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Cover rationale: 'Fly with USM' as seen from a bird's eye view of the USM campus, symbolising the 'global' intention and aspiration to welcome more people to 'spread their wings' and explore academic opportunities available at USM.

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Assalamualaikum w.b.t and Salam Sejahtera,

Wishing everyone to be in good health and blessed with lots of happiness.

It has been quite a busy three months at USM for the *Bahagian Hal Ehwal Pembangunan Pelajar & Alumni* (BHEPA), beginning with the new student intake for the 2022-2023 Academic Session in early October 2022. The *Minggu Siswa Lestari* was successfully carried out, and getting great support from student volunteers, to the welcoming of new students and assisting them in adapting positively to campus life and to become part of the bigger USM family.

USM continues to regard students' needs and wellbeing as a top priority. In October and November 2022, BHEPA assisted USM students to obtain their *Peranti Siswa dan Kad Prihatin Siswa*, a new student ID cum Debit Card with the support of RHB bank. The Hebat Development Center (HDC), BHEPA held the *Karnival Keusahawanan dan Kerjaya Negeri Pulau Pinang*, an entrepreneurial and career fair programme which allows graduating and existing USM students to find job and internship opportunities, which was held on 25–27 November 2022. This was followed by CONVEX '22 under the Talent Development Center (TDC), BHEPA which empowers student volunteers to run the convocation expo during the USM 60th Convocation, held from 3–14 December 2022. These two projects marked significant achievements of the university in continuing to give exposure, guidance, empowerment and provide students with a platform to gain meaningful experiences in organising impactful projects. In addition, many student societies have also organized impactful programmes, thus bringing the university a livelier and more exciting environment.

USM will continue to provide the best learning experience for its students. We believe that with adequate exposure, nurturing and guidance, students will be able to contribute back to the university and society. The university in fact, becomes a training ground for all students to place USM at the forefront and hopefully in the future, will have wonderful and contributing alumni of the university too. Hence, we do hope that constant support and contribution of our Alumni in any possible way is highly appreciative. Your support will go a long way.

Thank you again to all USM alumni and do continue to support USM. I wish everyone a joyful holiday and a prosperous New Year 2023.

Professor Dr. Azlinda Azman (B.Soc.Sc 1992)

*Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Development Affairs and Alumni
Universiti Sains Malaysia*

From DVC to Alumni



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MOU Inked to Boost UNIVERSITY-INDUSTRY COOPERATION

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) today has entered into a partnership with Hotayi Electronic (M) Sdn. Bhd. through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to further boost the university-industry cooperation on both sides.

The aim of the MoU was to establish a collaboration and explore opportunities to develop, support and enrich the research, educational and training programmes in areas that will be beneficial to both parties.

Several schools were involved in the establishment of this MoU, namely the USM School of Computer Sciences; School of Mathematical Sciences; School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering; and School of Materials and Mineral Resources Engineering.

Among the scope and fields of linkages and cooperation are:

- Research/industrial attachment for staff
- Student internship
- Graduate recruitments
- Summer camps/short camps at Hotayi for students
- Final year/industrial training projects
- Training/workshop under the Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF), and so forth.

“The aim of the MoU was to establish a collaboration and explore opportunities to develop, support and enrich the research, educational and training programmes in areas that will be beneficial to both parties.”

“Hotayi Electronic (M) Sdn. Bhd. which operates from its business premise at Batu Kawan Industrial Park, is a leading global Electronics Manufacturing Services (EMS) company that provides a wide range of high value-added manufacturing solutions and services since 1992.”

Signing on behalf of USM was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Professor Dato’ Ir. Dr. Abdul Rahman Mohamed, representing the USM Vice-Chancellor and on behalf of Hotayi is its Managing Director, Dato’ Goh Guek Eng.

Also present as witnesses were Dr. Shaizatulaqma Kamalul Ariffin (Director of Industry Network, USM Division of Industry & Community Network) and Ng Shair Peen (HR Senior Manager of Hotayi Electronic (M) Sdn. Bhd.)

Hotayi Electronic (M) Sdn. Bhd. which operates from its business premise at Batu Kawan Industrial Park, is a leading global Electronics Manufacturing Services (EMS) company that provides a wide range of high value-added manufacturing solutions and services since 1992.

Text: Nur Farrah Ezlin Mohd Suhaimi

Photo: Mohd Fairus Md Isa and Muhamad Ihsan Abu Bakar



USM SIGNS MOU WITH TWI

The World's Largest Organisation in Non-destructive Testing (NDT) and Welding

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) will be engaging with The Welding Institute (TWI), the world's largest Organisation in Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) and Welding through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that was signed by both parties.

Representing the Dean of the School of Aerospace Engineering, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ahmad Zulfaa Mohamed Kassim said that USM is striving towards the development of research and technology for the mutual benefit of both organisations.

"I am thankful that we have managed to work together in a brilliant manner as TWI is known as the world's foremost independent research and technology organisation, with the expertise in materials joining and engineering processes," said Ahmad Zulfaa, who is the School of Aerospace Engineering Deputy Dean (Academic).

"Thereby, through this MoU, both institutions will be embracing everything, from research and development (R&D), specification and prototyping, to commissioning, installation and training," he added.

USM too, according to him, will furnish TWI with research expertise from the academic staff and state of the art facilities to achieve the PhD Training Programme initiative under the research domain of Digitalisation and Data, Smart Manufacturing, Materials for Engineering Applications, Net-Zero Applications and Asset Integrity Management.

"Not only that, we are also committed to continuously support TWI in nurturing their employees for R&D, where the School of Aerospace Engineering at the USM Engineering campus will play a pivotal role in this effort," he said.

Ahmad Zulfaa is confident that this collaboration will allow USM to embark on and explore new frontiers of IR 4.0 technologies in non-destructive testing and welding, as well as in minimising the gap with the industry in ushering the students to cope with the rapid pace of growing digitalisation."

"Thereby, through this MoU, both institutions will be embracing everything, from research and development (R&D), specification and prototyping, to commissioning, installation and training!"

Representing TWI, its Director of Innovation and Skills, Professor Dr. Tat-Hean Gan in his remarks, said that this MoU will not only focus on training and R&D efforts, but it will also serve as a medium to explore new talents to be recruited by TWI after they have graduated.

"This collaboration will be a good opportunity for TWI to expand its facility in Malaysia and serve its community at the same time," he added.

Text: Siti Faizah Abd Halim

Photos: Muhammad Taufik Abdul Rahman

As an institution of higher learning, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) aspires to ensure that its future graduates acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to keep up with the industry's dynamic changes and challenges.

Another significant milestone was achieved today when USM via the School of Housing, Building and Planning (HBP) entered into a partnership with Glodon Software Sdn. Bhd. to collaborate in conducting research to find solutions to the existing barriers impeding the Industrial Revolution's digitalisation process especially in the construction industry.



USM, GLODON SOFTWARE SDN. BHD Joint Hands For Collaborative Research and Academic Advancement

The collaboration was sealed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony held in a local hotel here this morning, where USM was represented by its Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International), Professor Dato' Gs. Dr. Narimah Samat on behalf of the USM Vice-Chancellor, and Glodon was represented by its Country Manager, Joyce Chan.

Also present as witnesses were the Dean, School of HBP, Associate Professor Ts. Dr. Mohd Rodzi Ismail and Glodon Customer Success Director, Junaida Fatina.

The MoU signing was initiated as a result of the successful Quantity Surveying programme offered by the School of HBP with Glodon, and both parties are confident that this partnership will pave the way for many more future academic and research collaborations.

Established in 2015 in Malaysia, Glodon Software Sdn. Bhd. is a digital building platform service provider, providing solutions, products and services covering the entire life cycle of buildings in the construction IT market.

Text: Nur Farrah Ezlin Mohd Suhaimi

Photo: Mohd Fairus Md Isa



“Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) aspires to ensure that its future graduates acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to keep up with the industry's dynamic changes and challenges.”

“The main objective of this research collaboration is to examine the usability and challenges of electric vehicles for the country and USM is confident that this collaboration can lead to the university being a strategic partner in this initiative, as it also believes in driving sustainable solutions.”

USM BOON SIEW HONDA

**Move Ahead With
Research Collaborations**



Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) via the USM Security Department and with the initiative of the School of Management (SOM) recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Boon Siew Honda Sdn. Bhd., adding another significant milestone towards closer research collaboration.

The main objective of this research collaboration is to examine the usability and challenges of electric vehicles for the country and USM is confident that this collaboration can lead to the university being a strategic partner in this initiative, as it also believes in driving sustainable solutions.

Signing on behalf of USM was its Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Sustainability and Institutional Development), Professor Dr. Md Roslan Hashim and on behalf of Boon Siew Honda was the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mitsuharu Funase.

This research study is part of a research project led by researchers from the USM School of Management, Associate Professor Dr. Lilis Surienty and Dr. Sharon Cheang Peck Yeng, in collaboration with the Director of the Security Department, Mohammad Kasni Ismail for a period of 12 months.

Also present as witnesses were Mohammad Kasni and Boon Siew Honda Chief Sales and Marketing Officer, Voon Yin Kong.

Both institutions have been working closely for the past 3 years since 2020, promoting safer commuting for motorcycles through a data-driven community-based project with partner industries at the Batu Kawan Industrial Park in Penang.

Meanwhile, in the same occasion, the Benyl Pro Electric Motorcycle Operation Training was conducted for 30 members from the USM Security Department with instructors from Boon Siew Honda Sdn. Bhd.

This is a preparatory step for a research study collaboration that has been jointly signed between USM and Boon Siew Honda since June 2022.

Staff members from the USM Security Department are the first users of the Honda electric motorcycle model in Malaysia and this study aims to understand the suitability of using electric motorcycles in Malaysia.

Each of the 30 members of the Security Department also received a certificate from Boon Siew Honda for completing the Electric Motorcycle Training programme.

Text: Mazlan Hanafi Basharudin and Hafiz Meah Ghouse Meah • Photo: Mohd Fairus Md Isa

USM-JA MALAYSIA INKS MoA, Equip School Students with Entrepreneurial Mindset and Skills in YE Programme

In conjunction with the Young Enterprise (YE) Programme Penang Sales Fair, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) via the School of Management (SOM) today entered into an agreement with the Junior Achievement (JA) Malaysia and the Penang YE Programme Secretariat, in working together to bring 21st century learning and values to the YE students.

The collaboration was sealed through a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signing ceremony held during the YE Penang physical Annual Sales at the 1st Avenue Mall here, with the main purpose of developing young entrepreneurs among the secondary school students for the future.



Signing on behalf of USM was the USM Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Sustainability and Institutional Development), Professor Dr. Md Roslan Hashim representing the USM Vice-Chancellor and on behalf of JA was Board Member, Dato' Goh Chee Ken, and witnessed by SOM Dean, Professor Dr. Noor Hazlina Ahmad and JA Executive Director, Shanthi Kanthaswamy.

Also present as guests of honour were the Chief Minister of Penang, Chow Kon Yeow and other top management officials from Corporate Sponsors of the Penang YE Programme, namely Intel, Motorola, First Solar, Dell, Osram AMU, Flextronix, FedEx Express and Kiwanis Penang.

The 2022 Annual Sales Fair is the peak of the YE Programme that gives more than 450 students from 15 Penang secondary schools, between the age of 15 to 17 years old, the opportunity to learn on how to launch and run their own business in an accountable manner and also to promote their innovative products to the public.

“This collaboration will also be an opportunity to the school students to mingle around with the university students and to be able to experience university life. It is hoped the young students will be more involved with our big USM family in the future too.”

- Roslan



Kon Yeow in his opening speech said that he is truly glad with the presence of USM in supporting the YE programme and also the collaboration with JA Malaysia in developing the young entrepreneurs early in their secondary school years for the future.

“As part of its mission in Transforming Higher Education for a Sustainable Tomorrow, USM has never ceased to impress us with its passion and commitment to the advancement of youth education, particularly through various collaborations, including with the Penang State Government,” he said.



“It is inspiring to see the spirit of giving back to society and the community that is ingrained in the DNA of USM, which I hope will incite others to do the same, and I also hope that this will enable the YE programme to significantly grow and evolve, providing greater value to our Penang schools and students year after year,” he added.

Meanwhile, Md Roslan in his speech, said that this smart collaboration witnesses the cooperation between an academic institution as the knowledge provider and a non-governmental organisation (NGO) in furnishing our future talent with entrepreneurial skills, leadership, management, innovation, design thinking, finance and accounting knowledge with hands-on experiences.

“This collaboration will also be an opportunity to the school students to mingle around with the university students and to be able to experience university life. It is hoped the young students will be more involved with our big USM family in the future too,” said Md Roslan.

He further added that, with the signing of this MoA, USM can also raise the impact level of the programme to the community as well as the future generations.

“As part of its mission in Transforming Higher Education for a Sustainable Tomorrow, USM has never ceased to impress us with its passion and commitment to the advancement of youth education, particularly through various collaborations, including with the Penang State Government.”

- Chow Kon Yew

Chee Ken said that the MoA signing ceremony with USM is a significant milestone in bringing 21st century learning and exposure to all the young achievers, in addition to the instilling the values and sustainable goals that are critical in today’s business world.

“I am convinced that this collaboration is the bridge to a closer mentorship between university students with teenagers in schools, which will be the dynamic mix that will greatly benefit all, and we at JA Malaysia are truly grateful that USM is increasing and expanding the scope of this collaboration,” he said.

Text: Nur Farrah Ezlin Mohd Suhaimi

Photo: Mohd Fairus Md Isa

BHEPA @ A Glance

COLOUR RUN 2022

Profesor Dr. Azlinda Azman, Timbalan Naib Canselor Hal Ehwal Pembangunan Pelajar dan Alumni telah pun menyempurnakan COLOUR RUN 2022 bertemakan Recolour Your Life pada 12 November 2022 bertempat di Padang Kawad USM. Larian ini juga turut diserikan dengan acara flash mob oleh pasukan Convex sebelum perlepasan peserta yang akan berlari sejauh 5km di sekitar kampus. Lebih daripada 4000 orang daripada pelbagai bangsa dan peringkat umur telah menyertai program ini. Sekalung jutaan terima kasih atas jemputan serta semangat kesukanan yang ditonjolkan oleh semua pihak dan sekalung penghargaan buat pihak penganjur atas usaha yang terbaik dalam penganjuran program ini.



MAJLIS APRESIASI PELAJAR HEBAT 2022

Bertempat di The Bricks satu majlis penghargaan telah diadakan untuk meraikan penglibatan pelajar yang mewakili Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) dalam pelbagai pertandingan di peringkat antarabangsa dan kebangsaan antaranya Debat Diraja antara IPT, Festival of Colours of the World (FRESCO), Anugerah Ikon Menteri Besar Johor, Anugerah Ikon Siswa Johor Terbaik Kesukarelawan, Anugerah Persatuan Mahasiswa Johor Terbaik, Anugerah Program Kesejahteraan Komuniti Terbaik, Pertandingan Pantun Menuai Malinja Tepak Bestari Peringkat IPT dan Pertandingan Debat Kemahiran Siswa Negara. Profesor Dr. Azlinda Azman, Timbalan Naib Canselor Hal Ehwal Pembangunan Pelajar dan Alumni hadir menyantuni pelajar HEBAT serta menyampaikan sijil penghargaan kepada pelajar yang terlibat. Turut hadir dalam majlis tersebut ialah Encik Zulkifi Che Hussin, Pengarah Pusat Pembangunan Bakat, Encik Hazlan Abdul Hamid, Pengarah Pusat Pembangunan HEBAT dan pegawai-pegawai dari TDC & HDC.



PEMBIMBING PROGRAM SISWA LESTARI (PPSL)

Seramai 250 orang Pembimbing Program Siswa Lestari (PPSL) dari ketiga-tiga kampus telah menghadiri kursus PPSL yang dibahagikan pada dua fasa iaitu fasa 1 pada 27 September 2022 sehingga 29 September 2022 di kampus masing-masing. Manakala fasa 2 diadakan pada 30 September sehingga 4 Oktober 2022 di Chegar Galah Kuala Kangsar, Perak. Kursus PPSL ini diadakan bertujuan memberikan persediaan kepada para PPSL untuk menjadi fasilitator sepanjang minggu orientasi yang dikenali sebagai Program Siswa Lestari.

BATTLE OF THE BANDS X DRAMA BAND

Ekspo konvokesyen 2022 telah menganjurkan "Battle of The Band X Drama Band" pada 11 November 2022 bertempat di Dewan Budaya, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). Sebanyak 6 kumpulan menyertai pertandingan tersebut. Antara kumpulan yang terlibat adalah The Archive, The Wanders MY, Megalomaniac, Virtuoso, Xhibit A dan Men on Stage. Turut hadir bersama untuk memeriahkan lagi suasana pada malam tersebut ialah kumpulan Drama Band. Majlis turut dimeriahkan lagi dengan kehadiran Profesor Dr. Azlinda Azman, Timbalan Naib Canselor Hal Ehwal Pembangunan Pelajar dan Alumni.



MALAM VARIASISWA 2022: MEDAN MANIFESTASI BAKAT PELAJAR BAHARU USM

Malam Variasiswa 2022 yang diadakan pada 17 November 2022 antara pembuka tirai aktiviti pelajar baharu Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) yang mempertontonkan persembahan kebudayaan yang begitu menarik dari lapan Desasiswa di ketiga-tiga kampus di USM. Anjuran Pusat Pembangunan Bakat, Unit Kebudayaan dan Kesukarelawan BHEPA USM yang bertemakan 'Back to Campus' persembahan setiap Desasiswa nyata memukau hampir 2,000 penonton yang membanjiri Dewan Tuanku Syed Putra (DTSP), USM. Profesor Dr. Azlinda Azman, Timbalan Naib Canselor (Hal Ehwal Pembangunan Pelajar dan Alumni) USM, hadir untuk merasmikan Malam

Variasiswa 2022 yang turut dihadiri oleh penggawa-penggawa desasiswa, Encik Zulkifli Che Hussin, Pengarah TDC, Encik Hazlan Abdul Hamid, Pengarah HDC, Dr. Normala Abdul Wahid, Pengarah Pusat Sejahtera dan pegawai-pegawai BHEPA.

BHEPA BERSAMA PERTUBUHAN PELAJAR USM

Profesor Dr. Azlinda Azman, Timbalan Naib Canselor Hal Ehwal Pembangunan Pelajar dan Alumni meluangkan masa melawat tapak pameran pelajar di sepanjang perkarangan Foyer Dewan Kuliah G-R. Dalam lawatan tersebut, beberapa langkah cadangan penambahbaikan telah diberikan kepada persatuan pelajar yang terlibat untuk meningkatkan kualiti dan pembabitan pelajar. Turut hadir dalam lawatan tersebut ialah pegawai-pegawai dari Pusat Pembangunan HEBAT (HDC).



CONVEX 2022 DAN 3KPP

Majlis Tertinggi Sekretariat Ekspo Konvokesyen 2022 (ConvEx '22) dan Sekretariat Karnival Keusahawanan dan Kerjaya Pulau Pinang (3KPP) telah menghadiri Bengkel Pemantapan Jati Diri pada 26 hingga 29 Ogos 2022 di Pulau Langkawi, Kedah. Bengkel ini diadakan bertujuan membimbing para peserta sebagai persediaan menganjurkan Karnival Keusahawanan dan Kerjaya Pulau Pinang yang akan diadakan di kampus induk Universiti Sains Malaysia.

*Disediakan: Siti Hajar Bahar
Suntingan: Azlina Md Sadik*

EDARAN PERANTI SISWA (PS)

Peranti Siswa ini merupakan Inisiatif Keluarga Malaysia di bawah Belanjawan 2022 diterajui oleh Kementerian Komunikasi dan Multimedia Malaysia (K-KOMM) dengan kerjasama daripada Kementerian Kewangan Malaysia (MOF) dan Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi (KPT).

Inisiatif ini bertujuan untuk membantu proses pembelajaran mahasiswa B40 di Institut Pengajian Tinggi (IPT) supaya lebih lancar.

Peranti Siswa telah diedarkan kepada semua pelajar yang layak dan seramai 6543 orang pelajar telah terima peranti masing-masing.



EDARAN DAN PENGAKTIFAN KAD PRIHATIN SISWA (KPS)

Pelajar USM menyambut baik pengedaran dan pengaktifan Kad Prihatin Siswa iaitu Kad Matrik pelajar yang telah dinaiktaraf dengan gabungan bersama Kad Visa Islamic RHB Bank. Pengenalan kepada KPS ini memberikan kebaikan kepada pelajar, terutamanya dari aspek transaksi tanpa tunai. Proses pengambilan dan pengaktifan KPS diteruskan dari semasa ke semasa sehingga selesai.

Sumber: Sheilawanis Abdul Karim dan Facebook BHEPA





Yadda Nazo USM!

My interest in this field was inspired during my undergraduate studies in geology. After graduation, I discovered that I started to develop interest in geophysical research. So I decided to apply for the master's degree programme because I wanted to go the extra mile and further my studies in geoscience. I actually started pursuing my master's degree in USM during the pandemic.

Initially, I viewed USM as the best institution for me to gain the appropriate knowledge and skills. I also knew that I would be able to learn a new language and culture besides creating new experiences with new friends.

My decision was motivated by various factors. First and foremost is the curriculum. As someone who was wishing to study geophysics with an emphasis on hands-on practice, I discovered that the ideal site for my programme would have to be USM, which is also one of the top universities in the country. The second point to mention is the campus. I found the vegetation, the library, the sports centres and the stadium to be conducive for learning. Campus activities such as sports tournaments, festivals and seminars enhance and motivate students to live the campus life. Finally, there were good testimonies from the alumni, notably of my nation about the former students' success stories.



As university alumni, I have become an integral part of the university, which gives me a sense of belonging. It allows me to maintain an ongoing relationship with the university community. As an alumni, I believe it is my responsibility to assist and mentor students on their educational journey.

“When you surround yourself with positive people, you'll be a positive person yourself.”

Currently, I'm engaged in programming language learning as it will be important for my doctorate degree research. After all, I want to specialize in geophysics using a learning machine. All this comes down to my father's encouragement to continue my studies. Surely I'm ever grateful for that. I would not be where and who I am today without his financial and emotional assistance. My advice is that you should have a clear mind and commit totally to the training. Never isolate yourself from your peers as collaboration, discussion and sharing of ideas with other students are the essentials for learning and growth.

When you surround yourself with positive people, you'll be a positive person yourself.

I have discovered the value of friendship and connections. Through social media and phone calls, I stay in touch with friends and family. I also take care of myself by relaxing, watching movies, playing video games, reading books, and spending time outdoors. I also took Google Digital Skills classes and received a certificate at the end. I am truly blessed to have chosen USM as my destination.

Bello AbdulSalam
Master of Science 2022
Nigeria

How did I start my studies in USM? As I was browsing some of the courses in USM, the most relevant programme that I saw being offered by USM was Educational Technology (Ed. Tech). I decided to choose this because of USM's reputable and well-established status as well as the fact that it's among the oldest universities in Malaysia. With its APEX status, USM is one of the well-recognized and well-structured universities in the world.

I moved to Canada with my family and there I joined Yorkville University as Project Director for Educational Technology. It was a good opportunity to share some of the research findings I had gained with the deans and programme leads. This was quite evident during the COVID pandemic where many of our assessment plans and programme learning outcomes were shifted to a remote course delivery. I was asked to help different teams and committees in aligning our programme plans and curricular assessments to fit this delivery mode while maintaining the expected learning standards.

I would like to thank my lecturer, Associate Professor Dr. Azidah Abu Ziden who has guided and supported me throughout my studies. I would also want to convey my thanks to the Dean, lecturers and all the staff of School of Educational Studies for their relentless motivation and guidance which I much needed in order to complete my studies successfully. Indeed, I really felt safe and at home while I was with all of these wonderful people of PPIP.



"If you don't find what you like, like what you find!"

Greetings from Canada

My strong passion for teaching, learning and education has made me recognize the great responsibility we all have towards the future generations as well as the global communities affected by the world's among others, political, economic, health and educational challenges. These challenges threaten the development of many nations and impact millions of people as with the situation in Ukraine now. Therefore, as educators, we have to do our best to make the world more educated towards sustainability, development and peace.

Success is a matter of believing in yourself, trusting your talents, showing pride in your culture and values, and enjoying every moment in something positive even if you don't like it in the first place!

"If you don't find what you like, like what you find!"

With the help of many professors and educators, I was able to publish and co-edit a handbook for teaching in the post covid time. In the 73 chapters collected from around the world, we reported experiences, findings and recommendations for teaching in the future and addressed many of the current reported challenges and education dilemmas. This <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-74088-7> website also offers a supplementary resources portal via: <https://2020era.ca/a/>.

I have also founded a new educational non-profit organization to support immigrants and the local community with educational programmes and other initiatives during and after the pandemic.

Ismail Abdel Wahab Ragab Fayed
PhD in Educational Technology, 2018
Canada



Tinta Dirgahayu Indonesia

My name is Yuhana. I graduated from School of Management in 2011, majoring in Human Resource and minoring in Psychology. After I graduated from a high school in Indonesia, I decided to study abroad. I chose to study at USM because of the similar cultural similarities that both Malaysia and Indonesia share.

I love USM because of its green campus concept, resourceful lecturers, the similar and familiar food as well as languages and a lot of friends from different backgrounds and countries. At School of Management, the lecturers and administrative staffs were very helpful and always guided and supported me throughout my studies.

As for now, I am a full-time housewife. My husband is also a USM graduate and it was the USM campus where our love sparked. He supported and guided me until I graduated. Upon graduation, I worked at Binus University, Indonesia for 8 years. The fact that I obtained my degree abroad made it easy for me to secure a job.

Here I would like to thank my family and friends for their unstoppable support that led me to who I am today. I would also thank my lecturers, Dean and other staff of School of Management for all the advice and support during my studies there.

I am extremely happy to be part of USM alumni! *Saya Sayang USM.*

Yuhana Endys Saputeri
Bachelor of Management 2011
Indonesia



MAJLIS PENGHARGAAN

Mantan Pengarah Pusat Alumni Universiti Awam

Majlis Alumni Universiti Awam Malaysia (MALumni) telah menganjurkan majlis makan malam bersempena Mesyuarat MALumni yang berlangsung di Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). Mesyuarat ini dipengerusi oleh Y. Brs Profesor Madya Dr. Raman Noordin merangkap Pengerusi MALumni.

Objektif majlis makan malam ini sebagai tanda penghargaan dan terima kasih kepada semua mantan Pengarah Pusat Alumni yang telah banyak membantu memperkasakan Institusi Alumni di negara ini.

Teks: Syahnaz Riza Sukor
Suntingan: Azlina Md Sadik



THE LIFE PROGRAMME

Advocating Creative and Experiential Learning Among Students

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan officiated the opening ceremony of The LIFE programme, held at Kompleks Cahaya Siswa (KOMCA), USM Main Campus.

The LIFE programme is a brainchild of USM that introduces various aspects of life through experiential learning.

It aspires to pave the way for students to be one step ahead from everyone else and also to ensure that students will attain the necessary perspectives and acquire the essential skill sets needed to thrive in the world.

In his opening speech, Faisal Rafiq said that most of USM students will be graduating and will become leaders in their own respective field, thus they need to have the four traits at their disposal, namely credibility, character, compassion and communication.

"It is my hope and wish that each student participating in this experiential learning offered by this programme will engage with peers to develop their thinking, reasoning, communication and presentation skills," he said.

"In going through the LIFE programme, you will not only make new friends, but you will also learn more about yourself, the society and the world around you, all through an education system done differently."

- Kumitha

Meanwhile, USM Senior Lecturer, Advanced Medical and Dental Institute (IPPT) who is also the Head of The LIFE programme, Dr. Kumitha Theva Das said that it is hoped that the LIFE programme would help students to create experiences through the activities that they have embarked on.

“In going through the LIFE programme, you will not only make new friends, but you will also learn more about yourself, the society and the world around you, all through an education system done differently,” said Kumitha.

In the LIFE programme, activities have been planned to bring students the experiences that could lead to a more productive life that they will embark upon in the future.

“Most of USM students will be graduating and will become leaders in their own respective field, thus they need to have the four traits at their disposal, namely credibility, character, compassion and communication.”

- Faisal Rafiq

Several modules have been created to achieve the purpose. They are in the form of:

- **Cents of Life (Digital Financial Literacy)** – teaching students how to prepare financially for difficult times and how to manage money well.
- **Discovering Living Labs (Climate Change Resilience)** – teaching students to appreciate and preserve nature.
- **Innovative Thinking: Skill of the Future (Computational and Design Thinking)** – teaching students on how to solve problems critically and creatively.
- **YOUnique: From Genes to Gen (Genomics and Gerontology)** – learning on how we can age gracefully.
- **Grit in You (Grit and Psychology)** – learning that nothing is impossible.
- **Living Sustainably (Sustainable Development Goals)** – learning that they can always turn waste into wealth.

“It aspires to pave the way for students to be one step ahead from everyone else and also to ensure that students will attain the necessary perspectives and acquire the essential skill sets needed to thrive in the world.”

In Search of HEBAT Student (Hebat Development Centre) – challenging the creativity, innovation, critical thinking, global thinking and competitive spirit through venturing into entrepreneurship.

The programme will equip students with the experiences needed to appreciate themselves, the society and the world as the courses will embody sustainable health, financial stability and a sustainable environment, so that no matter where they may end up in the world, they will be guaranteed a wonderful future and a better LIFE!

Also present at the programme were USM Deputy Vice-Chancellor Student Development Affairs and Alumni, Professor Dr. Azlinda Azman; The LIFE programme advisors; USM Deans and Deputy Deans of respective schools; members of The LIFE programme teams and principal officers of USM.

Text: Nur Farrah Ezlin Mohd Suhaimi



SMART Community USM mengambil inisiatif memasarkan madu kelulut yang rendah glisemik indeks (GI) dan tinggi kandungan gula 'trehalulosa' dari Sarawak ke Sydney, Australia. (Sumber: <https://www.utusan.com.my>)

KERJASAMA UNIVERSITI - AGENSI Bantu Bangun Ekonomi Komuniti

Kerjasama akrab universiti dengan pelbagai agensi pelaksana mampu untuk membangunkan ekonomi komuniti miskin di negara ini, malah berupaya membawa produk ke pasaran dunia.

Ini terbukti apabila produk keluaran tempatan kini mendapat tempat di pasaran dunia melalui kerjasama strategik Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) dengan pelbagai pihak. Yang terbaru, hasil kerjasama strategik antara USM dengan rakan industri yang berpangkalan di Amerika Syarikat melalui program Pemasaran Lestari untuk Komuniti atau Sustainable Marketing for Community telah berjaya membawa produk Gula Apong yang berwajah baharu menembusi pasaran Amerika Syarikat.

Ujian makmal yang dilakukan mendapati Gula Apong mengandungi nilai glycemic index rendah, kaya dengan vitamin B, potassium, calcium, zinc, iron, copper & magnesium berjaya mendapat permintaan tinggi daripada pembeli di Amerika Syarikat.

Manakala bukti bahawa produk tersebut mendapat permintaan yang tinggi. Produk tersebut ditempatkan pada carian teratas bagi memudahkan pelanggan menemuinya.

Produk yang mempunyai label "Amazon's Choice" diakui sebagai berkualiti tinggi, harga berpatutan dan tersedia untuk dihantar serta-merta.

Kejayaan ini dicapai melalui kerjasama TERAJU, USM dengan Enescorp yang berpangkalan di Amerika Syarikat yang berjaya membawa produk komuniti Sarawak ke peringkat global terbukti dengan permintaan yang sangat tinggi di Amazon.



USM membantu penubuhan pusat sehenti - *One stop centre* di Sarawak iaitu SPL Sdn Bhd & rakan pemasar di US Enescorp Sdn Bhd, Husam Waksa Sdn Bhd untuk pemasaran di Arab Saudi dan Asian Bridge International untuk pasaran Jepun.

Kejayaan ini adalah sebahagian dari usaha libat sama komuniti USM yang berusaha menghakupaya kumpulan masyarakat terbawah untuk memajukan diri dan turut serta dalam arus pembangunan negara. Mereka dibantu secara terancang oleh ahli-ahli akademik dalam pelbagai bidang untuk berjaya.

Usaha ini juga menyokong agenda Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi dalam melaksanakan program Universiti untuk Komuniti (*University for the Community-U4S*) sebagai inisiatif pemindahan ilmu kepada komuniti.

Usaha ini berjaya membangunkan platform yang bersesuaian untuk menggunakan kepakaran pelbagai disiplin ilmu yang ada di universiti bagi membantu masyarakat.

Kerjasama rapat USM dengan Unit Peneraju Bumiputera (TERAJU) misalnya dalam melaksanakan pemasaran lestari untuk komuniti melalui program Komuniti Pintar atau "*Smart Community*" berjaya memperkasakan kesejahteraan holistik usahawan kumpulan B40. Peruntukan RM7 juta disalurkan melalui Dana Pembangunan Usahawan Bumiputera TERAJU untuk melaksanakan program selama lima tahun ini.

Program ini berfokus kepada usaha mewujudkan rantaian ekosistem pemasaran dan pengedaran produk tempatan yang dihasilkan oleh kumpulan B40 ke pasaran dunia.

Setakat ini 233 usahawan B40 Sarawak dibantu untuk pengeluaran produk berkualiti bersesuaian dengan keperluan komuniti global untuk masuk ke pasaran.



“Usaha ini berjaya membangunkan platform yang bersesuaian untuk menggunakan kepakaran pelbagai disiplin ilmu yang ada di universiti bagi membantu masyarakat.”

Ini adalah antara contoh pentingnya kerjasama erat antara universiti dengan agensi-agensinya kerajaan untuk pembangunan masyarakat. Pendekatan pelbagai disiplin ilmu ini yang berfokus kepada hasil penyelidikan yang inovatif dan berimpak dapat membantu masyarakat yang berhadapan dengan cabaran pembangunan ekonomi.

USM juga turut membantu dalam meningkatkan kualiti pencapaian pelajar B40 melalui program empowerNCER-Akademik USM untuk membantu meningkatkan pencapaian akademik keluarga miskin B40. Program ini dibiayai Pihak Berkuasa Pelaksanaan Koridor Utara (NCIA) melalui Usains Holdings Sdn. Bhd.



Program kelas bimbingan, *coaching* oleh pelajar USM dan bantuan peralatan termasuk tablet dilaksanakan di 25 buah sekolah di 5 Daerah di Pulau Pinang melibatkan pelbagai kaum. Program ini menekankan kepada komponen kecemerlangan akademik, kecekapan kemahiran dan perkembangan peribadi pelajar.

Sejumlah 993 pelajar mencapai lulus keseluruhan SPM (99.3%) dengan 66 orang mendapat 5A ke atas.

Semua ini adalah contoh bagaimana ilmu pengetahuan dan kepakaran yang ada di universiti dapat dimanfaatkan untuk pembangunan komuniti terbanyak. Banyak lagi usaha boleh dibuat untuk tujuan ini jika kerjasama rapat dapat dijalinan dengan agensi-agensinya amanah yang bertanggungjawab membangunkan masyarakat.

Usaha ini melibatkan menyediakan program yang terancang untuk membantu masyarakat dengan kemahiran, ilmu pengetahuan, teknologi, kewangan dan sokongan pengurusan untuk membolehkan mereka mengambil bahagian dalam aktiviti ekonomi melalui penambahbaikan aktiviti menambah nilai rantaian yang dapat mewujudkan peluang pekerjaan dan meningkatkan taraf hidup kumpulan ini.

Universiti mempunyai kepakaran yang boleh digunakan untuk memindahkan ilmu dan teknologi ke dalam komuniti. Namun universiti tidak boleh bergerak sendiri atau silo tanpa bekerjasama dengan pihak lain termasuk industri.

Oleh itu konsep "*quadruple helix*" perlu terus diperkasakan dalam menjayakan inovasi sosial yang melibatkan universiti, agensi kerajaan, komuniti dan sektor swasta melalui pendekatan pelbagai disiplin untuk mewujudkan program keusahawanan yang lestari bagi faedah meningkatkan taraf ekonomi masyarakat terutamanya B40 di seluruh negara.

Teks: Mohamad Abdullah

USM WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS for The 2022/2023 Academic Session

12th October 2022 saw Universiti Sains Malaysia welcoming its new 'family' members for the 2022/2023 academic session. 4,283 students have registered at the Main and branch campuses for this latest intake.

Students who have been accepted into the university have received offers through UPU and other channels, namely the alternative channel, Disadvantaged and Underprivileged Channel, People with Disabilities (OKU), Athletes Channel and Senior Citizens Channel. In addition, 305 candidates from 25 countries have also accepted offers to pursue their higher education at USM.



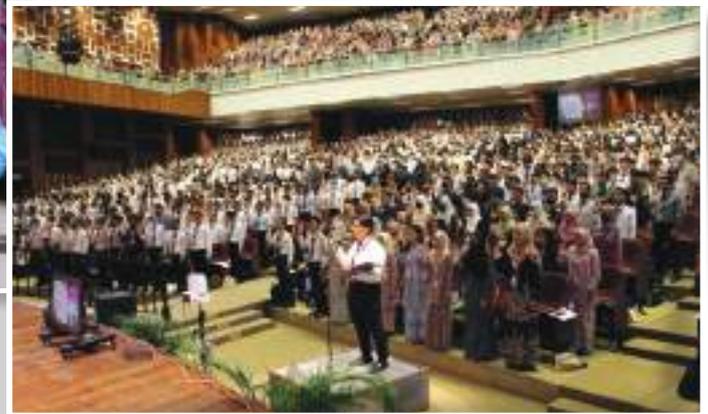
MAIN
Campus



ENGINEERING
Campus



HEALTH
Campus



UPACARA KONVOKEN

SEPTEMBER DECEMBER

CONVO @A GLANCE





D.Y.M.M. Tuanku Canselor dan D.Y.M.M. Tuanku Raja Perempuan Perlis berangkat ke Upacara Konvokesyen ke-60 dan berkenan menganugerahkan gelaran Profesor Emeritus serta Ijazah Tinggi kepada 478 graduan Sidang Pertama.

Antara yang diraikan ialah Pakar Perubatan dalaman dan endokrin, Profesor Emeritus Dato' Dr. Wan Mohamad Wan Bebakar dan Profesor Emeritus Dato' Sri Dr. Daing Mohd Nasir Daing Ibrahim, Akauntan Bertauliah dan Presiden Pertama Akademi Profesor Malaysia (APM).

Selain itu, penerima pingat Emas USM serta graduan sulung bagi program Sarjana Sains Kejuruteraan Keselamatan Kebakaran turut diraikan dalam upacara kali ini.

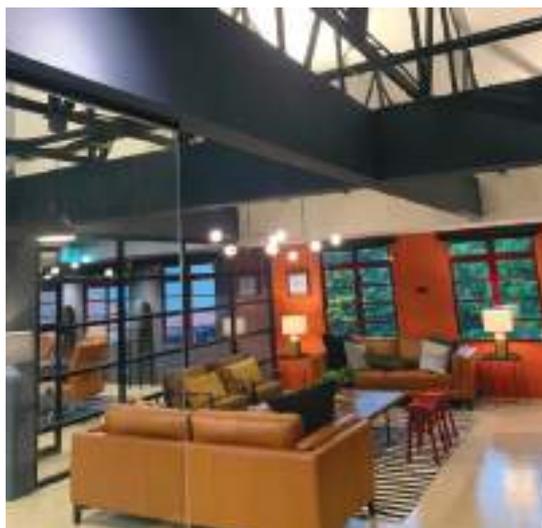
Turut mencuri tumpuan ialah pasangan suami isteri, tiga pasangan kembar seiras dan penerima Ijazah Sarjana Sastera pada usia 71 tahun. Tahniah kepada semua graduan!

*Kompilasi: Nurul Huda Abdullah
Teks: Nor Rafizah Haji Md Zain
Foto: Mohd Fairus Md Isa*



The Nest@USM

The Nest@USM telah dirasmikan oleh Naib Canselor Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) menjadi salah satu mercu tanda terkini di Universiti Sains Malaysia untuk menyokong Agenda HEBAT dan Rangka Tindakan (*Blueprint*) Inovasi Pelajar USM. Pembinaannya menggunakan Model *Quadruple Helix* melalui pengiktirafan dan libatsama antara empat elemen utama dalam Sistem Inovasi iaitu Sains & Teknologi, Dasar, Industri dan Komuniti.



Upsilon Holdings Sdn. Bhd. sebuah syarikat pembinaan berpangkalan di Kuala Lumpur telah menyempurnakan model ini melalui kerjasama Bahagian Jaringan Industri & Masyarakat, Bahagian Kelestarian & Pembangunan Institusi dan Pusat Pembangunan HEBAT, Bahagian Hal Ehwal Pembangunan Pelajar & Alumni dengan menjadi syarikat pertama yang menyalurkan dana sebanyak RM20 ribu bagi pembinaan The Nest@USM.

The Nest@USM dibina sebagai ruang kerja terbuka (*open working-space*) bertujuan merealisasikan pembangunan idea pelajar USM yang memberikan tumpuan pada teknologi dan inovasi - bermula daripada penghasilan prototaip hinggalah penghasilan produk baharu yang mampu menembusi pasaran tempatan dan antarabangsa. Produk yang dihasilkan juga disasarkan mampu menyelesaikan masalah serta memberikan impak positif kepada komuniti.

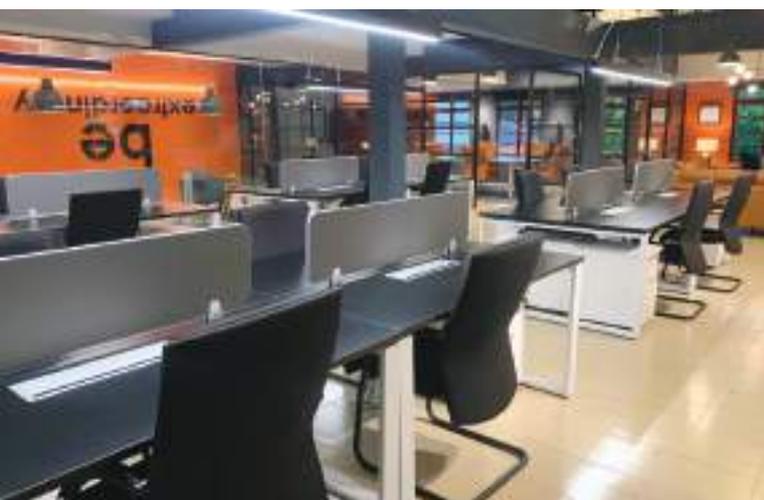
“Konsep bumbung terbuka yang memperlihatkan tetulang binaan membawa suasana unik ‘industrial look’ kepada pengguna dan pengunjung.”

Sebagai permulaan, The Nest@USM akan digunakan oleh pelajar yang terdiri daripada para pemenang *Transdisciplinary Grand Challenge* dan penerima-penerima geran melalui Program Pitch@USM. Kumpulan pelajar ini diberikan akses untuk memperkasakan fasiliti yang dilengkapi dengan prasarana berteknologi tinggi, serba moden dan sangat selesa. Pertemuan dengan rakan kongsi industri yang berpotensi untuk membantu memasarkan produk pelajar ini juga dapat dilakukan di fasiliti ini.



Terletak di Aras 2 Bangunan H21 Kompleks Cahaya Siswa Kampus Induk USM, The Nest@USM menyediakan empat (4) ruang iaitu kubikel terbuka (open cubical), bilik mesyuarat lutsinar (transparent meeting room), ruang rehat (lounge), ruang santai (play area) dan pantri yang dapat menempatkan lebih kurang 50 orang pada satu-satu masa. Kesemua ruang ini direka bentuk serta menerima hasil sentuhan sekumpulan pensyarah dan pelajar dari Pusat Pengajian Perumahan, Bangunan dan Perancangan atas penasihatan Jabatan Pembangunan & Pengurusan Aset, USM.

Konsep bumbung terbuka yang memperlihatkan tetulang binaan membawa suasana unik 'industrial look' kepada pengguna dan pengunjung. Lebih-lebih lagi apabila dipadankan dengan hiasan dalaman moden kontemporari dengan pilihan warna primer dan sekunder serta grafiti yang dapat merangsang minda, mencetus idea dan seterusnya mencungkil kreativiti.



“The Nest@USM dibina sebagai ruang kerja terbuka (*open working-space*) bertujuan merealisasikan pembangunan idea pelajar USM yang memberikan tumpuan pada teknologi dan inovasi - bermula daripada penghasilan prototaip hinggalah penghasilan produk baharu yang mampu menembusi pasaran tempatan dan antarabangsa.”



The Nest@USM dibuka dari pukul 8:00 pagi hingga pukul 12:00 tengah malam. Masa ini bersesuaian dengan permintaan pelajar bagi penggunaan selepas waktu akademik dan tidak mengganggu proses pengajaran dan pembelajaran mereka. Dalam masa yang terdekat, The Nest@USM dijadualkan beroperasi selama 24 jam sehari dengan adanya kelengkapan kad akses dan Sistem Sekuriti Pintar yang diawasi dan dipaut terus ke Jabatan Keselamatan, USM.

Ruang ini menjadikan The Nest@USM sebagai satu lagi penanda aras pembangunan ruang *start-up* atau syarikat pemula pelajar yang setaraf dengan pihak industri. Usaha ini selaras dengan Dasar Keusahawanan Negara 2030 serta sehaluan dengan Petunjuk Prestasi Utama Keusahawanan Pelajar dan Graduan, Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi Malaysia.

*Teks: Hazlan Abdul Hamid
Suntingan: Azlina Md Sadik*



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GOT NEWS?

- Are you moving?
- Started a new business?
- Doing a charity work?
- Received a promotion?

STAY CONNECTED WITH USM

We'd like to hear from you. Email your stories to Alumni Development Centre [dir_alumni@usm.my]. Include your photo, full name, course and graduation year.

STAY FOCUSED and Communicate Well!



Success for me is all about having work ethics. One of the things that I really focus on and embed in myself is integrity. I've always believed in operating with integrity and doing the right thing. I also believe in being professional in what we do which includes being punctual. I have been emphasizing this during meetings in the hope of promoting work discipline. It's crucial that work rules and regulations must be observed. You must leverage the idea of teamwork since it is very important for you to create success through the utilization of every team member's expertise. The team members' respective expertise can be leveraged by a leader who can influence them. So, certain skills and knowledge are needed here by such leader. That is the formula and today, this is actually the key element that I look at in terms of success. Apparently, something that I picked up at USM during my career development is the importance of effective communication. I think today, sending messages to the right target audience is the key as well as the competency skill that you need to have if you want to create a good habit.

"USM has been a great experience! Stay focused and communicate well. Trust me, effective communication is undeniably the key to everything!"

"Today, when you work, you realize that what you learned from your university days is only the tip of the iceberg. You will learn a lot of things and face all kinds of challenges in the real world like managing projects, making risky decisions and overcoming stress."

I think one of the things that my colleagues and boss highlighted is my ability to communicate to a large target audience. I used to be an operation director before and for that I have had to address and send the right messages to individuals in big avenues comprising like a few thousand managers with the aid of using the right kind of verbal and non-verbal communication. Those skills were indeed harnessed from USM. I understand that what we learned in USM is considered basic. However, things become different when we work in a real working environment. There are a lot of challenges at different levels that we must deal with. This includes handling our external and internal customers. In the McD business concept, we call them guests and it's very important for us to embrace this concept idea. I'm majoring in broadcasting so I really think the fundamental of business today is simply good communication!

McDonald's is not only a job employment company but it does offer students and young Malaysians exciting career opportunities. We call it career development. If they are considering to start a career at McD, we actually have various education programmes such as SLDN Programme, Vocational Programme and Management Apprentice Programme which is a programme that deals with internships and therefore, exposes them to a real working environment. This experience is very different from learning merely from books. This exposure can help develop practical skills for you to use out there. In Management Leadership for example, you will have the opportunity to build your career from a humble start as a crew to a leadership position level like a manager. If you are a management trainee, we actually have various trainings to prepare you for your next career advancement position opportunities such as managers and operation consultants and even heads of operation or directors of operation. So, the idea here is to work yourself out. Thus, I strongly encourage students especially those from USM to embark on a journey to be a successful staff. Remember, it's not employment but it's career development.



“Apparently, something that I picked up at USM during my career development is the importance of effective communication.”

“At McD’s, we work in a cross functional manner whereby members from different departments and expertise come together to work on one programme. We learn from different individuals through good communication, knowledge, approaches and etc.”

In McDonald's, we set our core values and they define who we are as well as how we run our business. We live by them every day and use them to make decisions. My job is to be a role model for my direct subordinates and customers. First, serve. We put our staff first. We serve them with the best of capability in terms of education, training and coaching. Second is inclusion. We open our doors to everyone and anyone. And third is integrity. Doing the right thing is important. Integrity is the key. Since McD's is a good community restaurant, we are also giving back to community and we have done a lot to frontliners, police, old folks, orphans and etc. Every McD's restaurant is targeting to do charity. The last but not least is our own McD's family. At McD's, we are better together making us a trusted brand in the society today. If we look at one of the best executions of SOPs by the top five companies during the pandemic, McD's ranks at the top spot. It is our obligation to make sure our restaurants are safe for all our customers. The food we serve requires a lot of preparation. So the core values that we focus on have elevated the trust toward our brand which in return, explains those core values.

Since McD's is a global brand, I have had the opportunity to work in other different markets. I actually had the opportunity to leave but I didn't go. *Saya sayang sangat Malaysia* but I also believe that it is good for everyone to expose themselves to different markets and cultures. I used to get involved in various programmes like Advance Leadership Development Programme where I worked with an international group coming from different parts of the world. We were working on a project in China and it was very challenging. But it also felt good to understand different leadership skills, cultures as well as the ability to transfer the knowledge and best practices that you learned there and applied them. I could have done it better but yes, we always learn from mistakes and I have made mistakes. I have had failures but all this makes me a better person.

It is very important for students to have a real-life experience. In USM, it might look easy but when trouble hits the road, it is going to be a different story. Today, when you work, you realize that what you learned from your university days is only the tip of the iceberg. You will learn a lot of things and face all kinds of challenges in the real world like managing projects, making risky decisions and overcoming stress. These are the things that we don't learn in university. However, don't worry. You will highly likely survive the obstacles since McD's provides real-life working experience via its programmes. The experience of working for McD's and having various leadership skills will definitely prepare you for any possibility. We have trained and shaped individuals to become job ready through our programmes. One piece of advice I can give is to know the importance of group assignments as well as stay focused during a programme. At McD's, we work in a cross functional manner whereby members from different departments and expertise come together to work on one programme. We learn from different individuals through good communication, knowledge, approaches and etc. We have the real-life job opportunities for career as well as confidence building. You just need to come and experience it yourself.

4 years of my campus life had been the best. First of all, I got to meet a lot of friends from different races and religions and we all became good friends. I still remember the feeling of togetherness while waiting for my scholarship to be endorsed. I still can recall all the experience sharing cum late-night studying sessions, the emotional ups and downs and various roommates and dormmates. I even remember Mr. Zulman, the first mass communication person I ever met where we later embark on every project together. He used to have a motorcycle, a Yamaha 125 and I used to go everywhere with him. We played hockey for USM together since he was also on the team. Secondly is the 6-month project-flame project called XPDC at Kek Lok Si Temple. It was a great experience to be working with the camera like editing a video. It was unforgettably interesting and for that, I am still keeping the movie with me today. Thirdly is my involvement in exciting activities such as hockey and being on the organizing committee for Temasya Olahraga USM. All this really helped me to develop my leadership and organizing skills. Another good thing about USM is how it gives its students full authority when it comes to making decisions in organizing an event. This helps to enhance our soft skills especially when dealing with concerned authorities. Of course, along the way it also helped me to boost up my confidence as well as ability to communicate. To the current students, please cherish your USM moments. Spending four years as a student is indeed too short as compared to the time you will need to spend in the real world after your campus life.

USM has been a great experience! Stay focused and communicate well. Trust me, effective communication is undeniably the key to everything!



“4 years of my campus life had been the best. First of all, I got to meet a lot of friends from different races and religions and we all became good friends. I still remember the feeling of togetherness while waiting for my scholarship to be endorsed. I still can recall all the experience sharing cum late-night studying sessions, the emotional ups and downs and various roommates and dormmates.”

*Text: Siti Faizah Abd Halim
Editing: Isyam Amran*

Life as a university student was challenging in 1971. There were only two universities – Universiti Malaya (UM) and University Pulau Pinang (as Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) was then known) – in Malaysia at that time and the competition to get a place in either university was intense.

It was a time when students faced the issues of polarisation, racism, discrimination and poverty because of the infamous May 13 racial riot that took place two years prior, something that the current generation of students do not have to experience. Hence, I built my understanding that a university offers the opportunity for students to learn about the country and its societies therein.

Having understood the country and its people, we can avert another May 13 incident. That sense of purpose instilled in me remains with me until today. It is more of seeking answers rather than just learning.

During that time, many of the Malays needed assistance and so the first thing we did as USM students was to organise tuition classes for the rural students. Nobody requested us to do it and we didn't receive any rewards for the effort. We just did it for the betterment of society.

What we did was not about race but about poverty, and how to give those who are disadvantaged or disenfranchised to make their lives better. That very value drove me to search for answers. Unfortunately, most universities were not meant for that purpose but rather geared for academic pursuits.



UNIVERSITY:

It's More on Seeking Rather Than Learning

USM however, provided me the opportunity to seek knowledge outside its confines. I began to search outside the confines of USM and found Consumers Association of Penang (CAP), the International Organisation of Consumers Union (IOCU) which is now called Consumer International (CI). Fortunately, Penang is a hub of activism and there are many such non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

I went to these NGOs to learn about their campaigns. From there, I found that their objectives and approaches are different from that of the University. They are talking about how to help people who are downtrodden, marginalized and backward, which was exactly what I wanted to do. Thus, I found the answers I sought and that added value and meaning to what was not found in the University.

Our first Vice-Chancellor (1969-1976), the late Tan Sri Professor Hamzah Sendut, told the new students: "You are all unpolished diamonds. We are here to polish you so that you can shine after which you can then lead the way". That was a fantastic metaphor because I then realised that I have the potential and must ensure that this potential shines at the end of the day through the knowledge that I gain from the University and outside the campus.

The point about knowledge is that it enriches you and your capabilities. It is almost like money that you spend on people to make them better and you, feeling better because being able to help another person to gain knowledge. However, unlike money that will deplete when you spend, knowledge will grow, enrich and remain with the person.

As you impart knowledge to people, you also learn from them. That is the benefit that I gained working with various communities and people around the world. You expand your horizon and boundary of knowledge after which you can later contribute back to society.

Not all of us are born equal, hence, we have to help to uplift those less fortunate with the knowledge that we have acquired. That's why I believe a university is the leveler of society, meaning that it helps to level up between the rich and the poor in the society through the sharing of knowledge. The purpose of a university is to help people out from poverty so that they can live a better life.

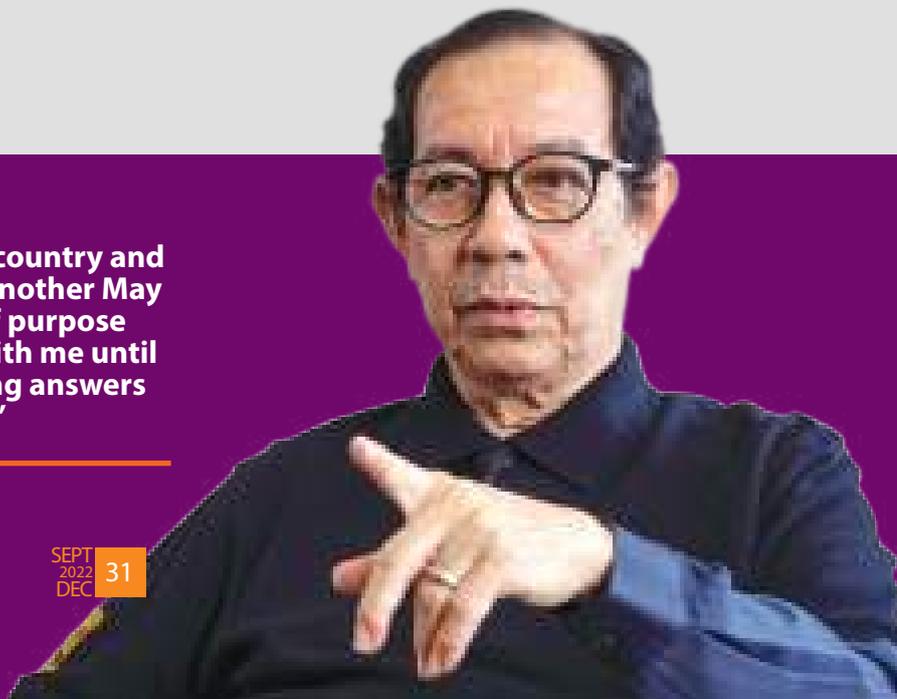
However, sad to say, universities seem to sustain the rich among themselves, and the poor are left out to fend for themselves. Particularly now that you have private universities, where the rich live in their own elite world and do not understand the world of the poor outside theirs.

Thus, when you talk about success, it is really subjective, depending on an individual's perception. Some people see success as gaining material goods but for some others, success is just about happiness. That is why, when universities talk about ranking, it does not justify success if research does not contribute to the society. That is the reason why I'm not a pro ranking person.

USM is an innovative university, even when innovation in education was not in vogue then. I can share one fantastic innovation during the era of Tan Sri Hamzah. Before he came to USM, he was the dean of Faculty of Arts at Universiti Malaya (UM). However, when he came to USM, he planned it to be different from what he did for UM. Many would have assumed that coming from the premier and the first university, it would be reasonable to use the same template of UM in establishing USM, but not him.

Tan Sri Hamzah came to the University and created the School System instead of the Faculty System or Department System. In USM, we call it the School System, Programme System, or the Disciplinary System which is a different way in managing knowledge altogether. He put in place the Interdisciplinary System where science students need to take 30% of non-science subject and vice-versa. That is what is called 'transdisciplinary' now.

"Having understood the country and its people, we can avert another May 13 incident. That sense of purpose instilled in me remains with me until today. It is more of seeking answers rather than just learning."



Such system was not practiced in UM but he created this for USM. Furthermore, USM is the first in the country to have the School of Pharmacy, School of Computer Sciences, School of Mathematics, and School of Applied Sciences. So, if you talk about innovation, USM's DNA is about innovation.

Tan Sri Hamzah was the leader who introduced innovative ideas, dared to try something different, and to take risks. How many VCs would dare to do that? It is sad that USM now does not lead anymore.

“Tan Sri Hamzah came to the University and created the School System instead of the Faculty System or Department System. In USM, we call it the School System, Programme System, or the Disciplinary System which is a different way in managing knowledge altogether. He put in place the Interdisciplinary System where science students need to take 30% of non-science subject and vice-versa. That is what is called ‘transdisciplinary’ now.”

I remember when we implemented Accelerated Programme for Excellence (APEX) in 2008, we wanted to transform the University into something that is different and created the idea of Transforming Higher Education for a Sustainable Tomorrow. Before APEX, the word ‘sustainability’ wasn’t even there, and we were the first to use it. But now we are losing this word to somebody else because we hardly learn to harness it, and we have lost our creativity and innovativeness.

Hamzah created the word *Desasiswa* instead of college or residents because he wanted to retain the community perspective like a *desa* (village) so there is no barrier between one *Desa* to another much like a *kampung*. Therefore, when we talk about the unity concept, Hamzah has done it during his time.

There is also the idea to make a pedestrian campus and that explains why the roads are narrow to encourage people to walk which, by itself, is already about sustainable development. The aim was to reduce vehicles that pollute the environment.

When the late Nordin Sufi, Director-General of Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) visited USM in 1988, he remarked, “Anything that is casual in USM is innovative in other Universities”.

For me, work is the process you deliver and what you deliver is more important. For example, you build a fine bridge but lacking knowledge about the environment and the ecological system, your work could lead to damages on the environment.

Let’s first ask yourself, “Why do I work and how can I contribute?” If you can envisage an end result that has benefits for the general public, you are ready for the form of work that is sustainable.

For USM’s concept of ‘University in a Garden’, I want to highlight the idea of regulating built structures on campus grounds because the University is a garden. A garden is about diversity. Without diversity it would be similar to a monoculture plantation where all “plants or structures” look the same. USM offers much more, and that is how diversity enriches us.

I would interpret work-ready as life-ready. Are you ready for life after graduating from the university? If you can be ready for work, but not ready for life then I think the whole idea of education is defeated, which I think we are at that point now. Universities are promoting human capital, life-ready, marketability, employability which is nonsensical to me especially during the pandemic.

It is because nobody talks about Key Performance Index (KPI) anymore when the pandemic struck. We are more concerned about life and survival. Prior to this we were talking about our livelihood, but we do not know how to organise the life we live. During the lockdown, we suddenly realise that life cannot be bought no matter how much money we have. Under such circumstances people became anxious, depressed, suicidal and may even exhibit domestic violence tendencies. Why? Because we do not know how to organise our life other than living the way we’ve known.



The person who is empathetic will offer help during the pandemic, sacrificing their money for people to live and at the same time they give their beneficial knowledge to other people, and they make the life of others just like the life that they have. It brings us back to the question: do you hoard everything to yourself? Education is all about the sharing of knowledge.

As an APEX University, we created the word 'bottom billion'. We want to reach out to people who have not had the opportunity in life, and it was long before the pandemic came into the picture. Students who are educated should be life-ready and not work-ready alone.

I believe that one must have a higher purpose in life. That purpose is about living a meaningful life and helping society. It is this conviction that shaped me.

I owe so much to my campus life in USM. During my time there was much freedom in the university as there was no Akta Universiti dan Kolej Universiti 1971 (Universities and University Colleges Act 1971) or better known as AUKU. There was only one Deputy VC who helped the VC.

Students in USM were granted much independence and I took the opportunity to search for what I wanted to know. I had the opportunity to work with CAP and Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) and my scope of knowledge stretched beyond the field of science. As you know, in science, we handle scientific instruments and we have little interaction with people.

When I went out, I was able to talk to real people, dealing with real poverty, and not just textbook poverty. I went and worked with them. It sensitized me to the disadvantaged because poverty is man-made when policies and politics are not right, also fueled by human greed and selfishness. These are not the values that are taught in class.

I still remember as a pharmacist, I was told that if there are two similar types of medicine, sell the expensive one because I will make more money. Profit margin is important and I will be promoted if I manage to bring in more sales, but what does that do to the people who can't afford the medicine? So the medicine, again, becomes a discriminative factor, as the people who can't afford will get the worst medicine because it is cheaper. This is the value that I've been questioning and a reason why I am not a practising pharmacist. However, I think the University is becoming more or less the same nowadays.

That is why we want every student to work with the community, to recognise the person they interact with as a human with feelings and emotions. The role of the student is to understand the person. However, to understand the person is to meet them and understand the person from the context of him in the prevailing environment. That is why we need to seek out beyond the confines of the university while we were students. For example, now in Penang, many kampungs have been demolished to build high-rise buildings and fishermen and elderly folks have been displaced elsewhere.

I don't feel proud of insensitive 'developments' as they sacrificed many human lives. It was worst during my time when electronic factories been built. At that time, there were rice fields in Bayan Lepas where you can see along the way from the airport. When they built the factories, they hired the workers from rural areas and that's where the word "Minah Karan" was coined. These factory workers were not able to learn much because they merely do simple repetitive jobs at the assembly line.

There was much exploitation where the workers don't even own a room; they only have a shared bed with another factory worker who worked on a different shift. This kind of happenings made me realise that not everything is fair, not everything is done well, and not everything benefits us.

For the people who are educated and accept these occurrences, it means that you have failed. You have not used your knowledge for the people who need to be defended. Obviously, they cannot speak for themselves as they have little education, and are poor. Penang is very proud to be an electronic hub, but you need to think about its impact on human lives and dignity. USM should bring up the issue to CAP. It could be the modern form of slavery and this is not what education is all about.

USM transformed me. I was a science student and science students are usually nerdy but USM opened up many avenues for me.

Once we did community work under Yayasan Bina Ilmu, a project where people donated medicine free-of-charge. I think the students nowadays are missing such activities but should be exposed to.

As a student, I cherished the whole idea of openness where we can talk to the VC directly. I remembered the VC used to have coffee sessions with the students to discuss issues. In fact, we were allowed to participate in public demonstrations because he understood that it is part and parcel of learning. I knew what I wanted as a student and do not take instructions without forethought. That was why they labelled me as rebellious, but that's alright if it's all for the right reasons.

I worked with students when I became a lecturer. We had no hierarchy; we worked together. I will involve the students with community work in most of the projects organized, so that they have a comprehensive understanding of the project. One of the major projects was about tobacco control involving students with the community.

When I became the VC, I felt that USM need to return to its innovative self. One of the possibilities is about sustainability and that was why we took the idea of going back to what Hamzah Sendut wanted to do, which was to create a friendly, green campus. Thinking out of the box is the way to innovate and this concept was incorporated into many of the APEX guidelines.

"As an APEX University, we created the word 'bottom billion'. We want to reach out to people who have not had the opportunity in life, and it was long before the pandemic came into the picture. Students who are educated should be life-ready and not work-ready alone."

When we adopted the word '*sejahtera*' (Bahasa Malaysia for 'prosperity'), we embraced the *Sejahtera* concept holistically to mean creating a balance in emotions, physical and mentally, as defined by Falsafah Pendidikan Negara (National Education Philosophy). It is defined as "*Melahirkan pelajar yang sejahtera dan menyumbang kepada keluarga, masyarakat dan negara*" (Producing students who are prosperous and would contribute to the family, community and country).

Essentially a university is about creating an individual who is sensitive to his environment, understands the value that they want, and that enables the person to contribute to others, improving their quality of life. Referring to my discussion with UNESCO, everything will change now as with the demise of meritocracy, and it's not about competing. It is instead about how you collaborate with one another. Coming back to our talk on education for life, we have invested so much on AI (artificial intelligence) but what about natural intelligence? How much did we develop? That is why students nowadays are not empathetic because we don't educate them and this is a big issue that universities need to grapple with.

MoA USM-RAHMAN HYDRAULIC TIN SDN. BHD. Tinjau Kerjasama Penyelidikan Sistem Rawatan Air Lombong

Memorandum Perjanjian (MoA) antara Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) dan Rahman Hydraulic Tin Sdn. Bhd. (RHT) yang termeterai baru-baru ini (24 Ogos 2022) di Kampus Kejuruteraan USM bertujuan untuk meninjau kerjasama dalam menjalankan projek penyelidikan dalam industri perlombongan (Sistem Rawatan Air Lombong).

Melalui MoA ini juga, USM dan RHT bersetuju untuk membantu dan menyokong satu sama lain dengan mengambil bahagian secara bersama dalam pemindahan pengetahuan (*knowledge transfer*) antara ahli akademik serta para profesional dari industri yang berkenaan.



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LAPAN PESAKIT JANTUNG KANAK-KANAK Jalani Pembedahan di Bawah Program 'Healing Little Hearts'



Pasukan perubatan Yayasan 'Healing Little Hearts' (HLH) dari United Kingdom terus menabur bakti dengan melakukan pembedahan ke atas pesakit jantung kongenital Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) dalam siri lawatan kali kelapan ke hospital ini sejak tahun 2015.

Penyakit jantung kongenital adalah salah satu penyakit utama dalam kalangan kanak-kanak yang melibatkan kira-kira lapan kes dalam setiap seribu kelahiran.

Teks: Nik Sheila Erini Che Mat Kamel
Foto: Mohd Asrar Mohd Rokeman



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PROGRAM HIJAUKAN BUMI DAN LUKISAN MURAL

Kompleks Penyelidikan Haiwan semalam telah mengadakan program menanam pokok dan lukisan mural di Kompleks Penyelidikan Haiwan, IPPT, USM.

Program ini telah dianjurkan oleh Bahagian Akademik dan Antarabangsa (BAA) bertujuan melihat kepada penggunaan kertas yang agak tinggi di BAA untuk keperluan pengurusan program akademik, khasnya untuk tujuan peperiksaan dan dirasakan ada keperluan untuk menyumbang semula ke arah tanggungjawab penggunaan (*responsible consumptions*).



Sumber : Facebook Advanced Medical and Dental Institute USM



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PROGRAM LIFE USM

Beri Pelajar Ilmu Berkaitan Warisan Dunia UNESCO

Program Life: Discovering Labs@Archeo Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) telah diadakan di Pusat Lapangan Arkeologi USM yang terletak di Kota Tampan, Lenggong, Perak baru-baru ini yang memberi pengalaman dan pendedahan bermakna kepada pelajar USM yang menyertainya.

Seramai 51 orang pelajar tahun 1 hingga 3 dari ketiga-tiga kampus Induk, Kejuruteraan dan Kesihatan telah menyertai program sehari di sana. Antara pelajar yang mengikuti program tersebut terdiri daripada pelajar Pusat Pengajian Sains Kemasyarakatan, Pusat Pengajian Perumahan, Bangunan dan Perancangan, Pusat Pengajian Sains Komputer, Pusat Pengajian Ilmu Pendidikan manakala peserta dari Kampus Kejuruteraan pula terdiri daripada pelajar Pusat Pengajian Kejuruteraan Kimia dan Pusat Pengajian Kejuruteraan Elektrik dan Elektronik.

“Para pelajar juga menyertai aktiviti mencari siput sedut di Sungai Temelong yang merupakan makanan masyarakat purba “Perak Man” di Tapak Arkeologi Warisan Dunia UNESCO Lembah Lenggong, Perak.”



Ketibaan para pelajar disambut oleh Pengarah Pusat Penyelidikan Arkeologi Global (PPAG), Profesor Dr. Stephen Chia Ming Soon.

Menurut Profesor Dr. Stephen, program ini antara lain bertujuan untuk memperkenalkan dan memberi pendedahan kepada pelajar berkenaan bidang arkeologi serta memberi mereka merasai sendiri pengalaman menjadi seorang ahli arkeologi.

Profesor Dr. Stephen yang dibantu oleh lain-lain fasilitator telah memberikan taklimat, pendedahan dan bimbingan kepada pelajar dalam melakukan beberapa aktiviti arkeologi secara ‘hands-on’ seperti ekskavasi arkeologi, lawatan ke tapak arkeologi, demonstrasi dan eksperimen membuat dan penggunaan artifak alat batu, menyumpit serta melihat perkakasan yang digunakan untuk kehidupan sehari-hari manusia pra sejarah termasuk analisis artifak di lapangan.

Disamping itu, para pelajar juga diberi peluang melawat tapak arkeologi Gua Teluk Kelawar dan menjalankan aktiviti gotong-royong “Bersama menjaga Kepentingan Warisan Arkeologi” iaitu aktiviti pembersihan bersama agensi Jabatan Warisan Negara.

Selain itu para pelajar juga menyertai aktiviti mencari siput sedut di Sungai Temelong yang merupakan makanan masyarakat purba “Perak Man” di Tapak Arkeologi Warisan Dunia UNESCO Lembah Lenggong, Perak. Program ini sewajarnya antara lain boleh memberikan impak yang sangat positif kepada pelajar yang menyertainya.

Pendedahan secara langsung kepada bidang arkeologi, kaedah dan teknik kajian arkeologi memberi keterujaan dan kesedaran untuk menghargai dan memelihara tapak arkeologi di Lembah Lenggong. Justeru peserta dapat lebih menghargai sejarah dan nilai warisan arkeologi negara serta menjadi komuniti masa depan yang celik sejarah, menghargai warisan arkeologi negara di tapak warisan dunia UNESCO Lenggong, Perak.

Peserta yang ditemui berasa sangat bersyukur dapat turut serta dalam program ini. Walaupun bidang arkeologi berbeza dengan bidang pengajian yang sedang diikuti, namun sedikit sebanyak membuka minda mereka serta memberi pengalaman baru yang tidak ternilai.



“...dengan pendedahan ini, telah merubah minda menjadi lebih ‘segar’ serta mendapat pengetahuan baharu terutama tentang kehidupan manusia pra-sejarah yang hidup ribuan tahun silam.”

- Nur Fatimah Syed Omar



“Bidang sains komputer boleh membantu kerja-kerja ekskavasi dengan lebih baik dan cepat dengan peralatan yang canggih serta mungkin mengurangkan kos.”

- Nur Fathin Badrisyia Ahmad Sukri

Pelajar tahun 1 dari Pusat Pengajian Kejuruteraan Kimia, Kampus Kejuruteraan, Nur Fatimah Syed Omar menyatakan sangat gembira menjadi peserta program ini. Beliau menyifatkan dengan pendedahan ini, telah merubah mindanya menjadi lebih ‘segar’ serta mendapat pengetahuan baharu terutama tentang kehidupan manusia pra-sejarah yang hidup ribuan tahun silam.

Bagi pelajar tahun 2 dari Pusat Pengajian Perumahan, Bangunan dan Perancangan (HBP), Nur Farah Elliyana Rusdin pula, beliau sangat berminat dengan kerja-kerja ekskavasi walaupun mengambil pengkhususan dalam bidang rekaan dalaman di HBP.

Menurutnya, mungkin satu hari nanti beliau boleh membuat rekaan dalaman untuk muzium misalnya yang berkaitan dengan manusia pra-sejarah dan sebagainya.

Pendapat Nur Farah turut disokong oleh pelajar tahun 1 dari Pusat Pengajian Sains Komputer, Nur Fathin Badrisyia Ahmad Sukri yang menyatakan bidang sains komputer boleh membantu kerja-kerja ekskavasi dengan lebih baik dan cepat dengan peralatan yang canggih serta mungkin mengurangkan kos.

Turut hadir ialah Timbalan Pengarah PPGA, Dr. Velat Bujeng, pensyarah PPGA Dr. Khairunnisa Talib, dan kakitangan PPGA.

Teks: Zamzami Rasidi

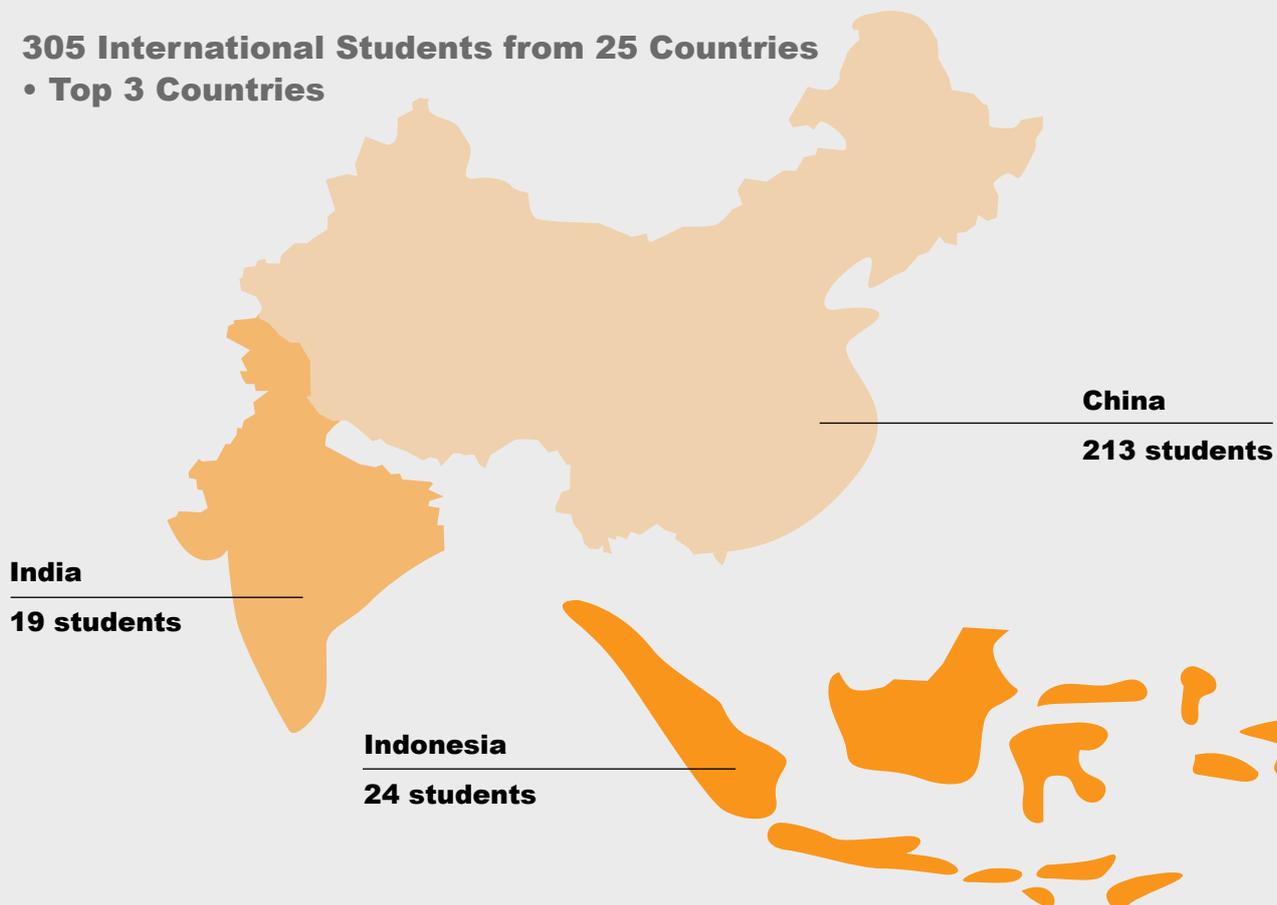
Foto: Shahnizam Ab Rahim

STUDENT INTAKE AND GRADUATION

Student Intake by Campuses

Campus	Male	Female	TOTAL
Main	893	2,033	2,926
Engineering	420	352	772
Health	115	470	585
TOTAL	1,428	2,855	4,283

305 International Students from 25 Countries • Top 3 Countries



60th Convocation Ceremony (2022)

Undergraduate	5,055
Postgraduate	2,263

The background of the entire image is a photograph of a large, mature tree with a thick trunk and dense green foliage. To the right of the tree, there is a building with a red and white facade and a tiled roof. The sky is overcast. The text 'Alumni@USM' is overlaid on the image.

Alumni@USM

**WISHING YOU
A**

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2023

**from
Alumni Development Centre**