

UMT NEWSLETTER

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Ocean of Discoveries for Global Sustainability



Fahriah

**PROFESOR Ts. DR.
MOHD ZAMRI BIN IBRAHIM**

atas pelantikan sebagai

**NAIB CANSELOR
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA
TERENGGANU (UMT)
KE-6**

berkuat kuasa

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In July, the UMT community was thrilled by the news of the Honourable Higher Education Minister appointing Professor Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim as UMT's new Vice-Chancellor, effective 1st August. He is the sixth individual to hold this prestigious position and notably the first to originate from the Mengabang Telipot Campus. His academic journey began with an initial appointment as a UPM lecturer, but he was soon transferred to the UPM Mengabang Telipot campus, making this appointment a significant milestone for our university.

In his inaugural address, Professor Zamri called on all members of the UMT family—academic and administrative staff alike—to unite and collaboratively drive the university's continued success.

Meanwhile, this edition of our newsletter spotlights the ongoing international collaborations led by the Institute of Climate Adaptation and Marine Biotechnology (ICAMB) at UMT. Among the standout initiatives was the inaugural Aquatic Biotech Nexus Summer Camp, held in partnership with Ocean University of China (OUC). Additionally, UMT proudly hosted the first Nexus Summit: Sustainability in a Changing World (NEXSUM 2024), an international conference that attracted participants from 10 countries, including Russia, the United Kingdom, China, Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia, Germany, Canada, Iran, Thailand, and India.

I believe these international collaborations and networking initiatives will be central to our new Vice-Chancellor's agenda as he guides UMT through new challenges, changes, and progress.

Zukiferee bin Ibrahim

Executive Editor



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UMT Professor Appointed as New Vice Chancellor of the University

Rozita Alias@Abdul Latiff, Corporate Communication Office



A UMT professor has been given the trust by the Ministry of Higher Education to helm the university for the next two years.

Prof Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim, who was previously the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and International) of UMT, has been appointed by the ministry as the new Vice Chancellor of the university.

The appointment of Prof. Zamri, who is now the sixth UMT Vice Chancellor, took effect from 1 August.

The 53-year-old academician obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of Sunderland, United Kingdom, in 1995, master's degree from the University of Warwick, United Kingdom, in 1997, and PhD in the field of mechanical engineering from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia in 2006.

The Terengganu native first became a lecturer at UMT in 1998. Throughout his career, he has been trusted with various administrative posts due to his charisma and academic leadership. He was appointed as dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology in 2010 and designated as director of UMT's centralized laboratory in

2012. He was later chosen to be the dean of the Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology and Informatics in 2019. He was selected to fill the vacancy for the post of Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and International) in 2020.

As the new Vice Chancellor, Prof. Zamri said he plans to continue with the agenda of solidifying UMT as the nation's leading university in the field of marine science and aquatic resources and playing a greater role in steering the development of the community's economy through Blue Economy.

He expressed his gratitude and thanks to the Higher Education Minister, Dato' Seri Diraja Dr. Zamry Abd Kadir, for giving him the trust to helm UMT.

He also expressed his thanks to former UMT Vice Chancellor Dato' Prof. Dr. Mazlan Abd. Ghaffar for his excellent service and contributions during his tenure.

Prof. Zamir also urged the UMT community to work with him to increase UMT's visibility at the international arena and make the university as prominent as the other well-known learning institutions.

“Charting the Path to Sustainable Futures: Nexus Summit 2024”

Mohd Ihwan Zakariah, Lam Su Shiung and Muhammad Ikhwanuddin Abdullah,
Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries (AKUATROP)



To establish a platform for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and innovation, UMT has recently collaborated with several international agencies and hosted the first Nexus Summit: Sustainability in a Changing World (NEXSUM 2024) international conference. The conference’s main co-organizers were the International Society for Management Science and Engineering Technology (IAMSET) and Carbon Research.

The conference in July features a diverse range of keynote speeches, plenary sessions, panel discussions, and paper presentations, providing participants with opportunities to exchange ideas, present their research findings, and engage in meaningful discussions.

Jointly organized by UMT’s Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries (AKUATROP) and Moment Alpha Sdn. Bhd, UMT’s startup company, the conference drew more than 100 participants comprising experts, scholars, researchers, policymakers, industry professionals, and students from more than 10 countries including Malaysia, Russia, the United Kingdom, China, Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia, Germany, Canada, Iran, Thailand, and India.

The hybrid conference also received international support through collaborative networking with the

University of Saskatchewan (USASK) and Scotland Rural University College (SRUC).

Several international committees were also involved as co-organizers, namely Dublin City University in Ireland, the United Kingdom; the Institute of Agricultural Resources and Regional Planning, China; and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, China.

The conference was officiated by Professor Dr Muhammad Ikhwanuddin Abdullah, AKUATROP Director, on behalf of the Vice Chancellor.

Also taking place during the conference was the officiating of the new International Editorial Office of Biochar and Carbon Research for Southeast Asia by Professor Dr Hailong Wang in his capacity as the Executive Editor-in-Chief of Carbon Research. A token of appreciation was presented to AKUATROP’s Professor Ts. Dr. Lam Su Shing, who was appointed as the representative of the newly inaugurated office.

The four-day event ended with participants taken on a tour around the city of Kuala Terengganu and to Redang Island for an excursion.

Bridging Cultures and Sciences: Aquatic Biotech Nexus Summer Camp

Dr. Mok Wen Jye & Dr. Thirukanthan A/L Chandra Segaran

The Institute of Climate Adaptation and Marine Biotechnology (ICAMB), UMT, recently hosted its first Aquatic Biotech Nexus Summer Camp from 7 - 13 July. This significant event, held in collaboration with Ocean University of China (OUC), marked a new chapter in international academic cooperation, fostering knowledge exchange and professional networking among students and researchers in the field of marine science and biotechnology.

The summer camp was an extension of the ongoing collaboration between UMT and OUC, which was solidified in 2019 with the establishment of the UMT-OUC Joint Academic Centre for Marine Studies. This centre has facilitated the exchange of postgraduate students and researchers, hosted over five international webinars, and co-organized the International Conference of Marine Biotechnology (i-CoMB) alongside ICAMB.

The summer camp program was designed as an immersive educational experience, particularly targeting undergraduate and postgraduate students from OUC, with a special focus on those studying marine science. This year's camp welcomed 20 students and two executive officers, who engaged in a series of activities that blended academic learning with hands-on fieldwork.

The program was structured around four core components:

- **Kenyir AquaQuest:** This segment focused on understanding freshwater ecology and the application of biotechnology in environmental conservation. Participants explored the rich biodiversity of Lake Kenyir, learning about the ecological significance and conservation efforts in the area.
- **Turtle Exploration:** Students experienced close encounters with turtles and other wildlife in their natural habitats. This component provided valuable insights into wildlife conservation and the challenges facing these species.
- **Cultural Immersion:** Participants explored the rich cultural tapestry of Malaysia, learning about various customs, traditional foods, festivals, and languages. This cultural exchange aimed to deepen their understanding of Malaysian society and enhance cross-cultural communication skills.
- **Leisure Activities at Redang Island:** This component offered participants a chance to relax and enjoy the natural beauty of one of Malaysia's most renowned islands. They engaged in snorkeling activities, discovering the vibrant marine life and coral reefs of Redang Island, while also enjoying leisure time to unwind and appreciate the scenic surroundings.



Led by a team of dedicated instructors and researchers from ICAMB, the camp included interactive workshops, field trips, and lab sessions. These activities were designed to encourage critical thinking and foster a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of aquatic ecosystems and biotechnology. Participants gained practical skills and theoretical knowledge, equipping them to excel in their respective fields of study and pursue leadership roles in various scientific and environmental disciplines.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the camp's success in blending education with adventure. Many expressed a desire for the programme to be extended and expressed interest in returning for future iterations.

UMT, Yayasan PETRONAS, ECERDC join expertise to help community product entrepreneurs

Sulwani Abd Rahman, Centre for Knowledge Transfer, Industry and Community Linkages (PPIJIM)

As the implementer of the Yayasan PETRONAS empower ECER Skills and Entrepreneurship Training (YPeSkill 2022 – 2024), UMT has helped improve community businesses in Mersing, enabling them to increase sales and earn revenues three times higher than previously.

The specially designed programme involved 169 participants of various races from Mersing, including several Orang Asli who have shown a deep interest in becoming skilled workers in the oil and gas industry.

Director of UMT's Centre for Knowledge Transfer, Industry and Community Linkages (PPIJIM), Dr Zuha Rosufila Abu Hassan, said research and development at UMT are conducted to benefit society.

"UMT is committed to helping the target groups such as the B40 group, single mothers, and others in similar categories increase their income and improve their quality of life. The community projects focus on fast implementation, high impact, affordability, meeting the market, and sustainability," said Dr Zuha during the graduation ceremony for the programme's participants at Sultan Ibrahim Diamond Jubilee Hall, Mersing, recently.

She said the community entrepreneur development programme offers several business reinforcement components including skills, guidance, digital platform exposure, product marketing techniques, product packaging, advertising and encourages participants to adopt sustainable, secure, and progressive entrepreneurship.

Meanwhile programme participant Nurfarizan Hassan, 38, felt grateful for having been selected for the programme organized by UMT.

"This is a good initiative for me as a small entrepreneur as it can help me expand my product sales," said the businesswoman who sells frozen leman and grilled fish paste.

"Although from Johor Bahru, I decided to attend the course in Mersing for the sake of family's economic stability. Praise to God, assistance in the form of advice, guidance, and proper marketing techniques from UMT, Yayasan Petronas, ECERDC, and Johor governmental departments has enabled me to widen my product's market and increased my sales four times over especially during festival seasons and school holidays".



Sharing similar experience, Noraizah a/p Anjang, 35, expressed her thanks for the assistance and support given.

"I wanted to prove that the Orang Asli can also be successful in business.

"Thank you to all agencies, especially UMT, for guiding me on how to expand my sambal petai business. This kind of programme is good at helping to improve the level of the wellbeing of the community.

In general, the knowledge transfer programmes, held as part of UMT's social responsibility activities, have benefitted more than 2000 individuals in the East Coast Economic Region. They have become entrepreneurs or skilled workers through human capital development programmes.

Among the agencies involved in the community entrepreneur programme were Mersing District Office, Mersing District Council, Companies Commission of Malaysia, PERKESO, MARA, TEKUN, AIM, Darul Takzim Family Development Foundation (YPKDT), KWSP, and Department of Orang Asli Development.

Special Programme Exposes Students to Current Fisheries Development

Norul Hanizan Hazin, Corporate Communication Office

As preparation for its students to step into the work world, UMT has initiated a programme that invites its alumni to share with the students ideas, experiences, and tips on how to move forward after graduation.

The most recent session, organized by the Alumni Centre in collaboration with the Office of Student Affairs and Alumni (HEPA), took place in July. The invited alumnus was Dato' Adnan Hussain, who is also a member of UMT's Board of Directors. He obtained his Diploma in Fisheries in 1991 and Bachelor of Science in Fisheries in 1994.

The public lecture taking place at Sulaiman Auditorium, Sultanah Nur Zahirah Library, was titled The Fisheries Sector and Food Security – A Perspective. The lecture aimed to provide an in-depth insight into the fisheries sector and food security issues, drawing on Dato' Adnan's expertise and experience in the field.

The event began with an opening speech by Prof. Dr. Mohd Izani Mohd Zain, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni). He emphasized the importance of such programme in fostering a closer relationship between alumni and students, as well as providing valuable insights into developments in the fisheries sector.

A total of 177 people attended the programme. In addition to UMT's Diploma in Fisheries students, other attendees included representatives from the Department of Fisheries Malaysia (Terengganu), representatives from the Malaysian Fisheries Development Authority (Terengganu), faculty alumni coordinators, and HEPA staff. The diverse attendance underscored the commitment and interest in enhancing knowledge and building stronger connections between the university and the industry.

The programme successfully achieved its goal of strengthening the relationship between alumni, students, and the university



management. It also provided a valuable platform for exchanging ideas and perspectives on current issues in the fisheries sector and inspiring students to achieve excellence in their respective fields.



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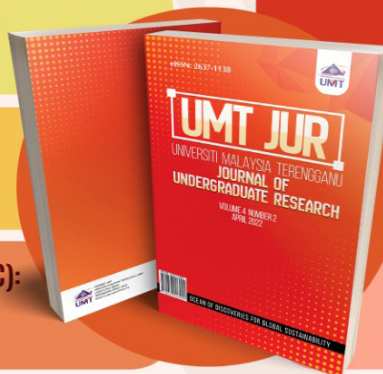
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