

UMT NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 7, July 2024

Ocean of Discoveries for Global Sustainability



In this issue

- ① UMT Students Win Prestigious Award at UNESCO Water Resilience Challenge 2024
- ② TROPIMUNDO Completes 10 Years at UMT
- ③ UMT Committed to Promoting Ocean Conservation Awareness
- ④ UMT Nurtures Research and Innovation Culture through MPI'24
- ⑤ UMT Athlete Wins Gold for Malaysia



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

Every June, UMT celebrates World Oceans Week with its esteemed position in marine science. The UMT community plays a crucial role in making WOW one of the main events at UMT. This year's celebration, with the theme "Catalyzing Action for Our Ocean & Climate," aims for a healthy planet and a just, equitable, and sustainable society. This year's festival includes activities like a sustainability forum and beach clean-up.

UMT feels compelled to urgently address the issues and future sustainability of nature, particularly our nation's oceans. These are increasingly exposed to various threats that can affect environmental sustainability, ultimately impacting human life, although one of the main causes is human negligence. The vast oceans have turned into seas of garbage due to humans' indifferent attitude towards the oceans and the environment. The consequences of inaction are dire.

All stakeholders must join forces to ensure environmental sustainability. The ocean, a divine gift, is a vital resource for our economy, trade, transportation, and, most importantly, a food source for all humans. We must resist exploiting the oceans for short-term economic gain, as it will only lead to regret.

May we continue to care for and preserve the oceans around us for the benefit of future generations, as we are only borrowing the world today from them. It's through our collective, collaborative action that we can ensure a healthy ocean for our future!



Zukiferee bin Ibrahim
Executive Editor

CONTENTS

- 1 UMT Students Win Prestigious Award at UNESCO Water Resilience Challenge 2024**
- 2 TROPIMUNDO Completes 10 Years at UMT**
- 3 UMT Committed to Promoting Ocean Conservation Awareness**
- 4 UMT Nurtures Research and Innovation Culture through MPI'24**
- 5 UMT Athlete Wins Gold for Malaysia**

UMT Students Win Prestigious Award at UNESCO Water Resilience Challenge 2024

Associate Prof. Dr. Maizah Mohd Abdullah, Faculty of Science and Marine Environment



The extraordinary achievements of two second year Marine Biology students, Agnes Saul and Peggy Lee Pooi Qi, have given UMT a cause for celebration. As integral members of the "Make Water OK" team, Agnes and Peggy made remarkable strides in the UNESCO Water Resilience Challenge (UWRC) 2023-2024. This prestigious competition, aimed at protecting UNESCO biosphere reserves across ASEAN from water-related threats, saw the students excel with their groundbreaking project, Hydrodata Hub.

Competing against 150 teams, Agnes and Peggy, alongside two teammates from Asia Pacific University, secured a spot in the top 25 in UWRC 2023. This accomplishment qualified them for the UWRC 2024, where their project, Hydrodata Hub, ultimately earned them a top 3 finalist position and the "Most Groundbreaking Award."

Hydrodata Hub is an innovative web application designed to assist the Penang Hill authorities of the Penang Hill Biosphere Reserve (PHBR) in efficient landslide risk assessments and effective water resource management. This project offers enhanced prediction and management of landslide risks, ensuring the safety and stability of the biosphere reserve. Additionally, the system promotes sustainability and conservation through efficient water resource management.

Their success in UWRC led to an invitation to present at the 10th World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia, held from 18 - 25 May, 2024. Carrying the theme "Water for Shared Prosperity," this forum provided a global platform for Agnes and Peggy to showcase their work and advocate

for sustainable water management practices. The event emphasized the crucial role of youth in addressing global water-related challenges.

During the forum, Dato' Ir. Rozman, Director of the Water Resources Management and Hydrology Division in the Ministry of Irrigation and Drainage Malaysia, praised the Hydrodata Hub project and expressed interest in implementing it within Malaysia. This recognition underscores the potential impact of their innovative solution on national water management practices.

The UWRC 2024 and the World Water Forum were transformative experiences for Agnes and Peggy. These events instilled a deep sense of purpose and a renewed commitment to sustainable water management solutions. They hoped their achievements brought immense pride to UMT and inspired future generations to engage in innovative and impactful research in marine biology and environmental conservation.

Participating in the UNESCO Water Resilience Challenge and the 10th World Water Forum was more than just an academic endeavor for Agnes and Peggy. It was a journey of exposure and growth, providing unique opportunities to engage with diverse ideas and practices. The skills and insights gained will undoubtedly influence their future endeavors in the field of water resilience.

"We extend our deepest gratitude to UNESCO and THE WATER AGENCY for sponsoring our participation in these prestigious events," said Agnes and Peggy, reflecting on their journey. "Special thanks also go to the Faculty of Science and Marine Environment (FSSM) and OCEAN HOPE for their generous support and encouragement."

TROPIMUNDO Completes 10 Years at UMT

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Behara Satyanarayana, Institute of Oceanography and Environment



(MSc) thesis proposals and work, leading them to work together with local students to complete their field and lab assignments, enabling them to learn scientific data analysis/presentation skills and career plans from each other. Such motivational measures are crucial in academia.

TROPIMUNDO is more than an academic attainment because the students are also connected emotionally with the local communities. They take part in cultural and knowledge-sharing events organized by the university or as part of their curriculum and personal invitations from the neighborhood. Recently, students have attended the Eid celebration at a school in Setiu, triggering so much enthusiasm among the pupils to interact with foreigners in English. TROPIMUNDO students' engagement with the school occurs every year through the memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed between UMT and the school.

UMT is preparing to join the list of TROPIMUNDO degree-awarding institutions in Europe. International students who complete semester-2 in Malaysia will also have the UMT logo on their diploma certificates as proof of their experience in Malaysia, giving them the edge in study/career development offers.

The latest cohort joining a year ago will soon complete their semester, and they have had an amazing time, experiencing wonderful hospitality even when visiting restaurants and shops.

"UMT buddies and international club members have been helpful in easing our life in Terengganu," said Jonas Goemans, TROPIMUNDO class representative, 2024. "Our professors tried hard for us to have a productive, problem-free semester."

"Thanks to the UMT for giving us such an unforgettable experience in Malaysia."

UMT is the only host institution for the Erasmus Mundus Master course in Tropical Biodiversity and Ecosystems (TROPIMUNDO) in Malaysia and the university has successfully completed 10 years of teaching international students from around the globe.

Between 2015 and 2024, UMT has welcomed 154 students from 48 countries for semester-2 courses at the Institute of Oceanography and Environment (INOS). Even during the Covid-19 pandemic, UMT was at the forefront in offering online classes and support for their on-time graduation.

The courses designed by UMT for the TROPIMUNDO consortium are unique and attractive to students. The beauty of each course lies in the systematic fieldwork and practical training at marine and terrestrial ecosystems. For instance, *Mangrove Field School* exposes the students to a live-learn atmosphere in the woods for two weeks and covers the habitat assessment. Similarly, *Tropical Oceanography*, *Conservation of Marine Endangered Species*, and *Lake & Terrestrial Ecology* allow everyone to explore the ecobiology of open and lacustrine waters, coral reefs, and sea turtles. Production of relevant land use land cover maps will be practiced in the *Remote sensing & GIS* course. Many students consider the UMT semester as a lifetime experience and plan to come back for further (PhD) education.

UMT also encourages TROPIMUNDO students to explore research opportunities in Malaysia for their

UMT Committed to Promoting Ocean Conservation Awareness

Azida Abdullah, Institute of Oceanography and Environment



Leader and Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Academic Fellow.

UMT played an important role recently when it became a host for a programme by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES).

In an effort to promote awareness among youths regarding environmental sustainability issues, NRES in collaboration with Sultan Mizan Antarctic Research Foundation (YPASM) organized the Environmental Sustainability Tour, with UMT being the first location for the programme. It became one of the events during the World Oceans Week (WOW) 2024 organized by UMT.

As the first activity, more than 150 UMT students participated in a beach cleanup. NRES Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad himself took part in the event.

Also held was an environmental sustainability forum, aimed at explaining to youths the current environmental issues especially those involving climate change and plastic pollution, latest government policies, and green employment opportunities in the future.

The forum provided a platform for students to express their hopes and views about environmental sustainability policies to NRES top management.

The panel consisted of Nik Nazmi himself; UMT's Dr Wan Mohd Rauhan Wan Hussin, also the Deputy Director of National Antarctic Research Centre, YPASM 2019 research grant holder, and 2012 YPASM Fellow; UMT's Dr Afiq Durrani Mohd Fahmi, also representing Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission IOC-UNESCO, Group of Expert (GOE) Ocean Literacy; and UMT's third-year Marine Biology student Saw Jiun Ting, also the Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA), Malaysia Hub

According to Nik Nazmi, a recent study indicated that by 2050 the weight of plastic waste in the oceans will be more than the weight of fish. His ministry is drafting laws to reduce plastic use in the country.

WOW is UMT's annual event, held since 2013 in conjunction with the World Oceans Day (WOD) that is celebrated globally every 8 June. As a university focusing on marine science, UMT organizes WOW as a support towards UNESCO's effort to create awareness of the importance of protecting the oceans.

Through WOW, which is also one of UMT's university social responsibility (USR) activities, UMT collaborates with government and corporate agencies, and schools to spread knowledge regarding ocean conservation.

WOW2024, with the theme Catalyzing Action for Our Ocean & Climate, was filled with activities to motivate the public to work with UMT in protecting the environment and marine biodiversity. Through these activities, UMT sent a message to people about the importance of maintaining, conserving, and appreciating the marine resources. These efforts also help to promote UMT's niche area of marine science and aquatic resources and position the university as leader in the field of marine science.

In conjunction with WOW2024, UMT and NRES have established Sustainable Ocean Alliance Malaysia. This is intended to encourage local communities to support waste-free oceans through campaigns focusing on impacts of plastic pollution and how it can harm the environment and humans.

UMT Nurtures Research and Innovation Culture through MPI'24

Aliffikri Ramlee, Innovation and Commercialisation Centre



UMT has recently organized the Research and Innovation Week (MPI'24) in collaboration with Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA) and University College TATI (UC TATI), drawing over 374 entries from around the country.

Held at UMT' Sultan Mizan Hall, MPI'24 focused on innovative-product competitions among researchers and students from public universities, private universities, polytechnics and community colleges, as well as primary and secondary schools.

In her MPI'24 officiating speech, UMT Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) Prof. ChM. Dr. Marinah Mohd Ariffin emphasized that the role of research and innovation is critical in driving the advancement of universities and the nation. She also highlighted that programmes like these are essential in nurturing a culture of research and innovation, which is key to achieving long-term progress and competitiveness. She hoped such initiative will continue to be organized in the future, fostering collaboration and excellence among researchers and innovators.

Of the total entries, 119 were from UMT, 129 UniSZA, 35 UC TATI, 45 other public and private higher education institutions, government agencies, and industries, and 46 primary, secondary, and vocational Schools. The number of physical participation was the highest since MPI began in 2017.

The event allowed researchers and inventors to showcase their R&D innovations and creativity to other researchers, scientists, academics, students, and local industry players. MPI is expected to continue to be a platform for providing exposure and recognition to creative and innovative researchers in producing potential products that meet the requirements and demands of both national and international markets.



With the support and involvement of industry partners, research and innovation efforts are enhanced, leading to the commercialization of top-tier innovations for benefiting a global audience.

This time an innovation by UMT researcher Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Wan Nurul Nadiah Wan Rasdi, named the ZooNutri Pre-Feed System, won the overall award.

The product impressed the panel of judges due to its ability to produce zooplankton maximally at a low cost. The innovation applies the 'all-in-one culture system' principle, consisting of a food tank, culture tank, and harvesting system. This technique is introduced to help the aquaculture industry produce its food without relying solely on natural sources.

Dr. Wan Nurul Nadiah also presented another invention, Jelly Daphnia Cubic, which also won a gold award. The innovation is a fish feed consisting of gelatine and zooplankton, which can also be easily used as food for juvenile fish.

MPI'24 successfully achieved its main objectives while continuing to support the aspirations of the National Science, Technology & Innovation Policy in creating a conducive ecosystem for science, technology, innovation, and economy (STIE).

UMT Athlete Wins Gold for Malaysia

Amirul Salam Hasan, Corporate Communication Office

A UMT athlete won the gold medal for Malaysia at the recent Asean University Games (AUG) 2024 held at Airlangga Convention Centre, Indonesia.

Representing the country in Judo, Afiq Danish Zapri bagged the medal in the men's category under 90 kg when he defeated Mazya Tyas Nugraha from Indonesia in the final event. The athlete from the host country was the Bronze medal winner at the 2024 Asean Judo Championship.

AUG is a biennial sports event involving athletes from universities in the countries ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries, which include Malaysia, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The sports event is regulated by ASEAN University Sports Council (AUSC), established in 1980.

In addition to Judo, AUG hosts other games, such as swimming, basketball, archery, and chess.

Afiq, who hails from Bachok, Kelantan, is a maritime management student at the Faculty of Maritime Studies. He considered the gold medal as a special birthday gift as he just celebrated his birthday a day before the final match.

The victory was also the most meaningful in his life as he achieved the feat at AUG 2024, which is considered a big event. He credited his success to his parents and siblings, who have always supported him to the fullest.



Afiq expected the match to last only a short while and the victory to be on his side, but his guess was way off.

"I thought I could defeat him much sooner, but he was strong and experienced, and it was our first match against each other," said Afiq.

For winning the gold medal for the country, Afiq was congratulated by UMT's top management.





Nurturing
a Healthy Ocean
for Future
Generation

1ST ANNOUNCEMENT
TOMSY SYMPOSIUM 2024

THE 4th TROPICAL OCEAN AND MARINE SCIENCES INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

TOMSY2024

28 - 29 October 2024

Kuala Terengganu

Scope

- Coastal and Shelf Seas Dynamics
- Biological Oceanography
- Ocean Biogeochemistry
- Fisheries Oceanography
- Marine Geology and Seabed Mapping
- Marine Pollution
- Satellite Oceanography, Remote Sensing and GIS
- Coastal Geomorphology
- Marine Engineering and Technology
- 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>



ORGANIZER:



CO-ORGANIZERS



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN MARINE BIOTECHNOLOGY

2nd iCoMB 2024

Themes: Advancing Marine Biotechnology for Ecosystems and Societal Well Being

CALL FOR PAPERS!!

Immune and Molecular
Therapeutics

Systems Biology

Climate Change and
Organism Adaptation



Natural Products
and Bioresources

Microbial
Biotechnology

RESEARCH TOPICS

DATE & VENUE

24th – 26th SEPTEMBER 2024
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA TERENGGANU, MALAYSIA

IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract Submission Deadline
30 June 2024



Selected Publications
will be Published in
**SCOPUS INDEX
JOURNALS**

REGISTRATION FEES

Local Researchers		RM600
Local Students		RM300
International Researchers		USD200
International Students		USD150

iCoMB 2024
OFFICIAL PAGE >>



REGISTRATION LINK >>

