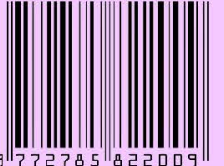


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EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS IN FUJIAN: A JOURNEY OF INDUSTRIAL AND ACADEMIC COLLABORATION



From 15 to 19 August 2024, Prof. Dr. Zakiah Ahmad embarked on a memorable trip to Fujian, China, where she witnessed first-hand the remarkable integration of industry and academia. This journey was filled with insightful visits to leading technology companies and institutions, providing a wealth of knowledge and inspiration to take back to Malaysia.

Day 2 Highlights

The day started with a visit to Hengfeng Information Technology Co., Ltd., followed by an engaging technology exchange conference at Fuzhou University. The topics centered on digital empowerment, green energy innovation, and sustainable development. Prof. Dr. Zakiah also had the chance to visit the National New Energy Vehicle Technology Innovation Center and explore the Marine Economic Science and Technology Innovation Highland at Software Park. The day concluded with a signing ceremony for international science and technology cooperation projects at Fuzhou Yuehua Hotel.



Day 3 Highlights

On the third day, the focus shifted to Ningde, where Prof. Dr. Zakiah visited Anfa (Fujian) Biotechnology Co., LTD, a company that started from a small research initiative and grew into a biotechnology powerhouse. The next stop was Contemporary Amperex Technology Co., Limited (CATL), the world's largest manufacturer of EV batteries, providing batteries to Tesla and others. The journey also took her to Tsingshan Industry, which specializes in stainless steel products for various industries. After a busy day, Prof. Dr. Zakiah and her team arrived in Quanzhou by late evening, filled with excitement for the next part of the trip.



The Final Day

The last leg of the journey included a visit to Liming Vocational University, a unique institution offering courses in Civil Engineering, Architecture, Information and Electronic Engineering, and more. The highlight was a tour of the School of New Materials and Shoes & Clothing Engineering, which focuses on innovative shoe sole designs that are lightweight, durable, and ergonomic. A meeting with representatives from five universities in Quanzhou sparked discussions on potential academic collaborations, and Prof. Dr. Zakiah expressed hope that UiTM will establish partnerships in the near future.

The trip served as a powerful reminder of the wisdom behind the saying, "Tuntutlah ilmu sampai ke negeri China." Prof. Dr. Zakiah was particularly impressed by the advancements in technology, research, and industry, which are supported by close ties with universities. She noted, "This was an amazing experience, and I'm grateful for the opportunity. There's so much to learn from the innovation and collaboration here."

Final Reflection

The journey through Fujian was not just an exploration of industries but a valuable learning experience that showcased how academic programs can be tailored to meet industry needs. Prof. Dr. Zakiah concluded that the knowledge gained from this trip will help inform future initiatives at UiTM and inspire new collaborations in Malaysia.

Author: Prof. Dr. Zakiah Ahmad