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Ocean of Discoveries for Global Sustainability



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Executive Editor

Zukiferee bin Ibrahim

Content Advisors

Wan Zulkifli Wan Kassim
Dr. Mohd Ihwan Zakariah
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 Elias
Tg. Iskandar Zulfahmi Tg. Mohamad

Corporate Communications Office

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu
email : pro@umt.edu.my

The initiative to elevate Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) to the global arena requires continuous and concerted effort. UMT's commitment to supporting the national higher education agenda of 'global prominence' remains a priority, in alignment with the Malaysia Education Blueprint (2015-2025). Recently, to enhance its standing as a world-class university, UMT signed a Memorandum of Understanding with University College London. This landmark event was personally witnessed by the Minister of Higher Education, YB Dato' Seri Diraja Dr. Zambry Abdul Kadir.

Simultaneously, we take great pride in recognizing the significant contributions of these internationalization efforts to UMT's latest achievement in the Times Higher Education (THE) World Rankings (ASIA). UMT is now ranked within the 301-350 range, marking a substantial improvement from its 2023 position of 401-500. This accomplishment underscores the collective excellence of our university community, which has consistently collaborated to advance UMT's success.

Additionally, a cohort of UMT students has gained international distinction by being selected to represent Malaysia in an international sailing competition in Italy. YB Datuk Mustapha Sakmud, the Deputy Minister of Higher Education, expressed his pride in the achievements of UMT students on the global stage, particularly in sports that align with UMT's strategic niche areas.

These successes would not have been possible without the unwavering commitment and dedication of the entire UMT community, including staff and students. We firmly believe that pursuing excellence is a continuous journey with no ultimate destination. Congratulations to all!



Zukiferee bin Ibrahim
Executive Editor

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Breaking Borders: UMT Journeys Towards International Recognition

Prof. Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Office,
Dr. Mohd Ihwan Zakariah, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ikhwanuddin Abdullah,
Prof. Dr. Meisam Tabatabaei, Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries (AKUATROP)



A UMT delegation accompanied Malaysian Minister of Higher Education on his trip to the United Kingdom from 18 – 24 May.

The delegation led by Acting Vice Chancellor Professor Ts. Dr. Mohamed Zamri Ibrahim travelled with Dato' Seri Diraja Dr. Zambray Abdul Kadir to the country in conjunction with the Education World Forum 2024.

Along with attending the forum, UMT delegation was also involved in several other activities.

The delegation first paid a working visit to Cambridge University's Jeffrey Cheah Biomedical Centre and then met with UMT's staff on study leave in the UK.

The delegation also took part in the discussion regarding the United Kingdom – Malaysia University Consortium, UKMUC.

The delegation and Dato' Seri Diraja Dr. Zambray then paid an official visit to the British Library. They were welcomed by Dato' Annabel Gallop, Head of the Southeast Asia division, and Marcie Hopkins, Director of the British Library's International Office.

The official visit was aimed at helping UMT further its Islamic and Malay civilization research. The Terengganu Al-Quran manuscript's legacy will be promoted globally through activities in education, conservation, and digitalization, while ongoing preservation work will be reinforced.

Part of the visit involved a signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UMT, University College Lond, and The Lancet Countdown. The signing took place at the Malaysian High Commission in London and was witnessed by Dato' Seri Diraja Dr. Zambray.

The MOU was signed to strengthen research collaborations in the field of climate change focussing on UMT's niche areas, facilitate exchanges of researchers and students, and enable joint grant applications.

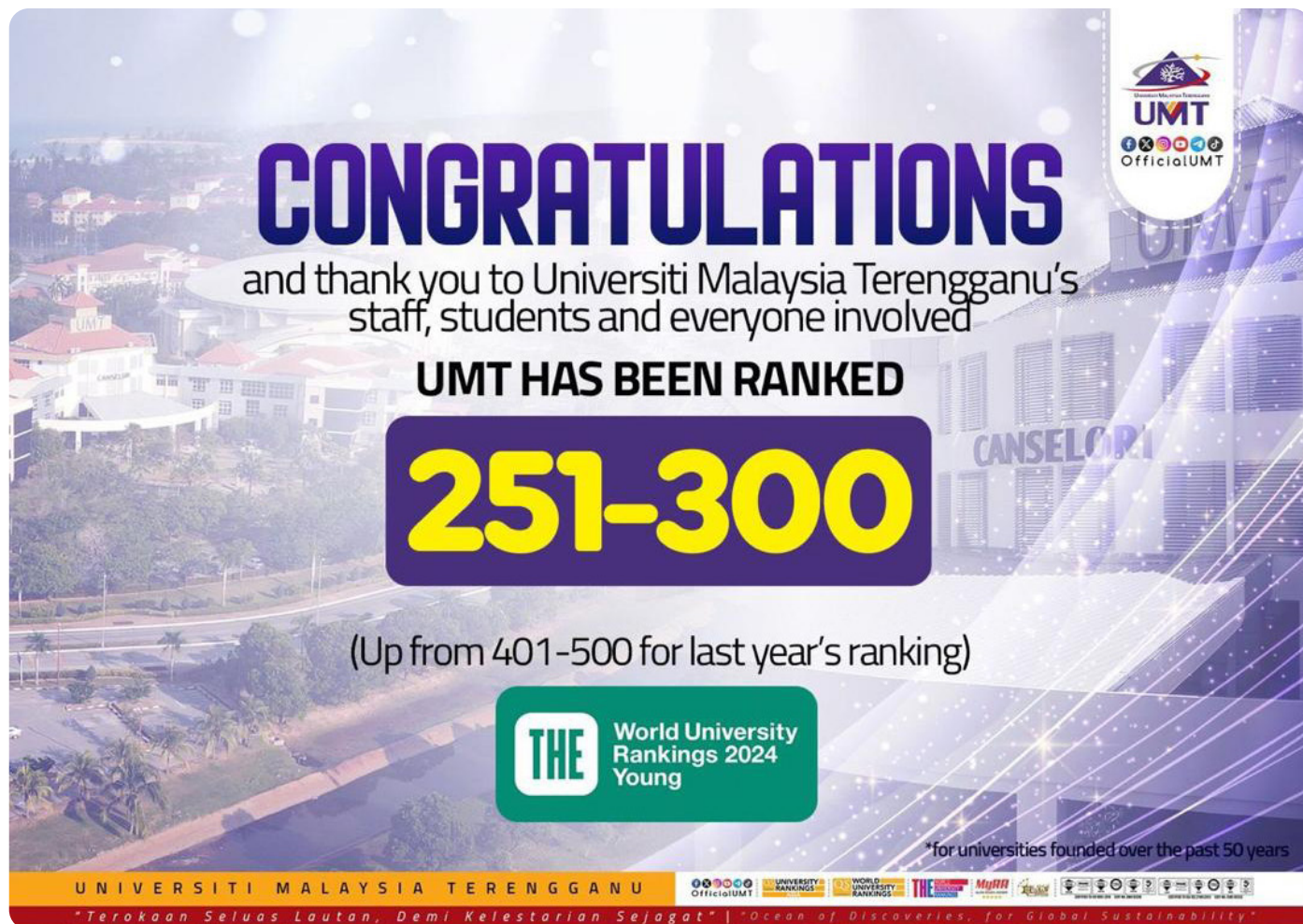
UMT's involvement in the Lancet Countdown through its Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries (AKUATROP) has had a positive effect on the university. Networks have been established and there have been several opportunities for research collaborations between UMT and other research agencies and institutions worldwide especially on the topic of climate change and its effects on aquaculture.

Also, thanks to the strategic collaboration between UMT and The Lancet Countdown, Malaysia has been effectively positioned as the only nation representing the ASEAN area in a worldwide endeavour to address concerns related to health challenges and climate change.

Other UMT delegates were Professor Dr. Muhammad Salmi Mohd Sohod, Chairman of the Board of Directors of UMT; Professor Dr. Muhammad Ikhwanuddin Abdullah, Director of AKUATROP; and Professor Dr. Meisam Tabatabaei, researcher from AKUATROP.

UMT Improves Its Position in Latest World's Best University Rankings

Norhayana Jusoh, Office of Transformation, Strategic and Risk Management



UMT has vastly improved its position in the Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2024 that has been published recently when it is ranked higher than previously.

The university is now listed in the 251 – 300 group, a remarkable jump from the 401 – 500 group it was listed in the previous year.

The Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2024 has ranked more than 673 universities from around the world.

The latest achievement has made UMT the seventh best university in Malaysia at present, a move up from the eleventh best previously. Among the country's public universities, UMT has been named the fourth best.

Professor Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim, currently appointed to perform the duties and functions of UMT Vice Chancellor, said he was proud of UMT's achievement.

"Congratulations and well done to everyone who has been committed and working tirelessly to ensure UMT will continue to improve its rankings."

He said that, although still a young university, UMT is already able to compete with other renowned universities in the country, especially in the field of research.

He added that the increased scores for UMT in almost all indicators are the proof of the success of the planning and initiatives set in UMT's Strategic Plan 2018 -2022. The evident increase in the score for research quality indicators shows that UMT is on the right track in producing quality research. The score for internationalisation criteria also increased, as did the scores for teaching and industry's observations.

UMT will continue to move forward with more focused and guided initiatives through its next strategic plan, UMT Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027, Prof. Zamri said.

UMT Students to Represent Malaysia at Sailing Tournament in Italy

Amirul Salam Hasan, Corporate Communication Office



A UMT sailing team comprising six students has been selected to represent Malaysia at 2024 FISU World University Championships Sailing, to be held from 4 – 11 June in Italy.

The team of three males and three females is the country's only representative to the event taking place in the city of Desenzano del Garda after it became qualified to participate.

Held for eight days, FISU World University Championships Sailing will bring together student-athletes from around the world to compete in sailing competitions. The event is part of the FISU World University Championships, organized by the International University Sports Federation and includes a host of other sports, such as archery, badminton, and modern pentathlon among others.

The UMT student sailors are Muhammad Faris Aiman Basri, 22; Nur Muhammad Aqil Nadzri, 21; Mohamad Hanif Mohd Shafiee, 20; Nur Zulaikha Mohd Zafarin, 21; Nur Sofea Balqis Kamal Azalan, 21; and Nur Ainul Izzati Zil Husham, 23.

Team captain Muhammad Faris Aiman said he and team members have been training hard every day, as long as four hours, as preparation for the event that will see stiff competition from sailors from Europe, America, and Asia.

"We will be competing against 16 teams from America, Netherlands, Ireland, Germany, Japan, China, and France," Faris Aiman said. "Each of these team has its own advantages."

"We know it will be challenging, but we intend to step on the podium at the tournament," he said.



Higher Education Deputy Minister Datuk Ts. Mustapha Sakmud who was on a working visit to UMT flagged off the student contingent at the Duyong Marina & Resort jetty.

The deputy minister said his ministry is proud of the achievement and will extend full support towards the mission of putting Malaysia on the world's stage in Italy. "UMT students' participation at this international event will make Malaysia even more visible globally," he said. "Students can also play the role of ambassadors that help introduce the country to other nations."

Meanwhile, Prof. Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and International) currently carrying out the function UMT Vice Chancellor, congratulated the students on being qualified to take part in the prestigious event.

"UMT sailing team has achieved success in several tournaments at the global level, including being the first runner up in the Kingdom Match and Fleet in Bahrain at the end of last year," he said.

Belgian Ambassador Pays Working Visit to UMT

Prof. Dr. Yeong Yik Sung, Institute of Climate Adaptation and Marine Biotechnology



Belgian Ambassador to Malaysia, His Excellency Peter Van Acker, paid a working visit to UMT from 17 - 22 May. His Excellency was hosted by the Institute of Climate Adaptation and Marine Biotechnology (ICAMB).

His Excellency was welcomed with a special dinner at the Duyung Marina Resort. In attendance at the event were Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation Prof. Dr. Marinah Ariffin and several senior members of ICAMB and UMT. Also present were UMT's former Vice Chancellor Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazlan Abdul Ghaffar and two ICAMB's Visiting Professors, Prof. Dr. Wang Min from Ocean University of China and Prof. Dr. Andrew McMinn from the University of Tasmania, Australia.

Taking advantage of the fact that Belgium now chairs the European Commission, His Excellency and other Belgian Ambassadors in the ASEAN region (Indonesia, Vietnam), have proposed that UMT lead in exploring opportunities for joint academic cooperations between ASEAN and European Partners within the framework of the EU-ASEAN Global Gateway Initiative. The primary goal of the project is to establish a strong framework for collaboration, foster mutual understanding, and identify common goals for academic cooperation in the field of aquaculture. The project aims to investigate various forms of collaborations, including faculty exchange programmes, research collaborations, joint academic projects, and student exchange programmes.

The ASEAN universities, led by UMT, presented a joint M.Sc. framework in the subject of Tropical Aquaculture,

to be offered by the ASEAN counterparts, where the course/curriculum design may use the existing Erasmus Mundus template. Several high-level meetings were held to discuss available resources, EU funding options, and logistical support from both sides to ensure the successful implementation of collaborative initiatives. In the most recent development, the EU has reaffirmed the EU Global Gateway's project engagement with ASEAN, allowing for funding of up to 10 million Euros to initiate a project of this kind.

UMT's link with Belgium began in 2016. Emeritus Professor Dr. Patrick Sorgeloos, a distinguished and world-renowned aquaculture scientist from Ghent University in Belgium, was appointed to the Sultan Mizan Professorial Chair in November 18, 2016. He has helped establish networking links with researchers in related fields, propelling UMT into the ranks of the world's leading higher education institutions.

Since 2023, UMT has embarked on a joint PhD degree programme with Ghent University in the field of Biotechnology. The programme involves joint supervision of students between experts from UMT and Ghent University.

During his visit to UMT, His Excellency had the opportunity to scuba dive at the UMT Marine Natural Research Station in Pulau Bidong and successfully obtained his first open water scuba diving license with UMT Scuba Unit.

UMT, Heriot Watt University Successfully Organized Another Round of Mobility Programme

Dr. Siti Nurtahirah Jaafar, Faculty of Marine Science and Environment



UMT and Heriot Watt University, United Kingdom, have collaborated again this year to organize a short-term mobility programme. This marked the sixth year both universities have worked together to organize the Tropical Coral Reefs Monitoring and Management course, first held in 2017.



During the programme commencing from 28 April until 18 May, UMT received six academic staff, 16 students, and 2 facilitators from Heriot Watt University. The academic staff consisted of Emeritus Prof. James Mair, Prof. William Sanderson, Associate Prof. Dr. Mark Hartl, Prof. Dr. Joanne Porter, Prof. Dr. Teresa Fernandes, and Dr. Karen Anne Alexander.

The Tropical Reefs Monitoring and Management course is divided into two parts. The theoretical part is taught to the students at Heriot Watt University, and the hands-on component is completed at UMT, where students spend time at UMT research stations at Bidong Island, Redang Island, Kenyir Lake, and Setiu Wetlands.

This unique course is about how to monitor and manage the tropical reefs through utilizing standard survey methods and how to identify the different threats that can damage the coral reefs.

This year, apart from the existing activities in the module, an additional drone mapping technique was also taught, bringing further excitement to the students.

The tropical coral reef survey methods the students practiced at Bidong Island included the Line (LIT) and

Point Intercept Transects (PIT), photo-quadrat, manta-tow, visual survey and identification of marine fishes and invertebrate. They were also taught about coral restoration and were given the opportunity to be involved in restoring damaged reef at Pasir Cina Beach, Bidong Island.

The students also had the opportunity to explore Setiu Wetlands and Kenyir Lake. They learned about the local communities and their livelihood, making their trip a valuable experience.

In addition, a half-day seminar was able to be organized for the purpose of sharing knowledge and experiences between experts from both universities.

The impactful synergistic effort between the two universities offers benefits to both sides. Heriot Watt University students are presented with the opportunity to gain an experience of a lifetime, and UMT has a platform that can help improve its visibility at the international level.

Given these benefits, UMT and Heriot Watt University intend to continue offering the programme for a long time.



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1ST ANNOUNCEMENT
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28 - 29 October 2024

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- Marine Data Management and Informatics
- Marine Endangered Species and Conservation
- Marine Biology
- Coral Reef Ecology
- Ocean Governance
- Ocean Literacy
- Blue Economy
- Marine Repository

Important Dates

First Announcement : **15 January 2024**
 Early-bird abstract submission deadline : **31 July 2024**
 Regular abstract submission deadline : **31 August 2024**
 Abstract notification of acceptance : **30 September 2024**
 Final Announcement & payment deadline : **15 October 2024**
 Symposium dates : **28 and 29 October 2024**

Fees

Local participant (Early-bird) : **RM 700**
 Local participant (Normal) : **RM 1000**
 Local student* (Early-bird) : **RM 400**
 Local student* (Normal) : **RM 600**
 International participant (Early-bird) : **USD 350**
 International participant (Normal) : **USD 450**
 International student* (Early-bird) : **USD 200**
 International student* (Normal) : **USD 300**
 Additional abstract (local participant/student) (Early-bird) : **RM 200**
 Additional abstract (local participant/student) (Normal) : **RM 500**
 Additional abstract (international participant/student) (Early-bird) : **USD 100**
 Additional abstract (international participant/student) (Normal) : **USD 150**
 Local non presenting participant : **RM 400**
 International non presenting participant : **USD 250**

* Kindly enclosed student ID proof from your respective institution.

Organizer

Secretariat TOMSY2024
 Institute of Oceanography and Environment (INOS)
 Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT)
 21030 Kuala Nerus
 Terengganu, MALAYSIA

Telephone : +609 668 3372
 Fax : +609 669 2166
 E-mail : tomsy@umat.edu.my/
 inos.tomsy@gmail.com

<https://tomsy.umat.edu.my>



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