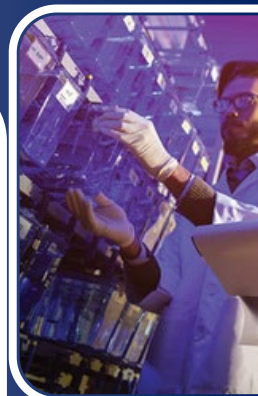


# 1<sup>st</sup> EDITION UiTM GLOBAL PENANG Newsletter

## GLOBAL INSIGHTS: NAVIGATING UNIVERSALITY WITH UiTM PULAU PINANG



UNIVERSITI  
TEKNOLOGI  
MARA

UiTM Global @ Office of International Affairs,  
Academic Affairs Division,  
Universiti Teknologi MARA, Pulau Pinang Branch,  
Pulau Pinang,  
Malaysia.



Group photo with all participants from **Japan, India, Philippines and Malaysia**

## UiTM Students Participate in Sakura Science Programme at J.F. Oberlin University, Japan

Mohamed Syazwan Osman

**Tokyo, Japan** – February 26 to March 4, 2023, Five outstanding students from **Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Pulau Pinang Branch**, Malaysia, were selected to participate in an exclusive educational exchange programme at **J.F. Oberlin University**, Tokyo, under the prestigious **Sakura Science Programme**. The programme aimed to promote international collaboration, cultural exchange, and knowledge-sharing in fields related to science, technology, and environmental sustainability.

The **Sakura Science Programme**, initiated by the **Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)**, is renowned for providing young talents from across the world with the opportunity to experience cutting-edge technologies and innovations in Japan. It encourages students to develop a global mindset while fostering closer ties between Japan and other countries. For **UiTM Pulau Pinang Branch**, this visit marked a significant step toward broadening international relationships in academia and research.



## **Participants and Leadership:**

The delegation consisted of five distinguished students from various engineering disciplines, all of whom demonstrated academic excellence and leadership potential. The students were:

- Nur Nabilah binti Baharum (Electrical Engineering)
- Nurul Afieqah binti Mohd Sukhri (Chemical Engineering)
- Mohd Amer Irfan bin Arzuang (Electrical Engineering)
- Fatimah Zahirah binti Abo Majid (Chemical Engineering)
- Ainim Sofia binti Fauzilah (Electrical Engineering)

The group was led by Ir. Ts. Mohamed Syazwan bin Osman, a Senior Lecturer and Head of Delegation from **UiTM**, who accompanied the students and provided mentorship throughout the programme.



Pre-departure photo with the delegation, featuring the Malaysian and UiTM flags



First day session with all participants

The **Sakura Science Programme** aimed to:

1. Enhance the students' understanding of advanced technologies in various sectors, including environmental sustainability and energy efficiency.
2. Provide participants with hands-on experience in entrepreneurship and innovation, enabling them to translate academic knowledge into real-world applications.
3. Foster cross-cultural communication and strengthen international collaboration between **UiTM** and **J.F. Oberlin University**, paving the way for future joint research and student exchange programmes.
4. Broaden the students' perspectives by exposing them to Japan's rich culture, educational systems, and technological advancements.

## **Activities and Highlights:**

During the week-long programme, the students participated in a range of activities that combined academic lectures, hands-on workshops, and cultural immersion. One of the standout moments was a lecture on **"Entrepreneurship and Venture Investment"** delivered by Professor Suzuki of **J.F. Oberlin University**. This session provided valuable insights into Japan's entrepreneurial ecosystem and the importance of venture investment in driving innovation.

In addition to classroom learning, the **UiTM** students took part in group discussions and interactive sessions with their counterparts from Japan, the Philippines, and India. These discussions enabled participants to exchange ideas on emerging global challenges, such as environmental sustainability and the implementation of ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) principles.

The participants collaborated to devise innovative solutions, which they later presented in a closing session. The final presentations demonstrated their ability to think critically, collaborate effectively, and communicate their ideas to an international audience.

## **Cultural and Academic Exchange:**

The cultural aspect of the programme was equally enriching. The students had the opportunity to experience Japan's unique blend of tradition and modernity, gaining insights into the country's cultural values and how they influence its approach to education and innovation. Visits to historical landmarks, cultural workshops, and interactions with local students has provided **UiTM** participants with a holistic understanding of life in Japan.



Sharing session by Suzuki Sensei

The exchange programme also emphasised the importance of developing soft skills such as communication, teamwork, and leadership. These skills were honed through various team-based activities, allowing students to interact with participants from diverse cultural and academic backgrounds. **UiTM** students, in particular, gained confidence in their ability to collaborate on international platforms and present their ideas in professional settings.

The programme had several notable outcomes:

1. **Improved Communication and Leadership Skills:** The participants enhanced their interpersonal and presentation skills, which are crucial for their future academic and professional careers.
2. **Global Perspectives on ESG and Innovation:** Exposure to Japanese innovations and ESG practices provided the students with a deeper understanding of global environmental and social challenges, as well as the role engineers and technologists play in addressing these issues.
3. **Strengthened International Networks:** The programme fostered strong connections between **UiTM** students and their peers from other countries, laying the groundwork for potential future collaborations.

4. Cultural Appreciation: The students returned with a newfound appreciation for Japanese culture and the similarities and differences between Malaysian and Japanese academic systems.

### **Feedback from Participants**

The students expressed immense gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the **Sakura Science Programme**. According to Nur Nabilah binti Baharum, the experience was life-changing. “The programme not only deepened my knowledge of advanced technology and sustainability but also opened my eyes to the importance of cross-cultural collaboration in solving global challenges.”

Ir. Ts. Mohamed Syazwan, the head of the delegation, also emphasised the long-term benefits of the programme. “This initiative is crucial in preparing our students to become global leaders. It is through such programs that our students can gain the confidence and skills needed to thrive in the international arena.”



Photo session after the talk by Iwadare Sensei and team from Ir-Braille startup

### **Future Prospects:**

The success of the **Sakura Science Programme** has paved the way for increased international collaborations between **UiTM Pulau Pinang Branch** and institutions in Japan. The **UiTM Pulau Pinang Branch** delegation has already initiated discussions with **J.F. Oberlin University** regarding potential future student exchange programs and joint research initiatives, particularly in the fields of green technology and sustainable engineering.

As **UiTM Pulau Pinang Branch** continues to expand its international partnerships, programmes like **Sakura Science** play a pivotal role in preparing students to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving global landscape. The university remains committed to providing students with opportunities for growth, both academically and culturally, ensuring that they are equipped to contribute to the development of Malaysia and the world at large.

### **Conclusion:**

The visit to **J.F. Oberlin University** was not only a rewarding educational experience but also a testament to the success of international collaboration in education. As the students return to **UiTM**, they bring with them new knowledge, skills, and perspectives that will benefit their peers and the broader university community. The **Sakura Science Programme** has truly empowered these young minds to think globally and act locally, ensuring a brighter future for all.

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