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Mohd Sharwan Åbd Ghani Mohd Shukry Tahar Nur Hafiza Ellias Tg. Iskandar Zulfahmi Tg. Mohamad As we stepped into the dawn of the new year, our Vice-Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar has once again set the tone of unwavering commitment and aspiration. In February, the Vice-Chancellor addressed the UMT community, urging each of us to renew our dedication to propel UMT to greater heights as a distinguished institution of higher learning.

Under the resonant theme of "Uplifting Civilizational Aspirations, Leading Globalization," the 2024 mandate emphasizes five pivotal areas of focus. These encompass the Preparation of the Nation's Best Talents, Strengthening of Research and Innovation Ecosystem, Implementation of New Approaches to Knowledge Transfer and Sharing Programmes, Internationalization of Higher Education, and Strengthening of Enabler Ecosystem. These strategic pillars are poised to fortify UMT's position both nationally and internationally, solidifying our presence among top-tier universities.



The strides and achievements of UMT are the testament to the collective efforts of UMT team, academic and non-academic, in charting the course for excellence, particularly in the realm of Marine Science and Aquatic Resources. Our university stands not only as a hub for knowledge acquisition but also as a beacon of service and contribution to the community, fostering meaningful engagement with our local surroundings.

In an era where quality surpasses quantity, every programme and activity undertaken at UMT must be guided by a 'soul set changing' philosophy. This reformative approach seeks to instill positive practices among our staff and students, cultivating a profound understanding of their roles and responsibilities in the learning process. Empowering talents among our staff and students is anchored in our core values, culture, and the unique identity that is Malaysian, driven by a civilizational spirit shaping the nation's present and future.

As we embark on this journey into 2024, let the Vice-Chancellor's aspirations serve as a guiding principle for all members of the UMT community. May it inspire us to navigate the path of excellence with renewed vigour, fortifying our commitment to academic distinction and global impact throughout the coming year.

**Zukiferee bin Ibrahim** 

**Executive Editor** 

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## UMT Vice Chancellor Delivers Mandate for 2024

Mohd Ihwan Zakariah & Norul Aina Amirah Abd Rahman, Office of the Vice Chancellor

UMT Vice Chancellor Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar has recently delivered his mandate for 2024. The meaningful event in February took place at Sultan Mizan Hall and was also broadcasted live on UMT Facebook and YouTube.

This year's mandate, themed "Uplifting Civilizational Aspirations, Leading Globalisation," coincides with the 5th UMT Strategic Plan (2023 – 2027) and aligns with the aspirations and vision of the Ministry of Higher Education, said Prof. Mazlan.



Prof. Mazlan has outlined five main focuses for the year 2024. These are preparation of the nation's best staff and student talents, strengthening of the research and innovation ecosystem, implementation of new approaches to knowledge transfer and sharing programmes, internationalization of higher education, and solidification of the enabler ecosystem.

To achieve the five focuses, Prof. Mazlan has listed 20 programmes that have been designed and will be implemented this year. Eight of the programmes are for the first focus, and these are strengthening of the excellence of UMT staff, strengthening of moral values of UMT staff, student empowerment, sailing for all, awareness of welfare, student accommodation and welfare index, establishment of meaningful collaborations with the industry, and empowerment of alumni and giving back.

Three programmes are for the second focus, and these will be implemented to increase UMT's achievements and recognitions in its niche area at the global level; increase the quality of researchers, research, and innovation; and increase commercialization and consultation.

Another three programmes will be implemented to achieve the third focus, and these involve transfer and sharing of knowledge, social responsibility programmes, and strengthening of industrial networks.

In order to further strengthen UMT's excellence in 2024, three more programmes will be implemented to achieve the fourth focus. These are internationalization of quality academic programmes, empowerment of flexible



education, and adoption of approaches that will make teaching and learning fun again.

Three of the planned programmes will be carried out to meet the last focus, which is strengthening of the enabler ecosystem. These programmes are intended to create efficient and user-friendly systems; promote digital-friendly work culture; and bridge the digital divide.

Prof. Mazlan reiterated that his mandate aligns with the vision and mission of Higher Education Minister and with the 5th UMT Strategic Plan (2023 – 2027). The programmes and initiatives mentioned in his mandate also form part of the initiatives included in the university's latest strategic plan.

Prof. Mazlan said efforts and cooperation from UMT staff are required if UMT is to achieve the five focuses for 2024 and subsequently attain further excellence at the national and global levels.



# UMT Sets up Halal Innovative Product Hub to Help SME Entrepreneurs Generate Income

Amirul Salam, Corporate Communication Office



UMT has set up the Innovative Food Processing Centre that has the resources to produce a variety of quality and Halal innovative food products.

The centre, established in collaboration with Terengganu Entrepreneur Development Foundation (YPUT), aims to assist food-based entrepreneurs in introducing new food products. Some of the products successfully introduced to date include meat lasagna, Terengganu sweet melon juice, and MMT ice cream.

In addition to producing the latest food products, the centre also plays the role of a host to the Food Product Manufacturing Training programme that aims to make more entrepreneurs out of youths, students, and the local communities.

UMT Vice Chancellor Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar said the centre has the resources to provide facilities and training to entrepreneurs to enable them to expand their businesses possibly through new products, with help from UMT's experts.

"The food processing centre is expected to create a variety of Halal, innovative, quality food products," said Prof. Mazlan in his speech during the centre's opening ceremony. The centre is owned by UMT's startup company Honey Melon World Sdn. Bhd.

He said UMT is always willing to help the communities through its knowledge transfer programmes and its expertise in entrepreneurship and research-based innovative product commercialisation.

He added the centre will create new employment opportunities to the local community and boost the economic activities around Manir, in addition to greatly benefiting the SME entrepreneurs.

"The shared commitment between Terengganu Entrepreneur Development Foundation (YPUT) and UMT's startup company will lead to many successes and enable the challenges to be overcome in achieving the goal for the local community's benefits."

UMT researchers have successfully created new food products, such as meat lasagna, sweet melon juice, and sweet melon ice-cream, due to continuous cooperation from YPUT.

Present to witness the opening ceremony was Puan Afnida Aini Alwi, YPUT Chief Executive Officer.

Also in attendance were principal and senior officers of UMT and senior officers of YPUT.



# UMT, Shin Yang Sign MOU to Collaborate on Enhancing Talents in Maritime Field

Muhd Nurazuar Mohammad Razmi, Centre for Knowledge Transfer, Industry & Community Linkages





Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Shin Yang Group Berhad (SYGB), a leading shipping and shipbuilding operator in Malaysia. Both parties will collaborate to enhance students' talents and human capital needed by the industries and strengthen research in the field of shipbuilding and ship repairs.

UMT Vice Chancellor Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar said the collaboration with SYGB is a golden opportunity that should be utilized to the fullest.

The collaboration between UMT and SYGB is not only for academicpurposes but also for research and development purposes, including joint grant applications, co-writing of articles, and joint development of analysis methods for the benefits of both parties.

He said that UMT pays particular attention to the student enhancement aspect so that it can produce graduates that can meet the industries' needs.



The planned programmes will equip the students with academic knowledge and information related to the shipbuilding and ship repair, shipping, logistics industries. These graduates will in turn contribute towards the development of the industries and the country.

SYGB Chief Executive Officer Captain Ting Hien Liong said the established collaboration will provide a big impact not only to UMT and SYGB talents but also to research outcomes, which will ultimately benefit the field of shipbuilding and the ecosystem of the surrounding communities.

Among other plans included in the signed MOU are the placement of UMT students at companies under SYGB for their industrial training, attachment programmes for SYGB staff that allow them to be at UMT as students and for UMT staff that allow them to work at SYGB for a certain duration, consultation projects in the maritime field, sharing of knowledge and expertise between the two entities, and involvement in university-corporate social responsibility programmes.



# UMT Researcher's Project Culminates in Augmented Reality Golden Quran

Amirul Salam, Corporate Communication Office



The beauty of the decade-old Terengganu Quran manuscript may now be fully experienced through a digital platform.

The fine workmanship of Islam's holy book may be seen in augmented reality (AR) form at My5G Experience Portal in Kuala Lumpur.

The AR version of the Terengganu Quran manuscript is the product of a research project by UMT researcher Dr. Riswadi Azmi. It has been developed in collaboration with Digital Nasional Berhad (DNB) and telecommunication company Ericsson.

"The original manuscript, which has been recognized as the most beautiful in Southeast Asia due to its beautiful colour and the use of gold for illumination and calligraphy, is currently kept at the museum," said Dr. Riswadi, who is also the director of UMT Sultan Mahmud Islamic Centre.

He said the original manuscript must be kept and treated well to preserve its quality.

"Usually it is not allowed to be touched as that will damage the physical form of this valuable artifact.

"Developing the digital manuscript using augmented reality enables the valuable asset to be referred to, experienced, and used for other purposes without damaging the original manuscript," he said.

Dr Riswaid said the idea came when he was attending the CEO@Faculty Programme, an initiative from Higher Education Ministry, at Ericsson.

"The programme gathered CEOs and local and international industry players to share their expertise and experience to UMT staff and students and provided opportunities to academic staff to undergo industry attachment programmes.



The ARTerengganu Quran manuscript is placed on My5G Portal at Exchange 106 Tower, Tun Razak Exchange (TRX), to showcase the technological ability to process old data into digital formats to visitors.

"Digitalization is about efficiency, accessibility, and innovation. Its use enables faster communication, wider access to information, and extraordinary technological development.

Meanwhile, Ericsson Malaysia President David Hägerbro said manuscript digitalization is an ideal method for displaying and preserving artistic pieces from earlier times.

"The fine calligraphy and embellishments created by earlier artists may be digitalized using the current technology to enable the present generation to access and admire past works and anticipate the future.

UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar has expressed his support for the country's effort to have the Terengganu Quran manuscript recognized as part of UNESCO's Memory of the World.

"UMT has drafted various initiatives in the fields of education, preservation, and digitalization to preserve and promote the heritage at the global level."

"We welcome other agencies to join us as collaborative partners and their names will be included in the UNESCO's heritage preservation report," Professor Mazlan said.

The My5G Portal gallery highlights various initiatives related to 5G development in Malaysia, including education, security, sports, and health.

According to DNB Chief Strategic Officer Datuk Ahmad Zaki Zahid, DNB fully supports any initiative to ensure that Malaysia's digital vision will be achieved and this heritage digitalization will contribute towards the preservation of the nation's treasures.



# Dikir Barat Therapy Helps Special Education Students

Rozita Alias@Abdul Latiff, Corporate Communication Office

A unique workshop organized by UMT in collaboration with Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO has successfully concluded.

The *Dikir Barat* Therapy Workshop that started in August 2023 and was specially held for special education students came to a close at the end of January this year.

Dikir Barat is a Malay traditional performance that not only serves to entertain but also give advice and lessons to the audience.

The special education students, aged between 14 and 18, are from Mengabang Telipot Secondary School. These are students who have been diagnosed with mental disability, learning difficulty, emotional and behavioural disturbances, communicative disturbances, hearing loss, vision loss or low vision, physical handicap, and gifted and talented traits.

The main objective of the unique workshop was to provide self therapy to the participants, said project leader Dr. Azlina Musa. The workshop also aimed to equip the students with the theories and praticals of *Dikir Barat* so that they may further develop their talents.

In addition, she said the workshop sought to instill confidence in the students so that they will not have low self-esteem when interacting with society.

"The workshop aligned with SDG3: Good Health and Well-being, which is to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, and SDG4: Quality Education, which is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportuniteis for all," Dr. Azlina said.

Muhammad Rafie Rosli, 18, said he was grateful that UMT and the school gave students like him the opportunities to participate in the workshop. Muhammad Rafie has been diagnosed with communicative (speech and language) problems, and emotional and behavioural disturbances. During the workshop, he was assigned to be a lead singer.

He added that the workshop allowed him and his friends to discover their talents and also release their stress. He hoped UMT will host other activities that involve people of their kind.

A total of 20 students attended the workshop, with four teachers from SMK Kompleks Mengabang Telipot accompanying them. The workshop was led by Dr. Azlina.







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## **JOURNAL OF MARITIME LOGISTICS**



Is an open-access journal and peer-reviewed journal that provides the results of the latest research and analysis on the foreland, seaports and hinterland. It also explores several substantial areas including logistics, policy, operation, logistics, management and navigation-related to three main agenda: Ocean activities, seaports and hinterland.

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#### INDEXING

- MYCITE
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- SCOPUS (Q3)
- SCIMAGO
- ASEAN CITATION INDEX
- CHEMICAL ABSTRACT
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