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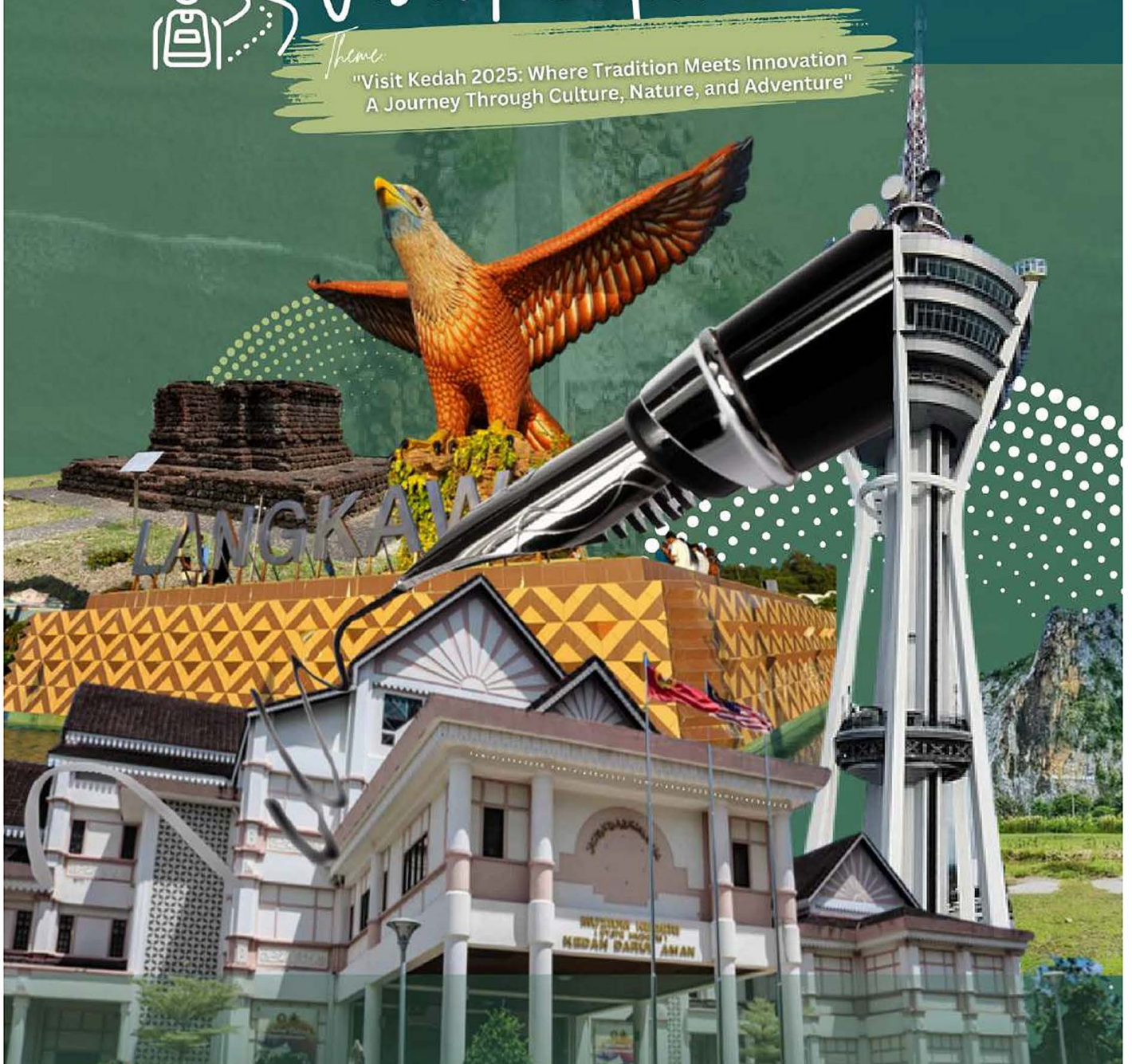


APB Kedah (e-magazine)

SPECIAL ISSUE EPITOME

Visit Kedah 2025

Theme:
"Visit Kedah 2025: Where Tradition Meets Innovation –
A Journey Through Culture, Nature, and Adventure"





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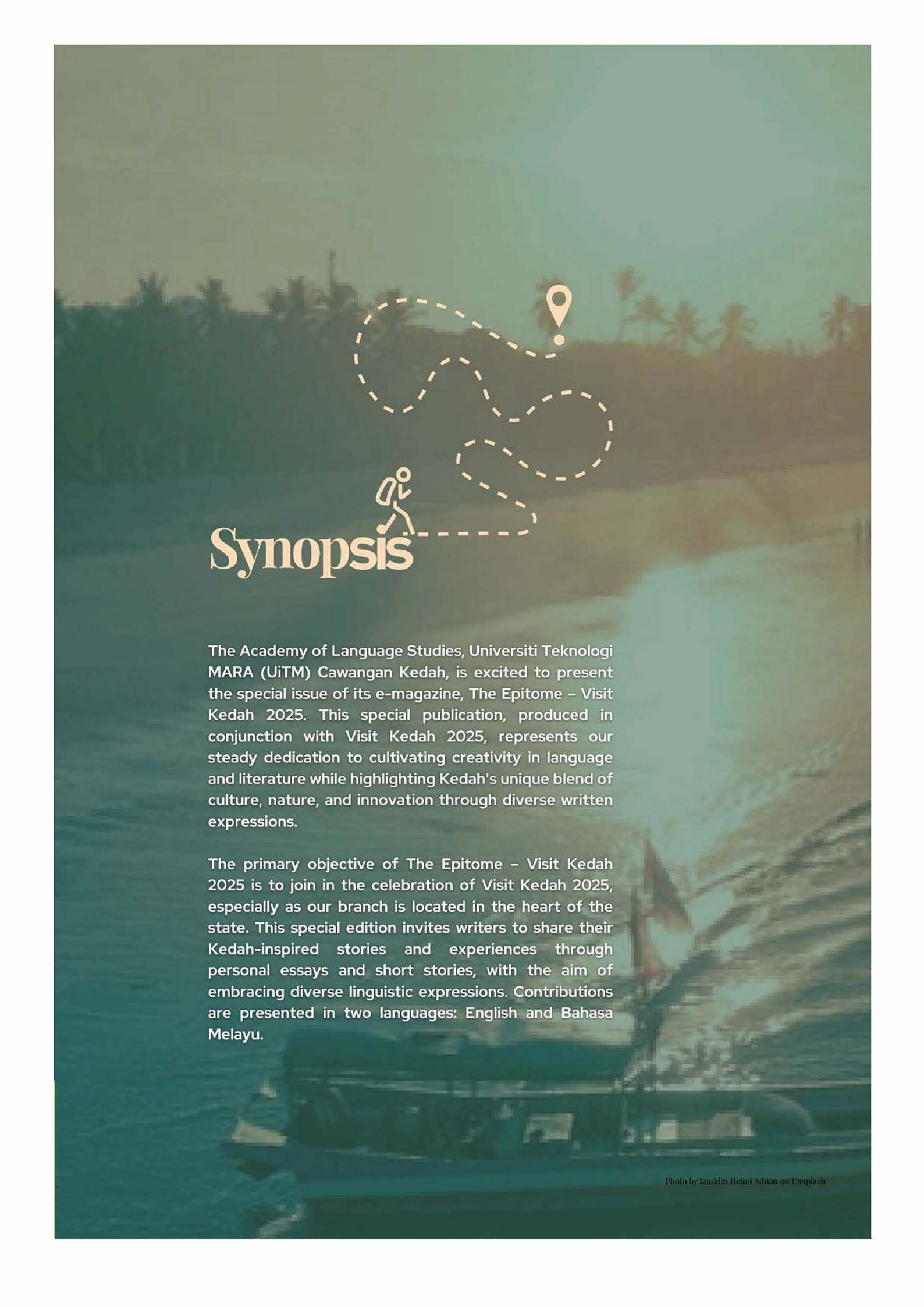


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Synopsis

The Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Kedah, is excited to present the special issue of its e-magazine, *The Epitome – Visit Kedah 2025*. This special publication, produced in conjunction with Visit Kedah 2025, represents our steady dedication to cultivating creativity in language and literature while highlighting Kedah's unique blend of culture, nature, and innovation through diverse written expressions.

The primary objective of *The Epitome – Visit Kedah 2025* is to join in the celebration of Visit Kedah 2025, especially as our branch is located in the heart of the state. This special edition invites writers to share their Kedah-inspired stories and experiences through personal essays and short stories, with the aim of embracing diverse linguistic expressions. Contributions are presented in two languages: English and Bahasa Melayu.

face of Kedah

Mr. Azlan Abdul Rahman

Head of Faculty
Akademi Pengajian Bahasa (APB)
UiTM Kedah Branch

Welcome to this special edition of Epitome, where we embark on an exciting journey through the rich heritage, stunning landscapes, and vibrant culture of Kedah – one of Malaysia's most beloved and fascinating states.

As we look ahead to Visit Kedah 2025, this issue invites you to explore the treasures that await in this beautiful destination. From the serene beauty of Langkawi's beaches to the historical charm of Alor Setar, Kedah offers something for every traveller. Whether you are an adventure seeker, a history enthusiast, or someone simply in search of tranquillity, Kedah has it all.

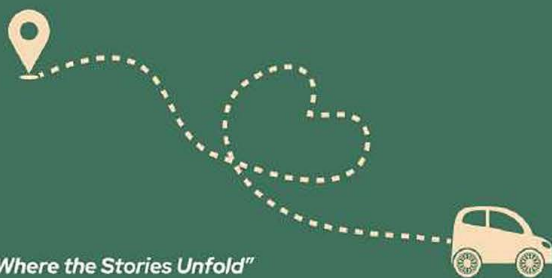
In the pages ahead, we delve into the many faces of Kedah, capturing the essence of its natural wonders, cultural landmarks, and unique experiences that define the state. Our stories, articles, and photographs will transport you to places where the past and present come together in perfect harmony – where lush green paddy fields stretch as far as the eye can see, and the rich flavours of local cuisine tantalize the senses.

Visit Kedah 2025 isn't just a campaign; it's an invitation to connect with the heart of Malaysia. It's an invitation to discover the unforgettable experiences that make Kedah a must-visit destination for travellers from around the world. In this edition, we hope to inspire you to plan your own journey to Kedah, whether it's to explore its breath-taking landscapes, immerse in its cultural heritage, or simply take in the warm hospitality of its people.

As you turn these pages, may you feel the spirit of Kedah calling to you – the call to discover, explore, and experience all that this incredible state has to offer.

Thank you for joining us on this exciting adventure. We hope to see you in Kedah in 2025!





Kedah, Where the Stories Unfold"

As the Chief Editor of Epitome, it gives me great pleasure to present this special edition in celebration of Visit Kedah Year 2025—an ode to a land where history, heritage, and heart live in every corner.

Nestled in the warm embrace of the northern Peninsula, Kedah is more than just Malaysia's rice bowl. It is a living canvas where time whispers through the ancient stones of Bujang Valley, dances across the rippling paddy fields, and echoes through the melodic drawl of the Kedahan dialect. Each tale we share in this issue draws its breath from Kedah's unique rhythm—where old meets new, tradition hugs the modern, and culture is not just remembered but lived.

From the misty peaks of Gunung Jerai, which once guided ancient mariners, to the shimmering flow of Sungai Merbok, where history quietly flows, Kedah's ecological richness is a story waiting to be told. Its mountains are guardians of myths; its rivers, keepers of memory. The lush rainforests, secret waterfalls, and wild orchids—all are pieces of a vibrant narrative woven by nature itself.

Yet, it is Kedah's people who breathe soul into this land. The warmth of pasar malam banter, the flavours of authentic laksa Kedah, the grace of traditional dance, and the way elders tell stories in that soft, endearing dialect—it all becomes poetry in motion. And in this special issue, we invite you to read, feel, and immerse yourself in the charm, wit, and wonder of Old Kedah and New Kedah alike.

Through creative fiction, heartfelt essays, and evocative poetry, Epitome brings together voices that sing of Kedah's mountains, rivers, food, language, and legacy. We hope this edition will not only inspire a visit but stir something deeper—a connection to the essence of a land that has long cradled Malaysia's earliest civilizations and continues to nurture its cultural heart.

Let the pages transport you to Kedah Darul Aman—a realm of peace, a sanctuary of stories.

Warmly,

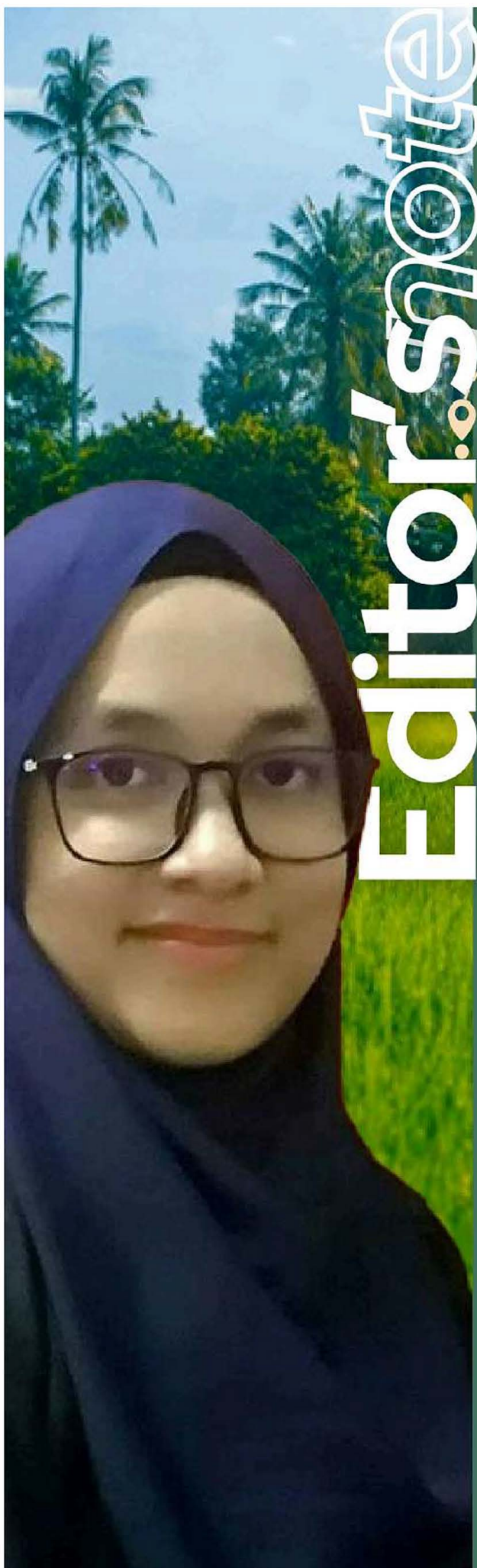
Razanawati Nordin

Chief Editor

THE EPITOME 2025

Editor's note





Editor's Note



It is with great pleasure that I present to you this special issue of The Epitome in conjunction with Visit Kedah 2025. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Head of Department for initiating this wonderful idea. As a proud Kedahan working in Kedah, I instantly agreed to be part of this project, knowing how close it is to my heart.

Reading the personal essays and short stories submitted by our contributors has been a truly enjoyable experience. I found myself smiling, reminiscing, and even imagining familiar places through their words. What makes this issue even more exciting is that some contributors are not originally from Kedah, yet they have beautifully shared their own reflections and experiences related to this charming state. Their fresh perspectives reminded me of the beauty I sometimes take for granted, having been born and bred in Kedah.

To all our contributors: thank you for your creativity, your voice, and for allowing us to travel through your narratives. Your stories have added soul and colour to this edition, and I hope our readers enjoy the journey through Kedah just as much as I did.

With appreciation,

Dr. Nur Syazwanie Mansor

Chief Editor, The Epitome
A Proud Kedahan

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HISTORICAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE







Menyingkap Khazanah di Balik Deruan Sungai Merbok:

Galeri Produk Jerai Geopark

**Sharir Aizat Kamaruddin, Eliy
Nazira Mat Nazir, Shukor Sanim
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Menggabungkan elemen pendidikan yang berinovatif dan panorama alam yang memukau, Galeri Produk Geopark Jerai yang terletak berhampiran dengan Jeti Semeling, Mukim Semeling, Daerah Kuala Muda, Kedah, mencipta suatu pengalaman yang tidak dapat dilupakan bagi setiap pengunjung dalam dan luar negara yang ingin mengetahui rahsia kerajaan awal dan ekosistem paya bakau di persekitaran Sungai Merbok dan Gunung Jerai. Menyambut para pengunjung sebelum masuk ke kompleks ini ialah binaan Gok Arang yang digunakan untuk membakar kayu arang dan bata, mencerminkan warisan tradisional dan aktiviti sosio-ekonomi warga tempatan yang mendiami kawasan ini pada suatu ketika dahulu.

Bersebelahan dengan Gok Arang, para pengunjung boleh berjalan di atas dek kayu untuk melawati pelbagai galeri antaranya ialah Galeri Geopark Jerai, Galeri Biodiversiti Merbok dan Galeri Kedah Tua. Setiap galeri ini dilengkapi dengan panel maklumat, risalah dan panduan untuk memberikan maklumat terkini tentang kepelbagaian biodiversiti flora dan fauna di persekitaran Sungai Merbok; pembangunan mapan dan peranan Geopark Jerai; dan warisan sejarah dan geografi Kerajaan Kedah Tua.

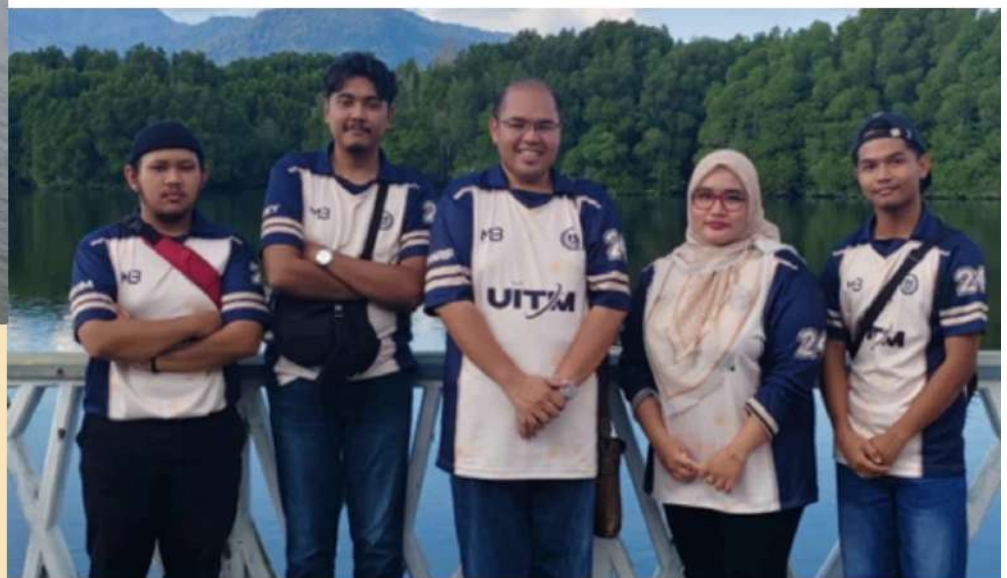
Tak kenal maka tak cinta, kewujudan galeri-galeri ini bukan sahaja memberikan nilai tambah dalam pendidikan tetapi juga membuka peluang kepada para pengunjung untuk menghargai kekayaan warisan sejarah dan alam semula jadi yang bernilai tinggi serta menerbitkan kesedaran untuk memelihara khazanah yang unik ini walaupun dihipit dengan arus pembangunan pesat, perubahan iklim dan cabaran antropogenik yang semakin rancak di kawasan ini.



Bagi para pengunjung yang gemar untuk mengambil swafoto berlatarbelakangkan alam, boleh melewati dek kayu yang dipenuhi rimbunan struktur-struktur kompleks pohon paya bakau yang hijau dan panorama Sungai Merbok. Keindahan Jeti Semeling yang berada bersebelahan dek kayu ini dengan deretan bot-bot nelayan dan pelancong turut menambahkan lagi seri gambar buat pasangan pengantin untuk mengambil video dan foto perkahwinan. Selain keindahan alam semulajadinya, Galeri Produk Geopark Jerai juga menawarkan pelbagai kemudahan moden, termasuk kawasan parkir yang luas, kafe yang nyaman, kawasan permainan kanak-kanak, kedai cenderamata dan ruang rehat yang sempurna untuk pengunjung melepaskan penat lelah.

Ini menjadikannya destinasi pelancongan yang lengkap, di mana pengunjung bukan sahaja dapat berekreasi, tetapi juga membeli cenderamata sebagai kenang-kenangan.

Secara keseluruhan, Galeri Produk Geopark Jerai adalah salah satu produk pelancongan unggul di negeri Kedah yang mempromosikan penghayatan terhadap warisan budaya dan keindahan alam semula jadi. Dengan sokongan berterusan dari Kerajaan Negeri Kedah untuk memperkasakan galeri ini, Galeri Produk Geopark Jerai diharapkan dapat menjadi destinasi yang setanding dengan galeri-galeri antarabangsa yang lain, sekaligus memperkukuhkan kedudukannya dalam peta pelancongan global.



Gambar: Penulis (tengah) bergambar bersama mahasiswa selian projek tahun akhir Program Teknologi Marin Lestari berlatarbelakangkan panorama Sungai Merbok. (Kredit Foto: Sharir Aizat Kamaruddin)



Encik Sharir Aizat Kamaaruddin merupakan pensyarah di Fakulti Sains Gunaan, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Cawangan Perlis, Kampus Arau, 02600 Arau, Perlis, Malaysia. Beliau mula berkhidmat di UiTM Cawangan Perlis sejak 16 Februari 2015. Bidang kepakaran beliau ialah Teknologi Marin Lestari.



Puan Eliy Nazira Mat Nazir merupakan pensyarah kanan di Fakulti Pengurusan dan Perniagaan, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Cawangan Perlis, Kampus Arau, 02600 Arau, Perlis, Malaysia. Beliau mula berkhidmat di UiTM Cawangan Perlis sejak 18 September 2012. Bidang kepakaran beliau ialah Pengurusan Sumber Manusia.



YBrS Prof Madya Dr Shukor Sanim Mohd Fauzi merupakan Profesor Madya di Kolej Pengajian Pengkomputeran, Informatik dan Matematik, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Cawangan Perlis, Kampus Arau, 02600 Arau, Perlis, Malaysia. Beliau mula berkhidmat di UiTM Cawangan Perlis sejak 3 Februari 2006. Bidang kepakaran beliau ialah Kejuruteraan Perisian.



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