

ALUMNI **bulletin**

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power up!



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Cover rationale: Creativity is an important asset, and over and above individual differences in creativity, we find something as subtle as an illuminating light bulb in our environment can facilitate insight, and thus lead to more creative solutions to problems. - Michael Slepian

Cover image: www.freepik.com

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From the Vice-Chancellor

2021 ended with a bang.

USM recorded significant improvements in internationalisation, accessibility and research achievements. Massive strides were taken in terms of physical development, staff empowerment, and student experience. We remain resolute in achieving operational excellence and positive impacts towards nation-building.

Some of the most exciting developments took place in our medical fraternity - in HUSM and Health Campus - both located in Kelantan, and Bertam's Advanced Medical and Dental Institute (AMDI). We look forward to a new building for our Outpatient Department, the completion of our MRI facility - the most advanced in the East Coast, our laser refractive services, brachytherapy advancement, and robo-rehab centre in collaboration with SOCSO, among other things.

We faced challenges head on, being more persistent, and more resilient.

Lebih cekal, lebih kental.

Salam Ramadhan & Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

Professor Dato' Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan

Vice-Chancellor

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From DVC to Alumni

Assalamualaikum w.b.t and Salam Sejahtera,

Ramadhan Kareem.

Hope everyone is keeping well during this holy month of Ramadhan. As for us here at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), students are now back on campus, although in stages. Now that we are entering into the endemic phase, a thorough preparation for the face-to-face and online learning (blended learning) sessions are being emphasized. This is to ensure the safety of our students staying while attending lectures and participating in other related activities. We trust our students are able to take care of their own safety by following all the COVID-19 SOPs set by the government.

The University always believes that students are able to gain the best experience while being on campus. It is wonderful to see students enjoying themselves on campus after being at home during the long pandemic lockdown. We observe that students of all ethnicities are more engaged with one another now, as demonstrated in their preparation for “juadah berbuka puasa” for the University’s community during this Ramadhan. Similarly, students are now starting to organize programs or events via face-to-face which they longed for or have missed after being away from the campus for so long.

The Office of Deputy of Vice-Chancellor Student Development Affairs and Alumni would like to reach out to each and every alumnus to continue engaging with us. Your continued support is much sought after to enable our students to have more meaningful experiences while being on campus. Thus, we would like to seek your support, including by providing opportunities for internship in your organizations, investing in corporate social responsibility-based programmes for students to organize and carry out, offer platforms for students to engage in entrepreneurial-based activities, and generate competition-based events towards enabling students to sharpen their thinking and problem-solving skills. The alumni are our primary stakeholder in providing guidance and as change agents in bringing about the unique quality and potentials of our students. We trust with the support of our alumni, USM will be able to produce more proactive, independent and quality students.

Being a USM alumnus myself, I am very much grateful and excited to be serving this office and will do my best to engage with each and every one of you. Thank you to all alumni for the unwavering support and may everyone be given the best of health and continue to remember USM.

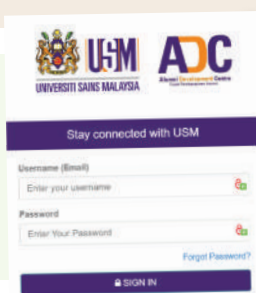
May you all be blessed always in your current and future endeavours.

Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

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

Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Student Development Affairs and Alumni



GOT NEWS?

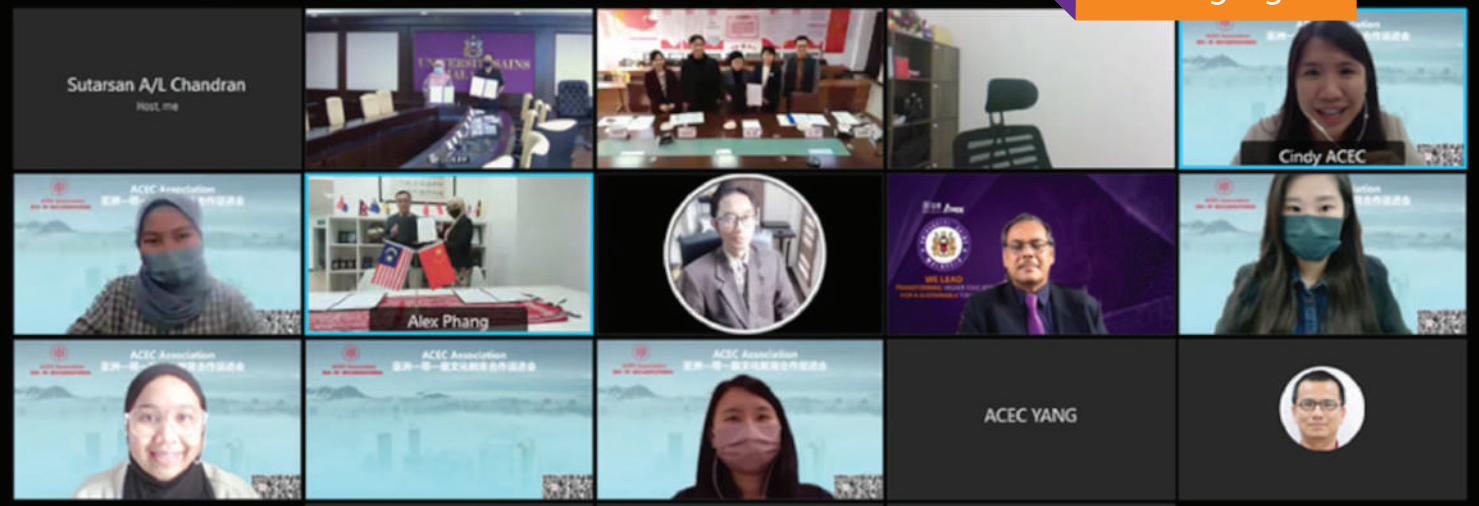
- Are you moving?
- Started a new business?
- Doing a charity work?
- Received a promotion?

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.

Speaking: Cindy ACEC, Alex Phang

highlights



USM INKED MOU To Establish Global Study Centre in China Universities

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Guilin University of Electronic Technology and Asia China Education and Culture Association (ACEC).

The MoU was signed through a virtual ceremony conducted using the Webex video conferencing platform, in part due to restrictions on international travel brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The purpose of the signing was to forward a proposal in promoting cooperation in education, research and industry, and to facilitate common regional development.

With the MoU, all parties hope to facilitate an exchange of academic and administrative staff, exchange of students, and in jointly establishing the USM Global Study Centre in China universities in order to promote USM programmes, and joint research on scientific and technological subjects.

USM Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic and International, Professor Dato' Gs. Dr. Narimah Samat signed the MoU on behalf of the university, which stated objectives that include holding joint scientific and technological meetings, symposiums and lectures, and to jointly conduct cross-cultural programmes.

"I look forward to the key deliverables namely in the exchange of academic findings, publications, and other academic matters through co-operation mutually-agreed upon by all parties involved.

"On behalf of USM, I would like to thank the delegation from Guilin University and ACEC for having us as a strategic partner with the signing of today's MoU," she added.



Also present were the Guilin University of Electronic Technology President, Professor Xu Hua Rui; ACEC Executive Regional Director, Yang Cheng Cheng; USM Strategic Corporate Development Director, Muhamad Sabri Said; and USM School of Computer Sciences Dean, Professor Dato' Dr. Bahari Belaton.

Guilin University of Electronic Technology is famed for its Electronic Information Technology as its main discipline, while the other disciplines offered include Mechanical Engineering, Business Management, Literature, Law and Education.

ACEC is an international association with members from Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Korea, Cambodia, Brunei, Philippines and other Belt and Road countries. Approved by the Malaysian government, ACEC promotes and facilitates international cultural and educational exchanges and cooperation between the Belt and Road countries and China by building a platform for cooperation between governments, universities, research institutions and industrial companies.

*Text: Mohamad Hafiz Asyraf Mohd Arop
 Photo: Mohd Fairus Md Isa*



YAB Tuan Chow Kon Yeow
Chief Minister of Penang



Micron Malaysia

RM1 Million University Funding Announcement and MoU Signing Ceremony

January 07, 2022



Mr. Sivasuriyamoorthy Sundara Raja
Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Malaysian Investment
Development Authority (MIDA)



USM, MICRON TECHNOLOGY, INC.

Forged Strategic Partnership

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) is proud to be the first local university partner to receive funding from Micron Technology, Inc. with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two parties in Batu Kawan Industrial Park, Bandar Cassia on January 2022.

The move aims to spur growth in research and development (R&D) collaborations. Funding will go towards grants supporting research in the areas of semiconductor materials, smart manufacturing and artificial intelligence which are key to the advancement of tech manufacturing in the country.

“I wish to thank Micron for giving USM the opportunity to be the first university partner to receive funding and hope that it will spur research and strengthen the collaborations between both organisations.”

- Faisal Rafiq

“According to Amarjit, Malaysia is critical to our global manufacturing footprint, and we hope the funding and knowledge transfer to local universities will strengthen the local semiconductor ecosystem, advance R&D and deepen science, technology and engineering skills in the local talent pool.”

At the hybrid signing ceremony, USM was represented by its Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation, Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Abdul Rahman Mohamed while Micron was represented by its Corporate Vice-President and Country Manager, Amarjit Singh Sandhu.

Witnessing the MoU signing ceremony were guests of honours, YAB Chow Kon Yeow, Penang Chief Minister; and Dato' Arham Abdul Rahman, CEO of Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA). Also in attendance were Dato' Seri Lee Kah Choon, special investment advisor to chief minister of Penang, and Dato' Loo Lee Lian, CEO of InvestPenang.

“I wish to thank Micron for giving USM the opportunity to be the first university partner to receive funding and hope that it will spur research and strengthen the collaborations between both organisations,” said Faisal Rafiq.

“USM is highly appreciative and grateful for Micron's willingness to open more than 300 job vacancies specifically for USM talents, especially to final-year students across programmes of study and alumni as well. It is hoped that his move will further increase the graduate employability (GE) rate of USM,” he said.

He added that the strategic partnership between USM and Micron is in line with the focus area of the National Fourth Industrial Revolution's policy, and supported by national policies such as the 12th Malaysia Plan and Wawasan Kemakmuran Bersama 2030.

Earlier Micron Technology, Inc. announced an investment of RM1 million to strengthen collaboration, research and development (R&D) projects with local universities over the next five years.

According to Amarjit, Malaysia is critical to our global manufacturing footprint, and we hope the funding and knowledge transfer to local universities will strengthen the local semiconductor ecosystem, advance R&D and deepen science, technology and engineering skills in the local talent pool.

“We aim to use our presence and influence to contribute to Malaysia's economy, including generating quality jobs and increasing the country's productivity, efficiency, and global competitiveness, as what we have been doing all this while with USM since we began operations here three years ago,” he said.

For year 2022, Micron is focusing on further strengthening its university relations and engagement endeavors, namely NCG, Internship, STEM, R&D Collaboration and the latest, Curriculum Enhancement.

“We aim to use our presence and influence to contribute to Malaysia's economy, including generating quality jobs and increasing the country's productivity, efficiency, and global competitiveness, as what we have been doing all this while with USM since we began operations here three years ago.”

- Amarjit Singh Sandhu

“I am immensely proud of Penang's achievements in the electronic and electrical industry, and the RM1 million grant funding to local universities by Micron today further reinforces Micron's commitment to using its leadership, influence and resources to create positive change, on top of its relentless efforts in employee wellbeing, sustainability, and corporate social responsibility.”

- Chow Kon Yeow

In lauding the investment by Micron, Kon Yeow said, “I am immensely proud of Penang's achievements in the electronic and electrical industry, and the RM1 million grant funding to local universities by Micron today further reinforces Micron's commitment to using its leadership, influence and resources to create positive change, on top of its relentless efforts in employee wellbeing, sustainability, and corporate social responsibility.”

“We are encouraged by Micron's efforts and contribution to build a resilient semiconductor ecosystem that supports Malaysia's competitiveness as the destination of choice for future investments,” said Arham, while adding that the partnership between Micron and USM is set to create new growth opportunities and we welcome more of such collaborations to transpire between other various institutors and companies.

Among the USM delegates present at the ceremony were representatives from the Industry and Community Network Division, School of Computer Sciences and School of Materials and Mineral Resources Engineering, together with the senior management members from Micron.

Micron is an industry leader involved in the manufacturing of solid-state non-volatile storage devices, integrated circuit memory, memory modules and test engineering services, and other related activities.

Text: Tan Ewe Hoe

Photo: Courtesy of Micron Technology, Inc.

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) has entered into a partnership with the European Global School University (EGS), an esteemed learning centre in Turkey, to offer offshore academic programmes recently.

The USM collaboration with EGS was sealed through a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signing ceremony, with USM making its presence felt for the first time in such a venture in Europe.

At the ceremony held on January 26, USM was represented by its Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan and its Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic and International, Professor Dato' Dr. Narimah Samat, while EGS was represented by its President, Dr. Nour El Hoda Awada.

The inaugural initiative, to be known as USM@Turkey, represents a new milestone for USM in bringing the academic programmes to Europe, whereby EGS will cover both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. This also marks USM's first offshore presence in Europe.

USM aims to offer 28 programmes from 12 academic schools, of which 18 programmes have been approved so far by the USM Senate and the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), Malaysia, at USM@Turkey for this offshore collaboration with EGS.

Among the programmes to be offered are dental sciences, engineering, and language and business studies. This offshore centre is planned to serve and function as the USM academic centre for the Middle Eastern, African and European markets as well.

USM-EGS INKED MOA

To Set Up Offshore Academic Programmes in Turkey



"...being one of the top-ranking research universities and the first science university in the country, USM will be more than happy to cultivate the spirit of academic collaboration between fellow institutions, with the hope that MoAs such as these, will lead to smoother undertakings and more fruitful outcomes in the future."





According to Faisal Rafiq, being one of the top-ranking research universities and the first science university in the country, USM will be more than happy to cultivate the spirit of academic collaboration between fellow institutions, with the hope that MoAs such as these, will lead to smoother undertakings and more fruitful outcomes in the future.

“During the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, USM recorded successive years of growth in the intake and enrolment of international students, even though that was during times of restricted movement. We don’t want to rest on our laurels and will continue to embark on initiatives that will attract more international students,” he added.

Meanwhile, Nour El Hoda said that the MoA is an important milestone in the journey towards forging a strong and fruitful partnership to share and promote education and learning across the globe, as education is a powerful tool in enhancing a person’s self-worth, increases opportunities, and unlocks the mind.

“I am particularly pleased to celebrate the launch of this collaboration because at EGS, we consider this as a long-term investment that will allow us to explore opportunities in academics, research and training,” she added.

The ceremony was then continued with a short discussion between both parties, discussing on the materials and documentations needed to be prepared in promoting the programmes offered at EGS.

“USM aims to offer 28 programmes from 12 academic schools, of which 18 programmes have been approved so far by the USM Senate and the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), Malaysia, at USM@Turkey for this offshore collaboration with EGS.”

During the discussion, the Director of USM Strategic Corporate Development Office, Muhammad Sabri Said thanked the EGS team for their presence at USM.

He also proposed several marketing strategies for the USM and EGS office in Turkey, discussed on the contents for the EGS website, and also on official communications with other government agencies such as embassies and schools in Turkey.

Faisal Rafiq and Muhammad Sabri attended the ceremony via Webex link. Also present were the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of EGS Turkey Campus, Bachir Al Salman and Research Centre Director of EGS Turkey, Dr. Fadi Hasan.

The EGS team has been in USM since January 23, visiting the Advanced Medical and Dental Institute (IPPT), Bertam Campus and the School of Housing, Building and Planning (HBP), among others.

*Text: Nur Farrah Ezlin Mohd Suhaimi
Editing: Mazlan Hanafi Basharudin*



USM Collaboration With BOSTON SCIENTIFIC A Positive Move to Empower Research and Talent Development

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) has always cherished its long-term strategic relations with Boston Scientific Medical Device (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. [referred to as Boston Scientific] and today, both parties have gathered in USM to celebrate a gesture of appreciation upon the plentiful generosity which USM has received from Boston Scientific from March till September 2021, worth at more than RM6 million on research equipment delivered.

The inauguration ceremony of the Thermal Laboratory: Differential Scanning Calorimeter (DSC) donated by Boston Scientific was graced by the Chairman of USM Board of Governors, Dato' Dr. Awang Adek Hussin.

Also present were USM Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan; Vice-President of Operations, Boston Scientific, Dave Mitchell and principal officers of both parties.

Awang Adek in his speech said, USM has always been enthusiastic with regard to forging partnerships with Boston Scientific, especially in areas of talent development and research and innovation.

"Medical engineering is one of our focus areas which is aligned to the national agenda, evident by its recurring emphasis in the Malaysian Plan, including the latest 12th Malaysia Plan.

"Within this strategic focus area, Boston Scientific is widely recognised as the world leader in medical devices. Consequently, USM, through its various schools and centres, such as the Science and Engineering Research Centre (SERC), and the School of Materials and Mineral Resources Engineering, has been engaging very closely with Boston Scientific in research collaboration as well as in the development of our graduates," he added.

Meanwhile, the equipment that were shipped in beginning March last year, comprised mostly of brand-new equipment to be utilised for major common lab facility, research and teaching

equipment, and analytical equipment that benefitted the teaching, research and service labs.

The distributions had been done in two phases; for first phase distribution, the equipment were placed at the Advanced Medical & Dental Institute (IPPT) and all engineering schools through SERC. In the second phase, again through SERC, the equipment were distributed to the Institute for Research in Molecular Medicine (INFORMM), School of Industrial Technology, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Chemical Sciences and Pusat Sejahtera at the USM Main Campus, and most recently to the USM Health Campus in Kelantan.

Text: Marziana Mohamed Alias





USM SIGNS MOU WITH PKT LOGISTICS GROUP for Career Development of Graduates

In a historic first, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with PKT LOGISTICS GROUP SDN. BHD to work together in academic and research development.

The MoU was signed by both parties on 10 March 2022 at PKT Logistics' The Ship Campus in Batu Kawan, Penang.

The MOU signing ceremony was officiated by USM Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan, together with, Group Chief Executive and Managing Director of PKT Logistics Group Sdn. Bhd., Dato' Seri Dr. Michael Tio, and witnessed by Prof. Dato' Ir. Dr. Abdul Rahman Mohamed, USM Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) and Mr. Jason Cheah Seng Cheong, Group Chief Operating Officer, PKT Logistics Group Sdn. Bhd.

Also present at the signing ceremony were Dr. Shaizatulaqma Kamalul Ariffin, Director of Industry Network, BJIM.

"I wish to thank our counterparts from PKT Logistics Group Sdn. Bhd., especially Dato' Seri Dr. Michael Tio, on his continued support, especially with regard to the training and talent development exercise of students," said Faisal Rafiq.



"The Ship Campus through PKT will bring the institution closer to industries, to ensure that graduates can acquire their relevant skills to serve the industry while empowering them to become graduates of quality."

- Michael Tio



“Recalling how this network started with PITCH@USM activities, it began by inviting Y.Bhg. Dato' Seri as one of the panellist in selecting the winners of the Pitch Cycle 1.0 competition in 2021. This was followed by the awarding of two spaces at the Entrepreneur Growth Hub to the two winners of Pitch Cycle 1.0 (Utopus Group and Ugek Group) at the company's Ship Campus for free.

“Subsequently, this network was further strengthened with the appointment of Y.Bhg. Dato' Seri as an Adjunct Professor at the School of Management (SOM) in USM starting in 2022. Not only that, PKT Logistics is also honoured to award the Academic Excellence Award to the top three (3) students in the field of Operations Management to SOM, beginning from the 2021/ 2022 Academic Session,” he added.

“Recalling how this network started with PITCH@USM activities, it began by inviting Y.Bhg. Dato' Seri as one of the panellist in selecting the winners of the Pitch Cycle 1.0 competition in 2021. This was followed by the awarding of two spaces at the Entrepreneur Growth Hub to the two winners of Pitch Cycle 1.0 (Utopus Group and Ugek Group) at the company's Ship Campus for free”

- Faisal Rafiq

“The signing of this MoU opens a new chapter for both parties to collaborate in areas which have been mutually identified, and I look forward to a fruitful relationship with a prestigious university like USM in the years ahead.”

- Michael Tio

Meanwhile, according to Michael, the signing of this MoU opens a new chapter for both parties to collaborate in areas which have been mutually identified, and he looks forward to a fruitful relationship with a prestigious university like USM in the years ahead.

He also pointed out that The Ship Campus through PKT will bring the institution closer to industries, to ensure that graduates can acquire their relevant skills to serve the industry while empowering them to become graduates of quality.

PKT is a socially-responsible company providing logistics services by utilising local human resources, building environmentally-friendly warehouses, having open engagements with the communities, and inspiring other businesses to provide positive impact to the people and communities through its activities.

The Ship Campus is a project by PKT Logistics Group Sdn Bhd under the company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme. Peninsula College's state-of-the-art campuses across Malaysia feature the Campus-in-Industry model, where colleges are located within an industrial park. Students will be able to enjoy close collaboration and part-time employment with industry partners while studying.

Text: Mohamad Hafiz Asyraf Mohd Arop

Photo: Mohd Fairus Md. Isa



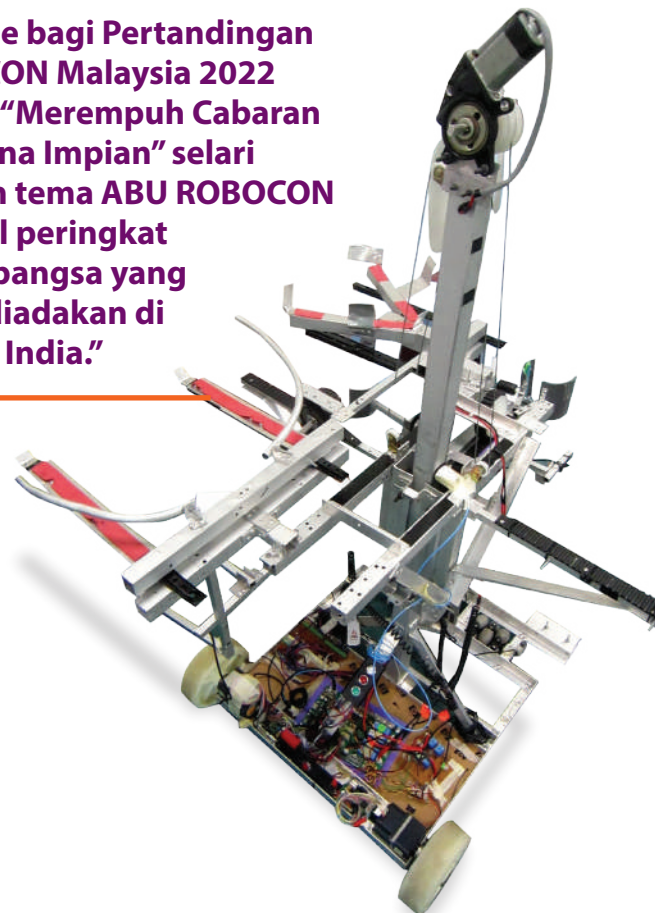
Pertandingan Robot Contest (ROBOCON) merupakan pertandingan robotik di peringkat Asia Pasifik anjuran Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) dan Malaysia diwakili oleh Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM) sebagai ahli tetap ABU sejak tahun 1975. Pada peringkat awal, pertandingan ini diinspirasi oleh Nippon Hōsō Kyōkai (NHK), Jepun sebelum ia terus berkembang dengan kolaborasi bersama ABU yang dianggotai oleh hampir 300 stesen penyiaran antarabangsa pada tahun 2002 dan penganjuran pada tahun 2022 merupakan edisi yang ke-21.

Malaysia dan RTM juga pernah menjadi hos penganjuran bagi edisi ke-5 pada September 2006 di KLCC. Pada peringkat kebangsaan pula, ROBOCON Malaysia merupakan program tahunan Jabatan Pendidikan Tinggi (JPT), Kementerian Pendidikan Tinggi (KPT) dan RTM serta membantu pemilihan wakil negara ke peringkat antarabangsa.

Antara tujuan penganjuran ROBOCON Malaysia adalah untuk mempertingkatkan pengetahuan teknologi robotik dan memberi ruang kepada mahasiswa untuk mempamerkan kemahiran, inovasi dan daya kreativiti mereka dalam bidang penciptaan robot. Tujuan kedua adalah untuk menggalakkan "knowledge transfer" dan mengadaptasi "best practise" dalam bidang robotik dari luar negara berkaitan teknologi robotik. Akhir sekali untuk meningkatkan kapasiti penyelidikan dan meluaskan jaringan kerjasama strategi antara pihak industri untuk mengukuhkan ekosistem dan infrastruktur teknologi robotik dalam kalangan mahasiswa di institusi pendidikan tinggi.

Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia (UIAM) menjadi tuan rumah bagi Pertandingan ROBOCON Malaysia 2019 bertemakan "Satu Langkah, Seribu Lonjakan" dan pasukan USM memenangi Pertandingan ROBOCON peringkat kebangsaan yang diadakan di Dewan Sri Sarjana, Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN). Namun, pasukan Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) tidak berjaya di peringkat antarabangsa Asia-Pacific ROBOCON di Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

"Tagline bagi Pertandingan ROBOCON Malaysia 2022 adalah "Merempuh Cabaran Membina Impian" selari dengan tema ABU ROBOCON Festival peringkat antarabangsa yang bakal diadakan di Lagori, India."



Pada tahun ini ROBOCON Malaysia telah menjalinkan kerjasama dengan USM dan Radio Televisyen Malaysia (RTM) untuk memperkasakan dan melibatkan mahasiswa serta pelajar dalam bidang sains, teknologi dan inovasi selari dengan Lonjakan 1 Pelan Pembangunan Pendidikan Tinggi bagi melahirkan pelajar yang holistik dan seimbang.

Pertandingan ROBOCON Malaysia 2022 akan diadakan pada 2 hingga 5 Jun 2022 secara bersemuka di Kompleks Sukan Azman Hashim, USM, Pulau Pinang bertemakan “Lagori” bagi mengembalikan suasana serta kemeriahan sesebuah pertandingan. Lagori ini merupakan sejenis permainan tradisional di negara India yang mana hampir menyerupai permainan “Tuju Tin” di negara kita.

Walau bagaimanapun, penganjuran kali ini akan mengambil perhatian terhadap keselamatan dan kesejahteraan semua yang terlibat sesuai dengan situasi endemik pada masa ini.

Tagline bagi Pertandingan ROBOCON Malaysia 2022 adalah “Merempuh Cabaran Membina Impian” selari dengan tema ABU ROBOCON Festival peringkat antarabangsa yang bakal diadakan di Lagori, India.

“Pertandingan ROBOCON Malaysia 2022 akan diadakan pada 2 hingga 5 Jun 2022 secara bersemuka di Kompleks Sukan Azman Hashim, USM, Pulau Pinang bertemakan “Lagori” bagi mengembalikan suasana serta kemeriahan sesebuah pertandingan.”



USM PPKE juara pertandingan akhir Robocon peringkat Kebangsaan 2019
(Sumber: facebook/robocon usm)



Permainan Tuju Tin atau Baling Tin yang menjadi permainan tradisional kanak-kanak Malaysia telah diabadikan sebagai Setem Pos Malaysia pada tahun 2000
(Sumber: <https://roboconmalaysia.com/>)

“Antara tujuan penganjuran ROBOCON Malaysia adalah untuk mempertingkatkan pengetahuan teknologi robotik dan memberi ruang kepada mahasiswa untuk mempamerkan kemahiran, inovasi dan daya kreativiti mereka dalam bidang penciptaan robot.”

Dalam pertandingan ROBOCON Malaysia 2022 tahun ini, robot-robot yang direkacipta perlu merobohkan lagori (cakera) di tengah ‘game field’ dan kemudiannya akan membina semula lagori tersebut bagi memenangi pertandingan ini. Secara tidak langsung, permainan ini dimulakan dengan memecahkan/merempuh cabaran (lagori) dan kemudian akan membina semula cabaran (lagori) ini bagi memenangi pertandingan ini.

Pasukan yang menang di peringkat kebangsaan akan bertanding mewakili Malaysia ke Festival ABU ROBOCON antarabangsa yang akan berlangsung pada 19 hingga 23 Ogos di Thyagraj Stadium, New Delhi, India. Antara negara yang telah mengesahkan penyertaan termasuklah dari negara Jepun, Cambodia, Mesir, Hong Kong, India, China, Nepal, Mongolia, Thailand dan Malaysia.

Untuk mengikuti perkembangan, aktiviti serta maklumat lanjut berkaitan Pertandingan ROBOCON Malaysia sila imbas kod QR pada poster untuk ke laman rasmi Facebook dan laman web rasmi Pertandingan ROBOCON Malaysia 2022.

Sumber: Pusat Pembangunan HEBAT
Suntingan: Nor Rafizah Haji Md Zain
Foto: Muhammad Fikri Omar



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PEMBANGUNAN WAKAF LALUAN RAHMAH (WLR) MASJID AL MALIK KHALID USM

WAKAF SEBAGAI SEKTOR KETIGA PENJANAAN EKONOMI USM

ANGGARAN PERBELANJAAN:

RM 300,000.00

PEMBINAAN 10 KIOSK PERNIAGAAN BAGI PROJEK KEUSAHAWANAN PELAJAR DAN ANAK QARYAH B40

LOKASI: KAWASAN PARKIR MASJID AL-MALIK KHALID.
KEMUDAHAN: BERDEKATAN PINTU MASUK USM SUNGAI
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JAWATANKUASA QARYAH MASJID AL MALIK KHALID USM | RUJUKAN : WLR



Misi Menawan **KINABALU** Bersama Alumni PPPJJ

“Setelah saya berjinak-jinak dengan aktiviti sukan seperti *jogging* dan *cycling*, minat mendaki mulai timbul apabila rakan sejawat mengajak mendaki Gunung Machincang, Langkawi dengan ketinggian 701 meter dari paras laut menjadikan aktiviti *hiking* ini sebagai pengisian masa lapang pada waktu cuti.

“Mendaki juga dapat membina kerjasama berpasukan yang erat secara tidak langsung kerana kecergasan setiap individu tidak sama dan juga dapat mengajar kita erti kesabaran agar tidak mudah berputus asa.

Demikian ujar Mohamad Sofi Musa, graduan Ijazah Sarjana Muda Pengurusan dari Pusat Pengajian Pendidikan Jarak Jauh (PPPJJ), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) tahun 2020.

“Saya masih baru lagi dalam aktiviti mendaki ini dan telah berjaya menawan tiga gunung iaitu Gunung Machincang, Gunung Raya dan Gunung Fakir Terbang manakala bukit lebih kurang 10 bukit iaitu Bukit Kilim, Bukit Bendera, Moon Gate 5, Bukit Fraser, Bukit Batu Licin, Bukit AMD Camp Perik, Bukit Koding (Mok chun), Bukit Telipong, Bukit Batu Merah dan Puncak Datai.

“Pada September 2021, Siti Norzaharah Ismail yang juga salah seorang alumni RPJJ USM memberi cadangan untuk mendaki Gunung Kinabalu dan kami seramai 10 orang alumni juga bersetuju untuk mengikuti rancangan itu,” tambah Sofi.



Kesemua peserta berkumpul selepas selesai proses pendaftaran untuk memulakan pendakian

“Pada mulanya, kami bercadang untuk mendaki pada 24 hingga 28 Mac 2022 dan segala persiapan telah dibuat seperti tempahan tiket penerbangan, *guide* dan slot kekosongan untuk mendaki kerana hanya 150 peserta sahaja dibenarkan untuk mendaki pada satu masa.

“Namun demikian, pada Disember 2021 kami dimaklumkan hanya terdapat 2 slot kosong pada tarikh tersebut dan kami terpaksa menukar agen dan bersetuju memilih 9 hingga 11 Februari 2022 untuk mendaki.

“Tapi sayang, hanya lapan orang yang berkesempatan meneruskan perancangan tersebut kerana dua orang terpaksa menarik diri kerana kekangan lain,” luah Sofi.

“Kos yang kami keluarkan adalah sebanyak RM950.00 bagi menampung *guide*, penginapan di Panalaban, sajian lima kali dan perkhidmatan van sepanjang tarikh tersebut dan tidak termasuk penerbangan ke Kota Kinabalu dari lokasi masing-masing.

Perancangan yang teliti dan penyediaan keperluan adalah sangat kritikal bagi kami yang ingin mendaki Gunung Kinabalu buat kali pertama.

Pakaian dan peralatan sokongan seperti pakaian yang kalis sejuk, *headlamp*, mask/mafla, beg kalis air, *poncho*, *first aid kit*, *snow cap* perlu dibawa di samping makanan ringan yang memberikan tenaga seperti *energy bar*, coklat, minuman 100 plus dan lain-lain.

Kami banyak membaca pengalaman-pengalaman pendaki sebelum ini dan juga mengambil tips daripada agen.

Gunung Kinabalu merupakan gunung yang tertinggi di Malaysia dengan ketinggian 4095.2 meter dari aras laut. Tidak semua dapat mendaki sehingga ke puncak disebabkan faktor cuaca, kekangan masa serta faktor keupayaan individu.

“Mendaki juga dapat membina kerjasama berpasukan yang erat secara tidak langsung kerana kecergasan setiap individu tidak sama dan juga dapat mengajar kita erti kesabaran agar tidak mudah berputus asa.”

Tentatif kami adalah seperti berikut:

Day 1 / 9 Februari 2022 (Rabu)
 19:00 : Tiba di Intenational Airport KK
 20:30 : Bertolak dari Airport KK ke Homestay Kundasang

Day 2 / 10 Februari 2022 (Khamis)
 6:30 : Sarapan Pagi
 7:00 : Bertolak ke Kinabalu Park
 9:45 : Mula mendaki dari Timpohon Gate
 15:50 : Tiba di Panalaban
 19:00 : Makan Malam dan Rehat

Day 3 / 11 Februari 2022 (Jumaat)
 2:00 : (Supper)
 2:45 : Mula Mendaki
 4:00 : Tiba di Check Point (Sayat-Sayat)
 5:50 : Tiba di Puncak
 7:00 : Mula turun dari puncak
 16:50 : Tiba di Timpohon Gate
 18:00 : Bertolak dari Kinabalu Park ke Homestay Kundasang



“Gunung Kinabalu merupakan gunung yang tertinggi di Malaysia dengan ketinggian 4095.2 meter dari aras laut. Tidak semua dapat mendaki sehingga ke puncak disebabkan faktor cuaca, kekangan masa serta faktor keupayaan individu.”



Bersedia di Panalaban @ Laban Rata untuk ke Low's Peak sekitar jam 2.00 pagi



“Lebih kurang pada jam 7.00 pagi kami bertolak ke Kinabalu Park dan mendaftar untuk mendapatkan kad nama yang merupakan lesen untuk mendaki dan juga *guide* yang akan mengiringi kami sehingga ke puncak. Kemudian kami memulakan pendakian dari Timpohon ke Panalaban yang mengambil masa lebih kurang 4 hingga 6 jam dengan jarak lebih kurang 6.5 kilometer bergantung kepada kekuatan pasukan.

“Pada jam 9.45 pagi, bermulalah pendakian dengan penuh semangat membara sebelum sampai di *checkpoint* pertama. Dari segi pendakian, tidaklah begitu mencabar kerana permukaan treknya adalah bertangga berbatu tetapi menguji kesabaran seseorang. Sepanjang laluan ke Panalaban terdapat 10 hentian untuk berehat sebentar atau ke tandas.

“Kami tiba di Panalaban atau Laban Rata pada jam 3.50 petang manakala 4 lagi rakan kami tiba pada jam 5.00 petang. Pendaki perlu tiba di *checkpoint* ini sebelum jam 7.00 malam untuk makan malam dan sekiranya lambat makan malam tidak disediakan. Penginapan yang disediakan di Panalaban ini adalah seperti asrama dan tempat tidurnya bercampur di antara lelaki dan wanita.

“Keadaan di situ sangat sejuk sehingga merasakan cadar seperti basah, kaki mulai merasi kekejangan otot dan waktu mandi juga seperti mandi air bercampur ketulan ais.

“Setelah selesai makan malam kami terus tidur kerana pada jam 2.00 pagi kami akan *supper* dan meneruskan pendakian ke puncak dan kami perlu tiba ke *checkpoint* Sayat-sayat sebelum jam 5.00 pagi dan jika lewat, kami tidak dibenarkan untuk meneruskan pendakian ke puncak. Sekiranya hujan pada pagi itu pendaki tidak dibenarkan untuk mendaki kerana kawasan tersebut adalah kawasan laluan air.

“Disinilah penentuan untuk mendapatkan samada sijil berwarna atau hitam putih. Kami membuat persiapan pakaian yang tebal dan juga menutup keseluruhan anggota badan termasuklah sarung tangan dan kain penutup hidung kerana suhu pada waktu itu amat sejuk.



Cuaca yang agak buruk menyukarkan proses pendakian dan penurunan dari puncak Kinabalu



Kesemua peserta ketika tiba di Kinabalu Park untuk proses pendaftaran pendakian



Sijil pendakian yang bewarna diberikan kepada peserta yang naik/tiba pada ketetapan masa yang diberikan

“Berebekali *headlamp* dan akhirnya kami tiba di *checkpoint* Sayat-sayat pada jam 4 pagi dan dua rakan tiba pada jam 4.40 pagi.

Pendakian daripada Sayat-sayat ke *Low's Peak* sangat mencabar kerana terdapat tangga yang curam dan juga terdapat kawasan yang memerlukan bantuan tali untuk mendaki. Pada peringkat ini juga kami merasakan oksigen mulai berkurangan dan keadaan persekitaran yang sangat sejuk dan pernafasan kita terganggu.

“Alhamdulillah kami semua sampai ke puncak dalam tempoh yang ditetapkan walaupun ada rakan-rakan yang memaksa diri untuk sampai ke puncak dan ada yang muntah dan sangat keletihan.

“la satu pengalaman yang sangat manis apabila dapat meraikan kejayaan bersama sampai ke puncak dan bergambar bersama-sama. Kami perlu menunggu giliran untuk bergambar namun kami tidak dapat melihat matahari terbit kerana gerimis yang tebal dan kemudian hujan lebat sewaktu kami berada di puncak.

“Dalam cuaca hujan yang sangat lebat, kami terus turun ke Panalaban kerana kami perlu tiba di Panalaban pada jam 10.00 pagi. Sekiranya lewat pendaki tidak dibenarkan meneruskan perjalanan ke Pondok Timpohon dan akan dikenakan kos tambahan untuk penginapan, sajian dan upah *guide*. Kami tiba di Pondok Timpohon pada jam 4.50 petang.

“Alhamdulillah kami semua berjaya menerima sijil bewarna yang hanya akan diberikan kepada sesiapa yang layak dan memenuhi syarat pendakian. Satu kenangan manis telah dicipta oleh kami lapan orang Alumni PPPJJ USM apabila berjaya mengibarkan bendera Malaysia dan USM di atas Gunung Kinabalu tersebut.

“Selepas ini, saya dan rakan-rakan bercadang untuk mendaki Gunung Rinjani di Lombok Indonesia dengan ketinggian 3726 kaki,” ujar Sofi mengakhiri perbualan.

Teks: Nor Rafizah Haji Md Zain
Foto: Mohamad Sofi Musa

“Alhamdulillah kami semua berjaya menerima sijil bewarna yang hanya akan diberikan kepada sesiapa yang layak dan memenuhi syarat pendakian. Satu kenangan manis telah dicipta oleh kami lapan orang Alumni PPPJJ USM apabila berjaya mengibarkan bendera Malaysia dan USM di atas Gunung Kinabalu tersebut.”



Mohamad Sofi meraikan kegembiraan ketika tiba di puncak di dalam cuaca hujan dan berkabus tebal



KONVENSYEN KEUSAHAWANAN ALUMNI

Perkasakan Agenda Keusahawanan Universiti Awam

Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK) menjadi tuan rumah Konvensyen Keusahawanan Alumni Universiti Awam (KKAUA) bagi mewujudkan jaringan alumni usahawan yang kukuh bagi membantu memperkasakan agenda keusahawanan di UA.

Timbalan Naib Canselor (Penyelidikan dan Inovasi) UMK, Profesor Ts. Dr. Arham Abdullah berkata, platform jaringan tersebut penting dalam perkongsian pengalaman dan peluang dalam bidang keusahawanan bersama warga UA.

KKAUA yang berlangsung selama dua hari pada 26 dan 27 Mac 2022 lalu dengan penglibatan Majlis Alumni Universiti Awam (MALUMNI) seperti Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) dan Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) selaku penganjur utama.

Penganjuran KKAUA ini dapat mengetengahkan produk dan perkhidmatan usahawan UA kepada penuntut dan juga masyarakat umum selain memberi peluang kepada peserta untuk memperluaskan jaringan perniagaan sedia ada.

“Sebagai universiti berasaskan keusahawanan, UMK juga mengalu-alukan sebarang program berbentuk pendidikan keusahawanan,” tambah Arham.

Beberapa pusat di Universiti Sains Malaysia iaitu Pusat Pembangunan Alumni (ADC), Pusat Pembangunan Hebat (HDC) dan Unit Transformasi OKU, Pusat Pengajian Sains Kesihatan (PPSK), Kampus Kesihatan turut menyertai pameran di KKAUA dengan penglibatan tiga usahawan Orang Kelainan Upaya



(OKU) yang masing-masing berjaya membuka perniagaan sendiri hasil latihan dan bimbingan dari Unit Transformasi OKU.

Salah seorang usahawan OKU yang turut terlibat di dalam konvensyen ini adalah Muhammad Farid Fakhruddin Md Fauzan, seorang usahawan bakeri. Muhamad Farid merupakan OKU Autism yang cekap dalam mengira dan mampu bertutur dengan jelas.

“Muhammad Farid mengikuti kursus di PPSK pada tahun 2016 dan telah berjaya membuka bakeri hasil bantuan dan dorongan dari keluarga dan rakan-rakan lain,” kata ibu Muhammad Farid.

“Muhammad Farid juga amat teliti dalam setiap penyediaan bahan dan proses akhir penyediaan. Jadi, cabarannya apabila kek atau roti tidak menjadi dengan sempurna, dia akan *meltdown*”, tambahnya lagi.

“Namun, dia telah banyak berubah setelah menyertai kursus di Pusat Pemulihan Dalam Komuniti (PPDK) dan telah mula belajar mengawal *meltdown*.”

Muhammad Farid menceburi pembuatan roti, kek dan pelbagai jenis biskut dan kebanyakan proses penyediaan akan disediakan sendiri dan dibantu oleh ibu dan bapanya.

Muhammad Farid juga terlibat dalam Program SENYUM yang melatih OKU Autisme dalam pemrosesan roti serta makanan lain. Hasil daripada jualan ini akan disalurkan kepada golongan yang memerlukan. Sesiapa yang ingin menyumbang juga boleh menyalurkan kepada Muhammad Farid Fakhrudin Md Fauzan (Akaun Bank Rakyat: 221051598490) atas Program SENYUM.

Selain daripada itu juga, Muhammad Farid juga menerima bantuan kewangan dari MARA dan juga di bawah pemantauan Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat (JKM).



Seorang lagi OKU, Muhammad Najmi menceburi bidang pertanian dan mengusahakan Nurseri Seri Harmoni bersama ibu bapanya yang menjual anak pokok, baja, biji benih serta lain-lain. Muhammad Najmi yang mengalami masalah intelektual dibesarkan bersama dua adiknya yang juga OKU serta menerima bantuan dari JKJ.

Menurut Pengajar PPDK Masliza Yazid, bapa Muhammad Najmi akan membantu beliau dalam penyediaan baja malah mereka juga telah mencipta baja dari darah ayam untuk dikomersialkan. "Nurseri tersebut turut melatih serta menawarkan pekerjaan kepada OKU yang lain dalam pemrosesan baja", tambah Masliza.

Teks: Syahnaz Riza Sukor / Sharifah Darweena Syed Ahmad Amir Feisal
Suntingan: Nor Rafizah Haji Md Zain
Foto: Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK)

"Penganjuran KKAUA ini dapat mengetengahkan produk dan perkhidmatan usahawan UA kepada penuntut dan juga masyarakat umum selain memberi peluang kepada peserta untuk memperluaskan jaringan perniagaan sedia ada."



Selain Muhammad Farid dan Muhammad Najmi, Muhammad Azlan Mat Dom yang lebih dikenali sebagai Abg Lan pula merupakan OKU Down Syndrome dan mengusahakan perniagaan wafel dan jagung.

"Abg Lan akan membantu dalam proses penyediaan manakala proses bancuhan tepung wafel akan dilakukan oleh ibunya" kata Masliza.

Minat Abg Lan dalam perniagaan amat mendalam sehingga beliau berjaya membuka gerai yang diberi nama Abe Lan Corner. Namun, gerai tersebut terbakar baru-baru ini menyebabkan Abg Lan hanya berniaga bila ada program-program seperti konvensyen ini.

Penganjuran Konvensyen Usahawan Alumni ini didokong kuat oleh MALUMNI serta disokong sepenuhnya oleh Pusat Pengurusan Alumni di setiap UA dan Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi. Antara aktiviti yang dijalankan sepanjang konvensyen ini adalah pameran dan jualan dari agensi luar dan juga UA.

Turut hadir ke konvensyen ini adalah Profesor Dr. Kamarudin Kana, Timbalan Naib Canselor, Hal Ehwal Pelajar dan Alumni UNIMAS, Puan Mazula Sabudin, Pendaftar UMK, Pengarah-pengarah Pusat Alumni Universiti Awam dan juga wakil agensi.

KEM TERAJU

Majlis Yang Dipertua Majlis Penghuni Desasiswa (MYDP) dengan kerjasama Majlis Penggawa Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) telah menganjurkan Kem Teraju Majlis Penghuni Desasiswa (MPD) Fasa 2 bagi Sidang Akademik 2021/2022 pada bulan Mac 2022.

Kesemua peserta mengikuti kunjungan hormat di beberapa agensi kerajaan di sekitar Putrajaya antaranya Institut Pembangunan dan Kecemerlangan Kepimpinan, Kementerian Belia dan Sukan (KBS), Pusat Belia Antarabangsa (IYC), Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI), Bahagian Mahasiswa Holistik, Jabatan Pendidikan Tinggi, Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi dan bertemu dengan Presiden Persatuan Alumni USM, Dr. Mohamed Maliki Mohamed Rapiee sebagai salah satu inisiatif MYDP menjejaki alumni pemimpin pelajar.

“Kem ini bertujuan untuk memberi pencerahan dan bimbingan yang menyeluruh mengenai skop kerja dan peranan sebagai pemimpin di desasiswa dengan mengadakan sesi ramah mesra dan dialog dua hala dalam membina dan memperkukuhkan hubungan strategik kedua-dua institusi dan juga alumni,” kata Pengerusi Majlis Penggawa, Zulkifli Che Husin.

Selain itu, kem ini juga menjejaki mantan/alumni pemimpin pelajar yang bekerja di agensi-agensi kerajaan tersebut. Kem kepimpinan MPD yang julung



“Kem ini bertujuan untuk memberi pencerahan dan bimbingan yang menyeluruh mengenai skop kerja dan peranan sebagai pemimpin di desasiswa dengan mengadakan sesi ramah mesra dan dialog dua hala dalam membina dan memperkukuhkan hubungan strategik kedua-dua institusi dan juga alumni.”

kali diadakan ini telah disertai seramai 36 orang yang terdiri daripada 4 orang wakil daripada barisan tertinggi MPD di setiap desasiswa di ketiga-tiga kampus.

“Jika dahulu program seumpama ini hanya dapat dirasai oleh mereka yang menjadi perwakilan pelajar, namun kini, program ini turut dapat dirasai oleh barisan MPD. Pendedahan ini penting dalam menjalin hubungan yang strategik dan mencari ruang dan peluang terutamanya dalam mengadakan program-program bersama pada masa hadapan” tambah Zulkifli.



“Pelajar didedahkan dengan fungsi jabatan, program dan geran penyelidikan sedia ada yang boleh turut dipohon oleh pelajar.”

Peserta kem mengikuti Program Rukun Negara@Belia (5 Segmen) di bawah Kluster Kenegaraan i-LEAD bagi memupuk semangat patriotisme. Program ini turut disertai 10 orang alumni pemimpin mahasiswa USM yang telah berkongsi peranan dan tanggungjawab setiap Kluster di i-LEAD.

Peserta diberi peluang untuk turut serta dalam Simposium Kerjaya Anak Muda 2022 (YC'S 20202) yang telah diadakan pada 31 Mac 2022 di Hotel Berjaya Times Square, Kuala Lumpur oleh KBS.

“Sesi ramah mesra antara MYDP dan IYC merupakan satu platform jalinan hubungan kerjasama antara kedua-dua institusi dalam mencapai Matlamat Pembangunan Mapan (SDG's) iaitu Bandar dan Masyarakat Mapan dalam usaha melahirkan pemimpin desasiswa yang mampu memperjuangkan isu kelestarian dalam komuniti setempat,” ujar Mohamed Maliki yang juga Pengarah IYC.

Sesi dialog dua hala bersama Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI). Pelajar didedahkan dengan fungsi jabatan, program dan geran penyelidikan sedia ada yang boleh turut dipohon oleh pelajar.

Selain itu, program ini turut disertai oleh Encik Khairol Azhar Abd Jalil, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Dulce Media Agency Sdn. Bhd. (Aafiyat Group) yang merupakan mantan pemimpin pelajar USM Sidang Akademik 2007/2008. Beliau juga merupakan Panel Penasihat Industri (ICAP) di Pusat Pengajian Seni. Beliau berkongsi pengalaman dan tips kepada peserta kem mengenai pengalaman beliau semasa beliau menjadi pemimpin pelajar dan peluang kerjasama yang boleh dilakukan bersama kelak.

“Sesi ramah mesra antara MYDP dan IYC merupakan satu platform jalinan hubungan kerjasama antara kedua-dua institusi dalam mencapai Matlamat Pembangunan Mapan (SDG's) iaitu Bandar dan Masyarakat Mapan dalam usaha melahirkan pemimpin desasiswa yang mampu memperjuangkan isu kelestarian dalam komuniti setempat.”

- Mohamed Maliki



Teks dan Foto: Fauziah Rastam
Suntingan: Nor Rafizah Hj. Md Zain

Kejohanan Golf JELAJAH UTARA ALUMNI USM 2022

Pelbagai aktiviti dirancang sejak negara memberikan kelonggaran untuk aktiviti sosial diadakan dengan pematuhan SOP. Tidak ketinggalan, sekumpulan Alumni Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) telah menganjurkan Kejohanan Golf Jelajah Utara pada 21 dan 22 Februari 2022 dan dihadiri oleh lebih 100 alumni dari pelbagai tahun graduasi.

Kejohanan golf ini dianjurkan di Penang Golf Resort, Bertam Pulau Pinang dan Cinta Sayang Golf & Country Club Sungai Petani, Kedah bertujuan untuk jaringan serta ramah mesra bekas-bekas pelajar setelah sekian lama tidak menganjurkan sebarang aktiviti sejak negara melanda pandemic COVID-19.

"Program ini merupakan acara tahunan bagi merapatkan hubungan sesama alumni termasuk membina visibiliti program alumni USM," kata Haji Husin Yahaya (Sarjana Muda Sains, 1984) yang juga merupakan AJK penganjur bagi program tersebut.

"Pada masa yang sama, ia juga sebagai platform kepada para alumni untuk bersantai secara sihat di samping berkumpul bersama dan mengimbau kenangan semasa belajar di USM dulu.

"Kejohanan golf pada kali ini telah dipengerusikan oleh Dato' Tajul Urus Mat Zain (Sarjana Muda Sastera, 1980) dan dibantu oleh Dato' Ali Yahaya (Sarjana Muda Sains Kemasyarakatan, 1983) serta beberapa alumni lain dari Zon Utara.

"Perjumpaan ini bertujuan bagi memperkukuh lagi hubungan erat semua peminat golf dalam kalangan alumni USM serta berkumpul semula semenjak pandemic COVID-19 melanda negara kita pada tahun 2020," tambah Husin.

Di samping itu, Husin berharap agar program seperti ini dapat diteruskan lagi dari masa ke semasa agar jalinan persahabatan dikekalkan dan terus aktif bagi mengekalkan gaya hidup sihat.

Turut hadir adalah Mantan Menteri Besar Terengganu iaitu Dato' Seri Ahmad Said (Sarjana Muda Sains Kemasyarakatan, 1982) dan isteri serta beberapa alumni tersohor negara.

*Teks: Syahnaz Riza Sukor / Mohamad Syukran Abdul Rahman @ Omar
Suntingan: Nor Rafizah Haji Md Zain • Foto: Haji Husin Yahaya*

"Perjumpaan ini bertujuan bagi memperkukuh lagi hubungan erat semua peminat golf dalam kalangan alumni USM serta berkumpul semula semenjak pandemic COVID-19 melanda negara kita pada tahun 2020."



I came to USM through the collaboration between USM and Thũ Dau Mot University, Vietnam. Since both universities had a mutual agreement, I was sent to pursue my studies here. I remember that it was my first time traveling to Penang and I was really looking forward to studying at USM.

With its campus in lush green surroundings, scrumptious local food as well as unconditional support from other international students and friends really made me fall in love at first sight with USM. However, having to study during the pandemic time was not easy. Fortunately, my supervisors and lecturers gave me continuous moral support and guidance throughout my studies.

Now I am a teacher in Vietnam and I am teaching the Tourism subject at Thũ Dau Mot University. Nevertheless, I am already planning to further my studies soon.

As a USM alumni, I am actually delighted to have graduated during the pandemic. My supervisors, lecturers, family and friends had helped me throughout my studies in USM. I had a lot of fond memories created with friends, supervisors and of course all the HBP administrative staff and lecturers.



How I came to USM?



There are a couple of lecturers who actually went great lengths to help me through my Master's Degree studies. For that, I would like to thank Dr. Suraiyati Rahman for her guidance. I would also want to convey my thanks to Dr. Shida Irwana Omar, the Dean, lecturers and all the staff of the HBP school for their 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 at HBP.

I also want to add that without the support, encouragement and motivation from my wonderful family and friends in Vietnam as well as HBP lecturers and administrative staffs, I would not be who I am today. Thus, I am forever thankful to each one of you and I will surely come back to USM.

We need to put our hearts into whatever that we do. When you truly want to do it, nothing can hold you back. If you ask me, studying smart is always way better than studying hard. And yes, practice definitely leads to our betterment. So keep reading, writing, exploring and don't be scared of errors for they will help you grow stronger!

What I have been experiencing during this pandemic is that meditation along with yoga has kept my mind out of negativity. Additionally, having started to work at my university, reading journals, researches and books have also helped me to improve my mind.

Lastly from me, the road ahead might look rough but we can make the journey smooth with a little bit of work and a whole lot of love.

Nguyen Phuong Hong Phuc
Vietnam

Editing: Isyam Amran

Salam

from Brunei Darussalam

“I used to be very shy and quiet. However, joining USM and meeting with other International Students from Germany, South Korea, and Indonesia, helped increase my confidence level to mingle around with more individuals.”



My name is Fatin Wajihah Annuar from Brunei Darussalam. I obtained my Bachelor’s Degree of Arts-Sociology from Universiti Brunei Darussalam a few years ago.

During our third year of university, we were given a choice to either do our internship or continue our studies outside of Brunei. I chose to study in Malaysia because it’s near to my country. As I was researching as to which university in Malaysia to study, there were not many universities that offered my course. Fortunately, USM had everything I needed and Penang was one of the cities in Malaysia which I’ve wanted to visit.

I am so proud to be USM alumni because of the memories I created there, especially the ones involving Buddies and staff of the International Office and also the other International Students who had joined the exchange program at USM. They were so kind and helpful to me and were always there whenever I needed them. I am planning to continue my Master’s at USM in the future, InshaAllah!

I used to be very shy and quiet. However, joining USM and meeting with other International Students from Germany, South Korea, and Indonesia, helped increase my confidence level to mingle around with more individuals. Through this exchange program, I got to meet new friends from all over the world. Furthermore, the food and similar culture between Malaysia and Brunei also helped me fit in well at USM.

As a housewife and a mother of two boys, my husband always supports and encourages me to do things that make me happy, never give up easily, and stay positive in life.

Lastly, just be yourself and always be kind to others.

Fatin Wajihah Annuar
Brunei Darussalam (Exchange Program 2014/15)

Editing: Siti Farhah Fuadi Jamil Azhar





snippets

PERTAMA DI MALAYSIA

**MAGNETOM
Amira Biomatrix 1.5T
Mula Operasi di
Hospital USM
Januari ini**

Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) mengorak langkah ke hadapan dengan menawarkan perkhidmatan pemeriksaan 'Magnetic Resonance Imaging' (MRI) 1.5 Tesla menggunakan mesin MAGNETOM Amira BioMatrix yang pertama di Malaysia.

Menurut Naib Canselor USM, Profesor Dato' Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan, imbasan MRI adalah antara pemeriksaan penting dalam perawatan pesakit kerana imej MRI menerusi teknologi magnet dan radio dapat membantu mengenal pasti pelbagai penyakit serta masalah pesakit termasuk tumor, pendarahan, kecederaan dalaman, penyakit saluran darah atau apa-apa jangkitan penyakit.

"Selari dengan usaha untuk menawarkan perkhidmatan rawatan kesihatan terbaik kepada pelanggan, Hospital USM menerusi kerjasama strategik bersama Pusat Pengajian Sains Perubatan USM telah membuat perolehan mesin MRI dengan teknologi terkini di pasaran.

"MAGNETOM Amira BioMatrix merupakan mesin MRI 1.5 Tesla yang dilengkapi teknologi 'Artificial Intelligence' (AI) dan berupaya menghasilkan imej imbasan berkualiti tinggi serta konsisten terhadap semua kategori pesakit," katanya ketika berucap di Majlis Perasmian MRI 1.5T Hospital USM, hari ini.

Beliau berkata, Hospital USM adalah satu-satunya hospital di Malaysia yang mempunyai MAGNETOM Amira BioMatrix pada ketika ini dan perkhidmatan mesin MRI yang menelan kos sebanyak RM5.7 juta ini akan ditawarkan mulai Januari 2022.

Tambah Faisal Rafiq, sistem MRI terbaharu ini juga menawarkan lebih fleksibiliti kepada pesakit yang terdiri daripada pelbagai peringkat umur dan saiz tubuh badan, dengan teknologi kemudahan kawalan pergerakan respiratori, adaptasi sistem terhadap bahagian tubuh yang tertentu bagi mengekalkan kehomogenan magnet yang tinggi.

"Dalam masa yang sama, ia juga memendekkan masa pemeriksaan sekaligus memberi keselesaan yang maksimum kepada para pesakit semasa pemeriksaan MRI dijalankan dan secara tidak langsung lebih banyak bilangan kes yang dapat dibuat.

"Perkhidmatan eksekutif ini adalah secara berbayar dan akan mengurangkan masa menunggu giliran untuk melakukan imbasan MRI bagi pesakit berkemampuan serta secara tidak langsung dapat mengurangkan tempoh menunggu giliran bagi pesakit lain yang menggunakan mesin MRI biasa," ujarnya lagi.

Faisal Rafiq berkata, beliau berharap perkhidmatan ini dapat mempercepatkan lagi diagnosis penyakit dalam kalangan pesakit yang mendapatkan rawatan di Hospital USM.

"Perolehan mesin baharu yang canggih ini secara tidak langsung membantu perkhidmatan MRI di Hospital USM kerana mempunyai satu sistem sokongan sekiranya mesin MRI sedia ada tidak berfungsi.

"Premis-premis Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) dan fasiliti perubatan swasta di dalam dan di luar Kelantan akan turut mendapat manfaat bersama dengan adanya mesin MRI 1.5 Tesla ini," jelasnya lanjut.

Hospital USM turut menyediakan Suite MRI yang selesa, kakitangan kompeten dan mesra serta fasiliti serba kondusif yang merupakan nilai tambah untuk pelanggan.

Kepada mereka yang berminat untuk mendapatkan perkhidmatan ini, mereka boleh hubungi Unit Pembangunan Korporat 09-7673096/4052 atau Jabatan Radiologi, Hospital USM 09-7673471/3472.

Teks: Nik Sheila Erini Che Mat Kamel

Foto: Abdul Hasib Abdul Rahman



snippets

IPPT USM DAN MYPOPI

**Berkolaborasi Di
Bengkel Latihan SCIG**

Unit Immunodefisiensi Primer, Institut Perubatan Dan Pergigian Termaju (IPPT) Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) telah menjalankan satu bengkel latihan "Subcutaneous Immunoglobulin (SCIG) Replacement Therapy" kolaborasi bersama Persatuan Pesakit Immunodefisiensi Primer Malaysia (MYPOPI).

Rawatan ini merupakan teknik yang pertama di USM dan kedua di Malaysia, dan ini secara tidak langsung membuktikan kemajuan yang memberangsangkan dalam perawatan kepada pesakit Immunodefisiensi Primer (PID) di Malaysia.

Dr. Intan Juliana Abd Hamid (Pakar Pediatrik Immunologi dan Alergi) merupakan penceramah pada hari tersebut, yang mana bengkel ini dibuat secara dalam talian dan juga sesi 'hands-on', dan telah dihadiri seramai 74 peserta yang terdiri daripada kakitangan profesional kesihatan seperti Pakar Kanak-Kanak, Pegawai Perubatan, Jururawat Terlatih dan Pelajar Sarjana Perubatan Pediatrik, selain ibubapa pesakit.

"Bengkel ini bertujuan meningkatkan pengetahuan staf mengenai rawatan penggantian imunoglobulin 'subcutaneous' melalui komunikasi berkesan, latihan dan

pendidikan serta memberi kefahaman dan kesedaran kepada staf kesihatan terhadap kesan rawatan ini kepada pesakit kekurangan imun primer.

"Pesakit Immunodefisiensi Primer (PID) merupakan pesakit yang tidak dapat menghasilkan antibodi atau antibodi tidak dapat berfungsi, dan melalui rawatan penggantian imunoglobulin, ianya dapat membantu pesakit PID," katanya.

Menurutnya lagi, terdapat beberapa kategori pesakit PID yang akan menerima rawatan ini antaranya pesakit yang tidak mempunyai sel B, 'combined immunodeficiency' dan keadaan yang mana penghasilan antibodi adalah abnormal.

"Seterusnya, rawatan imunoglobulin ini berfungsi sebagai pencegah jangkitan kuman yang serius seperti sepsis dan pneumonia serta menyokong sistem imun pesakit PID dengan tambahan antibodi yang bertindak melawan jangkitan kuman," tambahnya.

Turut dinyatakan juga, bagi rawatan imunoglobulin terdapat dua kaedah iaitu secara intravena atau subcutaneous; kaedah subcutaneous akan diberi pada setiap minggu dan ibu bapa boleh memberikannya di rumah, dan antara kelebihan rawatan imunoglobulin subcutaneous ialah paras IgG adalah stabil sepanjang 30 hari dan paras IgG "trough" adalah lebih tinggi bagi SCIG.

"Maka adalah sangat penting untuk kita diagnosis PID ini seawal mungkin; jika anak-anak anda mengalami gejala jangkitan kuman yang melampau atau kelainan bolehlah bertanya dengan doktor sama ada mereka mengalami PID atau tidak, agar dapat dirujuk supaya kita boleh menjalankan pemeriksaan lebih lanjut," ujar Dr. Intan Juliana.

"Dengan itu, diharap usaha ini dapat menambah baik kualiti hidup pesakit PID yang menerima rawatan penggantian imunoglobulin bagi sepanjang hayat."

Teks: Mahirah Mahyidin/Dr. Zarina Thasneem Zainudeen



Dr Intan Juliana Abd Hamid



snippets

KHIDMAT REHABILITASI ROBOTIK

'Hybrid Assistive Limb' (HAL) Cyberdyne Kini Berada di IPPT

Institut Perubatan dan Pergigian Termaju (IPPT) Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) kini menawarkan perkhidmatan rehabilitasi robotik 'Hybrid Assistive Limb' (HAL) yang akan memberi manfaat kepada pesakit yang mencarum melalui PERKESO di seluruh wilayah utara mulai 1 Mac 2022.

Hasil daripada kerjasama Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) dan Pertubuhan Keselamatan Sosial PERKESO ini, Klinik Neuro-Robotik & Cybernics, di bawah Unit Senaman dan Rehabilitasi IPPT, USM kini bersedia untuk menerima pesakit yang mempunyai kecederaan saraf tunjang, kecederaan otak, strok, dan sebagainya.

Bermula di HUSM Kubang Kerian, perkhidmatan rehabilitasi robotik HAL ini telah dijalankan sejurus satu Memorandum Perjanjian (MOA) di antara USM dan PERKESO yang dimeterai pada 30 Ogos 2019 lalu.

Melihat kejayaan dalam perkhidmatan rehabilitasi robotik HAL di HUSM Kubang Kerian ini, pada hujung tahun 2020 pihak PERKESO telah menghubungi pihak IPPT untuk bekerjasama dalam melebarkan perkhidmatan rehabilitasi robotik HAL ini ke seluruh wilayah utara.

Menurut Penyelaras Projek IPPT & PERKESO iaitu Dr. Hazwani Ahmad Yusof@Hanafi, hasil kolaborasi di antara pihak IPPT dan PERKESO ini, USM telah menyewa 6 unit HAL iaitu 3 unit HAL Lower Limb (L, M, S), 2 unit HAL Single Joint (left, right) dan 1 unit HAL Lumbar bagi perkhidmatan rehabilitasi robotik HAL di IPPT Bertam.

Seramai enam jurupulih perubatan IPPT, USM iaitu Encik Muhammad Akasyah Baharum, Encik Muhammad Farid Amir Abdul Rahman, Encik Muhammad Hazim Hussin, Puan Noor Farahiya Nisman, Puan Noor Hazifah Mat, dan Puan Nurul Izzati Ghzali merupakan jurupulih yang bertauliah bagi mengendalikan sistem robotik HAL Cyberdyne ini setelah menjalani latihan keselamatan menggunakan Cyberdyne di Pusat Rehabilitasi Perkeso Melaka pada 14 hingga 19 Februari yang lalu.

Cybernetics adalah domain sains baharu yang berpusat pada cybernetic, mekatronik, dan informatik. Ia menyepadukan manusia, robot dan teknologi maklumat. Bidang sains ini dedikasi kepada pembangunan teknologi



yang menyumbang kepada pergerakan manusia dengan menggabungkan kepelbagaian disiplin di mana robotik, neurosains, ergonomik, sains masyarakat, kejuruteraan Kansei, fisiologi, dan etika saling berkait rapat.

Sistem robotik HAL adalah sejenis sut robot (wearable robot atau 'cyborg') ciptaan Cyberdyne Inc. Tsukuba, Jepun. Ia berkemampuan untuk mengenalpasti dan menganalisa signal bio-elektrik pada permukaan kulit pesakit dan seterusnya menentukan otot 'skeletal' yang mana perlu digerakkan dan seterusnya mengawal atur sendi yang akan membantu pergerakan otot mengikut koordinasi dan kemampuan pesakit.

Dengan adanya perkhidmatan rehabilitasi robotik di IPPT ini, ia akan memberi manfaat kepada semua pesakit yang memerlukan, terutamanya yang berada di wilayah utara Semenanjung Malaysia.

"Perkhidmatan robotik HAL Cyberdyne berteknologi tinggi ini hanya terdapat di beberapa pusat pemulihan perubatan di Malaysia. Saya harap perkembangan perkhidmatan robotik ini dapat memberi inspirasi kepada jurupulih perubatan di IPPT untuk meneroka strategi pemulihan yang novel dan berkesan, serta penciptaan teknologi rehabilitasi yang canggih seperti HAL Cyberdyne," ujar Dr. Ooi Cheong Hwa, Ketua Unit Senaman dan Rehabilitasi IPPT.

Untuk sebarang pertanyaan dan maklumat lanjut mengenai perkhidmatan ini, sila hubungi Unit Senaman dan Rehabilitasi IPPT di talian +604-5622362.



snippets

IPPT USM DIJENAMAKAN KEPADA PUSAT PERUBATAN USM; Turut Jadi Akademi Braki Pertama di Malaysia

Penyediaan teknologi termaju serta perancangan teliti dalam menongkah cabaran semasa menjadi salah satu komitmen Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) untuk terus berada di hadapan.

Dalam perkembangan terkini USM, Institut Perubatan dan Pergigian Termaju (IPPT) USM di Bertam akan diberi nafas baru dan dinamakan sebagai 'Pusat Perubatan USM' menjelang Jun depan.

"Penjenamaan itu secara tidak langsung menjadikan IPPT yang juga pusat rujukan kanser itu setanding dengan hospital lain di negara ini."

Naib Canselor USM, Profesor Datuk Dr Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan turut berkata, ketika ini IPPT menjadi satu-satunya pusat rujukan kanser wilayah utara di bawah Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi yang menawarkan perkhidmatan rawatan kanser dan perubatan nuklear terapeutik serta diagnostik.

Tambah beliau, penjenamaan ini berperanan dalam memberi kesedaran dan pengetahuan kepada orang ramai tentang adanya sebuah pusat perubatan yang berfungsi sebagai hospital di kawasan ini.

Selain itu katanya, usaha yang sedang dilakukan ini telah mendapat sokongan Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia (HUSM) Kelantan," katanya selepas Majlis Pelancaran Rasmi IPPT USM sebagai Pusat Latihan dan Penyelidikan Antarabangsa BrachyAcademy, minggu lalu.

Mengulas lanjut, Faisal Rafiq berkata, pihak USM juga perlu menaikkan fasiliti dan kemudahan yang terdapat di pusat perubatan itu supaya selari dengan usaha penjenamaan yang sedang dilakukan itu.

"Kita berharap akan memperolehi peruntukan daripada RMK (Rancangan Malaysia ke-12) dan menjelang 2024 atau 2025 kita boleh membuka pusat perubatan ini dengan perkhidmatan lengkap," katanya.

Sementara itu, Faisal Rafiq turut menegaskan, IPPT juga secara rasminya mendapat pengiktirafan sebagai Pusat Latihan dan Penyelidikan Antarabangsa BrachyAcademy di Malaysia.

Ia menjadi satu-satunya institusi pendidikan di negara ini yang menerima pengiktirafan dunia apabila menawarkan perkhidmatan untuk rawatan kanser ginekologi, hati, kepala dan leher, prostat dan esofagus, dengan pengkhususan khas pada kanser hati primer dan sekunder.

Sehingga kini hampir 1000 pesakit dari seluruh negara termasuk juga dari Indonesia dan Australia telah dirujuk ke IPPT untuk sesi perundingan dan sejumlah 578 pesakit telah menjalani prosedur brakiterapi di IPPT.

IPPT juga telah memajukan teknik brakiterapi untuk kanser lidah dikenali sebagai HyBIRT (*Hybrid Brachytherapy followed by Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy*) dan menjadi perintis kepada teknik ini diseluruh dunia.

Dalam pada itu, turut hadir ke majlis berkenaan ialah Pengarah IPPT, Dr Tunku Kamarol Zaman Tunku Zainal Abidin dan Pengurus Pemasaran Klinikal Brachytherapy Solutions Wilayah Asia Pacific, Ulrich Krumme.

Teks: Mohamed Hadri Iman Mohamed Hazli

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) through the Division of Research and Innovation (R&I) and the Division of Industry and Community Network (BJIM) held the ICAP 2022 Engagement Session (IES 2022) on 7 Mac 2022.

The ICAP 2022 Engagement Session (IES 2022) with the Vice-Chancellor is a routine session for each new ICAP appointment. This engagement session involved more than 162 ICAP panel members that have been appointed for the period 2022-2024, USM Head of Departments and also captains of industries from various sectors.



ICAP 2022

Bringing Industry and Universities Together

Also present at the ceremony were Dato' Dr. Awang Adek Hussin, the Chairman of USM Board of Governors (LGU); Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Abdul Rahman Mohamed, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation); Deputy Vice-Chancellors; Dr. Shaizatulaqma Kamalul Ariffin, Director of Industry Network BJIM; Syed Yusof Syed Kechik, Director of Community Network BJIM; and the top management of USM.

Awang Adek in his welcome speech said that on behalf of USM, he would like to express the deepest appreciation to all ICAP members, who are senior industry leaders with their busy commitments leading their companies and yet willing to provide the time to come to USM.



“USM has managed to surpass other public and private universities for two consecutive years, with the highest intake of international students for 2020 saw an increase of 31% from the previous year and in 2021 with an increase of 100%.”

“We truly appreciate ICAP members who have willingly accepted the appointment to be on the USM industry advisory board for a 3-year period,” he added.

He also said that ICAP has been established more than 15 years ago in USM. It was known initially as Industry Advisory Panel, and in April 2011 the university decided to expand the panel to include experienced and knowledgeable individuals from the community, and rebranded it as Industry Community Advisory Panel (ICAP).

At the ceremony, Professor Dato' Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan has given feedback and updates regarding USM.

Faisal said that USM has managed to surpass other public and private universities for two consecutive years, with the highest intake of international students for 2020 saw an increase of 31% from the previous year and in 2021 with an increase of 100%.

“Not only that, USM has also managed to become the university with the highest intake of postgraduate students with an increase of 51% in 2021. These happened during the period when the country was still struggling with Covid-19,” he added.

Faisal also added that USM is also empowering the students’ experience through the USM H.E.B.A.T agenda, hostel room facelift, entrepreneurship hub, providing creative spaces & studios and student leaders’ lounge to cultivating future leadership.

“In order to support the best experiential learning, USM is committed to give the utmost in offering the facilities to their community by reengineering their spaces to meet their needs.”

“USM is also empowering the students’ experience through the USM H.E.B.A.T agenda, hostel room facelift, entrepreneurship hub, providing creative spaces & studios and student leaders’ lounge to cultivating future leadership.”



“This is taken further with the establishment of the KOPA Arena football field that supports sport and talent development in the long term, the Nest project that comprises holistic and balance for start-up and enterprise ambiance and on the visibility of USM in the golden triangle of Kuala Lumpur by SCIENCE@USM,” he explained.

Faisal also hopes that university residents can draw inspiration from USM achievements during these pandemic years and all initiatives will benefit the USM as well as the surrounding community.

ICAP Background

Conventionally, universities were considered as ivory towers whose members (faculty and students) were less concerned with daily life in the actual world. That has limited the potential impact of the knowledge and talents nurtured from the universities. The universities of today can no longer confine themselves solely to the creation of new knowledge without considering the stakeholders. In fact, Universities must engage more intimately and meaningfully with both industries and communities to remain relevant and extend positive impact to both groups.

The formation of the Industry/Community Advisory Panels (ICAPs) within respective Academic Schools and Centres in USM is in direct compliance with the university’s overall efforts, towards building a closer working relationship with industries, companies and the community. The presence of ICAPs is timely and useful in enhancing institutional and national competitiveness. ICAPs comprise of selected academic staff, senior and technical executives from the private sector and well-respected leaders from the community. The ICAPs functions as a platform and serves as a forum and shall cover the following topics (but not limited to): curriculum, training programmes, solutions for coordinating industry/community expectations and relevance, best practices for industry engagement, and practical approaches to address current issues and other matters of concern to all parties involved.

Text: Mohamad Hafiz Asyraf Mohd Arop • Photo: Mohd Fairus Md Isa



TYT MELAKA JUNJUNG KASIH KURNIAAN IJAZAH KEHORMAT Buka Lembaran Baharu Kerjasama Melaka-USM

Yang Di-pertua Negeri Melaka, Tuan Yang Terutama Tun Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Mohd Ali Rustam menjunjung kasih dan penghargaan kepada Duli Yang Maha Mulia Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Ibni Al-Marhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail, Tuanku Canselor USM kerana telah berkenan menganugerahkan Ijazah Kehormat Doktor Ekonomi Pembangunan.

Menurut Tun, ini adalah satu penghormatan yang akan dikenang di peringkat kerajaan negeri mahupun persekutuan dan ini jelas terserlah dengan dedikasi semua yang terlibat untuk menjadikan universiti ini sebagai salah satu institusi pengajian tinggi.

“Penganugerahan ini bakal membuka lembaran baharu dan membina jaringan Negeri Melaka dengan USM dalam pelbagai bidang agar kedua-dua pihak dapat terus menempah kejayaan dalam bidang ekonomi pembangunan dan lain-lain bidang yang bersesuaian,” ucap Tun ketika menerima Ijazah Kehormat Doktor Ekonomi Pembangunan di Sidang 1, Upacara Konvokesyen ke-59 USM di Istana Arau, Perlis baru-baru ini.

“Sewajarnya khidmat kepakaran daripada USM dapat membantu melonjakkan lagi pembangunan negeri Melaka secara menyeluruh dan di masa yang sama, Negeri Melaka akan sentiasa menyokong kepada apa jua yang diperlukan baik dari aspek sokongan penyelidikan, pembangunan dan jaringan kerja. kerjasama dua hala yang dapat meningkatkan pembangunan kedua-dua pihak seharusnya dirancang dan disasarkan secara bersama, katanya lagi.

“Pendidikan memainkan peranan penting dalam merealisasikan aspirasi malaysia untuk menjadi sebuah negara maju dan merupakan pemboleh kritikal yang penting untuk melahirkan modal insan berkemahiran dalam pertumbuhan ekonomi yang lebih tinggi.

“Berpandukan falsafah pendidikan kebangsaan, ia lebih bermatlamat untuk membentuk insan holistik yang seimbang dan harmonis dari segi intelek, rohani, emosi dan jasmani berdasarkan kepercayaan dan kepatuhan kepada tuhan,” jelas Tun.

“Selaku alumni Sains Kemasyarakatan, khususnya disiplin ekonomi, banyak yang dipelajari dan ianya menjadi asas dalam menelusuri kehidupan sebagai seorang pentadbir yang berpengetahuan dan kompeten dan seterusnya mentadbir dengan berkesan.”



Tun juga gembira mengetahui bahawa USM menjunjung nilai terasnya sendiri dalam perlembagaannya dan meletakkan nilai teras ini sebagai tonggak ke arah memupuk graduan yang holistik terhadap pendidikan.

“Usaha ini dirangka untuk melahirkan warganegara yang berilmu dan berkebolehan, memiliki taraf moral yang tinggi dan bertanggungjawab serta berkeupayaan mencapai tahap kesejahteraan diri yang tinggi,” tambahnya.

Tun turut mengimbau kembali kenangan beliau pada tahun 1979, ketika telah menerima tawaran untuk melanjutkan pelajaran kursus ijazah luar kampus dalam jurusan Ekonomi Pembangunan di USM, Pulau Pinang dan akhirnya selepas 5 tahun, beliau berjaya bergelar graduan ijazah Sarjana Muda Sains Kemasyarakatan (pembangunan ekonomi) pada tahun 1984.

“Selaku alumni Sains Kemasyarakatan, khususnya disiplin ekonomi, banyak yang dipelajari dan ianya menjadi asas dalam menelusuri kehidupan sebagai seorang pentadbir yang berpengetahuan dan kompeten dan seterusnya mentadbir dengan berkesan.

“Saya sentiasa mengingati ilmu yang diperolehi daripada beberapa pensyarah di semua peringkat pengajian sehingga mampu menempuh pelbagai cabaran dalam corak pentadbiran dan kepimpinan,” ujarnya.

*Teks : Hafiz Meah Ghouse Meah
Suntingan: Nor Rafizah Haji Md Zain
Foto : Mohd Fairus Md Isa*

Tambahnya lagi, beliau akan cuba menyokong kepada pembangunan USM, khususnya dalam memastikan pembangunan pelajar dapat digiatkan lagi di peringkat tertinggi di mana beliau percaya setiap pelajar mempunyai kekuatan dan keupayaan untuk kemajuan masa hadapan.

Beliau turut berharap agar dapat terus berkongsi pengalaman untuk para pelajar memahami segala jerit payah sebelum mencapai ke tahap sedia ada dan semoga perkongsian ini akan terus menjadi pembakar semangat kepada para pelajar USM untuk terus bangkit menjadi pelajar yang terbilang dalam segala aspek.

Di samping itu, para pelajar dapat mengaplikasi ilmu yang dipelajari ke dalam situasi realiti, sentiasa beretika dan berintegriti tinggi, kreatif dan inovatif serta terus komited dalam menyumbang kepada masyarakat setempat, agama dan juga negara.

Turut berangkat ke upacara ini adalah Raja Muda Perlis, Menteri Besar Perlis, EXCO Pelancongan, Kebudayaan, dan Warisan Melaka mewakili Yang Amat Berhormat Ketua Menteri Melaka, Speaker Dewan Undangan Negeri Perlis, Pro-Pro Canselor USM, serta pengurusan tertinggi USM.

Upacara Konvokesyen Ke-59 USM bermula di Istana Arau, Perlis, diikuti dengan Sidang Kedua yang akan berlangsung pada 21 Mei hingga Sidang Kedua Belas pada 31 Mei 2022 (11 hari berturut-turut, setiap hari satu sidang) di Dewan Tuanku Syed Putra (DTSP), Kampus Induk USM, Pulau Pinang.





OASIS 2022

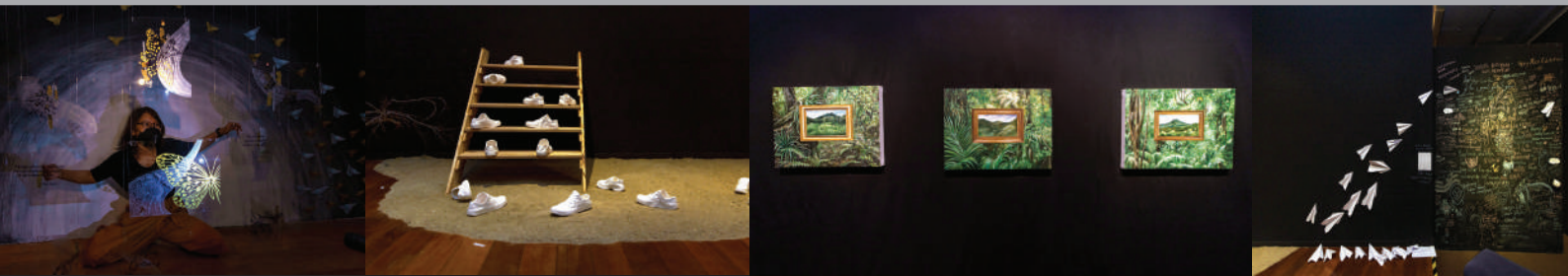
An Exhibition On The
Spectacle That Illuminates
The 5 Human Senses

Creative practices require a heightened sensitivity towards the sense of touch, visual, sound, emotions and other sensory which inform the heart and mind in making creative decisions.

The mastery of these heightened sensitivity towards subject and material, concept, perception, and feelings are manifested through creative research and experimentation processes.

This understanding of the senses is highlighted in OASIS 2022: Sensoria @Muzium & Galeri Tuanku Fauziah (MGTF) USM, which is an annual showcase of selected creative works by lecturers from the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) School of the Arts.

“Sensoria is an exhibition that illuminates beyond man’s five physiological senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch, conveying a deeper connection of the physical and mental aspects of the senses..”



OASIS 2022 is a delicately-curated showcase of creativity, prepared with lots of care, patience, love and compassion by two academics, Dr. Tetriana Ahmed Fauzi and Dr. Safia Najwa Suhaimi, together with MGTF’s curatorial team.

Sensoria is an exhibition that illuminates beyond man’s five physiological senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch, conveying a deeper connection of the physical and mental aspects of the senses, including the sense of surrounding as seen in spectrums of light, materials and nature in relation to the human psyche, awareness as well as man’s spirituality.



“This is not a typical fine art (white cube) exhibition. As curators, we have worked together to combine ideas and expertise in the curatorial aspect of the presentation, which includes the enhancement of perception, mood, and visual experience in relation to the overall concept, and the interactive elements of the exhibition.”

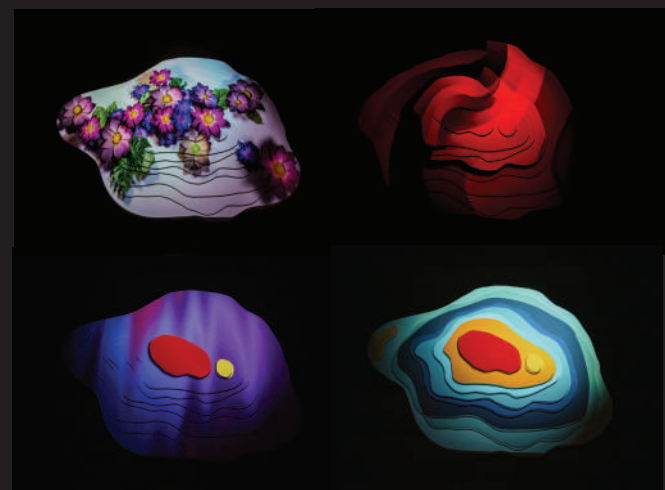
These aspects and expressions are construed in the form of artworks produced by creative practitioners from the School of the Arts at USM, together with other participants in alliance with USM.

According to MGTG curatorial team, ‘Practice what we preach’ is a credence that creative practitioners always try to emulate as an enactment of their profession.

“This is not a typical fine art (white cube) exhibition. As curators, we have worked together to combine ideas and expertise in the curatorial aspect of the presentation, which includes the enhancement of perception, mood, and visual experience in relation to the overall concept, and the interactive elements of the exhibition,” said the curators.

They further added by saying that they expect many levels of experience, diverse perspectives, and responses from the audience, and they hope that the exhibition can provide a space not only for sensorial encounters, but also reflexive contemplation, exploration and discovery on topics pertinent to the curators' shared interest.

*Text: Nur Farrah Ezlin Mohd Suhaimi
Editing: Mazlan Hanafi Basharudin
Photo: Nor Amin Zainal Kamarudin*



MINDEN 11800

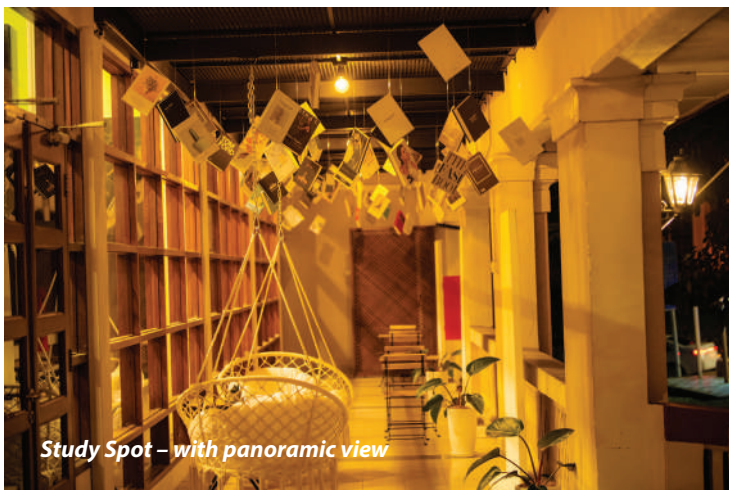
HOW IT STARTED?

Minden11800 is initiated by the GROWTH Office, based in Building D18, and neighbouring the CIMB bank and the School of Communication at the USM Main Campus. It aims to provide a whole new spectrum of experiences to the students with an experience centre equipped by the latest technologies. This whole place is set up by a bunch of folks with various backgrounds and expertise.

The completion of the place took merely only 30 days from 1 October 2021 until 1 November 2021 and was made ready and available to USMers by December 2021.

The origin of the name, Minden11800, was chosen as USM is the only location using the postcode '11800', which makes the place unique and original.

“Almost 100% operated by the Internet of Things (IoT), this place is the first space ever in USM to provide such facilities in the campus. Embracing meta verse (virtual reality, augmented reality) is what Minden 11800 is all about. In addition to that, crypto currency is also accepted within the building for the users for any transaction.”



Study Spot – with panoramic view

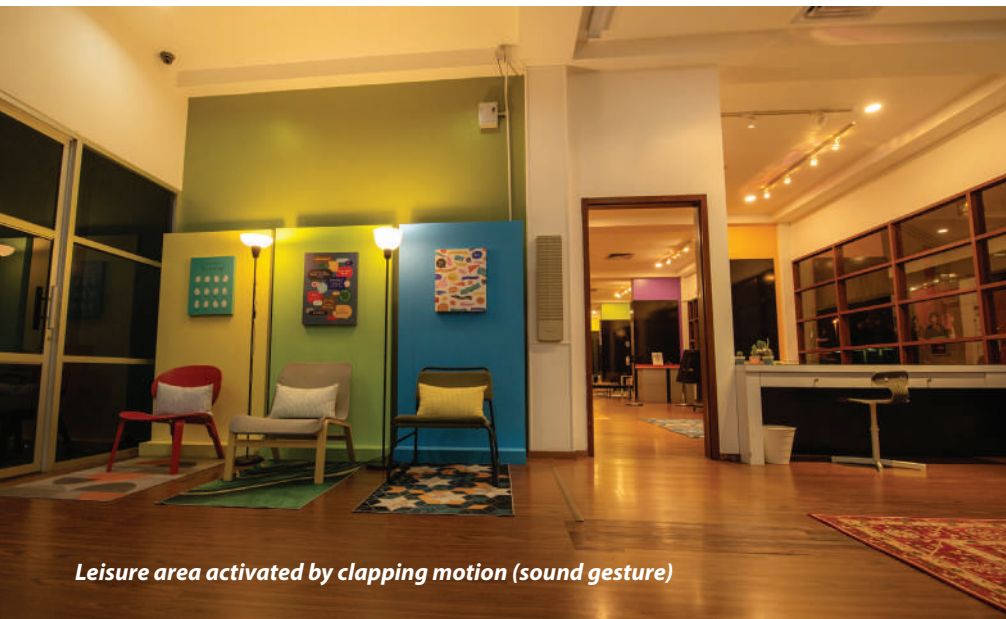


Living Room – for discussion and study group

THE SPIRIT

Instead of being just another beautiful and exquisite building, the philosophy behind it is in its functions and purposes, - AND THAT IS WHAT MATTERS THE MOST.

Almost 100% operated by the Internet of Things (IoT), this place is the first space ever in USM to provide such facilities in the campus. Embracing meta verse (virtual reality, augmented reality) is what Minden11800 is all about. In addition to that, crypto currency is also accepted within the building for the users for any transaction. The set up in Minden11800 is impermanent, which suits the idea of the place – AGILE WITH CHANGES.



Leisure area activated by clapping motion (sound gesture)

“The origin of the name, Minden11800, was chosen as USM is the only location using the postcode ‘11800’, which makes the place unique and original.”



Meeting Room

THE CONCEPT

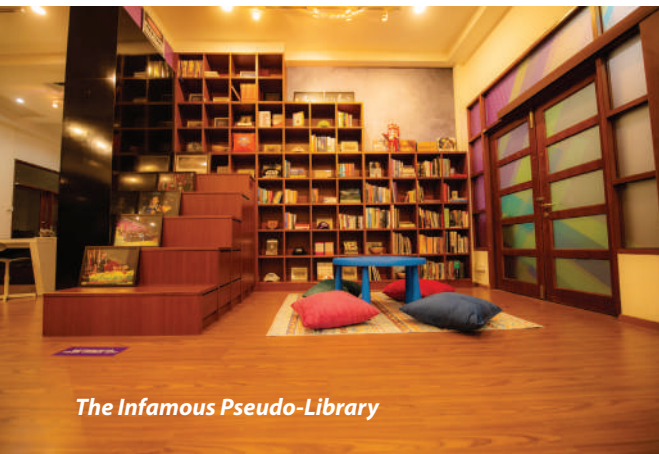
Google Smart Home Concept

Minden11800 is embedded by Google Smart Home technology, which controls almost everything from its electricity supply, air conditioners, security and everything behind it. This technology is tailor-made and readily available to all users to experience the advancement of technology that lies beyond the university and campus life.

The technologies are activated by sound using voice and gesture, for example when one wants to activate the air conditioner, it simply can be switched on by voice to command the Google Nest devices. Besides, there are also lamps that can respond to the exact same thing via clapping motion (sound gesture).

The Spots and Other Spaces

This place also dwells in Virtual Reality (VR) Technologies, Pseudo-Library, Podcast Room, Gaming Room and other functional spaces such as living and meeting room. Users can utilise the open space on a ‘first come first serve’ basis as well as renting the spot at a specified cost. The set up may be changed to suit certain concepts at any desirable time.



The Infamous Pseudo-Library

The 'Trust' Area – Pantry for Refreshment

Light refreshments are also available throughout the walls with only RM2 per item, however if one cannot afford, hence the concept of donating and trust is encouraged to keep the pantry going. Users can also 'donate forward' so that the less fortunate may enjoy whatever that is available too.

The Wall - 'Magic' and Inspiring

Other unique feature of Minden11800 is 'the magic wall' installed in the podcast room. This wall can be summoned to transform into an opaque or transparent surface simply by using voice command with the assistance of the Google Nest device. This wall can serve dual functions, to suit a private and public meeting or discussion. Uniquely, Minden11800 is the first and only to date, public university in the Northern Region to have such a technology.

On the other hand, some of the other walls are decorated by inspiring 'power' quotes, which are exclusive and suit the spirit and ambiance of the place.



The 'Trust' Area – Pantry for Refreshment



Podcast Room Embedded with 'Magic' Wall



The Inspiring Wall

Minden11800 welcomes USMers and those who are carrying the same Minden11800 vibes – DIFFERENT, AGILE WITH CHANGES AND TECH GEEKS.

It is not just an Instagram-able place or the usual student lounge kinda concept, but this place is hopeful to stir and inspire those who are open for any changes and ready for the upcoming technology advancements.

The operation will be based on updates through the social media platform – Instagram: @minden11800. The Instagram will be updated on a daily basis, and will be the only channel of communication between users and Minden11800.

“Minden11800 is embedded by Google Smart Home technology, which controls almost everything from its electricity supply, air conditioners, security and everything behind it.”

*Text: Nazira Zainal Abidin / Nurul Farhana Che Hassan
 Editing: Mazlan Hanafi Basharudin
 Photo: Ebrahim Abdul Manan*

ALUMNI IMBAU KENANGAN, Iftar Bersama di Masjid USM

Alumni Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) dari pelbagai latar belakang pusat pengajian merasai pengalaman berbuka puasa sambil mengimbau nostalgia di Majlis Iftar Alumni yang diadakan di Masjid Al-Malik Khalid.

Majlis khas yang diadakan khusus oleh Pusat Islam USM bagi meraikan para alumni yang juga menjadi sebahagian daripada penyumbang Tabung Jawatankuasa Ramadhan itu turut dimeriahkan dengan kehadiran Naib Canselor USM, Profesor Dato' Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan.

Dalam ucapannya, beliau mengalu-alukan kedatangan para alumni dan amat menghargai usaha dan jasa alumni yang turut menyumbang dalam menjayakan Majlis Iftar yang kini kembali meriah dengan kehadiran warga USM menjamu juadah yang disediakan sukarelawan dan staf Pusat Islam.



“Setelah hampir dua tahun mengharungi pandemik COVID-19, tahun ini warga kampus dan luar kampus dapat merasai kemeriahan berbuka puasa di Masjid Al-Malik Khalid.”

"Ini adalah satu contoh yang baik dan murni yang mana para alumni menyumbang kembali kepada Universiti, malah memberi manfaat kepada seluruh warga kampus Universiti ini," katanya pada majlis itu.

Timbalan Pengarah, Pusat Islam Ustaz Zayd Zhari pula berkata, pihaknya amat mengalu-alukan kedatangan para alumni bagi memeriahkan suasana sepanjang bulan mulia ini.

"Setelah hampir dua tahun mengharungi pandemik COVID-19, tahun ini warga kampus dan luar kampus dapat merasai kemeriahan berbuka puasa di Masjid Al-Malik Khalid. Kehadiran pelajar-pelajar antarabangsa telah mula membanjiri kawasan masjid bagi merasai suasana iftar hampir seperti tahun-tahun sebelum pandemik," kata Zayd.

"Ini adalah satu contoh yang baik dan murni, yang mana para alumni menyumbang kembali kepada Universiti, malah memberi manfaat kepada seluruh warga kampus Universiti ini."



Selain meraikan para alumni, Naib Canselor turut menyampaikan anugerah kepada para pelajar Kelas Al-Quran dan Fardhu Ain (KAFA) bagi sesi 2021. Turut hadir untuk menyampaikan anugerah adalah Ketua Penolong Pengarah Jabatan Hal Ehwal Agama Islam Negeri Pulau Pinang, Ustaz Faizal Ibrahim.

Sambutan serba sederhana namun meriah itu menggamit seribu satu kenangan antara mereka. Ada di antara mereka turut mengambil peluang mengimbas kembali kenangan di blok-blok asrama tempat mereka menghuni dahulu.

Pertemuan singkat di majlis itu mengembalikan nostalgia lama di mana masjid menjadi tempat berkumpul pada bulan Ramadhan. Selain berbuka puasa, pelbagai program dianjurkan oleh Pusat Islam bagi mengimarahkan bulan Ramadhan setiap tahun.

Walaupun majlis tersebut dirancang dalam tempoh masa yang agak singkat namun kehadiran dan kegembiraan mereka berkumpul bersama bagai satu keluarga besar telah menjadikan majlis iftar ini sangat bermakna.

Majlis yang bertemakan "Alam Siswa" ini telah berlangsung dengan jayanya.

"Sambutan serba sederhana namun meriah itu menggamit seribu satu kenangan antara mereka. Ada di antara mereka turut mengambil peluang mengimbas kembali kenangan di blok-blok asrama tempat mereka menghuni dahulu."

*Teks: Sharifah Darweena Syed Ahmad Amir Feisal
Suntingan: Marziana Mohamed Alias
Foto: Mohd Fairus Md Isa*



Dental volunteering in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in August 2019

HAVE FAITH

and Keep Going

My name is Darren Lim Jiuun Haw. I come from an ordinary family living in Kepong, Kuala Lumpur. Both of my parents are school teachers. I am the second of 3 siblings. I graduated from SJK(C) Desa Jaya, SMK Kepong Baru, Kelantan Matriculation College (KMKt), and recently graduated from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) with a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree. Currently, I work in a dental primer clinic (Klinik Pergigian Tanjung Sepat, Selangor) where I serve the community with basic dental treatments and spread oral health awareness to the public during our outreach programs.

I've always challenged myself in participating and learning new skills, as well as learning to be a good leader and helping others since I was young. One of my dreams came true when I got the offer to study dentistry at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). Helping others to solve their problem and to ease pain has always been my goal and I am glad that I can provide such aid in my career.

Besides being passionate and active in athletics events like badminton and volunteering during my schooling years, I too love taking photos which I normally shared on my social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. It took 5 great years of hard work and perseverance to be able to graduate from dental school and I wish to convey my profound thanks and sincere appreciation for the learning experience provided by PPSG (Pusat Pengajian Sains Pergigian). USM has shaped me together with my fellow batchmates to be well-competent dentists today. There are endless learning opportunities here to list; get to participate in on-call tagging, medical and surgical posting at an established hospital, the opportunity to be acquainted with knowledgeable yet humble professors and lecturers, exposure to dental labs, and dental chairs as well as through university events organised by hostels and etc.



Medal giving ceremony for badminton men's double during National Dental Intervarsity (NDIVG) 2019 in University Malaya

"The most memorable voluntary work for me was when joining a dental volunteering trip to Cambodia in August 2019 where we provided free dental treatment for needy kids under Cambodia World Family (CWF) organization. I was also the head of the sponsorship department in another outreach volunteering program to Muar in November 2019."

Looking back on the past 5 years studying at USM Kubang Kerian, Kelantan, had been quite an adventurous journey studying away from home, left me with so many unforgettable moments. They said: "You will need a strong mind and heart to study dentistry, yes indeed!" The journey was filled with packed schedules of lectures, workshops, labs, and clinical sessions, yet I didn't lose my passion for sports and social work. Even today, I am still active in sports competitions and voluntary work.

I was the batch representative during year 2, the food exco for one of the biggest Chinese events in Kelantan (Chinese Culture Night in 2017) where I got the chance to meet entrepreneurs around Kelantan. I joined badminton competitions at the university level, and national inter-varsity level and am glad that I won those competitions.



Emcee to lead the group during volunteering to Rumah Teduhan Zafrah, Muar, Johor in November 2019



Officially joining the USM Alumni Family

“One of my dreams came true when I got the offer to study dentistry at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). Helping others to solve their problem and to ease pain has always been my goal and I am glad that I can provide such aid in my career.”

The most memorable voluntary work for me was when joining a dental volunteering trip to Cambodia in August 2019 where we provided free dental treatment for needy kids under Cambodia World Family (CWF) organization. I was also the head of the sponsorship department in another outreach volunteering program to Muar in November 2019.

For the juniors out there, who wish to pursue dentistry in USM, my advice is to never give up easily on your dream, the obstacles you are facing now may be as big as rocks, but with perseverance and faith, it will be the small stepping stones to achieve bigger dreams in the future.

“If your actions don't live up to your words, you have nothing to say. Have faith and keep going” is the quote that I use to remind myself. I will continue to strive for greatness in all my endeavours. I will never stop pursuing my dream, increasing awareness of oral health to the public and providing a confident bright smile to the people. Thank you USM, proud to be part of USM alumni now!

*Text & Photo: Dr. Darren Lim Jiuun Haw
Edited: Siti Farhah Fuadi Jamil Azhar*



KEMBARA ILMU PAK SAKO
dari Parit ke PJJ USM

Jika disebut gelaran Pak Sako, ramai yang mengenali Allahyarham Datuk Dr. Ishak Haji Mohamed sebagai nasionalis dan Sasterawan Negara. Gelaran Pak Sako itu sebenarnya julukan kepada nama Isako-san yang dipanggil oleh orang Jepun. Semasa Jepun menduduki Tanah Melayu dalam Perang Dunia Kedua, nama orang Melayu akan di 'jepunkan' dengan menambah huruf "o" pada belakang nama Melayu tersebut, sebagai contohnya, Hashim akan dikenali sebagai Hashimo, Rashid akan dikenali sebagai Rashido dan Ishak akan dikenali sebagai Isako.

Namun, berlainan pula di Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) seorang pelajar dengan nama yang sama iaitu Ishak Haji Mohamed (sekarang Dato') mula dikenali dengan gelaran Pak Sako sejak di bangku sekolah menengah lagi. Malahan apabila beliau bekerja sebagai pegawai kanan kerajaan, nama samaran Pak Sako terus melekat dan digunakan hingga hari ini. Rakan-rakan lebih mengenali beliau sebagai Pak Sako berbanding nama asalnya Ishak Haji Mohamed.

Pak Sako, 69 yang berasal dari Parit, Perak ialah Alumni Pusat Pengajian Pendidikan Jarak Jauh (yang pada ketika itu dikenali sebagai Pengajian Luar Kampus) USM dan berijazah pada tahun 1982.

“Kelebihan utama PJJ ini ialah kita boleh terus bekerja dalam tempoh 4 tahun belajar di luar kampus dan hanya perlu mengambil cuti panjang pada tahun akhir bagi kita memenuhi syarat duduk belajar secara sepenuh masa di USM pada sesi pembelajaran yang terakhir.”



Pak Sako turut menjalankan aktiviti luar seperti bersukan dan mencari ilham di Batu Feringghi di samping belajar



Semasa di tahun akhir, menghadiri kelas secara bersemuka dan belajar secara berkumpulan di bilik

“Rancangan Pengajian Jarak Jauh ini banyak mengubah hidup saya,” kata Pak Sako membuka perbualan.

“Saya tidak akan dapat melupakan program yang ditawarkan oleh USM dan jasa USM dalam memperkenalkan program ini tidak akan saya lupakan sepanjang hayat saya”. Kaedah pembelajaran yang begitu tersusun dan dikawal selia dengan rapi oleh pensyarah- pensyarah, khususnya selama 4 tahun kami belajar di luar kampus, memastikan siswa yang dilahirkan sama taraf dengan siswa yang belajar secara sepenuh masa.”

“Selepas menduduki peperiksaan Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) saya mula bekerja sebagai seorang kerani di Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Awam (SPA) di Kuala Lumpur. Di sinilah saya mengenali jawatan Pegawai Tadbir dan Diplomatik (PTD) yang merupakan perkhidmatan utama dalam perkhidmatan kerajaan dan menyimpan hasrat untuk menjadi seperti mereka.

“Yang jelas, untuk dilantik sebagai seorang PTD saya perlu memiliki ijazah kepujian dari universiti. Untuk masuk ke universiti saya perlu lulus Sijil Tinggi Pelajaran Malaysia (STPM) terlebih dahulu.



“Saya tidak akan dapat melupakan program yang ditawarkan oleh USM dan jasa USM dalam memperkenalkan program ini tidak akan saya lupakan sepanjang hayat saya.”



Kenangan di tahun akhir bersama sahabat seperjuangan

“Berlandaskan cita-cita untuk menjadi pegawai tinggi kerajaan tersebut dan juga bagi memenuhi amanat dan hajat ayah untuk menjadikan saya idola kepada empat orang adik lelaki dan seorang adik perempuan, saya bertekad belajar kelas malam (di Yayasan Anda Akademik Kampung Baru, Kuala Lumpur) selama 2 tahun untuk lulus STPM.

“Alhamdulillah selepas lulus STPM, saya menyambung pengajian Ijazah Sarjana Muda Sains Kemasyarakatan, Rancangan Pengajian Jarak Jauh yang ditawarkan oleh USM pada usia 25 tahun,” tambah Pak Sako.

“Kelebihan utama PJJ ini ialah kita boleh terus bekerja dalam tempoh 4 tahun belajar di luar kampus dan hanya perlu mengambil cuti panjang pada tahun akhir bagi kita memenuhi syarat duduk belajar secara sepenuh masa di USM pada sesi pembelajaran yang terakhir.

Dengan kata lain, Program PJJ yang ditawarkan oleh USM ini telah memberikan ruang kepada saya meniti tangga kejayaan dalam perkhidmatan kerajaan daripada seorang Kerani Am (Div 3), dinaikkan pangkat kepada Pegawai Kerja Am (Div 2) semasa 4 tahun bekerja sambil belajar di luar kampus dan akhirnya menjadi Pegawai Tadbir dan Diplomatik (Div 1) selepas menamatkan pengajian melalui program PJJ ini.

ALLAHUAKBAR.

“Banyak cabaran dan rintangan saya dan kawan-kawan lalui ketika mengikuti pengajian RPJJ di USM. ‘Study Group’ kunci utama untuk berjaya dan kami bertekad ‘sink and swim together’. Namun semuanya bagai ditutup dengan pelbagai kenangan manis yang dicipta bersama rakan-rakan dan juga para pensyarah. Sekarang pada zaman kecanggihan teknologi perhubungan, pembelajaran secara PJJ ini agak mudah kerana semuanya boleh dibuat secara dalam talian.

“Dulu, semua pelajar RPJJ wajib tinggal di kampus pada tahun terakhir. ‘Orang Senior’ kalau dah masuk kampus, macam-macam pengalaman kami cipta,” Pak Sako sangat ceria saat menceritakan pelbagai aktiviti yang dijalankan bersama rakan-rakan seperjuangan ketika berada pada tahun akhir. Kini, mereka masih berhubung antara satu sama lain melalui kumpulan WhatsApp yang dinamakan “Nostalgia Luar Kampus Group”.

“Bukannya buat perkara jahat pun, kadang-kadang kami melepak di perpustakaan dan sekali sekala ‘merempit’ ke Batu Ferringhi sambil berkelah dan berdiskusi” seloroh Pak Sako yang sangat ceria.

“Yang saya ingin ceritakan ialah usaha itu dengan harapan dan doa kedua-dua orang tua saya, dapat saya menggenggam segulung ijazah serta menjadi contoh dan teladan kepada semua adik-beradik yang kini telah berjaya dengan pendidikan tinggi dan kerjaya yang amat baik.

“Ayah dan ibu saya dapat hadir pada hari pengijazahan saya bersama isteri saya yang banyak berkorban demi kejayaan saya ini.

“Saya hadiahkan kemanisan kejayaan ini kepada ayah, ibu dan isteri saya yang banyak berkorban untuk saya menamatkan pengajian tersebut,” tambah Pak Sako ditemani isteri tercinta.

“Cita-cita saya pada awalnya untuk menjadi seorang PTD akhirnya dimakbulkan Allah dan diterima sebagai rekrut pada tahun 1983,” tambahnya.

Bermula dari situ, Pak Sako membina kerjaya dalam bidang pentadbiran dan pernah dilantik sebagai Penolong Setiausaha Bahagian Bekalan KEMENTAH, Penolong Pengarah di JPA, Setiausaha Agung MAKSAK Kebangsaan di Jabatan Perdana Menteri, Pengarah Imigresen Negeri Perak dan jawatan terakhir sebelum berpencen ialah Ketua Pengarah Penguatkuasa Jabatan Imigresen Malaysia.

“Satu lagi yang tidak terfikir, apabila saya ditawarkan untuk menyambung pengajian pada peringkat Sarjana di Universiti of Wisconsin (Madison), Amerika Syarikat (USA). Selama hampir 2 tahun di USA, di samping mendapat Ijazah Sarjana Pentadbiran Awam, saya juga mempunyai pengalaman memandu kereta bersama isteri dan anak saya mengelilingi USA hingga ke Kanada sejauh lebih 48,000 kilometer.

“Umur dah masuk 70-an sukan golf sahaja yang sesuai,” kata Pak Sako apabila ditanya mengenai hobi dan aktiviti masa lapang.

Sukan golf ialah aktiviti riadah yang paling disukai oleh Pak Sako. Tujuan melibatkan diri dalam sukan ini adalah lebih kepada riadah dan silaturrahim.

Pada masa ini Pak Sako menjawat jawatan Yang Dipertua Persatuan Pemain Golf Melayu Perak. Pak Sako juga ialah Presiden Tenpin Bowling Perak, satu jawatan yang dipegang sejak 15 tahun yang lalu. Pak Sako juga terlibat dalam penganjuran SUKOM dan Pertandingan Golf Piala Dunia yang diadakan di Malaysia pada tahun 2000. Pak Sako juga banyak terlibat dalam kegiatan beberapa NGO yang lain.

Selain itu, Pak Sako kini dipilih sebagai Orang Besar 16 negeri Perak Darul Ridzuan bermula pada tahun 2005 dengan gelaran Toh Indera Jaya. Buat masa ini Pak Sako masih berkhidmat dengan Syarikat MRCB dan menjawat jawatan Naib Presiden Eksekutif.



Bermain golf dan bercuti bersama keluarga adalah aktiviti kegemaran Pak Sako

Teks: Nor Rafizah Md Zain
Suntingan: Azlina Md Sadik
Foto: Marziana Mohamed Alias dan sumbangan Pak Sako

THE BREATHTAKING VIEW THAT WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN: From Being A Gardener to Becoming The Caretaker of Anjung Jannatun

At Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), there is a colonial bungalow built during the British-era (1938), located atop a beautiful hill that oversees plenty of greenery and the icon of Penang Island, the Penang Bridge. It is known as 'Anjung Jannatun' and has been the official residence of the USM Vice-Chancellor for quite awhile. The name 'Anjung Jannatun' was also to recognise the name of Dato' Jannatun, an iconic figure in history who achieved prominence throughout the Batu Uban area a long time ago.

Behind the uniqueness of the historic building and its many secrets, there's an individual who has plenty of admiration, appreciation and remembrance of the natural landscape which surrounds the official residence of the many who have led USM.

His slightly sombre smile reflects how much he values the responsibility and task put upon him as the caretaker of 'Anjung Jannatun'. The person in focus is none other than Mr Sivarajoo A/I Palaniandy, the General Assistant at the Vice-Chancellor's Office, also better known as 'Uncle Siva'.

Siva, who began his career with USM in 1986, has been tasked as 'the guardian' of the said bungalow ever since USM's fourth Vice-Chancellor (VC), Professor Dato' Dr. Ishak Tambi Kechik up until the current eighth VC of USM, Professor Dato' Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan.

As Siva explains, he was a bit worried earlier on when assigned to care for the home of USM's Main Head. He however, took the job openheartedly and in stride. Due to the hard work and commitment shown by him, from that day since, he continued to be the caretaker of 'Anjung Jannatun'.

"My job daily requires me to make sure that the access gate will be opened early in the morning, as this will be time that the family who lives there begins the day. Then, I would need to ensure that the cleanliness of the grounds of the home is at its best all the time.

"I have never felt burdened as I've always into tending gardens ever since I was little. If you care to look around, there are many trees which I have planted and cared for. Of course, I would need to get the permission from the Vice-Chancellor, not to mention his support. For example, here are a few of the 'Tongkat Ali' trees which have grown tall," he said, as he pointed to more than five of the previously mentioned trees growing strong at 'Anjung Jannatun'.

Adding further he said, he had also received seeds from former VCs who've lived at the bungalow, whether they have bought the seeds from nurseries outside or given to them by colleagues and friends.



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AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

Siva had also experienced a weird and unforgettable incident. According to the Alor Setar-born, there was once when he was busy doing his work tending the lawn at the rear of 'Anjung Jannatun', when he was met by the then VC, Prof. Dato' Dr. Omar Osman together with his wife, Datin Noraizan Jamaludin, bringing with them a seemingly fresh fish.

"They asked me, "How did the fish get to the middle of the lawn?" I was just as perplexed as I was about to tend that particular area. There is no pool at 'Anjung Jannatun'; it is greenery all around. Yet, I felt that the fish must have been dropped by birds which had flown overhead. That was what I could only think of at that time," he said, the incident still fresh in his mind.

Apart from that experience, Siva also said that earlier on, when he started working at 'Anjung Jannatun', he had been given a very useful advice by the then tenant of the bungalow, none other than the former VC, Professor Dato' Dr. Ishak Tambi Kechik.

“Dato’ said to me, do your work wholeheartedly. Don’t expect anything from others. Do the work well as it is a responsibility to be shouldered upon,” he said. Since then, Siva has more or less understood what was implied behind the advice. He said that, maybe there were many who assumed that he would be well-looked after for being close to the highest-ranking officer of the University and could easily ask for favours.

He readily admitted that, he had never taken advantage of the responsibility given to him. Being close to the highest-ranking officer in USM was not a ticket for him to acquire certain favours easily. But as the saying goes, ‘fortune favours the brave’. Throughout his working years with USM, Siva has received various appreciation awards including the Excellent Service Award (Anugerah Perkhidmatan Cemerlang /APC) a number of times.

He was also ‘tested’ with his wife’s health condition, when she required intensive care due to diabetes. However, with the support and assistance from the employer then, Siva and his wife managed to deal with the situation in the best way possible. His wife underwent the required medical procedure successfully and this has touched him, specifically in how the University and its community responded to him and his family’s situation.



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ANJUNG JANNATUN AS SEEN BY SIVA

When asked how he felt when the time came to let go of his job that he has held for more than 25 years as the caretaker of Anjung Jannatun, he said in a sombre voice; “This place is truly special. It’s a place of beauty, continually breezy and there’s truly a feeling of elation working here.”

The captivating hilltop view is among the memories that will be forever remembered by Siva. He also left a reminder, to anyone who will be working there in the near future, to carry on with the task, and to be fully responsible. To him, an employer’s trust is the key to one’s success in completing the job properly and perfectly.

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Photo: Nor Amin Zainal Kamarudin*



USM METERAI MOU DENGAN MBI KEDAH DAN PKB, Jalin Kerjasama Strategik Bangunkan Sektor Industri Utama Kedah dan Kampus Kejuruteraan USM

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) hari ini menandatangani memorandum persefahaman (MoU) dengan Menteri Besar Kedah Incorporated (MBI Kedah) dan Permodalan Kedah Berhad (PKB) untuk menjalin kerjasama strategik dalam beberapa sektor industri utama yang memberi manfaat kepada kesemua pihak terbabit.



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Teks: Mohamad Hafiz Asyraf Mohd Arop • Foto: Mohd Fairus Md. Isa



SAINS@KL

USM Sains@KL (formerly known as IPS USM@KL) was officially established in 2014 with the aim to strengthen USM's physical presence and visibility in the Klang Valley. Specifically, Sains@KL is responsible for managing and coordinating various innovative postgraduate courses for students in Klang Valley in cooperation with the Institute of Postgraduate Studies of USM main campus.



Sains@KL is strategically located in the heart of downtown Kuala Lumpur and is well-equipped with physical, technical and teaching-learning facilities such as classrooms, office, computer laboratory with video conferencing facilities, students' lounge area, resource centre, meeting rooms and students' workstations areas.



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USM.CREATE @ GEORGETOWN is an acronym for Creative Regenerative Environment for Talented artist and Entrepreneurs. USM.CREATE is a space positioned to foster the artistic talent, design exploration and technological scene for artists, entrepreneurs, the community and industry within Penang and South East Asia. USM.CREATE is a special avenue to help showcase your work by supporting your talents and hone your creative ability. With the emergence of this new platform, it will definitely cultivate the culture and the spirits of networking and partnership between USM communities and the industry, as well as the involvement of the Penang local communities.



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A photograph showing a long wooden jetty extending into the sea. In the foreground, a man in a red long-sleeved shirt and black pants is crouching, using a yellow-handled hammer to work on a wooden plank. Behind him, another man in a dark brown shirt and cap is also working on the jetty. In the background, a man in a black t-shirt and blue shorts stands on the jetty, looking towards the camera. The sea is visible in the distance under a clear sky.

The Penang National Park (Taman Negara Pulau Pinang) jetty, located in Teluk Bahang, serves as an important starting point for commuters and tourists to go to Pantai Kerachut, Muka Head and the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Centre for Marine and Coastal Studies (CEMACS).

With the safety of CEMACS staff and the public in mind, the 60-year-old wooden jetty which had collapsed in December 2021 after its pillars were battered by strong waves, installation and repair works have been started by a local contractor for temporary use.

60-YEAR-OLD WOODEN JETTY In Teluk Bahang Leading to CEMACS to Be Repaired

According to the Director of CEMACS, Professor Dato' Dr. Aileen Tan Shau Hwai via an email interview, at present two sections of the jetty are being repaired. One is the Taman Negara jetty that had been closed due to its weak platform, and the other, the wooden jetty that collapsed on 4 December 2021 due to a big storm. Current repair efforts involve replacing the old wooden platform and strengthening the structure of the jetty.

Aileen Tan said that, repair on the Taman Negara jetty started first on 27 December 2021 with the 'gotong-royong' concept between CEMACS, the tourist boat teams and staff from Taman Negara with funds provided by USM and the Deputy Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MOTAC), Dato' Muhammad Bakhtiar Wan Chik for the purchase of materials such as wood, planks and other related tools, and this part of the jetty was completed within a day.

"The repair work on the second part of the jetty was initiated on 1 January 2022 and additional materials were required to repair the wooden jetty and funds were again provided by USM and Muhammad Bakhtiar and is expected to be completed by 9 January 2022," she said.

She added that a number of CEMACS staff was involved in doing the jetty repair work and the team was led by its Senior Technician, Rosly Bassarudin.

Aileen Tan also stressed on the numbers of request that CEMACS has been receiving from both in USM and from other universities as well as the public to conduct their programmes at CEMACS, and the timetable for weekends are almost fully booked from January till March 2022.

“USM is very concerned about the welfare and safety of the staff and students since the jetty is an important structure for both tourists and visitors to come to CEMACS.

“In addition, it is utilised by the USM staff who work in CEMACS and the jetty in Teluk Bahang is the main gateway to CEMACS via boats. When the wooden jetty was destroyed by the storm, CEMACS staff and students have to hike in to work on a daily basis as the boats can only be used from the shore during high tides,” she added.

When asked if there is a plan to build a new jetty soon, Aileen Tan further explained that MOTAC together with Jabatan Perhilitan Malaysia have started the process of readying a new jetty for the past two years, and it is now undergoing the process of tender and most probably will take some time before the new jetty is ready.

“I wish to take this opportunity to thank our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato’ Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan for his support and understanding, whereby funds have been provided to enable the repair of the jetties to be done almost immediately,” she said.

The jetty is known as an important route used by the public to go on boats and usually, those who use the route are CEMACS staff and visitors comprising of university academics and students.

CEMACS is located within the area of Penang National Park (Taman Negara Pulau Pinang), which is known to be the smallest national park in the country that is rich in biodiversity and surrounded by flora and fauna facing the sea.

The centre serves as an institutional mechanism for mobilising and integrating the university’s considerable expertise and resources in the field of marine research. Research and training activities conducted at the centre focus on biodiversity and conservation of marine ecosystems, coastal forest ecosystems, mariculture and marine mammal ecology.

The centre has collaborated on research and conservation projects with partners from all over the world, including the UK, USA, Japan, Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Canada, China, Denmark and Australia among others.

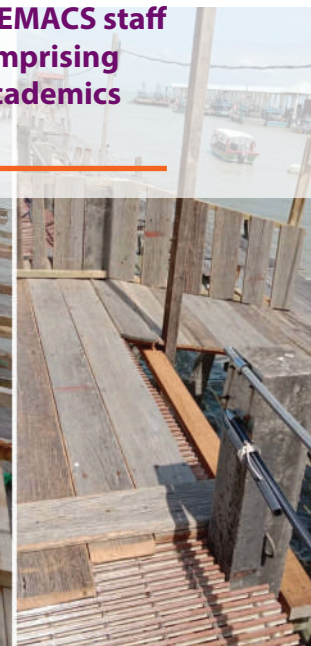
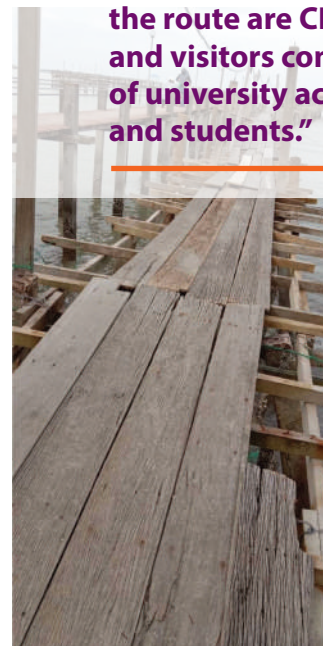
*Text: Nur Farrah Ezlin Mohd Suhaimi
Editing: Mazlan Hanafi Basharudin
Photo: Courtesy of CEMACS USM*



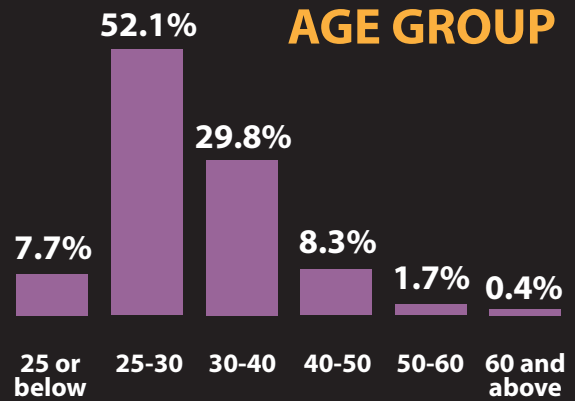
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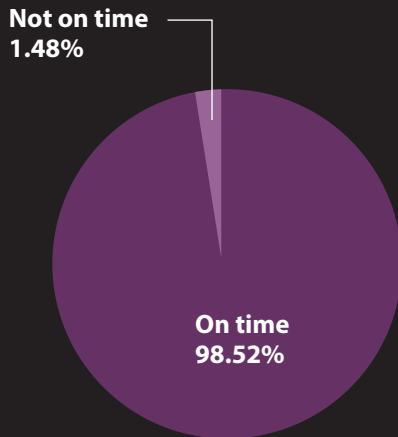
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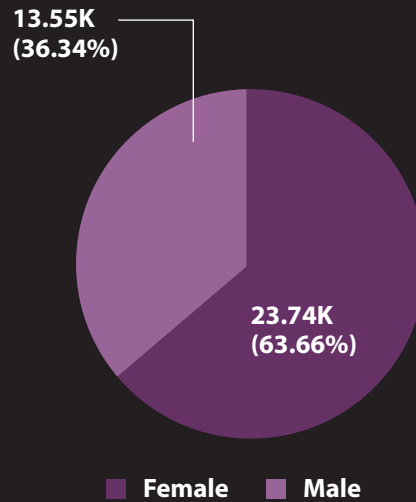
USM Alumni by the Numbers 2017-2021



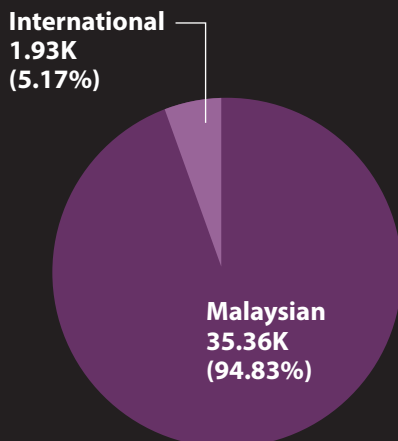
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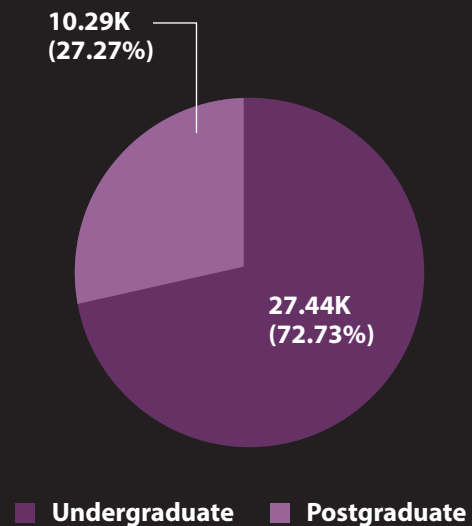
GENDER



CITIZENSHIP



TOTAL ALUMNI





Alumni Development Centre
would like to wish you

Selamat Hari Raya

Cidilfitri

May you end this holy month
of Ramadan with high spirits.

We wish you joy, peace,
prosperity and unity
on this special celebration.



#WeLead #SayaSayangUSM #StaySafe

