

UMT NEWSLETTER

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OCEAN OF DISCOVERIES FOR GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY



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Executive Editor

Professor Dr. Fauziah Abu Hasan

Editor

Muhamad Khairul Zakaria

Content Advisors

Prof. Dr. Yusliza Mohd Yusoff
Dr. Azza Jauhar Ahmad Tajuddin
Shafie Umardi @ Kamarol Bahrin
Suhaili Safei
Wan Ab Hafiz Wan Ibrahim

Coordinators

Rozita Alias@Abdul Latiff
Amirul Salam Hasan

Designer

Adli Hashim

Photographers

Mohd Sharwan Abd Ghani
Mohd Shukry Tahar
Nur Hafiza Ellias
Tengku Iskandar Zulfahmi Tengku Mohamad

As we bid farewell to 2022 and greet the new year, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of our students, staff, partners, and collaborators, both local and international, who helped make 2022 a memorable year for Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT). At the national and international levels, our students have thrived in academics and sports, earning gold in sailing, speech, and debate contests, and developing innovative products based on their research. Furthermore, UMT's academic workforce has received the National Book Award, has been recognised as a National Icon of Academia, and has received an Achievement Award for their work on coral reefs.



In 2022, UMT secured collaborative agreements with a number of overseas institutions and organisations, including the University of Saskatchewan, the Uzbekistan University, the Qatar National Research Fund, WorldFish, and Saudi Arabia's NAQUA. Industrial collaborations with leading industry giants like IBM, CGS-CIMB Securities, RHB Islamic, and KRU will not only improve graduates' employability but will also provide opportunities for reciprocal cooperation in research and conservation initiatives.

UMT's recently built Scuba Diving School has been awarded an international Five Star Dive Center, and the university is also recognised as the country's leader for underwater archaeology. The National Antarctic Research Center will be partnered by UMT and Universiti Malaya, and UMT has been chosen to hold the Chair of Antarctic Science Research. Moreover, as indicated by the QS Asian University Rankings, UMT is ranked among the top 200 Asian universities.

We congratulate all of our staff and students on their outstanding achievements, and as we usher in the new year, our Strategic Plan 2023-2027 will serve as a roadmap to enable us to continue to prosper and make 2023 our finest year yet. Happy New Year to everyone, and best wishes for a prosperous year ahead.

Professor Dr. Fauziah Hj. Abu Hasan
Executive Editor

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Corporate Communications Office
Universiti Malaysia Terengganu
email : pro@umt.edu.my

UMT Expands Network of Collaboration with University of Colorado Boulder, USA, and OPPTY Biotech Co. Ltd., Taiwan

Liew Hon Jung, Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries
Muhamad Khairul Zakaria, Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education



In strengthening the image and research collaboration of UMT at the international level, AKUATROP is always looking for opportunities to expand its network of cooperation with international partners. In December 2022, AKUATROP successfully signed a memorandum of understanding with two international partners, the University of Colorado Boulder from the United States and Opportunity Biotech Co. Ltd., (OPPTY) from Taiwan.

The main goal of research cooperation with both international partners is to improve research on food safety and sufficiency, as well as the effects of climate change on both. This is in line with research under the HICoE AKUATROP niche in the areas of resource sustainability and food sufficiency.

Through this research cooperation, it is expected that the findings of the study will have a high impact in helping to overcome the worrying impacts of pandemics and climate change, not only on food adequacy but also on the sustainability of global aquaculture resources.

The University of Colorado Boulder, through its Environmental Studies Department, is one of the institutions that is a hub for collaboration between studies in environmental disciplines and sustainability. This department integrates various scientific, social, humanistic, and technical disciplines that can be utilised to find solutions to the global, national, regional, and local environmental challenges faced.

OPPTY is a biotech company recognised by the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Agriculture of Taiwan. This cooperation will not only open up opportunities for UMT to develop more comprehensive shellfish breeding technology, but also create a genomic analysis service chain in this region through a laboratory that will be developed at AKUATROP. At the same event, AKUATROP also received a research asset contribution of the Qubit™ 4 Fluorometer, worth almost RM20,000, from OPPTY. This tool represents a symbolic collaboration between OPPTY and UMT-AKUATROP and will be used in determining the purity value of DNA samples.

The 20th University of Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) Convocation

Rozita Alias@Abdul Latiff, Office of Corporate Communication
Riswadi Azmi, Sultan Mahmud Islamic Centre
Muhamad Khairul Zakaria, Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education



A total of 1601 graduates were celebrated with extensive tradition and grandeur at the 20th University of Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) Convocation ceremony, which took place over four sessions from December 11 to 12, 2022. Those celebrated consisted of 171 postgraduate graduates, 1297 bachelor's degree graduates, and 133 diploma graduates.

Her Majesty (KDYMM) Sultanah Nur Zahirah graciously initiated the first session of the University of Malaysia Terengganu's (UMT) 20th Convocation in the Sultan Mizan Hall, UMT, today.

Sultanah Nur Zahirah, who is also the Chancellor of UMT, expressed her congratulations to all UMT graduates and award recipients at the event.

"I hope the graduates need to be ready to face the challenging realities of life, not only in terms of skills and physical readiness to meet the needs of the job market, but also by completing themselves with commendable manners and morals," Her Majesty said.

KDYMM also graciously presented a scroll and the Honorary Doctorate of Humanities Award to Dato' Dr. Annabel Teh Gallop for her expertise and contributions in the fields of Islamic civilization, culture, art, and Southeast Asian Malay heritage. She also collaborated with UMT as a partner in the Golden Qur'an Manuscript Heritage of the Terengganu Sultanate Exhibition 2018, and also served as an international reference expert

in reciprocated efforts of UMT, the Terengganu State Museum, and the National Heritage Department to nominate the Terengganu Qur'an Mushaf as a "Memory of the World-UNESCO."

At the event, Dato' Rozano bin Saad, 65, formerly the Managing Director of Shell and Head of Petronas Downstream Business Excellence, was also appointed as an Adjunct Professor of UMT and has brought industry-UMT cooperation in achieving the goal of sustainability in addressing environmental issues. His expertise and contributions to the country and the world are also undeniable. He also received an honorary degree scroll from Sultanah Nur Zahirah.

Also celebrated at this event were the recipients of the Royal Education Award, Chancellor's Gold Medal Award, Pro-Chancellor Award, University Board Chairman Award, and Vice-Chancellor's Award.

According to UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr. Mazlan Bin Abd Ghaffar, UMT is committed to driving excellence in teaching and learning by implementing various initiatives such as the Graduate Employability Blueprint and offering high-impact industry-based pertinent academic programs.

He added that UMT is also focusing on the development of lifelong learning and graduate employability programs to produce well-rounded and balanced graduates who are able to adapt to a rapidly changing world.

The Splendor of The Royal Quran of Terengganu

Previously, Her Majesty Sultanah Nur Zahirah graciously completed the declaration of the Terengganu Qur'an Mushaf at the Evening Banquet in conjunction with the UMT 20th Convocation.



Terengganu Qur'an Mushaf is very good and can be said to be the pinnacle of Islamic art in Southeast Asia.

"It's not surprising, then, that Dr. Riswadi Azmi, a researcher at UMT, has found 45 Qur'an mushafs in different places, with the most recent one being found in Qatar," she said.

The Terengganu Qur'an Mushaf is said to be the best in Southeast Asia and is on par with the Qur'an Mushafs produced by the Timurid, Safavid, Mamluk, and Ottoman empires.

Its splendour is not only unique in its variety of decorations, but also the use of shimmering gold elements, making it one of the most beautiful manuscripts ever produced in the 19th century AD.

Meanwhile, Dato' Dr. Annabel Teh Gallop said that the Naskhi type of calligraphy used in the writing of the

"This shows that the Qur'an mushaf has become the focus and first choice of Malay states or sultanates to own it." Annabel also explained that the colours used in the Terengganu Qur'an Mushaf do not fade, even though it is over 200 years old. "The binding technique, use of colour, and paper are the main factors that have allowed this heritage to be viewed until now," she stated.

She said this in the Public Lecture organised by the Sultan Mahmud Islamic Centre and the Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education, held on December 12, 2022, at the UMT Quran studio.



The Malaysian Launch of the 2022 Report of the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change

Professor Dr. Mhd Ikhwanuddin Abdullah, Institute of Tropical Aquaculture And Fisheries
Muhamad Khairul Zakaria, Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education



The annual Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change, a journal dedicated to examining the intersection of pandemics and climate change on global health, has released its 2022 report. This year's report, titled "Health at the Mercy of Fossil Fuels," was the result of an international collaboration involving 99 experts from 51 institutions, including the World Health Organization and the World Meteorological Organization. Funded by the Wellcome Trust and led by University College London, the report features 43 indicators that measure the impact of extreme temperatures on various aspects of public health, such as food security and air pollution in homes.

The Malaysia Launch of the 2022 Lancet Countdown Report took place via hybrid launch ceremony at the Sultan Mizan University of Malaysia, Terengganu. The event was inaugurated by Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abdul Ghaffar, Deputy Chancellor of the University of Malaysia Terengganu, and featured presentations by experts such as Prof. Dr. Fredolin Tangang @ Tajudin Mahmud, Chair of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the National University of Malaysia (UKM), Madam Noor Afifah binti Abdul Razak, Deputy Secretary-General of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment, and Climate Change, Prof. Dr. Elizabeth Robinson, Board Member of Lancet Countdown in the United Kingdom, Dr. Shouro

Dasgupta, Researcher at the Environment, London School of Economics and Political Science, and Professor Maxwell T. Boykoff of the University of Colorado Boulder in the United States.

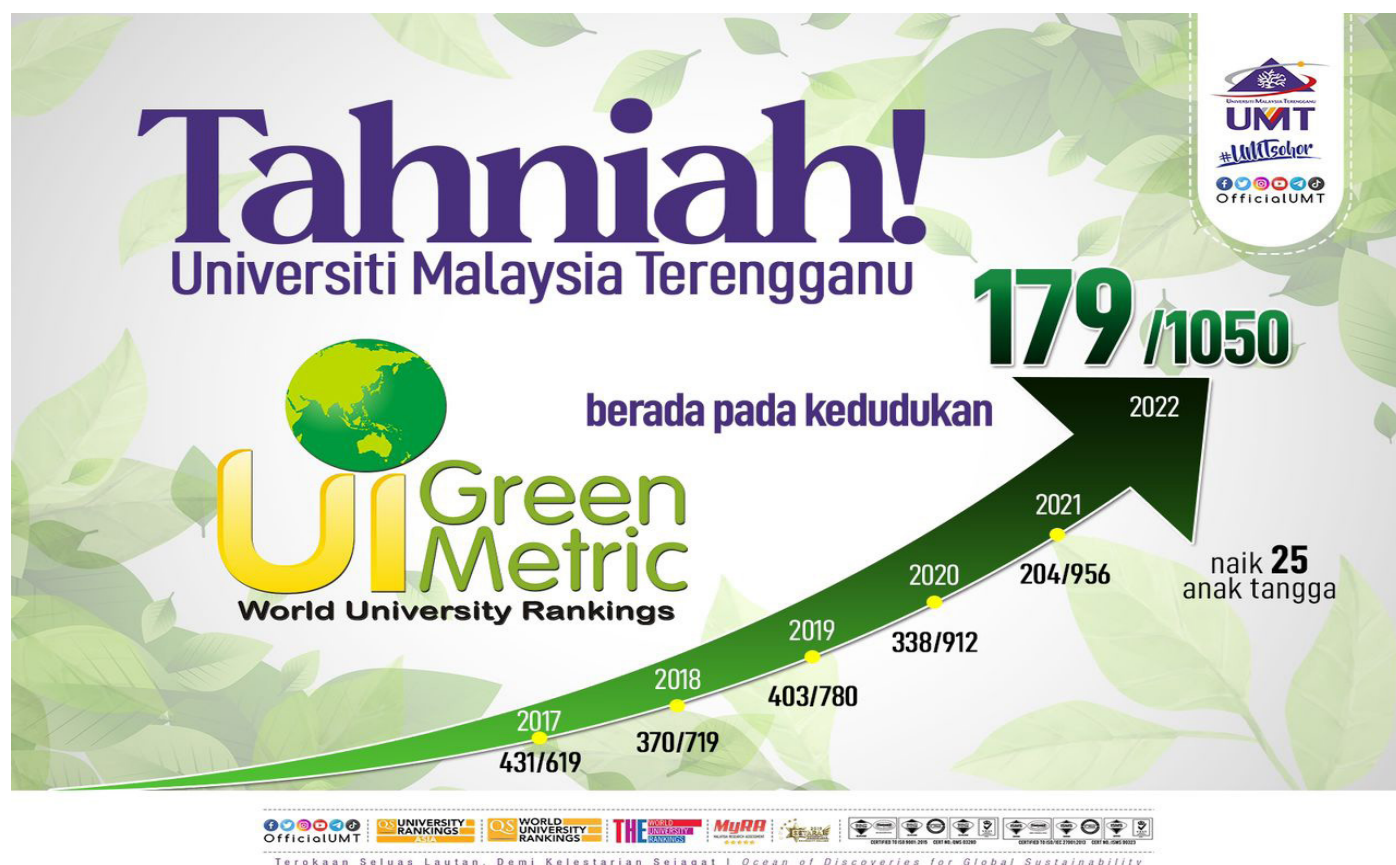
The event also marked the official launch of the Lancet Countdown Policy Brief for Malaysia 2022, a policy document developed in collaboration between the University of Malaysia Terengganu, Sunway University, the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA), and the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia (AMM). This policy provides recommendations to policymakers in Malaysia on how to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change on human health, including issues related to food security. The Policy Brief has been reviewed and endorsed by Professor Dr. Elizabeth Robinson, Director of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), the Lancet Countdown, London, the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia (AMM), and the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA).

Nearly 700 guests, both in person and online, attended the launch event. Among them were 100 students from SK Tok Jiring and SK IPG Kampus Dato Razali Ismail, two nearby schools, who put on a theatre and rhythmic language show.

UMT Makes Significant Leap in World University Rankings for Sustainability

Masri Muda, Office of Development and Assets

Muhamad Khairul Zakaria, Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education



The University of Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) has achieved a ground-breaking feat in the latest edition of the UI Greenmetric World University Rankings, a platform that measures and ranks universities worldwide for their commitment and efforts towards sustainability.

This year, UMT moved up 25 spots to reach the 179th spot out of a total of 1050 participating universities. This is an amazing achievement that also solidifies its position as the top-ranked university in Malaysia, since UMT ranked 11th out of 32 universities that took part.

According to UMT Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr. Mazlan Abd. Ghaffar, this success is the result of a concerted effort by all parties involved in providing the necessary information and evidence for each element in the ranking. "UMT has undertaken several development initiatives and efforts, including related programs, to ensure that our sustainability level is constantly improved," he said.

Professor Datuk Dr. Mazlan added that in order to maintain this momentum and continue to climb in the rankings, UMT must focus on key elements such as energy, climate change, and waste. With these priorities in mind, UMT is poised to make an even greater impact in the world of sustainability in the coming years.

The achievement is a testament to UMT's dedication to making a positive and lasting difference in the world and serves as an inspiration to other universities and institutions seeking to follow in its footsteps. As UMT continues to shine on the international stage, we can all look to it as a beacon of hope and a model for sustainable development.

So, what's next for UMT? With its innovative approach and unwavering commitment to sustainability, the sky is the limit. One thing is certain: UMT's bright future is sure to be filled with more achievements and accolades as it continues to lead the charge towards a more sustainable and prosperous world for all.

Celebrating National Volunteer Day: Recognition for Higher Education Institutions Staff and Students

Mohd Salleh Bain, Student and Alumni Affairs (HEPA)
Muhamad Khairul Zakaria, Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education



On National Volunteer Day, celebrated on December 5, 2022, the Ministry of Higher Education (KPT) and the University Volunteer Council of Public Universities of Malaysia (MASKUM) honoured the dedicated and selfless efforts of staff and students from higher education institutions who have made a meaningful impact through their volunteer work.

One such individual recognised for their outstanding contributions was Mr. Mohd Salleh bin Bain, Assistant Registrar at the Holistic Development and Student Counseling Centre, Student Affairs, and Alumni Office. Mr. Mohd Salleh was awarded the Outstanding Administrator Volunteer Special Award (Anugerah Khas Kesukarelawan Pentadbir Gemilang) for his tireless efforts managing the flood relief mission throughout 2022, as well as overseeing and managing the affairs of students participating in humanitarian volunteer missions organised by the Malaysia Student Volunteer Foundation (Yayasan Sukarelawan Siswa Malaysia). His dedication to serving his community is truly inspiring.

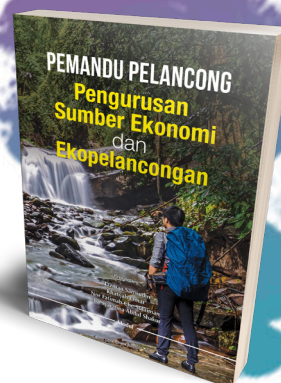
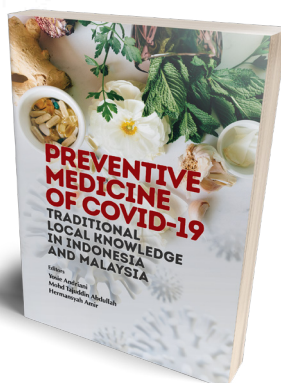
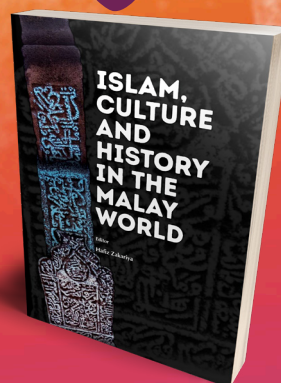
Another deserving recipient was Mr. Muhammad Al-Nurfirdaus bin Nazri, a fourth year Bachelor of Counselling student at Universiti Malaysia Terengganu. Mr. Muhammad Al-Nurfirdaus received the Distinguished Volunteer Special Award for his tireless efforts to make

a difference in the lives of others. Among his numerous contributions, he has provided counselling services to 10 schools and 3 universities, shared his volunteer work and student leadership programmes (2017-2022), and conducted a volunteer programme with the Setiu district's community in Terengganu. As the UMT Post-Flood Volunteer Mission Leader, he also managed 400 volunteers during the UMT Post-Flood Volunteer Mission and led 100 ASEAN student volunteers during the YSS-ASEAN Volunteer Mission to Sabah and Sarawak (2017, 2018 and 2022, selected for the YSS Volunteer Mission). In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Mr. Nazri was also a recipient of the VLDP-YSS 2021 Volunteer Project Grant and the UMT Frontliner Volunteer Award in 2021.

These dedicated individuals, along with all the staff and students recognised at the National Volunteer Day celebration at the Za'ba Hall in the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia, serve as shining examples of the power of selfless service and the impact it can have on communities. Their efforts inspire us all to give back and make a difference in the world. YBhg. Dato' Seri Abdul Razak Jaafar, the Secretary-General of Malaysia's Ministry of Higher Education, presided over the event and recognised these individuals for their outstanding contributions.



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(MOBILE COMPUTING) WITH HONOURS

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