

NEWSLETTER

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Ocean of Discoveries for Global Sustainability



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edition proudly showcases several significant events that have enriched our university community. A key highlight was the successful **Community Knowledge Transfer Program** held on Pangkor Island, officiated by the **Honorable Minister of Higher Education**. This initiative fostered valuable knowledge exchange while emphasizing our university's commitment to societal contribution and local community engagement.

We were also honored to welcome the **Canadian Commissioner to Malaysia** at UMT. The Commissioner's visit further strengthened our international partnerships, opening new avenues for collaboration on the global stage. In line with our continued efforts to enhance our global presence, this edition also covers the MOU signing ceremony between UMT and **Universitas Muslim Indonesia**. This marks another significant step in our mission to build lasting connections with international institutions.



Additionally, in our Young Researcher column, we are pleased to feature Associate Professor Dr. Effi Helmy Ariffin from the **Institute of Oceanography and Environment**, recognizing his contributions to advancing marine science and environmental research.

These efforts are crucial in positioning UMT as a leading higher education institution in Malaysia, allowing us to compete alongside esteemed universities worldwide. However, being global does not mean neglecting our responsibility to uplift society. By engaging with the community, we can transform the knowledge gained from research into practical solutions, extending its impact beyond the classroom. After all, knowledge without application is like a tree without fruit; its true value lies in its contribution to society.

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Executive Editor

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Elevating Our University's Visibility and Growth

take pride in being a leading university in marine, maritime, and sustainability education, but our goal goes beyond just rankings—we want to make a real difference. This is not a small responsibility. UMT's presence should be felt in nation-building, in shaping the next generation of talent, and in producing research that truly matters, both for Malaysia and the world. However, we need to embrace these challenges by making significant changes to our yearly plan and approach.

Strengthening Our University's Visibility

My responsibilities under the office of Pro-Vice Chancellor (Strategy, Performance, and Corporate) are to elevate our global standing, enhance visibility, modernize student recruitment to attract more students to our niche programmes, expand our influence, and establish our university as a leading institution in marine, maritime, and sustainability education.

For 2025 we have designed a new approach to **building a fresh and dynamic image** that enhances our university's visibility and attracts more students to join us. A strong reputation not only increases recognition but also builds **trust and confidence** among prospective students and their families. One of our key advantages is our **high employability rate**, proving that our graduates are well-prepared for the job market, particularly in our niche programmes. By showcasing our strengths, success stories, and career opportunities, we aim to **inspire more students to see our university as the right place to shape their future**. To achieve this target, we are implementing three key approaches:

- Strengthening our digital presence through enhanced marketing, social media, and strategic branding
- 2. Optimizing our website to create a seamless experience for prospective students, researchers, and partners
- 3. Expanding our reach through monthly e-newsletters—engaging, contemporary publications designed to connect with a broader audience

Strategic Plan for Growth and Impact

UMT's university rankings have been making impressive progress over the past years. Based on 2025 ranking reports, UMT is among the top 200 in the QS Asia University Rankings. We have six subjects listed in THE Subject Ranking, and we

are proud to have two new entries, which are IT & Computer Science and Economics, featured in both THE and QS Subject Rankings.

While these metrics affirm our trajectory, I want to emphasize that UMT's commitment always extends beyond rankings. We constantly focus on enhancing academic reputation and research quality, fostering international collaborations, and strengthening industry partnerships that prepare graduates for meaningful careers.

UMT recently made an important strategic move. Last September, we established the Blue Economy Advancement Centre (UMT BEACON). UMT aims to make an impact and stay true to its core values. By positioning ourselves as a leader in the **Blue Economy and sustainability-focused research and education**, we hope to align with Malaysia's long-term vision for a sustainable future.

Through **cutting-edge research**, **industry collaborations**, **and academic excellence**, our plan is not only to elevate our university's standing but also to contribute to national and global efforts in addressing the challenges of climate change and ocean resource management. We are always committed to ensuring that UMT's effort remain constructive and fulfil future aspirations. It is about shaping the future of education, research, and policy for a more sustainable world. And UMT will always be a part of it.

UMT Empowers Pangkor Community Through Innovative Knowledge **Transfer Programme**

By Sulwani Abd Rahman, Centre for Knowledge Transfer, Industry and Community Linkages

niversiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) continues to enhance its role in knowledge transfer to the community through the Knowledge Transfer ProgramME (KTP) focused on entrepreneurial beekeeping with stingless bees in Pangkor.

The project, managed by the Centre for Knowledge Transfer, Industry Linkages and Community (PPIJIM) under the administration of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Industry, Community, and Digital Network), is led by Professor Dr. Shamsul Bahri Abd Razak, a lecturer from UMT's Faculty of Fisheries and Food Science.

The launch ceremony was held in February and officiated by the Minister of Higher Education (MOHE), Dato' Seri Diraja Dr. Zambry Abd Kadir, in Kampung Tengah, Pangkor, Perak. The event was attended by various stakeholders, including local community members and government agency representatives.

The launch event underscored UMT and MOHE's commitment to community empowerment through impactful innovation and knowledge transfer, ensuring long-term benefits for local communities while contributing to sustainable natural resource conservation.

According to Dr. Zambry, this initiative is part of MOHE's efforts to ensure that universities serve as high-impact knowledge transfer centres that benefit communities by promoting socioeconomic empowerment and natural resource conservation.

He emphasized that universities' expertise and facilities must be fully utilized in line with MOHE's primary focus on strengthening the community's economy through new knowledge transfer and sharing approaches.

"This stingless bee farming project not only creates new economic opportunities but also raises public awareness about environmental protection to ensure the sustainability of Pangkor's ecosystem. It aligns with our aspiration to position universities as innovation hubs and catalysts for social development," said Dr. Zambry in his speech during the launch ceremony.

Meanwhile, UMT Vice-Chancellor Professor Ir. Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim said the project focuses on five key elements:





rapid implementation, high impact, affordability, marketability, and sustainability.

UMT also conducts continuous monitoring and evaluation to ensure the project's success and strengthen collaboration with strategic partners. Additionally, UMT's hands-on knowledge transfer approach, which includes peer mentoring, motivation, and practical guidance, has contributed to the success of past projects.

Dr. Zambry also announced the Pangkor community's plan to establish a Stingless Bee Farming Gallery as a one-stop centre to showcase community products and highlight Pangkor's unique heritage. This idea was inspired by project participants' visits to UMT and university-led community guidance programmes.

He also mentioned other potential knowledge transfer projects, such as Mud Crab and Soft-Shell Crab Farming, Turtle Conservation, Ecotourism, and Pufferfish Farming, which could empower local communities and enhance the tourism sector in Pangkor Island.

GfficialUMT

High Commissioner of Canada to Malaysia Visited UMT to Discuss Collaborations

By Syarifah Noormaisarah Tuan Besar, International Centre

he High Commissioner of Canada to Malaysia recently paid a working visit to Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) to offer potential collaborations with academic institutions and industry players in Canada.

Her Excellency Jodi Robinson, accompanied by First Secretary (Political) Alina Kwan and Advocacy Officer Dayalan S. Rajoo, had a discussion with Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and International) Prof. Dr. Suriyani Muhamad, Pro Vice Chancellors, and representatives from faculties, institutes, offices, and centres.

The role of the embassy is to assist higher education institutions such as UMT in establishing collaborations with various parties in Canada, whether in academia or industry, Commissioner Robinson said.

"As the newly appointed High Commissioner of Canada to Malaysia, I am committed to continuing and strengthening collaborations between UMT and Canadian institutions," she said.

Commissioner Robinson also pledged to facilitate new partnerships leading to the signing of MoUs/MoAs with these institutions.

She also provided information on the Canada-ASEAN Scholarships and Educational Exchanges for Development (SEED), which is now open for applications, and encouraged UMT to apply.

Discussions also centered on the scope of the Blue Economy in education. This topic was further explored in detail during a roundtable and B2B sessions, held in collaboration with Memorial University and several Canadian industries on 23 – 24 February in Kuala Lumpur

Meanwhile Prof. Suriyani said UMT was honored to welcome Commissioner Robinson to its campus for a fruitful discussion. UMT has been making ongoing efforts to enhance its global visibility, and collaborations with embassies is one of the initiatives under this agenda, she said.

Prof. Suriyani added that the visit reflects the continuous commitment between UMT and the Canadian embassy to strengthening academic and industrial ties between the two nations.





With various collaboration opportunities discussed and initiatives already in progress, it is hoped that this partnership will continue to grow, benefiting the academic community, industry, and society as a whole, she said.

She added that UMT remains committed to expanding its international network to achieve academic and research excellence in line with its vision of becoming a globally recognized institution.

As part of their visit to Terengganu, the Canadian delegation also visited Mengabang Telipot Complex Secondary School, which is involved in a community pilot project under the Canadian embassy in collaboration with UMT's Institute of Climate Adaptation and Marine Biotechnology (ICAMB). The project is led by Prof. Fadzilah from ICAMB.

Collaborations with the Canadian embassy began in 2020. Through this partnership, UMT has been able to expand its cooperation with institutions in Canada and strengthen existing collaborations.

In 2023, the Canadian embassy facilitated connections between UMT and several Canadian institutions, including Lakehead University, New Brunswick University, Saskatchewan University, and Dalhousie University.

UMT, UMI Sign MoU for Academic and Research Collaboration

By Syarifah Noormaisarah Tuan Besar, International Centre

niversiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Universitas Muslim Indonesia (UMI) in February, aiming to strengthen academic and research cooperation between its Faculty of Fisheries and Food Science (FPSM) and the Indonesian university.

The key objectives of the five-year MoU are:

- 1. Enhancing Academic Engagement Creating opportunities for staff and students from both UMT and UMI to participate in academic activities, particularly in fisheries and food science.
- 2. Capacity Building Strengthening and implementing programmes to improve research capabilities, staff training, and student development in these specialized

The partnership encompasses various aspects of academic and research collaboration, including:

- Exchange of expertise and facilities
- Student and staff exchange programs for mobility initiatives, internships, and practical training
- Joint research, grant applications, and scientific publications
- Co-hosting of seminars and conferences
- Visiting professor programmes and external postgraduate examiners
- Other mutually agreed areas of cooperation

The MoU was signed between UMT Vice-Chancellor and UMI Rector.

Following UMT Vicesigning ceremony, Chancellor, Zamri Professor Dr. Ibrahim, Ts. about expressed optimism collaboration. the "With the MOU agreement officially signed, UMT and UMI will now work together for the benefit of both institutions," he said. "We hope this partnership will bear fruit and give us meaningful impacts."





The MoU was formalized during the ASEAN Universities Exhibition and Forum, organized by Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS) and the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) in February and held at Sunway Resort Hotel.

The two-day programme was officiated by Dato' Seri Diraja Dr. Zambry Abd Kadir, Minister of Higher Education, and gathered senior management, faculty members, and students from ASEAN countries, Timor-Leste, Uzbekistan, as well as public and private universities in Malaysia. The event served as a platform for Malaysian universities to showcase their institutions and foster new collaborations within ASEAN countries.

UMI, located in Makassar, South Sulawesi, was established in 1954, making it one of the oldest and largest private universities in the northeastern region of Indonesia. It is ranked as the top private university in Sulawesi (2020) and the 5th best higher education institution in South Sulawesi (2024).

Last October, UMI delegation visited FPSM. Led by the Dean of the Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences (FFMS), the delegation held discussions with academic and support staff to explore potential collaborations.

UMI's FFMS offers three programmes closely related UMT, namely Aquaculture, Fisheries Utilization, and Marine Science. During the meeting, both institutions presented their teaching and research strengths, opening doors to further

The MoU marked a significant step towards strengthening academic and research ties between UMT and UMI, fostering innovation, and enhancing the quality of education and training in fisheries and food science.

UMT Offers Financial Aid to Alumni and Their Children Pursuing Further Studies

niversiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) has introduced a special financial assistance programme to support its alumni and their children in furthering their studies at the university. The initiative, managed through the **Alumni Centre under the Student** Affairs and Alumni Division (HEPA), aims to ease the financial burden of postgraduate students by giving them an annual allocation of RM10,000.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni), Prof. Dr. Mohd Izani Mohd Zain, announced the initiative, known as Insentif Belajar Tanpa Henti, or Incentive for Furthering Studies, during his 2025 address held recently. Under this scheme, UMT alumni enrolling in master's programmes will receive a oneoff aid of RM400, while those pursuing a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) will be given RM500.

During the event, the incentive was presented to three postgraduate students currently furthering their studies at UMT:

Najahul Kamilah Aminy binti Sukri - PhD (Research) in Management (Entrepreneurship)

Rahman Syahputra bin Syafruddin - Master of Science (Research) in Marine Science (Marine Biology)

Muhammad Fikkri bin Zainal Efendi - Master of Science (Research) in Marketing

One of the recipients, Najahul Kamilah Aminy, expressed her gratitude, describing the assistance as a great motivation to remain focused and complete her studies.

"Thank you so much HEPA and the Alumni Centre, for providing such support," said Najahul, originally from Kuala Terengganu. "I encourage fellow alumni to seize the opportunity."

Applications for the aid can be submitted via the Alumni Welfare Fund Application Form, which is available through faculty alumni coordinators or directly from the Alumni Centre. For further inquiries, applicants can contact Azura Ariffin at 09-6684582 or email her at zura_81@umt.edu.my.

In addition to this, Prof. Izani also introduced a new initiative, the Insentif Jom Sambung Belajar@UMT, or Let's Further Studies@







UMT Incentive, which offers a one-off RM200 financial aid to children of UMT alumni enrolling in the university starting from the upcoming October academic session.

"This initiative aims to encourage more students to choose UMT as their preferred institution for obtaining higher education," he said.

UMT is actively promoting its Jom Masuk UMT campaign to convince prospective students to register at the university. They can visit https://www.umt.edu.my for more information on admissions.

UMT Hosts 8th Malaysian Inter-Asasi Games

Siti Nurhasmira Abu Hassan, Centre for Knowledge Transfer, Industry and Community Linkages

niversiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) successfully hosted the 8th Malaysian Inter-Asasi Games (SAM2025) recently. The event taking place at UMT's Tengku Muhammad Ismail Sports Complex was filled with great excitement and sportsmanship.

UMT's STEM Foundation Centre (PASTEM) was entrusted with organizing SAM2025, with full support from the Council of Deans/Directors of Malaysian Public University Foundation Programmes.

The two-day tournament beginning 7 February saw from contingents representing various participation institutions, including Malaysian public university foundation Malaysian polytechnics, and programmes, matriculation colleges. Various sports events were contested, and intense competition was on display among participants striving for championship titles.

The closing ceremony was officiated by UMT Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ir. Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim. He expressed his appreciation to all athletes, officials, and volunteers who contributed to the success of the championship.

Prof. Zamri said SAM2025 was not just a platform for foundation students to showcase their sports talents but also to shape their character, foster sportsmanship, and strengthen relationships between higher education institutions in Malaysia.

"This championship provided students with the opportunity to hone their talents, enhance their discipline, and develop their teamwork. I believe foundation students' involvement in sports not only benefits their academic achievement but also helps shape more dynamic and holistic graduates," said Prof. Zamri during his speech at the SAM2025 closing ceremony.

"I would like to congratulate all the athletes who emerged as champions in this tournament. However, more important than winning was the spirit of sportsmanship displayed by all participants. Every experience, whether sweet or bitter, is a valuable lesson," Prof. Zamri added.

He also expressed hope that such tournaments continue to be held in the future to strengthen sports development at the foundation level and beyond.

Assisting PASTEM) in organizing SAM2025 were UMT's Sports and Recreation Centre and several strategic partners, including the Terengganu State Sports Council, the Terengganu State Education Department, and the Terengganu State Tourism Department.







Nearly 200 STEM Foundation students sponsored by the Yayasan Perkasa Siswa under the Ministry of Higher Education (KPT) also provided assistance as volunteers throughout the championship.

GO Official UMT

UMT Strengthens Global Standing with QS and THE Rankings, Advancing as a Marine-Focused University

niversiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) continues to strengthen its position on the international stage, having been ranked in both the THE World University Rankings 2025 and the QS World University Rankings 2025, placing it among the top 1,001–1,200 universities worldwide.

UMT has also made significant progress at the regional level, ranking 195th in the QS Asia University Rankings 2025, further cementing its status as one of the leading higher education institutions in the region.

In the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025, UMT achieved notable recognition in two subject areas:

- · Agriculture & Forestry ranked 301-350 globally
- Economics & Econometrics ranked 551–700 globally

The ranking in Agriculture & Forestry is a testament to UMT's expertise as a leader in aquatic resource studies, a key focus area of the university. Meanwhile, the recognition in Economics & Econometrics aligns with UMT's ambition to pioneer the blue economy, supported by the establishment of the Blue Economy Advancement Centre.

Although UMT has yet to secure a QS ranking for Earth & Marine Sciences, the university is on the right track toward achieving recognition in this field. UMT remains committed to strengthening its efforts to attain this ranking.

UMT is steadily advancing toward its vision of becoming a leading marine-focused university. In his Vice-Chancellor's Address on March 6, 2025, Professor Ir. Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim emphasized the university's aspiration to achieve QS subject rankings in Earth & Marine Sciences. This effort is in line with UMT's strategic direction in marine sciences, which remains a top priority in its academic and research development.

"UMT is on the right path to becoming a leading marinefocused university. We are getting closer to securing a ranking in Earth & Marine Sciences, but we must intensify our efforts to achieve this recognition," he said.

UMT has also been ranked in six subject areas in the THE World University Rankings by Subject 2025:







• Physical Sciences: 601-800

• Life Sciences: 801–1,000

• Engineering: 601-800

• Business & Economics: 501-600

• Social Sciences: 800–1,000

Computer Science: 801–1,000

Professor Ir. Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim attributed this achievement to the dedication and hard work of the university community in strengthening academic excellence and research.

"UMT remains committed to enhancing the quality of education, research, and innovation to ensure continuous global recognition. We will also strengthen collaborations with international institutions and industries to boost our competitiveness and improve graduate employability," he said.

Professor Ir. Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri also highlighted that this success requires the collective effort of all members of UMT. Every individual within the university plays a crucial role in achieving these goals.

"Through UMT's spirit of unity, everyone must contribute towards the mission of establishing UMT as a leading marine-focused university," he stated.

With a robust strategy and continuous efforts, UMT is confident that it is on a solid path to realizing its vision of becoming a marine-focused university that is reputed nationally and respected globally.

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ssoc. Prof. Dr. Effi Helmy Ariffin holds a PhD in marine geoscience from Université de Bretagne Sud, France, a master's degree in oceanography geology, and a bachelor's degree in marine science from UMT.

His expertise includes geomorphology, coastal erosion, coastal management, and hydrodynamic modelling.

The incumbent deputy director of the Institute of Oceanography and Environment (INOS) has led multiple research projects on climate change impacts, coastal erosion, and hydrodynamic modelling, securing significant research grants. His work has earned him an H-index of 18, with over 604 citations. He has published widely in academic journals, conferences, and book chapters, contributing valuable insights into coastal and marine sciences.

In addition to being an active researcher, Dr. Effi is also a dedicated supervisor, having guided 14 PhD students and 23 master's students in areas related to coastal dynamics, erosion management, and marine environmental sustainability. Many of his students have successfully graduated and proceeded to contribute to research and industry.

He has also been invited as a keynote speaker at international conferences, sharing his expertise in coastal protection and sustainability.

Beyond academia, Dr. Effi works with industries on consultancy projects, including coastal erosion assessments and hydrodynamic modelling. His contributions continue to support efforts in managing and protecting coastal environments in Malaysia and beyond.

The marine geoscientist is actively involved in national committees, such as the National Geoinformation and Geomatic Research under the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources. He also leads the Geohazards and Marine Solutions (GeMS) research programme and serves as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Sustainability Science and Management.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Effi Helmy Ariffin

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Institute of Oceanography and Environment (INOS)

Geomorphology, Coastal Erosion, Coastal Management, Hydrodynamic Modelling

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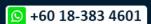
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THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS (ASIA) 2024

301-350



THE YOUNG UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2024

251-300



QS ASIA UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2025

195



QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2024: SUSTAINABILITY

561

