

UMT NEWSLETTER

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Ocean of Discoveries for Global Sustainability



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October was a month of celebration and inspiration at UMT. Alongside welcoming our new students to campus, we were honoured to have the Minister of Higher Education gracing us with his presence. His visit was marked by the “In Person with Doc Zam” session, where UMT newcomers and students from our neighbouring university, Unizsa, joined to hear his empowering message. In his address, Doc Zam encouraged all students to pursue excellence despite the inevitable challenges that lie ahead. His words were a true reminder of the kind of resilience and ambition that all students should aspire to. We are proud to highlight that this visit marked the Minister’s first official visit to UMT, further reinforcing the importance of our institution in the broader educational landscape.



In this month’s issue, we also spotlight the international recognition of our Vice Chancellor, who was invited as a panellist at the prestigious China-Asean Partnership Forum on Sustainable Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Blue Economy Development held in Qingdao, China. His participation underscores UMT’s growing role in the global conversation around sustainable marine practices, especially as we continue to develop the Blue Economy Advancement Centre. This is just one of many milestones for UMT as we drive forward our commitment to marine and aquatic research.

Additionally, we are thrilled to announce that Prof. Dr. Wan Iryani Wan Ismail, one of our distinguished researchers, has received a Special Award at a recent conference in the UK—a testament to the calibre of research being carried out at UMT. Domestically, our academic staff have also been recognized for excellence, with several receiving awards from the Institute of Chemical Engineers (IChemE), further emphasizing our leadership in research and innovation.

Lastly, in a meaningful development for our university, UMT was officially selected by the United Nations to implement the Women ICT Frontier Initiative (WIFIdx) programme. This programme, which has already been implemented in 12 other Asian countries, marks a significant milestone in UMT’s ongoing efforts to contribute to global development through education, technology, and empowerment.

As we look forward to the 2024 Convocation and the continued success of our community, we are reminded of the incredible potential of our students, staff, and researchers. Thank you for being a part of this journey.

Warm regards,

Zukiferee bin Ibrahim

Executive Editor

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Higher Education Minister Visits UMT for Special Event

Engku Nurul Aima Tengku Amri, Student Affairs Office



In Person with Doc Zam: Freshies, Are You Ready?, a special session with Higher Education Minister Dato' Seri Diraja Dr. Zambray Abd Kadir, took place on 3 October at UMT, and a memorable history was created when the minister visited the university for the first time to participate in the event held in conjunction with UMT's orientation week for the 2024/2025 undergraduate intakes.

During the two-hour session, the minister who prefers to be called Doc Zam gave words of motivation to the students and shared a few tips on how to become holistic and excellent students. He also advised the students to always look for the opportunities to improve their self-potential and to overcome the feelings of fear in order to be successful and eventually receive a degree.

Students were also given the opportunity to go up on stage and pose questions to the minister. Among the questions were those relating to career opportunities after having graduated. Students also asked for tips on how to study more effectively and how to manage their finances.

More than 4,000 new students of UMT and Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA) were in attendance at UMT's Sultan Mizan Hall to participate in the session that was hosted by a popular celebrity Fizo Omar.

Also present were student council representatives and management staff from the two universities and



representatives from Higher Education Ministry.

In conjunction with the programme, the minister also distributed financial aid to three UMT students from the low-income category. The aid is part of the initiative implemented by the foundation Yayasan Perkasa Siswa (YPS) to help students further their study at higher learning institutions.

The event was made merrier when students in attendance sang a song specially written by the two universities.

At the end of the session, the students and the minister took pictures with each other for mementos of the event.

UMT Vice Chancellor Invited as Forum Panellist in China

Wan Ab Hafiz Wan Ibrahim, Office of Vice Chancellor



UMT Vice Chancellor Prof. Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim was invited as a panellist at the China-ASEAN Partnership Forum on Sustainable Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Blue Economy Development on 24 October in Qingdao, China. The forum was hosted by the Ocean University of China (OUC) and was part of the ASEAN-FEN + AND LEADERS SYMPOSIUM 2024.

In his remarks, Prof. Zamri highlighted the immense economic potential of investing in the blue economy for ASEAN nations, emphasizing their extensive coastlines and reliance on marine and freshwater resources. He called for sustainable practices that integrate environmental conservation, social inclusivity, and economic growth. Such measures, he noted, would help ASEAN countries safeguard their marine and freshwater ecosystems while fostering growth in eco-tourism, aquaculture, fisheries, and marine biotechnology.

Additionally, the Vice Chancellor attended the grand celebration of OUC's 100th anniversary, accompanied by several other UMT delegates, including Prof. Dato Dr. Nor

Aieni Haji Mokhtar, Prof. Dato` Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar, Prof. Dr. Tengku Sifzizul Tengku Muhammad and members of the ASEAN-FEN + Secretariat, Prof. Ts. Dr. Mohd. Effendy Abd. Wahid, Prof. Dr. Yeong Yik Sung, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tan Min Pau, Prof. Dr. Siti Azizah Mohd Nor, and Dr. Mok Wen Jye. This milestone event was marked by the presence of all OUC's strategic partners from both domestic and international institutions. The UMT delegation extended their heartfelt congratulations to Prof. Zhang Junfeng, OUC President, on this remarkable celebration.

The visit also marked a renewed chapter of collaboration between UMT and OUC. A ceremony to extend the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was officiated by UMT Vice Chancellor and Prof. Liu Yong, Vice President of OUC. This agreement underscores the shared commitment of both institutions to strengthen their partnership in research, education, and innovation, with a focus on the blue economy, marine biotechnology, oceanography, marine studies, fisheries, and aquaculture.

UMT Researcher Receives Special Award Recognition from Global Women Innovators Network

Amirul Salam Hasan, Corporate Communications Office

UMT researcher Prof. Dr. Wan Iryani Wan Ismail has received a prestigious special award at the Global Women Innovators Network (WIIN) Conference held in the Plexal Innovation Centre, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, United Kingdom from 2 – 3 October. This recognition highlights her remarkable contributions to the field of beekeeping, particularly on honeybee and stingless beekeeping and innovative product development in Malaysia.

The Global Women Innovators Network (WIIN) was launched 26 years ago, and 2024 was marked as its 26th annual anniversary celebration in the UK. It was created to provide a platform for women innovators to connect, share knowledge, and celebrate their achievements across various fields. The network focuses on empowering women and promoting their contributions to innovation and sustainable development.

Prof. Wan Iryani is a prominent figure in the realm of sustainable agriculture and apiculture, passionately advocating the importance of bees in the human ecosystem. Her research has significantly advanced the understanding of honeybees and stingless bees.

One of her innovations is a bee-based energy bar Bee Ready. This innovative product aims to promote the consumption of stingless bee honey and bee bread, thus providing a sustainable income source for local beekeepers while enhancing food security in Malaysia. The product combines traditional knowledge with modern marketing strategies, making it appealing to both local and international markets. Her project emphasizes the economic potential of stingless beekeeping while addressing environmental sustainability. By promoting the use of honeybee and stingless bee honey, Prof. Wan Iryani encourages the conservation of these vital pollinators and their habitats.

The award she received is a testament to her dedication and hard work. It recognizes her innovative spirit and her commitment to empowering local communities through



sustainable practices. Her research and advocacy are instrumental in elevating the profile of honeybee and stingless beekeeping in Malaysia and beyond, inspiring future generations of scientists and entrepreneurs.

Prof. Wan Iryani emphasizes the importance of collaboration and knowledge sharing in driving innovation and making a positive impact on society. Her work exemplifies how science and tradition can work hand in hand to create sustainable solutions for today's challenges. Her journey serves as an inspiring reminder of the critical role that research and innovation play in addressing global issues, such as biodiversity loss and food security.

Looking ahead, Prof. Dr. Wan Iryani will continue her groundbreaking work, further exploring the potential of stingless bees and their contributions to agriculture and sustainability.

The recognition marks a pivotal moment for her career and for the future of beekeeping in Malaysia. It is a source of pride for UMT and a beacon of hope for aspiring Malaysian women innovators.

UMT Researchers Land National Award

Profesor Dr. Zalailah Salleh, Innovation and Commercialization Centre



Two UMT researchers have had a remarkable achievement recently at the national stage. Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Mohd Sabri Mohd Ghazali and Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Lee Oon Jew teamed up with Petroliaam Nasional Berhad (PETRONAS) on an innovative project and were subsequently honoured with the prestigious Oil and Gas Award at the Institute of Chemical Engineers (IChemE) Malaysia Awards on 21 October at Crystal Crown Hotel, Petaling Jaya.

The winning project, Revolutionary Oil Absorption Technology with *Kekabu*, aims to provide a sustainable solution to oil spills. The project establishes a unique and environmentally friendly approach to mitigating oil spills by using natural fibres known locally as *kekabu*.

The project's success will pave the way for future research endeavours that leverage the country's rich natural resources and support Malaysia's broader environmental goals.

The award may be an individual triumph for Dr Lee and Dr Mohd Sabri, but on a larger scale it serves a proof of UMT's commitment to sustainable and impactful research activities. The project's forward-thinking approach in the use of *Kekabu* aligns with UMT's aspiration of achieving balance between environmental conservation and technological advancement.



The project is also in line with the university's dedication to addressing global challenges with home-grown solutions that are simple, affordable, and practical.

Winning this award has earned Dr Lee and Dr Mohd Sabri the honour of representing Malaysia at the Global IChemE Awards in Manchester, UK, on 28 November this year, where they will have the opportunity to showcase their breakthrough work.

Dr Lee and Dr Mohd Sabri hoped their accomplishment will inspire the UMT community to continue their commitment to excellence in science and technology.

UMT Appointed by United Nations to Implement WIFIdx

Amirul Salam Hasan, Corporate Communications Office



UMT has carved a new history when it was selected by the United Nations (UN) to implement the WIFIdx programme (The Women ICT Frontier Initiative) in Malaysia.

UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim said WIFIdx's aim is to promote women entrepreneur programmes in Asia and the Pacific through information and communication technology (ICT) capacity development.

He said WIFIdx has been implemented in 12 countries in Asia Pacific, including Armenia, Bangladesh, Kemboja, India, Kyrgyzstan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

"Alhamdulillah, UMT felt grateful and fortunate when WIFIdx Secretariat has given the university the thrust to implement WIFIdx in Malaysia for the duration of two years, from 2024 until 2026.

"In addition, UMT will be working together with the Ministry of Women, Family, and Community Development to implement the WIFIdx programme across the country," he said.

WIFIdx is a programme focusing on ICT reinforcement among women, and it was first launched in 2016 under the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT), with headquarters in Incheon, Korea.



UMT Sets up First Simulated Trading Centre in East Coast of Malaysia

Associate Professor Dr. Zairihan Abdul Halim, Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Development



In a significant stride towards advancing financial education and capital market literacy, UMT has recently renewed its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CGS International Securities Sdn Bhd (formerly CGS-CIMB Securities) and signed a new MoU with the Malaysian Association of Technical Analysts (MATA). The MoU signing marked a pivotal moment for UMT as it has led to the establishment of the UMT-CGS East Coast Trading Centre, the first facility of its kind in the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

Located at the Faculty of Business, Economics, and Social Development (FBESD), this facility is equipped with 41 desktops, each offering access to simulated trading platforms. Designed to emulate the environment of a real investment bank's securities dealing room, the centre aims to provide students and staff with an authentic trading experience. Per the agreement, CGS International Securities provides access to its iTrade trading platform, allowing users to engage in stock trading simulations using virtual capital.

The centre was set up in time to be used for courses from the new undergraduate programme, Bachelor of Finance, first offered for the 2024/2025 session, as well as existing courses from the Bachelor of Economics (Natural Resources) and Bachelor of Accounting programmes at FBESD. As part of UMT's commitment to support national efforts to implement the Industrial Revolution 4.0 and digital economy agenda, this facility offers students hands-on exposure to the systems, rules, and transactions that underpin capital market

investments. By providing this real-world experience, UMT seeks to produce graduates well-prepared to tackle practical challenges within the financial sector.

The initiative by UMT is also aligned with the Ministry of Higher Education's emphasis on technology-driven and industry-based learning and education, as it aspires to elevate the nation's higher education landscape to a higher level through the Malaysian Higher Education Plan 2026-2035, currently being drafted.

UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim said the centre will serve as more than just an educational resource for UMT students and staff. It will also function as a hub for capital market education and training. UMT plans to offer certification courses through the MoU with MATA, and these courses will be available to students and the public.

CGS International Securities Chief Executive Officer Puan Azizah Mohd Yatim said the establishment of the trading centre will not only benefit UMT and its students but also have a positive spillover effect on the local community in the East Coast region. With the integration of this cutting-edge facility, UMT is well-positioned to become a leader in financial education and training in the region.

The MoU signing was witnessed by Professor Dr. Suriyani Muhamad, FBESD Dean, and the launch of the centre was officiated by Professor Mohd Zamri alongside Puan Azizah.



A PARTNER FOR OCEAN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

PROGRAMME BY RESEARCH

- Humanities
- Social and Behavioural Science
- Economics
- Business and Administration
- Accounting and Taxation
- Biology and Related Sciences Not Further Defined
- Environmental Science
- Physical Science
- Earth Science
- Mathematics
- Computer Sciences
- Engineering and Engineering Trades
- Food Processing
- Crop and Livestock Production
- Fisheries
- Transport Services
- Socialwork and Counselling
- Environmental Protection Technology

PROGRAMME BY COURSEWORK :

- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Master of Science in Tropical Fisheries
- Master of Counselling
- Master of Science (Aquaculture)
- Master of Management (Integrated Coastal Zone)
- Master of Science (Environmental Forensic)
- Master of Economics
- Master of Information Technology
- Master of Computer Science
- Master of Mathematics
- Master of Statistics in Marine Science
- Master of Science (Maritime Studies)
- Master of Science in Tropical Marine Environment
- Postgraduate Diploma In Maritime Studies
- Postgraduate Certificate In Maritime Studies



Gain deeper understanding of the Sunda Shelf, while tapping into a universe of resources and research potential. UMT welcomes visitors, especially those in :

- Nautical Science
- Oceanography and Marine Science
- Marine Management and Technology
- Coastal and Island Socioeconomics and Development
- Marine Informatics and Applied Mathematics

CALLING ALL ACADEMICIANS, FELLOWS AND PROFESSORS... COLLABORATE WITH US!

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