

UMT NEWSLETTER

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Ocean of Discoveries for Global Sustainability



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In the dynamic world of higher education, leadership change is both inevitable and essential. It is a process that should be embraced by the entire university community, as it brings new opportunities for growth and maturation. While such transitions may introduce challenges, they are a critical component of succession planning, ensuring the university's long-term sustainability and success.

Since the appointment of Prof. Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri bin Ibrahim as Vice-Chancellor last August, UMT has continued its forward momentum, preparing to meet the demands of an ever-evolving future. In his inaugural address, the Vice Chancellor outlined five key challenges for the UMT community to address. Firstly a steadfast dedication to the university's core principles is essential for fostering unity and promoting institutional excellence, and secondly growing both undergraduate and postgraduate student numbers is vital for strengthening academic programmes and increasing the university's financial resilience. The third challenge is building a robust endowment fund that will safeguard UMT's long-term financial stability. In addition to that, nurturing spiritual consciousness among faculty and staff will reinforce core values of sincerity, honesty, and integrity, strengthening UMT's ethical framework. Lastly, UMT is committed to equipping students with the skills and adaptability necessary to thrive in an unpredictable global landscape by ensuring that its curriculum is both resilient and forward-thinking.

In addressing these challenges, Prof. Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri called on all UMT staff to embody the ethos of unity, encapsulated in the motto "U and Me Together" (UMT), a rallying cry for collective effort toward building a globally recognized and distinguished university.

True leadership drives progress, but wise leadership brings everyone along on the journey to shared success. May Allah guide UMT on the path to continued excellence.

Zukiferee bin Ibrahim

Executive Editor



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Nurturing Future Leaders for Ocean and Environmental Stewardship

Wan Muhammad Khairi W Zamzuri, Student Affairs and Alumni Office



As part of UMT's effort to create a platform that brings together global young leaders to address environmental issues, the university has for the first time held the Global Young Leaders Summit 2024 (ESG 2024).

The event taking place from 22 to 25 August and organized by UMT's Student Affairs and Alumni Office successfully brought together 114 students, including student leaders, students currently working on projects relating to environmental sustainability, and international students from several educational institutions.

A forum was held following the event's opening ceremony, entitled Cultivating ESG Talent in Young Leaders. It featured interesting panellists, including Mr Daryl Foong, Executive Director of Aquawalk Sdn Bhd; Associate Professor Dr Maizah Mohd Abdullah, Senior Lecturer from UMT's Faculty of Marine Science and Environment; Brian Young, environmental journalist; and Mary Jane Lamoste, regional representative of SOA Asia.

The four-day event included a visit to Chagar Hutang, Redang Island, where participants learned about sea turtle conservation, under the guidance of Associate Professor Dr Mohd Uzair Rusli, Head of Sea Turtle Research Unit (SEATRU). They also attended the ESG for Beginners Talk, delivered by Dr Izan Dato' Haji Jaafar, Advisory Board Member of Setiu Wetland Ecotourism Discovery Initiative; Dr Afq Durrani Mohd Fahmi, member of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC); and Mr. Mohar Ibrahim, managing director of MMO Associate Group.

Five resolutions were formulated by the participants at the end of the summit. These are:

- strengthen university, industry, and community partnership for ESG stewardship and sustainable actions.
- empower student-led initiatives at universities to provide ESG literate workforce.

- establish a Global young Leaders ESG Network for collaboration and capacity development.
- encourage the assimilation of ESG values amongst high school students.
- declare the 2024 ESG Young Ambassadors.

These resolutions were presented to UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Ts. Dr Mohd Zamri Ibrahim and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni) Professor Dr. Mohd Izani Mohd Zain during the closing ceremony.

The event carrying the theme Nurturing Future Leaders for Ocean and Environmental Stewardship was officiated by Datuk Ts. Mustapha Sakmud, Deputy Minister of Higher Education. In his speech, Datuk Mustapha said ESG is an integrated effort for sustainability that involves important aspects such as environmental, social, and governance. He also called for other higher educational institutions to take an important role in making ESG's mission and core values a success.

Meanwhile, Professor Dr Mohamad Salmi Mohd Sohoh, Chairman of UMT Board of Directors, expressed his gratitude for the involvement of the Ministry of Higher Education, strategic partners from the industry, and invited panel members that led to the event's success. He said the commitment from the government and the corporate sector will have a wider impact on the achievement of the goal of global environmental restoration.

Creating Economic Sustainability through Knowledge Transfer

Mohd Rozam Abdul Wahab, Centre for Knowledge Transfer, Industry and Community Linkages



In response to the government's call for more community involvement to help meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UMT has taken the initiative to implement a knowledge transfer programme for Sedili community in Kota Tinggi, Johor, in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) and Kota Tinggi Parliament Office.

The university believes impactful knowledge transfer programmes for communities are important in order to improve the socioeconomic status and income of the people and hence their quality of life.

For the programme involving Sedili community, three events took place, namely knowledge transfer activities conducted by UMT's experts, university social responsibility (USR) programmes, and strategic collaboration with local agencies on three high-impact projects. The three projects are Stingless Bee Farming, DIY Soap, and Oyster Mushroom Farming

A special visit to the stingless bee farming site was made by Datuk Seri Haji Mohamed Khaled Nordin, Malaysia Defence Minister and also Kota Tinggi Parliament member, on 26 August. He praised UMT for always making the efforts to fulfil community needs, particularly Sedili community, through expertise contribution and implementation of excellent

knowledge transfer programmes. Datuk Seri hoped such projects will improve the economy of local communities through the enhancement of the agrotourism sector.

UMT has been helping Sedili community for the past three years through the implementation of knowledge transfer programmes. It has stayed true to its aim of being a university that conducts research activities to produce outcomes that benefit society. The community, whose main source of income is from fishery activities, has been able to sell other products such as stingless bee honey to sustain their livelihood.

Through the programmes implemented by UMT, participants comprising youths, housewives, single mothers, retired soldiers, fishermen, and the B40 members have managed to earn better income after being trained on business-related skills including entrepreneurship.

The success of the projects has led to new strategic collaborations with other agencies, such as the Welfare Department (JKM), Kota Tinggi Community College, Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (FAMA), Southeast Johor Development Authority (KEJORA), and Ministry of Education, that will benefit more than 350 people from the local community.

UMT Signs MoU with NAHRIM to Improve Environmental Sustainability

Amirul Salam Hasan, Corporate Communications Office



UMT and National Water Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM) have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to conduct research projects relating to the environment especially water quality.

The signing ceremony took place at UMT, with UMT Vice Chancellor Prof. Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim and NAHRIM Director General Ir Mohd Zaki Mat Amin putting down their signatures on the agreement documents and witnessed by representatives from both agencies.

"This collaboration is an important step in the effort to promote the sustainability of the environment through scientific research and technological innovation," said Prof. Zamri in his speech during the ceremony at UMT's Institute of Oceanography and Environment (INOS) Auditorium.

The combination of expertise from UMT and NAHRIM will lead to effective solutions for conservation of the environment and the country's water resources, Prof. Zamri said.

Various research activities will be jointly carried out through the latest collaboration to help the country face the local issues and challenges, he added.

The new collaboration will focus on an extensive study about water ecosystem, conservation strategies, and development of new technologies for water monitoring and treatment.

UMT and NAHRIM have been working together for the past five years, conducting research projects to improve the quality of water at various places in Malaysia, including rivers, lakes, and coastal areas affected by pollutions and other human activities.

Research projects successfully completed to date include the study on the impact of sea level rise on the coastal community, the study on the capture and storage of carbon at mangrove areas, the study on river and coastal erosions at various areas in Malaysia, the study on drought and flood threat preparation, the study on microplastic along Malaysian rivers and seas, the study on guidelines for port maintenance in Malaysia.

Driving Sustainable Blue Economy Initiatives through Conservation Programme

Mohd Ihwan Zakariah, Suhairi Mazelan, Muhammad Ikhwanuddin Abdullah, Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries (AKUATROP)



As part of UMT's effort in conserving fisheries biodiversity, the university recently collaborated with several agencies to organize a corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme at Merchang Lagoon, Marang, Terengganu.

Joining UMT's Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries (AKUATROP) and Centre for Knowledge Transfer, Industry and Community Linkages in the CSR programme were the Malaysian Shellfish Association (MSS), Department of Fisheries Terengganu, and Merchang Fisheries Community (MyKP Merchang). MyKP Merchang was established in 2018 and has a membership of 50 fishermen. It has played a very important role in promoting the sustainability of fishery resources and improving the economic status of the local fishermen through several conservation strategies.

During the event that took place from 21 – 22 August, the organizers successfully released 2000 crablets of mud crabs (*Scylla paramamosain*), 2000 fingerlings of seabass (*Lates calcarifer*), and 100 hatchlings of green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), and planted 50 mangrove saplings. This was done to preserve the environment and sustain local fisheries resources. The programme was officiated by Dato' Haji Adnan Hussain, Director-General of the Department of Fisheries Malaysia, who is also a member of UMT Board of Directors. Also present during the ceremony were MSS honorary members, AKUATROP Director, Department of Fisheries Terengganu Director, Merchang District Officer, and other invited stakeholders and agencies.

The local community was involved in the activities organized, including the replanting of mangrove saplings and the release of fish and crab seeds.



Apart from the programme helping to strengthen fisheries resources to ensure enough sources of food for national food security, another benefit is that the activity can help improve the socioeconomic condition of the local community. In addition, the programme also emphasized the importance of preserving the local heritage values to be passed on to future generations.

Merchang Lagoon is uniquely located, and for that reason it has great potential as an eco-tourism and agro-tourism destination. Based on this importance, it is appropriate for the site to be preserved so that its unique natural resources remain intact.

The effective collaborations between UMT, authorities, communities, and organizations have allowed programmes such as this CSR event to help in conservation efforts for blue economy initiatives and foster a spirit of togetherness in caring for the natural wealth and available resources.

UMT Celebrates Independence Month with Orang Asli Community

Tuan Mohd Najwa Fuad Tuan Man, Institute of Tropical Biodiversity and Sustainable Development



Aiming to deepen the understanding of Malaysia's Independence Day and foster national pride among the Orang Asli community, UMT in collaboration with several agencies recently held a special event at Sungai Berua, a settlement area for Orang Asli situated by Kenyir Lake.

The Independence Month Celebration and Appreciation programme, facilitated by UMT's Institute of Tropical Biodiversity and Sustainable Development, was held on 20 August at two locations, Sekolah Kebangsaan Sungai Berua and Jungle School Sungai Berua.

Participating in the programme were school students, local residents, and various organizations.

The presence of Professor Chm. Dr. Marinah Mohd Ariffin, UMT Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation), during the officiating ceremony made the event more meaningful.

The event was a collaborative effort between UMT, Sekolah Kebangsaan Sungai Berua, the Department of Orang Asli Development Terengganu, the Hulu Terengganu District Education Office, the Hulu Terengganu District Office, and

Sekolah Kebangsaan Tengku Mahmud, a public school at Alur Lintang, Besut, Terengganu. The collective involvement from various agencies ensured a well-rounded and engaging programme.

The various activities organized during the event successfully boosted the spirit of patriotism among participants and showcased the effective collaboration between educational institutions and government agencies.

One of the teachers from Sekolah Kebangsaan Tengku Mahmud, Aziah Haron, was grateful for the opportunity given to the school to participate in the event involving the Orang Asli community.

"Thank you to UMT for inviting us to join in the programme and giving our students a chance to get to know the Orang Asli community more closely," she said.

Based on the overall outcomes, the programme was a resounding success, reinforcing strong community bonds in the enthusiastic and delightful celebration of Malaysia's independence.



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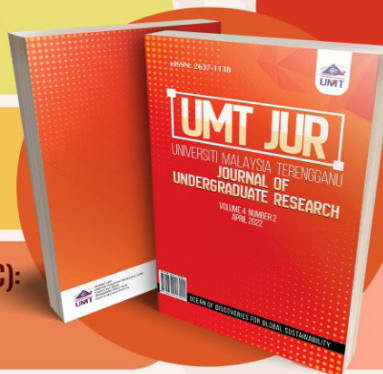
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