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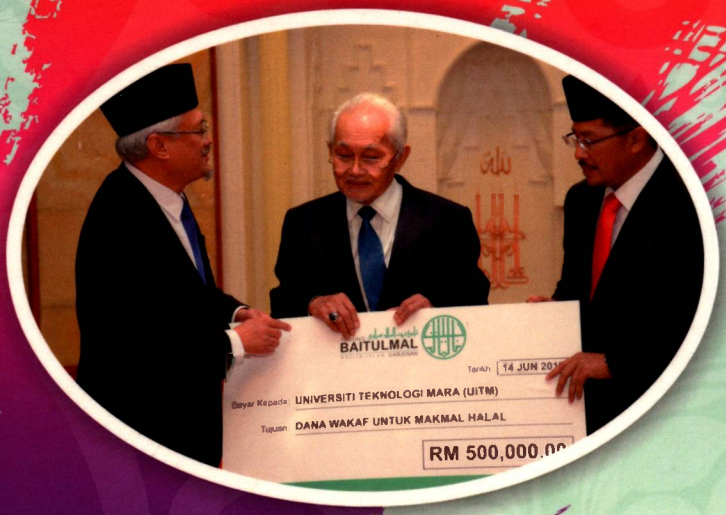

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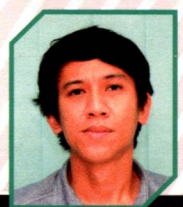

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MOA Between UiTM and UMS

By: Khong Heng Yen

Signing the MoA between UiTM and UMS, represented by Professor Dato Dr. Jamil and Professor Bambang

Exchange of MoA documents

The Research Team leaders , Associate Professor Dr. Khong Heng Yen (5th right), Associate Proessor Dr. Haryoto (6th right) and Associate Professor. Dr. Muhtadi (6th left), Dr. Azis, Dean of Pharmacy Faculty, UMS (4th left), AS202 Degree students, Fatimah Zabli (4th right), Alfiana Joseph (3rd right) and Fannyca Asai (2nd right).

Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Malaysia and *Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta* (UMS), Indonesia signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) at *Siti Walidah Building*, UMS campus, *Pabelan Kartasura, Sukoharjo* on 2 February 2017. The signing was represented by the Rector, UiTM Sarawak, Professor Dato Dr. Jamil Haji Hamali and UMS Rector, Professor Dr. Bambang Setiaji.

The MoA outlined the research activities on the evaluation of pharmacological activities such as anti-diabetic, anti-hyperuricemia, anti-hypercholesterol, antioxidant and cytotoxic activities as well as the phytochemical studies on the potential natural sources in innovative herbal product development. The research team leaders consist of Associate Professor Dr. Khong Heng Yen from UiTM as well as Associate Professor Dr. Haryoto and Associate Professor Dr. Muhtadi from UMS.

"UiTM has excellent laboratory facilities and UMS has many experts who are able to work together through collaborative research which will benefit both parties towards achieving academic excellence", said Professor Dato Dr. Jamil. The findings from these collaborative research works have resulted in the publication of five papers in Scopus or impact factor indexed International Journals.

Professor Bambang added that these collaborative research activities have increased the number of publications in Scopus and impact factor-indexed International Journals which are currently being emphasized by all universities in Indonesia.

The signing ceremony was also witnessed by our three B Sc. (Hons) Chemistry degree students namely Fannyca Asai, Alfinia Joseph and Fatimah Zabli who were attached there in a five-week academic programme. Accompanied by Associate Professor. Dr. Khong Heng Yen, these students were carrying out a research on cytotoxicity against anti-cancer cell lines as part of their final-year project at the Pharmacy Faculty of UMS.

Academic Attachment Programme at Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta, Indonesia

By: Khong Heng Yen

Three students namely Fannyca Asai, Alfiana Joseph and Fatimah Zabli from the Bachelor of Science (Hons) Chemistry (AS202) programme, UiTM Sarawak were selected to participate in the Education Technical Programme. This programme funded by the Sarawak State Government through the Sarawak Foundation fund in collaboration with *Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta* (UMS), Surakarta, Indonesia was specifically developed for undergraduates pursuing the Bachelor of Science (Hons) Chemistry under the academic attachment programme which required them to do research on a specific topic for a duration of five weeks from 31 January 2017 to 4 March 2017). The team was led by Associate Professor Dr. Khong Heng Yen.

For the first two days, the students were accompanied by the lecturer in charge and a postgraduate student to visit the campus including the International office, Rector's office, Administration block, Library, Hostel, botanical garden and all the laboratories and department at the Pharmacy Faculty. They enjoyed one-week lecture to master the fundamental concepts and theory of chemistry and pharmacology assays. They were assigned to work on the cytotoxic activities against breast cancer (T47D and MCF-7) cell lines based on 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide] assay (MTT) assay. All the students exceeded their initial expectations as the project had helped them in their major or future goals. This was attributed to the exposure to the field work and laboratory experience which had certainly enhanced their research skills and understanding of research in natural science.

Besides, this programme had also provided the students the opportunity to encounter the rich cultural heritage of the country, experience the Indonesian way of life and taste the multi-Indonesia food. Several activities such as visits to historical places had an impact on the students. Nevertheless, the students need to learn and understand the Indonesian language as it is the national language used on most occasions. The acceptance and social relationship established between the students and the academics in *Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta* (UMS) have also enhanced the image of both UiTM and the host university.

Arrival at Adi Sucipto International Airport, Yogyakarta

Visit to the Pharmacy Faculty, UMS

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