



UMT NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 11, November 2025



OCEAN OF DISCOVERIES
FOR GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY

**From Local Expertise to Global Impact:
Our New Icons Emerge**



A moment of pride at the 23rd UMT Convocation. These seven outstanding graduates represent the success of the entire 2,539-strong graduating class. After years of dedication, they now hold the key to realizing their dreams and contributing to the Blue Economy. Congratulations, UMT heroes and heroines!

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As we conclude a successful month at Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), we are also reminded that great institutions are built not only through their history but also by the bravery and transparency with which they lay the groundwork for the future.

This month, the Centre of Excellence for Offshore Renewable Energy (CEFORE), inaugurated in the presence of Their Royal Highnesses, has opened its doors for the first time. CEFORE is more than a testament to UMT's skill; it also reflects Malaysia's ultimate goal to become a regional leader in renewable energy. Equally inspiring is our success on the world stage. The Gold Medal win at DICE 3.0 demonstrates an increasingly innovative campus culture, with students and staff pushing the boundaries of digital creativity, entrepreneurial thinking, and problem-solving.

The FUSE 2.0 International Conference, which brought together experts and policymakers, advanced our research diplomacy and demonstrated how a shared project can address interconnected issues such as food security and sustainability. This is UMT at its best: connecting science to society, making sure that our ideas—whether published in academic journals or not—don't just stay "out there," but influence real-world systems and public policy.

In celebration of our convocation, Her Royal Highness Sultanah Nur Zahirah, in her royal address, reminded us that excellence must evolve. UMT has been entrusted with embracing the next wave of digital progress, as AI, virtual platforms, and global disruptions reshape higher education. The focus on character, resilience, adaptability, and society's role aligns closely with her emphasis on character and the ability to contribute to society. These principles are deeply connected to our values: we aim to develop graduates who are intelligent, capable, well-read, adaptable, and prepared for the future.

This month has also been important for UMT's sustainability efforts. The Sultan Mizan World Blue Economy Forum 2026 has been announced, the UMT-ETIQA Mangrove Education Park is now operational, and RM3.3 million in zakat, waqf, and endowment contributions have been received. Additionally, endowment support and other initiatives further support our mission as a university committed to environmental stewardship and community-based sustainability. Beyond simply increasing UMT's value, these efforts aim to improve people, environments, and future generations.

As we enter the final weeks of the year, let's move forward with renewed conviction. Today is a day for UMT because it's not just about us, but because we need UMT to rise, as if by sheer force of will, and not by the shadows of the past. UMT is no longer a passive participant in global phenomena; we are becoming an active player in the digital and creative economy.



Zukiferee bin Ibrahim
Executive Editor



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Leadership Insights

As Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) celebrates its surge into the 801–850 band of the QS World University Rankings 2026, it is a perfect time to reflect on the engine of that success. As one of the niche-focused faculties at UMT, we undoubtedly support UMT’s vision to be “A marine-focused university, reputed nationally and respected globally.” The Faculty of Science and Marine Environment (FSME) is not just aligned with this vision; we are its nucleus. Our faculty’s work forms the bedrock of UMT’s global reputation. This was affirmed by the latest U.S. News & World Report, which ranked UMT as No. 1 in Malaysia, No. 19 in Asia, and No. 96 in the world for Marine and Freshwater Biology. This Top 100 global achievement is a testament to the relentless dedication and perseverance of all faculty members, including students, supporting, and academic staff.

This excellence is not pursued for its own sake. It is our mandate to provide the critical science for the nation’s most pressing challenges, ranging across various specialised fields not only in fundamental sciences and marine sciences but recently expanding our repertoire of focus areas, ranging from climate change to economic prosperity, yet still lingering not far from our niche and focus areas. FSME is the primary scientific driver of Malaysia’s Blue Economy agenda, developing sustainable solutions in aquaculture, marine renewable energy, and blue carbon strategies. Indeed, we have set our minds and souls towards this matter.

The Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education’s (MOHE) mission and vision on AI align with the national goal of positioning Malaysia as an “AI Nation” by 2030. The specific vision for MOHE is to leverage AI for talent and knowledge empowerment, ultimately strengthening the higher education ecosystem for societal well-being and national development. The future of science is digital, and FSME is leading this transformation. As UMT pioneers the implementation of a compulsory artificial



**Prof. ChM. Dr.
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Dean
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intelligence (AI) module for all students, our faculty is already applying AI algorithms to enhance our understanding of the ocean. Through our various state-of-the-art facilities and support systems, we are moving beyond mere observation to data-driven prediction.

Our greatest strength is our inherent transdisciplinary nature. Where others see “silos,” FSME embodies a systems-based solution. We solve complex environmental problems precisely because our expertise seamlessly integrates all eight of our study programmes here at the faculty, i.e., Marine Biology, Marine Geoscience, Marine Science, Chemical Sciences, Analytical and Environmental Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Biodiversity Conservation and Management as well as Nanophysics.

This is research made tangible. From our Antarctic climate research to our vital coral conservation partnership with Aquaria KLCC, to name a few, partnerships that are actively restoring our precious aquatic and terrestrial life, FSME is on the front lines. In the spirit of Malaysia Madani, we are an intellectual, service-oriented, and environmentally conscious community. I thank our entire FSME team for their unwavering commitment.

Her Royal Highness Sultanah Nur Zahirah officiates UMT's 23rd Convocation Ceremony

By Rozita Alias@Abdul Latiff, Corporate Communications Office

Her Royal Highness Sultanah Nur Zahirah, Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), graciously officiated the 23rd UMT Convocation Ceremony at UMT's Sultan Mizan Hall.

In conjunction with the officiating ceremony, Her Royal Highness also delivered her royal address. In her speech, Sultanah Nur Zahirah extended her congratulations to the entire university community for UMT's outstanding achievements at both the national and international levels.

"This continued success reflects the unwavering commitment of the university community in upholding academic and research excellence," said Her Royal Highness.

Her Royal Highness said such accomplishments should serve as a catalyst for further strengthening UMT's position as a leading institution in marine and aquatic sciences, in line with the nation's aspiration to become a regional maritime higher education hub.

"I am confident that with a clear focus, recognized expertise, and strong strategic networks, UMT has the potential to establish itself as a premier reference centre both regionally and globally," Her Royal Highness remarked.

Touching on global changes and technological advancement, including artificial intelligence (AI) and virtual environments, Sultanah Nur Zahirah emphasized that the rapid growth of technology has reshaped the higher education landscape. Her Royal Highness urged the university to continue embracing new technologies and strengthening digital innovation to nurture a knowledgeable and creative society, in line with the vision of Society 5.0, an intelligent society that balances technological progress with human well-being.

On graduate employability, Sultanah Nur Zahirah stressed that today's students must not only possess knowledge and skills but also additional attributes such as communication ability, leadership, critical thinking, and resilience in facing the ever-evolving challenges of the workforce.



Her Royal Highness also took the opportunity to express appreciation to the parents and families who have been the backbone of the graduates' success and urged UMT alumni to continue contributing to the university through the sharing of knowledge, experience, and professional networks.

"I am proud to see the graduates stepping out of this ivory tower with great spirit and hope. No matter how far you go, never forget the memories and contributions made at UMT," said Her Royal Highness with heartfelt sincerity.

Concluding the royal address, Sultanah Nur Zahirah prayed that the success celebrated would inspire graduates to continue progressing in life and career while remaining devoted to religion, the nation, and the country.

"May this success mark the beginning of an even brighter future," Her Royal Highness declared before ending the speech with a prayer for the well-being of all in attendance.

A total of 2,539 graduates received their degrees and diplomas. Awards presented included the Royal Education Award (Pingat Jaya Cemerlang), Chancellor's Gold Medal Award, Pro-Chancellor's Award, University Board of Directors Chairman's Award, Special PTPTN Award, and Vice-Chancellor's Award.

UMT Launches Strategic Sustainability Initiatives

By Amirul Salam Hasan, Corporate Communications Office

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) continues to strengthen its role as a sustainability-driven higher education institution by recently launching several strategic initiatives in the fields of renewable energy, environmental conservation, and community development.

Among the key initiatives announced was the organisation of the Sultan Mizan World Blue Economy Forum (WBEF) 2026, scheduled to take place in September 2026. This prestigious forum will serve as a regional and international collaboration platform in the Blue Economy, encompassing sectors such as marine renewable energy, marine biotechnology, community-based tourism, and sustainable fisheries.

According to UMT Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ir. Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim, the forum will bring together global leaders, policymakers, researchers, industry players, and the international community to discuss an inclusive, sustainable, and competitive future for the Blue Economy.

“Through Sultan Mizan WBEF 2026, UMT aims to strengthen Malaysia’s role as a leading and competitive regional hub for the Blue Economy, founded on sustainability principles,” he said.

Another initiative launched was the UMT–ETIQA Mangrove Education Park, a result of a strategic partnership between UMT and Etiqa General Takaful Berhad. This project is the only designated mangrove education park in the Kuala Nerus district gazetted as a learning and conservation area for natural mangrove ecosystems.

Etiqa has stepped forward as the main contributor, providing RM500,000 in funding for the development of learning infrastructure and teaching facilities within the park. The project is expected to benefit more than 20,000 UMT members and local community residents annually, while raising public awareness on the importance of mangrove ecosystems.

Professor Zamri explained that the education park will serve as a centre for recreation, research, and ecotourism that supports the university’s sustainability goals. Key facilities include the construction of a nearly 400-metre boardwalk traversing the mangrove habitat and connecting the UMT Mosque, library, and lecture complex.

“UMT will continue to serve as a leader in marine knowledge and sustainable research, not only advancing scholarship but also creating positive impacts for society and the nation,” Professor Zamri said.



The launch ceremony was held in conjunction with the UMT 23rd Convocation High Tea and was graced by the Chancellor of UMT, Her Royal Highness the Sultanah of Terengganu, Sultanah Nur Zahirah.

During the same ceremony, UMT also received RM3.3 million in zakat, waqf, and endowment contributions from various agencies to ensure the continuity of student welfare and development initiatives. Major contributors included the Terengganu Islamic Religious and Malay Customs Council (MAIDAM), Lembaga Tabung Haji, PLUS Malaysia Berhad, Maybank Islamic Berhad, and Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad.

According to Professor Zamri, all contributions will be channelled through the UMT Ihsan Centre to support student welfare, academic development, and community well-being.

UMT, IIPM Join Forces to Strengthen Stingless Bee Industry

By Rozita Alias@Abdul Latiff, Corporate Communications Office

The stingless bee industry is set for a new boost when Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) and the International Institute of Plantation Management (IIPM) worked together to co-organize the 3rd International Stingless Bee Conference and Workshop 2025, a two-day event held on 4 – 5 October at Permai Hotel, Kuala Terengganu.

With the theme “Stingless Bee Industry: Towards Economic, Social and Environmental Sustainability,” the event brought together more than 200 participants, including academics, industry players, beekeepers, researchers, students, and representatives from various government and private agencies, both local and international.

The conference represented a continued effort to advance the stingless bee industry toward holistic sustainable development encompassing economic, social, and environmental dimensions. It aimed to provide a knowledge- and experience-sharing platform to strengthen Malaysia’s stingless bee industry while formulating strategic action plans for a more competitive and sustainable industry.

Throughout the two-day event, participants attended paper presentations by experts from Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand. Among the organizations that shared their expertise were the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI), Department of Agriculture Malaysia, Boustead Plantations Berhad, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), and Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT).

A key attraction of the conference was the “Stingless Bees Challenge,” an innovation and invention competition featuring three main categories — Invention, Innovation, and Design — open to students and researchers. The program is expected to foster an innovation-driven culture and strengthen collaborative networks between higher learning institutions and industry players.

An exhibition space was also set up to allow agencies, companies, and entrepreneurs to showcase products and services related to the stingless bee industry to participants and visitors.



Participants also took part in a post-conference technical visit to key locations, including the Indo-Malayan Stingless Bee Repository Centre, the Rubber Research Centre at UMT Bukit Kor Campus, and a community-based stingless bee project in Kampung Menerong, Ajil, Hulu Terengganu. The visit provided participants with direct exposure to integrated stingless bee farm management and community-based beekeeping models.

In his officiating address, Dato’ Luqman bin Ahmad, Deputy Secretary-General (Development) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, said Ministry views the stingless bee industry as a high-potential sector and is committed to supporting its growth through research and innovation, training and capacity building, product quality enhancement, and fostering collaboration between communities, industries, and international partners.

Professor Dr. Mohd Salmi Mohd Sohod, Chairman of the UMT Board of Directors, said the stingless bee industry has a significant impact on the country’s socio-economic development and eco-tourism. Stingless bees remain vital guardians of forest pollination biodiversity, supporting agriculture and ensuring ecosystem resilience for future generations.

“By integrating the three pillars of economy, society, and environment, we are not only protecting stingless bees but also ensuring that their benefits reach the people, the industry, and nature in a balanced and sustainable manner,” he said.

Bursa Malaysia X UMT: Investment Day Inspires Future-Ready Investors

By Dr Hanani Farhah Harun, Faculty of Computer Science and Mathematics

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), in collaboration with Bursa Malaysia Berhad, has successfully organised an educational programme, Investment Day: Bursa x UMT, to promote investment literacy and financial awareness among university students.

The event, held at UMT's Mahyuddin Auditorium drew a participation of 261 students, reflecting the growing interest in financial education among youth.

It was co-organised by UMT's Faculty of Computer Science and Mathematics (FSKM) and Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Development (FPEPS), with the support of Bursa Malaysia and CGS International Securities Malaysia (CGSI) as the collaborating broker. The event also served as a curtain-raiser for the upcoming Bursa Marketplace Fair (BMP Fair) 2025 in Kuala Terengganu, featuring student participation from UMT across three days.

The opening ceremony was officiated by FKSM Dean Prof. Ts. Dr. Mohd Suzuri Hitam and Mrs. Noorsuriani Muhamed, Acting Director, Islamic Capital Market, Bursa Malaysia. The ceremony also featured the exchange of souvenirs between Bursa Malaysia, UMT, and CGS International, symbolising the strengthening partnership between academia and industry in nurturing financially literate graduates.

A series of engaging and informative sessions took place, led by experts from Bursa Malaysia. An insightful presentation entitled "From Shares to Futures" was delivered by Liyana Abd Majid, Vice President of Derivatives Product Development. She introduced participants to the dynamics of Bursa Malaysia's equities and derivatives markets.

In his session "Invest with Bursa Gold Dinar," Chong Kee Yum, Senior Manager of Bursa Gold Dinar, shared perspectives on alternative investment instruments.

The audience was further captivated by an interactive session "InvestLAB: Virtual Money, Real Stock Movements" by Amirul Husaini Shahrom, Senior Vice President of Digital Market Coverage & Solutions, who demonstrated real-time market analysis and digital investment tools.

Adding to the intellectual engagement, CGS International conducted a thought-provoking panel session titled "Membentuk Generasi Baharu Dalam Dunia Pelaburan: Inovasi,



Teknologi dan Kelestarian." The discussion, moderated by Al Emri Izzat Shah Albakri and joined by Rushdan Mohd Nadzir and Datuk Haji Mohd Asri Haji Ahmad, emphasised the integration of sustainability and innovation in modern investment strategies.

The final session, "Bursa Malaysia's Role in Shaping Malaysia's Islamic Finance," presented by Irfan Afifah Mohd Zaki and Muhammad Sahel Nordin from Bursa Malaysia, highlighted the nation's progress in Islamic financial instruments and governance.

Bursa Malaysia and CGS International set up booths at the PSNZ Knowledge Walkway for students to visit and explore the MyBURSA and Bursa Gold Dinar platforms and participate in trading simulations and account-opening demonstrations.

The Bursa Malaysia x UMT: Investment Day not only strengthened UMT's relationship with key financial industry players but also embodied the university's commitment to equipping students with relevant skills and knowledge in financial technology, investment, and sustainable economic growth.

Bridging Minds, Building Futures: ASEAN Olympiad Championship 2025 Unites Young Achievers

By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Azza Jauhar Ahmad Tajuddin, English Language Centre

The English Language Centre (ELC) of Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) has successfully organized the recent ASEAN Olympiad Championship 2025 that brought together 491 outstanding students from Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, and Cambodia in a vibrant celebration of intellect, creativity, and regional solidarity.

The championship was organized by ELC, which is under the Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education (PPAL), in collaboration with Persatuan Kampungstay dan Homestay Negeri Terengganu, Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Terengganu, Faculty of Computer Science and Mathematics, Kelab HMMAT UMT, UNDP Malaysia, MOTAC Terengganu, Politeknik Hulu Terengganu, PDRM, and Pejabat Daerah Kuala Nerus. This collaboration reflected a strong partnership between UMT, government agencies, and community organizations in supporting youth empowerment and regional cooperation.

Held on 1-2 October 2025 at UMT and Dewan Jubli Perak, Kuala Nerus, the event aimed to inspire young minds, strengthen ASEAN unity, and foster cross-cultural understanding through academic excellence and innovation.

The competition was divided into two main categories. Category A featured the *Junior High School Group* for students aged 14 to 15 years old, while Category B, the *Senior High School Group*, was open to students aged 16 to 17 years old.

All participants took part in two compulsory Olympiad tests—the Mathematics Olympiad Test (30 minutes) and the English Proficiency Test (30 minutes). These core assessments tested problem-solving skills, logical reasoning, and language mastery under timed conditions, setting a solid academic foundation for the rest of the competition.

In addition to the mandatory tests, participants selected one optional competition that best reflected their talents and interests. These included Storytelling, English Speech, Arabic Speech, or the innovative ROBO SOMO Competition. Each category encouraged participants to express their ideas, creativity, and technical skills in meaningful and inspiring ways.



The short talks and performances were centered around four thought-provoking themes that reflected the vision and challenges of ASEAN:

1. The Future of ASEAN – exploring opportunities, challenges, and the crucial role of youth in shaping the region's future.
2. Tourism in Your Country – celebrating national attractions, cultural highlights, and the impact of tourism on local communities.
3. Cultural Heritage – emphasizing the preservation of traditions and values in a rapidly globalizing world.
4. Environmental Conservation – promoting awareness and practical actions toward sustainability.

Among the standout moments was a performance by Qiara Asqa, 14, who captivated the audience by incorporating violin playing into her Indonesian cultural storytelling performance, adding what many described as “a wow factor” to her presentation.

“Her storytelling lifted the entire atmosphere,” said Rofet Nisa, a participant from Cambodia. “It was creative, emotional, and unforgettable.”

Another highlight was the public talk by Aiman Faris Azizul Fadli from SM Kompleks Gong Badak, whose fluent and convincing delivery on The Future of ASEAN drew praise for its motivational and dynamic tone.

“He spoke with confidence and passion,” said Christina Winata from Indonesia. “His talk was powerful, full of energy, and truly hyped the audience.”

UMT–EON Proton Strategic Partnership: A Corporate Alliance Driving Alumni’s Excellence

By Noorullaily Saffain, UMT Alumni Centre

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) Alumni Centre continues to strengthen its strategic network with the industry after entering into a corporate partnership programme with Edaran Otomobil Nasional Berhad (EON Berhad), the official distributor of Proton vehicles under DRB–Hicom.

The programme known as the Corporate Offer Programme for Universiti Malaysia Terengganu Alumni by EON Proton DRB-Hicom, or the Proton Drive Incentive – UMT Alumni, aims to provide flexibility and exclusive benefits for UMT alumni and the university community to own Proton vehicles while simultaneously contributing to UMT’s alumni welfare fund.

Under this programme, for every Proton vehicle purchased through EON Berhad’s Kota Bharu branch, particularly the Proton Saga and selected Proton models, UMT alumni and staff are entitled to a RM4,000 rebate and a three-month payment-free period fully covered by EON, worth RM1,500.

Additionally, for each purchase made by UMT alumni or staff, EON Proton will contribute RM500 to the UMT Alumni Centre’s Welfare Fund.

This collaboration between the UMT Alumni Centre and EON Proton is expected to establish a synergy that encourages alumni to give back to their alma mater in a meaningful way. The offer is open to all UMT alumni across Malaysia and UMT staff until 31 December 2025.

“This initiative will not only ease the financial burden of buyers but also support the Alumni Centre’s efforts to strengthen alumni welfare and development activities,” said UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Ir. Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim during the Financial Incentive Presentation Ceremony.

“This collaboration provides a double benefit in that alumni enjoy special vehicle offers while the Alumni Centre receives funds to be channelled into human capital development and alumni well-being programmes,” he said.

Associate Professor ChM Dr. Mohd Zul Helmi Rozaini, Director of the UMT Alumni Centre, expressed his gratitude to EON Berhad for its support and corporate initiative, while encouraging more UMT alumni to take advantage of the offer before year’s end.



This strategic partnership demonstrates the immense potential of synergy between the university, its alumni, and the industry in strengthening UMT’s community support ecosystem in a sustainable way.

The symbolic presentation of the UMT-Proton Drive Alumni Incentive taking place at UMT was officiated by Professor Zamri and witnessed by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni) Professor Dr. Mohd Izani Mohd Zain, the HEPA management team, and the UMT Alumni Association Committee.

This collaboration was formalized through EON Berhad’s representative, Mr. Mohd Khairul Hakimi bin Mohd Nawi, Principal Dealer of EON Kota Bharu and President of the UMT Alumni Association (PAUMT).

Advancing Ocean Engineering: From Hydrodynamics to Renewable Energy Innovation

Engineering the future of our oceans begins with vision, and Dr. Mohd Asamudin A. Rahman is shaping that vision at Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT). As an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Ocean Engineering Technology, he exemplifies how research and innovation can transform the way we harness the ocean's potential for sustainable growth.

Guided by a deep curiosity about how technology can improve lives, Dr. Asamudin began his academic journey with a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) in 2004. His growing passion for offshore systems later brought him to the University of Western Australia, where he earned his PhD in Mechanical Engineering in 2015. His doctoral research focused on the hydrodynamics of offshore structures and the complex vortex-induced vibration (VIV) phenomena, an area that continues to anchor much of his scientific inquiry today.

Since joining UMT in 2008, Dr. Asamudin has become a central figure in advancing offshore engineering research and education. His expertise spans a wide range of ocean technology fields, including fluid-structure interactions, VIV energy harvesting, and rigs-to-reef studies. Through more than a decade of published research, he has built an impressive portfolio connecting theoretical understanding with practical applications, contributing to both academic progress and industrial innovation.

His recent studies focus on energy harvesting from VIV, where he investigates vibration response and energy output to support the development of efficient marine energy converters. Complementing his academic work, Dr. Asamudin has led consultancy projects on ocean data measurement in Kertih using the Ocean Data Acquisition System (ODAS), which supports offshore renewable energy resource assessment and infrastructure planning.

Beyond laboratory research, he has contributed to Malaysia's national marine infrastructure and renewable energy initiatives through projects funded by various sources, including the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) and PETRONAS. These include studies on drilling riser hydrodynamics, vortex-induced motion of floating platforms, and feasibility assessments for reefing offshore structures, all aligning research with national sustainability goals.

Currently, as Director of the Centre for Offshore Renewable Energy (CEFORE) and Director of ZEEC Tech Sdn. Bhd., a UMT



startup company in renewable energy, Dr. Asamudin leads multidisciplinary teams developing Malaysia's first offshore hybrid renewable energy facility. CEFORE integrates wind, solar, and wave technologies while serving as a testbed for innovation, education, and community engagement. The centre also supports renewable-powered facilities for local fishermen, demonstrating how research can directly enhance coastal livelihoods.

Despite his administrative and research commitments, Dr. Asamudin remains passionate about teaching and mentoring future engineers through UMT's Maritime Technology and Naval Architecture Programme. Guided by his vision of "Sustainable Oceans, Future Energy," he strives to nurture a new generation of innovators equipped to transform ocean challenges into opportunities for a cleaner, more sustainable future.

Alumni Spotlight

By Norul Hanizan Hazin, UMT Alumni Centre

Penang born Ts. Jason Choy Min Sheng is deeply passionate about education and human capital development.

After completing his schooling, he pursued his studies at Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) in a Diploma in Fisheries, successfully graduating in 2009. Strongly interested in aquaculture, he continued at the bachelor's level, earning a Bachelor of Science in Agrotechnology (Aquaculture) in 2012. This UMT graduate proves that knowledge is never confined to a single field. Today, Ts. Jason Choy is actively involved in professional work centred on education diplomacy, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), and strategic collaborations between industry and academia. He is recognised for his commitment to strengthening ties between educational institutions and industry sectors to nurture competitive, industry-ready graduates.

Ts. Jason Choy Min Sheng now serves as the Deputy Director of the Industrial and Community Collaboration Division at the Department of Polytechnic Education and Community Colleges (JPPKK), Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE). It is a strategic role that connects the world of education with industry through various collaborative initiatives and TVET-based skills development efforts.

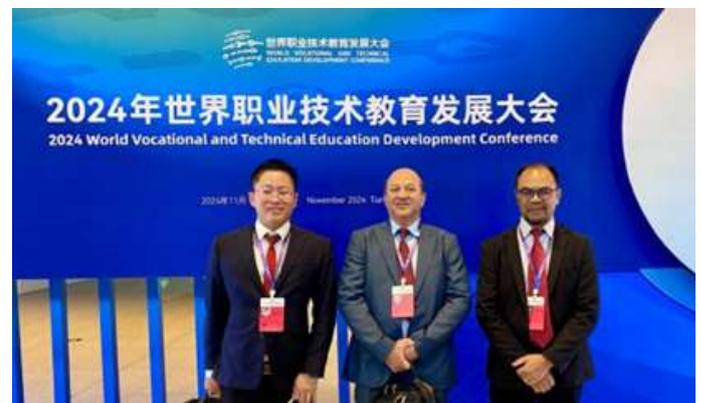
Driven by a vision to enhance the nation's TVET ecosystem, he actively plans and implements a wide range of collaborative initiatives with local and international industries. His efforts have opened new opportunities for polytechnic and community college students and lecturers to participate in industrial training, joint research, and future skills development.

"Partnerships with industry are not just about meeting workforce demands," he said. "They are about building a sustainable future for students and the nation."

One of the most challenging moments in his career came during his service as First Secretary (Education) at the Embassy of Malaysia in Beijing. In early 2020, he was among the frontline officers in the mission to repatriate Malaysians from Wuhan, China, during the initial outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The team successfully brought home 107 Malaysians and their dependents from Hubei province, a mission officially recognised by the Malaysian government.

Ts. Jason has also led several Malaysian education delegations to China under the China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week (CAECW). Through this initiative, numerous opportunities for academic exchange, joint research, and TVET collaboration were established, positioning Malaysia as an active and respected regional education partner.

Beyond policymaking and education diplomacy, he remains actively involved in writing, publishing, and scholarly sharing.



For his commitment and dedication to public service, Ts. Jason received the Excellent Service Award in 2018 and 2022, as well as the Public Management Alumni Icon at the UMT Alumni Icon Awards (MAIKA) 2022. He was also honoured with the Jasa Bakti Award during the UMT Grand Alumni Homecoming 2025.

"Keep learning, exploring, and contributing. The world is vast, and opportunities await those who dare to step outside their comfort zone," said the proud UMT alumnus.



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- CROP AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION (NEC CODE: 0811)
- EARTH SCIENCE (NEC CODE: 0532)
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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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