

PIONEERING CHANGE: UiTM AND ALPRO PHARMACY UNITE FOR SAFER MEDICATION DISPOSAL–MOA SIGNING CEREMONY 2025

By: Dr. Hisyam Abdul Hamid



In a strategic move to enhance industry-academia collaboration, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and Alpro Pharmacy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2023. This partnership underscores the importance of

innovation in education, ensuring its relevance in real-world applications while fostering long-term growth for both sectors. Since then, several joint initiatives have taken shape, including internship programs, collaborative teaching, and community engagement projects. In a strategic move to enhance industry-academia collaboration, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and Alpro Pharmacy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2023. This partnership underscores the importance of innovation in education, ensuring its relevance in real-world applications while fostering long-term growth for both sectors. Since then, several joint initiatives have taken shape, including internship programs, collaborative teaching, and community engagement projects.

On February 17, 2025, this alliance took another leap forward with the signing a memorandum of agreement (MoA) solidifying their shared commitment to impactful research and sustainability. The momentous event was officiated by Prof. Dr. Yamin bin Yasin, representing UiTM's Vice Chancellor, alongside Professor Dato' Dr. Abu Bakar Abdul Majeed, Dean of Faculty of Pharmacy, Mr Ostwin Paw Yen Thng, CEO of Alpro Foundation and Ms Mindy Leong, the branding manager for Alpro Pharmacy.

The ceremony was witnessed by hundreds of Alproreans alongside esteemed audience including Prof. Amrahi Buang, the president of the Malaysian Pharmacists Society, Mr Mohd Shahiri Abdul Ghapar, the Senior Principal Assistant Director, Program Perkhidmatan Farmasi, Ministry of Health Malaysia also a Director of MyMediSAFE initiative and lastly Ms. Gwen Choong, the Human Resource Director of Merck Malaysia.

This MoA follows a significant research initiative under the Ministry of Higher Education's (MOHE) Industry Matching Programme (IMaP) grant, secured by the Ecopharmacovigilance Research Initiative Group (Ecopharma RIG), led by Dr. Hisyam Abdul Hamid. In collaboration with Alpro Foundation, Ecopharma RIG has championed public awareness on safe medication disposal through the EcoPharma@UCS program since 2023. This latest partnership further reinforces UiTM and Alpro Pharmacy's dedication to promoting environmentally responsible pharmaceutical practices.

A COLLABORATION FOR A GREENER FUTURE

In this groundbreaking partnership, lies an ambitious research project centered on safe pharmaceutical disposal—a crucial yet often overlooked aspect of sustainability and planetary healthcare. The project was constructed with four key initiatives to address pharmaceutical waste management, mitigate the environmental impact, and promote responsible pharmaceutical disposal practices among the public. This collaboration seeks to open the door to a more sustainable future and a healthier world by integrating science and community involvement.

This collaboration marks a significant step toward fostering environmental responsibility in healthcare. In addition to safeguarding ecosystems from pharmaceutical contamination, the effort increases public knowledge of sustainable practices by promoting research on safe medicine disposal. While stakeholders—including medical experts, legislators, and business leaders—benefit from evidence-based tactics to strengthen sustainability initiatives, the community benefits from a safer environment and better health outcomes. All of these initiatives work together to create a better, greener future.

