



# 2020

— HAPPY NEW YEAR —  
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA TERENGGANU







# UMT RISES 48 PLACES IN LATEST QS ASIAN UNIVERSITY RANKING

In the recently published QS ASIAN University Rankings 2020 (QS2020), UMT occupies the 243th spot, improving from last year by rising 48 places.

QS ASIAN University Rankings is part of Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings, the most popular university ranking system in the world. First introduced in 2004, the rankings is now globally recognized. In 2009, QS introduced QS ASIAN University Rankings, which focuses on Asian universities.

UMT has participated in the rankings since 2012. To date, this has been the best performance for the university.

Participating universities are rated based on the following 11 metrics: Academic Reputation, Employer Reputation, Faculty Student WRatio, Staff with PhD, Citations per Paper, Papers per Faculty, International Research Network, International Faculty, International Students, Inbound Exchange Students, and Outbound Exchange Students.

UMT was able to meet most of the requirements through the successful implementations of its strategic programmes and activities. These included research and publications, global strategic partnerships, inbound/outbound exchange students, collaborations with universities and industries, and research at the international level.

The improvement in the QS ASIA University Rankings will serve as a motivation for UMT to put in greater efforts to achieve higher excellence. By 2021, UMT aims to be among the 150 Asia's best universities.

UMT has outlined several initiatives and strategic objectives in its Strategic Plan (PSUMT) for 2018-2022 that will enable UMT to increase its visibility at the international level. The increased visibility will pave the way for UMT to position itself in the same class as the globally renowned universities.

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## UMT AWARDED RM1 MILLION RESEARCH FUND

UMT and PETRONAS have agreed to work collaboratively on a project to develop an antifouling agent. To finance the project, PETRONAS has agreed to give UMT a research fund totaling more than RM1 million. The antifouling agent is intended as a solution to the biofouling problem PETRONAS has been facing at its oil platforms.

Biofoulers have been a major problem at every oil platform. These are marine microorganisms that accumulate on the platforms' structures and the pipelines underwater. Biofoulers cause a reduction in oil production

because they occupy the space in the pipelines. They lessen the diameter of the pipelines and create high fluid flow that interferes with the system's operations.

Because of biofoulers, oil drilling companies must incur high cost for maintenance, and even higher cost for pipeline replacement.

According to the project leader, antifouling researcher Associate Professor Dr. Noraznawati Ismail, the formation of biofoulers begins with the presence of bacteria (first layer). This is followed by the accumulation of microorganism Protista and macroorganism such as clams, barnacles, and mussels (second layer). Both organisms engage in a symbiotic relationship to continue their existence in extreme conditions.

The project is scheduled to be completed in 12 months. Dr Noraznawati said that the project can be completed as scheduled, with the availability of proper facilities and contributions from qualified experts.

"With the existence of complete and up-to-date laboratory and contributions from team members who are experts in their fields, I am confident that the project's outcome will help solve the biofouling problem on pipelines at oil platforms and in turn will increase the oil production. I believe this will give a big impact to the oil and gas industry in Malaysia and globally," said Dr. Noraznawati.

The ongoing project was displayed at one of the R&D Showcase booths during the 17th UMT Convocation Ceremony recently.

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# UMT PROFESSOR DELIVERS KEYNOTE SPEECH AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

UMT researcher Professor Dr. Mohd Effendy bin Abd. Wahid was invited to deliver a keynote speech at the Second Malikussaleh International Conference on Multidisciplinary Studies (2nd MICoMS 2019) on 26-27 November.

Professor Dr. Mohd Effendy is globally recognized for his research in immunopathology, vaccinology, and immunohistochemistry.

In his keynote speech entitled "Translational Research for Seahorse Conservation@Community Project", Professor Dr. Mohd Effendy talked about a research programme that was designed to transfer the knowledge of seahorses to 100 community members with the assistance of 20 trained graduate entrepreneurs. The objectives of the programme were to improve their economic status, increase their awareness and sensitivity towards the well-being of seahorse species, multiply the number of seahorses, and assist in the conservation of seahorses in compliance with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG14) agenda.

The conference was held at the Academic Centre of Cunda, Lhokseumawe, Aceh, Indonesia and was organized by the Institute of Research and Community Service, Universitas Malikussaleh. This year's theme was

Agroscience, Local Knowledge, and Developmentalism: A Model for Interdisciplinary Approach.

Professor Dr. Mohd Effendy has collaborated with researchers from universities around the world, including University of South Brittany (France), Soka University (Japan), Heriot-Watt University (UK), Cambridge University (London), Hasanuddin Universitas (Indonesia), Quebec University (Rimouski), (Canada), and Dalhousie University (Canada).

He has written several books, produced a number of chapters in books, and published in international indexed journals. He has also won several research awards at both the national and international levels.

Professor Dr. Mohd Effendy obtained a PhD in Veterinary Immunopathology from Universiti Putra Malaysia. He also completed a Postdoctoral study in DNA Microarray for Animal Diseases at Chonnam National University, South Korea.

He is currently the Dean of the Faculty of Fisheries and Food Science.

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## UMT SIGNS MOU WITH INDONESIAN UNIVERSITY

UMT and Bogor Institute of Agriculture (IPB), Indonesia, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to jointly collaborate in the fields of fisheries and agriculture last month.

IPB is well-known for its research in agriculture, marine science, and fisheries, notably fisheries technology and fisheries management.

UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr Nor Aieni Mokhtar said that the main aim of the MOU signing is to strengthen academic and research collaborations in various fields between UMT and IPB to improve the reputability of both institutions. The successful collaboration in turn will help improve the competitive advantages of Malaysia and Indonesia in the fields of fisheries and agriculture.

The MOU will enable UMT and IPB to share their expertise and resources and discuss current issues affecting both institutions. Among the joint activities specified in the MOU are attachment programmes for lecturers

and support staff, research projects, publications, seminars, exchange programmes for lecturers and staff, and development programmes that benefit the local communities.

She added that UMT and IPB staff and students will be given the opportunities to be actively involved in the joint programmes and activities. She is confident that the joint research between the two institutions will be successfully carried out.

Professor Nor Aieni signed the MOU for UMT, while Professor Dr Arif Satria signed for IPB in his capacity as the Rector.

UMT and IPB have had a close relationship and have organized joint academic and staff development activities previously.

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# UMT HOLDS SPECIAL EVENT TO THANK ITS INDUSTRY PARTNERS

UMT held a special event on 24 November 2019 to thank its industry partners for their contributions and support.

A total of 300 guests came, comprising industry partners, community partners, government agencies, NGOs, local leaders, and academicians from public and private learning institutions.

At the event, UMT announced the appointment of 21 prominent figures in the country as Industry Scholars to help enhance UMT's image at the national and global level.

UMT also welcomed three individuals who were appointed by the Ministry of Education and attached to UMT under the AlxCHANGE: CEO@ Faculty Programme. They were Admiral General (Rtd) Dato' Ir. Hj. Ahmad Murad Omar from OMAHAMS CORP Sdn. Bhd, Mr Mohamad Idham

Nawawi from CELCOM Axiata Berhad, and Mr Wan Nadhri Wan Fauzi from Blue Archipelago Berhad. AlxCHANGE: CEO@Faculty Programme is one of the initiatives under AlxCHANGE involving participation from renowned figures from private and multinational companies. They come to the universities and share their expertise and experiences with the staff, local communities and students.

An exchange of five MOAs between UMT and relevant agencies under the Knowledge and Technology Assimilation Grants Scheme (KTAG) also took place. Programmes implemented under KTAG aim to provide solutions to issues among the community and industry through knowledge transfer. In addition to promoting sustainable development, the programmes have helped improve the quality of life and the socioeconomic status of many people in the society.

UMT's active involvement in university-industry partnerships has enabled it to obtain various funds to carry out projects and programmes. For example, UMT in its role as the Industry Centre of Excellence (iCOE) for Maritime Cluster has received a fund of RM600,000 for graduate employability programme. It also has received a fund of RM400,000 from the Ministry of Education under the INDUSTRY4WRD programme for the setup of 4.0 Industrial Revolution (IR4.0) Competence Centre for Maritime Industry. Also, through its strategic collaboration with the Technology Depository Agency Berhad (TDA) under the Ministry of Finance, UMT has obtained a fund of RM300,00 for the Industry Collaboration Programme with Integrated Marine Works.

UMT Vice Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr Nor Aieni Mokhtar officiated the event.

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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.

