Universiti Teknologi MARA
Cawangan Sarawak

INFO 85TH ISSUE JANUARY - JUNE 2025

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KAMPUS

UiTM Sarawak Bulletin







HIGHLIGHT

- The Governor of Sarawak Hosts UiTM Sarawak Branch to Strengthen State- Institution Relations
- UiTM Sarawak Pays Courtesy Visit to The Premier Of Sarawak: Driving Agricultural Transformation and Proposing The Establishment of The Tun Openg History and Heritage (TOHHa) Chair
- Strategic Linkage Between UiTM Sarawak Branch and Northern Illinois University (Niu): Driving Global Excellence



Rector's Remark

Professor Dr. Firdaus Abdullah
Rector
UiTM Sarawak Branch

Salam Sejahtera And Warm Greetings To All Readers,

It gives me great pleasure to extend my heartfelt greetings to all readers of the 85th issue of *Infokampus*. This bulletin is more than a repository of news and achievements; it is a living chronicle of UiTM Sarawak's aspirations, our community's resilience, and the collective journey we share as educators, researchers, staff, students, alumni and partners. As we look outward to a world reshaped by global challenges and opportunities, we also look inward to the campus that nurtures talent and where knowledge is converted into impact.

As we open the pages of this issue, I am reminded of the journey that UiTM Cawangan Sarawak has taken together with our community, partners, and stakeholders. This issue comes at a time when we continue to navigate a rapidly evolving global landscape shaped by the lessons of the pandemic and the necessity of forging stronger partnerships at every level of our operations. Each milestone we achieve is not only a testament to our collective commitment to excellence but also a reflection of our responsibility as an institution of higher learning to make meaningful contributions to society, the nation, and theworld. UiTM Sarawak has always stood as more than just a place of learning; it is a living, breathing ecosystem of ideas, cultures, talents, and aspirations.

The past few years have brought unprecedented challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic reshaped the landscape of higher education, from our ways of teaching, learning, and engaging with the community. Yet, here we are in 2025, not only having adapted but having grown stronger, wiser, and more united in our mission. The lessons learned during those difficult times have now been woven into our long-term vision, aligning closely with Malaysia's Post-COVID Development Strategy 2030 and the global aspirations outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our mission is clearer than ever: to equip our students with the skills, values, and vision to thrive in a rapidly changing world, while ensuring that UiTM Sarawak continues to be a driver of sustainable and inclusive development.

As we step into 2025, we remain proud of the legacy and accomplishments recorded in recent years. UiTM Cawangan Sarawak continues to be recognised for its quality education, impactful research, and close engagement with the community. Our position as a trusted partner of the Sarawak State Government, particularly in areas such as digital economy development, smart farming, and talent cultivation, remains central to our identity. In line with the aspirations of the Premier of Sarawak, we are committed to ensuring that UiTM Sarawak is not only a regional centre of excellence but also a globally recognised institution rooted in local relevance. Our past achievements in winning state and national awards, producing high-impact research, and fostering international collaborations are a testament to our capabilities. Most recently, we have successfully advanced to the final stage of the Sarawak State Public Service Quality Award (AKPANS) 2025 under the Statutory Body category. This milestone reaffirms our continuous pursuit of excellence and our commitment to delivering the highest standards in education, research, and service.

In today's world, communication is key, and I have embraced the role of social media in academic leadership. Platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube are not just

tools for marketing, but they are powerful ways to connect, to share transparently with stakeholders, and to strengthen UiTM's global image. At the same time, I strongly believe that our work must contribute to the wider world. Aligning our programs with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ensures that our graduates are not only job-ready but also prepared to address social, economic, and environmental challenges. Education, after all, is not just about employment; it is about impact.

Looking ahead, I aspire to position UiTM Sarawak as a global leader in higher education, known for producing graduates who are innovative, resilient, and globally connected. This requires continuous innovation, strong partnerships, and above all, a commitment to excellence. But the road ahead calls for more than maintaining excellence; it demands transformation. Every decision and initiative is driven by a belief in the transformative power of education. Together, with our dedicated lecturers, staff, and students, we are not just keeping up with change. We are helping to shape the future of UiTM Sarawak.

As I close this Rector's remark, I am filled with optimism and gratitude for the people who make UiTM Sarawak what it is. From the lecturers who nurture minds, the researchers who seek solutions, the staff who sustain operations, the students who bring curiosity and energy, the community partners who open their lives and knowledge to us, and to the alumni who carry our name beyond the campus gates. The next five years will be decisive in shaping UiTM Cawangan Sarawak's legacy for the decades to come. Let us move forward together in partnership, with purpose, and with persistent attention to sustainability. Let our campus be a place where knowledge meets action; where students graduate not only with credentials but with a sense of responsibility; and where UiTM Sarawak stands as a model of how regional universities can contribute to national development and global sustainability.

Terima kasih and may our collaborative efforts in the years to come yield outcomes that uplift communities, protect our environment, and advance knowledge for the common good.

Here's to a greener, stronger, and more united UiTM Sarawak.
With warm regards,





Message from Editor-in-Chief

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh
And Salam Uitm Di Hatiku,

With heartfelt gratitude, we are proud to present the 85th Issue of Info Kampus Bulletin (January-June 2025 Edition). This publication serves as a platform to highlight the achievements of our university community, share the latest information, and strengthen the spirit of togetherness among members of the university.

UiTM Sarawak Branch continues to register commendable positive developments. In efforts to drive excellence, the university has forged strategic partnerships with the state government and received international recognition for several faculties. Additionally, several new academic programs will be introduced to meet industry demands and enhance the competitiveness of graduates.

I would like to express my highest appreciation and thanks to YBrs. Professor Dr. Firdaus Abdullah, Rector of UiTM Sarawak Branch, for his continued leadership and unwavering support in driving the excellence of this institution. His guidance and strategic vision serve as a source of inspiration for us in producing this bulletin.

Not forgetting, my sincere thanks go to the entire editorial team, article contributors, and all parties who have collaborated to make this publication a success. Your commitment and dedication are greatly appreciated.

We hope that this Info Kampus Bulletin can become a dynamic and ongoing platform to disseminate knowledge, strengthen connections among campus residents, and serve as a reference and inspiration for all readers. We trust that this publication will bring meaningful benefits to the UiTM Sarawak Branch community and reflect the university's aspirations in producing quality and competitive graduates.

Thank you and let us continue to progress together through knowledge.

Farhana binti Ghazuddin

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UiTM SARAWAK PAYS COURTESY VISIT TO THE PREMIER OF SARAWAK: DRIVING AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND PROPOSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TUN OPENG HISTORY AND HERITAGE (TOHHa)

Source:
UiTM Sarawak Rector's Facebook Page

Monday, 10 March 2025 | Alhamdulillah, UiTM Sarawak Branch (UiTMCS) had the honour of paying a courtesy visit to The Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, Premier of Sarawak, at his office in Wisma Bapa Malaysia this morning.

Accompanying me during the visit were Assoc. Prof. Ts. ChM. Dr. Mohammad Isa bin Mohamadin (Deputy Rector for Academic and International Affairs), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Saimi bin Bujang (Deputy Rector for Student Affairs), and Prof. Ir. Dr. Juferi bin Idris (Deputy Rector for Research and Industry Networking).

We gained many positive insights from the discussion, and it is hoped that more of the proposed initiatives can be realised in the near future. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Premier of Sarawak for his trust and confidence in my leadership of UiTM Sarawak Branch, which is an immense responsibility indeed. I would also like to express gratitude to the Sarawak State Government for its continuous support through various research, consultancy, and training grants worth approximately RM1.5 million annually.

During the meeting, I proposed to the Premier of Sarawak that the free education programme introduced by the State Government beginning next year be extended to Sarawakian students studying at public universities (IPTA) under the second phase of the initiative. The Premier agreed in principle, particularly for UiTM Sarawak students, as part of efforts to develop a skilled and competent workforce. UiTMCS is deeply thankful for his openness to this proposal, which, if implemented, will enable UiTM to produce a higher number of Science and Technology (S&T) and Bumiputera professional graduates compared to other higher education institutions.

The Premier of Sarawak also encouraged UiTMCS to assist the State Government in transforming the agricultural sector. He proposed that UiTMCS Mukah Campus, which owns 500 hectares of land, be developed into a modern paddy cultivation hub, adopting advanced technologies and high-quality seed production to achieve up to five harvests per year. UiTMCS will further evaluate this proposal by forming a research task





force to study technological, infrastructural, and productivity aspects of paddy cultivation, including carbon storage potential, given its environmental relevance.

In addition, the Premier recommended that UiTMCS prepare a proposal paper to establish a comprehensive laboratory at Mukah Campus focusing on algae research and development. His initial suggestion for UiTMCS to spearhead algae research as a renewable energy source was made in 2024, during a previous courtesy visit by UiTM's top leadership. UiTMCS has since developed a research collaboration framework on algae and will soon present it to the Sarawak State Government for consideration.

At the same time, UiTMCS presented a proposal to the Premier of Sarawak to establish the Tun Openg History and Heritage (TOHHa) Chair at UiTM Sarawak, to which he agreed in principle. The TOHHa Chair will conduct in-depth studies on Sarawak's history and cultural heritage, particularly pre-colonial Sarawak, as most existing research focuses on the James Brooke era. This new initiative aims to fill the historical and cultural research gaps and provide a more comprehensive understanding of Sarawak's heritage prior to colonisation.



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