

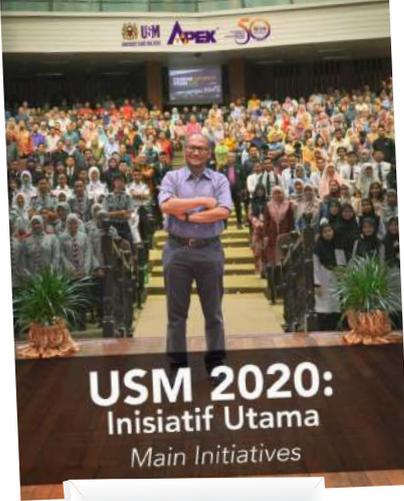
ALUMNI **bulletin**

alumni.usm.my

JAN
2020
JUNE VOL.1

embracing **new** norms





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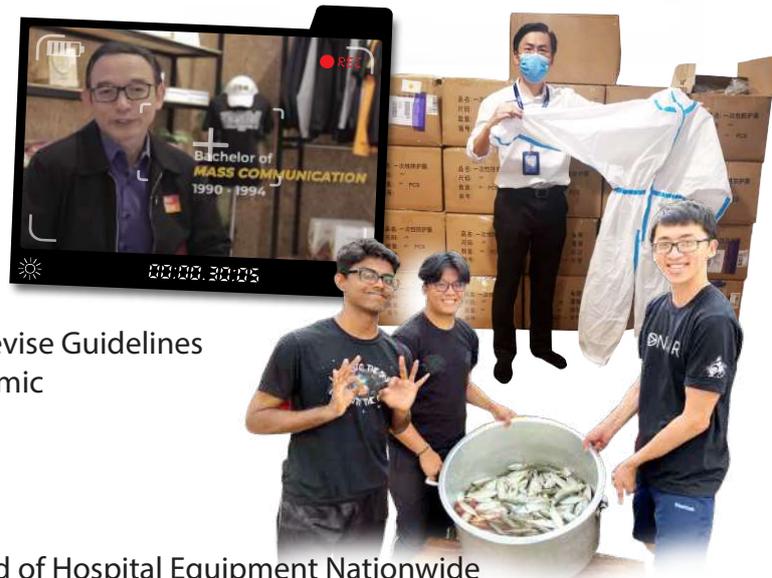
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Expect The Unexpected at USM

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VC to alumni

Respected USMians,

It is an exceptional honour for me to engage with our alumni as the Vice Chancellor of USM through this bulletin. Our bulletin serves as a platform in serving alumni with information regarding activities or any current development of our University. Especially with the rise of the most recent pandemic COVID-19; this platform has become the main channel for all fellow alumni and University society to interconnect with each other more.

This pandemic has not only changed our daily habits and routines but it has also reshaped all our lives especially in reconnecting with each other. New SOPs and guidelines need to be implemented and followed to ensure the safety of everyone. On behalf of USM, I want to reach out to our alumni and friends around the world and to extend our sympathies to those that we have loss or were affected by this pandemic. Also; a very big thank you to our fellow alumni who were involved as front-liners throughout the MCO period.

As we all know; with every crisis comes hope. Ours is indeed to help provide knowledge for a better tomorrow. To our University, alumni defines who we are in terms of quality of service to all mankind. We will always welcome our alumni and significantly seek for collaboration and partnering with them.

You can contribute your stories and experiences in USM by sharing your memories such as traditions or events to the growing community that makes your alma mater unique. I am sure you all have special memories of USM, including the bonds you have made with roommates, friends and professors, as well as the classes and experiences that has touched your lives.

There is no better way to keep those memories alive than by being an active member of the USM Community and sharing them here. I am pleased to present our stories in our USM Alumni Bulletin. I hope that you will stay connected to your alma mater and foster a spirit of loyalty in strengthening the bond of all fellow alumni.

Stay safe! #wewillnailthis

Professor Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan
Vice-Chancellor

“On behalf of USM, I want to reach out to our alumni and friends around the world and to extend our sympathies to those that we have loss or were affected by this pandemic. Also; a very big thank you to our fellow alumni who were involved as front-liners throughout the MCO period.”



DVC to alumni

“This bulletin is one of our efforts under the newly formed Alumni Development Centre (ADC) to foster closer relationship between USM and our alumni.”

As an alumni and the DVC of Students Development Affairs & Alumni, it is an honour and a privilege for me to be given the opportunity to reach out to all of you.

For a start, I am extremely pleased to share that we have received many donations in various forms from our very own alumni in support of our effort to address the Covid-19 pandemic issue that is affecting USM and the nation. I am very proud of your generosity.

This bulletin is one of our efforts under the newly formed Alumni Development Centre (ADC) to foster closer relationship between USM and our alumni. We would like to use this platform to share with you regarding what goes on in our beloved campus.



Our next exciting project is to encourage all alumni to share your experience and offer your expertise to our students, whereby we will provide opportunities for you to do so. You will be their source of inspiration.

In the meantime, stay safe.

Professor Dr. Aldrin Abdullah

(B.Sc.HBP '93, B.Arch. '94)

Deputy Vice Chancellor

Division of Students Development Affairs & Alumni



GOT NEWS?

STAY CONNECTED WITH USM

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

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.

ADVISOR

Professor Dr. Aldrin Abdullah (B.Sc.HBP '93, B.Arch. '94)

ADC TEAM

- Sharifah Darweena Syed Ahmad Amir Feisal (B.Sc. '07) • Syahnaz Riza Sukor (B.Mgmt. '05) • Nurul Nadia Mohd Saini
- Mohamad Syukran Abdul Rahman @ Omar (B.Econ. 2016)

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- Yong Check Yoon • Nor Rafizah Hj. Md Zain • Azril Ali (M.Ed. 2011) • Marziana Mohamed Alias (B.Comm. '05)
- Ebrahim Abdul Manan • Mazlan Hanafi Bashardin



Expect The Unexpected at USM

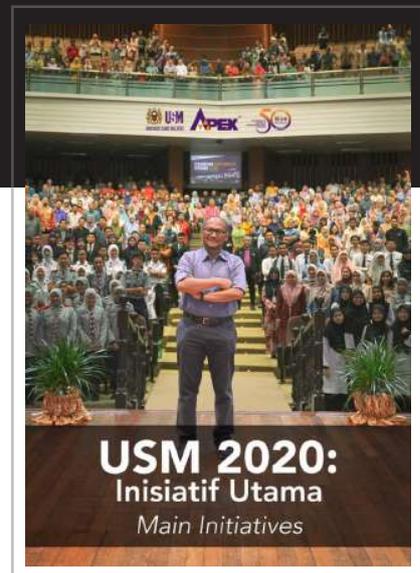
2020 was previously the year where Malaysia was supposed to achieve its vision of becoming a developed country, but it was not meant to be.

Times have changed and it's now the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 that Malaysia is aiming to achieve, surely by 2030. It would not only ensure prosperity to the different communities, but it would also bring peace to all citizens.

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) recently celebrated its 50th year (in 2019), and surely more needs to be done for it to be among the leading research institutions, locally and abroad.

Here at USM, our new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan has also shared his 'to-do' list for 2020 – some initiatives that he hoped will bring some changes for the betterment of the university and its community.

The Vice-Chancellor had earlier said that it would be best to embrace the challenges and continuously find a sustainable solution in each emerging issue.



Here are **8 NEW INITIATIVES** to look forward to this year:



1

Work from home • it is a matter of getting the job done, regardless of from where it's done.



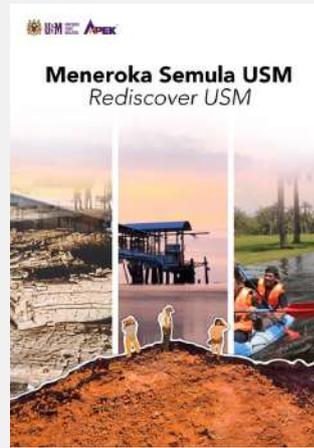
2

Meeting-free Fridays • Fridays should be focused on wrapping up the week's unfinished business and do some planning for the coming week.



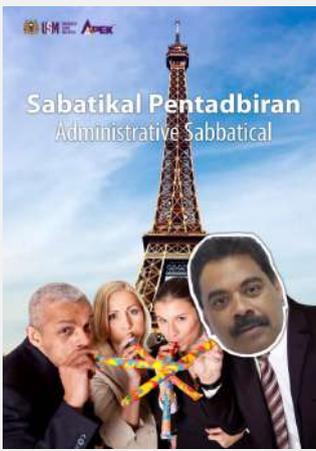
3

Smart yet casual work attire • attire to work that is presentable yet comfortable, befitting the need and occasion.



4

Rediscover USM • there's more to USM than meets the eye (and other senses too); time to start exploring. Three USM gems that are highly recommended for every USM staff and student to visit at least once when they are with USM:- Centre for Marine & Coastal Studies (CEMACS), Sungai Batu Archaeological Site and River Engineering & Urban Drainage Research Centre (REDAC).



5

Sabbatical for administrators • an opportunity for administrators (administrative as well as support staff) to visit new places and seek new ideas for exposure and personal (and also professional) development. A short attachment with a reputable organization would do wonders.



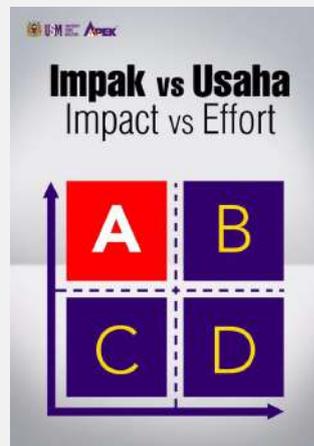
6

To be resilient (when the going gets tough, the tough get going) • though faced with various issues and challenges, it's no to saying No!



7

To put trust and empowerment • The staff should be entrusted and empowered to do their assigned tasks as well as to break new grounds.



8

To ensure work outcome based on Impact vs Effort • most work done should yield more impact with less effort, to be productive and effective (Referring to Quadrant A: Low Effort, High Impact).

The Vice-Chancellor wanted everyone to be aware of the situation we are in, reminded everyone on the importance of changing the way we operate and the need to work together as a team, should we want to shape a better tomorrow.

A quote from Arthur Ashe, a well-known American tennis, would best sum up the beginning of 2020: **"Success is a journey, not a destination. The doing is often more important than the outcome."**

Text: Mazlan Hanafi Basharudin Photo: Ebrahim Abdul Manan





Contributions for USM Special COVID-19 Fund reaches **RM5,341,395.18**

To my beloved USM Campus community,

Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullah and Salam Sejahtera.

I trust that you are coping well and in high spirits despite facing difficult challenges during this COVID-19 pandemic.

The info-graphic reveals the latest status (Total Contribution and Total Expenditure) of the USM COVID-19 Fund since it was launched 20 March 2020, for your kind attention and reference.

As such, on behalf of the University, I wish to thank all of you who have contributed to this fund – staff, students, alumni members, individuals, corporate bodies, various organisations, NGOs, etc.

The University will continue to share the status of the Fund from time to time. Once again, my sincere appreciation for your generosity, and I look forward to your continued support.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

PROFESSOR DR. FAISAL RAFIQ MAHAMD ADIKAN
Vice-Chancellor



COVID-19 USM FUND

Account name: UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA
Account number: 9898 6101 0063 98 (CIMB Bank)

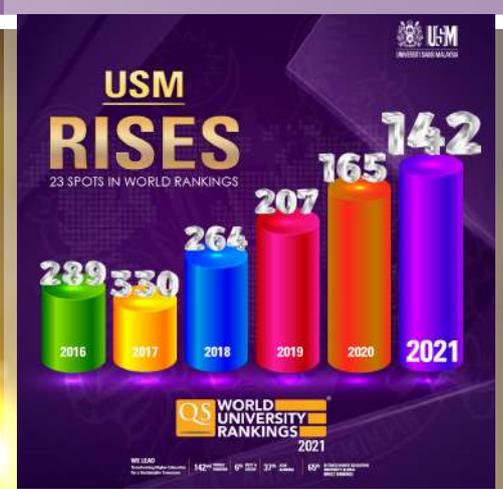
Portal ePayment

Please email proof of donation to:
jbendahari@usm.my

USM Emerged as Nation's Best Again in World Impact Rankings

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) remained its position as the top university in Malaysia in the recently released Times Higher Education World Impact Rankings 2020, that assess universities

against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is now ranked 65th in the world out of 766 institutions that participated in the rankings.



USM rises to **142**





Pandemik COVID-19 bukan sahaja menyebabkan kesukaran kepada sektor kesihatan awam negara, malah kepada ekonomi dan pasaran buruh keseluruhannya.

Perkembangan semasa COVID-19 telah menimbulkan pelbagai cabaran kepada golongan pekerja, majikan dan pihak kerajaan. Tambahan pula dengan arahan kerajaan untuk mengamalkan penjarakan sosial (social distancing) dan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) sejak 18 Mac yang lalu, majoriti pekerjaan turut terkesan.

Pendaftar Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Dr. Musa Haji Ali berkongsi mengenai tiga (3) cabaran sektor awam pasca covid iaitu:

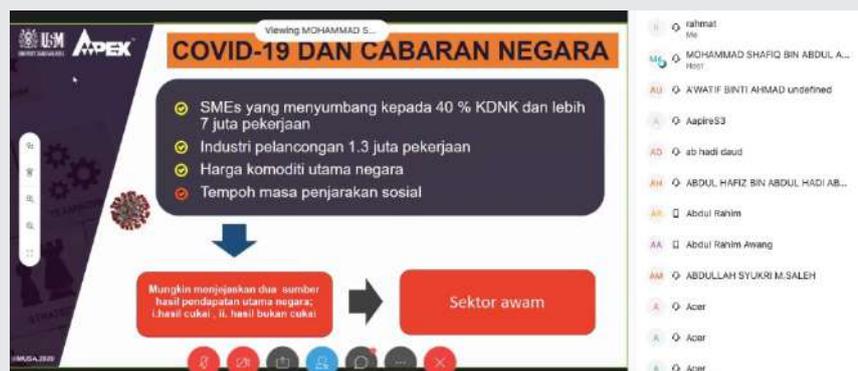
1. Bagaimana mengurus organisasi dengan sumber yang semakin mengecil?
2. Sejauh mana perlu diubahsuai governan dalam sektor awam selaras dengan tuntutan perubahan pasca covid-19?
3. Bagaimana kita mengubah cara menguruskan bakat dalam sektor awam?

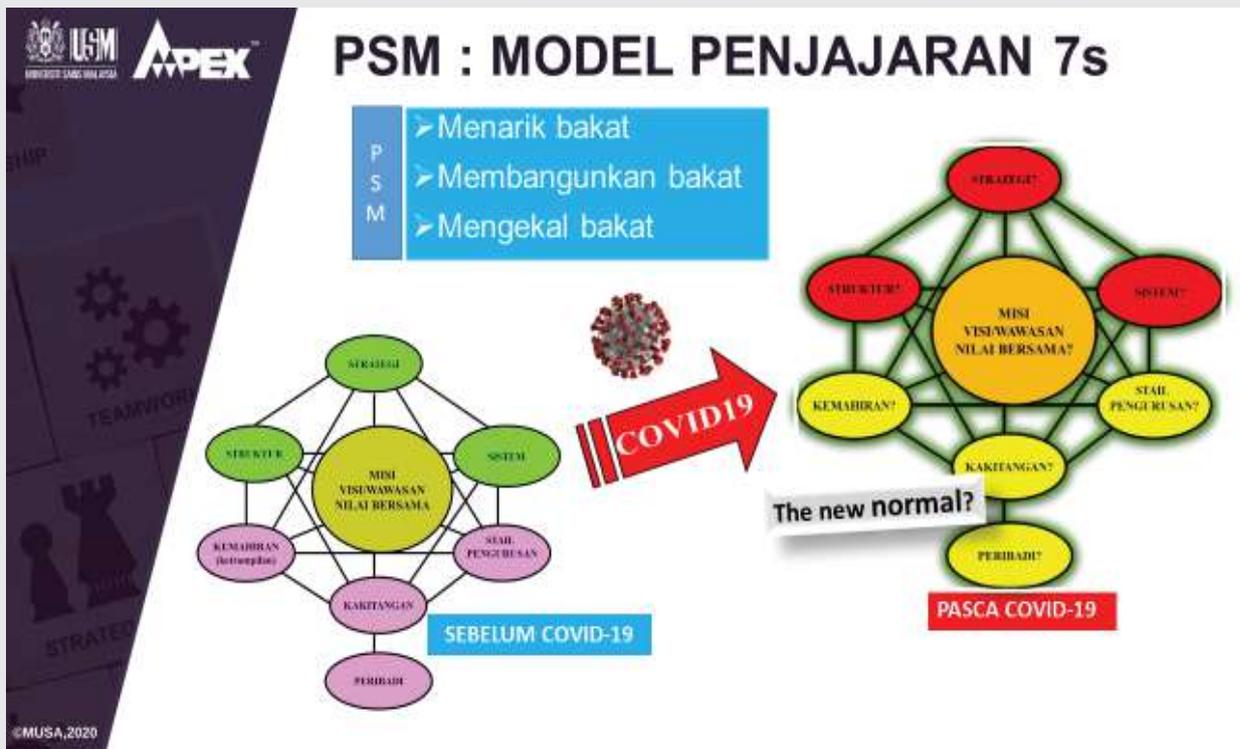
"PKP telah mendorong semua golongan pekerja sama ada sektor awam mahupun swasta untuk mengubah cara pandang terhadap bagaimana mereka dapat melaksanakan tuntutan tugas masing-masing," kata Musa.

"Justeru, secara umum, pekerja sama ada penjawat awam atau kakitangan swasta sudah terdedah dengan normal baharu kesan daripada usaha menyeluruh untuk membendung penularan COVID-19 ini.

“PKP telah mendorong semua golongan pekerja sama ada sektor awam mahupun swasta untuk mengubah cara pandang terhadap bagaimana mereka dapat melaksanakan tuntutan tugas masing-masing.”

Dr. Musa Haji Ali





"Berdasarkan dapatan soal selidik yang USM jalankan lebih 60% staf bersetuju tugas dapat dilaksanakan dengan baik melalui **Bekerja Dari Rumah (BDR)**. Walau bagaimanapun, sekiranya inisiatif BDR ini ingin diteruskan, 40% staf berpendapat proses kerja perlu dikaji semula, 32% staf berpendapat pemantauan prestasi tugas perlu ditambahbaik manakala 20% berpendapat perlu ada pemantauan daftar waktu kerja," tambah Musa.

Secara umumnya, kita dapat melihat keberkesanan penjawat awam meskipun terpaksa BDR berdasarkan perkembangan semasa. Penjawat awam mula tahu dan dibiasakan dengan normal baharu, sekali gus mereka perlu keluar daripada rutin yang selama ini dilakukan.

Musa turut menegaskan bahawa bagi meneruskan normal baharu ini, tiga 'S' pasca covid perlu dikaji semula (1) **Strategi** yang sesuai dengan persekitaran baru, (2) **Struktur** yang mampu menyokong pelaksanaan strategi dan (3) **Sistem** penyampaian yang mampu melaksanakan strategi.

Kita berharap usaha mengadaptasi normal baharu ini dapat mengekalkan prestasi dan produktiviti masing-masing. Apa yang lebih penting, normal baharu ini memerlukan setiap organisasi lebih kreatif dan inovatif dalam memastikan penyampaian perkhidmatan kekal berterusan. Normal baharu ini juga memerlukan sistem penyampaian dan pendekatan yang baharu. Justeru, pekerja perlu mempunyai azam serta integriti untuk mendepani cabaran ini.

Ketua jabatan juga perlu memastikan penjawat awam di jabatan masing-masing tidak mengalami tekanan. Kebijaksanaan diperlukan termasuk soal penjadualan kerja dan memanfaatkan unit psikologi dan kaunselor yang disediakan.

Sumber: Dr. Musa Haji Ali (B. Soc. Sc '90)

Teks: Sharifah Darweena Syed Ahmad Amir Feisal (B. Sc '07)

“Apa yang lebih penting, normal baharu ini memerlukan setiap organisasi lebih kreatif dan inovatif dalam memastikan penyampaian perkhidmatan kekal berterusan.”

Heartiest Congratulations



**Tuan Yang Terutama
Tun Datuk Seri Utama
(Dr.) Hj. Mohd Ali Mohd Rustam**
B. Soc. Sc '84
Yang di-Pertua Negeri Melaka Ke-7



YAB Muhammad Sanusi Md Nor
B. Soc. Sc. '98
Menteri Besar Negeri Kedah



Mr. Chu Jenn Weng
B. Eng. '93
Malaysia's 50 Richest 2020 (Forbes)



**YB Senator Datuk Dr.
Haji Zulkifli Mohamad Al-Bakri**
Ph.D (2004)
Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri
Menteri (Hal Ehwal Agama)



**YB Senator Dato' Dr.
Ahmad Masrizal Muhammad**
B. A (Ed.) '96
Timbalan Menteri Alam Sekitar



YB Datuk Seri Dr. Ronald Kiandee
Ph.D (2014)
Menteri Pertanian dan
Industri Makanan



YB Dato' Mansor Bin Othman
B. Soc. Sc. '76
Timbalan Menteri Pengajian Tinggi



YB Datuk Abd Rahim Bin Bakri
B. Soc. Sc. '85
Timbalan Menteri Kewangan I



Datuk Ar. Ezumi Harzani Ismail
B. HBP. '94
Panglima Mahkota Wilayah (PMW)

Tahniah

**Y.BHG. DATO' DR.
AWANG ADEK HUSSIN**

ATAS PELANTIKAN SEBAGAI
**PENGERUSI
LEMBAGA GABENOR**



USM

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

8 Jun 2020-7 Jun 2023

Ikhlas daripada
Seluruh Warga USM

WE LEAD
Teaching World Education
for a Sustainable Tomorrow

165th ANNIVERSARY

6th YEAR OF

37th YEAR

65th YEAR

1954-2019

1954-2019

1954-2019

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1954-2019



Awang Adek Hussin dilantik Pengerusi Lembaga Gabenor USM yang baharu

Mantan Duta Malaysia ke Amerika Syarikat (2014-2016), Dato' Dr. Awang Adek Hussin dilantik sebagai Pengerusi Lembaga Gabenor Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) untuk tempoh tiga tahun berkuatkuasa 8 Jun 2020 hingga 7 Jun 2023.

Pelantikan Awang Adek, 64, anak kelahiran Bachok, Kelantan itu diumumkan oleh YB Menteri Pengajian Tinggi melalui satu surat rasmi kepada USM, menggantikan penyandang terdahulu, Dr. Hari Narayanan P. Ondiveeran.

Beliau yang pernah berkhidmat di USM di awal kariernya (1983-1985) meraih ijazah pertamanya di Drew University, New Jersey, Amerika Syarikat dan bagi peringkat sarjana dan doktor falsafah di Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia.

Awang Adek turut mempunyai pengalaman luas dalam bidang kewangan dan korporat termasuk sebagai Penolong Gabenor Bank Negara dari 1996 sehingga 2001.

Beliau juga pernah menjadi Pengerusi Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) selain dipinjamkan ke Pihak Berkuasa Perkhidmatan Kewangan Persisir Labuan sebagai Ketua Pengarah yang pertama selama dua tahun bermula pada tahun 1996.

USM mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi tahniah atas pelantikan berkenaan dan menzahirkan komitmen untuk bersama-sama memberikan perkhidmatan yang terbaik dalam merealisasikan visi Universiti ke arah mentransformasikan pendidikan tinggi untuk kelestarian hari esok.

Pihak Universiti turut menzahirkan kepercayaan terhadap kepimpinan dan pengalaman luas yang ada pada beliau akan meneruskan usaha memacu pencapaian dan kecemerlangan USM ke tahap yang lebih tinggi dan membanggakan.

Teks: Marziana Mohamed Alias
Infografik: Ebrahim Abdul Manan

I was in the second batch of Matriculation students to continue my studies at USM. A lecturer at USM once convinced me to continue my studies in electronics, although that was not my first choice after school. Helping a senior later with his electronics project changed my mind and made me more interested in the field.

From the setting up of the USM Electronics Club to working and training at the electronic factories around Bayan Lepas, student life was then full of excitement and adventure (not to mention, easy to get scholarships) for a kampung boy from Kedah.

Becoming an engineer in electronics later on brought me further understanding of life, its challenges and opportunities. At work, I rose up the ranks to become a Senior HR Manager from my understanding of interactions and communication between different groups within the workplace and with local and foreign electronic firms.

Being able to bring success to the company I worked in by winning several Malaysian awards was truly a proud moment, and which partly grew due to my passion in the field of talent development, organization safety, security and environmental sustainability.

For me now, to be part of USAINS and joining the Board of Governors of the University is truly a blessing. I hope to be able to assist the USM community to evolve and embrace a newer and better education ecosystem through the integration of the people and the use of technology.

Noor Azam Mohd Noor (B. App. Sc. '83)
USM Board of Governors

I hope to be able to assist the USM community to evolve and embrace a newer and better education ecosystem through the integration of the people and the use of technology.



Dear Alumni,
 In this most difficult time, we are sure that all of you are concerned for the safety of yourselves and your loved ones. There is nothing more important than that for us as well. Our main priority is to ensure your health and well-being is not compromised.

Over these past few months, we have seen that we are far more than just a campus but a positive community. We are also very thankful for the numerous supports from the caring alumni group, parents, family members as well as friends who have expressed concern for these students.

We are extremely grateful and appreciative for all of your support and assistance. To everyone who has selflessly helped defray these unexpected costs for the university, those who send us kind wishes as well as those who offer all kinds of aid to students, we thank you for the kindness and generosity shown.

We would love to hear from you as you work your way through this difficult experience. Kindly share your experience, thoughts or ideas through our email: dir_alumni@usm.my or our social media link below.

Stay safe!

Follow us:



Sharifah Darweena Syed Ahmad Amir Feisal (B.Sc. '07)
*Coordinator
 Alumni Development Centre*

Bahari Belaton

An Icon of Excellence for the Orang Asli Community

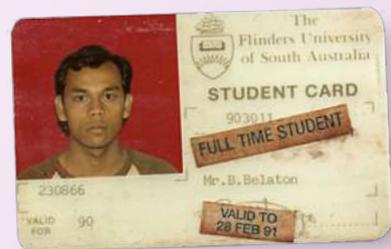


My aim in life is to serve, provide my expertise, and contribute my capabilities to USM, my students, my community and my family.

Professor Dr. Bahari Belaton is no stranger at the School of Computer Sciences in Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). He is well-known for his admirable achievements and expertise in areas of Scientific Data Visualisation, Computer Graphics, and Network Security. Having served with USM for more than 24 years, he has achieved numerous successes throughout his career, especially with regard to academic development and research.

He joined the USM Matriculation Programme in 1986. Following that, he received another offer to join the Malaysian-Australian Tertiary Education Scheme (MATES) programme, upon which he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from the South Australian Institute of Technology in Australia in 1989. Coming from an Orang Asli (indigenous people) minority community, his achievement is truly remarkable.

Bahari Belaton, who belongs to the Semai ethnic subgroup from the Orang Asli village of Tangkai Cermin in Perak, is a highly-experienced individual, with some of the experiences gathered while completing his studies.



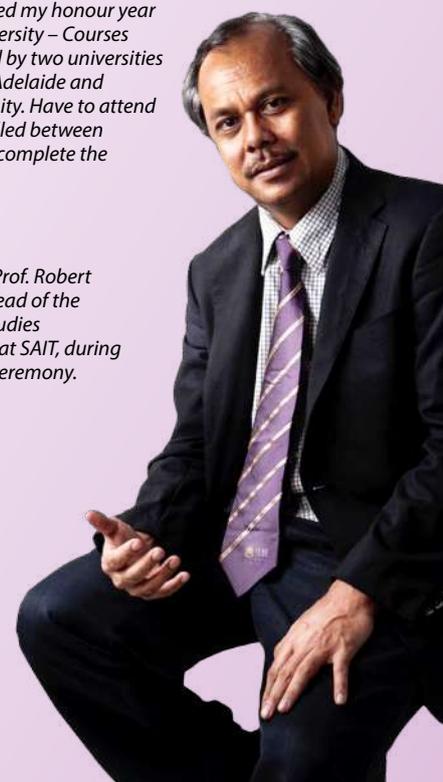
1990 – Continued my honour year at Flinders University – Courses were conducted by two universities – University of Adelaide and Flinders University. Have to attend (and thus travelled between Universities) to complete the honour year.



1989 – Happy moment during convocation (BSc). The event was held at Adelaide's Festival Theatre – a very iconic building (in the same category as Sydney Opera).



1989 – with Prof. Robert Northcote, head of the Computer Studies Department at SAIT, during graduation ceremony.





1983 - Form 5 Sains 2, SMK Hamid Khan, Tapah Perak. Last row, third from left.



1985 - During USM Matriculation 1 (Photo taken in dining hall - I am the odd one without songkok).



1986 - USM Matriculation 2 at Minden USM; This picture recorded during the closing ceremony for an Intensive English Course conducted by Pusat Bahasa USM (now Sollat) - a preparatory English before going to Australia. Front row, second from left.

In fulfilling a requirement made by the Malaysian Public Service Department (JPA) which specifies that those who intend to serve in the public sector need to have an Honours degree, he then pursued an additional year of study (1991) at Flinders University, Australia, to obtain an Honours before completing his Doctoral studies (Ph.D) at Leeds University, U.K. in 1995.

He added another feather to his cap recently when he was appointed Dean of the USM School of Computer Sciences (SOCS), effective from 2 June 2020, taking over from Professor Dr. Rosni Abdullah @ Mustafa, and also as the Director of the National Advanced IPv6 Centre (NAv6). With the two appointments, it is believed that Bahari is the first Orang Asli to be appointed as a university Dean in Malaysian history and also the first to hold two head of departments' position simultaneously in an institution of higher learning in Malaysia.

Easy as it may sound, the challenges faced and sacrifices made by this second youngest child of seven is no mean feat. Bahari was nine years old when he lost his father. His life became even harder as he had to depend on his mother who struggled to earn a living for the family. Around the 1960s, conditions were different than how it is now. This was added to the fact that he was staying in an Orang Asli village that was about 20 kilometers away from the nearest town which was Tanjung Tualang. Everything was less than rosy.

"In fact, I only came to know in the later years from my late mother that all my other siblings had passed away, leaving only my elder sister and I, without knowing the exact cause(s) of their deaths.

"There was no electricity in our village, and we were fortunate enough to obtain clean water supply from tin miners, who were by chance lived close by to the village. It was water from three main pipes that was shared with the whole village.

"Such conditions, however, were not really obstacles for me in seeking knowledge," he said, as he mentioned that his only sister who survived had also managed to make a change in her life by being one of the pioneer nurses at a special hospital for Orang Asli in Gombak, Selangor, and has since retired.

What is interesting about Bahari was that, ever since he was little, he has been blessed with a highly inquisitive mind. This was the seed of his successes as he was observant of his surroundings and his mind would then start to formulate questions. He grew up in a settlement which coincidentally located next to an area housing engineers (including expatriates) working for a mining company, the Malaysian Mining Corporation (MMC). "I would take the opportunity to help and tag along with a Chinese fish and vegetable seller daily who also drove the school bus that fetched my friends and I from school.

"The reason I followed him was none other than to satisfy my curiosity to see the bungalow houses of the engineers, aside from helping him to sell fish and vegetables. Bahari also stressed that, much of his success was also due to the envious feelings of the success of others that he had seen".

Bahari was raised by his mother single-handedly, who was illiterate, and education to her was not a priority. What mattered most then was the means to earn a living and to continue life. She did all kinds of work, from searching for forest produce to working for farmers in minding their crops, to make ends meet.

1986 - Photo recorded during sending off at Subang Airport with my late mum (most left), my Sister's family (husband, niece and nephew) and my late childhood's friend.



However, he was proud of his mother who was very dear to him, because despite her shortcomings, she had always supported him in his pursuit of knowledge and always tried her best to provide for his needs including school uniform, shoes and pocket money. Thus, during his secondary school days, his observations of success stories from other communities fueled his desire to succeed like them one day. Bahari also admitted that, the Department of Orang Asli Affairs (JHEOA) played an important role too throughout his life journey and the lives of other Orang Asli children in providing them with various aids and support.

With mathematics being his favourite subject in school and his keen interest in learning new things, he would be thrilled when he learned and completed an exercise. He added that he would be able to complete all the exercises and homework given by his teachers on his own.

"External factors were also helpful in giving the right motivation to individuals from minority groups, where support at home was very minimal in assisting and promoting formal education as what I have encountered. Recognition and support provided by teachers and the school community played a crucial role. In my case, for example, the teachers trusted me and gave me the chance to be the class monitor and prefect, among other opportunities.

"Honestly, I would say that although it might seem insignificant to many, but for the minority groups or those in the bottom billion, such a support would mean much; these are the game changers in my life!" he said, sharing some tips on his successes.

Not forgetting his roots, Bahari also shared some insights and advices to those from the minority groups such as him with the hope of encouraging and inspiring them to also attain success. He said, what is important is that, they need to persevere in what they do and with a clear plan to achieve, as the challenges faced by this group in whatever area or at whichever level would be twice as hard compared to the general society.

For the Orang Asli, the challenge to adapt, the dominating sense of togetherness (being different from others) and other aspects are among the 'unwritten' issues which need to be dealt with "simultaneously" along with other challenges faced by the general society.

"The Orang Asli community also need to live with tolerance and to be humble, while embracing the need to befriend as many as possible those from the general society. I would also advise them to work hard, be diligent in their work and to give nothing but the best," he added.

Bahari began his career at USM in November 1995 and has referred to the former Dean of the School, Professor Dr. Zaharin Yussof as his 'mentor' and a highly-respected icon. He also considered Zaharin as a unique individual, "always sharp" in his thinking and actions, and more importantly, cares for those 'under' him well.

"I wish I could emulate his excellent leadership qualities," Bahari said about his aspiration to be a highly respected leader.

He further said that if he is to assess and reflect upon himself now, he would say that he has now achieved what he had 'envied' of during his school days, which was to become an individual who excelled in his own field.

"My aim in life is to serve, provide my expertise, and contribute my capabilities to USM, my students, my community and my family," he said. In quoting the words of the current USM Vice-Chancellor, Bahari is truly grateful for being able to escape from the shackles of poverty of the B40 group. He is now able to provide his best effort to assist those in the B40 group to escape from life's vicious cycle.

Text: Marziana Mohamed Alias
Translation: Mazlan Hanafi Basharudin
Photo: Dr. Mohd Asyiek Mat Desa / Ebrahim Abdul Manan



In every educational institution, strengthening and maintaining the bond between the students and alumni are always necessary, especially because the students can obtain many insights from the former students.

There are many ways you can give back. Your experiences, expertise and knowledge are valuable! When alumni volunteer their time to share information and knowledge with current students about their education, career choices, and transitioning to life after USM, USM students will have the opportunity to connect with USM alumni and gain knowledge about their future career.

ASK is aimed to build personal development, as well as skills and knowledge. Alumni can help students, academics and staff to be a force for positive change, as critical, creative, caring and collaborative thinkers and doers.




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True Grit in Pursuing Success

Armed with the invaluable experience he had on machine vision projects during his industry training in HP (Malaysia), Mr. Yeoh Shih Hoong graduated from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in 1997 with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science. He then joined ViTrox Technologies Sdn. Bhd (VTSB) from the day of its inception and has played a pivotal role in the product development of the company.

Two alumni, Mr. Chu Jenn Weng (CEO) and Mr Siaw Kok Tong (Co-Founder), had started the company and they hired me as their first employee soon after my graduation. This provided my first official exposure to the various stages of developing a company. Product development was my responsibility. This position also gave me the opportunity to use the tools of research and development (R&D) to continually improve our products," said Yeoh.

Yeoh had played a key role in the development of the sub-pixel technology and the early development of vision system. Yeoh successfully co-developed many products for the company such as Mark Lead Inspection System, IC Package Inspection System, Object Verification and Die Counting System and the 4-in-1 Integration Solution. He is currently involved in the R&D of new machine vision products, supporting existing products as well as training new engineers on machine vision technologies.

"As the Executive Director / Senior Vice-President of ViTrox, I am much involved in management decision making and planning. Looking back 20 years, I am of the opinion that to be successful in life, we need to have an aim like that of my CEO and my Co-founder which go beyond the vision of financial gains. To be selfless and aim for a greater good of the general public".

For new hires, Yeoh often share dreams and the spirit of patriotism with them. He always encourages the new hires to earn foreign money and bring it back to our country. "Often we said that we love our country but what have we done to make our country proud?

It's like we say we love our parents, but what have we done to make them proud? Do we continue to seek money from them until we are 30-years-old or do we earn money and give them a better life? So, we should stop whining and ask the country to offer aid but instead look into the values that we can create for the country.



Yeoh Shih Hoong
*Executive Director/Senior Vice President
ViTrox*

"I am glad that ViTrox mainly exports its products. I am of the opinion that export business is important. Assuming that we are in a family of five and each member starts with RM1,000 investment. Suppose each member starts to sell to each other a product, the net sum for the entire family is still RM5,000 at the end of the day. The whole family will only have more if the family members start to sell to their neighbours and friends. It's the same for businesses in a country. Of course I may be wrong because I am not an economist."

"Our country should move forward and try to compete on the global stage rather than always focusing inwards. I like to cite an analogy of having a few families driving from Penang down to Kuala Lumpur with a few members in each car. The people in one car argued about who should be driving. While they are debating about who should be the driver of that car, the rest of the cars departed to their destination, leaving the car and its passengers who are still engrossed in debating on the driver issue.

"So why bother about trivial matters Look at how our neighbouring countries had progressed over the years and what have we achieved in these years? I hope that the new generation can understand this and look beyond differences. The in-fighting has caused us to be left behind while other countries have moved forward.

“It really doesn’t matter that much who drives, but more of who can bring the car nearer to the destination. We can always take turns to drive if one driver is too tired and needs rest. However, stopping by the R&R and wait for the driver to rest is a time-wasting approach.”



*Chu Jenn Weng,
CEO of Vitrox,
donating PPEs to
the frontliners.*

“Our economy is still heavily dependent on foreign investment. In fact, our own industries are not able to absorb all the graduates from the universities. We also depend on companies and factories from other countries to provide job opportunities, especially to our Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Computer Science graduates. It’s unlikely that we will be 100% self-sustainable in that sense but we should try to be more so. One of the aims ViTrox was founded and part of the reason I joined was to address this issue.

“After 20 years we have only managed to provide job opportunities to a few hundred individuals. However, the contribution of a few companies to the job market is not enough. We need more perhaps 100 or 1000 companies of equivalent size. Luckily, over the past few years, we see more local technology companies coming up to provide job opportunities. A few examples would be Inari, Pentamaster, SRM, and Elsoft.

“One of our corporate objectives is to have excellent world-class products and services. Therefore, we always respect our company. We treat our company as our family and never abuse the privileges given. Hence, we manage to survive through the economic turbulence with a minimal employee turnover. Over the years, I have come across many companies that failed and broke up due to conflict between the founders, either when losing money or, surprisingly, when making much profit.

“How the shareholders split the profit can be an issue too. For example, if a company makes a million ringgit profit by the year end, how much of it should be taken out to be distributed among the shareholders? There’s no right formula here and everyone has their own opinion. Most of the time, the companies tend to distribute the major bulk out, leaving too little for the company to handle any adverse situation that could occur any time in future,” Yeoh explained.

He elaborated that if we treat the company as our own then we tend to use the money with less concern but if we respect the company as a collective property then we will be more careful about its fiscal health. It is because we know that everyone is responsible for its survival and have a chance to enjoy the fruits of its success, especially in trying times like this COVID-19 pandemic.

“Having said all these, I think our success would not have happened without our loyal customers, supporting vendors, committed and dedicated colleagues and also the help of many government agencies such as MIDA, Mdec. We also owe our success to many veterans in the business world and also our Board of Directors who gave us much good advice and guidelines to avoid pitfalls along the road. Through their guidance, we broaden our view and can see a bigger picture than just individual gain.”

Yeoh reminds himself that the pandemic can slow the company’s progress but with the grit of every employee, they will not be vanquished.

“During the COVID MCO, we were lucky to be given the approval by MITI to operate with a small number of employees. Even two weeks before the MCO, we had started to practice social distancing and also the monitoring of body temperature of colleagues in anticipation that the situation could get worse. So we were ready by the time MCO was implemented. Still there were many discussions going on every morning via tele conferencing among the COVID-19 taskforce members to address any issues that arise daily. We provided those who came back to work with meals so that they can avoid going out. We monitor and record body temperature twice daily. We are also lucky in a way that we have moved some of our operation such as like Leave application, expenses claim, and training courses online prior to this. We also use Google Suite that allows the colleagues to share their documents and files online. Thus much of our jobs such as software development and design work can be done from home. We also provide VPN facility for the colleagues to access the intranet.

“The company also took the initiative to do some CSR by donating face masks, test kits and protective gowns for front liners. Some colleagues started other CSR initiatives like providing meals to the homeless. The management and the OSHA team also conducted a few online streaming sessions with our colleagues to disseminate information, and also to address the misconceptions and fear of the pandemic among colleagues. We have also taken a few cost control measures like taking pay cut for the top management and a few other measures.”

Source: Yeoh Shih Hoong

**Text: Sharifah Darweena Syed Ahmad Amir Feisal (B. Sc '07)
Yong Check Yoon**

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) released a document on the guidelines and action plans in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other possible infectious disease outbreaks in the future. Entitled 'Response and Readiness Plan for COVID-19 Pandemic and Other Infectious Disease Outbreaks', this document provides a general guidance on the preparedness, response and communication that are urgently needed against COVID-19 pandemic and other infectious disease outbreaks relating to public health emergencies within the context of the University.

USM First University in Malaysia to Devise Guidelines and Action Plans on Covid-19 Pandemic

It is believed that USM is the first institution of higher learning in the country to devise such a comprehensive framework of guidelines and action plans towards minimizing the impact of COVID-19 on the health and social wellbeing of students and staff, with emphasis on aspects of public health for the USM community as a whole.

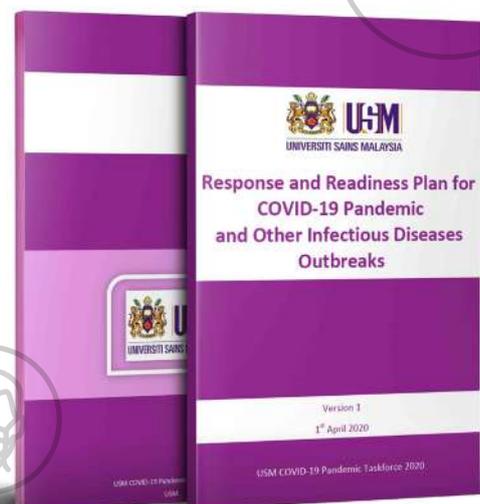
The idea of coming up with this first-of-its-kind document was mooted by the USM Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan, together with the University Top Management and brought into fruition by a special taskforce team coordinated by the Institute for Research in Molecular Medicine (INFORMM) and led by Epidemiologist, Department of Community Medicine, School of Medical Sciences, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wan Mohd Zahiruddin Wan Mohammad, comprising experts from epidemiology, infectious diseases, public health, community medicine, hospital management and lab specialists.

The University's Top Management was very thankful and very impressed with the entire taskforce team who managed to get ready the first version of the document within a short period of time.

We hope the document could serve as a practical guide to minimize the impact of anticipated waves of COVID and other infectious diseases to USM, since the first priority when such a pandemic occurs is to protect the health and ensure the safety of the campus community – staff members and students alike.

We also hope that it will not only benefit USM and its various related agencies but also to be shared and adopted by other institutions of higher learning in the country in the spirit of cooperation and collaboration, in managing and dealing with the third wave of COVID-19 and beyond more effectively.

Text: Tan Ewe Hoe



COVID-19

What say they?

I am at a vantage point whereby I can analyse the measures taken both by the Malaysian and Singaporean government in handling COVID-19. In my opinion, both countries are doing well in mitigating the pandemic.

Firstly, communication plays an important role in managing the pandemic. Leaders of the healthcare system must be able to communicate the disease's severity to the masses. We are blessed with capable leaders who are not afraid to make tough decisions for the citizens' benefit. At the same time, the leaders from these two countries are tactful in utilizing suitable terminologies like *Movement Control Order* and *Circuit Breaker*, thus avoiding the use of *Darurat* or *Emergency* which brings a more serious connotation. I think that these terms played a huge role in reducing the panic among the citizens of both countries.

Next, optimization of human resources. Both countries have ample amounts of Public Health (PH) experts to advise the government on the best way forward. However, the problem in Malaysia lies within the gap separating the policy makers in the Ministry and academia. It is imperative for the PH experts from these two realms to work hand in hand. One of the ways forward is for the PH experts to have twin appointments with the Ministry and the academia.

#staysafe #kitajagakita



Dr. Erwyn Ooi Chin Wei
USM-KLE International Medical Program (2015)

Dr. Erwyn Ooi Chin Wei is currently pursuing his study in Public Health at National University of Singapore.



Mrs Vivien Ng Woan Lee
Bachelor of Pharmacy 2010

Mrs Vivien Ng Woan Lee is a Pharmacy Officer at Hospital Putrajaya.

Coronavirus Disease 2019, or also known as COVID-19 was announced as a new disease by WHO (World Health Organization) since 11 February 2020 and was further characterized as a pandemic on 11 March 2020 for the current outbreak. It is an ongoing pandemic caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome which is also known as coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). As of 11th May 2020, there are more than 4.2 million cases of COVID-19 that have been reported in over 187 countries & territories, with more than 1.5 million people recovered and more than 284,000 deaths. The cases in Malaysia have risen dramatically since the first wave and a few factors should be considered to address the situation such as, increasing the numbers of people tested from mass gatherings and providing more established documentation.

I would like we can **(1) Stop spreading misinformation** online or via any other social media platforms. Information is like a drug. When it is used right, it is a medication but when it is used wrongly, it is a poison which might kill. **(2) Follow facts but not fears.** People tend to panic when it comes to COVID-19. Instead of looking at misinformation and instilling fear in themselves, people should only follow trusted and official websites for more reliable information, for example, World Health Organisation (WHO), Centre for Disease Control (CDC) and Ministry of Health, Malaysia (MOH). **(3) Self-discipline is important.** Everyone should follow preventative measures which include wearing a facemask in public settings, practice hand hygiene by washing hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and social distancing. People who are suspected to be infected should self-isolate and seek help from healthcare professionals. **(4) Facing challenges and opportunities ahead.** COVID-19 might bring on a different life in the future from the current situation. For example, e-learning, online coaching, digital marketing, e-commerce etc. One should always be well-prepared and adapt to the current situation.

COVID-19 virus is caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 and spreads via close contact respiratory droplets that triggers human-to-human infection. This leads to a spectrum of mild symptoms such as fever and cough or in severe cases-acute respiratory distress. Currently, a real-time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction test is used to diagnose COVID-19 infection.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has yet to identify any specific treatment for COVID-19 infection. Several drugs and antiviral therapy have been trialled and used but none is proven effective. Globally, mortality rate for COVID-19 pandemic has reached 6.9 percent and the vaccine for this deadly virus is still in clinical trial. In Malaysia, the statistic is much more promising where the mortality rate is 1.6 percent whereas the recovery rate is 71%.

We are now at war with an unseen and a very dangerous virus. We must prepare our mindset to embrace the 'new normal'. Social distancing, handwashing, habitual mask-wearing, regular temperature check-up and e-learning has become part of our life. We are in this together, so we need to be kind to each other, support the front-liners, and always be patient. With such concerted efforts, we will win this battle. In sha Allah.



Dr. Ahmad Akram Omar
Doctor of Medicine 2002

Dr. Ahmad Akram Omar is a Medical Lecturer & Clinical Consultant at USM, Kubang Kerian.



Khairul Hafez Yunus @ Hamid (Hafez Dolson)
Sarjana Muda Sains Sosial (2018)

Encik Hafez Dolson adalah Pengacara/Wartawan di RTM.

Dunia berdepan dengan satu keadaan yang cukup luar biasa, malah Malaysia turut menerima tempiasnya. 25 Januari 2020 menjadi tarikh pertama berlakunya "outbreak" di negara kita. Gelombang kedua penyebaran yang menyaksikan Malaysia mencatatkan bilangan kes positif wabak COVID19 secara mendadak dan akhirnya memaksa kerajaan Malaysiaewartakan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) dan ini merupakan kali pertama keputusan sedemikian diambil oleh pihak kerajaan Malaysia.

Dalam keputusan ini, kita dapat melihat implikasinya. Bukan sahaja melibatkan sektor ekonomi yang seakan tidak bergerak, malah ini juga merupakan perintah kawalan yang melibatkan lebih 30 juta rakyat Malaysia. Sektor pengajian tinggi yang terkesan juga memaksa pihak Universiti bertindak pantas dalam memastikan keselamatan warganya. Sebagai barisan hadapan dalam bidang penyiaran, menjadi kebanggaan untuk saya membaca secara langsung dalam

siaran berita atas usaha yang dilakukan oleh pihak Universiti saya, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) dalam mengurus para pelajar yang terkandas apabila PKP dilaksana. Dari tanggungan makanan kepada para pelajar sepanjang tempoh PKP sehinggalah kepada OPS Pulang para pelajar ke kediaman masing-masing. Perkembangan yang dikongsi oleh USM di laman sosial jelas menunjukkan USM sememangnya sebuah Universiti yang menjaga kebajikan warganya selari dengan moto "Kami Memimpin". Alhamdulillah segala usaha ini membuahkan hasil apabila para pelajar dapat pulang ke kediaman masing-masing dengan keadaan yang selamat.

Kejayaan kita untuk menentang pandemik ini bukanlah boleh dilakukan secara berseorangan, ianya harus dilakukan bersama, penggembengan yang cukup padu dan disiplin yang tinggi dalam menghindarkan diri dan keluarga daripada terdedah dengan wabak yang membawa maut ini. Catatan penurunan kes yang semakin menurun di Malaysia bukanlah membuka ruang untuk kita bebas sepenuhnya. Kita perlu terus mengamalkan penjarakan sosial, kebersihan diri dan kawalan sendiri dalam memastikan rantaian COVID 19 terputus secara total. Pesanan saya pada semua pelajar dan seluruh warga universiti untuk terus cekal dan tabah dalam berdepan dengan keadaan yang luar jangka ini. Sebagai warga penyiaran, saya turut menegaskan anda semua untuk tidak menyebarkan berita palsu yang boleh menyebabkan keadaan panik dalam kalangan kita. Ingat "Tak Pasti, Jangan Kongsi" Kita Pasti Menang.



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USM, DMM to Boost Conservation Efforts, and become Nation's Agent of Change and Progress

The Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Centre for Global Archaeological Research (CGAR) recently strengthened ties with the Department of Museums Malaysia (DMM) through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Centre for Global Archaeological Research (CGAR) recently strengthened ties with the Department of Museums Malaysia (DMM) through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

USM was represented by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan, while the Director-General of DMM, Datuk Kamarul Baharin A. Kasim signed the MoU on behalf of the department.

Faisal said that the signing of the MoU is a significant move resulting from the exchange in research and expertise in areas of conservation.

According to him, USM and DMM are in the midst of aligning research in areas of archaeology, museum management and efforts in the management and conservation of collections.

"USM through CGAR and DMM have had a long history together since 1987, with the study done at Kota Tampan and Gua Harimau in Lenggong, Perak, and through continuous, active research at Gua Tambun in Ipoh, Perak."



The signing of the MoU is a significant move resulting from the exchange in research and expertise in areas of conservation.

Professor Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan



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Arca WE LEAD USM - Jalan Dewan Budaya



Pejabat Pos USM



Pintu Masuk Utama DTSP USM



Pusat Pengajian Matematik



Ruang Legar Dewan Tuanku Syed Putra USM



Jalan Dewan Budaya

Students

Education Level	Campus			Total
	Main	Health	Engineering	
Student Intake				
Doctor of Philosophy	727	87	118	932
Master Degree	1,440	449	155	2,044
Bachelor Degree (Full-time)	3,170	511	683	4,364
Bachelor Degree (Distance Learning)	1,093	0	0	1,093
Diploma	0	78	0	78
Student Exchange Programme	860	82	18	960
Total	7,290	1,207	974	9,471
Student Enrollment				
Doctor of Philosophy	3,316	392	572	4,280
Master Degree	4,245	2,013	522	6,780
Bachelor Degree (Full-time)	11,289	2,301	2,506	16,096
Bachelor Degree (Distance Learning)	5,804	0	0	5,804
Diploma	0	158	0	158
Student Exchange Programme	1,101	82	29	1,212
Total	25,755	4,946	3,629	34,330
Graduand				
Doctor of Philosophy	353	56	88	497
Master Degree	1,020	346	194	1,560
Bachelor Degree (Full-time)	2,588	607	558	3,753
Bachelor Degree (Distance Learning)	413	0	0	413
Diploma	55	0	0	55
Student Exchange Programme	0	45	0	45
Total	4,429	1,054	840	6,323

Foreign Students

Education Level	Campus			Total
	Main	Health	Engineering	
Student Enrollment				
Doctor of Philosophy	1,427	123	164	1,714
Master Degree	459	169	75	703
Bachelor Degree (Full-time)	374	53	51	478
Student Exchange Programme	1,101	82	29	1,212
Total	3,361	427	319	4,107

USM ALUMNI (1973-2019)

Education Level	Total
Postgraduate	32,342
Undergraduate	147,257
Total	179,599

USM in numbers | 2019



PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: _____

Citizenship: Malaysian Others (please specify). I/C Number: _____ Gender: Male Female

Address (home): _____

Postcode: _____ Town: _____ State: _____

Phone (home): _____ Handphone: _____

Email 1: _____ Email 2: _____

EMPLOYMENT DETAILS

Company: _____

Position/Job Title: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Town: _____ State: _____

Phone (office): _____ Fax: _____

QUALIFICATION(S) DETAILS

Graduate	Course	School	Year Graduate
Diploma			
Degree			
Master			
PhD			

**Qualifications from USM only.*

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