

# UiTM GLOBAL NEWS



Vol.4/JUNE 2020

ENGAGING THE WORLD



**1<sup>st</sup>** UiTM INTERNATIONAL  
ALUMNI - MAURITIUS

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## Chief Editor's Note

### Welcome to Vol. 4 of the UiTM Global News!

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, I hope everyone is safe and well while we work to contain the global pandemic. The unprecedented and uncertain nature of the pandemic has given us pause to reflect on current and adapt to new lifestyle. This issue highlights the impact of COVID-19 on the university community and internationalisation at UiTM.

Despite the tremendous fear COVID-19 inflicted on us, it has had a positive effect on humanity. It has created a high social sensitivity and responsibility amongst UiTM community. Staff and students adopted new normal practices to benefit all. These unsung heroes at UiTM provided their support for the government and local communities via Initiatives and Community Social Responsibility (CSR) projects. These projects were developed to help front-liners care for COVID-19 patients. The innovative initiatives such as producing Protective Personal Equipment (PPE), hand sanitisers, and face protectors rippled across UiTM campuses. They played significant roles in meeting public needs during this calamity and their small gestures have had a huge impact on the society.

The pandemic also impacted internationalisation in many ways. The sudden and unexpected phenomenon disrupted the whole system of higher education worldwide including UiTM. However, UiTM made a quick transition to sustain and stay relevant in current situation. It offered online teaching and learning fully as a new normal option immediately. Classes moved online seamlessly, with plans for a whole semester and even into the next academic year. This effort helped ease international students' fear and anxiety for paid courses. These students

also required social support amid COVID-19. Hence, special initiatives set for international students such as I am Fine@UiTM, International Community Engagement (ICE) at the Office of International Affairs (ICE@OIA), Meet & Greet to name a few, were carried out to ensure the wellbeing of international students. Internationalisation@Home activities were also conducted by UiTM Global Ambassador (UGLAM) to support them socially during this difficult time.

COVID-19 had an implication on UiTM's international activities. Internationalisation has often been equated with student and staff mobility and sending students or staff abroad or attracting individuals from other countries. UiTM is poised for this game-changer under the 'new normal', and has outlined a new game plan to tackle the challenges head-on. Currently, UiTM is assessing the strengths and limitations of current international programmes and making realistic changes to cater to the new scenario. UiTM continues to strengthen existing international relationships, whilst engaging online with promising new partners with new MoUs and Lols.

Most importantly UiTM is adopting the principle of "this is the time to keep involved and make changes". These may include questioning some of the dogmas of internationalisation such as whether "it is just about attracting international students". UiTM is preparing a new game plan, i.e redesigning programmes to attract students and make them more relevant in these trying times.

**Adhere to the SOPs! And stay safe...**

**Dr. Hajah Zainab Haji Mohd Noor**  
Chief Editor



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### UiTM Global News

A quarterly newsletter showcasing UiTM's Internationalisation activities with the motto "Engaging the World." It features the engagement of UiTM with its partners at the global level.

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# Meet the TEAM

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## VC Azraai's First Year: ASPIRATIONS, HOPES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN HIS OWN WORDS

Since its establishment in 1956, UiTM (and known also by all its former names: RIDA College, Maktab MARA, Institut Teknologi MARA) has always been led by men from outside the system. Only 2 times in its 64 year history, has it been led by two alumni of the institution. Thus it came as no surprise that the 10th leader of UiTM, since Tan Sri Arshad Ayub, is a retired professor from another university...UiTM. Many were interviewed for the post when it became vacant in January 2019, but only 1 fit the bill

UiTM was established as an equalizer, a leveler, so to speak, of the economic disparity of the majority Malays and Bumiputras against the other races, the Chinese and Indians. A legacy left behind by the British, dividing the major races into distinct economic enclaves - the Chinese in the tin mines and businesses, the Indians in the plantations, and the Malays in the agricultural sector or in low-paying government jobs. One surely can identify race by the job one holds. In Tan Sri Arshad Ayub's words in his biography "Second Chances" UiTM truly was a second chance for many Malay and Bumiputera students to attend tertiary institutions. The early students of UiTM were typically second graders in their MCE (Malaysian Certificate of Education), now known as SPM (Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia). Because of their results they did not gain admittance into University Malaya or Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. The early courses or programmes in UiTM were hands-on technical skills training such as the making of coir, typewriting, shorthand and stenography, business and banking. But over the years, UiTM has grown by leaps and bounds to become a respected and globally renowned university, and its leaders have played an important and crucial role in bringing it to where it is now - a global player on the world stage.

After his one-year stint, the new VC of UiTM Emeritus Professor Datuk Ir. Dr. Mohd Azraai Kassim, was interviewed in early March to gain insights into his feelings, analysis, successes, vision, objectives, hopes, fears, and aspirations for the mammoth institution that is Universiti Teknologi MARA. The interview was conducted on a balmy night amidst the confusion and uncertainties of the Covid19 pandemic. The VC was casually dressed in a short-sleeved checked turquoise shirt and dark pants. He held in his hand a folder which contain the answers to the interview questions. This foreshadows what he will mention later in the interview - he is a man who prepares.

**1. HA: How did you feel when you learned that you were to become the VC of UiTM? Did you expect to become one?**

**VC: When Datuk Siti Hamisah, the former DG of higher education, rang and broke the news to me, I was...in Iraq, in Kurdistan. It was difficult for me to believe that and ever since then I had sleepless nights. Worrying about whether I can do the job well, whether I am accepted by the people because it's a new university and a new environment for me, it was mixed feelings. Elated and happy, at the same time very apprehensive about what I am going into. That's**

**how I would describe the feelings. I never expected, never in my wildest dream to lead UiTM. Yes, UTM or some other universities, but not UiTM. During the first few weeks I think, probably I've prayed to God more than I've ever prayed in my entire life. Because everything is new and in this large university, I do not know the people, save one or two people.**

**2. HA: Can you describe the interview process?**

**VC: There was a pool of five people. There were two interviews. I was not called to the first interview. Three people were invited for the first interview. Then I heard the panel wanted to see more candidates and I was invited for the second interview with someone from UiTM and me.**

**That was actually my 12th interview for a VC post, but never had I seen such a big panel. Tan Sri Zarinah Anwar, our Pro Chancellor was the Chairman. It was a big panel, Tan Sri, Datuk and someone from Europe, there were two from the industry, the UiTM Chairman as well, and two Professors from UiTM. They were shooting questions at me, one after the other, and it was the first time in an interview that I had to stop three times and request a drink because my throat was dry. They were shooting questions one after another. And I was giving them quick replies.**

**3. HA: Did you prepare for the interview and what did you think of the outcome?**

**VC: I am someone who normally prepares, I anticipate the questions and I prepare and sometimes rehearse. Since I've been to many interviews, I told the people I can now write a book about how to attend interviews for VC or university president. That was the toughest interview I have ever had.**

**My style is I always give my best. And after the string of interviews that I had attended before, I think acing the interview is something I am quite confident of doing because of my experience, especially with three gulps of water, something which I had not done before. And you know when you performed well, you feel satisfied. I knew the questions were very tough, I was unsure I got it, but I think I performed my best.**

**4. HA: How does your family feel about your appointment as VC of UiTM?**

**VC: They are very happy and know that I would be very busy, because I have been holding a number of positions before, the DVCs at UTM. But of course this time, it's at a higher level. They know that I'm back to what they have encountered before when they see little of me. But they understand and are very supportive. They know this is what I've dreamed about. I've always dreamed of leading a public university and that dream has never died even though I took early retirement, in 2016, I retired at 58. I thought since I'm already retired, this opportunity is already gone, but that dream is always there, and at the back of my mind, someday I would like to lead a university. Alhamdulillah, my dream has come true.**

**5. HA: What experiences and life events do you think have best prepared you for the position as Vice-Chancellor of UiTM?**

**VC:** I think it's the various positions that I have had that gives me the confidence to go for higher position such as a VC post. I've been Head of Department, Deputy Dean, Dean, Deputy VCs and I have held three Deputy VC posts: Development, Academic and International, and Research and Innovation. All my posts were in UTM. I have also held positions in the companies of the university. I have had both public and private experience in a way, leading a few companies in UTM, like Uni Technology Sdn. Bhd., for example, a consultancy company where I was Chairman and CEO. I was also heading UTM Space which is the lifelong learning private wing of UTM. I have formed one or two other companies on my own for consultancies. These experiences have helped shape and prepare me for this position.

At the same time, I've been doing a lot of international marketing work establishing collaborations. I was actually going out and marketing UTM's programmes. While holding these positions I faced many challenges which have actually prepared me for this position. I have attended a lot of leadership training. I also read a lot of leadership books to improve myself. One of the best courses I have attended is in Singapore at the NUS. It was a programme for the American Management Association and they collaborated with NUS, called Preparing for Leadership: What it Takes to Take the Lead. It was a very basic course.

I have also been in charge of the development post, Human Resource. In my entire career in UTM, I've chaired 55 committees. Very diverse committees and all these experiences of heading departments, faculties, and committees have helped in giving me a lot of experience in managing a university.

**6. HA: What's your initial vision for UiTM?**

**VC:** I was happy that when I reported for duty, they said I had to give a short speech. I planned some points. One of the key points in my maiden speech was I mentioned that UiTM is already a good university. It is time to transform it into a great university. I think somehow that phrase 'good to great' has been circulated around. That was the theme in my first speech. Everyone knows that UiTM has achieved a lot of things. People know its strength, its achievement. The graduates have a good command of English, its alumni are everywhere and successful. It is a comprehensive university with many programmes. It has some well-known programmes, which other universities don't have. That is something that is very well-known.

They did some infographic on that first speech. And I think that is something that has caught on. They know that UiTM is quite well-known within the country but somehow abroad, UiTM is not known. And I was saying at that time we shouldn't be ranked that low in our world university

rankings. Even in our subjects ranking. And I was quoting, I think, the case of Taylors, the hotel and catering. We were the first hotel school, but somehow, Taylors are Top-100 at that time, in the world. Even Top-50 in the world. Whereas we are the first. So, I said what matters is the present, not the past.

I am happy that people have responded quickly to that point. Although I've been talking for one year about this but somehow, I don't know, probably we come with the right strategies. Suddenly in early March, they got this rank, the QR subject ranking, ranked at 31 in the world. I think when I heard about it, it really made my day because that's where UiTM should have been especially on programmes like Hotel and Tourism Management, Accountancy, Business, Art and Design, Law.

**7. HA: What's your agenda and strategy for UiTM?**

**VC:** First, we have to make sure that everyone knows about the plans and strategies. We have restructured one unit in UiTM, the CSPI (Centre for Strategic Planning and Information). It has now been renamed and rebranded to Bahagian Transformasi Universiti, BTU. The university transformation division. I have placed it under me. They've been tasked with getting and setting up a plan for the transformation of the university, and now they're going around to make sure the plans are communicated to everyone. They have to visit 10 more faculties and a few more branch campuses. The first thing is to communicate so that everyone knows about the plans. And then we have to cascade the targets to everyone - faculties, branch campuses, and departments. We will closely monitor the implementation of the plan.

I have introduced a few changes to the way they monitor and review. Previously the BTU will pitch to a small group. Now we have made the whole university, or at least, the top management will hear our achievements and this will be reported to the board. And I have personally taken up the initiative to make sure that we will achieve those things. Among the things I am trying to spearhead is TNE, Transnational Education, offering UiTM Programmes abroad which we have initiated with the Maldives, Uzbekistan, and Tanzania. With the Saudis we want more collaborations. Besides that, there are entrepreneurship programmes, global partnerships, and student mobility as well.

I think we have made some progress, although one year to me is quite short, we made some progress. We have increased our partnership from 132 to 224 within a year. And we have also increased our student mobility numbers, inbound and outbound. We have also initiated some TNE initiative which is now at the stage of getting approval from the ministry. Especially for the Maldives, which is going to be our first TNE initiative in eight programmes such as Hotel Management and Tourism, Computer Science, and Forensic.

It is in franchise mode and we have to train the lecturers there and we will send one or two lecturers to be stationed there for a semester or a year. We will provide a lot of training sessions for trainers to ensure quality. Quality visits will also be made periodically to ensure that they are following our curriculum and complying with our rules and regulations. The idea is to set a target of five in 2020, on TNE site. We hope putting UiTM's flags in these areas will enhance our global profile. I've mentioned earlier that the biggest achievement in the global arena is the ranking by QS on subjects ranking, that is the Hotel getting the Top-50 rank in the world. That will actually propel our name higher.

We have franchised our programmes locally and two countries abroad, but we have not ventured abroad on a large scale. We studied the Act, and we are allowed with the permission of the minister, to offer our programmes abroad in partnership, in twinning mode and franchise. The peak of TNE is actually setting up a branch campus. Although it is too early to say, we might actually have a branch campus somewhere. Some countries have invited us to form a branch campus but of course branch campus is very expensive and we don't have the financial resources to do that. That's why we are going on the franchise mode. This is the cheapest mode actually.

We have identified four areas to be, if not in the Top-50, at least Top-100. Accounting, Architecture, Art and Design, and Performing Arts. These are the UiTM faculties that we believe have a lot of strength. They have a lot of achievements, but we are weak in leveraging on our global partnerships. I think that is where we are lacking. That is where we are going to really put a lot of effort.

I think for so many years, UiTM people have been looking inward and not outward. Probably some leadership before this were not looking at the global scenario. I have been informed that one VC was keen on internationalization. And then another VC decided to focus in the country only. That has affected UiTM's progress globally. Now is the time to go out and establish a lot of global partnerships.

Actually, I've done extensive visits and initiated a number of collaborations. And what I'm doing now is to bank on the contacts that I have. I am following up all the contacts that I previously had to establish collaborations. I've not utilized all of them yet. For example, we have not gone to Imperial College. And we have not gone to Harvard Business School or MIT, although I have some contacts there. And I am also an alumni of Newcastle University and Manchester University. So again, we have not leveraged on all those contacts.

**8. HA: What are your fears and challenges, especially in the current volatile political situation of the country?**

**VC** I think whoever is leading the country will face challenges and opportunities. Of course, UiTM's challenge has always been about access, about giving more opportunities to the Bumiputera to get good education and

a better life. Whoever the government of the day is, this is something that we will proceed. This is protected in the act. Whichever party is in the government they have to honour this because it is in the constitution as well. I am not worried about that aspect but I am more worried that our people, UiTM staff and students, may not be able to prepare themselves well for the challenges in the future. What is coming is very scary in some ways like the IR 4.0, disruptions happening. My worry is more about whether our people are able to face the challenges and become successful in the future. This is a very globalized world, the job market is a global one. If we do not prepare our people to venture abroad and compete with the best in the world, we might be left behind. That is my worry. With the new government, and the new minister, I think there are more opportunities rather than challenges. And in the new government that fairly reflects the populace, the Bumiputera agenda will certainly be something they will ensure its continuity and probably given a boost. Those are the opportunities that we should grab in this situation.

**9. HA: How long should an individual be in a leading post?**

I have this view, you know, based on my experience, people holding academic positions should not stay more than at least three terms. One term is not enough, assuming that one term is two years, in the first term you're trying to understand the situation, have your plans and start to implement the plans. You normally see the fruits in the second term. And normally, two terms will be good, because in the third term, you will run out of ideas. That is why one of the things that I have introduced is that people should not stay longer than three terms. And I have replaced quite a number of deans who have stayed for too long. I hope this process of leadership change will energize the whole UiTM's leadership.

**10. HA: Do you feel like an outsider here? Have the warga UiTM welcomed you?**

**VC:** Well, in the beginning I did feel like that but somehow, after almost a year, after knowing a lot of people, I feel like now I am part of UiTM but you have to ask all these other people. But I feel like I'm part of UiTM now.

Some people say I "nampak" too serious. Sometimes the people might interpret that as "tak mesra dengan orang". But when people know me, they will know I'm a different sort of person. People will realize that I laugh a lot actually, I joke and laugh a lot. But sometimes when I'm inside the lift, they don't want to go near. I am not sure why, I said I am not a tiger or what, I don't bite. Probably I'm not that articulate. That's my weakness. My strength is in getting things done, making things happen.

I've tried to make myself known to everyone but probably not everyone knows me. We have introduced something which was not here before, 'Perhimpunan Naib Canselor Dwi Bulanan' because I found that I need to convey the message to everyone, to as wide an audience as possible

in the university. That is why I've introduced this bi-monthly engagement with the staff, which is beamed to all campuses, in order to convey my message. If I were to rely on the top management to convey this, sometimes it may not reach everyone. I believe I have reached out to as many of our staff but probably not yet to everyone. Probably because not everyone knows me yet. I am not in a popularity contest anyway. I am just out to do things, to achieve what's best for UiTM.

**11. HA: In your opinion, what is the difference between UTM, a research university, and UiTM, fundamentally a teaching university.**

**VC:** Actually the history of UiTM and UTM is almost the same. UTM started as a teaching university, ITK Institut Teknologi Kebangsaan, National Institute of Technology and then it became UTM. And for many years it was a teaching university. Actually, research started to slowly come in the 90s. And it became a full-fledged research university in 2010. UiTM has a long history of teaching and when it became a university in 1999, I think research started to come in. I am aware of the challenges transforming from a mainly teaching to teaching and research. I am not out to change UiTM to a research university because a research university has certain characteristics which is not suitable for UiTM. For example, it has 50-50 ratio of undergraduate and postgraduate. UiTM has different a mission, a different agenda. But we cannot abandon or neglect research because although our graduates bring the name of the university, we have very successful graduates. But it is research and commercialization that actually bring up the name of the university. We cannot run away from being a comprehensive university, we actually have a lot of opportunities to embark on research and commercialize our research products and partner with industries, and solve problem with industry.

With the expertise that we have, it is important for us to embark on research. You cannot separate teaching and research. In fact, research will actually enrich our teaching. I am trying to inculcate the characteristics of what a successful academic is. That is why I have invited someone from Australia whom I have known for some time. She has written an academic strategic handbook where she outlined the traits and characteristics of the successful academic which is a worldwide concept. The successful academic is one who demonstrates teaching excellence, has a strong research track record, has a strong national and international collaborations and displays strong leadership qualities. These are the four ingredients of becoming a successful academic. I'm trying to imbue this in the minds of our academic staff in UiTM. On many occasions, I've highlighted this because an academic has three roles: teacher, researcher and manager. You cannot run away from this. If you are just lecturing and teaching, then you just playing one role as a teacher. This something which I'm trying to bring and hopefully the culture of teaching and doing research, doing engagement service as well as providing leadership will take root in UiTM.

**12. HA: I've heard that sometimes you've made comparisons with UTM and people are not happy with that.**

**VC:** It's difficult not to compare with others. But I've also highlighted the need for our staff to benchmark not only with UTM but also the other universities. I've asked them to go to Singapore, for benchmarking and learn new things. This is something we have been doing in my former university. Whenever we want to learn new things, we just cross the border to Singapore. You can learn many new things there. So, this is something that I encourage to our staff to go out, learn new things and adopt whichever is good.

I know people are not happy that I mentioned and compared with UTM. But UTM has taken the transformation journey 10 years ago. I was part of that journey, so I am also clear with all those things. It is inevitable that sometimes I compare UiTM and UTM but only in the sense that we have to learn. If there are good things done elsewhere, we have to embrace it. Best practices. Adopt them.

If another university has done the thing right, let's follow it. For example, we are going to launch this concept, "1 Student, 1 Passport". It's not from UTM, it is from USM. I heard it from VC Prof. Asmah who was giving a talk at a conference and one of the things they do is the "1 Student, 1 Passport" initiative to encourage student mobility. That is something I learned from USM and I have also learned from other universities. This is something that we should be doing, looking at best practices elsewhere, and adopting.

**13. HA: What's your personal assessment of your achievements thus far? Have you made a difference?**

**VC:** Again, this is a tough question for me to answer because it is better asked to others. But, from the numbers in my monthly address, I've compared some numbers in 2018 and 2019. I think we have increased some of the numbers, for example, in 2018 our research grant was 43.3 million, but in 2019 the total grants received was 48.8 million. The numbers have shown that there is some increase and progress has been made. In 2018 for example, our endowment fund was 1.1 million, at the end of 2019 it was 51 million, and now it's 72.2 million. In three months' time it will be 100 million because there's another party who wants to donate another 30 million. We are making progress although not up to my expectation.

I believe by the end of my term, at least, with the 5-year strategic plan that we have introduced, we would have achieved at least 50 to 60 percent of the things that we want to achieve. For example, we put in our plan one of the desired states by 2025: two subjects will be in Top-100. We have achieved one of them already in top 50. That's a big achievement because we are one of the three public universities and one of the six universities in Malaysia which has a top-50 subject ranked in the world. We have a lot of potential and strengths but we have not been able to capitalize and utilize it to our advantage and I believe

it is slowly catching on. I've been talking to a few deans, I visited a few faculties which are like 52 years old, for example Art and Design. They have achieved a lot of things; a lot of their alumni are very successful. But what they are lacking is their global partnership. So, because not many people outside know them, they received less votes as a top faculty or top programme. In Malaysia they know Art and Design or Performing Art very well, but somehow not in global rankings. For example, UCSI, Institute of Music, is top hundred in the world. Our Faculty of Music have been winning awards here and there but they are not ranked. So something is missing there and that missing piece I think is global partnership. This is one area I wish to contribute to significantly.

**14. HA: What is your leadership and management style? Are you a leader to emulate?**

**VC:** Well, I always share the five top qualities that people look for in leadership. It is from Kouzes and Posner who did a survey and found that people look for five things in a leader. They found that successful leaders need to model the way by setting the example, inspire a vision, challenge the process, enable their followers, and encourage the heart. I think these good qualities are what I try to embody in me. I have not stopped learning actually on how to become a good leader.

Another quality is the ability to execute. This is something that good leaders must have. Ability to communicate well, ability to influence others. I think the most important ability a leader must have is influence. There's one good book which I always recommend to people to read and follow, *How to Win Friends and Influence People* by Dale Carnegie. I like that book very much and I learned a lot from it. How to get along with people, how to mobilize people. These are some of the qualities that one needs to have to become a good leader.

The three critical functions of leadership that I always try to put into practice is to set direction, align people, and motivate and inspire. This is my leadership style. The first thing I do wherever I go is to have a 5-point plan to transform or lead an organization. It is like a template, which I will adopt whenever I start in an organization. These things helped me actually. Try to understand the organization and then look at what they have achieved, what are the gaps, and then come up with a vision. Then plan to achieve that vision and communicate and align everyone to it. Fundamentally, these are the approach that I have adopted. I have actually written this in my two books on leadership *Membina Kerjaya Akademia*, which is a guide for young academicians on how to thrive in their career. And another book called *Kepimpinan Universiti: Bagaimana Menjadi Pemimpin yang Efektif*.

**15. HA: What's your greatest success at UiTM? What's your greatest failure at UiTM?**

**VC:** It's too early to say I've failed. I never admit failure until I've done my best to do something. So, I think one year is too short, I'm still working on many things but I would consider my greatest success would be if I am able to bring out the best in every one of UiTM staff, inspire them and they become the best version of themselves. That would be my greatest success as a leader. I believe strongly that if we can bring the best out of people then the organization will thrive and be very successful.

**16. HA: What are your hopes, wishes and aspirations for UiTM for the rest of your tenure here?**

**VC:** I hope I'm given the full term and given the opportunity to bring UiTM to a better level than when I first got here. That is always my leadership quest. I always want to bring an organization into a better shape. So, in that sense, I'm able to make UiTM as the vision in our new plan to become globally renowned in various fields like science, technology and entrepreneurship. That's my greatest desire because, like I said, UiTM is known in Malaysia but UiTM is not known outside. Actually, it's not only UiTM but many public universities are not known. I have been to many countries like the ex-Russian republics Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and the Middle East. So, again, universities like UiTM is not that known outside. My mission is to make UiTM known to the various universities in the world.

Actually, it's not that difficult and our programmes are offered in many places and there are a lot of collaborations happening. Probably it was not an emphasis before. For example, I recently found that 15 of our young lecturers graduated from Imperial College. When I asked them, "Did you collaborate with your supervisor?" No collaboration! Some of them said, "We didn't think about it". People thought that you got your degree, come back and work. Then I said, "That's the easiest thing for you to do." Work back with your supervisor. So now Alhamdulillah, the DVC of research is doing this, gathering these 15 graduates of Imperial College and discussing ways on how they can collaborate with Imperial College. That's what I did. I shared my experience before when I came back from Newcastle University after doing my PhD. I applied for a grant from the British Council and collaborated with my former supervisor for five years. That is the easiest thing to do because you know each other. That is something that we should leverage on. We hope more of this collaboration will happen in the near future.

Actually, UiTM already has a collaboration with MIT. But somehow 10 years have passed and we have not capitalised on that. We are now at the stage of renegotiating with them for the next 10 years and I said we want to put the label, UiTM, but of course they are saying that it's difficult. MIT will not agree. But with my experience before, we did this with Imperial College, one of the top universities in the world. Because we are investing money for the

collaboration, we have the right to tell them this what we want. For example, we did this before, UTM-Imperial College, Centre for Low Carbon Transportation. We put in money for the research. We should have done that in the beginning: UiTM-MIT Malaysian Centre for Logistics Innovation. Then people will know it is a co-branding strategy which we have not capitalized on.

There's another example of what we have been missing - Teeside University has been collaborating with one faculty for 22 years. But the collaboration is only in providing a classroom for the Teeside lecturers to teach here. For 22 years! Anybody can do that. But there was no progress in terms of research and academic collaboration, nothing happened. It is a waste of 22 years. Similarly, I think we have known UiTM have been with Ohio for a long time but there's not much collaboration happening. We have to do something about that.

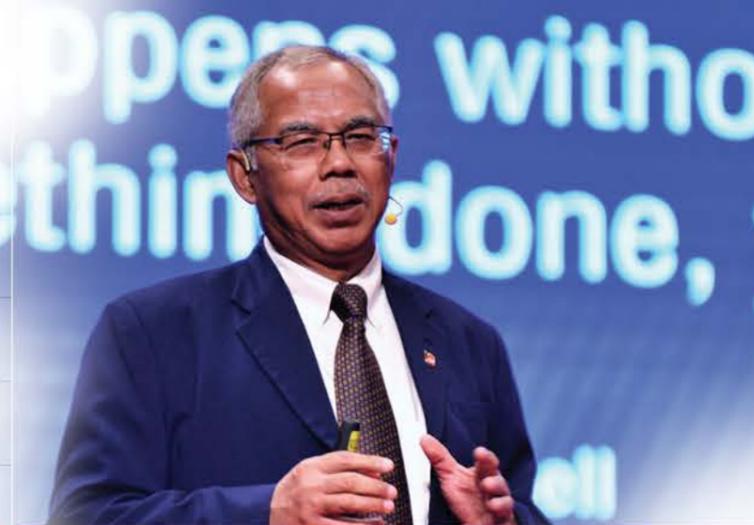
One of the greatest stumbling blocks is readiness for a mindset change. I think that is number one and the other one is probably the lack of skill sets. But I think the lack of skill-sets is something that we can address. Complacency. That is the main enemy to what I plan to do. If people want to be business as usual, then we are not going to achieve big things in life. But, if they have that desire that they want to achieve big things, they have that winning mindset, they want to be on the global stage, I think we will get there. I think that is a stumbling block: readiness for change which I hope I will be able to address during my tenure. That is one area which I think I can contribute significantly to UiTM. The whole strategic plan is about transforming UiTM students and staff to become global players, to see the world as the playing field.

#### 17. HA: Do you feel fulfilled in your work thus far?

VC: Not yet I think. I think I have a lot more to do and when I have seen more results, then I will feel fulfilled. My style is that I always want to give my best shot at anything that I do. I think I've not given the utmost yet and I hope in the next two years I am able to mobilize everyone in the direction that we want them to go. Probably in two years' time, that sense of being fulfilled will be there. But right now, it's not there yet, a lot more things to do.

I am someone who thrives under challenge. I rarely stay in a job for too long. I like more challenging assignments. That's my style. That's why I moved to various positions. I'm always looking for new challenge to solve, a challenge to take on. Challenges energize me. If not, I'll be dragging my feet and go to sleep. I think I've taken on the biggest challenge of my life in UiTM. Previously it was small entities like faculty or department or company. I believe in bringing change to the organization that I lead. I am always trying to transform and turn things around things. One of my previous bosses called me 'Turn-around specialist'. But I like that, you know, turning around things, solving problems, transformation. So, these are things I thrive on that. Transforming UiTM to be a globally renowned university.

I always want to bring an organization into a better shape than when I first found it. My vision for UiTM in our new plan is for it to become globally renowned in various fields like science, technology and entrepreneurship. That is my greatest desire because, like I said earlier, UiTM is known in Malaysia but not known outside. Our wish is for UiTM to become a globally renowned university.



## Vice-Chancellor's 2020 Annual Speech: Collaboration towards Global Brands

The Vice Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Emeritus Professor Datuk Ir. Dr. Mohd. Azraai Kassim, set "Highlighting Potential, Shaping the Future: Enhancing Smart Collaboration towards Global Brands" as his theme for 2020. He stressed globalisation in the UiTM's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan during his speech on 26 February at the Dewan Agung Tuanku Canselor (DATC), UiTM Shah Alam. The event was attended by more than 700 participants including the top management, academic and non-academic staff.

In line with the theme, Azraai announced that the Office of International Affairs (OIA) will receive RM1.5 million in 2020 to increase internationalisation activities. The goal is to expand access to higher education and provide world-class education for UiTM students. Training programmes that meet business needs, drive national growth and global competitiveness, as well as produce internationally-competitive entrepreneurial graduates will also be provided.

Azraai also underscored the need to maximize value by improving initiatives while maintaining operational quality through an effective and efficient system of governance. UiTM aims to spearhead impactful work through a robust research ecosystem, at the same time improve strategic partnerships with alumni and industry that facilitate academic advancement. Through an efficiently-managed financial system, it hopes to strengthen organisational sustainability.



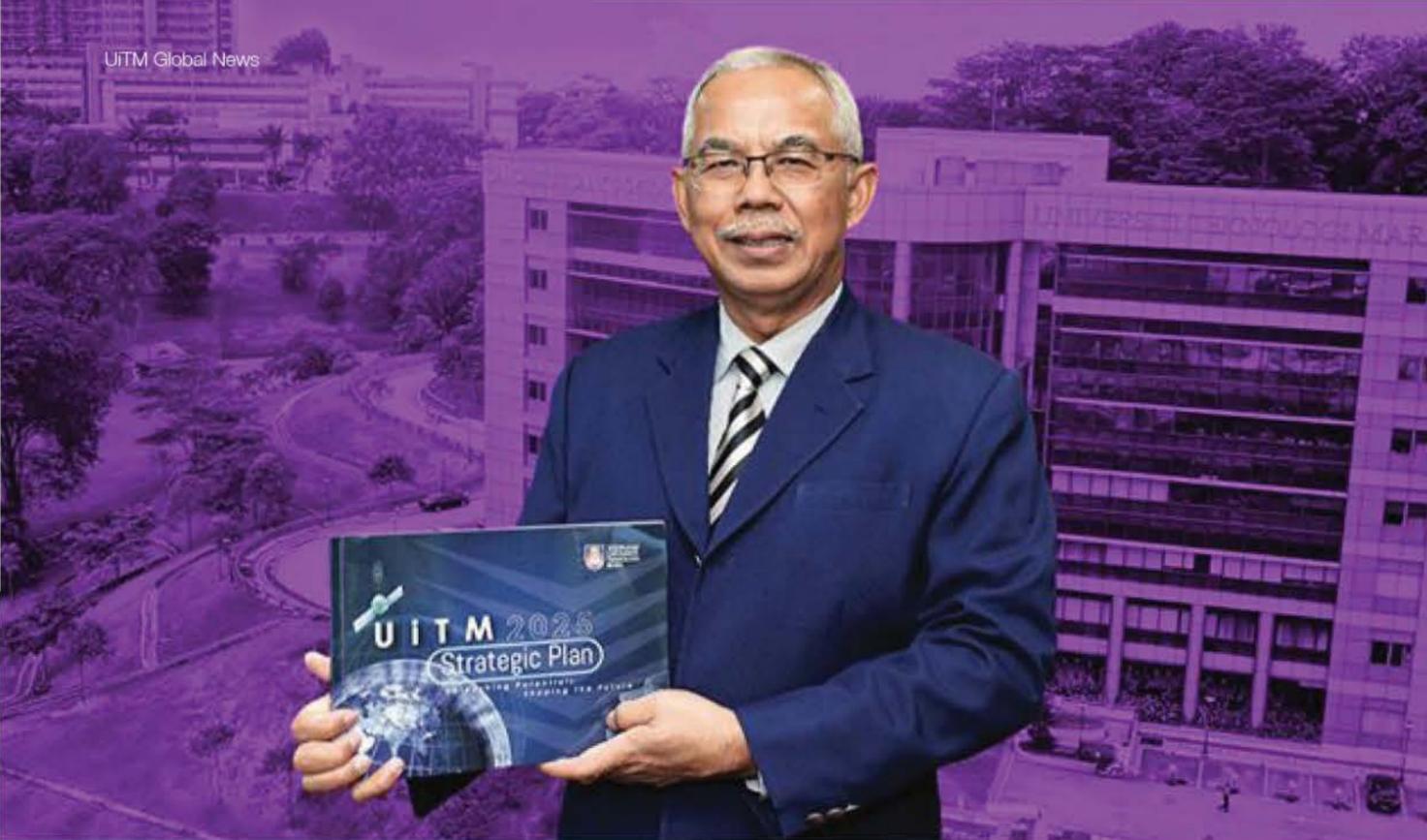
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[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8X-GV3isY\\_DA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8X-GV3isY_DA)

UiTM2025 incorporates 3 core organisational principles for Performance, Synergy, and Integrity in its employees and students. This is based on 5 other principles, namely *Ilmu, Displin, Amanah, Rajin and Tanggungjawab* (I-DART). In order to achieve Quality Education 6-Star, Global Excellence and Value Driven Results, UiTM also need to move fast. Education 5.0, 10 percent Graduate Entrepreneurs, 200K student enrolment, 20K student admission, 3K Foreign Students and TNE sites are some of the initiatives to achieve a standard Education-6 Star. Global Excellence can be met via the top 100 goals in the QS World Ranking, 2 subject world top 100 (one of which has been achieved!), 20 subject rank (now 11), 6-star MyRA score and 500 universities' foreign cooperation (10 per faculty). Meanwhile, Value Driven Performance is achieved through campus digital launch, smart data hub, and green campus. The Board of Directors have also targeted RM1 billion in revenue over the next 5 years.

The main measures to execute the 2020/2025 Strategic Plan will be implemented across 3 strategies. First, Quality Education through Education 5.0, Balanced Entrepreneurship and Accessibility. The second strategy is integrating Growth, Translational Science, Innovation and Marketing, Smart Business Sharing, Community and Alumni Partnerships through Global Excellence. Finally, the third approach is to incorporate Value-Oriented Success through Future Quality, Agile Governance, Smart Campus and Financial Sustainability.

Prof. Azraai also highlighted the expansion of the international network by quoting Anthony Gell who said, **"Execution is winning by outproducing your competitors, A great way to beat the competition is to get more of the right stuff done, execution is doing things; it's productivity - the how to hit the goals, mission and vision; develop an action bias - Just Do It!"**



# Transforming UiTM into a Globally Renowned University

**V**ice Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Emeritus Professor Datuk Ir. Dr. Mohd Azraai Kassim launched UiTM 2025 Strategic Plan on the 17th of February. The transformation agenda is expected to propel the institution into a global university of science, technology, humanities and entrepreneurship over the next five years. This will be realised through a five-year framework from 2020 until 2025. Entitled the UiTM 2025 Strategic Plan (UiTM2025), it is a continuation of the previous strategic plan placing greater emphasis on expanding its global network.

Through UiTM2025, the university will focus on the changes, developments and needs of the Industrial Revolution 4.0 (IR 4.0) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Plan is also in line with the national agenda of the Malaysian Education Development Plan 2015 -2025 and the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030, thus ensuring that UiTM remains relevant nationally and globally.

With the long-term goal of making UiTM a renowned university, UiTM2025 focuses on three strategic core areas: quality education, global excellence and value-based performance. The Vice Chancellor highlighted that each core was mapped key themes, initiatives and achievements based on Excellence, Synergy and Integrity to ensure quality. In all its endeavours. To do this, UiTM will provide a constructive ecosystem for students and faculty to achieve a global mindset and compete internationally. He reiterated that it is imperative for UiTM to become a leading university globally. He believes UiTM's internationalisation can be realised through 377 MoUs and MoAs signed with various international universities.

## UiTM 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN



Other strategies include staff and student mobility through mobility and summer programmes, expanding partnerships in academic programmes, research and consultancy activities, community and volunteerism and increasing international academic staff. While this strategic plan is aimed at making UiTM a world-leading university, UiTM will maintain its status as set out in Article 153 of the Federal Constitution specific to Bumiputeras. "This plan is an enhancement and value addition to the current development and needs of higher education, as well as an interpretation of UiTM in response to the aspirations of Shared Prosperity Vision 2030," he said. The policy was of added value to UiTM to achieve the direction of UiTM2025.

On the marketability of UiTM graduates totalling about 45,000 each year, Azraai said 83% are now in the private sector, while 13% work in the government sector. 4% have set themselves up as entrepreneurs. "Data in 2019 continues to show that the marketability of UiTM

graduates stands at 83.8% or 37,523 out of 44,788 graduates, indicating a favourable rate," he said. "UiTM is also the largest university in Malaysia and has the greatest number of students, academics and alumni and has its own infrastructure to generate income," he added.

Azraai added that the strengths and advantages of UiTM are its various academic programmes such as science, technology, humanities and entrepreneurship compared to other institutions of higher learning. It is the largest institution nationwide with the most students, academics and alumni, and it owns infrastructure to generate revenue, leaving it well-equipped to implement its transformation over the next five years. ~Source: *New Straits Times*

📍 **UiTM chairman (seventh from right) Datuk Seri Syed Zainal Abidin Syed Mohamed Tahir at the launch of UiTM2025 in Shah Alam on Thursday. With him is (sixth from right) Vice Chancellor Emeritus Professor Datuk Ir. Dr. Mohd Azraai Kassim**





# UiTM Academic Compass

## EDUCATION 5.0 @ UiTM

### Navigating the Future



To understand EDUCATION 5.0 @UiTM, one needs to understand how UiTM got to this stage in the first place, why there is a need for change, and how far we are planning to go. Change is generally a constant in the world. The changes in education wrought by COVID19 is unprecedented, to say the least. No one foretold it. But it brought change; it brought the new normal. It brought changes to many sectors: the airline industry, businesses, banks, hospitals, theme parks, malls, schools and universities, to name a few. The use of face masks, hand sanitizers, the taking of temperature, and social distancing are the new normal.

The education industry has gone through one of the more significant changes. Since time immemorial, technology in education has gone through changes - from singing and storytelling to drawing on cave walls, from top-down teachings by men of religion, sifu or gurus, to technology-enhanced learning. Distance learning has existed in UiTM for more than three decades. But distance learning in the traditional sense made up only 5-10% of the learning modality. It was reserved for non-traditional students, i.e. working adults who could only come on-campus once a month. Email was used perhaps for discussion with the lecturer and other classmates, and assignments were typically mailed via Poslaju. Many universities adopted this kind of modality for working adults to up-skill. Access to computers and the internet were some of the problems faced in this modality. There were none of the social media platforms that we have now...FaceBook, WhatsApp,

Skype, Google Meet. Fast forward thirty years, and we have every institution of higher learning in this country and the world using distance learning and online platform to teach and learn. COVID19, inevitably, has jolted students and educators in the direction of distance or remote education. This brings us to the question – what is Education 5.0@UiTM and how can it remain relevant to the process of educating, keeping in mind the new change, the new normal brought upon by the pandemic?

UiTM has traditionally practiced face-to-face structured content and learner-centred activities in the earlier days of education up to Education 3.0. It adopted more self-directed learning in Education 4.0, and finally Education 5.0. The education ecosystem has experienced rapid technological changes, changes in the needs of society and industry, which in turn resulted in necessary changes in how UiTM conducts its core business. Technology compels changes in education delivery and the learning experience; lecturers are not the only gatekeepers of content, as they are easily accessible and available online. Industries insist on work-ready individuals with skills and competencies that may not be always readily acquired from higher education. Hence the required change in all those in the business of educating. UiTM, striving for a borderless, personalised and value-based learning intending to develop alert, creative, strong progressive thinkers with a global mindset, responded by introducing EDUCATION 5.0@UiTM.

EDUCATION 5.0@UiTM is a learning-centric ecosystem that is sustainable, balanced and principled, driven by values, powered by intellect and afforded by new, ubiquitous technologies. It is about what an individual can create aided by smart technology and machines but armed with values, principles, and progressive thinking. Implemented in 2019, the principle here is learning for all parties, be they academics, administration, students and the university community. Learning is intended to be directed, demonstrated, and driven by the learner. Education 5.0 works on the premise that a learner is an individual who possesses values, beliefs, thoughts, knowledge and skills which are not seen as separate fundamentals to be nurtured and trained. Technology provides this individual the choices - to decide what, where, when, how, why and with whom to study. The student is able to navigate his or her learning path. Education 5.0@UiTM nurtures progressive thinking learners to be agile, possess strong principles, creativity and a global mindset. This is instrumental in helping them know what they want and how to get it.

The five pillars of Education 5.0@UiTM are 1. Coherent and relevant curriculum, 2. Innovative delivery and assessment, 3. Meaningful learning experience, 4. Transformative learning environment, and 5. Inspiring Educators. They are intended to nurture progressive thinking learners towards their individual path.

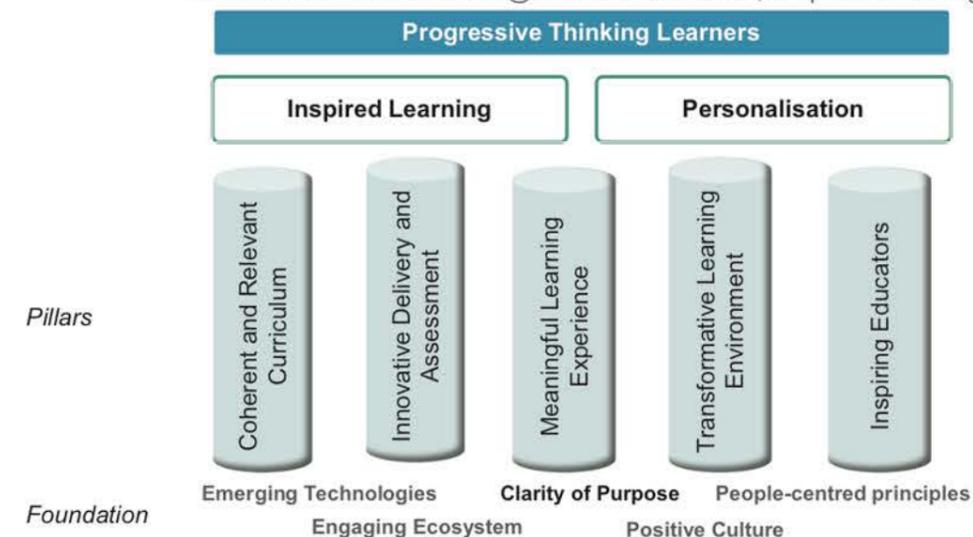
Educational theorist Benjamin Bloom in Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives suggested that in the mastery of learning, optimal instruction can push the curve to the right, but to do this flexibility is required. Keeping this in mind, efforts have been made to design and deliver curriculum that encourages values and thinking by having strong linkages and exposure to the

world. Faculties in UiTM already have strong linkages with the industry, community and partner universities through MoUs, and both students and instructors are involved in exchange programmes. There is mobility, global learning, learning beyond the classroom, international and local experts in classrooms contributing to meaningful learning experiences. Innovative delivery and assessment follow to ensure personalised and inspired learning. This is staggered into three stages. Flexibility has been carefully woven into the curriculum, mode of delivery and assessment. A transformative learning environment is created to facilitate the expansion of distinctive and innovative learning by providing learning spaces and state of the art technology that already exist for the large part but is still being enhanced. Finally, inspiring educators, educators with principles and relevant skill sets are to be specifically trained in using open approaches in their teaching, using both face-to-face and online teaching platforms, thus hybrid or blended learning. This combination makes up Education 5.0.

In retrospect, as we welcome the post Covid-19 era, it was insightful for UiTM to have embarked on Education 5.0@UiTM. The whole world have had to adapt to new situations during and post-Covid. Similarly, universities have had to come up with flexible new ways to educate, communicate and conduct assessment in education. The UiTM community must navigate the future by being more perceptive to the five pillars of Education 5.0. Addressing the importance of intercultural communication, while focussing on personal learning environments and diversity in the form of learning networks becomes imperative. If everyone in UiTM is onboard, then Covid-19, or any other situation that arises, will not pose a problem, but an opportunity to expand.

## Framing Education 5.0@UiTM

The elements of Education 5.0@UiTM: the foundation, the pillars and the goal





# Post-Covid 'new normal' Internationalisation Strategy



Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) is prepared to welcome returning and new international students into their "new normal" campus. This is to ensure they can pursue their studies with ease, in a healthy learning environment, and with online learning as the mode of learning and teaching.

UiTM Office of International Affairs (OIA), headed by Dr. Hajah Zainab Haji Mohd Noor, is the one-stop centre responsible for ensuring online borderless learning, teaching and human capital development, while maintaining the quality of course content and programmes offered for international students. This internationalisation hub has endorsements from 324 prominent partners across the globe such as universities in US, Canada, Bosnia, Indonesia, Mauritius, and local partners. "This is the internationalisation and mobility concept that UiTM has spearheaded to achieve its strategy to gain the status of a global renowned university by 2025", said Zainab.

Zainab stated that, "Students will undergo more online courses, class interactions and lectures from foreign partner institutions and location with very credible speakers from around the globe." In addition, they will experience new cultures and meet new friends as part of internationalisation at home programme. They will get first-hand information about the countries they may be visiting for Summer Exchange programmes, internships or industry attachments opportunities via online. She added, "All these are an integral part of this

internationalisation education under the OIA at UiTM in preparation to provide post-Covid benefits opportunities for students and staff."

Though most international students are considered to be in the digital generation, online education and learning may be a task to most of them, especially the new intakes. Zainab strongly believes that the nurturing of trust, friendly guidance and empathy is the "human touch" approach to post-Covid educating and assisting of international students which can surely minimise all the challenges and obstacles for them.

With audiences reaching more than 1,000 with any online information blast and the huge UiTM student population, Zainab and her team are able to provide more global education access, communication and borderless mobility for students, staff, and the relevant general public. Students must adapt and quickly accept this 'new normal' post-Covid higher education way of learning that is currently being heavily practiced in universities worldwide.

For UiTM, its students will be better qualified professionals when they graduate or when they completed their respective training programmes via internationalisation. Currently, two per cent of UiTM graduates are employed in the global market which shows that UiTM students are well accepted in the global arena. *~Source: nst.com.my*

# UiTM Endowment Scholarship

Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Vice Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Datuk Ir. Dr. Mohd Azraai Kassim announced on 22 May the availability of scholarships provided through the university's endowment fund. This would benefit 52 outstanding Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) students to further their studies at Bachelor's, Masters and Philosophy (PhD) degrees. He said the fund was established on behalf of the UiTM Endowment Fund on Feb 26, 2020 and was funded by donations from corporate, alumni and private individuals to help outstanding students continue their studies. "This UiTM Endowment Scholarship is open to outstanding students in any field with a minimum grade point average of 3.50 (CGPA) for local students and CGPA 3.75 for international students," he said. "During the funding, students will be given monthly allowances, tuition and living expenses. The scholarship application will open in August 2020," he added.

Azraai explained that the scholarship funding will be allocated to 40 undergraduate students, and three postgraduate and PhD students respectively. He said the remaining six places will be dedicated to international undergraduate and PhD students to study in specific fields of research. "The awarding of scholarships to international undergraduate and PhD students is to foster UiTM's agenda of leading specific areas of research such as industrial technology, logistics, transportation, innovation and social creativity." He added that "The UiTM Endowment Scholarship aims to help outstanding students continue their education through financial aid and further boost the university's reputation by strengthening the quality of its students and lecturers to a higher level." This is part of internationalisation strategies at UiTM.

Azraai reiterated that the scholarship was the institution's aggressive approach to become the world's leading university in the next five years in line with UiTM Strategic Planning 2025. *~Source: hmetro.com.my*

# COVID-19 PANDEMIC INITIATIVES@UiTM



## INNOVATION

## Unsung Heroes of UiTM

## CSR to

A proactive team from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (FKM), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Shah Alam, took the initiative to mass-produce face shields frame using a plastic injection moulding process following the high demand from hospitals and clinics in Malaysia amidst the COVID-19 global pandemic. Due to the rising demand of face shields UiTM and industries got together to show support and solidarity to source face shields. Some companies contributed raw materials for UiTM to run the 17-day injection moulding project.

The demand for face shields had increased to more than 14,000 units within a week after the project started on 23rd March 2020. Initially, the team coordinated 3D printing activities by job delegation at various residential locations, following the Movement Control Order (MCO) announcement by the Malaysian Government. A total of 13 locations around Klang Valley with 23 units of 3D printers worked on the frame at their respective premises.

These volunteers comprised of UiTM staff, mostly doing 3D printing jobs and design and optimization for the second stage of injection moulding. Through innovative thinking and skillful technical staff and support from industrial partners to supply the essential parts during MCO, the mould was finally assembled on the injection moulding machine and completed within 3 days. The team successfully delivered 30,000 units of face shields within 17 day to nearly 100 hospitals, clinics, armies nationwide including 100 units flown to Sarawak Hospital.

The team was thankful to all volunteers especially lecturers, technical and administrative staff from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering Main Campus, Shah Alam, FKM branches in Pulau Pinang, Pasir Gudang and Bukit Besi and UiTM partners; Mechanical Engineering Faculty Alumni Society (MEFAS), Makerlab and Kelantan Branch for the CSR Face Shield UiTM Project 2020.



Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and Gaia Plas Sdn Bhd, a premier in manufacturing and trading of plastic product, signed an agreement on 28 May as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to support UiTM's initiatives in light of COVID-19 pandemic. The company is working together with researchers at UiTM.

This community social responsibility (CSR) was supported by industrial partners such as AA3D SHOP, GAIA PLAS BERHAD, PEBBLE 3D SDN BHD and 3D GENS SDN BHD, and PETRONAS, HICOM TECK SEE, SECO TECHNOLOGY SDN BHD and INTAN TEKNIK (M) SDN BHD for the sponsorship of raw materials for injection moulding. This endeavour sparked interest in GAIA company to collaborate further with researchers in UiTM. The deep interest in the project led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between GAIA and UiTM. ~Source: news.uitm.edu.my



## 'SHIELD+' from UiTM Penang

## CSR to



A staff from UiTM Penang branch, Mohamed Syazwan Osman, was solely responsible for the creation of a new hand sanitizer product during the surge of the COVID-19 virus recently. Shazwan designed a gel-based hand sanitizer which not only effectively kill bacteria and virus but could also moisturize the hands. After toiling with the recipe, he came up with the first formula with the help of his students who were 'trapped' in campus during Movement Control Order (MCO). He also received the support and seal of approval for his formula and concept from the Rector, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Hisbany Hashim. The idea to help health-based front liners, staff and students who were on campus was his initial priority. The management endorsed the project and Syazwan began a series of experiments. With 6 of final semester students of EH224 Chemical engineering, he set up a mini-production lab on campus. Shazwan exposed his students to 'real life' engineering problems and to develop an entrepreneurial mindset. The self-funding modest lab began operations on 19th March 2020.

Syazwan and his team successfully produced more than 1,000 litres of hand sanitizer which they named SHIELD+. It is a gel with alcohol content infused with cucumber extracts and tea tree oil. They sent samples to accredited laboratories for certification. Almost 7,000 bottles of hand sanitizers of varying sizes were then produced. They donated half of them to hospitals, clinics, schools, UiTM students and staff in Penang and Kedah. This project was a training ground for students on entrepreneurship, especially when they managed to sell the other half via online sales.

SHIELD+ became a household name and the team was interviewed by BERNAMA, RTM1, The Sun and TV3 on their impactful work. The students were extremely grateful for the opportunity presented to them amidst the lockdown. They were able to showcase their skills in developing a high impact project at minimal cost. To date, they primarily work on university-community engagement. But the visit by UiTM Vice Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Datuk Ir. Dr. Mohd Azraai Kassim, to the campus shifted their outlook when the VC praised their good work and suggested that the product be commercialised.



## INNOVATION

**A signing ceremony between UiTM and Elsu haz (M) Sdn. Bhd**

Elsuhaz (M) Sdn Bhd in Sungai Petani, Kedah became interested in their product for commercialisation and after several pitching sessions, the company agreed to commercialise the hand sanitisers, with BITCOM UiTM Shah Alam as the facilitator. Both parties agreed to the terms of commercialisation. Syazwan registered his intellectual property (IP) with BITCOM. He then began working towards the preparation of both MoU and MoA (licensing agreement) between UiTM and Elsu haz. On 3rd June, UiTM and Elsu haz (M) Sdn Bhd officially signed the MoU and MoA.

Syazwan and his students are currently embarking on the commercialisation process of the product. They visited Elsu haz factories to work on the mass production of the hand sanitiser. In the process, they received yet another good news when the adverts of SHIELD+ appeared in QS World University Ranking 2021 magazine. Their small contribution in making UiTM a globally renowned university paid off. The team was deeply grateful to the VC, Rector, and BITCOM for their support, motivation, and guidance.



The project demonstrated the synergy of the university-community-industry nexus. This is a testament to the execution of action plans in achieving UiTM strategic plan 2020-2025. What started as a mere 'help' to the community culminated in a high impact product that benefited the society.

**Kudos to Syazwan and team!!**



## Covid-19: UiTM Hand Sanitisers – UiTM's Corporate Social Responsibility Project 1.0

**D**uring the COVID-19 global pandemic, UiTM staff felt a strong sense of social responsibility towards the needs of the community. Hence, a total of 45 UiTM staff from various faculties and Centres of Excellence (COE) got together to embark on a hand sanitiser project. This Community Social Responsibility (CSR) project at UiTM was initiated by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation)'s office, which was translated as a social innovation and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) UiTM Project 1.0

The hand sanitiser were marked as a UiTM product and distributed to the community within and outside Shah Alam. Among the recipients were the UiTM Auxiliary Police and Health Centre, Shah Alam City Council (MBSA), Ampang Jaya IPD, JSJ, Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ), Klang Municipal Council (MPK), New Bangi City Clinic, Shah Alam Section 7 Health Clinic, Shah Alam Hospital, New Bangi City Police Station, and communities around UiTM Shah Alam.

**A courtesy visit by the Vice Chancellor of UiTM, YBhg. Emeritus Professor Datuk Ir. Dr. Mohd Azraai Kassim to the Innovation laboratory.**

This project was the collaborative effort of various faculties and departments to produce hand sanitiser by staff. These volunteers were from 10 faculties and Centres of Excellence (COE) namely the Faculty of Chemical Engineering (FKK), Faculty of Civil Engineering (FKA), Faculty of Applied Sciences (FSG), Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (FKM), Faculty of Health Sciences (FSK), Faculty of Dentistry, Integrative Pharmacogenomics Institute (iPROMISE), Atta-ur-Rahman Institute for Natural Product Discovery (AuRIns), and Institute of Science (IOS).

The project successfully produced more than 90,000 bottles of hand sanitiser in the UiTM - A&A Laboratory (A&A Scientific Resources) lab in collaboration with National Institutes of Biotechnology Malaysia (NIBM) and Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN). The main funding for the project came from the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research & Innovation) Office, and Pusat Zakat, Sedekah & Wakaf, Academy of Contemporary Islamic Studies (ACIS).

## Malaysian Varsities join Covid-19 Testing Battle



**M**alaysian public universities' research and scientific capacity were galvanised to join the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. Ten diagnostic laboratories at public higher learning institutions nationwide have been roped in as part of a joint initiative by the Higher Education and Science, Technology and Innovation Ministries. The laboratories serve to help the Health Ministry conduct 16,500 Covid-19 tests daily.

Chancellor Tuanku Mukhriz Hospital (HCTM) Director, Professor Datuk Dr. Hanafiah Harunarashid said advanced laboratories at public universities could perform the tests that meet the high standards set by health authorities. "We are boosting the testing capacity with the help of the Higher Education and Science, Technology and Innovation Ministries," he said.

HCTM is a part of the Public Teaching Hospitals National Consortium, which, as a group, could process up to 1000 tests daily. Professor Dr. Sazzli Kasim, a consultant cardiologist, added, "Our best estimates suggest our ability to clear the Health Ministry's backlog within a week of operation at maximum capacity. If needed, we can ramp up our productivity by 300% with automation." He stated, "We have the whole gamut of microbiologists, chemical pathologists and molecular medicine specialists."

In addressing the pandemic, universities could contribute beyond diagnostic testing. Located next to the national Covid-19 centre, Sungai Buloh Hospital, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Hospital is committed to running tests, exploring datasets and generating solutions.

"We have pooled our resources and expertise by combining diagnostic machines available from the Molecular Biology Institute under the Medicine Faculty, our hospital laboratory as well as the Integrative Pharmacogenomics Institute to support the Health Ministry in this battle," he said.

Senior consultant Chemical Pathologist Professor Dr. Ariza Adnan from UiTM's Faculty of Medicine said: "Our labs will increase the diagnostic yield by 200 to 300 samples per day. Combined with other institutions, we can reach the target of 16,500 tests per day in the country," she said.

Sazzli said equipment at UiTM Hospital is vital to the national response to Covid-19. "About 30 researchers and

staff from the Medical Faculty have volunteered to help run the Covid-19 laboratory." Sazzli, who is experienced in clinical research and healthcare information technology, said: "We have set up a database for researchers to identify regions of genes which can be used to develop tests and also target sites for therapy.

"We look into evolution patterns of microorganisms, the mutation rate and features that confer virulence," he said. A total of 106 genome sequences of Covid-19 have been shared by scientists around the world with the American National Centre for Biotechnology Information.

"Having downloaded all of them, we are comparing the sequences of the isolates to identify the differences in mutations and evolution patterns. These differences may define the targets for treatment. We plan to compare them with the sequences of the local Covid-19 strains using the MiSeq sequencer", he said. "We aim to sequence samples obtained from different clusters, which will allow us to understand the pattern of transmission," he added. Sazzli said UiTM plans to develop a polymerase chain reaction-based method for Covid-19 screening.

In addressing the pandemic, director Professor Dr. Sazaly Abu Bakar said Universiti Malaya's Tropical Infectious Diseases Research and Education Centre (TIDREC) is the only national Higher Institution Centre of Excellence for infectious diseases. It houses the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Arbovirus Reference and Research. TIDREC has been collaborating with WHO for many years on dengue, chikungunya and Zika. "Covid-19 may be a different virus, but all we have to do is develop a new set of protocols," said Sazaly, adding that TIDREC offers to test 100 samples a day for this initiative.

Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)'s Medical Microbiology and Parasitology Department head Professor Dr. Syafinaz Amin Nordin said the Covid-19 laboratory at UPM Teaching Hospital (HPUPM) is ready to support the Health Ministry. "Our research areas include anti-microbial resistant bacteria, leptospirosis, viruses, dengue and hepatitis," she said. "In addition to the government fund, we have received sponsorship from the Erickson Foundation to set up the lab. We are considering developing alternative testing kits, which can hopefully yield faster result," she added. ~Source: news.uitm.edu.my



## “OPS Hantar Pelajar Pulang” UiTM Initiatives: Students Returning Home

As part of the initiative of caring for the student community, the management team at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) made arrangements to send students home once permission by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) was granted. UiTM successfully deployed more than 800 students back to their hometowns according to the standard operating procedures (SOPs). UiTM provided transportation to carry students back to their hometowns safely. The institution was very grateful to the Malaysian government and the Ministry of Higher Education for their efforts to fulfill the students' dream of returning home to be with their loved ones; they were stranded on campus after the lockdown was imposed by the government on March 18, 2020. The SOPs was strictly adhered to as specified by the ministries. Well done UiTM!

## Faculty of Music, UiTM, Dedicates a Tribute Video to COVID-19 Frontline Heroes

As a form of appreciation, the UiTM Chamber Choir (UCC) from the Faculty of Music, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Malaysia, dedicated a tribute video to Malaysia's frontliners for their untiring service in countering the COVID-19 pandemic. The piece was created under the watchful guidance of the UCC director, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Masashi Kishimoto, who visualised, initiated and completed the project within six days. The piece highlights the importance of social distancing and the students performed remotely from the comfort of their homes.

A traditional lullaby of the Malay Archipelago, 'Soleram' is one of the signature tunes performed by UCC. The song tells of longing and everlasting friendship with an important message that warns against bidding a goodnight kiss, which may cause distress to a child. As the world embraces social distancing as a new social order, the song accurately depicts alienation from others but also shows the yearnings for physical and emotional

solace. Included in the footage is an appreciation to the university and the people of Malaysia for providing support to the students' welfare and wellbeing throughout these troubled times.

Malaysia enforced the movement control order (MCO) on March 18th, 2020 and are currently in its fourth phase. The video made its debut in late March 2020 and was telecast via various national TV stations in the country. When the MCO continued on April 1st 2020, Bernama News Channel (which is operated by BERNAMA, the national news agency of Malaysia), embedded the video with the Prime Minister's address to the nation, appealing to all Malaysians with a strong message #stay at home, one of the effective ways to break the chain. In their message of compassion and encouragement, UCC continues to captivate and inspire the nation during these challenging times. ~Source: UiTM News Hub



# COVID-19 PANDEMIC INITIATIVES@OIA



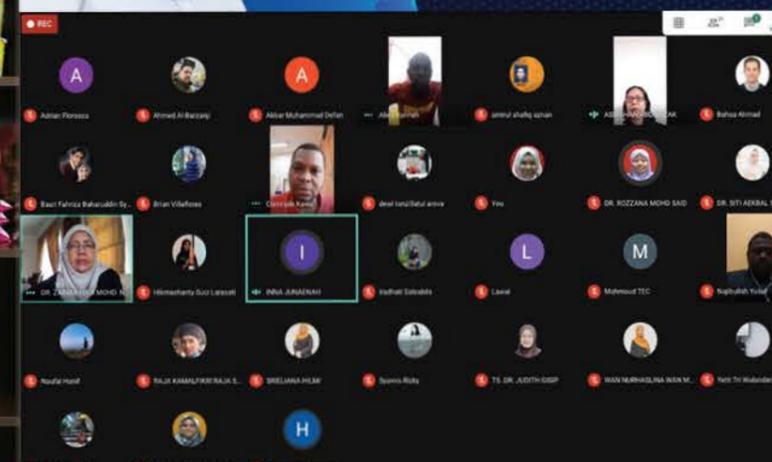
The safety and well-being of the international students' community amidst the COVID19 pandemic is of utmost importance to the management of UiTM. Announcements made from time to time by the Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Health were strictly adhered to by the staff of OIA in order to safeguard staff and students alike despite having to 'work from home' (WFH). Nonetheless, to ensure that UiTM

citizens especially international students were well taken care and prepared for any contingency, OIA staff took the initiative of setting up 13 Initiatives, which focussed on the well-being of these students.

Essential needs of all international students in both residential and non-residential accommodations were supervised closely and regularly. Efforts such as



International Community Engagement (ICE@OIA) was organised to meet their daily needs during the Movement Control Order (MCO) period. In addition, regular Meet & Greet sessions between the OIA Director and international students were carried out to guarantee that students' physical and emotional needs were looked after. The sessions provided opportunities for students to discuss academic and non-academic matters pertaining to their well-being. OIA also organised I'm Fine Campaign via social media for the international students to assure their families of their safety and comfort at UiTM. Inspiring quotes lifted the students' morale and motivate them during trying times away from home. In addition, students who wished to return home were ensured safe trips from campus to airport.



# CONGRATULATIONS

**2021**

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY  
RANKINGS

**FOR BEST  
EMPLOYER  
AND  
ACADEMIC  
REPUTATION**

it takes more than  
merits to build  
an exemplary  
reputation.  
thank you employers  
and academic fellows  
around the world  
for having trust  
in UiTM.

**2021**

179  
employer  
reputation

366  
academic  
reputation

**2020**

251  
employer  
reputation

393  
academic  
reputation

*proudly*  
**MADE**  
*in* **UiTM**

## UiTM Ranked 401-600 The University Impact Ranking

The Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) was ranked 401-600 out of 766 higher education institutions in the world and ranked 10th in Malaysia for 2020 in the Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Ranking, which was announced on 22 April. THE University Impact Ranking was introduced by Times Higher Education (THE) as an initiative to assess universities' achievement of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) introduced by the United Nations (better known as 17 United Nation's SDGs).

The UiTM Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Datuk Ir. Dr. Mohd Azraai Kassim said in an announcement made by Webinar from London, United Kingdom, UiTM reached 74th place for SDG 5 (Gender Equality), 101-200 position for SDG 4 (Quality Education) and ranked 301-400 for SDG 3 (Good health and well-being). The position a global recognition and a positive sign of the effectiveness of UiTM's various initiatives towards becoming a world-leading university by 2025 as outlined in the UiTM2025 strategic plan launched in February.

Prof. Azraai said that, "UiTM's performance in THE University Impact Ranking is rated based on the best achievement in four (4) SDGs with SDG 17 being the mandatory SDG category.

*For the first time this year, UiTM submitted data for 10 SDGs namely No Poverty (SDG 1), Good health and well-being (SDG 3), Quality Education (SDG 4), Gender Equality (SDG 5), Clear Water and Sanitation (SDG 6), Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7), Decent Work And Economic Growth (SDG 8), Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (SDG 9), Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10), and Partnerships For The Goals (SDG 17)."*

Participation and achievement in this position is a clear indicator of UiTM's commitment and confidence to be on the right track in becoming a world-leading institution of higher learning. "It will motivate and inspire the entire UiTM community to further their role in providing a more social and economic impact to the community," he added. ~Source: [bharian.com.my](http://bharian.com.my)





# IEEE's First Committee Member from Malaysia

UiTM is proud to announce the appointment of Prof. Ir. Dr. Zuhaina Zakaria as the first Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) committee member from Malaysia! Zuhaina, from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering (FEE), has been appointed as a member of the IEEE Admission and Advancement (A&A) Committee and IEEE Power & Energy Society Long Range Planning (LRP) Committee effective from January 2020.

**IEEE, a professional association for electronic and electrical engineering and associated disciplines, has its corporate office in New York City while its operations centre is in Piscataway, New Jersey. Zuhaina's main role in the IEEE A&A committee is to assist IEEE in implementing policies, rules, and procedures related to admission, grade assignment and grade advancement. As a member of the LRP committee, Zuhaina will be involved in planning strategic educational initiatives for IEEE Power & Energy Society.**

This appointment was based on her vast experience and involvement with IEEE for more than 20 years at both local and regional levels. This is also a recognition to the IEEE Malaysia Chapter as she is the first Malaysian to be appointed to both committees.

Zuhaina is an active researcher and her main research interests include power quality, load profiling, power system analysis and operation, and engineering education. In 2016, she was appointed as a Visiting Fellow at the University of Sussex, United Kingdom for a research project investigating the relationship between energy consumption of domestic consumers with energy efficiency. The research identified the main factors underlying consumer behaviour towards energy consumption. The outcome of the research is beneficial to power utilities and energy regulators in understanding consumers' energy consumption. Zuhaina's latest article "Multi objective Adaptive Tumbling Bacterial Foraging in VAR Solutions for Sustainable Power System Operation" can be accessed at <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6934-9775>. UiTM is indeed extremely proud of Zuhaina's achievements at the international level.

# 100 Most Inspirational LinkedIn Icons in Malaysia 2020

Dr. Roslina Ab Wahid, an Associate Professor of Quality Systems at the Arshad Ayub Graduate Business School, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), is the Founder of Quality Community of Malaysia. She writes and reviews for several SCOPUS Q1 journals and professional magazines in her field and is currently an Editorial Advisory Board member of The TQM Journal. A few of her papers have won 'The Best Paper Award' at conferences locally and abroad. As the previous Director of Quality System & Operational Excellence of UiTM, she has been responsible for crafting, managing and maintaining the quality system and operational excellence initiatives of the university. Roslina was an overseas member of the New Zealand Organisation for Quality, and a member of Asia Institute of Management and Emerald Literati Network. She has closely networked with organisations such as The Joint Accreditation System of Australia & New Zealand, Australia Organisation for Quality and Exemplar Global. In addition, she is registered with the Women Directors' Registry of Malaysia.

Congratulations! Assoc. Prof. Dr. Roslina Ab Wahid for being listed in the 100 most inspirational LinkedIn Icons in Malaysia You Should Follow in 2020 by marketingasia.com. ~Source: [news.uitm.edu.my](https://news.uitm.edu.my)

ARSHAD AYUB GRADUATE BUSINESS SCHOOL

**Congratulations!**  
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Roslina Ab Wahid

for being listed in the **100 Most Inspirational LinkedIn Icons in Malaysia You Should Follow in 2020** by *marketinginasia.com*

<https://marketinginasia.com/2020/05/01/100-most-inspirational-linkedin-icons-in-malaysia-you-should-follow-in-2020/>

Read More or Scan QR Code

Arshad Ayub Graduate Business School | @aagbs\_official | @AAGBSOfficial



# Leaders in Innovation Fellowships (LIF) 2020

**D**r Aida Firdaus Muhammad Nurul Azmi and Associate Professor Dr Wan Fazlida Hanim Abdullah were among the 14 recipients from Malaysia who were selected for the Leaders in Innovation Fellowships (LIF) 2020. LIF brings 17 Newton Fund partner country recipients to undergo an intensive training course on innovation in London, UK. The course was held in-residence from 16th-28th February 2020.

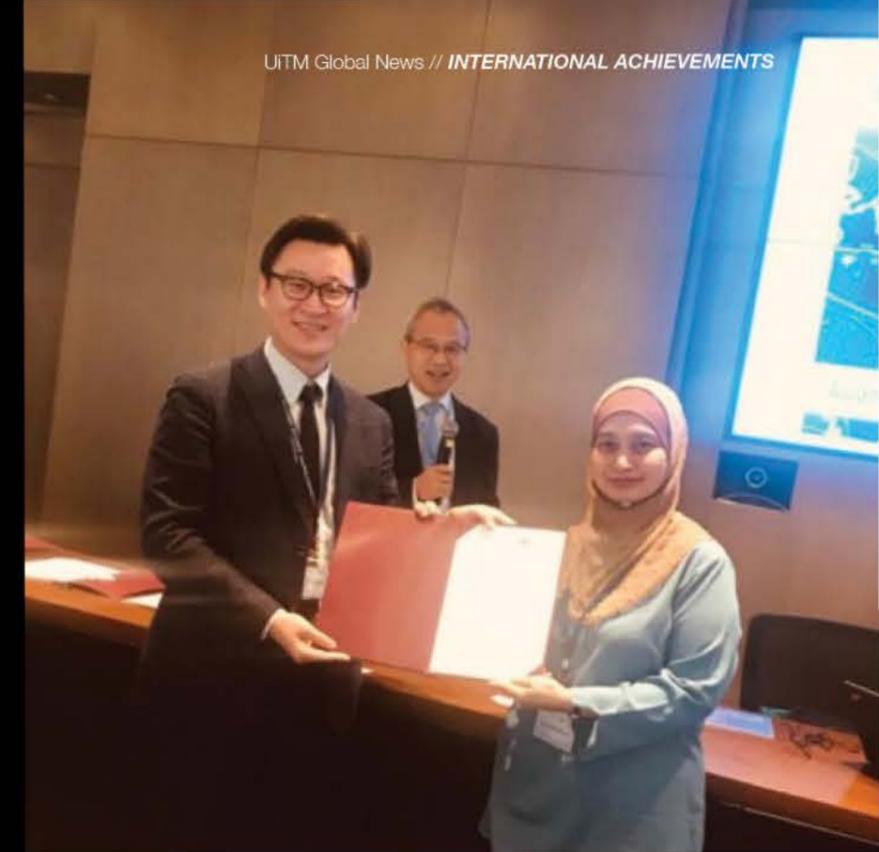
The Leaders in Innovation Fellowships (LIF) programme is organized by the Royal Academy of Engineering and funded by the Newton Fund/UK Government's Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Newton Fund programmes support the economic development and social welfare of participating countries through a variety of science and innovation activities. LIF is supported by the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT), a partner in Malaysia for UK Newton Fund. The Fellowship brings together emerging leaders in the global innovation community, with an interest in entrepreneurship and have an engineering based innovation with the potential to contribute to the social and economic development of their country. The training was delivered by the SHINE Consortium, consisting of ChangeSchool, Mowgli Mentoring and University of West England, Bristol. Aida and Wan Fazlida were privileged to be in the 6th cohort of LIF together with 60 participants from partner countries Egypt, Jordan, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

Aida, from Faculty of Applied Sciences, was nominated for the programme based on her functional food product specifically on Biodegradable Energy Chewing Gum, which is currently in the prototype stage. This chewing gum is plastic-free (as it is biodegradable), sugar free, caffeine free as well as liquid free. It incorporates the natural active ingredients that substitute caffeine, which is normally used as the source of energy. Aida, who owns a startup company Fav Food Industries under UiTM, has UnaCoffee (energy coffee) as her main product.

*Aida & Wan Fazlida with their respective mentors, David and Nigel*

Wan Fazlida, from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering submitted her winning entry of point-of-use sensor for agricultural soil sensing analytics from the Innovate Malaysia Design Competition 2019. She is a member of the Integrated Sensors Research Group team that is active in the area of sensor development and interfacing circuits. She is also the Head of the Maker Talent for Digital Innovation (MTDI) Research Group that supports industry-academia-community volunteerism collaboration in promoting innovative thinking among school community.

The programme is a good opportunity to learn from professional entrepreneurial trainers, with exposure to meet investors as well as experts from the entrepreneurial community. They were given a platform to pitch their innovations to renowned professors from the Royal Academy of Engineering and mentored by the entrepreneurial community from diverse backgrounds. Both of them will undergo coaching by an experienced business mentor for 14 months to ensure the sustainability of their business. UiTM staff is encouraged to apply for this programme if they are looking for an extensive business training focusing on the commercialization of research products. Being innovative is a bonus, but to be able to commercialise it for the benefit of the community is brilliant!



## UiTMLaw won the Young IP Scholar Award in Hong Kong

**The IP (Intellectual Property) Asia Work in Progress Conference initiated by the Singapore Management University (SMU) provides an open annual forum for scholars across the Asian economies doing research and writing on Asian IP laws and regimes to present and discuss their work-in-progress. The 5th conference was held at the City University Hong Kong from 9-10 January.**

This year, from more than 100 abstracts received, 51 were selected for the Young Asian IP Scholar Award and the researchers were given an all-expenses paid trip to attend the conference. The award covers the cost of return tickets and accommodation for three nights. The Young IP Scholar award, for PhD and graduate students from ASEAN, South Asia and Central Asian countries, promotes and encourages the study of Asian IP laws for the betterment of IP regimes in Asia and beyond. Mrs. Faridah Mohamed Isa, from the Faculty of Law, UiTM was among the candidates selected and is the only candidate from a Law Faculty in Malaysia to win the award. The title of her paper is "Is Change the Only Constant?: A Comparative Analysis on the Patentability of Human DNA in China and Malaysia after Myriad".

Faridah is currently the Coordinator of IP Management, BITCOM, at the university. Overwhelmed to have been selected, she was indeed very proud to represent UiTM in an international Intellectual Property discourse.

# UiTM and JAIST Sign a Joint Declaration on United Nation's SDGs



A Joint Declaration between Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST) was sealed during an international workshop on Diversity and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at UiTM. The declaration was signed by the Dean of Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies (FSPPP), UiTM, Assoc. Prof. Dr Abdul Jalil Mohamed Ali and Vice President of International Relations, JAIST, Prof. Dr. Shungo Kawanishi on 19 February 2020.

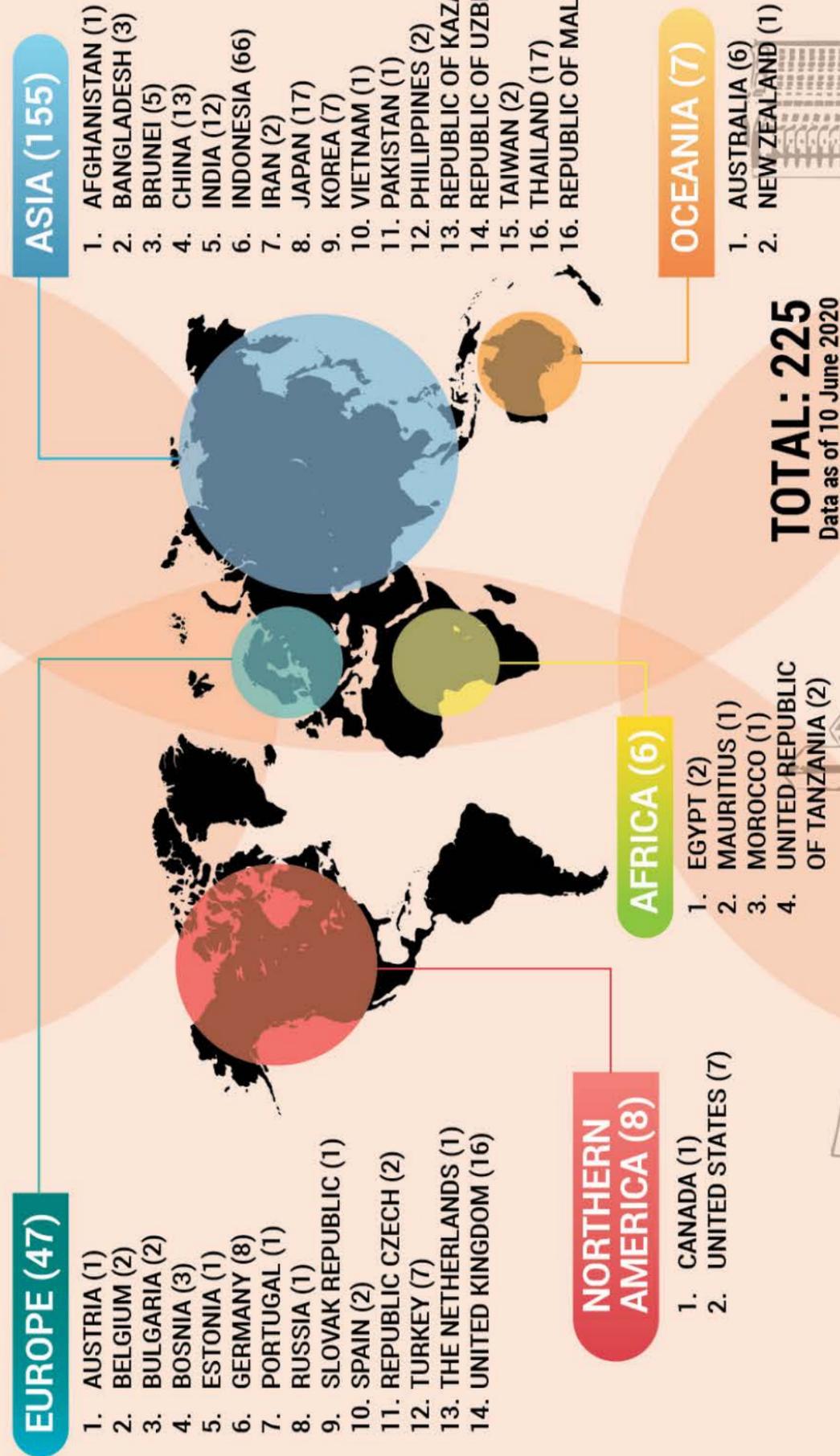
The 35 attendees comprised students, academics and administrative members from FSPPP and JAIST. Dr. Hajjah Zainab Mohd Noor, Director of the Office of International Affairs (OIA), UiTM officiated at the international workshop witnessed by the Dean, the Deputy Dean of Research and Industry Linkages FSPPP, Dr. Memiyanty Abdul Rahim, the JAIST team, Prof. Dr. Shungo Kawanishi, Dr. Kotona Motoyama and other participants. The workshop held from 17 to 19 February 2020 discussed initiatives to enhance global leadership among students and universities. Participants shared

their thoughts on the immediate need for a global leadership to create a better future for mankind. They recognized the UN's 17 SDGs as common goals that need to be achieved urgently.

The workshop held three sessions: lectures on the three themes with a special focus on sustainable goals, diversity, and collaboration; group discussions where students, academics, and administrative staff from both universities shared ideas and opinions regarding the themes reflecting each participant's background, knowledge, and interest; and finally, the presentation of the selected themes prior to the declaration session. The workshop acknowledged that it is critical for responsible academic institutions to provide young people with many opportunities for global exposure through effective and sustainable collaborations such as this. ~Source: qswownews



## MOU / M O A BY REGION 2020



# NEW PARTNERS



**Meeting with the Delegate from University of Essex, United Kingdom**



**Meeting with the Delegate from Guanxi Normal University for Nationalities, China**



**MoU between Computer and Mathematical Sciences (FSKM), UiTM and Sathyabama Institute of Science & Technology, Tamil Nadu, India**



# UiTM Expands Global Strategic Partnership with Coventry University UK

Peters commented that the partnership could not have materialised at a better time. "This partnership can contribute significantly to the growth of expertise and resources that are integral to high-quality education. At the same time, we must ensure that quality education runs upon 21st-century knowledge that is relevant to Industrial Revolution 4.0," added Peters.

He also emphasised proactive steps to make the partnership a success, such as organising student exchange programme, mobilising of students and staff, training programme and entrepreneurship activities. Another avenue to drive the success of the partnership will be the development of academic programmes based on online learning and virtual reality.

Nazip reiterated Peters' comments as CU-UK and UiTM share a similar historical journey. Both institutions began as a polytechnic with a sole focus on fundamental teaching and hands-on learning before being awarded the status of a full-fledged university. At present, CU-UK is not only known for its exceptional teaching and learning practice, it has also gained a reputation for its holistic research programme that is in tune with the industries' needs and high-impact commercial activities.

Nazip asserted that UiTM will apply the lessons learned from the CU-UK's transformation plan to fine-tune the UiTM Strategic Plan 2025.



From left: Assoc. Prof. Ir Dr Syed Shatir Asghar Syed Hassan, Dean of Faculty of Chemical Engineering of UiTM, Prof. (Adj) Dr Mohd Azman Zainul Abidin, Managing Director of Business Innovation & Technology Commercialisation Centre (BITCOM) UiTM, Assoc. Prof. Dr Aidah Jumahat, Director of Core Research UiTM, Prof. Dr. Mohd Nazip Suratman, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) UiTM, Pro-Vice Chancellor CU-UK, Prof. Kai Peters, Prof. Dr. Raja Mazuir Bin Raja Ahsan Shah and Alex Hoque from Faculty of Engineering, Environment and Computing (EEC) CU-UK.

Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) successfully sealed a strategic partnership with Coventry University, United Kingdom (CU-UK) on March 9, 2020. The collaboration between these two institutions will drive the development of online learning module and e-laboratory in the field of advanced automotive technology. It also establishes the foundation for joint research in electrical vehicle (EV) and autonomous vehicle (AV).

According to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) of UiTM, Prof. Dr. Mohd Nazip Suratman, the partnership will play a pivotal role in positioning UiTM as one of the Globally Renowned Universities in line with the objectives of the recently launched UiTM Strategic Plan 2025.

Plans that reflect the goals of this partnership are already in the pipeline. Chief among them is the implementation of online learning module in automotive design and engineering simulation. Both institutions will work closely to set up Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) laboratories that are crucial for hands-on learning in the area of automotive design and engineering. These components of the partnership will open doors for learning on a global scale for students and lecturers from both institutions.

"Through this strategic partnership, UiTM and CU-UK will play their role in the research of e-mobility vehicle with low carbon emission, especially electric vehicle and autonomous vehicle. This is an exciting time to realise a cleaner and greener environment that is in the spirit of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)," said Nazip who signed the MoU on behalf of UiTM's Vice Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Datuk Ir. Dr Mohd Azraai Kassim. Meanwhile CU-UK was represented by its Pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof. Kai Peters. The MoU ceremony took place at Alan Berry Building, Coventry University.



## Global Youth Entrepreneurship: UiTM and World Startup Festival

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and World Startup Festival (WSF) on 8 January, 2020 to strengthen youth entrepreneurship in the region. The ceremony was held at UiTM Shah Alam where UiTM was represented by the Vice Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Datuk Ir. Dr. Mohd Azraai Kassim, while WSF was represented by the Asia Regional Director, Mr. Udes Chaskar.

The World Startup Festival is a global entrepreneurship platform from the United States of America (USA), which uniquely captures the best of entrepreneurial spirit, diversity, vibrancy and creative innovation of young people and women across the globe. This MoU is focussed on enriching the global acceleration of UiTM entrepreneurship programme, anchored by the Faculty of Business Management (FBM).

At present, FBM offers the Bachelor of Business Administration, (BBA) (Hons) in Entrepreneurship that allows the students to identify and evaluate viable business opportunities, secure market resources and mobilise personnel. The faculty has also taken the lead by offering the course "Principles of Entrepreneurship" for all degree students at the Business Management and Social Science and Humanities clusters.

FBM works closely with the Malaysian Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) in setting up the digital economy platform that allows the students to experience the simulation of becoming entrepreneurs and digital workforce talent. With this initiative, 205 faculty members have been certified by MDEC as competent and qualified professional trainers to ensure quality delivery of education.



MoU signing ceremony between FBM UiTM and WSF.

The MoU will serve as a platform to advance the university entrepreneurship programmes in the area of students and entrepreneurship development, startup linkages, venture buildings and regional entrepreneurship exchanges in the pursuit of fulfilling the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) pertaining to partnership, youth and entrepreneurship.

In his welcome speech, the VC said that, "the university is looking forward to this kind of collaboration which encourages entrepreneurship, leadership, innovation and talent development among the youth". He further added that "the partnership with WSF is a significant strategy which will set a new landmark for the students and lecturers to access global information and tools they need to make a difference, find their own path and contribute actively to the society and the nation." Meanwhile, Udes Chaskar mentioned that "this collaboration is amongst the first of its kind with an academic institution in Malaysia." ~Source : news.uitm.edu.my

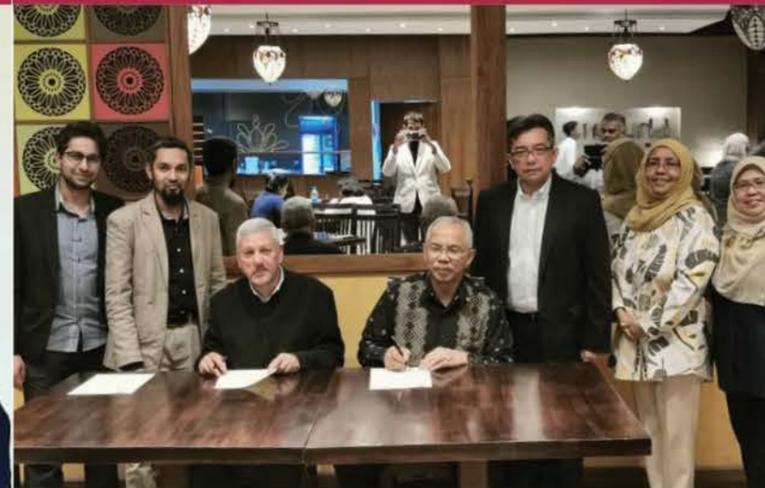
# UiTM @

# MAURITIUS



## MoU between UiTM and Malaysia Consortium for Education Malaysia, Mauritius

UiTM opens its internationalisation and networking visit this year with Mauritius. The five-day visit from 25th – 29th January 2020 witnessed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed, three Letters of Intent (LoI) sealed and a few more potential MoUs drafted. UiTM delegates were welcomed by Mr. M. FayazJoomun, the academic member and lecturer at the Malaysian Consortium for Education Mauritius (MCEM).



On the 26th January, a networking dinner hosted by Mr. Fayaz Joomun and Mr. Hashim Khodabacus at the La City Mall, Trianon. It was also attended by Mr. Goolam Muhammad (the president of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) who is also the secretary of The Blue Crescent Mauritius), Mr. Mukhtar Tarsoo (former Saudi Minister of Education) and Dr. Abedin Subratty from the Gulf Medical University, Ajmaan, UAE and Dr. Hamad bin Abdul Aziz Al Kuwari (Qatari diplomat, politician and former Minister).

Two Letters of Intent (LoI) were signed during this meeting between UiTM and Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and The Blue Crescent Mauritius. Collaboration on several projects and international networking with strategic partners in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, ISESCO and African countries were also discussed. 3 diploma courses, 3 bachelor's degrees and 3 master's programmes were identified including collaboration on short courses in Arabic, Islamic Finance and Finance.



## LoI Signing with The Blue Crescent Mauritius and Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry



## LoI Signing with ICC and Visit to Honorary Consul of Malaysia

A meeting was held between UiTM delegates and the chairman of Islamic Cultural Centre (ICC), Port-Luis, Prof. Hussein Subratty on potential collaboration projects such as Arabic calligraphy, Jawi art and calligraphy, cultural exchange, empowerment and training. The setting up of the Malaysian Universities' Alumni Union, potential scholarship and platform to enhance collaboration with both countries were discussed during the meeting with the Honorary Malaysia Consul, Mr. Saleem Beebeejaun. On the final day of the networking visit, three short meetings were set up for UiTM delegates - meeting with Director of MIE (Mauritius Institute of Education), Dr. O.Nath Varma, D. Rajeshwar Bhowon, former Minister, and a meeting with the board members

of Higher Education Commission to expedite the approval and accreditation of all UiTM and MCEM programmes. Center for Distance and E-Learning (CODL), a branch of MIE responsible for the digitalisation of curriculum and instructional design which will liaise with UiTM for the sharing of best practices and collaboration on a Master's in Instructional design from UiTM. Short courses of ICEPS at MCEM will soon be launched.



# MOU/LoI: MAURITIUS

## MCEM-UiTM FRANCHISE PROGRAMME

### COURSEWORK

- Diploma Actuarial Science
- Diploma Computer Science
  - Diploma in Tourism
- Degree Actuarial Science
- Degree Computer Science
  - Degree Tourism
- Masters Data Science
- Masters in Forensic Accounting

### SHORT COURSES

- Project Management

## ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTER UNDER THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND ARTS

- Service Learning for Youth Development Programmes - ACIS and HEP
- Malaysia and Mauritius Culture Exhibition - FSSR, FPH and FITA.
- Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- The Blue Crescent Mauritius



# UiTM-MAURITIUS COLLABORATIONS



THE LAUNCHING OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> UiTM INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI CHAPTER IN MAURITIUS

# 1st UiTM INTERNATIONAL

## ALUMNI - MAURITIUS



The setting up of the first Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) International Alumni Chapter in Mauritius on 28 January was a result of the UiTM delegates' visit to the country led by the Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Datuk Ir. Dr. Mohd Azraai Kassim. The establishment was made possible by the Malaysian Universities' Alumni Union in Mauritius, which was responsible for enhancing and creating the platform for collaboration between the two countries. This visit marked a historic moment for UiTM in establishing the first alumni chapter outside Malaysia. It was witnessed by the Honorary Malaysian Consul-General Mr. Saleem Beebeejaun. The event was then celebrated at a dinner with several UiTM alumni namely Takun Muhammad Nawshad Zameel, Muhammad Nabil Soreetollah, Abdul Rahiman Ali Ackbar Ibrahim, Nundloll Bibi Rugayya Hanaa, Rohonee Suhail Rasheed, and Zeinab Jannoo. University alumni play an important role in promoting and marketing the institution to other potential candidates by 'word of mouth' in their home country. This approach seems to be an effective and trustworthy form of marketing.



**NUNDLOLL BIBI  
RUQAYYA HANAA**



**MUHAMMAD NABIL  
SOREETOOLLAH**



**ABDUL  
RAHIMAN  
ALI ACKBAR  
IBRAHIM**



**TAKUN MUHAMMAD  
NAWSHAD ZAMEEL**



**ZEINAB JANNOO**

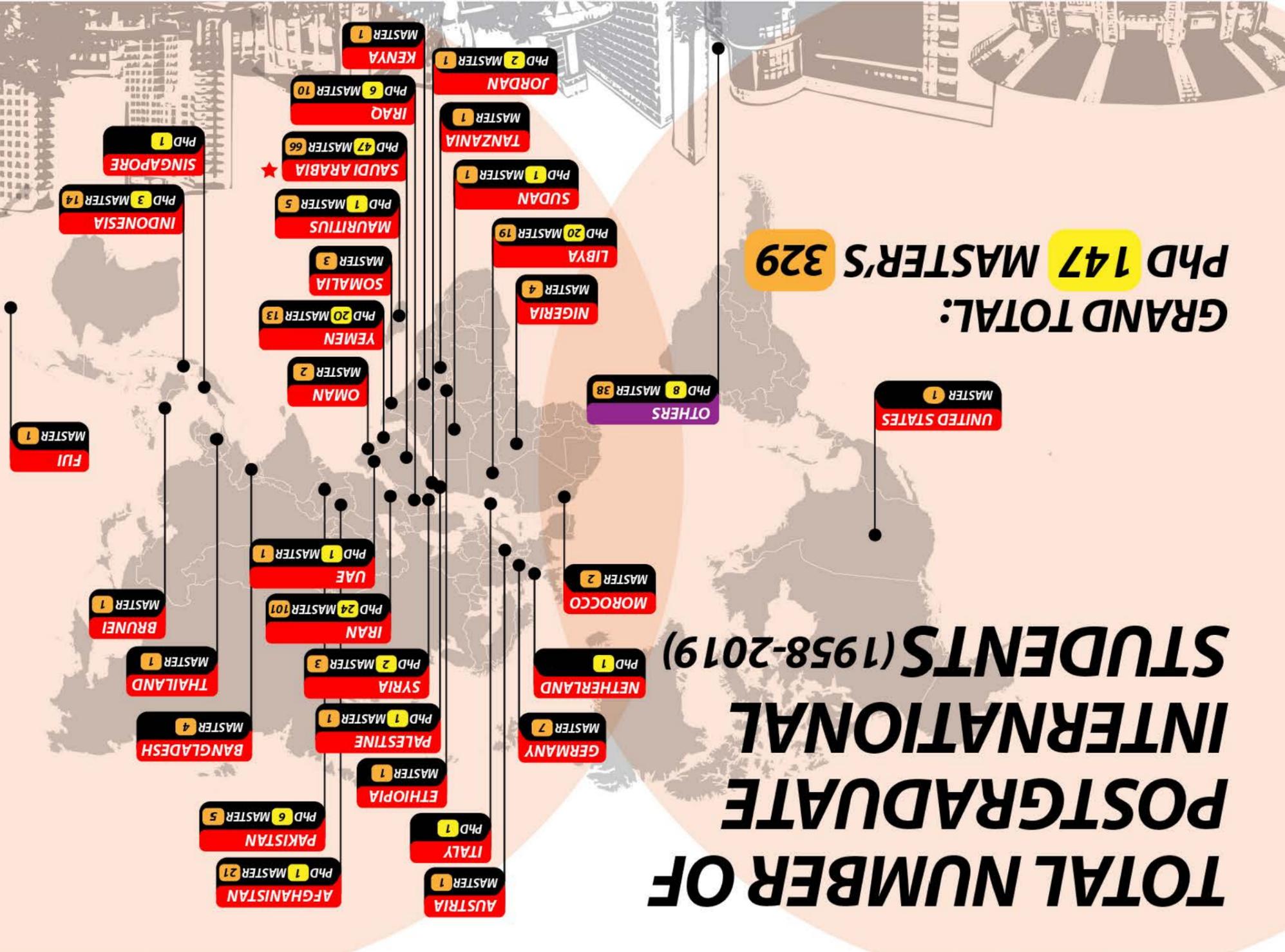


**ROHONEE SUHAIL  
RASHEED**



# TOTAL NUMBER OF POSTGRADUATE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS (1958-2019)

GRAND TOTAL: **PHD 147 MASTERS 329**



UNIVERSITI  
TEKNOLOGI  
MARA

rewrite  
the possibilities  
repurpose  
our creations

In the name of solidarity, academics and researchers from UiTM are synergizing their expertise to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

A university beyond books, let's rewrite the possibilities and repurpose our creations.





# MAKING INROADS *in* EGYPT



A memorable event of networking and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Arab University of Science and Nanotechnology (AUSN), owned by Stars Company for Educational Services in Cairo, Egypt transpired in February 2020. The event materialised as a result of a fruitful discussion in December 2019 between UiTM and a member of the board of trustees, Prof. Dr. Dawood Abdul Malek Yahya Al-Hidabi.

The Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) delegates consisted of the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic and International, Prof Ts. Dr. Mohamad Kamal Harun, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Institute of Continuing Education and Professional Studies (ICEPS) Prof. Dr. Azizul Halim Yahaya and Director, Office of International Affairs, Dr Hajah Zainab Mohd Noor. The visit took place from the 11th-14th February 2020.

The MoU, signed on the 12th of February 2020, was witnessed by His Excellency Mohd Haniff Abd Rahman, Ambassador Extraordinaire & Plenipotentiary of Malaysia to the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Honourable Prof. Dr. Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and the Honourable Dr Rania Al-Mashat, Minister of International Cooperation, Egypt.

The immediate outcome of the collaboration was for UiTM to offer six academic programmes at the AUSN. Three programmes are from the Faculty of Health Science, two from the Faculty of Pharmacy and one from the Faculty of Medicine. On offer are programmes such as the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery. (MBBS), Physiotherapy, Nutrition and Dietetic, Environmental and Occupational Health, and Medical Lab Technology.



The MoU opened doors not only for international cooperation but also for the expansion of UiTM's academic networks. The network between UiTM and AUSN is an ongoing effort to internationalise both institutions in conjunction with the UiTM2025 Strategic Plan to turn UiTM into a globally-renowned university.

# UiTM made its mark at the EURIE Summit 2020

## Istanbul, Turkey

For the first time, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) participated in the Eurasia Education Summit (EURIE) 2020 held at the Istanbul Lutfi Kirdar International Convention and Exhibition Centre, Istanbul, Turkey from 19-21 February 2020. Attended by more than 2,700 attendees from 65 countries, the yearly event is the world's third largest education summit connecting other parts of the world with the Eurasian region. EURIE 2020 serves as a platform for participants to share best practices, innovative programmes and creative solutions for the internationalisation of higher education.

Already in its fifth year, EURIE 2020 conducted 56 sessions comprising plenary talks, panels, seminars, roundtables and workshops aimed to increase knowledge and exchange of ideas in international higher education. Participants networked and collaborated in creating

visibility through joint projects such as student and academic exchange programmes. Organised by the Eurasian Universities Union (EURAS), a non-profit international association, this year's event was officiated by H.E. Dr. Muhyieddeen Touq, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

UiTM was represented by Dr. Hajah Zainab Mohd Noor, Director, Office of International Affairs (OIA), Assoc. Prof. Sr. Dr. Siti Aekbal Salleh, coordinator of Collaboration and Networking and Ts. Dr. Judith Gisip, coordinator of Summer Programmes. They were joined by seven other Malaysian universities namely UTM, USM, UPM, IIUM, UTHM, UMP, and MSU. The Malaysian delegates took part in showcasing their best academic and research initiatives in international higher education together with



more than 150 exhibitors from Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, India, Croatia, Palestine, Azerbaijan, Belarus, UK, France, USA, Italy, Brazil, Germany, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Italy, Russia, Hungary and Poland. UiTM's booth received many visitors who were interested in forging collaborations such as in research, student exchange programmes, and postgraduate education.

Dr. Zainab, a guest speaker at 'Around the World with EURIE', shared UiTM's best practices and initiatives in preparing innovative and entrepreneurial graduates. A closed dialogue session was also held between Malaysian and Turkish universities where each shared and discussed the benefits and improvements needed in order to strengthen the ties between the two countries. Turkish universities praised the quality and capabilities of Malaysian universities in hosting Turkish students and staff especially in the Mevlana Exchange programme. During the dialogue session, Assoc. Prof. Mustafa Aydin, the founder and president of EURIE gave a welcoming remark appreciating the long standing relationship between Malaysia and Turkey.

A closing speech was given by Prof. Dr. Zeliha Tufan Koçak, a professor at Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University who is also an Executive Committee member of the Board

of Higher Education Council in Turkey. International Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Imagine Tomorrow 2020 was a concurrent exhibition held alongside EURIE 2020 showcasing 70 start-up stands from organisations and institutions such as Istanbul Aydın University, Ankara University, Atatürk Üniversitesi, Bil Koleji Sakarya Kampüsü, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Meinox Pharmaceutical Technologies, Cesna Biotech, Eurasia Plasma Co. Ltd., Tübitak (Martek) Gebze, and Mercuso, to name a few. More than 200 entrepreneurs' innovative products including wireless charger of electric vehicles, Neurobot, fermented beverage and enzyme production from banana, air pollution cleaning system, production of healthy snack for chestnut chips, heat and electrical energy conversion from waste, inMapper, MovieGo, ecoDrone, veterinary ultrasonic blade and e-Kantin were exhibited.

At EURIE 2020, participants gained the latest updates on international higher education and identified new networking initiatives. UiTM promoted its postgraduate studies and mobility programmes to many interested parties and secured new collaborative partners especially from Turkish universities. The outcomes will benefit UiTM in its aspiration to become a globally renowned university.

# INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS LECTURE SERIES



## LIFE IN ZANZIBAR

**Prof. Dr. Amran Md. Rasli**  
Vice Chancellor of SUMAIT University, Zanzibar

Date // 16 March 2020 (Monday) | Time // 9.00am - 12.00pm  
Venue // OIA Seminar Hall, UiTM Shah Alam



# UiTM welcomed Vice Chancellor of Sumait University to first International Partners Lecture Series



**O**n 16 March 2020, prior to the announcement of Movement Control Order (MCO) in Malaysia due to the spread of the Covid-19 virus, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) welcomed Prof. Amran Md. Rasli, the Vice Chancellor of Sumait University, Zanzibar at Shah Alam campus. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of health screening in light of the spread of coronavirus was put into place to ensure safety of all guests and participants, hence hand sanitisers and thermometer for taking temperature were made available for the event.

The honourable guest was at UiTM for the first time to deliver his talk at the inaugural International Partners Lecture, Prof. Dr. Amran Md. Rasli delivered a lecture

entitled "Life in Zanzibar". 100 attendees were at the lecture, including UiTM's Director, Office of International Affairs (OIA), Dr. Hajah Zainab Haji Mohd Noor, academic staff and students of UiTM.

Prof. Amran highlighted the poverty in Zanzibar, and urged participants to donate pre-educational materials as well as volunteer to help Sumait University Kindergarten (SUKI) children in getting a proper education. He also presented community programmes by SUKI, an integrated and holistic education to help develop children physically, mentally and spiritually. SUKI also organises field trips to interesting places and hold annual sports day for the children. He also highlighted the challenges of giving

children nutritious meals everyday. He urged UiTM to help the kindy project in academic matters such as introducing new programmes related to Animation, Multimedia and Graphics, Culinary and Hospitality Management, Management and Entrepreneurship at Sumait University. The collaboration will cement UiTM's mission as a university with a global reach.

The lecture focused mainly on celebrating and promoting the links that Sumait and UiTM have forged in education and social spheres, which include collaborating projects in Zanzibar. In her welcoming remarks, Dr. Zainab stated that UiTM had established partnership with 3 institutions in Zanzibar namely Sumait University, Zanzibar University, and State University of Zanzibar (SUZA). Therefore, UiTM will be sending students and staff to Zanzibar, Tanzania for mobility, research internships and attachment as well as community projects.

The International Partners Lecture series provides a platform for academic discourse and networking opportunities between honourable guest speaker and participants. The lecture is an initiative aligned with UiTM's Global Agenda designed to support the university as a global and renowned institution in art and humanities, engineering and technology, as well as social science and management. The main aim of the lecture was to create awareness on the importance of bilateral education, to realize partnership between the

two institutions, and to enhance the globalisation of the education system. Zainab urged participants "to develop global awareness and global competencies to participate in this quick-changing world." She also added that, it is imperative for them to create "awareness of intercultural and cross-cultural understanding, respect for diversity and tolerance, and inclusiveness as an integral part of learning."

The ceremony also witnessed the soft launch of International Service Learning Malaysia - University For Society (i-SULAM), a community project at the international level in Zanzibar. Learning Kits, on behalf of EMKAY Foundation, for UiTM's special community project in Zanzibar was also symbolically presented to Prof. Amran. This international community project will be conducted by UiTM students in both Tanzania and Mauritius this year to give students opportunities for a global experience.

It is significant that global experience and opportunities are highlighted in the International Partners Lecture as the event will feature high profile international partners to speak about issues that can benefit bilateral relations and academic discourse. The International Partners' Lecture will be a regular series organised by UiTM's OIA.

# CREATING THE NEW NORMAL : THE FUTURE OF INTERNATIONALIZATION (POST COVID - 19)



Speaker

**EMERITUS PROF. DATUK IR. DR. MOHD AZRAAI KASSIM**  
Vice Chancellor UiTM, Malaysia



Speaker

**DR. CHARLIE CHENG WU**  
Director  
International Affairs Office (IAO)  
Shanghai Normal University, China



Speaker

**MS. KARLA GUINIGUNDO**  
Director  
Global Partners  
Miami University, Ohio, USA



Speaker

**DR. AHMAD BUKHORI MUSLIM**  
Director  
Office of International  
Education and Relations (OIER),  
Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia,  
Indonesia



Moderator

**DR. HAJAH ZAINAB HJ. MOHD NOOR**  
Director  
Office of International Affairs (OIA), UiTM Malaysia

## International Forum@OIA

The International Forum entitled "Creating the New Normal: The Future of Internationalisation (Post Covid-19)" held on 8 May 2020 was hosted by the Office of International Affairs (OIA), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM). It was attended by 350 participants on a virtual platform. This timely topic was discussed by a panel of experts across the globe such as Emeritus Professor Datuk Ir. Dr. Mohd Azraai Kassim, Vice Chancellor of UiTM, Malaysia, Dr. Charlie Cheng Wu, Director International Affairs Office (IOA), Shanghai Normal University (SHNU), China, Mrs. Karla Guinigundo, Director Global Partners, Miami University (MU), Ohio, USA and Dr. Ahmad Bukhori Muslim, Director, Office of International Education and Relations (OIER), Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia (UPI), Indonesia. It was moderated by Dr. Hajah Zainab Haji Mohd Noor, Director of OIA. The core part of the forum revolved around issues and challenges of internationalisation and the future outlook of the new internationalisation.

In the opening session of the forum, Emeritus Professor Datuk Ir. Dr. Mohd Azraai Kassim addressed "The Call for Leadership in UiTM". He stressed that the Global Epidemic of COVID-19 must be treated as an important crisis. "In times of uncertainty, it is important to remind ourselves to remain calm. We can't control what's around us, but we can control our responses," he reiterated. In this unprecedented time, leaders at UiTM knew that tough times call for tough measures. "The call for leadership is now," said Azraai. He also highlighted strategies adopted by the UiTM management to address the current situation. UiTM switched to online and digital tools, hence, embarking on Online Distance Learning (ODL) overnight. It took a bold step to insist that teaching and learning must go on, 'work from home' (WFH) became the 'new norm' for all students and academics alike. Despite the challenges, Azraai underscored that "we were optimistic that students and staff will cooperate and get through this together."

Azraai's view on the significance of leadership in time of crisis was echoed by Dr. Cheng Wu from China as he addressed the "Current State in Shanghai Normal University (SHNU)." Just like everybody else, SHNU staff and students were not ready to change overnight. The challenging part for SHNU community was adaptation to the changed mode of delivery and management to a fully online platform. The challenges they experienced were the same as in UiTM, i.e with internet connection. SHNU, too, had to deal with international students who

left for home countries during the peak of the pandemic. Hence, classes and communication had to be in-place with online delivery of teaching and instruction. SHNU's management team had to deal with communication issues with local and international students alike due to limited access to connect with them and 'ensure their loyalty' to SHNU. The management team tried to support the student's community the best they could during difficult time.

Meanwhile, Guinigundo's "Voices from the West" at MU was different in comparison to UiTM and SHNU. The MU management team incorporated technology into their course work so that all MU students and staff were still exposed to the 'natural or normal' way of teaching and learning as of prior to the pandemic. However, the challenging part for MU with a 200-year history behind it was to sustain creativity and flexibility in the current situation. This raised the issue of staying relevant for an indefinite amount of time. "How do we stay relevant? and for how long...?" The issue on sustainability in human resources and economic of MU was the dominant feature in MU's management.

On the other hand, UPI, Indonesia struggled to adapt to the situation during the pandemic, according to Ahmad Bukhori. This was mainly due to the limited resources and budget cuts at UPI to sustain governance of the institution. UPI and other universities in Indonesia faced budget cuts and deferred government funding. Students and staff suffered with the 'new normal' life because higher education was highly impacted due to the pandemic.

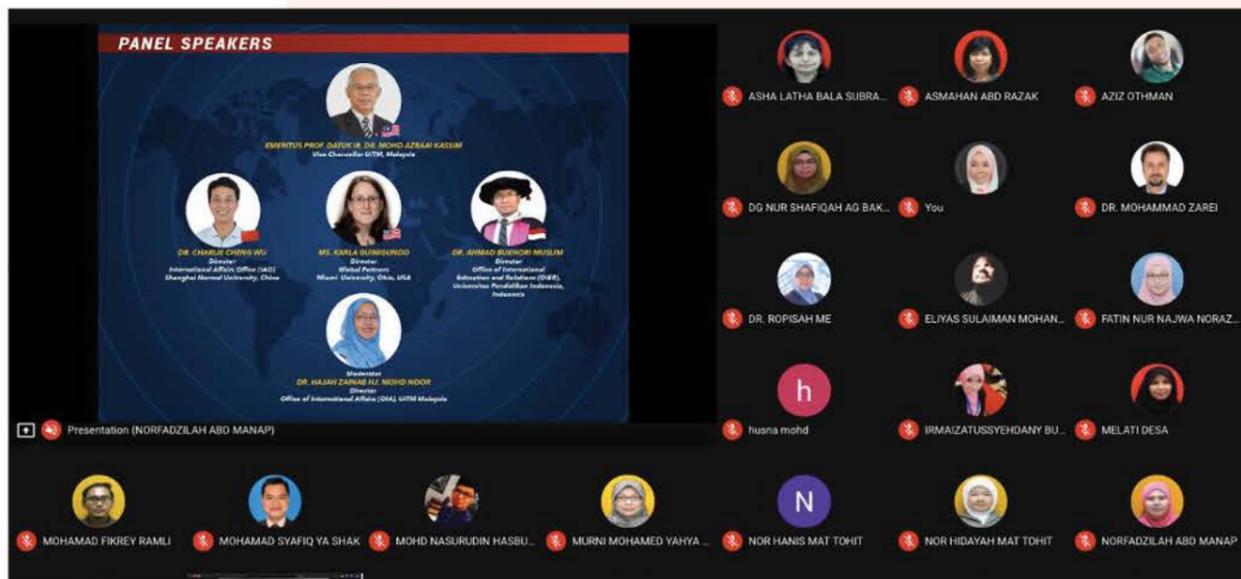
The panelists addressed the "The Future Outlook of the New Internationalisation" in the second session. Azraai highlighted UiTM's New Strategic Initiatives on Internationalisation, and addressed issues such as where do we go from here? Are we going to wait for things to happen or let nature take its course? Are there lessons learned from the covid-19 for higher education worldwide? He said that "Students across the higher education sector world-wide have been affected by the spread of coronavirus, from travel restrictions to social distancing, isolation measures, quarantine, campus closures, and border closures," (Nunzio Quacquarelli, 2020). Therefore, universities like UiTM had to address all these concerns, especially about the need to be flexible in the midst of uncertainties.


**ONLINE  
FORUM**

### OIA INTERNATIONAL FORUM

8 MAY 2020 (FRIDAY) 9:00 – 11:00 AM (MYT) | GOOGLE MEET

Meeting URL: <https://meet.google.com/ffg-zwej-ifq>



UiTM was fully aware of the biggest challenge faced. The question was how to manage the upcoming semester online enrollment for international students, students' mobility and staff exchange programmes. UiTM needed to come up with several measures to address teaching and learning, UiTM did not see the need to migrate to online learning for at least another 6 months because of the uncertain future as the F2F classes will take a new form. These concerns were echoed by the other panelists. Definitely, the New Normal requires a new set of acquired behavior, like social distancing in the classroom, temperature taking, and the use of face masks and hand sanitizers.

Guinigundo stressed that universities should be ready with all the digital tools and support for online learning; MU even conducted virtual convocation which was a new practice. Other panelists might emulate MU in conducting virtual convocation at their respective institutions. All universities must be able to equip staff and faculty members with a wide array of ODL Pedagogical Approaches.

Bukhori and Cheng Wu agreed on the need to address new shifts in student recruitment, maintaining existing students, and getting new students to enroll online. Similarly, UiTM needed to strengthen e-learning capabilities in order to offer online programmes to international students. All panelists saw the need to be flexible in offering online programmes on virtual platform. Hence, most institutions were forced to meet its potential students virtually and communicate through digital means.

The shifts in international students' recruitment had to happen as UiTM could not rely on international students coming from one country, in particular, China. Therefore, markets must be diversified to include countries like

Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, UAE, India and Vietnam. Recruitment agencies were also migrating from the traditional education fairs to digital events and digital marketing.

All panelists concurred on the need to shift student and staff mobility options. In times of crisis, shifting priorities was the issue. Azraai and Guinigundo highlighted the need to shift the way it operated to adapt to the new higher education landscape. It is vital to connect with global partners to strategise for future collaborations. Cheng Wu and Bukhori added that nominations of students for exchange programmes among partners were on-going, with increased possibilities for Online Mobility. Virtual meetings among partner universities had to be given the utmost priority. They also indicated the possibilities of Virtual International Summer Programmes (VISP).

All panelists agreed that consistent and clear communication among partners must exist in order to move forward in its internationalisation activities. Azraai maintained that things will continue to change and we must be innovative in how we respond to uncertain and new situations.



### EMERITUS PROFESSOR DATUK IR DR MOHD AZRAAI KASSIM

Vice Chancellor, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), MALAYSIA  
Topic : The Call for Leadership in UiTM

*"In times of uncertainty, it is important to remind ourselves to remain calm. We can't control what's around us, but we can control our responses."*

**LEADERSHIP AND MITIGATION PLANS**  
UiTM's Mitigation Plan relies on 4 aspects, that are :

- Networking
- Financial Sustainability
- Operations
- ICT, Info and Infra Structure and Digital Technology

**LEADERSHIP INITIATIVES**

- PPE Projects
- OIA 13 Initiatives
- Funding for Students
- Meals for Students
- New SOPs
- Switching to Online Distance Learning (ODL)

*"...all universities can continuously strive to deliver high quality teaching. In the meantime, we all have to consistently adapt to this new normal..."*

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**DR CHARLIE CHENG WU**  
Director, International Affairs Office (IAO), Shanghai Normal University (SHNU), CHINA  
Topic : Issues and Challenges at Shanghai Normal University

**INTERNATIONALIZATION**

- Well being of international students.
- Studies postponed.
- International academic activities and visits are cancelled.

**STUDENTS' CONCERN**

- Funding and scholarships.
- Admission exams and application.
- Delivery of teaching and instruction.
- Communication.

**SHIFTING TO ONLINE LEARNING**

- Challenges on readiness.
- Coordination of time differences.
- Internet connection restraints.
- Adaptation to the changed modes of delivery and management.

*"...most challenging is how we look into the future when this becomes a new normal, not only because of the unpredictability of the virus containment, but also because of the need to shift the traditional HE model to a new paradigm..."*

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**MS KARLA GUINIGUNDO**  
Director, Global Partners, Miami University (MU), Ohio , USA  
Topic : Voices from the Mid-West USA

- The current situation is really speeding up.
- General Education Plan in the Global Miami Plan.
- Global perspective requirement - studying abroad or classes on campus.
- Incorporate the strategy into the coursework so that all Miami students are still exposed to natural learning through the general education.

*"Miami University was founded in 1899 so we have about 200 years of history, and sometimes when you have that long history, being creative and flexible, and adaptable could be challenging... one of the challenging thing ... is maintaining our tradition and history and also learning (needs) to be flexible ..."*

**DR AHMAD BUKHORI MUSLIM**  
Director, Office of International Education and Relations (OIER), Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia (UPI), INDONESIA  
Topic : Challenges from UPI in Indonesia

**ONLINE SUBJECT**

- Returning - both inbound and outbound students.
- Limited online subjects, not all courses are available online.

**STUDENT MOBILITY**

- Postponement of regular student mobility.

**BUDGET**

- Budget deduction, shifted for COVID-19.

**ICT LITERACY**

- Limited ICT literacy, particularly senior lecturers.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

- Students' need for financial supports; internet data, food supplies.

**SCHOLARSHIP**

- Deferred government scholarship funding.

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**DR ZAINAB HJ MOHD NOOR**  
Director, Office of International Affairs (OIA), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), MALAYSIA  
Moderator

REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS  
**735**

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS  
**350**

28%

40%

60%

72%

CLICK TO WATCH FORUM

<https://oia.uitm.edu.my/international/>

Office of International Affairs - Universiti Teknologi MARA

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# UiTM-AIMS PARTNERS: POST COVID-19 MEETING

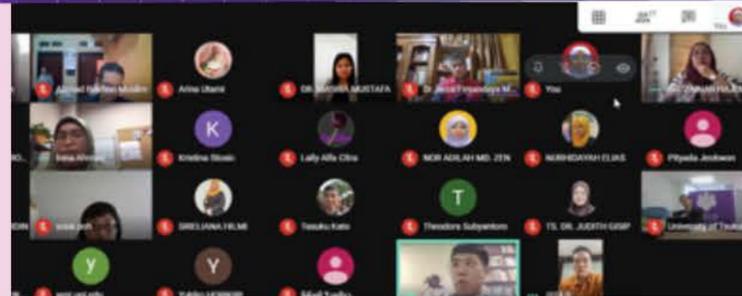
7 MAY 2020 (THURSDAY)

2:00PM-4:00PM (MYT)

Meeting URL: <http://meet.google.com/pzt-tvtb-bww>



## What's Next in Mobility Programmes



The COVID19 pandemic has severely affected mobility programmes for universities around the world. Whilst universities aim to increase their students' international experience, much has to change in the post-COVID-19 era. UiTM took the initiative to gather information from its AIMS partners on their preparations for their mobility programmes post-COVID19. An online meeting using Google Meet was held on 7th May 2020 at 2.00 pm (MYT). Twelve universities from five countries joined the meeting: Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Thailand and Brunei. They were from all active UiTM AIMS partner universities. The universities were Tokyo University of Agriculture (TUAT), University of Tsukuba (UT), Kangwon National University (KNU), Daegu Catholic University (DCU), Dongguk University (Gyeongju) (DGU), Universitas Perguruan Indonesia (UPI), Universitas Sriwijaya (UNSRI), Universitas Ahmad Dahlan (UAD), Universitas Bina Nusantara (BINUS), Mae Fah Luang University (MFLU), University of Prince Songkhla, (UPS), and University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD). Apart from these partner universities, the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) was also invited for the meeting, represented by the Bahagian Education Malaysia (BEM).

Each university expressed their concerns on the effects of COVID-19 on their mobility programme. All are offering online mode of teaching and learning activities in the current academic semester for all students including the exchange students. Despite the uncertainty, almost

all universities have opened their exchange programme applications with a caveat saying that the programmes are dependent on the current pandemic situation. UiTM was proposing virtual mobility for all exchange and summer programmes. Concerns were raised on whether an online learning package is acceptable for accreditation, or whether it will be able to attract students who would prefer programmes that allow them to physically move to host universities and countries, and whether virtual mobility is accepted by the South-East Asean Minister of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (RIHED) the governing body of AIMS. There were also concerns on whether the university system is ready to receive students from abroad to participate in online learning. Another concern was whether universities would reduce the current application fees.

At the conclusion of the meeting, OIA Director, Dr. Hajah Zainab Hj. Mohd Noor assured all partners that UiTM is always ready to accept students coming from AIMS programme and that it will initiate another meeting with public universities in Malaysia to discuss the AIMS mobility programmes. BEM also promised to discuss the virtual mobility issue with the SEAMEO Rihed secretariat and will propose that it be seriously considered as an acceptable mode of mobility. The participants thanked UiTM for initiating the meeting and are looking forward to having another fruitful meeting.

## IMT-GT UNINET – MALAYSIAN CHAPTER

The Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) university network is a sub-regional cooperation initiative formed in 1993 by the governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand to accelerate economic and social transformation in less developed provinces. Since its formation, IMT-GT has grown in geographic scope and activities to encompass more than 83 million people. It is now composed of 14 provinces in southern Thailand, 8 states of Peninsular Malaysia, and the 10 provinces of Sumatra in Indonesia. IMT-GT is also growing in importance outside of its sub-region. The ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) has recognised IMT-GT as a building block for the ASEAN Community Vision 2525.

Seven strategic pillars denote the key focus areas that are expected to produce the most significant economic and social impact on the IMT-GT subregion. These pillars are divided into three Lead Focus Areas that are supported by four Enablers.

The Lead Focus Areas comprise the Agriculture & Agro-Based Industry, Tourism, and Halal Products and Services Pillars. It is intended that these will spearhead IMT-GT cooperation and integration for the next two decades. These lead focus areas were selected based on careful evaluation of the comparative and competitive advantage of the subregion.

The four Enablers support the Lead Focus Areas and comprise the Transport and ICT Connectivity, Trade and Investment Facilitation, Environment, and Human Resource Development, Education and Culture Pillars.

Under the IMT-GT cooperations, UNINET Strategic Action Plan 2017-2021 (USAP 2017-2021) provides a strategic framework that charts a new strategic direction for UNINET to achieve its ambition for a new paradigm and a revitalised way of working over a 5-year period. UNINET does not operate in isolation. Instead, it is

rooted in Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) as both a valued stakeholder and as a key strategic component within IMT-GT's Vision 2036 Guiding Framework, capable of providing strategic leadership in fostering people-to-people connectivity and in generating innovative applied research solutions that are capable of supporting the commercial and practical needs of both the private sector and governments.

The IMT-GT Vision 2036 and its Guiding Framework are analysed in detail to provide the full context and setting for the formulation of the USAP 2017-2021, which has been developed to align with IMT-GT's own strategic direction. Specific examples are highlighted in the strategic role that UNINET can play and the stated approaches that it can adopt. The shared strategy are in terms of its alignment with IMT-GT's own strategy and shared with UNINET's stakeholders in the way it has been formulated through a participatory engagement process with member universities, the private sector, local governments, CIMT and other stakeholders. Members universities in Malaysia include Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), Universiti Teknologi Melaka (UTeM), Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UMP), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and Universiti Malaya (UM).

During the COVID-19 global pandemic, a virtual mode meeting was conducted on the 5th of June 2020 to discuss the UNINET membership for Malaysian Chapter in Preparation for the 2nd UNINET Council Meeting, discussion on the Inclusion of IMT-GT Varsity Carnival under UNINET and discussion on Approaches/Mechanism to strengthen UNINET and as the Think-Tank for IMT-GT. Malaysian Universities present at the meeting were UiTM, UUM, UMP, UPM, UKM and UM. This event enabled UiTM to engage with partner universities practicing 'new normal' internationalisation strategy to be visible in the global agenda despite the pandemic.





# AMBASSADORIAL LECTURE



DATE: 16 JUNE 2020 / TUESDAY | TIME: 3-5PM  
PLATFORM : CISCO WEBEX

## “POST-GENOCIDE BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: THE TRANSFORMATION OF A WAR-TORN COUNTRY”

BY

**H.E. DR. EMIR HADZIKADUNIĆ**

2.00 - 3.00pm Participants register and log in	3.00 - 3.15 pm Scene setting by Dr. Hajjah Zainab Haji Mohd Noor Director, Office of International Affairs (OIA)	3.15 - 3.30pm Opening remarks by Emeritus Professor Datuk Ir. Dr. Mohd Azraai Kassim Vice Chancellor, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)	3.30 - 4.30pm Lecture by His Excellency Dr. Emir Hadzikadunić Ambassador of Bosnia & Herzegovina to Malaysia	4.30 - 5.00pm Q & A Session	5.00pm End of Session
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As the new norm emerges, the Office of International Affairs (OIA), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) conducted the second OIA Ambassadorial Lecture Series via virtual platform for the first time. With the collaboration of the Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the lecture was presented by H.E. Mr. Emir Hadzikadunić, the Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Malaysia.

The lecture, entitled “The Transformation of a War-Torn Country”, which focuses on the factors which drives the peace building process of Post-Genocide Bosnia and Herzegovina, was held on 16th June 2020 through video conference with nearly 500 attendees, including UiTM staff, local and international students. In his welcoming remarks, UiTM Vice Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Datuk Ir. Dr. Mohd Azraai Kassim hoped for future partnership for further educational opportunities between the two countries.

His Excellency emphasized on the concept of peace building which stressed political, institutional and social transformation of a post-war country, necessary to bring about lasting peace. Some key highlights from the lecture includes the implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement which ended the 1992-1995 Bosnian War, and the military and non-military efforts in restoring the state afterwards.

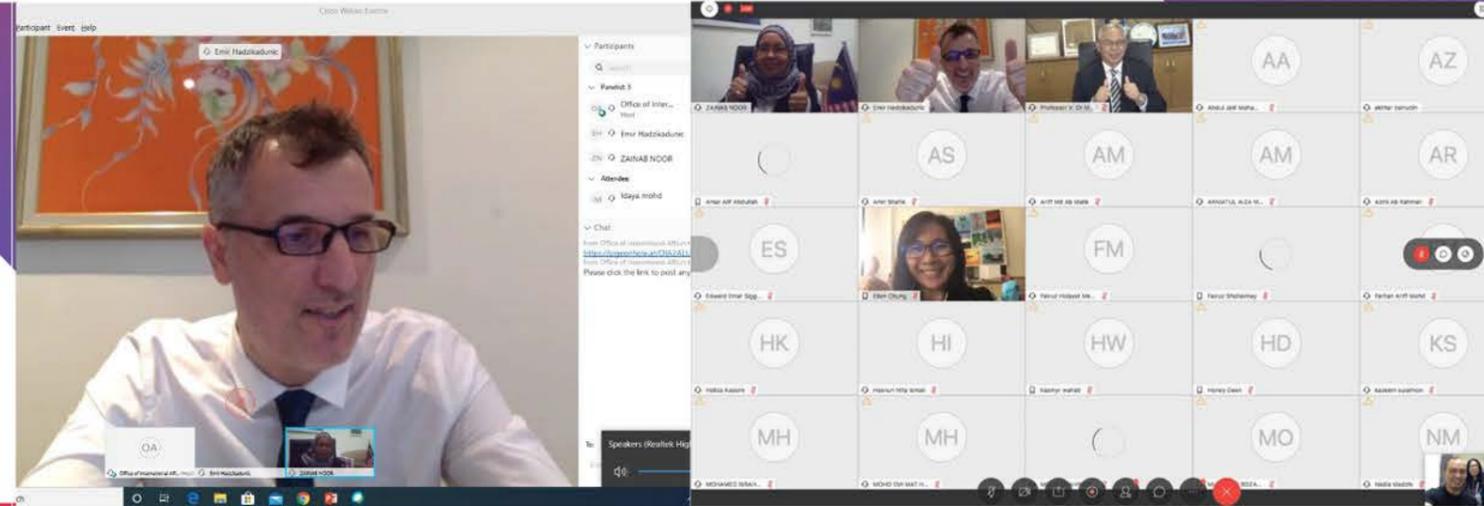
In the pursuit of peace, the Ambassador shared how different tools can be employed by the international communities in order to “transform a country from a crisis situation to a functional and peaceful state”. Political, humanitarian, and social reconstruction were amongst the factors that were addressed and consolidated in the agreement.

Over the past 25 years, it can be observed that the Dayton Agreement has successfully implemented the gradual and positive changes in the recovering Bosnia and Herzegovina. Moving forward, the country will soon fulfill the three Copenhagen criteria – fully functioning economy, rule of law, and democracy – and consequently join the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).



QR CODE

<https://youtu.be/mUt-tU1tg4FU>



When asked on the contribution of Malaysia during and post war, His Excellency expressed his gratitude for having Malaysia's continued support and cooperation. Additionally, UiTM as one of the largest universities in Malaysia can help by implementing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) discussed and agreed upon previously in Bosnia through exchange of expertise and knowledge transfer.

Interested students can join student exchange programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina with universities that have signed MoUs with UiTM. This opportunity will allow students to enjoy both academically and socially interesting experience with Muslim-friendly, diverse culture, in the heart of Europe. The Ambassador especially encouraged Masters and PhD students to conduct meaningful researches there. The lecture was so illuminating and insightful and the Ambassador had an active Q&A session with the audience.



# UiTM and UniKL Create Social Distance Tool



## SOCIAL DISTANCING AID ...

Kulim Universiti Kuala Lumpur lecturer in mechanics Nor Haniza Bakhtiar Jemily (left) and Shah Alam Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Phd student Fathinul Najib Ahmad Saad showing a social distancing sensor (SDS) made in collaboration with Penang UiTM. **Inset:** The SDS gadget can determine the required one-metre distance between people.

– MASRY CHE ANI/THE SUN

The Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Penang Branch has partnered with the University of Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) MSI Kulim Branch to develop a social incarceration device known as the 'Social Distancing Sensor' (SDS).

Head of the project and senior UiTM Penang Business Management Department head Mohd Subri Tahir said SDS is an innovative product called 'Object Distance Detection System' (ODDS) that can detect distances from one centimeter to 10,000 centimeter.

The ODDS was presented at the Seoul Invention International Fair 2019 (SIIF2019) in Seoul, South Korea in November 2019 and won the bronze medal.

"The ODDS cannot affect people or objects because it is designed for the use of cars to avoid friction while driving cars. So for SDS, we redesigned the ODDS using the same idea with a tracking function that only detects humans within a meter.

**"Individuals can hang the device around the neck. The actual distance will be displayed on the front surface of the SDS and the SDS alarm system will emit a laser beam to the individual body in the foreground if the individual is less than one meter away. SDS users will know he or she needs to distance himself/herself until the laser beam goes off," he told Bernama here today.**

Mohd Subri said the use of the manual method of attaching adhesive tape to the floor at a scale of one meter was seen as less efficient in terms of compliance as well as monitoring the existence of an individual and the creation of the device tool to improve existing manual methods. He said the first prototype of SDS was produced within a week.

# COVID-19: UiTM Cawangan Pahang Does its Share To Fight COVID-19 by Producing Hand Sanitisers

During the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, Malaysians tried their best to remain safe and went as far as stocking up on face masks, gloves, cleaning gels, soaps and even hand sanitisers. This situation was aggravated soon after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a pandemic in late January 2020. The announcement created a shortage of most personal protective equipment (PPE), especially face masks and hand sanitisers which resulted in a shortage of supply. "Out-of-stock" signs were visible at most shops.

Driven by the shortage of hand sanitisers, a few lecturers from Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Pahang took the initiative to prepare and distribute hand sanitisers to the frontliners at the UiTM health clinic and students who were returning to their hometowns. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Megat Ahmad Kamal Megat Hanafiah, a lecturer from the Faculty of Applied Sciences led a team of faculty members and laboratory staff, namely Dr. Shaari Daud, Dr. Zul Adlan Mohd Hir, Dr. Agustono Wibowo, Dr. Norshahidatul Akmar Mohd Shohaimi, Hj. Nik Mohd Zamani Nik Ismail and two postgraduate students, Muhammad Amirul Hakim and Noraini Safar to produce their own hand sanitizers.

The hand sanitiser, formulated by mixing a proportion of isopropyl alcohol, glycerin, aloe vera, deionized water and essential oil was packed into 50 bottles of 100 ml each. They were distributed on March 17, 2020, a day before the Movement Control Order (MCO) was announced.

During the distribution, the team also shared information on the ingredients used to make the sanitiser and advised everyone to stay safe in order to control the spread of the virus. Currently, some of the materials are still out of stock and hence, only a small number of sanitisers could be produced. Nonetheless, the team aspires to contribute more as soon as they get the necessary resources, so that it will not only benefit the university but also the local community in Jengka, Pahang. Megat and his team were very grateful to the Rector of UiTM, Pahang, Prof. Ts. Dr. Mohd Ilham Adenan and Head of School of Science Studies, Dr. Muzamil Mustaffa for their support and for allowing the lecturers to use the university facilities to produce the hand sanitisers. ~Source: UiTM News Hub



# FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCES: JOURNEY TO

# GLOBAL PROMINENCE

➤ Prof. Dr. Farida Zuraina  
Hj Mohd Yusof, Dean of FSG



*prelude*

The wise saying goes, "Great things take time; that is why seeds persevere through rocks and dirt to bloom." In this spirit of perseverance, the Faculty of Applied Sciences or Fakulti Sains Gunaan (FSG) holds true to its core values by transforming the faculty from its humble beginnings to a research powerhouse. Founded in 1967, the faculty has grown by leaps and bounds. Its mission is to focus on the development and advancement of science and technology.

53 years since its inception, FSG has a strong presence in ten UiTM branch campuses in eight states. Its main campus in Shah Alam, Selangor is home to 3,600 students and over 300 dedicated staff working together towards empowering its community for nation building and global advancement. On the global stage, FSG has seen some of its most promising achievements in 2019 securing RM1.78 million worth of international grants, 257 international publications and initiated international collaborations with prestigious universities in the world such as Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Two of its academic disciplines in Material Science and Chemistry are ranked at 386 and 539 respectively in the 10th edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject proving that FSG delivers world class teaching and learning to its students.

Creating a strong culture is key to any successful endeavour. Prof. Dr. Farida Zuraina Hj. Mohd Yusof, a molecular biologist, who took the helm as the 20th dean of FSG in 2019 is pursuing the same aspiration as her predecessors in steering FSG to global prominence. Here the story of FSG's journey is told, giving a glimpse of some of the faculty's recent achievements and endeavours as well as of its alumni who have made an impact across the globe.

In this rapidly changing world, the faculty is on the right track with its ground-breaking research gaining recognition both locally and internationally. Its long-standing reputation for innovative research is well-respected and supported through the forging of international collaborations with leading institutions. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tan Winie and her team collaborated with researchers from the National Chiao Tung University, one of Taiwan's leading university in research. Their three years of hard work is paid off with a breakthrough invention of low-cost super-capacitors for energy applications. The discovery has won many accolades at international invention exhibitions including the prestigious Special Invention and Innovation Award at the Malaysia Technology Expo in 2019.



© Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tan Winie pictured with the Special Invention and Innovation Award

## Innovation and Achievements

Prof. Dr. Mohd. Nazip Suratman and his research members from UiTM Pahang have embarked on an international collaborative research in Taman Negara Pahang in the area of ecology anthropology. Three international researchers are involved, and they are Dr. Thomas Kraft from the University of California, Santa Barbara, USA, Dr. Vivek Venkataraman (Institute for Advanced Study, Toulouse, France) and Dr. Ian Wallace (Harvard University). Some completed works include a study on hunter-gatherer and mobility of Bateq indigenous people in Taman Negara rainforests, conservation status of Asian honey bees (*Apis dorsata*) and harvesting practices by local peoples, including their potential impact on bee populations and their ecosystem services. Future studies will involve the collection of leech samples in the study area to assess their potential for disease transmission.



➤ Prof. Nazip with his fellow researchers, Dr. Thomas Kraft and Dr. Vivek Venkataraman

Life-changing research is imperative to stay relevant and leave a lasting impact for the benefits of humanity. FSG researchers have received major grants to support studies in its quest for real-world solutions. Assoc. Prof. ChM. Dr. Zainiharyati Mohd Zain and her research group "Electrochemical Material and Sensor (EMaS)" has developed BCRA1 biosensor, a device to detect circulating breast cancer oncogene in blood at an early stage. Early detection can improve the survival rate of breast cancer patients. The device uses nano-material and single stranded DNA aptamers to detect the BRCA1 gene mutation and reduce the time for screening process with higher accuracy. EMaS won the Grand Winner Award in the TECH PLAN DEMO DAY in MALAYSIA 2019. They also received the Special Award from Collaborative Research in Engineering, Science and Technology (CREST) grant

for the development of a prototype. As the next step, the team is currently working on the miniaturization of the device with collaborators namely the Faculty of Pharmacy and Integrated Sensor Research Group (DERIA) from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering for the prototype development. The team is also focusing on the clinical trials with a government hospital to obtain the Medical Device Certificate.

📍 **Assoc. Prof. ChM. Dr. Zainiharyati Mohd Zain with her team, EMaS**



📍 **Dr. Zakiah, a recipient of Newton Fund**

Another recent international grant recipient is Dr. Zakiah Mohamed who received the prestigious Newton Fund worth RM357,182 from the Department of Higher Education, Malaysia and the Science and Technology Facilities Council, UK for her research on crystal and magnetic structure evolution in materials. Through the funding, she and her team will have access to the international facilities at the ISIS Neutron and Muon Source in the UK to study materials at the atomic level. Neutron data could provide very precise values of the atomic positions in the crystal structure.



📍 **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Rozi Ahmad and team with UiTM VC**

The research group from Textile Technology programme led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Rozi Ahmad secured a grant amounting to EUR135,670.00 (RM627,940.00) from the ERASMUS+ Programme of the European Union on a project entitled "Smart Textiles – Modernisation of the Curriculum of Textile Engineering and Textile Technology in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Pakistan (SMARTEX)" for a 3-year period starting from year 2020. The ten-team project involving European and Asian universities aims to develop a new curriculum on smart textiles which could help in modernizing the education as well as providing opportunities to boost skills and employability in the said industry.

History was made for UiTM when Dr. Mohd Azri Ab Rani was among only five recipients of the prestigious Merdeka Award Grant for International Attachment 2019. The award was presented by His Royal Highness Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah, Royal Patron of the Merdeka Award Trust. The grant, which promotes thought leadership and innovation is being awarded to selected young Malaysians to pursue research work at an internationally recognized host institution. Dr. Mohd Azri will be attached as a visiting scholar at the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA. His research will focus on the chemistry and electrochemistry of a new class of batteries with superior performance and lower cost than that of today's lithium-ion batteries.



📍 **Dr. Mohd Azri Ab Rani, recipient of 2019 Merdeka Award**



📍 **Prof. Sulaiman (far left) with USA delegates at the ASEAN Smart Grid Congress 2018**

The faculty has some of the finest minds in academia who are actively contributing their expertise at the international level. One such individual is Prof. Dr. Sulaiman Shaari, who is the first Malaysian to have earned a doctoral degree in photovoltaic (PV) system applications research and development from the UK. Today, his experience spans more than 25 years, gaining him the moniker "solarman" around circles in the solar world, nationally and globally. He is appointed Vice President II of the Malaysian Photovoltaic Industry Association (MPIA) and is recognised as Master Trainer. He received an award from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations (MOSTI), Malaysia in 2013 for his contributions in the development of PV standards in Malaysia. In 2015, he received a global level award from the Asian Photovoltaic Industry Association (APVIA) for his significant contribution to talent cultivation in the area of PV as an academic. Following that, he was elected as Secretary General of APVIA in 2019. Recently, Sulaiman was invited to deliver a webinar presentation, hosted by the Global Solar Council on the impact of COVID-19 to the global PV industry.



📍 **Prof. Ts. ChM. Dr. Chan Chin Han**

Prof. Ts. ChM. Dr. Chan Chin Han has been elected as a Council Member of the International Council of Materials Education in 2019. With its office based in Texas, USA, the Council deals with all aspects of education in the field of Materials Science and Engineering worldwide, organizes workshops and symposia, and also publishes the Journal of Materials Education.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Muhd Fauzi Safian spent two weeks at the Chemistry Department, Yarmouk University, Jordan as a visiting professor in August 2019 where he delivered lectures to undergraduate students on Mass Spectrometry and Chromatography. Dr. Abdelbaset M. A. Ibrahim has been appointed as a visiting research fellow with the Department of Applied Sciences and Mathematics, College of Arts and Sciences, Abu Dhabi University collaborating with Prof. Dr. Hichem El Euch in quantum optics research. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Siti Norasmah Surip visited the Department of Metallurgical and Materials, Faculty of Engineering, University of Indonesia in 2019 as a visiting scholar. During the visit, she delivered a series of lectures on polymer and nano-composites to the undergraduates and was invited as a keynote speaker at the International Meeting on Advances in Materials 2019.

The faculty has the best mix of talents that can bridge the gap and build strong partnerships with industry and government. It is one of the leading faculties in some of the country's major grant schemes such as the Prototype Research Grant Scheme (PRGS) and the Public-Private Research Network (PPRN) grant. The latest recipients include Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rahmah Mohamed who received a PRGS fund on the development of low-cost biodegradable straw. Her invention helps in addressing marine and ecosystem problems from single-use plastics and contribute to Malaysia's green agenda for a sustainable future.

➔ **Low-cost biodegradable straw;** (Right) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rahmah Mohamed with her invention



➔ **Project with** Nur Arfa Batik

➔ **Fortified with Chlorella algae** WayGy Vitagreen Biscuit



➔ **High protein** Una Coffee

Dr. Ahmad Faiza Mohd secured PPRN grant and partnered with Nur Arfa Batik from Terengganu for a project on injection dyes for the batik industry. In terms of commercialisation, the results have been very promising. Research on microalgal biotechnology by Dr. Khairul Adzfa Radzun has produced WayGy Vitagreen Biscuit which is a biscuit fortified with Chlorella algae and Dr. Aida Firdaus Muhammad Nurul Azmi invented high protein coffee drinks called Una Coffee. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aishah Bujang led a team of Food Technology researchers in developing biscuits with no added sugar and low glycemic index targeted for diabetic patients. The high fiber content of the biscuit also makes it favorable for health-conscious consumers.

# INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY: Nurturing Global Minds, Transcending Boundaries



## *FSG is going global*

An overseas sojourn broadens one's mind and provides a once-in-a-lifetime experience. In line with UiTM's internationalisation agenda, the faculty encourages and fully supports the exchange and mobility of students and staff. The benefits of international mobility are immense. It promotes international adaptability, cross-cultural exchange and self-confidence.

The students at FSG took up the challenge and participated in student exchange programmes such as ASEAN International Mobility for Students (AIMS). Three students from the Food Science and Technology degree programme spent a semester abroad during the September 2019 – January 2020 term. Noor Amiza Nadzlin Mohd Nazari increased her knowledge while attending Nong Lam University in Vietnam taking

courses related to drinks and meat products. Nur Adilah Abdul Latif improved her social and communication skills while attending Mae Fah Luang University in Chiang Rai, Thailand where she had the opportunity to experience the MFU Exchange Expo and Loy Krathong Festival. Meanwhile, Siti 'Aqilah Mohd Nazari experienced Japanese culture and life at its best while taking credit transferred courses at Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology in Japan.

➔ **Noor Amiza Nadzlin Mohd Nazari with fellow course mates during excavation to Ben Tre to visit cocoa bean, coconut candy and chocolate**



➔ **Hands on activity at Rajamangala University of Technology**

Apart from exchange programme, FSG students were also involved in short-term outbound mobility activities. Students from the Textile Science and Fashion Technology programme travelled to Rajamangala University of Technology, Phra Nakhon in Bangkok, Thailand in December 2019. They participated in discussion session, training programmes on natural dyes from plant, hands-on dyeing and printing techniques as well as cultural and academic excursions. Through the programme, students acquired new knowledge and enhanced intercultural competence which is an essential element in cultivating global citizens.

International mobility also instills leadership among students. Students from Environmental Technology Society collaborated with the Faculty of Agriculture of Universitas Andalas, Indonesia in organizing "Youth Environmentalist Seminar 2020". The students attended lectures and participated in a research poster presentation. The seminar served as a platform for students to discuss and share experience on environmental issues in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Dr. Asmida Ismail attended Inbound Staff Mobility programme which is an international network consisting of seven renowned universities from Malaysia, Poland, Turkey, Thailand, China and Russia. She represented UiTM during the seven-day programme in November 2019. She delivered a lecture on the Effect of Carbon Dioxide to Terrestrial Algae and was involved in a networking session with universities in Indonesia as well as an education fair that was attended by more than 30 universities from all over Indonesia. Through the programme, UiTM was invited as a partner university with University of Applied Sciences in Nysa, Poland for the latest Erasmus cycle, and FSG secured mobility opportunities with University of Dicle, Turkey and Mae Fah Luang University, Thailand.



A great amount of effort has been put into pursuing international collaborations. The outcomes of such initiatives have led to more mobility opportunities and increased visibility. Five lecturers from FSG namely Dr. Yong Soon Kong, Dr. Shahrul Nizam Ahmad, Dr. Nurul Nadiah Mohd Firdaus Hum, Dr. Tay Chia Chay, and Dr. Raseetha Vani Siva Manikam were selected to attend the ASEA UNINET International Community Outreach Programme: Life Below Water hosted by Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya, Indonesia in December 2019. Adapted from Goal 14.7 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Life Below Water participants partook in educating the coastal communities about increasing the economic benefits from the sustainable use of marine resources, through the sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism. The programme managed to gather participants from Japan, Tanzania, Cameroon, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Thailand.



Prof. Ts. Dr. Rozana Md Dahan had the opportunity to engage with representatives from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Boston, USA and the University of Massachusetts (UMASS), Lowell, USA. Researchers at MIT energy initiative hub expressed their interest and enthusiasm to assist FSG researchers in entrusted and niche energy projects. These projects would be fully supported by the Malaysian government or industry, as a joint initiative between MIT and Malaysia. UMASS - Lowell is a highly acclaimed and established university in the field of Plastic Engineering with an excellent track record and reputation within the industry. The Fabric Discovery Centre (FDC) at UMASS has many remarkable synergistic innovative designs and prototyping ongoing projects within textile, polymer, and electronics companies in the USA. Researchers at FDC have shown interest in collaborating with the polymer/textile projects at FSG. The process of obtaining a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between FSG and UMASS is now underway. FSG is delighted that the UMASS project is further strengthened with the support and help from a Polymer Technology alumni, Dr. Zarif Farhana Mohd Aris who graduated with a PhD in Polymer Engineering at UMASS Lowell; and is now currently working as a Polymer Scientist at Huntsman Corporation, a global chemical manufacturer in Boston, USA.

# FSG Alumni Thriving on the World Stage

Every academic institution strives to prepare its students for life and career. Choosing a career is one thing, pursuing a career in a foreign country is another. Alumni of FSG are thriving in their respective fields around the world. Working and living in a foreign country have its own sets of challenges and yet FSG alumni bravely embarked on a journey into uncharted territory. Their success stories are shared here to inspire future graduates to defy all odds and achieve greatness through hard work.

Life can be quite unexpected, and it could turn out to be quite purposeful. During the zika outbreak in 2016, Aidil Azahary Abdul Rahman submitted his application to the Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA) headquarters in Hawaii with the hope of becoming an entomologist. Little did he know that it would pave the way for him to begin a new life in the Western Pacific Ocean and become the first entomologist in the Republic of Palau. He accepted the position and serves as a Medical Entomologist at the Division of Environmental Health, Ministry of Health located in the city of Koror since April 2017. Mr. Aidil was heavily involved in the establishment of the first mosquito lab in Palau. His scope of work includes conducting routine mosquito surveillance and studies on mosquitoes as well as reporting relevant information to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of Vector Borne Disease based in Fort Collins, Colorado, USA. He studied Biology during his undergraduate days at FSG which he completed in 2007. The knowledge and training that he acquired from UiTM had prepared him in charting his career path which include joining the Institute for Medical Research (IMR), Ministry of Health Malaysia as a research officer for five years. He overcame many obstacles and made mistakes along the way, and his significant work in Palau that saves lives and most importantly protect the community is something to be proud of. His advice to all future graduates is to not give up easily and learn from mistakes.



Determined and purposeful are the two words that best describe Dr. Nur Liyana Sulaiman. Her success in obtaining a PhD in Food Science and Nutrition from the University of Leeds, UK in 2019 was not an easy feat. With a mindset that "women can simply move mountains" and endless prayers she dealt with all the challenges that come from being a student, a mother, and a wife. After completing her bachelor's degree in Food Science and Technology with a minor in Islamic Food Law from FSG in 2013 with a Vice Chancellor's Award, she pursued her dream of obtaining a PhD abroad. The lack of funding available did not deter her from seeking opportunities, and her perseverance paid off when she finally received a sponsorship to realize her ultimate life goals. Her PhD journey was all but a walk in the park. There were times when quitting seemed to be the best option but to Nur Liyana the hurdles were nothing compared to what she aspired to be. Balancing the time between family and studies proved to be challenging and she even took the risk of handling chemicals for laboratory work while being pregnant and experiencing morning sickness. Thankfully, with the support from her supervisors and families, she made it to the finishing line. The achievement was more meaningful with her children witnessing their mother's struggles turning into a success. Nur Liyana is currently a postdoctoral research fellow working on "Our Nutritious Protein" project with European Knowledge and Innovation Community (EIT) Food Partners at the Department of Animal Sciences at University of Reading, UK since March 2020. She hopes that future graduates who wish to pursue a PhD stay focused and keep moving towards the goal.

### Conclusion

The rise to global prominence is the culmination of years of hard work and ongoing efforts from everyone at FSG. The academics, administrators, laboratory staff, students, families and alumni have all contributed their time, energy, talent, and leadership in ensuring a success that is not only focussed on professional achievement but also on putting the well-being of people at the heart of the journey.



# APB Shah Alam: Olympians of Language

On the 9th of February 2020, the Academy of Language Studies, or Akademi Pengajian Bahasa (APB), Shah Alam sent five students to participate in the 2020 Asian English Olympics (AEO) in Bina Nusantara University (BINUS), South Jakarta, Indonesia. APB sent four students from LG240 - Norfadhlani Adli bin Norkhairi, Nur Diana Adlin binti Zainuddin, Amelia Maisarah binti Ahmad Fairuz and Amaal Fatimah bt Mohamed and one student from LG243, Nur Asyifa Azani bt Azmi. Norfadhlani and Nur Asyifa competed in the Speech category, Amelia in Storytelling while Amaal and Nur Diana in Newscasting.

Under the guidance and coaching of Ms. Maisarah Ahmad Kamil and Mr. Zachariah Aidin Druckman, our students competed with students from Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Vietnam and the Philip pines. There was a total of 53 contestants for Speech, 45 contestants for Storytelling and 35 contestants for Newscasting. Norfadhlani won 4th place while Nur Asyifa won 27th for Speech, Amelia won 5th for Storytelling and Nur Diana and Amaal won 17th and 23rd respectively for Newscasting. In addition, Norfadhlani also won the award "Best Humorous Speech" during the Semi-Finals.



Participating Countries



# Peers UiTM Penang at UGM

The Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Peer Counsellor Association (PCA) of Penang Branch participated in an international mobility programme in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from January 21 - 24, 2020. The programme involved 22 participants, two lecturers, two Psychology Officers and the UiTM Deputy Vice Chancellor of Penang Branch, Ts. Dr Mohd Rozaiman Aziz. UGM was led by Mr Mohamad Rifki Fahrurrazi, Deputy Dean for the Faculty of Psychology and included counsellors, lecturers and students. The collaboration emphasises the sharing of psychosocial expertise and knowledge and experience between the two universities.

The main purpose of the programme was to establish an international relationship between the PCA of UiTM Penang and the Universiti Gadjah Mada (UGM) Faculty of Psychology, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. UGM is the oldest university in Indonesia and its Faculty of Psychology is the best psychology faculty in Indonesia. There are similarities in the psychology practices between UGM and PCA; they both seek to train young counsellor mentors who can assist the university's troubled students.

The UiTM delegation also visited the Mind, Brain, and Behaviour Laboratory and the Psychology Consultation Unit. The Director of the Programme for Peer Adventure Knowledge 2.0: The Yogyakarta Trail, Ms Nurfatina Amira said the visit was an historic occasion as it strengthened international relations between the UGM and the Peer Counsellor Association, UiTM Penang. "UGM provided participants with a wealth of knowledge about mental health disorders that are common among students, ways to help overcome them, and opened the minds of the participants to the complex and intricate world of psychology," she emphasised.





## Working towards Global Visibility

The Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah, Malaysia and Language Centre, Universiti Brunei Darussalam successfully organised several programmes which could propel both universities to gain better international visibility. These programmes which were International Academic Colloquium (IAC), International Innovation and Creativity Exhibition (IICE) as well International Language Camps (ILC) for English and Malay languages were held at Universiti of Brunei Darussalam from 11 February 2020 until 13 February 2020. IAC had a total of 15 scholarly papers presented. Meanwhile, IICE managed to get thirty participation from the fields of Language and Linguistics, Product Design, Graphic Design and Open Category. The winners for each category received Diamond, Gold, Silver and Bronze awards. Another event, ILC, had more than 80 UBD students enjoying themselves with the Malay and English language camp activities.

Besides these three events, both universities also had two meetings to work towards a Memorandum of Agreement and a joint international conference and innovation competition (i-InTeLEC 2021) which will take place next year from 17-18 March 2021 in Langkawi Island, Malaysia. All these programmes and meetings were the initiatives taken under the APB Kedah – LC UBD Internationalisation Project held from 10 February until 15 February 2020.

APB Kedah was represented by three lecturers who acted as the main committee members – Syazliyah Ibrahim, the liaison personnel between both universities and also the Vice President of the project, Fathiyah Ahmad @ Ahmad Jali, the Head of Language Centre and Sharina Saad, the President of this internationalisation agenda. Together with them were five other English language lecturers, Robekkah Harun, Zetty Harisha Harun, Nur Hidyati Zolhani, Bawani Selvaraj and Syakirah Mohammed who held major roles in all the events organised. Language Centre, Universiti Brunei Darussalam was represented by Hajah Suciayah Sulaiman, the liaison personnel between both universities and also LC's Deputy Director, Dr. Sarah Boye, also the liaison personnel, Dr. Yabit Alas, LC's Director, DK Liyana Putri and Dr. Ishamina Athirah Muntassir Gardiner.

It is hoped that these internalisation activities benefit all lecturers serving both centres in terms of research, paper publication, staff and student mobility and even community projects. All these criteria are of great importance to both universities and can encourage the lecturers and students to have a more global focus in their careers. ~Source: qswownews



## Gold Recognition for 'Exercise is Medicine on Campus' (EIM-OC) 2020

Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Perlis has won the gold recognition for 'Exercise Is Medicine on Campus' (EIM-OC) for 2020. This recognition was obtained a year after it was awarded the silver recognition in 2019.

This EIM-OC programme was organised by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), the largest sports medicine and exercise science organisation in the world. More than 50,000 international, national and regional members and certified professionals are dedicated to advancing and integrating scientific research to provide educational and practical applications of exercise science and sports medicine.

It also aims to promote physical activity as a vital sign of health and encourages faculties, staff and students to work together towards improving the health and well-being of the campus community by making physical activities a part of the daily campus culture, assessing physical activities at every student health visit, providing students with the tools necessary to strengthen their physical health to last for a lifetime and connecting university health care providers with university health fitness specialists to provide a referral system for exercise prescription. Since this recognition programme is introduced to all colleges and universities in the world, the Faculty of Sports Science and Recreation (FSR) of UiTM Perlis made a bold move to be recognised through this platform.

UiTM Perlis has participated in this programme since 2018 on the initiative of the FSR. This programme needs the faculty members to work together to take charge of physical activities, outdoor recreation activities, sports events and seminars/workshops which can help to improve the health and well-being of the campus community. In return, students will understand the connection between exercise, health and academic success, and experience hands-on learning.



EIM-OC has become one of the important agendas to the FSR of UiTM Perlis as it pioneers an academic programme, the Bachelor's Degree in Health and Fitness (SR245), at the national level. The programme was introduced in 2017. It aims to produce competent sports practitioners with adequate mastery of fundamental knowledge in health and fitness who can adapt themselves to the international/global work environment with current scientific knowledge and skills, who have strong leadership qualities that can lead all levels of organization, and who have professional attitudes and ethics in fulfilling his/her responsibilities towards the Creator, client and the society. SR245 graduates are also expected to fulfil career demands as administrators and managers in many sports health and fitness industries and become health and fitness operators in this country. The recognition from ACSM is, therefore, crucial.

Head of the Learning Centre at the Faculty of Sports Science and Recreation of UiTM Perlis, Dr. Ahmad Fikri bin Mohd Kassim, together with Dr. Ayman Al-Bedry of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia/Medical Centre (HTCM), has played a major role at introducing EIM-OC at the Exercise Is Medicine Malaysia (EIMM) under the Malaysia's committee of EIM-OC. The four lecturers of the FSR of UiTM Perlis who attended the credentials programmes (level 1) were: Mr. Mohd Faridz Ahmad, Ms. Siti Jameelah Japilus, Ms. Nurul Hidayah Amir and Ms. Nurul Afiqah Bakar.

# International Talk: Malaysia–Russian Student Outward Looking Programme

On May 28, 2020 at 5pm (GMT), Universiti Teknologi MARA Pahang, Raub Campus hosted the International Talk: Malaysia - Russian Student Outward Looking Programme. The programme, which ran for almost two hours through the google meet platform, was a collaboration programme between UiTM Pahang, Raub Campus and Russian Centre of Science & Culture, Kuala Lumpur. The historic programme featured two representatives of the Russian Centre for Science and Culture, Dr Roman A. Subotin and Mrs Alena Belozertseva with the participation of 7 university representatives across Russia.

This talk involved 16 students from various universities in Russia including Malaysian students studying there. Russian students were led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chahine Mohamad Toufiq, Director of International Medical Institute, Kursk State Medical University and Madam Dremina Tatiana Fedorovna, Head of the department of Social and Cultural Adaptation of the International Medical Institute, Kursk State Medical University. UiTM Pahang was represented by 4 students and 2 student representatives council (MPP) advisors UiTM Raub. This programme was chaired by Dr. Jazimin Zakaria (Coordinator for student leadership unit) and assisted by Mrs. Norsyaidatul Kamar Md Shah (MPP advisor). The main agenda for this programme was to share their online learning experiences during Movement Control Order (MCO) due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The students shared and exchanged ideas as well as experiences in dealing with online learning or distance learning.

**The Russian participants came from various regions in the Russian Federation, including Malaysians studying there. They are from:**

1. Model United Nation of the Russian Far East (Far Eastern Federal University, Vladivostok Russia)
2. Moscow Aviation University (Moscow Russia)
3. Schenov University (Moscow Russia)
4. Kazan National Research Technical University
5. Kazan State Medical University (Kazan Russia)
6. Volgograd State Medical University (Volgograd Russia).
7. Kursk State Medical University (Kursk)



# UiTM SARAWAK AND GLOBAL PARTNERS

## The 1st International Conference on Belt and Road 2020

On behalf of the Vice Chancellor of UiTM Emeritus Professor Datuk Ir. Dr. Mohd Azraai Kassim, UiTM Sarawak Rector Prof. Dato' Dr. Jamil Hamali signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with five public universities in China in September 2019. These universities are Anhui University, Anhui Medical University, Beijing Wuzi University, China Pharmaceutical University and Jiangsu University. As a result of one of these MoUs, UiTM Sarawak co-organised the 1st International Conference on Belt and Road (ICBR) 2020 with Beijing Wuzi University at Samarahan 2 Campus from 14-15 January 2020. The theme for the conference was "Towards Educational Cooperation and Regional Development".

This conference was attended by about 150 members from six countries namely Malaysia, China, Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore and Yemen. Ten keynote speeches by the leaders of various universities marked the first day of conference. These included Vice Chancellor of UiTM, whose keynote speech was delivered by the UiTM Sarawak Rector. Other keynote speakers included Presidents from Anhui Medical University and Beijing Wuzi University. Local and international businessmen also participated and shared their insight about the opportunities in this Belt and Road initiatives. The Belt and Road Initiative is a global development strategy adopted by the Chinese government in 2013 involving infrastructure development and investments in nearly 70 countries and international organisations in Asia, Europe, and Africa. Formerly known as One Belt One Road (OBOR) short for the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-century Maritime Silk Road, it has been rebranded as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) since 2016. In the education arena, belt and road initiatives focus on bilateral educational relationship and collaborations between Malaysia and China. Keynote speakers answered questions pertaining to the Belt and Road Initiatives from both education and business perspective during the forum discussions.

On the second day, two roundtable discussions attended by over 100 representatives were held. UiTM Sarawak provided a conducive platform for both academic institutions and businesses in Kuching and other cities in Sarawak to meet with representatives from Chinese universities. Positive feedback from conference participants have spearheaded future collaborations between them.



# TAG-AIMS at the University of Tsukuba, Japan

The 6th Trans-ASEAN Global Agenda Education (TAG) Programme - ASEAN International Mobility for Students (AIMS) Programme was held on February 28 until March 4 at Tsukuba University with the participation of 23 students from Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam. Ten students from Mexico under a different name, the Trans-Pacific Human Capital Development Programme, also participated. University of Tsukuba (UT) fully sponsored both programmes. Both programmes were an interdisciplinary and global project for undergraduate education covering Food Science and Technology, Agriculture, International Business, Language and Culture, and Hospitality and Tourism. UiTM was represented by Abdul Aziz Masnan from the Faculty of Business and Management and Anis Nadiah from the Academy of Language Studies.

During the six-day programme, participants were exposed to two areas of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Millenium Development Goals (MDGs), quality education and partnership. The participants learnt not only the Japanese culture but that of other participating countries, enriching them with the diversity of cultures across the globe. Apart from the university campus tour, the participants visited some interesting sites: the famous Shinto Shrine Temple, peak of Mount Tsukuba, Kasumigaura Lake, and Kairakuen Garden. The participants also experienced Hinamatsuri Day, also known as Girls' Day, at the Makabe Village.

Abdul Aziz and Anis Nadiah felt very grateful that they were selected to participate in the TAG-AIMS programme. They reiterated that the experience they gained while in Tsukuba was the best they had had in a long while. They ended their narrative by quoting Prof Nomura's expression on the friendship they built with other participants: "A friend that comes during the rain is a true friend."



A memorable visit to Shinto Shrine Temple, Tsukuba

Abdul Aziz and Anis Nadiah with Prof Nomura and Mayu, the International Officer at the University of Tsukuba.

# Student Exchange Experience in Europe 2020

As a Master of Business Administration student at The Arshad Ayub Graduate School of Business I learned that UiTM was among the few universities in Malaysia that provided an opportunity for their graduate students to study abroad. I applied for and got accepted into an exchange programme at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium during my second semester. This was also going to be an amazing adventure for me, at the same time strengthening my curriculum vitae. However, my entire experience here was quite a mixed one the global pandemic 2020 swept across the world! I was far from home and had no relatives nearby. So what was it like?

Arriving here in the city of Brussels was quite a cultural shock for me, in how they study, live, and not to mention how different the weather was. Nevertheless, I managed to adapt quickly to the environment. The temperature was between 5° to -2°, and the weather was always rainy throughout winter. Brussels is a very cosmopolitan city and host to over 180 nationalities. At meals, I normally shared a table with friends from six different continents of the world and engaged in interesting conversations. I made friends with Mexicans, Hungarians, Uruguayans, Egyptians, and Australians. Everyone was warm, open, and never hesitant in giving hugs. We saw how language, skin color, or nationality did not matter; we are all the same. I have learned so much about other cultures and even shared my own with others.

KU Leuven, an established university, is one of the top 15 universities in Europe. Students were very participative and lecturers always encouraged interaction. As always, there are no wrong answers, but I noticed that the topics discussed were inevitably very critical towards the subject matter. The lecturers here tend to present real-life examples and often relate to what other experts have to say regarding the content. Among the subjects I took was Strategic Management; it required me to commute to the city of Leuven every week to attend my class. I felt a little exasperated at first, to be honest, but it was the best decision ever. My lecturer invited guest lecturers from CEOs of big companies like Ducati, Barco, and people from the European Union to share their experiences and teach us valuable lessons. There is a case study for every topic that we learn, and frankly, the whole process of studying here is very enriching.

Then the Covid-19 outbreak happened and Belgium was among the cities that was severely affected by the virus, with more than 40,000 cases during the lockdown. It was indeed an unfortunate event, and to be far from my family was daunting. Thankfully, I was staying at an international student house, so I never felt alone. We all understood the situation and tried our best to be strong together as a family getting through tough times.

The pandemic helped me improve my cooking skills, and I became a much better cook. Spending my Ramadan here in the summer consisted of 18 hours of fasting, but my friends here were always there to accompany me during iftar. The times we spent cooking and eating together were among the most meaningful memories I had with them. I remember cooking lots of Malaysian dishes for my international friends, and they all loved our food! Some of my non-Muslim friends from Spain and Italy even fasted to be a part of the whole Ramadan experience. I would say that as much as I missed my family and friends at home, I never really got homesick because I had friends who made sure I was all right.

All in all, being away for months and living in a completely different world helped me to evolve, and my perspectives of things changed in ways I would never have expected. I can now say that I am a lot more independent, appreciate my family and friends more, open to new ideas, more assertive, and much more confident about myself. Having this once-in-a-lifetime experience has proven to me that anything is possible. Choosing to go out and discover what the world has in store for me was life-changing and something I will always cherish. There is no word to express my gratitude to UiTM for providing this lifetime opportunity. I highly recommend that more students take part in exchange programmes like this. This whole experience broadened my horizon and is the highlight of my Life!

**"Life moves pretty fast. If you do not stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." ~By Luqman Umar**



# GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY in CHINA



For the first time in history, seven Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) students received the Sisterhood Scholarship from Hainan Government, China. They represented the very first batch of Malaysians to study there beginning August 2019 until July 2024. The registered courses offered under the scholarship at Hainan Normal University (HNU) were Master's in Journalism and Communication, Degree in Radio and Broadcasting Art, and Degree in Tourism Management.

The recipients of the Hainan scholarship were 2 students from Puncak Alam and 5 students from UiTM Melaka. The students who enrolled in Degree in Radio and Broadcasting were Mohamad Fauzi Afandi Ikmal Hisham, Qurratul 'Ain Najeehah Burhanuddin, Alif Hafizul Ikqwan Roslan and Nur Ain Hazirah Zamli. Aida Huda Lee Mohd Taufiq Lee enrolled in the Degree in Tourism Management and Mohamad Asyraf Adnan and Nurfadhilah Sazwani Raju Uddin enrolled for the Master's in Journalism and Communication. All had taken Mandarin as their third language at UiTM.

The learning environment at the HNU was very different compared to UiTM. Although they were familiar with the Chinese community in Malaysia, they discovered that the Mainland Chinese had different concepts of time and work; they were very rigid about both. They value time in order to make students disciplined. The library at HNU is full every single day and students would even nap in the library.

"The learning environment is very different compared to Malaysia, in which they used smart technology and encouraged presentations to improve their students' soft skills," said Qurratul 'Ain Najeehah. "The teaching and I



The representative of each country introduces their culture to primary school students in China

learning styles are very different from what we were used to back in UiTM. At HNU, lecturers and students alike used high-technology equipment and lecturers practiced two-way communication method with the students. They required students to be active and join all activities. The classes at HNU were equipped with big touch screen Blackboard technology. This was practical since lecturers and students could edit and underline or write on it while slides were being shown."



The class activity such as discussion that we managed to heighten our knowledge

For students who did not have the basics in Mandarin, language instructors provided them with a lot of revision and mini quizzes to enhance their language skills. Those who were already fluent would practice by giving presentations. The instructors were really friendly and easy to communicate with and were ever willing to facilitate the students' learning.

The class schedule was very pragmatic. The timetable gave students time to rest between each class. The duration for each class was 45 minutes with a 10-minute breather. This was a very unique way of giving time for students to process what they learned by rewarding them with time to rest. Unlike at UiTM, where lessons would continue for hours non-stop at times. But at HNU, time is crucial. HNU students utilized and adhered to the schedule strictly, i.e time to study and rest. Instructors and students were open to discussions, they asked question and answer in class just like at UiTM, the only difference is rest or break time in between classes. "We managed to adapt to the new learning environment fast with the help of the instructors and HNU students. We used various apps for learning purposes, namely dingtalk apps for online classes, assignment, as well as Superstar apps. Dingtalk app is very convenient for us because it's user friendly, meanwhile for speaking subject we used video for our assignment and Wechat for our online exam. However, we need to switch on our camera during the exam so our lecturers could see us while we answered

the exam paper, and then we need to snap the picture and send it to the apps. It was definitely different from how we took exam at UiTM," she added.

"In one semester, we were exposed to various cultural events which piqued our interest to know more about other culture," said Alif Hafizul. "China is rich in cultural elements and we managed to experience fall and international festivals at the university. As exchange students, we met other international exchange students. We exchanged cultural perspectives, not only with Chinese students, but also with students from other countries."

According to Muhamad Asyraf, he immersed himself in the Chinese language and culture while studying at HNU. "We immersed in the Chinese culture, and were able to improve our English and Mandarin as we communicated with international students and locals respectively. We discovered that Chinese people value health, and always reminded us to stay healthy and manage our studies well."

"At HNU, we did not only gain new friends and learnt new languages, but we also learnt how to be independent and face new challenges. As pioneers, we had to learn to be on our own, but we managed to navigate the new environment successfully. Initially, it was hard for us to find halal restaurants, but it was an adventure as we explored places to eat, or prepared our own food. In addition, we also learned to manage our time strictly and be more disciplined in our daily lives. This gave us the opportunity to make new friends from around the world and get to know each other's culture, religions, and norms. We learned to respect each other's differences. This was the opportunity that I value," said Aida Huda Lee.

"To us China is very unique and the people, friendly. We had many chances to interact with people from all over the world. We were thankful for the chance to travel to China, to see the technology and the development of the country. We were also fortunate in being able to practice our Mandarin in real environment."

"Studying in a foreign country will teach you many things. It is not the same experience you will get, the environment itself is different and how you adapt with others who come from various places and culture. It was a golden time for me and it's a very valuable experience," said Nurfadhilah Sazwani.

The students hoped that more Malaysian students, especially from UiTM, would get similar opportunities. Becoming fluent in a third language, especially Mandarin, could open up more job opportunities for them. Learning abroad really enhanced their personal, academic and professional development. They became more open-minded and gained an invaluable social experience.

Thank you UiTM for the invaluable opportunity!





## Lead Scientist (Polymer) at SABIC Engineering Polymer Technology Group, Riyadh Techno-Valley, Saudi Arabia

**Dr** *Azizol Wahab* is a Chartered Engineer (UK) with 20 years of diverse experience in manufacturing, material & application development, petrochemical technology and project management. He specializes in high-performance materials for oil & gas applications, automotive components and industrial applications. He previously worked as a researcher, project engineer, instructor, project leader and consultant in various sectors of polymer and petrochemical industries in Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Since 2014, he has been the Lead Scientist at SABIC Technology & Innovation Division based in Saudi Arabia, providing leadership in material research and application development for engineering polymers. He is an active academic advisor for universities, a member of Engineering Council UK (ECUK), American Chemical Society (ACS) and Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM). His area of expertise includes polymer material technology, polymer compound development, material forensic and formulation reconstruction, structure-property optimization and additives technology.

Azizol started his early education at Sekolah Tengku Muhammad Faris Petra in Kelantan. He then pursued his interest in science and technology at the Faculty of Applied Sciences, UiTM Shah Alam and graduated with a Diploma in Rubber and Plastics Technology. After that, he was offered a scholarship to continue his study at the University of North London where he was admitted directly into the second year. After he graduated with B.Eng (Hons) Polymer Engineering in 1997, he returned and served at the Faculty of Applied Sciences UiTM Shah Alam. With strong support from senior management, he was sent to London to complete his MSc. Polymer Science. He graduated with Distinction and was offered to pursue his PhD at London Metropolitan University. During this period, he served the university in various roles such as research fellow, adjunct lecturer at Open University London and also polymer technologist for some collaboration project between university and industries. He is also an active professional member of the Institute of Materials and a Chartered Engineer (C.Eng) of Engineering Council UK.

After graduation, he spent several more years in the UK working in various engineering company such as Centralube in Edmonton and SKF in Bedfordshire before working at MRPRA (Tun Abdul Razak Research Center) in Hertford as Higher Scientist in Industrial Support Unit. In 2010, he returned to Malaysia to join PETRONAS Research Division as Senior Scientist to support their polymer development division. Shortly after joining, he successfully developed a new pipeline polymer coating material system known as 'REMCOAT'. This technology

provides corrosion protection for oil and gas pipelines. The system was tested and used by PETRONAS upstream at various locations globally. It was patented in 5 countries and currently licensed to the third party for production.

In 2012, Azizol was promoted to Technology Manager and was transferred to PETRONAS Refinery and Petrochemicals Corporation to drive the development of elastomer complex in project RAPID located in Pengerang, Johor. The plan was to develop a joint-venture elastomer complex with a well-known Italian petrochemical company. The complex comprised three (3) elastomer plants with a total production of 260 kta. The project, however, did not materialize as PETRONAS decided to focus more on polyethylene and polypropylene plants. In 2014, he joined the top 5 global petrochemical company with 35,000 employees worldwide, SABIC, as a Lead Scientist in Technology & Innovation based in Technology Center in Riyadh. His arrival in SABIC coincided with the commissioning and start-up of KEMYA, the first elastomer plant in Saudi Arabia and GCC. KEMYA is capable of producing 400 kta production of different type of elastomers and also carbon black. After that, he was deployed to the engineering polymer group to provide material development support for another plant, PETROKEMYA, also in Saudi Arabia focusing on acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) polymer. SABIC has many ABS plants globally including Ottawa and Bay St. Louis in USA and Tampico in Mexico. During his last 5 years in SABIC, he has completed numerous material development projects with several millions in terms of values and provided mentorship to young Saudi engineers from various department.

There are approximately 8000 Malaysian expatriates in Saudi Arabia. In Riyadh, he is a committee member of the Malaysian Community for 2019-2020 and is actively involved in various community activities under the patronage of the Malaysian Embassy in Riyadh. He is also active in 'Riyadh Joggers Club' and also 'MY-Riyadh', a Malaysian group with interest in outdoor activities and volunteering. Azizol can be contacted at his email [azizol@consultant.com](mailto:azizol@consultant.com) and LinkedIn at [www.linkedin.com/in/azizol](http://www.linkedin.com/in/azizol).



## Zarif Farhana made it !!

**35** year old, Dr. Zarif Farhana Mohd Aris is a UiTM Alumni who graduated with both a Diploma and Bachelor's Degree in Polymer Technology from the Faculty of Applied Sciences (FSG). After graduating from UiTM with a Vice-Chancellor's Award in 2006 for her Diploma and 2008 for her Bachelor's degree, Zarif Farhana was determined to further her studies abroad since her UiTM professors who graduated abroad were a source of inspiration for her.

Prior to going to the U.S, she faced challenges on not having enough guidance and financial support on how to enroll and obtain sponsorships to graduate schools. Armed with determination, Zarif Farhana took two years to have all the requirements fulfilled to further her studies. Even without financial aid, she persisted and soon enough the professors saw her talent and offered her a research assistantship position during her first semester in the U.S. This covered her entire study tuition fee including having enough for a stipend. She completed both her Master's and Doctorate degree in the Plastics Engineering programme from the University of Massachusetts – Lowell, widely renowned for its specialized plastics engineering programme. Initially Zarif Farhana only wanted to complete her Master's and join the plastics industry, but during her time in graduate school she developed a passion for research. Zarif Farhana completed her PhD and admits that it was one of the toughest challenges in her life, but it was all worth it. There were times where she had wanted to quit especially when she was diagnosed with a cyst, but her belief that if you have the right intentions and put your best effort, good things will follow, and so she persevered.

After graduating in May 2017, Zarif Farhana started her career as a scientist at Huntsman Corporation, an American multinational manufacturer of chemical Polyurethanes, performance products and adhesives. She was recently promoted to Technical Manager to lead the applications team, two and half years after joining the company. She now leads a team of scientist and technicians working with globally known companies such as Apple, 3M, 3D printer manufacturers, Global Footwear Brands such as Nike, Adidas, and Timberland developing new materials for various applications ranging from automotive, industrial and medical products. Some of Zarif Farhana's proud achievements are co-developing the next generation noise cancelling earphones for Bose, electrolyte films for smart windows application and renewable materials from bio-based

waste products, all of which have been patented. Zarif Farhana has great interest in the areas of sustainability, especially with plastics having a bad reputation, but hopes that with her new position she could make future contributions to lead the effort at the industrial level. She was awarded Champion of Toxic Use Reduction Award by the state of Massachusetts in 2017 for her research focusing on sustainability.

Zarif Farhana is appreciative of her experience and guidance from her professors at UiTM who guided her. Her advice to students back home is to BE YOURSELF, embrace a growth mindset, and continuously develop new talents. Follow your passions. Go exploring and strive for more opportunities and adventures and never stop learning. Continue to make yourself and the world better.



**VIRTUAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME SOON!!!**

# STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

## Science & Technology

Faculty of Applied Sciences · Faculty of Architecture Planning & Surveying · Faculty of Chemical Engineering · Faculty of Civil Engineering · Faculty of Computer & Mathematical Sciences · Faculty of Dentistry · Faculty of Electrical Engineering · Faculty of Health Sciences · Faculty of Mechanical Engineering · Faculty of Medicine · Faculty of Pharmacy · Faculty of Plantation & Agrotechnology · Faculty of Sports Science & Recreation

## Business & Management

Faculty of Accountancy · Faculty of Business & Management · Faculty of Hotel & Tourism Management · Faculty of Information Management

## Social Science & Humanities

Academy of Contemporary Islamic Studies · Academy of Language Studies · Faculty of Administrative Science & Policy Studies · Faculty of Art & Design · Faculty of Communication & Media Studies · Faculty of Education · Faculty of Film, Theater & Animation · Faculty of Law · Faculty of Music

**Get in touch. We'd love to hear from you!**



Office of International Affairs (OIA) | International Students Development Department

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<http://oia.uitm.edu.my>

# Selamat Datang to UiTM!

On the 26th of February, the Office of International Affairs (OIA) welcomed a new group of international students for the academic session March 2020. Despite the COVID 19 outbreak, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) received more than 250 students for both the exchange and postgraduate programmes. From the 250 students, 160 registered as postgraduate students.

The students came from Indonesia, Thailand, Korea, Japan, Kazakhstan, Algeria and Germany. OIA Director, Dr Hajah Zainab Mohd Noor, gave them a warm welcome speech, which was followed by a photo session. OIA organised a few info-sessions to ensure that they are equipped with the relevant and sufficient information to adapt to their new surroundings. The briefings included that from Selangor Tourism Department, Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS) from the Ministry of Education Malaysia, the Immigration Department Selangor, the Institute of Graduate Studies, the Tun Abdul Razak Library, and Kristal College. Selangor Tourism

Malaysia captivated the audience with videos and images of the many interesting tourist spots in Selangor. OIA also invited the president of the Students' Representative Council, Mr. Muhammad Nur Syahmi Shaare, to meet and greet the international students. Before the briefing sessions ended, the UiTM Global Ambassador (UGLAM) representative, Ms Effa Rozaeliyana Mohammad introduced members of UGLAM and explained the role played by UGLAM in assisting the new students to adapt to their new surroundings. The students were also introduced to their assigned buddies. To live up to the event, UGLAM presented their signature cheers, UGLAM Dynamite! In the afternoon, the students were taken on a tour of the Shah Alam campus and Shah Alam city.

The new students expressed satisfaction at the introduction to UiTM and the Malaysian culture. OIA has always strived to make international students feel at home in UiTM right from the moment they arrive!





**VIRTUAL  
SUMMER PROGRAMME  
SOON!!!**

# INTERNATIONAL SUMMER PROGRAMMES

*Enrol • Explore • Enjoy*



## List of Summer Programmes

### CULTURE AND ART

- Discover Malay Cuisine
- Experiencing Malay Traditional Sports
- Exploring Malaysian Music
- The Amazing Indigenous & Native People in Malaysia
- Cultural Heritage & Environmental Conservation
- The Jewels of Borneo
- Terengganu: Unexplored Beauty
- Artibility and Voluntourism - Special Get Away! - Life is Miracle
- Exploring Arts and Culture in Health and Wellness

### BIODIVERSITY

- Go Green Summer Camp
- Fragrance and Colour from Nature
- Tropical Eco-Adventure and Nature Retreat
- Biodiversity Prospecting
- Marine Summer Camp

### BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

- Islamic Finance
- Halal Management
- Accounting and Malaysian Heritage

### TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT

- The Engineering Behind Malaysian Culture
- Auto-Robo-Green
- Know Your Android Mobile!

### LANGUAGE

- English as a Second Language (ESL) in Sunny Malaysia
- Rock it with English
- Let's Speak Arabic
- Let's Speak Malay
- Let's Speak Mandarin

**Application Deadline: 25 July (Every Year)**

**Programme Date: 8 - 21 August (2 weeks) / 8 - 28 August (3 weeks)**

*Note: The programme can be customised according to the date requested if there is a participation of more than 10 students*

**For More Information: <http://oia.uitm.edu.my/international/summerprogrammes>**

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t: +603 55442190 / +603 55211663 / +603 55442014 | f: +603 55442042 | e: [isd.oia@salam.uitm.edu.my](mailto:isd.oia@salam.uitm.edu.my)

## Linguistic and Artistic Journey with Chang'an University



Ten days, fifty two participants, nine workshops and five tour destinations later, the Faculty of Education's second international programme for 2020 drew its curtain down on January 22nd. 50 students and two lecturers from Chang'an University, the People's Republic of China, participated in the faculty's Linguistic and Artistic Journey, a customised summer camp module developed to enrich and entice the students.

The Language and Artistic Journey focused on immersive learning experience through a series of workshops and activities developed to inculcate appreciation towards Malaysia's multicultural uniqueness and diversity. The programme has three main components: English for communication, arts, and recreation and leisure. The art workshop series provided hands-on activities on culturally rich themes such as Songket, batik canting, tie

and dye, drawing and painting, and Islamic calligraphy. The English workshops aimed at enhancing participants' communication skills through fun and engaging language activities.

The recreation and leisure component took the participants to exciting tourist destinations such as Shah Alam, Kuala Lumpur, Kampung Kuantan Firefly Park, Bandar Hilir Malacca, and Genting Highlands. These visits provided for a more holistic summer programme experience. The participants expressed satisfaction with the summer programme.



# UiTM Global Ambassador (UGLAM) Experience: There is No Way Out...



Internationalisation@Home activities. I am eternally grateful to OIA for the experiences and lessons gained as UGLAM. OIA gave me a platform to polish my 'people' skills and thus fostere close friendships with students from various corners of the world and developing myself to be a better person.

As I walked down memory lane as a student then, I cherished every sweet memories and moments as OIA buddy. I remember those days when I was overloaded with faculty activities and meeting academic deadlines, but OIA has always granted a sweet escape. I was motivated to manage and balance my time between academic and social matters better, because I looked forward to contributing my best to the club every time. It was at this place that I developed memorable friendships with local students as well international friends alike. Even though we are thousands of miles away from each other now, that does not deter us from growing our friendships. Within the span of one semester, I was blessed with life-long friendships, especially with those from South Korea, Japan, Indonesia and Germany! I could speak several languages now, as the saying goes "to learn a new language is to possess a second soul" Danke! Although we had to juggle with different agendas in our life, but we always made the time to meet each other. I remember the time when, we, as ambassadors took our international friends for social outing on weekends and convert them to be locals! It was up to the point where some of them claimed to be "100% Malaysian", (with giggles...) at the end of their stay at UiTM. Our friendships go beyond culture, belief and skin colour, as there was so much, we had to offer each other.

As a firm believer of life, I often feel like opportunity would not strike at your way, unless you worked your way towards it. I recalled my freshman days clearly when I was at UiTM Shah Alam. I went on the Internet, searched for "uitm international", to appease my hunger for diversity and change. Jackpot! I found that there was a buddy programme at the Office of International Affairs (OIA), where local students could volunteer to guide and build friendships with international students. I took the offer and grabbed the opportunity to assist international students which led me to serve more for my alma mater.

Being a UiTM Global Ambassaador (UGLAM) or formerly known as Office of International Affairs (OIA) Buddy, was something that I took pride in. I had plenty of opportunities and played different roles as a student, from being the frontliner to international students, greeting and picking them up at the airport to representing UiTM in global arena. Our presence in global events such as AIMS (Asean International Mobility Students) were just a teaser of Malaysia to others and giving a glimpse of what Malaysian students especially UiTM students were made off. I always dreamt of studying abroad, but I found that OIA gave me just the same experience I wanted from the comfort of being in my homeland through

Thank you OIA for giving me the opportunity to become a better version of myself. Indeed, it is a privilege for me to grow with this club, and I could not fathom another journey without the experience@uglam.oia. Enjoy your student life at UiTM to the fullest, be productive, and welcome to OIA, a place where abundant joy and fun, await you... because once in, there is no way out!

# WORLD MERIT UiTM

World Meriters at Universiti Teknologi MARA played a significant role amid COVID-19 pandemic by discussing various issues pertaining to youth and COVID-19. Members of World Merit UiTM, led by Muhammad Afiq Hariz, addressed various major issues amongst youth by sharing their thoughts and ideas in live sessions with World Merit members around the globe.



With the pandemic's number of cases soaring in many countries, so does the number of fake news circulating around the internet which already causes some confusion among people.



We will talk about youth's involvement in achieving SDGs alongside @afiqkhatem, President of World Merit UiTM Shah Alam. We welcome you to pitch in ideas or to give questions during the live meet to get to know more about Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how you can contribute as a youth.



Are you excited for yet another live meet from us? Well wait no more because we are going to be on live with another inspirational speaker from our neighbouring country, Indonesia! Dr. Lutfi Aulia Rahman @2whitecoats\_ is a member of World Merit Semarang, Indonesia @worldmeritsemarang and also a founder of Madiun Muda Indonesia. Alongside him will be our own World Merit UiTM Shah Alam member, Afiq Ismail @imafiqismail and together they will discuss about COVID-19 pandemic. You are welcome to join in our live to give your thoughts and to ask any question!



We are to bring yet another exciting Instagram live to you this Thursday at 10PM (Local time) and this time around we are bringing an aspiring local youth icon, Jabir Meftah @jabirmeftah, the President of Youth Care Malaysia @youthcaremalaysia which is also a finalist in Hero Remaja! Listen to him talk about engaging youth in environmental sustainability in conjunction with Earth Day, side by side with Airen Natasha @rainbowreens, a passionate member of World Merit UiTM Shah Alam!



Live discussion with another Local Merit Council from Indonesia, World Merit Yogyakarta @worldmeritjogja on the topic "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) challenges in Malaysia" with our President, Afiq Khatem @afiqkhatem representing World Merit UiTM Shah Alam along with Joanda Kevin @joandakevin, the Advisor of World Merit Yogyakarta!

# UPCOMING EVENTS 2020

## July 7

-  **MoveON Online Meeting: Navigating through the COVID-19 Crisis**
-   **Virtual Ambassadorial Lecture@UiTM (Cuba Ambassador)**
-  **OIA Virtual Roadshow**
-  **IMT-GT Video Conference - Halal Service Management**
-  **VAF2020 - AIMS Malaysia**
-  **LO Meeting**
-  **SCSU Virtual "OWL"**
-  **Meet & Greet with International Student**
-  **Virtual University President Forum (ATU-NET)**
-  **Collaboration Meeting with Embassy of Columbia**



## August 8

-  **Virtual World Merit @UiTM Malaysia**
-  **VAF2020 - AIMS Global**
-  **OIA Virtual Roadshow**
-  **SCSU Virtual "OWL"**
-  **Virtual Summer Programme**
-  **Meet & Greet with International Student**

## September 9

-  **SCSU Virtual "OWL"**
-  **Virtual International students Orientation Day**
-  **Meet & Greet with International Student**

## October 10

-   **Virtual Ambassadorial Lecture @UiTM (China Ambassador)**
-  **Virtual Global Volunteering**
-  **Virtual Travelogue of Nature Culture and Heritage**
-  **Meet & Greet with International Student**

## November 11

-  **OIA Virtual Roadshow**
-  **Meet & Greet with International Student**

## December 12

-  **OIA Virtual Roadshow**
-  **Meet & Greet with International Student**



# SPECIAL MISSION be the first UNIVERSITY UITM

Students | 180,558

International Students | 1,859

Mobility (Inbound)

Graduate | 840,267

Campus | 35

Staff | 17,346

Mobility (Outbound)

1,292

Programme | 526

Faculty | 26

Full Time  
274



QS World University Ranking 2020 | Overall Rank 651-700

QS Asia University Ranking 2020 | Overall Rank 119

QS World Graduate Employability Ranking 2020 | Overall Rank 301-500

QS World University Ranking By Subject 2021 | Overall Rank 11 Subjects

\*Data @main campus



UNIVERSITI  
TEKNOLOGI  
MARA

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