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UMT NEWSLETTER

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Corporate Communications Office Universiti Malaysia Terengganu email: pro@umt.edu.my As the year 2023 dawns, the University of Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) stands at the forefront of a new era of excellence and promise. In January, we were honoured to welcome the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who shared his vision and insights with the federal level heads of departments. The Prime Minister's message of democratic accountability and his commitment to progress inspired the university community, and we are grateful for his recognition of UMT's role in shaping the future.



UMT's female sailors made a splash at the Royal Langkawi International Regatta, securing third place overall against predominantly male teams and becoming the talk of the event. This display of determination and resilience is a testament to the university's commitment to empowering women and fostering a culture of excellence. Our athletes also shone at the Asian Grand Slam and Asian Pacific Championship in Singapore, finishing in the top 10 among a highly competitive field and showcasing the university's commitment to developing world-class talent.

These achievements are a source of immense pride for UMT and evidence of our unwavering commitment to academic excellence. Our students are poised to succeed on the global stage, and we are dedicated to nurturing their determination, perseverance, and confidence, qualities that are highly sought after by employers in today's rapidly changing world. Join us in celebrating the University of Malaysia Terengganu as a top academic institution, setting the standard for excellence in education and research.

Professor Dr. Fauziah Hj. Abu Hasan Executive Editor

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Strengthening Global Ties: UMT's Mission to Forge Collaborative Excellence with Belgian Institutions

Yeong Yik Sung, Institute of Marine Biotechnology Tan Min Pau, Institute of Marine Biotechnology Arzura binti Abdullah, Institute of Marine Biotechnology Muhamad Khairul Zakaria, Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education

With a mission to further advance academic and research collaboration, the Vice Chancellor of the University Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd. Ghaffar, recently embarked on a week-long working trip to Belgium. Joining him were Prof. Dr. Tengku Sifzizul bin Tengku Muhammad, the Pro Vice Chancellor (Strategy and Achievement) of UMT, and Prof. Dr. Yeong Yik Sung, the Director of the Institute of Marine Biotechnology at UMT. UMT's delegation visited Ghent University and other Belgian institutions to explore new research and academic partnerships in areas such as food security, climate change, aquaculture, and aquatic sciences. The trip was full of productive meetings and presentations, such as at the International Office of Ghent University, the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, and the Royal Academy of Overseas Sciences in Brussels.

Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazlan and the UMT delegation began their official visit by attending a meeting held by Ghent University's International Office. The meeting was presided over by Prof. Guido Van Huylenbroeck, Director Internationalisation, and was attended by Emeritus Prof. Patrick Sorgeloos, UMT's Professorial Chair of Sultan Mizan, and Mr. Jean Dhont, Ghent University's ASEAN and South Asia Platform Coordinator. The Vice Chancellor gave a brief presentation on UMT, which was followed by presentations from researchers from the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering (Prof. Peter Bossier, Prof. Annelies Declercg, and Prof. Tom Defoirdt), the Faculty of Sciences (Prof. Yves Van de Peer, Prof. Caroline De Tender, and Prof. Dominique Adriaens), the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (Prof. Hans Nauwynck), and Antwerp University (Prof. Gudrun De Boeck). The presentations focused on showcasing existing research work performed at the two institutions, with the goal of strengthening opportunities for UMT and Ghent University to explore new research and academic collaboration in the near future. During the meeting, Prof. Dr. Yeong Yik Sung gave a detailed report on what had been done and what had changed as a result of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two universities.

Following the meeting at Ghent University, Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazlan and the UMT delegates were invited to the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences in Ghent's Sterre, where Prof. Wim Van Den Broeck, head of the Morphology, Imaging, Orthopaedics, Rehabilitation, and Nutrition Department, gave an impressive presentation about his research work on aquatic animals and cell imaging. Following that, the Vice Chancellor proceeded to the imaging lab and the natural animal science gallery. Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazlan and the UMT delegates had the pleasure of dining with the rector of Ghent University, Prof. Dr. Ir. Rik Van de Walle, in the evening. The presence of His Excellency Dato' Ahmad Rozian Abd. Ghani, Malaysian Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg, was much appreciated by the UMT delegation. Several aspects of the collaboration framework were discussed during the



implementation of the UMT-UGent Joint-PhD Degree in Biotechnology, the AQUA-H Joint-Master programme under the Erasmus Mundus initiative, student and academic mobility, and the European Union's EU-ASEAN Global Gateway project. His Excellency presented Emeritus Prof. Patrick Sorgeloos with a letter of re-appointment to the UMT's Professorial Chair of Sultan Mizan.

Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazlan and the UMT delegates attended a meeting arranged and hosted at the prestigious Royal Academy of Overseas Sciences in the Palaces of the Academies in Brussels to further strengthen UMT's research collaboration and networks. Emeritus Prof. Philippe De Maeyer presided over the discussion, which was attended by delegates from the Free University of Brussels, BELSPO Federal Science Policy, the Arctic and Antarctic Programme, and Université de Liège. The UMT delegates had the opportunity to meet with Prof. Ludwig Triest and discuss the Tropimundo Program, which is offered jointly by the Free University of Brussels and UMT and coordinated by the Institute of Oceanography (INOS) at UMT. The Vice Chancellor also talked to the coordinator of BELSPO Federal Science Policy, the Arctic and Antarctic Programme of Belgium, about how the UMT Polar Research Group could work together, especially about applying for a joint research grant and using the Princess Elizabeth Antarctica Research Station of Belgium.

Hosted by the Malaysian Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg, His Excellency Dato' Ahmad Rozian Abd. Ghani, a celebratory lunch meeting was held at the Malaysian Ambassador's Residence in Brussels. His Excellency was given a brief presentation regarding UMT's activities in Belgium as well as future programmes and strategies planned with numerous Belgian universities. Mrs. Prisheela Prakas, the Deputy Chief of Mission/Minister, and Mr. Lutfi Sheikh Ghazali, the Ambassador's First Secretary, attended the meeting. His Excellency provided the UMT delegates with valuable advice on how to collaborate with their Belgian counterparts as well as information on the status of the university-academic partnership. The Ambassador extended his offer to visit UMT on January 26th, when he returns to Malaysia for a brief visit. The official trip to Belgium concluded with visits to various universities and institutes in the Wallonia region of Belgium. The delegation left Belgium with a sense of inspiration and optimism for the future. This marks a proud and celebratory moment for UMT as they continue to forge meaningful and impactful relationships with leading academic institutions around the world.



The Ocean Girl UMT Sailing Team Ranks Third in 19th Royal Langkawi International Regatta 2023

Mohd Hafizi Bin Said, UMT Sailing Centre Muhamad Khairul Bin Zakaria, Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education







The UMT Sailing Team successfully secured third place in the 19th Royal Langkawi International Regatta Langkawi 2023 (RLIR) yacht championship series. This proud achievement was announced after the sole representative of the institution gave a fierce competition, losing by only one point to TLDM, which took second place overall.

The UMT team, which was made up of both students and staff, took a risk by having the Ocean Girl UMT students represent them. This gave their competition strategy more variety, and it paid off when they beat other teams that were mostly made up of male sailors in the "Sports Boat" class.

The leader of the UMT Sailing Team, Naila Nor Hasan, said that her team was able to compete at the 19th regatta even though they had less than a month to train.

"Even though we had less than a month of training, we are confident that we can give our best competition and bring this university's name to further heights." "Despite the fact that we are the sole representatives of IPT, we will do our best."

"Alhamdulillah, the strategy and sailing knowledge we learned successfully placed us in third position. It makes us very proud," she added.

RLIR 2023 also showcased another UMT men's team, UMT 1, led by coach and former national sailor, Ku Anas Ku Zamil.

Previously, the UMT men's sailing team won third place in the International Sailing Championship in South Korea last November, being the only representative from a public higher education institution participating in the challenge.

Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar, the Vice Chancellor of UMT, congratulated and praised the UMT sailing team for making the institution's name shine on the international stage.

The 19th Royal Langkawi International Regatta, which took place over four days and ended on January 14, 2023, gave the Royal Selangor Yacht Club sailing team another chance to show how good they are at what they do. They won this competition.



The University of Malaysia Terengganu honours the Terengganu Palace's Malay Gamelan Tradition

Muhammad Shahrul Azmi Bin Hasan, UMT Culture and Arts Centre Muhamad Khairul Bin Zakaria, Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education

The University of Malaysia Terengganu proudly pays tribute to the timeless and revered Malay Gamelan tradition of the Terengganu Palace. This art form was officially established at the palace around 1913 as a result of the historic royal wedding between Tengku Sulaiman (son of the Terengganu king) and Tengku Mariam (daughter of the Pahang king), which brought together the Terengganu and Pahang kingdoms. This union marked the beginning of a new era and the birth of a unique and distinct civilization—the Terengganu Palace's Malay Gamelan tradition.

The golden era of gamelan arts began when Sultan Sulaiman Badrul Alam Syah and Tengku Ampuan Mariam, who governed Terengganu from 1920 to 1942, were crowned Sultan and Queen of Terengganu. They were instrumental in advancing and directing the gamelan art form. Their passion and dedication, coupled with the hard work and cooperation of experienced players, led to the creation of 95 extraordinary works that are still treasured today.

The University of Malaysia Terengganu's Culture and Arts Centre, in collaboration with the Terengganu State Tourism Department and the Terengganu State Government Secretary's Office, embarked on a mission to elevate and preserve this rich cultural legacy. On December 17, 2022, they hosted the first-ever "UMT International Gamelan Symposium 2022" in the Sultan Mizan Hall, bringing together over 1,300 participants, including school students, students from public and private higher education institutions, and gamelan artists from all over the country. This included international students from UMT.

The symposium aimed to raise awareness and recognition of the Malay Gamelan tradition of the Terengganu Palace through showcasing its music, dance, and instruments. The event also aimed to promote this art form to different ethnic groups to ensure its preservation and transmission to future generations.

During the symposium, experts in the field of gamelan arts were brought together to discuss current issues, future challenges, and how to ensure the longevity of this beautiful heritage art. A diverse group of connoisseurs, including Mr. Djamal Bakir from the Indonesian Embassy, Dato' Haji Tun Ahmad Faisal Bin Tun Abd Razak (Deputy Secretary of the Terengganu State Government), YBrs. Prof. Madya Dr. Sahar Sa'di bin Hashim (Director of the Centre for Arts and Heritage, UniSZA), Mr. Haji Sulong Bin Ismail (Cultural Heritage Consultant), Ms. Farizan Binti Mohamad Razuri (Gamelan art activist in Kuala Lumpur), and Mr. Muhammad Afif Fikri (President of the Kirana Gamelan Group, UTP), shared their insights and perspectives on current issues and future challenges in preserving this precious art form. The objective was to bring the Malay Gamelan Tradition of the Terengganu Palace to the forefront and give it the recognition it deserves.



The papers presented will be compiled into a resource for future generations.

The event was graced by a special guest of honor, YBhg. To' Puan Hajah Nor Zaini Binti Abd Latiff, Chair of the Terengganu PUSPANITA, who also officiated the program. Several senior officials from UMT and the Terengganu SUK Office were also in attendance to show their support for the symposium's objectives.

The symposium was a feast for the senses, with traditional Malay Gamelan dances performed by young dancers from Tanjung Gelam National School, Kuala Nerus, and a spectacular flash mob performance featuring 50 Gamelan instruments played by both experienced and new musicians from various ethnic groups. The attendees were also encouraged to wear traditional attire, showcasing the beauty of each ethnic group's clothing, and further adding to the excitement and cultural significance of the event. Most of the guests and attendees wore traditional Malay attire, complete with sampin, headgear called tanjak, donning a traditional hairstyle known as sanggul, wearing jewellery named dokoh, and other ornaments.

Most of the attendees, including Gamelan enthusiasts and students, who were interviewed, hoped that programmes to preserve such arts and cultural heritage would be continued every year to keep it vibrant and pass it on to future generations. "Learning to play Gamelan may seem easy, but to preserve this art in the future, it is quite difficult as it requires sacrifice, resources, and support from various parties," said one of the interviewed students.

The success of the "UMT International Gamelan Symposium 2022" was a testament to the hard work, dedication, and commitment of the University of Malaysia Terengganu, the Terengganu State Tourism Department, and the Terengganu State Government Secretary's Office to preserving and promoting the Malay Gamelan Tradition of the Terengganu Palace. The presentations, discussions, and performances at the symposium will be a valuable resource for future generations and a reminder of how important it is to keep our cultural heritage alive.

In conclusion, the University of Malaysia Terengganu is proud to be a part of this inspiring and exciting endeavour, and we look forward to continued collaboration in preserving and promoting the beautiful Malay Gamelan Tradition of the Terengganu Palace for generations to come.



University of Indonesia (UI) and University Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) Collaborate on Groundbreaking "UI Create" Outbound Mobility Program in Analytical and Environmental Chemistry

Tuan Nurul Sabiqah Binti Tuan Anuar, Faculty of Science and Marine Muhamad Khairul Zakaria, Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education





The University of Indonesia (UI) has launched a revolutionary outbound mobility program for students in the Bachelor of Science (Analytical and Environmental Chemistry, KAP) program, with the invitation extended by Dr. Asep Saefumillah, the Program Leader for UI Create and Head of the Chemistry Department, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (FMIPA). In October 2022, this program was presented to the Mobility Program Coordinator of the KAP program, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sabiqah Tuan Anuar.

UI, a highly prestigious and world-renowned university located in South Jakarta, is a true gem in the Indonesian education landscape. As the number one ranked university in Indonesia and 57th in Asia according to QS rankings and named "the best university in Indonesia" by Times Higher Education 2022, UI sets a high standard for education and research.

The "UI Create" mobility program offers an exciting opportunity for eight KAP students to expand their knowledge in environmental chemistry through a blend of online coursework and in-person fieldwork. The program offers three full elective credits and provides a unique chance for students to learn from both UI and UMT lecturers via special topics and lectures in environmental chemistry (14 days) as well as fieldwork in environmental analysis. This program not only enhances the students' education but also exposes them to



the rich culture of Indonesia through a 3-day, 2-night trip to the Thousand Islands and the UI Campus. The expenses, including accommodation, transportation, food, and plane tickets, are co-sponsored by "UI Create" and the UMT International Centre, providing a hassle-free and enriching experience for the students and three accompanying lecturers.

This program is a triumph for both UI and UMT, as it promotes undergraduate outbound mobility and paves the way for academic and research collaborations with renowned international universities. The initial exchange of a Letter of Intent (LoI) between Dr. rer. nat. Bede Djuhana (Dean, FMIPA) and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Faridah Mohamad (Dean, FSSM) indicates the potential for a future Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between both universities, ultimately increasing the participation of international students in the inbound mobility program at the Faculty of Marine Sciences and Environment (FSSM), particularly in the Analytical and Environmental Chemistry program (KAP).

UMT is proud to be a part of this innovative and impactful program, and we are eager to see the positive results it brings to our students and university. Join us in celebrating this momentous collaboration between UI and UMT, a step towards creating a brighter, more knowledgeable future for all.



Rising New Stars in UMT's 2022 YOUNG-PRENEUR Business Idea and Innovation Pitching

Norlidawahi Binti Wahab, Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education Akbar Ali Abd. Kadir, Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education Muhamad Khairul Zakaria, Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education





On January 14, 2023, the University Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) proudly presented the inaugural YOUNG-PRENEUR Business Idea and Innovation Pitching Competition, hosted by the Department of Fundamental Knowledge and Entrepreneurship (JIDK), PPAL. This pioneering event aimed to uncover UMT's rising stars as well as the next generation of young entrepreneurs, showcasing the innovative and creative ideas developed by students throughout the semester. The objective was to provide a platform for UMT students to submit quality business ideas with commercial potential and to offer the chance to present their ideas with the correct techniques, thereby fostering the growth of future entrepreneurs with high potential and competitiveness. Out of the 1193 students taking MPU 3223, the best ideas and innovations were selected by a panel of lecturers representing twenty groups and later attended a one-day workshop on "How to Pitch Your Business Ideas and Innovation" on January 7, 2023. At the end of the workshop, ten teams were chosen as finalists after a highly competitive pitching process.

A very competitive spirit was shown in an assortment of UMT's programs. The faculties of Marine Science and Environment (FSSM), Business Economy and Social Development (FPEPS), and Fisheries and Food Science (FPSM) were well-represented in the final pitches, with programmes from each faculty making the cut. These included two programmes from FSSM, the Bachelor of Science (Chemical Sciences and Analytical Environmental Analysis); two programmes from FPSM, the Bachelor of Food Science (Food Technology) and the Bachelor of Food Science (Food Services and Nutrients); and four programmes from FPEPS, the Bachelor of Accounting, the Bachelor of Management (Marketing), the Bachelor of Management (Tourism), and the Bachelor of Counselling.

A panel of expert judges, including representatives from Perbadanan Usahawan Nasional Berhad (PUNB) and Yayasan Pembangunan Usahawan (YPU) Terengganu, along with the CEC's director from UMT, evaluated the young entrepreneurs' pitches and selected the top three. After a fierce competition, "GROVIE GUMMY CHEW" pitched by Nur Farahin binti Umar Faroq, representing the Bachelor of Science (Chemical Sciences and Analytical Environmental Analysis) programme at FSSM, emerged as the winner, taking home RM1,000. Second place, with a prize of RM700, went to "BEESWAX WRAP" from the Bachelor of Food Science (Food Technology) program, while third place, with a prize of RM500, was awarded to "AIR JACKET" from the Bachelor of Food Science (Food Services and Nutrients) programme at FPSM. The remaining participants were also rewarded with a consolation prize of RM200 each.

The event was a great success, with over 1,193 UMT students participating. As part of the course assignment, students set up booths to promote and sell their preferred products, with the top three sellers receiving special prizes. The standout performer was Ahmad Syukri Anas bin Samsul Kamal from the Bachelor of Management (Marketing) programme at FPEPS, who achieved the highest sales of all, amounting to RM30,330, from selling skincare products.

This is just the beginning of UMT's journey to discover and celebrate its young entrepreneurs, and the university's management is fully committed to establishing such programmes in the future. Therefore, UMT looks forward to discovering more young entrepreneurial stars in future semesters, with continued support from the university's administration. So, here's to the next generation of business leaders—the future is bright!

















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