



STRENGTHENING REGIONAL TIES: **STIFAR RIAU VISITS FACULTY OF PHARMACY UITM** **FOR ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH COLLABORATION**

By: Ms. Zakiah Mohd Noordin

On 15th May 2025, the Faculty of Pharmacy, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) had the honour of hosting a distinguished delegation from Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Farmasi Riau (STIFAR Riau), Indonesia, led by Prof. Dr. Ir. Thamrin. This academic visit marked a valuable opportunity to strengthen bilateral cooperation in pharmaceutical education and research.

The 13-member delegation was warmly received by Dr. Hanis Hanum, Deputy Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Fazleen Haslinda Mohd Hatta, Deputy Dean of Industry, Community, Alumni & Networking (ICAN), and Dr. Nor Khaizan Anuar, Head of the Department of Pharmaceutics. The visit aimed to benchmark academic programs and explore potential research collaborations between the two institutions.

The program commenced with an official welcoming session, followed by in-depth discussions on curriculum design, academic delivery methods, and quality assurance. Both institutions expressed a strong interest in developing staff and student exchange programs to enrich academic experiences and promote regional mobility.



Subsequent discussions focused on potential collaborative research, particularly in pharmacy practice and pharmaceuticals, with an emphasis on natural product-based research. This mutual research interest lays the foundation for future joint projects, publications, and cross-border research funding applications.

Following the discussion session, the delegates were given a guided tour of the faculty's facilities, including the lecture halls and the GMP-certified pilot plant, showcasing UiTM's commitment to high-quality pharmaceutical education and industry-relevant training.

The visit concluded with a networking session that reinforced shared goals and enthusiasm for long-term collaboration. The Faculty of Pharmacy UiTM remains optimistic that this engagement with STIFAR Riau will pave the way for impactful partnerships that benefit both institutions and the broader ASEAN pharmaceutical community.