

UMT NEWSLETTER

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Ocean of Discoveries for Global Sustainability



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The Covid-19 pandemic has affected internationalization at universities the world over. Universities saw enrolment of international students reduced, mobility programmes affected, and international collaborations on research and knowledge transfer thwarted.

Thankfully, international borders are slowly being opened for foreign visitors. Recently, UMT welcomed one of the first batches of students from Herriot Watt University, United Kingdom. They were here for a mobility programme called Tropical Coral Reefs: Monitoring and Management, a yearly programme that was put on hold for two years due to Covid-19. For two weeks, the students were involved in hands-on learning at various UMT research stations including at Bidong Island, Redang Island, Setiu Wetlands, and Lake Kenyir. The event was a breath of fresh air after a two-year lull in outbound and inbound mobility programmes.

As the university welcomes international visitors, campus life is slowly picking up to pre-Covid-19 level. However, as the pandemic has disrupted how universities strategize their programmes, innovative approaches to internationalization will be the way forward in order to capitalize on new opportunities and to further enhance and strengthen universities' global activities and engagements.



Professor Dr. Fauziah Hj. Abu Hasan
Executive Editor

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UMT and Herriot Watt University Resume Unique Joint Programme



UMT and Herriot Watt University (HWU) have recently resumed their annual joint programme after having to put it on hold for two years due to the intercountry travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A total of 17 HWU students travelled to UMT in March to participate in the hands-on activities that form part of the Tropical Coral Reefs: Monitoring and Management programme. They were accompanied by four HWU staff and two facilitators.

The students were taken to Bidong Island, where they practised several tropical coral reef survey methods, including Line (LIT) and Point Intercept Transects (PIT), photo-quadrat, manta-tow, visual survey, and identification of marine fishes and invertebrates.

The students were also taught about coral restoration and were given the opportunity to be involved in restoring damaged reefs at Pasir Cina Beach at Bidong Island.

The four staff accompanying the students were Emeritus Prof. James Mair, Prof. William Sanderson, Associate Prof. Dr. Mark Hartl, and Associate Prof. Dr. Joanne Porter. The delegation first remained in Langkawi for seven days upon arriving to complete their soft quarantine before travelling to Kuala Terengganu.

The Tropical Coral Reefs: Monitoring and Management programme is an annual joint event between UMT and HWU, and it was first organized in 2016 with the aim of synergizing the expertise of both universities. It is a unique course that focuses on how to monitor and manage tropical reefs through the utilization of

standard survey methods and identification of different threats that can damage the coral reefs.

The programme is offered to HWU students, and it consists of two components, theoretical and hands-on. Per the agreement, HWU handles the theoretical component, while UMT coordinates activities for the hands-on part, where the students travel to UMT to participate in related activities at several of UMT research stations at Bidong Island, Redang Island, Kenyir Lake, and Setiu Wetlands.



Both universities have benefitted from the programme thus far. The programme allows HWU students to obtain experiences of a lifetime with the hands-on activities while enabling UMT to collaborate with globally renowned HWU and further improve its visibility at the international level.

With the programme having been successful, both universities have expressed their intention to continue offering it for the foreseeable future.

The programme is not the only collaborative project between UMT and HWU. Both universities have been in a close relationship for several years and have had a number of other collaborations.

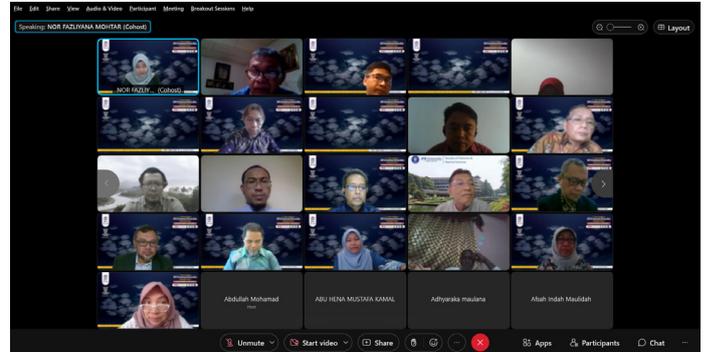


UMT Works with Indonesian Universities to Hold Webinar on Sustainable Fisheries

UMT recently collaborated with four universities in Indonesia to hold an international webinar on sustainable fisheries, with the objective of sharing new knowledge in the field of fisheries and aquaculture.

The four universities were Universitas Bung Hatta (BHU), Universitas Brawijaya (UB), Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), dan Universitas Airlangga (UNAIR).

Five invited speakers shared their expertise during the one-day event. They were Professor. Dr. Hafrijal Syandri (BHU), Associate Professor Dr. Luky Adrianto (IPB), Associate Professor Dr. Rumeaida Mat Piah (UMT), Dr. Woro Hastuti Satyantini (UNAIR), and Prof. Dr. Yenny Risjani (UB).



The webinar, which was hosted by UMT's Faculty of Fisheries and Food Science (FPSM), was attended by students and researchers from various countries including those in the ASEAN region.

Serving as moderators during the webinar were Dr. Nor Fazliyana Mohtar (UMT) and Dr. Eng. Abu Bakar Sambah (UB).



Professor Hafrijal from BHU first took the floor and presented his study titled "Sustainable inland fisheries management: Case study management endemic fish in Lake Singkarak, Indonesia."

Dr. Luky from IPB then talked about his research titled "Social-Ecological System Approach to Sustainable Fisheries."

When it was Dr. Rumeaida's turn to share, the UMT researcher presented her study titled "Understanding fish population characteristics from the otolith for the management of fisheries resources."

Dr. Woro was the next expert to take the floor, and the researcher from UNAIR shared her research titled "Potential and development of Caulerpa racemosa for aquaculture."

Professor Yenny from UB rounded off the sharing session by making a presentation titled "Indonesian archipelago reveals sustainable and exceptionally high biodiversity of algae: What next for ASEAN?"

The webinar was officiated by FPSM's Deputy Dean (Talent and Research) Associate Professor Dr. Mohd Hanafi Idris, representing the Dean Professor Dr. Mohd Effendy Abd. Wahid.

Representatives of the four universities also gave their speeches during the opening ceremony. They were Dr. Ir. Arlius (BHU), Dr. Fredinan Yulianda (IPB), Professor. Ir. Mochammad Amin Alamsjah (UNAIR), and Professor. Dr. Ir. Maftuch (UB).

The latest webinar was the second event organized involving the universities in Indonesia. The first webinar was held in 2020 with UMT and BHU as co-organizers and the event focusing on post-harvest in fisheries. The organizing of the webinar annually is part of the activities proposed in a Memorandum of Understanding that UMT and the four universities signed earlier.

UMT and Asia's Leading Financial Provider to Set Up Trading Centre on Campus



Ruzi Rani Ajith, Chief Executive Officer of CGS-CIMB Securities, said the company believes higher education institutions play an important role in giving students early exposure to financial knowledge.

"As a financial institution, disseminating financial knowledge is one of our missions and social responsibilities to the community," she said. "This collaboration proves our commitment, and we hope it will benefit both parties in the long term."

UMT and CGS-CIMB Securities Sdn. Bhd., one of Asia's leading integrated financial providers, have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote strategic learning and practical environment. As part of the MOU, a trading centre will be established on UMT campus.

The trading centre, named UMT-CGS-CIMB East Coast Trading Centre, will be located within UMT's Faculty of Business, Economics, and Social Development (FBESD) building. The centre will be equipped with trading stations that provide real-time price feed, allowing students to be directly involved and exposed to the real capital market environment in Malaysia to support their practical learning.

CGS-CIMB Securities Malaysia is a joint venture between CIMB Group Sdn. Bhd. and China Galaxy International Financial Holdings Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of China Galaxy Securities Co. Ltd. The company's core business is providing informative research analysis on capital market products, such as stocks and initial public offerings (IPOs). The company has established a global presence in over 20 countries.

More than 3000 students from relevant degree programmes will benefit from the trading centre, including those from the Bachelor of Finance programme, which will be offered in 2023 in collaboration with the Malaysian Financial Planning Council, one of the leading institutions that produces finance professionals in the country.

The MOU has made UMT the second higher education institution in the country to work with CG-CIMB Securities on such project.

Both parties believe that the collaboration will facilitate a greater understanding of a capital market through training on the functionality of a trading centre, partnership projects such as investment literacy programmes, and joint academic and research activities.

"Producing quality graduates who are industry-ready has been our focus at UMT," said Deputy Vice Chancellor of Academic and International Professor Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim. "We are particularly interested in providing a learning environment that allows for a hands-on approach to learning for our students. Thus, the establishment of the trading centre should enhance our students' learning experience and improve their competitiveness in the industry as well as their personal financial knowledge."



The MOU was signed by Professor Mohd Zamri for UMT and Ruzi Rani for CGS-CIMB Securities. After the signing ceremony, officers from CGS-CIMB Securities took part in the student-organized Career Talk and Investment for Beginners programme.

UMT and CGS-CIMB Securities have been involved in arrangements and discussions in this area since 2021.

UMT Successfully Coordinates MOHE's National Programme

UMT has successfully coordinated a twelve-month long national programme offered by the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) involving all the institutions of higher learning in the country. The programme called I-ProCom (Idea, Product, and Commercial) ended in March, with the closing ceremony held at UMT.

UMT was appointed by MOHE as the programme's coordinator when the programme was launched in 2021.

I-ProCom was created through a collaboration between MOHE and the Ministry of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives (MEDAC). It was intended to help students introduce their products to a wider market. Two agencies under MEDAC, National Entrepreneurship Institute and Centre for Entrepreneur Development and Research, provided the guidelines and training.



MOHE implemented I-ProCom in response to the National Entrepreneurship Policy that places entrepreneurship as the country's main agenda, said UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar. Through this national programme, university students were able to become entrepreneurs while they were still studying, he said.

I-ProCom helped student entrepreneurs to develop and commercialize their products as well as to widen the market for their businesses.

UMT's Career and Entrepreneurship Centre was responsible for overseeing the running of the programme, which involved 222 students and 44 mentors from 20 public universities, three polytechnics, and six community colleges. A total of 142 student businesses were registered under the programme.

During the programme, the students and mentors participated in four phases. In Phase 1, No2Know, the students received guidance on product development while the mentors received training using the module Business Facilitator Training Programme. Students were evaluated based on their business proposals and business model canvas. Ten students with the best proposals and business model canvas received RM1,000 cash prizes.

In Phase 2, Bootcamp, which was conducted online, students received training on Shopee and Lazada digital platforms and smartphone photography.

In Phase 3, Ready to Market, students ran actual businesses, using what they had learned earlier as guidance. They were required to record their daily sales on Shopee and Lazada and send the sales reports every two weeks. They must also submit their product transformation videos to the secretariat for evaluation.

In Phase 4, Big Stage, the 17 selected teams were given three minutes to present their businesses and products in front of the juries at the UMT Convention Centre. Additional two minutes were allocated for the question-and-answer session.

The closing ceremony was held at UMT's Sultan Mizan Hall. Professor Mazlan officiated the closing event and presented the prizes to the winners. UMT team placed second overall.

All participants demonstrated entrepreneurship skills during the programme, Professor Mazlan said. As such, I-ProCom should be continued to create more entrepreneurs from among students, he added.



UMT Student Impresses Judges at International Conference



A UMT student has won the Best Presenter award at a recent international seminar. Nuralif Fakhruddin Mohd Nur from the Faculty of Fisheries and Food Science was honoured with the accolade at the International Conference on Marine Science & Aquaculture (ICOMSA) 2022, held online in March.

Nuralif, a student of MSc. Fisheries (Molecular Ecology & Fish Genetic), won the award under the postgraduate category.

ICOMSA is organized by Universiti Malaysia Sabah since 2003 in collaboration with several other universities including Kindai University in Japan and Shantou University in China. The seminar provides a platform for researchers to share their knowledge about the marine ecosystem and the development of aquatic food sources through sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

The theme for the recent ICOMSA was “The Ocean We Want towards Sustainable Development.” The seminar was held with the objective of finding a solution to the issues of marine ecosystem stability and the sustainability of fisheries sources, aquaculture, and ecotourism.

The seminar presenters were required to submit their 12-minute presentation videos beforehand. These videos were then streamed for the online audience to watch, after which presenters were given five minutes for the question-and-answer session.

Nuralif presented his study titled “High connectivity of a stable population of *Platyvaranx malabaricus*

in Malaysian waters.” It is part of his research for his master’s programme, which is titled “Population genetics of *Platyvaranx malabaricus* in Malaysian waters inferred from molecular markers.”

Nuralif conducted the research to determine the various genetics, population structures, and demographic history of a fish species known as Demudok Cermin. He extracted the fish’s DNA from the fins of the species, which he collected from several places in Terengganu, Penang, Sabah, and Sarawak. From his research, Nuralif found that the population of this species in Malaysia originates from the same source genetically. He said that the authority needs to take a proactive action to manage and maintain the genetic variability of this fish species.

Nuralif, who also completed his degree in fisheries at UMT, could not believe it at first when his name was announced for the award.

“After a while, it sunk in, and I felt very excited,” he said.

| Species | Total gill rakers on first gill arch (including rudiments) |
|---|--|
| <i>Platyvaranx chrysophrys</i> (Longnose Trevally / Demudok Muncung) | 21 to 26 (Smith-Vaniz, 1999) |
| <i>Platyvaranx malabaricus</i> (Malabar Trevally / Demudok Cermin) | 32 to 38 (Smith-Vaniz, 1999) |
| <i>Platyvaranx talamparoides</i> (Imposter Trevally / Demudok Rambal) | 27 to 31 (Smith-Vaniz, 1999) |

He believed his presentation style and his confidence in answering the questions contributed to his winning.

Nuralif’s supervisor Dr. Tun Nurul Aimi Mat Jaafar, a lecturer at the Faculty of Fisheries and Food Science, was very proud of his achievement.

“Alif is intelligent and proactive, and these were already apparent when he was an undergraduate student,” Dr. Tun Nurl Aimi said. “He is also independent and able to carry out his research with minimal supervision.”

“I believe Alif has a bright future,” she added. “He has the potential to further his study to doctorate level.”



THE 3RD TROPICAL OCEAN AND MARINE SCIENCES INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

TOMSY2022

Theme

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A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE'**

▲ 6 & 7 NOVEMBER 2022
▲ UMT Convention Centre

<https://tomsy.umt.edu.my>



Dates

Abstract deadline: 20/09/2022
Abstract notification of
acceptance: 27/09/2022
Payment deadline: 01/10/2022
Symposium dates: 06-07/11/2022



IUP2022
29 - 30 NOVEMBER 2022
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Call for Paper

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RESEARCH AREA

- Coastal and Ocean Engineering
- Maritime and Naval Technology
- Underwater Technology
- Automatic Control of Marine System
- Modeling and Optimization
- Emerging Energy Technologies
- Material and Manufacturing Technologies
- Big Data and IoT
- Software Engineering
- Artificial Intelligence
- Statistic and Mathematics
- Renewable Energy
- Any sub-field related to the field of Ocean Engineering and informatics (Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Applied Mathematics, Physics and Instrumentation Information Engineering)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Prof. Dr. Ir. Sunarya
Universitas Indonesia



Data' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin
Jabatan Statistik Malaysia

INVITED SPEAKER



Assoc. Prof. Dr Masaaki Sano
Hiroshima University



Assoc. Prof. Ir. Ts. Dr. Mohd
Khairi Abu Husain
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia



Ir. Dr. Alamsyah Kurniawan
Institut Teknologi Bandung



Assoc. Prof. Ir. Ts. Dr. Leong Kah Hon
Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman

IMPORTANT DATE

- MAY 13** Deadline Submission of Abstract
- JUN 1** Notification of Abstract Acceptance
- JULY 15** Deadline Submission of Fullpaper
- SEPT 30** Notification of Fullpaper Acceptance
- OCT 14** Payment Deadline
- OCT 21** Camera Ready

FEE & PAYMENT



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First Announcement

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Climate Change
and Marine
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SCOPE

OCTOBER 2022

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