



**"Knowledge empowers.
Unity sustains. From UMT
to the world, let's build
a better tomorrow."**

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As we sail into a new chapter in 2025, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) remains steadfast in its mission to become a globally recognized marine-focused university. This ambition was powerfully echoed during the recent **Vice-Chancellor's Address 2025**, delivered by **Prof. Ir. Ts. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim**, themed *"Strengthening Unity Towards Becoming a Leading Marine University"*.

In his inspiring address, Prof. Zamri laid out UMT's roadmap for excellence, identifying **eight strategic focus areas** and **48 actionable initiatives** that will drive our progress this year. Central to his message was a call for unity and collaboration among the UMT community. While our aspiration to be among the **world's top 100 universities**, especially in marine and aquatic sciences, is bold, every incredible journey begins with a single, determined step, and that step should be taken.

This edition also celebrates milestones that reflect our growing impact and commitment to environmental stewardship. UMT has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Aquaria KLCC**, focusing on coral reef conservation and rehabilitation—an initiative that aligns seamlessly with our marine heritage. Equally significant is our **strategic partnership with Carbon Registry Thailand (CRT)**, which aims to strengthen carbon credit methodology and advance transparency in global climate action.

Beyond research and collaboration, our students embody the spirit of compassion and community engagement. We are grateful to **Etiqa Family Takaful Berhad** for their generous sponsorship of our community welfare initiatives. Notably, our students' outreach programmes during Ramadan—providing *iftar* and *sahur* meals, along with distributing pre-loved clothing to the homeless—reflect UMT's core values of humanity and service. These meaningful efforts affirm our belief that education extends beyond the classroom, shaping not only minds but also hearts.

I hope this issue inspires all of us—academics, students, partners, and readers—to continue striving together toward excellence, anchored in unity and purpose.

Let us move forward, towards becoming a university of global standing in marine and aquatic sciences.



Zukiferee bin Ibrahim
Executive Editor

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Continuing Education in the Digital Era: Igniting Global Potential with Technology

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) remains committed to providing high-quality teaching and learning (T&L).

We strive to offer programmes that are relevant to current developments and industry needs, with the aim of producing competitive graduates equipped with high-level skills.

In addition, we seek to ensure that UMT graduates possess leadership abilities and an entrepreneurial spirit as preparation for the increasingly dynamic job market.

As one of its key initiatives, UMT has introduced the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) programme, which offers students the flexibility to study without constraints of time and location.

We are also working to integrate digital technology and artificial intelligence (AI) into teaching and learning (T&L) to ensure a more flexible and personalized learning experience.

In closing, we hope that all members of the UMT community will continue to collaborate and remain committed to driving the university's success. Together, we will continue our efforts to make UMT a higher education institution that continues to be relevant and excellent, as well becomes successful in facing the challenges of globalization and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.



2025 Vice-Chancellor's Address: "Strengthening Unity Towards Becoming a Leading Marine University"

By Wan Ab Hafiz Wan Ibrahim, Vice-Chancellor's Office

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) recently held the 2025 Vice-Chancellor's Address, delivered by Prof. Ir. Ts. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim, the Vice-Chancellor. With the theme "Strengthening Unity Towards Becoming a Leading Marine University," the event on 6 March brought together more than 1,500 members of the UMT community, comprising academic staff, management personnel, and student representatives.

In his speech, Prof. Zamri outlined the university's aspirations and strategic initiatives for the year 2025 and beyond. He emphasised the need to position UMT among the world's top 100 universities, particularly in the fields of marine and aquatic studies, which are UMT's niche areas.

Strategies to Drive Excellence

Professor Zamri, who was appointed as Vice-Chancellor on 1 August 2024, shared 48 key strategies to be implemented throughout 2025. Among the main areas of focus announced are:

- The introduction of 13 new undergraduate academic programmes centred on marine and aquatic resources within the next two years.
- The development and offering of 14 master's programmes through Open and Distance Learning (ODL).
- A target to increase student enrolment by 30% by the year 2030, with the aim to reach a capacity of 15,000 students, and a particular emphasis on local and international postgraduate student enrolment.

Focus on New Campus Development

In line with plans to increase student capacity and academic programmes, UMT will also focus on the physical development of a new campus at UMT Bukit Kor. The development of the



campus, covering an area of 600 acres, will be carried out with the concept of a sustainable campus, complete with teaching, learning, and student accommodation facilities for the Faculty of Computer Science and Mathematics, Faculty of Agrotechnology and Food Science, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, and the STEM Foundation Centre. This phase of development is expected to serve as a catalyst for the strategic growth of UMT as the leading marine and aquatic education hub in the region.

Unity as the Pillar of Success

In his speech, Prof. Zamri also said unity is a key prerequisite for the success of any organization. He urged the entire university community, whether academic staff, professional groups, or support personnel, to work together in realising the university's vision.

"Feel and embrace the spirit of togetherness as we chart our direction, manage our plans, and coordinate our actions," Prof. Zamri said. "Let us work together hand in hand, as expressed in these Malay proverbs: *Bagai aur dengan tebing* (Like the bamboo and the riverbank); *Ibarat telur sesangkak, pecah sebiji, pecah semua* (Like eggs in a basket—if one breaks, all are affected); *Yang berat sama dipikul, yang ringan sama dijinjing* (Sharing both the burdens and the lighter loads alike)."

The event not only served as a platform for conveying aspirations but also for uniting everyone in the goal of making UMT a leading university that is well respected on the international stage..

UMT Partners with CRT to Enhance Carbon Credit Methodology

By Dr. Siti Mariam binti Muhammad Nor

UMT has initiated a strategic partnership with Carbon Registry Thailand (CRT), a prominent organization focused on carbon management and environmental sustainability efforts, to enhance carbon credit methodology in the hope of advancing global climate action and improving transparency in carbon markets.

UMT is strongly committed to climate action, particularly in reducing overall carbon emissions and enhancing climate change mitigation efforts.

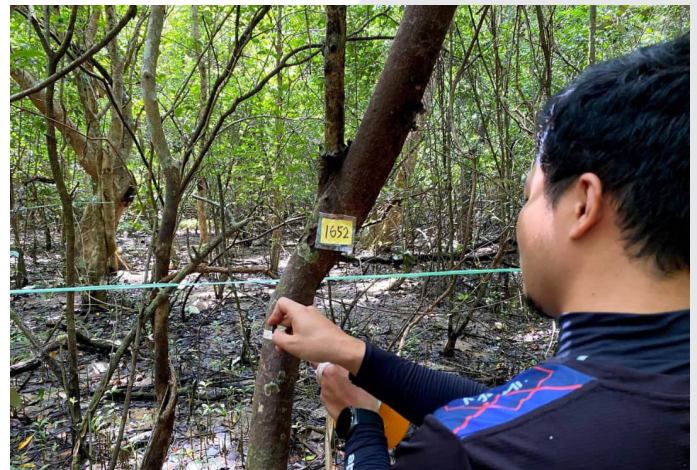
This collaboration brings together UMT's expertise in biodiversity conservation and CRT's deep knowledge of carbon finance and methodology development. The goal is to create a scientifically rigorous, scalable, and verifiable approach to carbon credit generation, particularly suited for environmental research and sustainability.

This partnership marks a major milestone in advancing climate solutions while sustaining the biodiversity resources. It is aimed at enhancing the carbon credit methodology, which will offer a new standard for quality and integrity in the voluntary carbon market.

This alliance comes at a crucial time, as the demand for credible carbon offsets grows alongside global efforts to reach net-zero emissions. By focusing on methodological excellence and robust verification, UMT and CRT aim to build trust and long-term value within the voluntary carbon market.

CRT, a subsidiary of Star Century Group Malaysia, is committed to delivering innovative solutions to achieve carbon neutrality while supporting the advancement of ESG policies. The company also boasts a team of experts in satellite sensing who specialize in carbon credit verification, ensuring precision and transparency in monitoring environmental impacts.

"At CRT, we recognize the critical need for comprehensive carbon credit standards tailored to our region's environmental landscape," said Mr. Najmi Mohamed, CEO of Star Century Malaysia and Advisor to CRT, highlighting the strategic importance of the partnership. "This milestone paves the way for a transformative alliance, where our shared expertise can drive innovative solutions and set a benchmark for carbon management in Malaysia."



UMT, Aquaria KLCC Collaborate on Coral Reef Conservation

By Amirul Salam Hasan, Corporate Communication Office

To strengthen collaboration in the efforts to conserve and rehabilitate coral reefs, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) and Aquaria KLCC recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The partnership encompasses various initiatives, including coral reef restoration programmes, joint research, and public awareness campaigns on the importance of preserving marine ecosystems.

UMT Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ir. Ts Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim, emphasised that this collaboration aligns with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14: Life Below Water, which highlights the importance of marine ecosystem sustainability. "UMT is committed to environmental conservation efforts and always supports initiatives that help preserve marine biodiversity," Prof. Zamri said.

"We at UMT take on the responsibility of ensuring the sustainability of marine ecosystems. Coral reef conservation is an urgent need, and efforts like this can have a positive long-term impact. Education and public awareness also play a crucial role in ensuring future generations understand the importance of environmental conservation, ultimately benefiting global life," Prof. Zamri added.

Meanwhile, UMT researcher and coral reef expert, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tan Chun Hong, explained that these conservation efforts are essential to ensuring the continuity of marine biodiversity, particularly in Malaysia's waters.

"Coral reefs are primary habitats for various marine species and play a vital role in maintaining the balance of the marine ecosystem," he said. "However, threats such as climate change, pollution, and uncontrolled human activities have caused a drastic decline in coral reefs."

"Through this collaboration, we can conduct deeper research and develop more effective coral reef restoration technologies," he said.

The signing of the MoU is expected to expand the scope of collaboration to ensure ongoing conservation efforts and provide a positive impact on marine ecosystems.



The MoU signing ceremony took place at Aquaria KLCC in Kuala Lumpur, with the venue specially chosen to symbolise the involvement of the renowned aquarium centre in marine conservation efforts, including research projects and public awareness programmes.

At the ceremony, Prof. Zamri and Aquawalk Sdn Bhd CEO Daryl Foong signed the MoU documents to formalize the partnership.

Also present at the event was Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Datuk Ts. Mustapha Sakmud.

UMT-Etiqa Partnership Provides Free Tuition Worth RM365,400 to Underprivileged School Students

By Rodiah binti Mustafa, Pusat UMT Ihsan

The *Asnaf to Asnaf (A to A)* programme, a community tuition initiative organised by Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) in collaboration with Etiqa Family Takaful Berhad, has entered its fourth season with notable success.

The A to A programme is one of UMT's innovations in zakat distribution. First implemented in 2018, the programme has made a positive impact on the school students. This year, the programme has been rebranded as Etiqa Community Tuition, in recognition of the contributions made by Etiqa Family Takaful Berhad, the main sponsor.

With an increased funding allocation of RM365,400, UMT Ihsan, the programme's coordinator, is now able to expand A to A to include a wider range of participants and schools. The programme continues to assist more primary and secondary school students in need of academic guidance, particularly in mastering basic literacy and numeracy skills (3M – reading, writing, and arithmetic).

To honour donors and strategic partners, UMT Ihsan organised a special event, the Ihsan Ramadan Ceremony and the Launch of the Asnaf To Asnaf Programme, on 15 March. The event also provided an opportunity for UMT's top management to show appreciation to corporate partners who have funded the A to A programme and engage directly with asnaf students.

In attendance at the ceremony were delegations from Etiqa, Kuala Nerus District Education Department, and administrators from selected schools. The event served as a platform to strengthen collaborative efforts in supporting the local asnaf community and UMT students.

During the event also attended by selected asnaf members of the UMT community, Etiqa Family Takaful Berhad contributed RM10,000.00 in zakat funds to UMT to support asnaf students, RM10,000.00 in duit raya (festive allowances) for 200 asnaf students, and RM5,000.00 to provide free iftar meals for 200 asnaf students.



"With the continued support of strategic partners like Etiqa, UMT remains committed to strengthening community education and playing a crucial role in the nation's human capital development," said UMT Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ir. Ts. Dr Mohd Zamri Ibrahim in his speech during the event.

At the event, Etiqa also reinforced its collaboration with UMT through the Etiqa Wakaf Boardwalk project, an initiative aimed at preserving the mangrove ecosystem to support biodiversity conservation while serving as a platform for environmental awareness.

The ceremony was also attended by the CEO of Etiqa Family Takaful Berhad, Zafri Ab Halim, along with the company's sustainability team, who visited the project site.

Beyond the Classroom: UMT Empowers Students Through Volunteerism and Social Action

By Munirah Mansor, Wan Muhammad Khairi Wan Zamzuri, Abdullah Wan Jaapa | Centre for Student Development and Empowerment, HEPA, UMT

As part of its mission to nurture graduates with empathy, compassion, and social responsibility, the Student Affairs and Alumni Office (HEPA) of Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) recently organised the *Eratkan Kasih, Santuni Insan 2025* programme in the Klang Valley, Kuala Lumpur.

This outreach initiative saw UMT students engaging with the homeless community by preparing and distributing meals for *iftar* and *sahur*, as well as donating pre-loved clothing.

The effort was carried out in collaboration with the Student Affairs Department of Universiti Malaya (UM) and *Pertubuhan Jejak Jalanan*, a street outreach organisation.

HEPA Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Mohd Izani Mohd Zain said the programme supports the university's aim of developing socially conscious graduates.

"Through activities like this, students can better understand the struggles faced by the underprivileged and embrace humanitarian values crucial to personal growth," he said.

Programme Director Muhammad Afiq Naquiddin bin Mohd Afzal, who is also the Volunteerism and Leadership Exco of the 2024/2025 UMT Student Representative Council, expressed hope that the initiative would inspire students and benefit the communities served.

"It is both a charitable act and a learning opportunity for students to connect with real societal issues," he added.

The programme focused its efforts around Lorong Haji Taib 2, a known area for the homeless in Kuala Lumpur, to ensure those in need would receive assistance. Meals and clothing were distributed with the help of volunteers, including students, university staff, and representatives from *Pertubuhan Jejak Jalanan*. The pre-loved clothes, donated by students, staff, and the community through a recent programme organized by UMT Student Representative Council, were sorted and distributed based on recipients' needs.

In addition to physical aid, the UMT Counselling and Student Wellness Centre (PKKM) offered Psychological First Aid (PFA) sessions, providing basic psychological support to those



facing emotional challenges, social stigma, and difficult life circumstances.

Adding a personal touch to the initiative, UMT Student Representative Council President Muhammad Aqasha Mukris Zainuri organised a free haircut service for homeless children. The service was well received, bringing joy and boosting the children's confidence, Muhammad Aqasha said.

One of the recipients, Puan Nor, 50, was grateful for the given assistance.

"Thank you to all the volunteers for carrying out this programme," she said, expressing her appreciation. "It has brought us closer together in this holy month." She also expressed hope for the continuation of this programme in the future, with a focus on knowledge-sharing and career development, to provide long-term benefits for those in need.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tan Chun Hong (James) joined Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) as an Academic Fellow in 2015 before becoming a permanent lecturer in 2016. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from UMT. James Tan obtained his PhD from James Cook University, Australia, in 2013. He is currently a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Science and Marine Environment.

James Tan is a marine biologist whose research interests revolve around coral biology and ecology. He studies the demographics (e.g., growth, mortality, and reproduction) and population dynamics of coral populations in Malaysia as well as in Australia. His research has shown that there are reproductive constraints in coral populations across a wide latitudinal area. He has also recently recorded multi-species coral spawning in tropical regions.

In addition, James Tan examines the impact of climate change (e.g., abnormally high seawater temperatures and ocean acidification) on coral communities. The results have been used to support marine resource management and conservation in Malaysia.

He is actively involved in public awareness programmes to disseminate scientific knowledge to Malaysians. He has been

invited to appear on national TV channels such as Selamat Pagi Malaysia, Bernama, and 8TV, as well as at talks organized by private organizations and NGOs.

At present, James Tan leads the Research and Education on Environment for Future Sustainability (REEFS) Research Interest Group. REEFS was awarded the International SeaKeepers Asia Achievement Award in 2022.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tan Chun Hong (James)
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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

• 1st MAY, 2025

NOTICE OF ABSTRACT ACCEPTANCE

• 7th JUNE, 2025

PAYMENT DEADLINE

• 1st JULY, 2025

CONFERENCE DATE

• 5 - 7 AUGUST, 2025

FULLPAPER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

• 31st October, 2025

LOCATION OF CONFERENCE



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More Information



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The International Conference on Ocean Engineering Technology (ICOET) has been organized by Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT). Prospect authors are welcoming to submit an abstract of the research paper as to share the valuable knowledge and current information. The accepted abstract will be notified to present the research.



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