

UMT NEWSLETTER

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Ocean of Discoveries for Global Sustainability



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In this issue

- ① UMT, University of Plymouth, Peninsula College Georgetown Sign MoU for Academic Twinning Programme
- ② UMT Strengthens Academic Ties with Prestigious Indonesian University
- ③ UMT Holds Special Event to Honour Its Brightest Students
- ④ UMT Hosts Robotics Competition to Inspire Young Innovators
- ⑤ UMT Researchers Awarded International Grant
- ⑥ UMT's Community Empowerment Programme Benefits Local Residents



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At UMT, we firmly believe that our responsibility extends beyond the classroom as a higher education institution. The knowledge we generate and cultivate must be shared not for personal accolades or career advancement but for the greater good of the community. In line with this commitment, our researchers have actively participated in community empowerment initiatives, particularly in our neighboring Kuala Nerus, Terengganu. These programs reflect our core mission to serve as catalysts for positive change, embodying the call from our Honourable Prime Minister for academicians to reach for the sky yet remain deeply rooted in their communities as agents of knowledge and progress.



UMT's research efforts continue to make significant strides on the global stage. Our researchers recently received an international grant from the Coral Research & Development Accelerator Platform, a prestigious initiative that brings together experts from across the region, including Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines. This collaborative research will play a pivotal role in advancing coral conservation and sustainable practices in our shared marine environments.

In addition, we are pleased to announce a new partnership forged through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UMT, the University of Plymouth, and Peninsula College Georgetown. This collaboration will foster deeper academic ties and provide valuable opportunities for our students and faculty, partly through a twinning program that will enrich the global learning experience for all involved.

This month's publication also highlights a special event recognizing the outstanding achievements of our students in co-curricular activities. These awards underscore our unwavering commitment to developing the next generation of leaders—individuals who excel in academics, character, leadership, and personal growth. At UMT, we believe that education is holistic, and these celebrations are a testament to our dedication to nurturing well-rounded individuals who will shape the future of our nation.

As we near the end of another dynamic year, I am reminded of how quickly time passes. It has already been a whole year since I had the honour of serving as Executive Editor of this newsletter. Guided by our institution's principle that excellence is a continuous journey, I remain open to feedback and suggestions that can help us further enhance our sharing of the inspiring stories and achievements that define UMT.

Zukiferee bin Ibrahim
Executive Editor

CONTENTS

- 1 UMT, University of Plymouth, Peninsula College Georgetown Sign MoU for Academic Twinning Programme
- 2 UMT Strengthens Academic Ties with Prestigious Indonesian University
- 3 UMT Holds Special Event to Honour Its Brightest Students
- 4 UMT Hosts Robotics Competition to Inspire Young Innovators
- 5 UMT Researchers Awarded International Grant
- 6 UMT's Community Empowerment Programme Benefits Local Residents

UMT, University of Plymouth, Peninsula College Georgetown Sign MoU for Academic Twinning Programme

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



Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) has recently signed a three-party Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of Plymouth (UoP) and Peninsula College Georgetown (PCG) to launch an innovative Academic Twinning Programme.

The partnership reflects the institutions' shared commitment to advancing higher education, fostering global perspectives, and preparing students for an increasingly interconnected world.

In his opening remarks at the signing ceremony on 10 November, UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim expressed UMT's enthusiasm for the partnership, highlighting how it aligns with the university's vision of promoting global education while leveraging Malaysia's unique strengths in marine and environmental studies.

"We are excited to embark on this journey with UoP and PCG," Professor Zamri said. "This MoU also represents a commitment to fostering academic mobility, cross-cultural exchange, and knowledge-sharing, which are essential for tackling the complex challenges of our time."

UoP Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Dafydd Moore echoed similar sentiments, underscoring the UK institution's dedication to fostering partnerships that bridge geographical and cultural divides.

"This collaboration is not just about the academic twinning; it is about cultivating global citizens equipped with the knowledge, skills, and networks to thrive in a rapidly changing world," she remarked.

The MoU also emphasizes collaboration in research related to sustainability, climate change, and blue economy initiatives. This aligns with the core strengths of UMT and UoP, both globally renowned for their contributions to marine and environmental research.

PCG President Dato' Seri (Dr.) Michael Tio highlighted that it is important to integrate sustainability into education, citing that The Ship Campus, PCG's national headquarters, was designed to reflect the institution's belief that education should lead the way in addressing global environmental challenges.

"This partnership reinforces our commitment to nurturing future leaders who will drive positive change," he said.

The MoU signing marks the beginning of an exciting journey for UMT, UoP, and PCG. Over the coming months, the three institutions will finalize the programme's details, develop student pathways, and explore additional avenues for collaboration.

The programme will also include opportunities for joint research projects, faculty exchanges, and industry collaborations, further solidifying the partnership's impact on the global academic community.

The signing ceremony was held at The Ship Campus in Batu Kawan, Penang, and attended by leaders and representatives from the three institutions.

The MoU documents were signed by Professor Zamri, Professor Moore, and Dato' Seri (Dr.) Michael Tio on behalf of their respective institutions.

UMT Strengthens Academic Ties with Prestigious Indonesian University

Dr. Moe Shwe Sin & Dr. Hakimah Nur Ahmad Hamidi, Faculty of Business, Economics, and Social Development



Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) has recently formed a partnership with a prestigious Indonesian university in its continued effort towards expanding its academic collaboration.

The partnership was formalized on 5 November when UMT's Faculty of Business, Economics, and Social Development signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with Universiti Brawijaya's Faculty of Economics and Business.

The signed LOI demonstrates the commitment of both universities to enhancing their cooperation with each other. The partnership is poised to benefit both students and faculty, providing a platform for cross-cultural learning and knowledge sharing in the fields of business, economics, and social development.

By linking academic strengths and expanding professional networks, UMT and Universiti Brawijaya (UB) will enhance the learning experiences of their students and open doors to new research opportunities.

The partnership is not just about strengthening institutional ties but also about shaping the future of higher education in the region and beyond.

The collaboration is believed to provide exciting opportunities for students and faculty alike.

UMT and UB have agreed to develop the following forms of collaboration:

- **Exchange Programmes for Faculty Members and Students:** This will enable faculty members and students from both institutions to participate in visiting lectures, serve as invited speakers, and take part in inbound or outbound mobility programmes. These activities aim to facilitate knowledge sharing, provide international exposure, offer experience with diverse educational systems, and enable immersion in the cultures of Malaysia and Indonesia.
- **Joint Research Initiatives:** Faculty members from both universities will collaborate on research projects, enhancing the quality and impact of their work. By combining expertise and resources, both institutions aim to contribute to the global discourse on pressing economic, business, and social challenges.
- **Curriculum Development and Capacity Building:** Both UMT and UB will share best practices in curriculum development, fostering innovation, and ensuring that students receive a high-quality education that is responsive to global trends.
- **Workshops and Seminars:** The partnership will also support the organization of academic workshops, seminars, and conferences that promote the exchange of ideas and research findings between faculty members and students.

UMT through its Faculty of Business, Economics, and Social Development looks forward to working closely with its partner at UB to explore new avenues for growth, innovation, and academic excellence.

UMT Holds Special Event to Honour Its Brightest Students

Wan Khairi Wan Zamzuri, Student Affairs and Alumni Division



To pay tribute to outstanding students who have made remarkable contributions in various aspects of their campus life, UMT has recently held the 2024 Student Icon Awards (AIS 2024).

Organized by the Student Affairs and Alumni Division through its Centre for Student Development and Empowerment, the event featured 16 awards under five clusters: Student Leadership, Social Development, Volunteerism, Academic and Intellectual Development, and Special Teams Award.

The event on 16 November was officiated by Dato' Seri Ir. Dr. Zaini Ujang, Secretary General, Ministry of Higher Education.

UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim in his welcoming address at the ceremony expressed the university's unwavering commitment to its students.

"UMT is always committed to providing full support to students in achieving excellence," he said. "We believe that with the guidance provided, all of you will achieve commendable success."

Professor Zamri further emphasized the significance of AIS 2024 as a platform to honour students' achievements.

"AIS 2024 is proof of UMT's recognition of students who excel not only academically but also in other fields, such as innovation, volunteerism, leadership, and sports," he said. "Each achievement brings pride to both the university and the individual. The organization of AIS reflects the prestige and importance of continuing such recognitions in the future." Among the highlights of the event were the presentations of three prestigious awards to the recipients.

The Bingkas Deputy Vice Chancellor (HEPA) Award was presented to Alina Pannirselvam, who served as Director of the Newscasting and Hosting Competition 2.0 and the Nautical Industry and Community Engagement 2024. She was also recognized for her exceptional leadership and involvement in high-impact public speaking initiatives at UMT.

The U&Me Together Vice Chancellor Award was presented to the Baratham Cultural Club, which successfully organized Natyamela 7.0: Aazhi The Splash of Rhythm at the international level and Lahara: The Tidal Tales of Triumph at the national level. The club's efforts in promoting Malaysia's cultural diversity while elevating UMT's name on the global stage were highly commendable.

The UMT Icon Student Award 2024 was bestowed upon Muhammad Aqasha Mukris Zainuri, who exemplifies excellence in leadership and entrepreneurship. As Deputy President of the Residential College Representative Committee for the 2023/2024 session, he also spearheaded the business Tentrem Jiwo, a barbershop at UMT's residential college. His role as Director of the Mission of a Million Hopes: Exploring Nusantara program in Surabaya, Indonesia, and his participation in the Global Student Leadership Summit 2024 in Turkey solidify his standing as an exemplary student leader.

The event also witnessed the launch of the BINGKAS Talent Module and the Micro-Credit Programme Guidelines initiatives (PEMERKASA) aimed at fostering leadership and entrepreneurship among UMT students to ensure they are well-prepared to compete on a global scale.

UMT Hosts Robotics Competition to Inspire Young Innovators

Dr. Hidayatul Aini Zakaria, Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology



Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) has recently hosted the inaugural Junior Terengganu Robot Challenge (JTRC 2024), a pioneering robotics competition for elementary school students.

Organized collaboratively by UMT's Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology (FTKK), Sekolah Kebangsaan Rengas Bekah (SKRB), the Terengganu State Education Department (JPN), and Cytron Technologies Malaysia, the event on 5 November aimed to introduce robotics to young learners and spark interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields.

With the theme "Learning Through Innovation," the competition attracted 101 teams, each consisting of three students, and featured participants from diverse educational backgrounds, including indigenous schools, rural schools, and small-enrolment schools (SKM). This inclusive approach ensured equal access to opportunities, aligning with Malaysia Madani's goal of bridging educational gaps.

Schools such as SK Sungai Berua in Hulu Terengganu, an indigenous institution, and rural schools like SK Sungai Las and SK Merbau Menyusut participated, overcoming geographical and resource limitations. Similarly, small-enrolment schools like SK Darau in Besut and SK Pecah Rotan in Kuala Nerus showcased their determination despite logistical challenges. Remarkably, nearly 50% of participants hailed from rural schools, highlighting the competition's successful role in exposing students to technology and fostering their confidence.

The event culminated in TaXes Robotics from SK Chukai clinching the championship title with outstanding performances throughout. Hyperbots 1 from SK Sultan Ismail, Kemaman, secured second place, while QBest 2 from SK Kuala Berang and Setakir A from SK Seberang Takir tied for third, where all teams had showcased exceptional creativity and technical prowess.

Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Ahmad Nazri Dagang, representing FTKK, said the competition not only aimed to introduce robotics but also cultivate critical and creative thinking.

"Robotics combines science, mathematics, and critical thinking skills," he explained. "This event provides a fun and interactive way to integrate these elements."

The competition also fostered teamwork, communication, and problem-solving abilities, crucial for students' personal and academic growth.

As part of the preparations, FTKK lecturers had conducted robotics workshops for teachers, equipping them to guide students effectively.

The initiative also provided UMT an opportunity to promote its academic programmes and inspire students to explore careers in technology and engineering.

JTRC 2024 has successfully bridged educational disparities, nurtured innovation, and laid a foundation for developing a skilled future workforce, reinforcing Terengganu's commitment to STEM education.

UMT Researchers Awarded International Grant

Prof. Madya Dr. Lee Jen Nie, Faculty of Marine Science and Environment



A five-university research project Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) is a member of has been awarded a grant money of USD954,866.

The collaborative initiative involves UMT, representing Malaysia, alongside partners from Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

The Coral Research & Development Accelerator Platform (CORDAP) has awarded the fund for the project titled "The first-ever cryorepository network for coral larvae in the Coral Triangle region".

The world's coral reefs face unprecedented threats due to the escalating impacts of climate change, pollution, and unsustainable practices. Malaysia, located within the Coral Triangle, is no exception and faces significant challenges, particularly from anthropogenic pressures caused by the dense population living along its coastline.

Securing the future of coral reefs requires intensive, coordinated efforts from countries and stakeholders to conserve and restore these ecosystems. These efforts are essential not only to prevent further losses but also to achieve partial recovery of tropical reefs.

The three-year project focuses on developing cryopreservation techniques to safeguard corals and their symbiotic algae from extinction by freezing biological materials at ultra-low temperatures. Utilizing cutting-edge technology such as a

customized freezing device, cryojig, vitrification, and laser-warming techniques, the initiative benefits from the expertise of lead investigator Prof. Chiahxin Lin of National Dong Hwa University, Taiwan.

This innovative approach aims not only to protect key coral species from extinction but also to conserve biological material from thermo-tolerant corals, which are critical for future reef restoration efforts amidst climate change. The successful execution of this project will significantly enhance coral restoration and conservation efforts.

UMT will be the focal point for Malaysia as part of Coral Triangle region. A united effort by the Faculty of Science and Marine Environment (FSSM), the Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries (AQUATROP), and the South China Sea Repository & Reference Centre (RRC) will ensure the project's success. These entities will focus on optimizing protocols, collecting and processing coral larvae, managing data, and maintaining storage facilities.

The project also aims to actively support reef restoration by outplanting corals and coral larvae preserved in cryorepositories, contributing to the rebuilding of resilient reef ecosystems.

The outcomes of this initiative are expected to strengthen UMT's mission of generating knowledge and advancing efforts to protect and restore coral reefs in the region.

UMT's Community Empowerment Programme Benefits Local Residents

Siti Nurhasmira Abu Hassan, Dr. Zuha Rosufila Abu Hasan, Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Amir Izzwan Zamri,
Centre for Knowledge Transfer, Industry & Community Linkages



To provide practical solutions to economic challenges faced by the local community, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) has implemented the Komuniti@UniMADANI initiative, a community empowerment programme.

The programme involved 12 income-generating projects, including fishery-related innovations, freshwater fish farming, aquaponic, oyster farming, fish nutrition technology, live shrimp bait farming, stingless bee farming, in-vitro stingless bee queen breeding, and roselle planting.

Being in line with UMT's slogan "U&Me Together," the programme was intended to strengthen the relationship between the university, community, and industry. More importantly, it aimed to ensure that research outcomes and innovations benefit the community socioeconomically.

With a fund of RM500,000 from the Ministry of Finance, UMT researchers from various fields of specialization have trained 123 participants in Terengganu, comprising youths, women, fishermen, pensioners, farmers and deaf individuals.

Positive impacts gained from the projects include increased work-related skills and knowledge, improved income ranging from RM500 to RM2,500, reduced operational costs, improved productivity, and firmer grasp of marketing strategies.

The projects' success in positively impacting the local

community and improving their quality of life have attracted various parties to inject additional fund for the projects' continuation.

The stingless bee farming project at Kampung Menerong, Ajil, has positively transformed the residents. Many have been successfully reared stingless bees and produced soap and lotion products based on them. A gallery has been established, serving as an information centre and a place for selling products based on stingless bees as well as tourists' destination.

In addition, UMT researchers have conducted training for a group of freshwater fish farmers and shared their expertise in pond management, suitable fish species selection, fish breeding, efficient and sustainable farming techniques, and the use of biofloc innovation in a farming system.

As a result, improvements have been seen in productivity, livestock quality, fish product competitiveness. In addition, knowledge gained on fish food product development has helped lower operations cost, as farmers no longer have to depend on costly ready-made food fish that makes up the biggest portion of expenses in the farming industry.

Based on the success of the projects in creating high impacts, low costs, fast implementation, and sustainable results, the projects are considered viable, and they need to be continued as part of the efforts to help the local community.



A PARTNER FOR OCEAN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

PROGRAMME BY RESEARCH

- Humanities
- Social and Behavioural Science
- Economics
- Business and Administration
- Accounting and Taxation
- Biology and Related Sciences Not Further Defined
- Environmental Science
- Physical Science
- Earth Science
- Mathematics
- Computer Sciences
- Engineering and Engineering Trades
- Food Processing
- Crop and Livestock Production
- Fisheries
- Transport Services
- Socialwork and Counselling
- Environmental Protection Technology

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- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
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- Master of Mathematics
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- Master of Science (Maritime Studies)
- Master of Science in Tropical Marine Environment
- Postgraduate Diploma In Maritime Studies
- Postgraduate Certificate In Maritime Studies



Gain deeper understanding of the Sunda Shelf, while tapping into a universe of resources and research potential. UMT welcomes visitors, especially those in :

- Nautical Science
- Oceanography and Marine Science
- Marine Management and Technology
- Coastal and Island Socioeconomics and Development
- Marine Informatics and Applied Mathematics

CALLING ALL ACADEMICIANS, FELLOWS AND PROFESSORS... COLLABORATE WITH US!

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