

# #UMTsohor

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# UMT VICE CHANCELLOR VISITS EUROPE TO ESTABLISH STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dato' Dr Nor Aieni Mokhtar made official visits to several universities and agencies while she was in Europe from 29 Sept. to 12 Oct. to formalize strategic partnerships and establish new collaborations.

In the United Kingdom, Prof. Nor Aieni made a visit to National Ocean Centre (NOC) in Southampton to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between UMT and NOC on collaborations in Habitat Mapping, Biology, Ecology, Chemistry, Physical Oceanography, and Policy Engagement. In addition, Prof. Nor Aieni made a visit to the University of Warwick to discuss potential collaborations between UMT and international industries similar to those at Warwick Manufacturing Group (WGM) that would allow for staff and student exchanges and joint research.

In Norway, Prof. Nor Aieni made a visit to the University of Bergen (UiB) to have a discussion with the respective personnel on potential collaboration between UMT and UiB on research in fisheries and marine aquaculture. The partnership would enable UMT researchers to further strengthen their knowledge in specific areas such as breeding and spawning of fish in laboratories, and fish parasitology.

In Sweden, Prof. Nor Aieni made a visit to World Maritime University (WMU) to have a discussion with its president and several senior officers. In the discussion, Prof. Aieni relayed the Malaysian government's aspiration for a collaboration with WMU to offer master's and PhD programmes in maritime field and to make Malaysia a hub for WMU mirror programmes for the South East Asia region. The discussion also touched on research collaborations, student exchange programmes, and joint online postgraduate programmes.

Prof. Nor Aieni also invited WMU professors to UMT as visiting professors to share their knowledge on academic strategic management, resource management, teaching and learning, and research.

Prof. Nor Aieni also expressed her hope of establishing collaborations between UMT and international industries such as Warwick Manufacturing Group (WGM) that would allow for staff and student exchanges and joint research.

Prof. Nor Aieni also visited the Technology Transfer Office (TTO) and was taken on a tour to the Venture Offices of Marineholme, a marine supercluster providing conducive infrastructure that facilitates collaborations between UiB and researchers, entrepreneurs, and marine-based companies.

Prof. Nor Aieni visited Lund University to explore potential collaboration on postgraduate programmes. The university has a supportive supervisor-student ecosystem that enables postgraduate students to conduct quality research.

In Switzerland, Prof. Nor Aieni made a visit to ETH Zurich, a university renowned for having 36 Nobel Prize winners among its academic staff. She had a discussion on potential collaboration involving the fields of science and technology.

During her official visits to the four countries, Prof. Nor Aieni was accompanied by Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr Mohamad Rosni Othman, Dean of the Faculty of Maritime Studies, and Assoc. Prof. Dr Mohd Fadzil Mohd Akhir, Director of the Institute of Oceanography and Environment.

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# UMT STUDENT SELECTED TO REPRESENT MALAYSIA AT ASEAN YOUTH FORUM

UMT student Mogesh Sababathy was one of the five local youths who represented Malaysia at the ASEAN Plus Three Youth Environment Forum (AYEF) 2019 in Phuket, Thailand, on 8-13 Sept. He was selected by the forum's organizing committee.

Mogesh is a final-year Marine Biology student. He has involved himself in environment-related activities since his arrival at UMT about two years ago.

At the forum, Mogesh joined 100 other youths from ASEAN countries plus Korea, China, and Japan to discuss the issue of marine debris and its local and global impacts among youths in the regions. He participated in group discussions, debates, group presentations, and a fieldtrip to Phuket's municipal waste power plant.

Mogesh submitted his application through the forum's website at the encouragement of his lecturers. He was interviewed later over the phone as part of the selection process.

As one of the selected candidates, Mogesh attended the forum with all expenses paid.

Mogesh is currently president of Marina Club (a club for Marine Biology students) and one of the founders of the Ocean Hope Project. He is External Relations Officer for the Project Map-O Debris based in Brunei and president of Malaysia chapter of Sustainable Ocean Alliance based in the UK. He is also an active member of UMT Sea Turtle Research Unit. He has organized several environment-related events, presented at

conferences in Korea, the Philippines, and Indonesia, and written articles for the newspapers.

The forum Mogesh attended is funded by the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation and is held yearly. The forum's aims are to encourage youths to make the required changes to attain their ideal future environment, to enable them to build their knowledge and skills capacity, and to help them expand their networking efforts across the regions.

Mogesh said the forum not only enhanced his knowledge on marine debris issues but also increased his networking with participating youths. "AYEF 2019 was indeed an eye-opener to me," he said.

Mogesh is now more motivated than ever to continue raising awareness of the importance of conserving the oceans. "We often take the oceans for granted," he said.

The forum invites youths who possess leadership qualities, have good English communication skills, are knowledgeable and interested in environmental issues, and are actively involved in environment-related activities or projects in their home countries.

Mogesh credits his success and achievements to UMT and its lecturers. He is grateful for being a UMT student, and he appreciates all the guidance and supports the lecturers have given him.

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# UMT RESEARCH TEAMS WIN AWARDS AT PECIPTA'19

Several UMT research teams won awards at the International Conference and Exposition on Inventions by Institutions of Higher Learning (PECIPTA'19) held at Universiti Tun Hussein Onn on 22-23 Sept.

Five teams won gold medals and seven won silver medals under the different clusters. In addition, two teams won Best Project awards.

The team that won gold medal under the Environmental and Renewable Energy (ERE) cluster showcased the project "MVS-An Integrated Microwave Vacuum System for use in Drying, Desalination and Waste to Wealth Application". The team leader was Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr Lam Su Shiang.

The two teams that won gold medals under the Agriculture & Aquaculture (AA) cluster showcased the projects "BC-Culant: A Novel Eco-Friendly Biofloculant For Industrial Wastewater Treatment" and "PHAMat:Biogradable Antimicrobial Disk For Controlled Treatment of Bacterial in Aquaculture System". The team leaders were Assoc. Prof. Dr Nor Azman Kasan and Assoc. Prof. Dr Kesevan Bhubalan respectively.

The two teams that won gold medals under the Education, Community Development & Social Innovation (ECDSI) cluster showcased the projects "e-SLD Ontology-Based Supporting Tool For Analysis of Students with

Specific Learning Disabilities" and "MY IHSAN: An Innovative System for the Future B40 Community Development and Social Wellbeing". The team leaders were Dr Rosmayati Mohamed and Dr Riswadi Azmi respectively.

The teams led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nor Azman Kasan and Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr Lam Su Shiang each received the Best Project award. In addition, Assoc. Prof. Dr Kesevan Bhubalan finished in the top 5 in the Business Pitching competition.

UMT researchers were among the 694 participants attending this year's PECIPTA to showcase their inventions. Of the total, 301 were from public universities, 90 from private universities, 12 from international universities, and 8 from other institutions.

PECIPTA is a biannual event organised by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with its partner institutions beginning 2001. It aims to showcase innovative products and services from institutions of higher learning.

The theme for this year was "Innovation Beyond Imagination".

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# UMT HOLDS WOW BEACH FESTIVAL 2019 TO PROMOTE OCEAN CONSERVATION

UMT held the WOW Beach Festival 2019 at the nearby Tok Jembal Beach on 21 September as part of the ongoing effort to raise awareness of the importance of the world's oceans.

The festival is one of the many events organized during UMT World Oceans Week (WOW) celebration held from June to September in conjunction with the World Oceans Day celebration on 8 June.

Among the activities organized were Beach Soccer@UMT International Sports Carnival, Sand Castle Building Competition, Ocean-themed Children's Coloring Competition, and WOW Explorace-Into the Heart of the Seas.

To meet the aim of the festival, an ocean awareness exhibition was also held, which carried the theme Outreaching the Community for Future: Life below Water. The exhibition was jointly organized by several UMT student clubs, namely Young Conservationist Club, UMT UNESCO Club, Ocean Hope Club, and UMT STEM Foundation Student Club.

Another highlight of the festival was the Beach Cleanup, held in conjunction with World Cleanup Day that falls on 21 Sept. Various participants took part in the activity, including UMT staff and students, local community, and school students from around Terengganu.

The festival was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment, and Climate Change (MESTECC). Deputy Secretary-General of MESTECC Dr Nagulendran Kangayatkarasu was present.

Guest artist Fauziah and Terengganu Tourism Icon Mat Dan were also present to make the festival livelier.

More than 3000 visitors came to the event, mostly students and residents from the local community.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dato' Dr Nor Aieni Mokhtar said the WOW celebration has become one of UMT's annual events since 2014 as it fits in with UMT's main focus, which is marine science and aquatic resources.

According to Prof. Nor Aieni, littering near the beach areas has gradually lessened since the awareness programme was implemented several years ago. "That means the campaign we launched has generated positive impact, and although it has been belittled by certain parties, the effort will help us to sustain our environment," she said.

Prof. Nor Aieni said the WOW programmes allow the local community to be directly involved and work hand in hand with UMT to protect the environment and encourage the public to conserve and protect the marine biodiversity.

She hopes there will be more agencies and NGOs willing to cooperate with UMT in promoting activities to raise awareness of the importance of the oceans at the national and global levels.

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Pesta Pantai  
WOW'19  
WORLD OCEANS WEEK  
WORLD CLEANUP DAY 2019  
UMT MALAYSIA TERENGGANU  
FOTO: DR. DEDD SARIH



# UMT HELD SCUBA DIVING PROGRAMME TAILORED FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

UMT held a special scuba diving programme at its Marine Research Station on Bidong Island on 4-6 Oct. to give the disabled the opportunity to enjoy scuba diving through activities tailored for them.

UMT Centralized Laboratory Unit was the organizer of the programme that was named Special Ability Diver Volunteers with Person with Disability Divers Programme. The programme also received support and contributions from Diveheart Malaysia, an organization that helps the disabled build confidence, independence and self-esteem through scuba diving activities.

The programme was open to people with disability of various types, including blindness, hearing difficulty, amputation, paraplegia, and quadriplegia.

During the three-day programme, the participants took part in several diving activities at selected dive sites around Bidong Island especially near the Marine Research Station. On the first day, they participated in Shore Dive activities. On the second day, the group had the opportunity to experience Boat Dive activities with assistance from DiveHeart Team.

The scuba diving programme aimed to provide the opportunity for people with disability including UMT students to join scuba diving activities and to encourage the Don't Panic mentally in an effort to help build their self-confidence and develop their physical endurance.

The group were first trained in scuba diving by Diveheart Adaptive Buddy Team from UMT and Diveheart volunteers before they were allowed to perform the activities at the actual sites. The training was divided into different levels, starting with the practice at the pool on Bidong Island and progressing further until they were qualified to receive Open Water Scuba (Person with Disability Scuba Diver) license.

One of the participants, second-year student Mohammad Zulhilmi Mohd Raduwan, said that his life had changed after taking part in the event. Born with nerve defects, Zulhilmi has never considered his disability as an obstacle to doing outdoor activities.

He said he enjoys outdoor activities and loves to challenge himself. "Although I'm wheel-chair bound, I can do activities that are physically challenging," he said.

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# About UMTSohor eNewsletter

UMTSohor eNewsletter is a monthly online newsletter, published as one of the platforms to let the public know more about Universiti Malaysia Terengganu. In each issue, we highlight some of the significant and memorable events happening recently at UMT.

UMTSohor is a term coined by the top management as a branding strategy. Since UMT is located in Terengganu, befittingly a local word "sohor" is added to the university's acronym. "Sohor" means

renowned in English. So UMTSohor in essence means UMT is renowned, famous. And if UMT is not already is, it is certainly working towards achieving that stature.

We hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter, and subsequently marked the calendar for the release dates of future issues, so you can be constantly updated.

