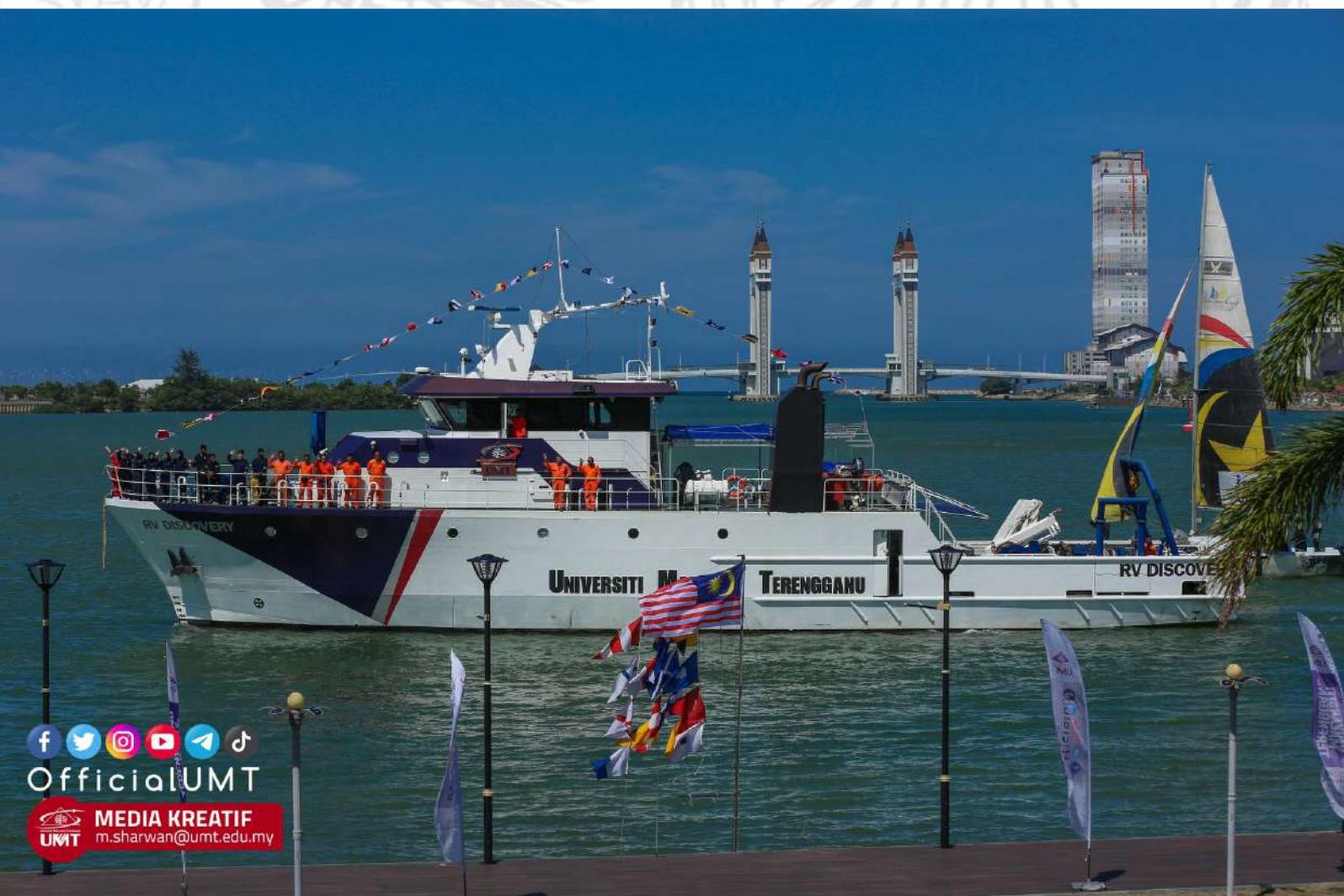


UMT NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 6, June 2023

OCEAN OF DISCOVERIES FOR GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY




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As the steward of knowledge, the mission of an educational institution extends far beyond the traditional four walls of a classroom. It is to mould students into well-rounded individuals, equipped not just with academic knowledge but with character, resilience, and a keen sense of civic duty. At Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), we believe that our strength lies in our holistic approach to education, an approach that we have spent years refining and perfecting.

The journey of learning is multi-dimensional, filled with trials, triumphs, and transformation. A pivotal aspect of this journey is participation in extracurricular activities, which form a vibrant tapestry of experiences that stretch the boundaries of conventional learning. These experiences ignite passions, unearth hidden talents, and instill invaluable skills that serve students long after they leave our campus.

Consider a sports team or a cultural event. These are not merely gatherings of like-minded individuals, but dynamic arenas that offer practical experiences that cannot be encapsulated within a traditional academic framework. It is in these settings that students learn the subtle art of teamwork, the exhilarating responsibility of leadership, the discipline of time management, and the critical skill of effective communication. The lessons learned on the playing field, stage, or in the community extend far beyond the university experience, shaping students into future leaders, innovators, and global citizens.

We understand that the rigours of university life can be taxing. Extracurricular activities provide a salve, a means to balance the stresses of academic pursuits. They nurture the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of our students, fostering a sense of belonging, camaraderie, and resilience. When students step beyond their comfort zones and immerse themselves in these activities, they encounter opportunities to build self-confidence and develop a strong sense of identity.

The spirit of volunteering imbues our students with empathy and social responsibility that extend to their wider communities. As they engage in community service projects and initiatives, they come to understand the fabric of society more deeply, realising the profound difference they can make in the world. These endeavours are not only about giving back; they also provide unique networking opportunities for forging lasting friendships and invaluable connections.

At UMT, the importance of this rounded approach to education is encapsulated in our Water Survival and Cultural Heritage course, which is mandatory for all first-year students. In this unique offering, we seek to instil water confidence, survival skills, and environmental heritage awareness among our young scholars. By doing so, we stand as a beacon of holistic education in Malaysia, emphasising that true education is about creating well-rounded individuals who can thrive in the face of any challenge.

Our commitment to fostering an environment that encourages all aspects of student growth is unwavering. At UMT, we are not merely imparting knowledge; we are shaping the leaders of tomorrow. And in every student who graduates from our institution, we see the reflection of our steadfast dedication to this mission. Here is to a future filled with boundless potential, illuminated by the rich experiences and invaluable lessons learned within our hallowed halls. We strive to be a nurturing garden where our students, like young saplings, can grow, spread their roots, and flourish into well-rounded individuals ready to face the world. Our goal is not just to educate but to inspire, and in every student that walks our corridors, we see a promise of that inspiration.

Professor Dr. Fauziah Hj. Abu Hasan

Executive Editor

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From Classroom to Coastline: UMT Leads the Way in Maritime Research and Training

Rozita bt Alias @ Abdul Latiff, Corporate Communication Office
 Muhamad Khairul bin Zakaria, Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education

In the resplendent coastal town of Kuala Nerus on this radiant day of May 14, the University Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) stood bathed in pride as His Royal Highness the Sultan of Terengganu bestowed his grace upon the inaugural ceremony of UMT's Sailing Training Centre (PLP). In the same joyous momentum, the Sultan launched the groundbreaking Marine Scientific Expedition aligned with the illustrious LIMA '23 at the serene Duyong Marina Resort.

Basking in the glow of this achievement, the PLP stands as a lighthouse for the maritime world, bolstering the creation of ingenious modules, resourceful reference materials, and comprehensive maritime-related studies. Through its foundations, community empowerment initiatives take flight, fostering valuable courses and knowledge transfer programmes that uplift the minds of aspiring students and eager communities.

A testament to UMT's commitment to the enrichment of local wisdom, PLP pays homage to regional expertise by integrating experienced individuals steeped in maritime knowledge. The shared expertise, encompassing maritime skills and the time-honoured art of building model ships, aims to enhance the UMT-driven sailing sports model while simultaneously reigniting the flame of a tradition that generations have lovingly nurtured: sailing.

The establishment of the PLP, while striking a chord with sports enthusiasts, illuminates the potential career pathways derived from mastering sailing skills, such as helming the role of a ship captain or navigating the intricacies of marina operations.

Marking an epoch in maritime research, His Royal Highness also inaugurated the Marine Scientific Expedition in alliance with LIMA '23, using the state-of-the-art Research Vessel Discovery, an embodiment of UMT's unwavering dedication to oceanographic and marine science research.

Professor Dato` Dr. Mazlan Bin Abd Ghaffar, the esteemed Vice Chancellor of UMT, eloquently highlighted that this pioneering expedition, commencing from Jeti Pulau Duyong to Port Klang, would explore numerous locations dotting the historic Strait of Malacca. This expedition will then gracefully sail to Langkawi, joining hands with the LIMA 2023 programme.

This expedition symbolises the fruit of diligent collaboration between UMT's adept researchers and The Institute of Ocean and Earth Sciences (IOES), University of Malaya, weaving together the intellectual prowess of eight dedicated researchers from multifarious branches of oceanography.

UMT takes immense pride in revealing the inspiring figure at the helm of this expedition, Dr. Nur Hidayah binti Roseli. As the Head of Research (Physical Oceanography) from the Faculty of Marine Science and Environment at UMT, Dr. Nur



Hidayah stands as a beacon of female leadership in science.

This monumental study will navigate 19 meticulously chosen sampling locations along the Strait of Malacca, initiating its first sampling at Port Klang, Selangor. This study embarks on a mission to explore the undercurrents of the sea, its fluctuating temperatures, and the ever-changing levels of sea salinity.

Beyond the horizon, the expedition also envisages comprehensive studies on sea productivity, nutrients, heavy metals in sediments, and the myriad marine life flourishing in the Strait of Malacca.

As a testament to UMT's relentless pursuit of knowledge, the research is under the aegis of the Long-Term Research Grant (LRGS) from the Ministry of Higher Education (KPT) under the Climate Change and Environment cluster. The study embraces the multifaceted world of Physical Oceanography, Biological Oceanography, Chemical Oceanography, and Geological Oceanography.

The manifestation of UMT's innovative strides and the symbiotic cooperation extended by the Terengganu State Government signifies an undying commitment from both entities. This united front propels the continuous preservation of these vital initiatives, demonstrating an inspiring example of collective perseverance.

UMT harbours the optimistic hope that this Marine Scientific Expedition will unearth an array of detailed research findings, ready to grace national and international journal publications. The knowledge gleaned from this expedition aims to aid the country, and specifically the Terengganu State Government, in disseminating pertinent information regarding the current scientific landscape of oceanographic research.

Ultimately, UMT envisions the light of this knowledge reaching the corners of the community, empowering the lives of the local fishing community, and enhancing the wellbeing of the coastal inhabitants. Today, UMT stands proud, not just as a beacon of education and research but as a catalyst for change and an architect of a brighter future.

UMT's Trailblazing Trio Triumph in Romanian Academic Venture

Rohaida Awang, Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology and Informatics
 Muhamad Khairul bin Zakaria, Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education

In a period teeming with innovation and interconnectivity, the University Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) celebrated an educational milestone from May 9 to May 16, 2023. Our prodigious Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology and Informatics (FTKKI) spearheaded the active participation of three exceptional undergraduate students in the prestigious UniGO Global Outreach programme held at the historic "Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University in Iasi, Romania.

The event was a triumphant collaboration with the University of Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP), marking the third episode of our series of international mobility initiatives designed to catalyse intellectual growth and global exposure. The participation of UMT in this venture underscores our commitment to fostering an international academic community, and we're indeed proud to represent Malaysia on such a grand platform.

Our triumvirate of intellectual explorers—Goay Teoh Shu Yee, Chan Jack Lee, and Muhammad Syahmi b. Mohd Pakri—took full advantage of this golden opportunity. As ambassadors of UMT, they engaged in a week-long exploration of ideas, cultures, and academic discourse, demonstrating both the breadth of their knowledge and the depth of their adaptability.

This immersive programme, coordinated meticulously by PM Ts. Dr. Salisa Abd Rahman, was part of the accredited international student mobility scheme for the elective course, International Mobility I. The International Centre endorsed our mission, graciously providing financial support for airfare, thus enabling our students to share the stage with Romania's finest academic minds.

Beyond the walls of academia, our students also delved into Romania's cultural heritage, marvelling at the coexistence of historic artefacts and modern advancements, fostering a better appreciation of global diversity. The highlight, however, was their remarkable participation in the high-stakes innovation competition, a forum that allowed them to demonstrate their research prowess and creative acumen.

The spirit of UMT reverberated as our students presented their avant-garde projects, receiving applause and recognition, a testament to their hard work and resilience. Muhammad Syahmi's "Driving Cycle Tracking Device (DC-TRAD)" was awarded a Silver Medal and an Excellent Award. Chan Jack Lee's innovative approach to waste management using moderate-temperature pyrolysis brought home a Gold Medal and a Special Award. Meanwhile, Goay Teoh Shu Yee's impactful research on wastewater treatment using a novel hybrid coagulant was honoured with a Silver Medal.



This enriching experience abroad not only bolstered our students' self-confidence and communication skills but also opened their eyes to the expansive world beyond our shores. This not only impacts their individual growth but also enhances UMT's global presence, inspiring more students to partake in future outbound programmes and thereby contributing to the upward trajectory of UMT's academic and institutional KPIs.

The invaluable lessons learned, the experiences gained, and the friendships forged during this week in Romania have broadened our students' horizons. These future leaders of UMT, armed with enhanced communication skills and a globally conscious mindset, now stand poised to carve their unique paths.

This successful venture embodies UMT's vision of fostering a community of confident, innovative, and internationally recognised scholars. We laud their achievements, which underscore UMT's commitment to providing a platform for students to achieve academic excellence on a global scale. As we look to the future with optimism and determination, we continue to echo our warm congratulations to these pioneers of UMT. Their achievements inspire us all; they are a testament to the transformative power of international education.

UMT & Department of Fisheries: Making Waves in Global Aquaculture

Prof. Dr. Yeong Yik Sung, Institute of Marine Biotechnology

The University Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) and the Department of Fisheries Malaysia are joining forces and stepping onto the global stage at the upcoming FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Subcommittee on Aquaculture in Sonora, Mexico, from May 16th through the 19th.

On May 5th, 2023, the Vice-Chancellor of UMT, Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd. Ghaffar, was warmly welcomed by the Director General of Fisheries Malaysia, YBhg. Dato' Adnan bin Hussain, at the nerve centre of the nation's fisheries operations. Their rendezvous was more than mere ceremony; it was a strategic dialogue aimed at advancing mutual interests and establishing a framework for future collaboration between UMT and the Department of Fisheries Malaysia.

At the heart of the discussion was UMT's pivotal role in the FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Subcommittee on Aquaculture, a significant global platform for discussion. Moreover, the discourse revolved around the forging of a strategic alliance between UMT and the Department of Fisheries Malaysia in a translational project that bridges fisheries and aquaculture research to industry, strengthening Malaysia's position in these sectors. They also broached the present state of their joint venture, focusing on the Centre of Excellence (CoE).

UMT proudly showcased its achievement in the large-scale production of the brine shrimp *Artemia*, realised in collaboration with industry partners in Johor. This initiative is part of UMT's unwavering commitment to addressing food security for fisheries and aquatic resources, a step that will ultimately streamline production costs and lower the price point of national food products.

The Vice Chancellor stressed the need for a symbiotic relationship between UMT and the Department of Fisheries Malaysia, particularly in the realm of community development programmes for coastal inhabitants and experiential learning opportunities for UMT students.

The upshot of the meeting was a sense of optimism for the future of fisheries in Malaysia. Both parties recognised the importance of sustainable, dynamic, and competitive strategies for the modernization and management of the national fisheries sector.

On May 16–19, Malaysia will be represented by Prof. Dr. Yeong Yik Sung at the COFI Subcommittee on Aquaculture in Mexico. Accompanying him will be Dato' Haji Azahari Othman, the Senior Director of the Aquaculture Division of the Department of Fisheries of Malaysia.



As the Chair of the Steering Committee, Prof. Dr. Yeong Yik Sung will have the opportunity to put forth the recommendations of the International Artemia Aquaculture Consortium (IAAC) to the members of the FAO. The world will listen as Prof. Dr. Yeong presents the results of our Artemia Translational Project, effectively putting UMT on the global map. This prestigious platform will witness the triumphs of UMT and the Department of Fisheries Malaysia as they collectively raise the bar for global aquaculture.

Immersive Education: UMT's Unique Voyage into Water Safety and Survival

Tuan Ahmad Marwan Tuan Rosdi, Center for Foundation and Continuing Education
Muhamad Khairul bin Zakaria, Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education

At the heart of a freshwater lake within the wild majesty of Terengganu, a triumph of innovative education is unfolding. It is a testament to the power of immersion and experiential learning, as conducted by the University Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), celebrated for its vibrant approach to teaching. This bold educational endeavour, the Water Safety and Survival Programme (SKA 2023), serves as an instrumental part of the U3 General Studies course, - Appreciation of Nature and Marine Heritage, shining a beacon of excellence in learning beyond the traditional classroom.

Once known as Sea Survival, the SKA 2023 has found a new home in the aquatic tranquilly of Lake Kenyir. The shift from sea to freshwater venues signifies not merely a change of scenery but also a daring stride towards adaptability and innovation, qualities that UMT holds in high esteem.

The SKA 2023 has sparked an unprecedented and fruitful collaboration with the Malaysian Fire and Rescue Department (JBPM). Led by the indomitable spirit of Assistant Fire Marshal Musataf bin Ismail, this partnership has fostered an environment of resilience, teamwork, and dedication. Additionally, the expertise of the Malaysian Armed Forces, especially the UMT's Ground Forces Officer Training Unit, provides students with a taste of survival skills like jungle cooking, fostering a comprehensive understanding of survival and nature appreciation.

The SKA 2023 programme, championed by the tireless dedication of the Dean of PPAL, Prof. Dr. Asyraf Hj Abd Rahman, and his team, will extend its transformative influence over students until its 23rd session ends on June 11, 2023. This ambitious programme serves as a beacon of UMT's steadfast commitment to integrating soft skills within the academic curriculum.

Commendably, numerous faculties and departments within UMT have collectively contributed towards the realisation of SKA 2023. Their altruistic efforts, be it through lending staff, supplying equipment, providing facilities, or countless other forms of assistance, have been pivotal in making this annual programme a shining success.

The grand inauguration of SKA 2023 took place on the morning of May 28, 2023, at SPAK UMT. The event, presided over by Prof. TS Mohd Zamri Ibrahim, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and International) of UMT, was a tribute to the joint effort of the community surrounding SPAK UMT at Lake Kenyir and was graced by the presence of the Village Chief of Kenyir, Mr. Khairul. This harmonious union of academia, public service, and the local community at the launch event encapsulates the enduring spirit of collective progress and empowerment.



UMT's commitment to offering uniquely immersive courses reflects its understanding of the multifaceted development necessary for its students to excel in a rapidly evolving global landscape. The Sea Survival and Heritage Appreciation Programme, embedded within the Sea and Natural Heritage Appreciation Course (MPU3312), is testament to this vision. The programme has now been adapted to the new surroundings of Lake Kenyir due to coastal development projects at the UMT Mengabang area, exhibiting UMT's dedication to safety and innovative problem-solving.

Indeed, the SKA 2023 is a distinctive experience, exclusive to UMT students. It serves as an academic adventure, augmenting textbook knowledge with real-world survival skills, developing a profound appreciation for nature and heritage, and reinforcing the soft skills necessary for a well-rounded professional life. It is an adventure that, once undertaken, not only enriches the students' university life but continues to pay dividends long after their graduation.

This innovative blend of academia and experiential learning makes UMT a beacon of pioneering education, redefining the boundaries of traditional classroom instruction. Its commitment to imparting practical skills along with theoretical knowledge equips its graduates with an irreplaceable toolkit to navigate and thrive in the world. UMT remains an institution that empowers students to chart their own course towards success, bolstered by the resilience, adaptability, and appreciation fostered in programmes such as the SKA 2023.

UMT and Heriot-Watt: Charting a Course for a New Era in Marine Conservation Education

Dr. Siti Nurtaahirah Jaafar, Faculty of Marine Science

As the sun sets on another successful year of our trailblazing five-year mobility programme, University Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) and Scotland's Heriot-Watt University jointly celebrate an accomplishment that unites us both: the 'Tropical Coral Reefs: Monitoring and Management' initiative. Now in its fifth year, the programme has seen an invigorating surge in participation from our partners at Heriot-Watt.

In 2023, we welcomed an illustrious delegation of five academic staff members from Heriot-Watt, including Emeritus Prof. James Mair, Prof. William Sanderson, Associate Prof. Dr. Mark Hartl, Prof. Dr. Joanne Porter, and Dr. Karen Anne Alexander, as well as an enthusiastic group of 26 students accompanied by two facilitators. From April 29th to May 19th, 2023, the synergy between our two esteemed institutions illuminated our campuses and research stations, creating an atmosphere ripe for learning and exploration.

Our academic kinship with Heriot-Watt University is not simply the product of chance; it is the result of years of concerted efforts, reciprocal respect, and shared vision. This enduring alliance has further enriched our shared academic culture and practises and catapulted both institutions into greater spheres of influence and recognition.

The cornerstone of this partnership is our annual joint course, 'Tropical Reefs Monitoring and Management'. With a theoretical grounding provided on the hallowed grounds of the Heriot-Watt University campus, students then voyage to UMT's world-renowned research stations, including Pulau Bidong Marine Research Station and our field bases at Pulau Redang, Kenyir Lake, and Setiu Wetlands, for hands-on training. Here, they dive headfirst into the heart of our marine heritage, learning the nuances of monitoring and managing the world's precious coral reefs.

The course equips students with skills to identify various threats to fragile coral ecosystems, and this year, we introduced drone mapping techniques to further enhance their toolkit. Students practise a myriad of coral reef survey methods, engage in visual surveys, and learn to identify marine lifeforms. They also have the remarkable opportunity to contribute to coral restoration efforts, instilling a profound sense of environmental stewardship.

This extraordinary synergy between UMT and Heriot-Watt University has yielded immense benefits for all participants. Heriot-Watt students get to experience the thrill of hands-on marine research in a unique setting, and UMT basks in the glow of increased international visibility. The exchange of knowledge, skills, and camaraderie fostered by this programme hints at the even more profound potential of future collaborations between our institutions.



In conclusion, the cooperative strategy exemplified by the 'Tropical Coral Reefs: Monitoring and Management' programme proves that when we embrace diversity in education and promote global inter-campus initiatives, everyone wins. It's a testament to our shared commitment towards fostering a vibrant, enriching, and globally connected learning environment, and we cannot wait to see what the next five years will bring.



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10 – 12 September 2023

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Hybrid (physical and virtual)

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- Conservation and management
- Urban and man-made ecosystem
- Green and sustainable development
- Biodiversity outreach, education and policy
- Fundamental sciences
- Technology application and advances in biodiversity studies

IMPORTANT DATE

Abstract submission : 01 February-31 July 2023
 Early bird date : 01 February-31 May 2023
 Normal date : 01 June-31 July 2023

Conference Fee

Presenter/Participant	Virtual *		Physical	
	Early bird	Normal rate	Early bird	Normal rate
Local Student	RM200	RM300	RM350	RM450
Local Researcher	RM350	RM450	RM500	RM600
International Student	USD100	USD200	USD200	USD300
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* Limited number of participants. Registration will be on first come, first serve basis.

Publications

- Selected papers will be considered for publication in reputable journals indexed by ISI WOS or Scopus.



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IMPORTANT DATES:

Abstract Deadline	:15 July 2023
Abstract Acceptance Notification	:15 August 2023
Full Paper Deadline	:15 September 2023
Camera-ready Paper Deadline	:31 October 2023
Conference Date	:14-15 November 2023

CONFERENCE FEE:

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INTERNATIONAL	USD200	INTERNATIONAL	USD50	INTERNATIONAL	USD150
STUDENT (LOCAL)	RM300	STUDENT (LOCAL)	RM50	STUDENT (LOCAL)	RM150
STUDENT (INTERNATIONAL)	USD 150	STUDENT (INTERNATIONAL)	USD 25	STUDENT (INTERNATIONAL)	USD100

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