

APB eQuarterly

Spotlight & Latest Updates



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A Tribute: Academia in the midst of COVID-19

Professor Dr.
Hj. Othman Ismail
Former Dean



Academia in the midst of COVID-19

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When Professor Dr Haji Othman Bin Ismail was appointed as the Dean of Akademi Pengajian Bahasa (APB) on 1st January 2021, the teaching paradigm in the education sector was altered to adapt to the lockdown restrictions. Professor Othman, or more familiar as Prof O, shared that the essence of being a dean gravitated towards responsibilities and a plethora of challenges. This rings true as he had to devise strategies of continuing to provide training and development, drawing viable alternatives for the conventional mode of instruction of teaching and learning away from the constraint of four walls.

His appointment as the dean was timely as technology is his pièce de resistance, hence, minimising the difficulty for many lecturers and students to embrace using technology in classrooms. Prof O exercised various initiatives to encourage young lecturers to explore and venture into integrating technological-assisted tools in classrooms such as for oral presentations in ELC590. He believes that technology is the utmost stepping stone for one to move forward in the current dynamic digital era.

As he chuckled in response to the most difficult aspect of his deanship, he said that, given that APB has more than 260 lecturers from different departments, all of whom belong to heterogeneous generations (X, Y, and Z), his biggest challenge was ensuring that lecturers, including those from Generation X, to accept and maximise technological tools.



As quoted directly from him, “Technology is here to stay”. Therefore, it is imperative that all lecturers have the right perspective and attitude that support seamless integration of technology in their teaching and learning.



He also shared his insights on the merger of APB that will happen soon in early 2023. He personally believes that the merger will help to elevate APB even further. The fact that APB will soon be college-based, this ultimately highlights the importance of APB expertise in both servicing and providing programmes. More opportunities will be ahead of APB provided that more programmes are created in line with the current needs of lifelong learners. In

order for APB to get more recognition, the mindset of each of its members should therefore be inclined towards understanding humanities and social sciences and how they can be weaved into the tapestry of language.

Last but not least, when asked about his advice to all APB lecturers, especially to the new ones, he gleefully said that all APB lecturers should never be backbenchers. They need to be open-minded in seeking and venturing for opportunities especially when it comes to doing research, publications, innovations, and inventions as these are the elements that



will ultimately shape them to be swift and quick-thinking as well as proactive in paving ways to greater heights. Cooperation, teamwork, and collaboration are the three giant pillars that will attract success in



academia. He also added that in order to attract opportunities that will reshape the landscape of academia, APB lecturers need to actively engage international partners from various arenas and help to leverage digital tools and technology to bring about sustainable growth and progress for APB at large. His final piece of advice before ending the interview is that young lecturers need to aspire in becoming leaders and uphold leadership characteristics. Age should not be a boulder that weighs you down. Instead, grab the opportunity to observe diverse methods of working and

commit to excellence in the pursuit to become accomplished professionals in line with the UiTM tagline of *Usaha, Taqwa, Mulia*.

Reach Us

Editorial Office

Akademi Pengajian Bahasa,
Jalan Ilmu 1/1, 40450 Shah Alam, Selangor

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