided to hold the event online for the first time as it is not possible to hold roadshows at present due to the Covid-19 pandemic," said Professor Ts. Dr Noor Maizura Mohamad Noor, director of Centre for Academic Management and Quality (PPAK) that organized the event.

In total, 11 sessions were held during the three-day event, involving six faculties, four institutes, and UMT's International Centre.

The Institute of Oceanography and Environment (INOS) invited one of the students from Tropimundo programme currently attached to the institute, Giovanna Wolswijk, to its session to share her experience with the audience.

The student from Italy said that she has gained a meaningful experience being a student at UMT, especially at INOS. She highly encouraged prospective students from overseas to enroll at UMT.

Meanwhile, the Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education (PPAL) invited one of its Phd students, Mohd Faiz Mohd Yasin, to its session to share his experience.

Lecturers at PPAL helped him tremendously when he was taking his master's degree at the centre, making his transition from a science field to social science proceed smoothly, he said. That made him decide to also choose PPAL for his PhD study in Philosophy and Civilization.



Prospective students learned more about postgraduate scholarships and incentives in one of the sessions. Three scholarship recipients were invited to share their experiences attending the interviews and to explain the required criteria.

Professor Ts. Dr Mohd Zamri Ibrahim, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic and International, officiated the event.

According to Professor Mohd Zamri, UMT has produced more than 2100 doctoral and master's graduates, quite an achievement for a young university like UMT.

As of 2021, UMT offers 18 fields of studies by research, comprising 46 sub fields and 314 specializations, and 11 programmes by coursework through its six faculties and four institutes. These numbers may pale in comparison with those at larger, well-established universities, but considering UMT's small size, it is a remarkable achievement, Professor Mohd Zamri said.

Most importantly, all the programmes offered are accredited by Malaysian Qualification Agency (MQA), and prospective students can easily check the information using MQR App.

Professor Mohd Zamri said that UMT understands the challenges faced by students in times of the Covid-19 pandemic. So, UMT is moving towards becoming a digital campus and shifting to Open Distance Learning (ODL), with learning fully conducted online especially for master's by coursework programmes.

The event announcement was emailed to all universities and posted on UMT official Facebook and PPAK official Facebook.



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IMPORTANT DATES

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Any other relevant topics can be considered

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