

# ALUMNIbulletin

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*Cover rationale: Positive Strides refers simply to making good progress. Regardless of what has happened along the way, you are ready to take a step forward and to make progress towards your goal. The stairs symbolise the efforts you take in every step as an institution in delivering our strategic commitment.*

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## From the Vice-Chancellor

It has been a very interesting TWO years living with the pandemic.

Despite the challenges faced, our beloved USM has made positive strides - with everyone lending a helping hand - staff, students - and our friends - alumni, other governmental agencies, NGOs, embassies, and the public. The pandemic has brought the best out of the people I believe.

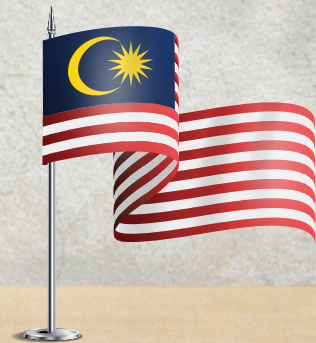
We too have made good progress in staff wellbeing, student welfare, international student intake, our startup-spinoff ecosystem, procurement of key equipment, upgrades of key facilities, and improving the access to and delivery of our academic programmes. These were the combined results of commitment, innovativeness, and altruism.

***Selamat Hari Kemerdekaan ke 64!***

#WeLead

**Professor Dato' Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan**

*Vice-Chancellor*



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## From **DVC** to **Alumni**

Dear USMers and friends of USM,

We hope this bulletin finds you and your family well as we continue to navigate the new normal in our lives. Even though we are apart and physically distanced, there exists a bond that keeps us together.

Despite the challenges, we are doing our best to stay connected to you. We would like to welcome you back to the campus with another USM project, namely **Staycation@USM**. You can rent a hostel room at a very reasonable price and arrange activities on campus with your family and friends. For those who found their spouses in USM back during their campus life, you can even return to the same dating spots, but now with the kids in tow *hahaha*.

Our iconic spots like the Lake of Hope (*Tasik Harapan*), VC Rock and *Tapak Konvo* are living memorials for all of us and will still be here for the next 100 years as we blaze new trails into the future.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to our alumni and friends for their support on initiatives like '**Adopt Your Hostel Room@USM**', scholarships and gifts in kind, bringing about a remarkable return of educated and skilled alumni, business support and development and sustainability.

It's our students. They're out there exchanging conversations, challenging the status quo and breaking world records. They are the momentum to our success as a University.

It's you — our phenomenal alumni and friends. You take what you have learned here and put it to good use, making the world a better place and coming together in a time of crisis to support our students and communities.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Not forgetting, we would also like to wish everyone a Happy Independence Day for our beloved nation.

***Selamat Menyambut Hari Kemerdekaan ke-64.***

**Professor Dr. Aldrin Abdullah** (B. Sc. HBP 1993, B. Arch 1994)

*Deputy Vice-Chancellor*

*Students Development Affairs & Alumni*

Stay connected with USM

Username (Email)  
Enter your username

Password  
Enter Your Password

[Forgot Password?](#)

**SIGN IN**

## 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](mailto:dir_alumni@usm.my)]. Include your photo, full name, course and graduation year.

## USM RECEIVES MOSTI MINISTER, Holds Briefing on Latest Development

A discussion between Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and the Institute of Pharmaceutical and Nutraceutical Malaysia (IPHARM) under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) was held at the University Innovative Incubator (I2U) building at Bukit Jambul. The discussion was aimed at increasing collaborations in the field of pharmaceuticals between IPHARM and the USM School of Pharmaceutical Sciences to produce products and also pharmaceutical and medical services that can be commercialised.

According to the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Malaysia, Khairy Jamaluddin, this collaboration will be extended further into researches and commercialisation. Although currently there is already commercialisation being done in this field at USM, he is prioritising on the research that has already begun at IPHARM.

**“According to the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Malaysia, Khairy Jamaluddin, this collaboration will be extended further into researches and commercialisation.”**

**“...the USM Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan explained to Khairy Jamaluddin, on the efforts by USM to embrace the future.”**

“We can focus on certain products by doing research relating to dengue, kratom/ketum leaves as a pharmaceutical product and also on other aspects of pharmacy that can be looked into,” said Khairy.

At the meeting too, the USM Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan explained to Khairy Jamaluddin, on the efforts by USM to embrace the future.

Faisal Rafiq shared information on how USM provides access to opportunities for students and staff, who mostly belong to the B40 category; the percentage of students and staff who are disabled (OKU); the breakdown of the Heads of Departments (HOD) in terms of gender, and the fact that most of them being first-generation degree holders.



**“...the I2U Centre will also be utilised as a space to host activities relating to research and commercialisation, and will be provided to the industry research partners that have strategic collaborations with USM.”**

He continued his briefing by highlighting the performance of the academics, in terms of productivity and efficiency.

“Focusing on the duties of the academics in producing publications and doing supervision (of students), the number of publications peaked in 2014, but later declined and showed drastic fluctuations until 2019; on the other hand, the supervision of students was at the highest in 2011, then fluctuated, again reaching a high level in 2015 but declined in 2016, only to rise and tapered off at almost the same level of achievements as for the publications,” he explained.

He then said, the I2U Centre will also be utilised as a space to host activities relating to research and commercialisation, and will be provided to the industry research partners that have strategic collaborations with USM in various fields such as electronics, IoT, IC (integrated circuit) design, semiconductors, AI and healthcare solutions.

Additionally he said, other activities will also be hosted, such as pitch programmes, start-up seeds and USM spin-off companies in order to spur innovation and commercialisation.

“One example of an innovation that was highlighted was the ‘Automated Assisted Breathing Unit’ or AABU. It is an AI-driven breathing tool, combining the expertise in medical, engineering and IT.





**“Another innovation of a research-based, cutting-edge multidisciplinary venture was a ‘Ventilator of the Future’, a collaboration with Canada’s largest mother/child centre.”**

“Another innovation of a research-based, cutting-edge multidisciplinary venture was a ‘Ventilator of the Future’, a collaboration with Canada’s largest mother/child centre,” he added.

Other proposals presented during the discussion include an OECD-accredited GLP facilities; a prerequisite for vaccine or pharmaceutical clinical work at USM-IPHARM; a proposal for 12 USM (Pharmacy) training; future NPRA regulators and clinical experts; Vax Biotech (USM spin-off) commissioning preclinical trial on cholera vaccine; and in developing the most advanced vaccine in Malaysia (a collaboration with AIMST and Finlay Institute in Cuba) for COVID-19 vaccine candidates.

Other USM centres which are ready to offer their expertise include the Institute for Research in Molecular Medicine (INFORMM) and the National Poison Centre.

The Minister was on a one-day working visit to Penang, and USM was one of the venue chosen to discuss several issues in his itinerary.

Others who were present included the Chairperson of the University Board of Governors (LGU), Datuk Dr. Awang Adek Hussin; Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Professor Dato’ Ir. Dr. Abdul Rahman Mohamed; MOSTI Secretary-General, Datuk Ir. Dr. Siti Hamisah Tapsir; President of Academy of Sciences Malaysia, Professor Datuk Dr. Asma Ismail; and key officials from MOSTI and USM.

*Text: Thigambarishini Gobi  
Editing: Mazlan Hanafi Basharudin*



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## USM Nabs MALAYSIA TECHNOLOGY EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR DIGITAL - EDUCATION

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) has won the Digital-Education award for the entry JORaN (Job Opportunities, Recruitment and Networking) at the recently concluded Malaysia Technology Excellence (MTE) Awards 2021, presented by Singapore Business Review.

Fully developed by a group of USM students, the JORaN mobile app is a platform that brings together USM students, student entrepreneurs and all departments in USM in an employer-employee environment.

A first amongst Malaysian universities, an “employer” (student entrepreneur or department/unit in USM) can choose their “employee” (a USM student) based on the endorsement and comment from past “employers” via the platform. An employer can also search for an employee by submitting the description of their needs and requirements of the job.

JORaN offers various part-time jobs within the campus for students to apply and earn extra income. There are over 30 different types of job categories from waiters to research assistants, and it is available to download for free on both iOS and Android devices.

USM soft-launched JORaN on 4 September 2019 in conjunction with the registration of new students for the 2019/2020 academic session after realising that many university students were looking for part-time jobs to raise money for their studies.



**JORaN offers over 30 different part-time job categories within the campus for students to earn extra income. So far, since its inception, more than 400 students have benefited from this effort.**



The concept behind the innovation originated from the USM Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Student Development Affairs and Alumni, Professor Dr. Aldrin Abdullah.

The app was fully developed by three USM students from different background and ethnicity - Danny Hartanto Djarum, Asamoah Kwaku Acheampong and Lai Beng Keong under the supervision of Associate Professor Dr. Nurul Hashimah Ahamed Hassain Malim from the School of Computer Sciences.

Danny, who is from Indonesia and studied at the School of Chemical Engineering joined the team in April 2019 and in charge of user interface design of JORaN.

**“Fully developed by a group of USM students, the JORaN mobile app is a platform that brings together USM students, student entrepreneurs and all departments in USM in an employer-employee environment.”**



**Lai (right), Danny Hartanto and Asamoah (left) showing the JORaN application that helps students in USM to earn extra income**



**“USM soft-launched JORaN on 4 September 2019 in conjunction with the registration of new students for the 2019/2020 academic session after realising that many university students were looking for part-time jobs to raise money for their studies.”**

Whereas, Asamoah from Ghana and Lai, a local, are both students of the School of Computer Sciences and in charge of the backend infrastructure.

In its third year, the Malaysia Technology Excellence Awards event lauds exceptional companies that have successfully pioneered IT products, solutions and innovative technology projects in their respective industries to boost Malaysia’s fast-growing economy.

The panel of judges for this year’s Award comprised of leading experts and influencers from prestigious industries such as PwC Malaysia, Ernst & Young Advisory Services, Deloitte Asia Pacific, KPMG, Crowe Growth Consulting Sdn Bhd and RSM Malaysia.

*Text: Tan Ewe Hoe*

*Disclaimer: All photos were taken before the COVID19 pandemic.*



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# USM | KPN BEKERJASAMA

## Bangunkan Dua Pelan Perpaduan Negara

Dalam usahanya menjadi institusi yang mengembangkan perpaduan negara, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) hari ini menandatangani dua memorandum persefahaman (MoU) dengan Kementerian Perpaduan Negara (KPN).

Kedua-dua MoU tersebut yang diterajui oleh Pusat Pengajian Sains Kemasyarakatan (PPSK) adalah berlandaskan objektif utama iaitu Pembangunan Pelan Merakyatkan Perpaduan - Karib Aksesibiliti Majmuk Inklusiviti (KAMI) dan Pemeraksanaan Pelan Tindakan Pembangunan Masyarakat India.

Menandatangani bagi pihak USM ialah Naib Canselornya, Profesor Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan dan Dekan PPSK, Profesor Dr. Azlinda Azman manakala pihak KPN diwakili Ketua Setiausahanya Datuk Wan Suraya Wan Md Radzi dan Timbalannya, Dato' Indera Noridah Abdul Rahim.

**“Faisal Rafiq yakin pembangunan dan pemeraksanaan pelan perpaduan yang diterajui oleh USM dengan sokongan ampuh daripada KPN itu dapat memberikan sumbangan kepada dasar kerajaan dan pengimplementasian sistem penyampaian dengan jayanya.”**

Majlis menjadi lebih istimewa dengan kehadiran Menteri Perpaduan Negara, Datuk Halimah Mohamed Sadique dan Pengerusi Lembaga Gabenor USM, Datuk Dr. Awang Adek Hussin, dengan kedua-duanya menjadi saksi kepada majlis penandatanganan berkenaan.

Menurut Halimah, menerusi MoU ini diharap dapat membentuk kerjasama lebih erat antara kementerianya dan USM dalam merangka pelan perpaduan negara.

Katanya lagi, menjadi aspirasi KPN dalam membantu mana-mana institusi yang mahu menjadikan perpaduan di negara ini lebih utuh dengan percambahan idea serta pelan tindakan yang dirangka.





**“...menjadi aspirasi KPN dalam membantu mana-mana institusi yang mahu menjadikan perpaduan di negara ini lebih utuh dengan percambahan idea serta pelan tindakan yang dirangka.”**



Sementara itu, Faisal Rafiq ketika berucap pada majlis tersebut berkata, kedua-dua pelan tersebut yang menjadi tunjang kepada MoU ini dijangkakan dapat mendokong tiga aspirasi utama perpaduan negara, iaitu membina rakyat yang patriotik dan demokratik, membentuk identiti nasional dan memperkukuhkan ekosistem perpaduan.

Katanya, Malaysia merupakan negara yang rencam budaya dan lanskap yang sama dapat dilihat di USM yang mana mahasiswanya terdiri daripada pelbagai etnik dan latar belakang yang berbeza.

“USM sentiasa berusaha mewujudkan persekitaran semasa yang menggalakkan integrasi mahasiswa pelbagai etnik, antaranya ialah persekitaran pengajaran dan pembelajaran yang kondusif, kemudahan asas yang lengkap bagi keperluan mahasiswa, kemudahan kewangan yang dapat membantu meringankan beban mahasiswa dan juga aktiviti ko-kurikulum yang merangkumi pelbagai aktiviti badan beruniform, budaya dan sukan.

“Di samping itu, Sekretariat Rukun Negara (SRN) di USM yang seramai 100 orang (40 EXCO dan 60 ahli) juga menjadi platform kepada mahasiswa dalam usaha untuk menerapkan pemahaman dan perpaduan tentang Rukun Negara menerusi program yang dianjurkan.

“Program seperti Lingkaran Muhibbah Orang Asli, Program Eksplorasi Sukan Rakyat dan Perkampungan Sinar Perpaduan adalah antara inisiatif SRN USM sebagai penggerak ke arah memperkukuhkan integrasi nasional dalam kalangan mahasiswa di USM,” tambah beliau.

Faisal Rafiq yakin pembangunan dan pemerkasaan pelan perpaduan yang diterajui oleh USM dengan sokongan ampuh daripada KPN itu dapat memberikan sumbangan kepada dasar kerajaan dan pengimplementasian sistem penyampaian dengan jayanya.

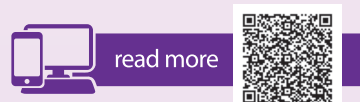
Turut hadir ialah Timbalan Menteri Perpaduan Negara, Senator Dato’ Sri Ti Lian Ker; Timbalan-timbalan Naib Canselor USM; Ketua Penyelidik dari PPSK USM yang juga penganalisis politik yang tidak asing lagi, Profesor Dr. Sivamurugan Pandian; serta barisan pegawai utama kementerian dan USM.

Majlis menjadi lebih istimewa dengan kehadiran Menteri Perpaduan Negara, Datuk Halimah Mohamed Sadique dan Pengerusi Lembaga Gabenor USM, Datuk Dr. Awang Adek Hussin, dengan kedua-duanya menjadi saksi kepada majlis penandatanganan berkenaan.

Menurut Halimah, menerusi MoU ini diharap dapat membentuk kerjasama lebih erat antara kementerianya dan USM dalam merangka pelan perpaduan negara.

Katanya lagi, menjadi aspirasi KPN dalam membantu mana-mana institusi yang mahu menjadikan perpaduan di negara ini lebih utuh dengan percambahan idea serta pelan tindakan yang dirangka.

*Teks: Mohamad Hafiz Asyraf Mohd Arop  
Foto: Ebrahim Abdul Manan / Mohd Fairus Md Isa*





## MOHE MINISTER on A Working Visit to USM

Minister of Higher Education of Malaysia, YB Datuk Seri Dr. Noraini Ahmad had paid a courtesy visit to the main campus of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in Penang. She is welcomed by the USM Chairman of the Board of Governors, Dato' Dr. Awang Adek Hussin.

A small occasion then went underway with a brief presentation on USM by its Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan, as an introduction to the only APEX University in Malaysia and later followed with a quick Q&A session held with YB Datuk Seri Dr. Noraini.

A few recent USM projects were then highlighted, as the Minister of Higher Education then visited The Bricks. The Bricks, located at Bangunan Siswaniaga, is a centre for student entrepreneurial activity, which underwent extensive renovation and was officially opened in March 2021. It is divided into a Lounge, a Gallery and a Merchandise Shop where students work and simulate a real start-up operation. In order to provide students with real-life entrepreneurship experience, real industry players and alumni will be invited to share their knowledge and experience.



The Bricks

**“...a brief presentation on USM by its Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan, as an introduction to the only APEX University in Malaysia and later followed with a quick Q&A session held with YB Datuk Seri Dr. Noraini.”**

Moving on to Copa Arena@USM, Noraini was introduced to the new artificial football fields which were fully funded via a build-operate-transfer (BOT) deal. The two fields, each measuring 105m x 68m, were made up of 3 artificial and 2 natural turfs. These FIFA standard football fields are open for students at no charge and for outsiders to rent too. Furthermore, there is ongoing discussion to put a Video Assistant Referee (VAR) equipment for the fields in the future.

Then, the visit proceeded to Desa Harapan or Bilik Viral, a new refurbished room with a modern design, complete with air-conditioning and fan. To fund the room and to build more similar rooms, the 'Adopt Your Hostel Room@USM' was introduced as a programme that reaches out to the Alumni and industry player. In addition, Smart Hostel, which is still at a prototype phase, was also presented as a room equipped with artificial intelligence (AI) technology, where voice command can be used.



***Datuk Seri Dr. Noraini addressing the concerns raised during the Q&A session***



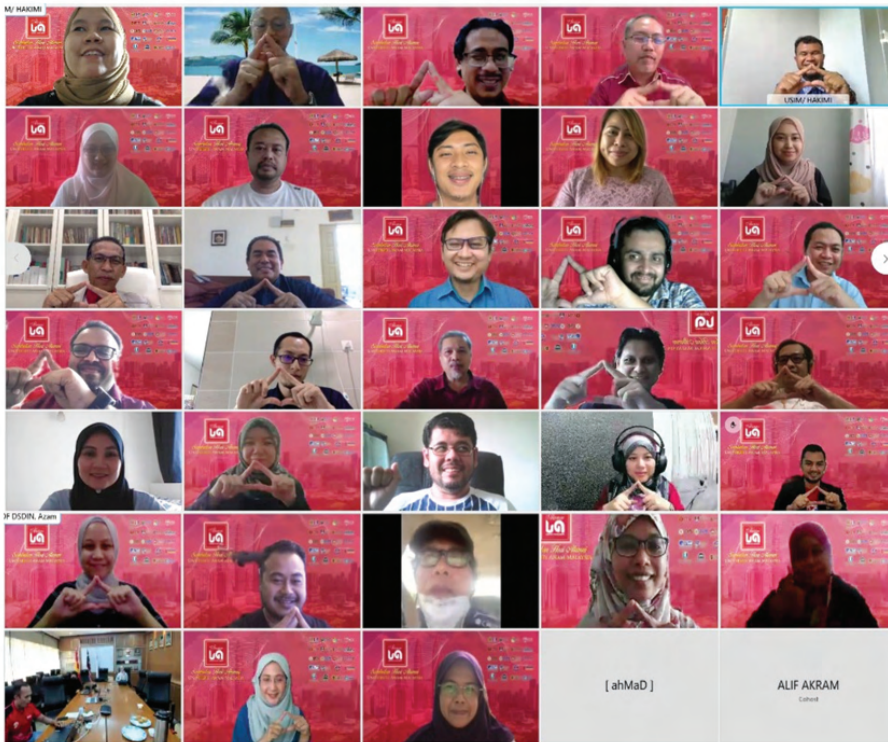
***Visiting Bilik Viral***

***"...the visit proceeded to Desa Harapan or Bilik Viral, a new refurbished room with a modern design, complete with air-conditioning and fan. To fund the room and to build more similar rooms, the 'Adopt Your Hostel Room@USM' was introduced as a programme that reaches out to the Alumni and industry player."***

Aside from that, Noraini also attended the opening ceremony of CGH Learning Space. CGH Learning Space, located at Desasiswa Cahaya Gemilang Harapan, was built as a recreational place for students to study and have discussions comfortably.

Lastly, her visit ended with a stop by at the Majlis Perwakilan Pelajar (MPPUSM) room. This brand-new and modern MPPUSM room was specially designed to resemble a mini office, so as to empower and motivate the MPP members in leading the students while experiencing the best ambience in USM.

***Text: Nur Farisya Faisal  
Editing: Mazlan Hanafi Basharudin  
Photo: Ebrahim Abdul Manan***



# ALUMNI USM

## Antara Kunci Pembangunan Menara Ilmu

Tarikh 18 Julai 2021 tahun ini amat bermakna bagi para alumni institusi pengajian tinggi apabila ia diraikan sebagai Hari Alumni Universiti Awam.

Dengan tema pada tahun ini, Alumni Universiti Awam dalam Kebersamaan, ianya telah menjadi satu platform untuk 20 universiti awam di Malaysia untuk menyemarakkan semangat kebersamaan antara satu sama lain dari perspektif alumni.

Sambutan ini diraikan sempena tarikh kelulusan penubuhan Majlis Alumni Universiti Awam oleh Mesyuarat Sekretariat Timbalan-timbalan Naib Canselor HEPA Bil 2/2020 yang berlangsung di Universiti Malaya tahun lalu.

Bagi Penyelaras Pusat Pembangunan Alumni USM, Sharifah Darweena Syed Ahmad Amir Feisal, sumbangan dan sokongan semua pihak dalam entiti ini amatlah penting kerana kejayaan hasil daripada perancangan dan pembangunan teliti entiti ini akan mewujudkan alumni yang terbilang di mata dunia.

“Perlu ada kerjasama antara semua universiti untuk memacu entiti ini ke hadapan dan USM sentiasa berbesar hati dengan segala sumbangan dan keringat yang diberikan oleh semua alumnya selama ini walau dimana mereka berada tanpa mengira penat lelah dalam mendepani cabaran yang kian sukar dekad ini,” katanya.

Sharifah Darweena juga berharap semua alumni ini akan terus menyumbang tanpa rasa jemu kepada pembangunan universiti tercinta ini dari segi ilmu pengetahuan mahupun kewangan.

Beliau juga memetik kata hikmat daripada Ben Sasse yang berbunyi ‘*An institution of higher education is a partnership among students and alumni, faculty and administration, donors, and more to build a community and a culture!*

Sehingga kini, USM mempunyai lebih daripada

180 ribu alumni di seluruh dunia yang merangkumi 82 buah negara.

Teks: Hafiz Meah Ghouse Meah



# STORIES

Are Meant to be Told

If you are an alumni of USM, we are guessing that you haven't been hiding under a rock since you graduated. You've landed job, gotten married, earned more degrees and learn a lot about life along the way.

And we want to know about it. Good news or bad news, we hope you can share your stories with the future USMers. Your story is important and it will have an impact beyond what you know. After all stories are meant to be told.

Please share your story to [dir\\_alumni@usm.my](mailto:dir_alumni@usm.my)

"Storytelling is the most powerful way to put ideas into the world." – Professor Robert McKee

Thank you and Stay Safe.

Sharifah Darweena Syed Ahmad Amir Feisal  
Coordinator  
Alumni Development Centre



# STAYC@TION DESASISWA

Here's the opportunity to rekindle  
your sweet old memories.

Stay tuned for more details...  
[usmalumni.usm.my](http://usmalumni.usm.my)

Ikon Orang Kelainan Upaya (OKU) Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Dr. Mohamad Muzammil Mohamad Noor menjadi antara 28 ikon penting negara apabila kisah kejayaan beliau diterbitkan bersama ikon lain dalam buku Tiada Yang Mustahil.

Pelancaran buku tersebut telah disempurnakan oleh Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat, Datuk Seri Rina Mohd Harun di Kuala Lumpur.

Penerbitan ini adalah bagi menzahirkan rasa prihatin dan komited dalam kelangsungan golongan OKU terutama ketika mendepani pandemik COVID-19 dijaga serta memastikan tiada OKU ketinggalan dalam arus pembangunan negara.

Buku tersebut diterbitkan bersama Institut Terjemahan dan Buku Malaysia (ITBM) dan Institut Sosial Malaysia (ISM), dan ditulis dan disusun oleh empat orang penulis iaitu Syahrizal Abdul Rahim, Norailis Ab. Wahab, Noorhafiza Ahmad dan Siti Marian Sageh.

Mohamad Muzammil adalah pensyarah kanan dalam bidang Sejarah dan Pengajian Tamadun di Pusat Pengajian Pendidikan Jarak Jauh (PPPJJ) USM dan telah dinobatkan pelbagai gelaran termasuk Bintang Cemerlang Negeri oleh TYT Pulau Pinang, Ikon Istimewa Kebangsaan, Ikon Merdeka serta menjadi sukarelawan Sukan SEA Kuala Lumpur 2017.



**Pelancaran buku telah disempurnakan oleh Datuk Seri Rina Mohd Harun**

**“Dr. Mohamad Muzammil Mohamad Noor menjadi antara 28 ikon penting negara apabila kisah kejayaan beliau diterbitkan bersama ikon lain dalam buku Tiada Yang Mustahil.”**

# MUZAMMIL

## Antara 28 Ikon Negara

Naib Canselor USM, Profesor Dr. Rafiq Faisal Mahamd Adikan dan Dekan PPPJJ, Profesor Dr. Zoraini Wati Abas turut menitipkan ucapan tahniah kepada Mohamad Muzammil atas pemilihan tersebut dan mengharumkan nama Universiti di peringkat kebangsaan.

Antara ikon lain yang kisah nya diterbitkan di dalam buku tersebut ialah Senator Datuk Ras Adiba Radzi, atlet paralimpik, usahawan dan ramai lagi.

**Teks: Nor Rafizah Md Zain**  
**Foto: Dr. Mohamad Muzammil Mohamad Noor**



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## SALAM FROM PALESTINE, Hoping To Return Soon

When I came to Malaysia to further my studies in 2008, I was equipped with a belief that Malaysia is a country that is rich with many cultures that I must experience, besides obtaining a Master's degree. So, I tried very hard to take advantage of every opportunity to gain new experiences and learn new things about Malaysia, including its lifestyle and its people.

Joining the International Office in 2009 was a great start for me to get to know Malaysia more deeply. By getting to know more Malaysian friends and helping them receive academic exchange students, I learnt and obtained a lot of information about Malaysia and Penang in particular. It helped me to provide answers to all the questions asked by the students.

The most beautiful and unforgettable experience was when I went to a homestay in Pahang for three days to stay at the house of a rural Malaysian family. When I was there, I practiced the daily routines and ate the local food. It was a wonderful experience and I got to meet an amazing Malaysian family. In fact, I am still in contact with them today.

What made me return to Malaysia after ten years to study for my Doctorate is the quality of education at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). As it is among the 150 top universities in the world, there are academic supervisors with extensive research experiences that I can benefit from greatly. Then, I can share these experiences with my colleagues in Palestine.

In these challenging times, our people in Gaza are also facing a complex situation. The difficulties here are cumulative and superimposed. The political and economic crises due to the Israeli blockade has made life more difficult and become unbearable at some points.

I have to admit that things worsened after the emergence of COVID-19 due to the acute shortage of sterile materials and aids. The university which I work at has resorted to distance education when the Ministry of Health announced a complete and also partial closure.

Distance education is a difficult experience in Gaza as electrical supply is cut for several hours daily, along with the lack of a stable internet connection. In addition to that, not all students own a computer due to the tough economic situation.

However, these unfortunate circumstances did not stop us from working. We use social networking sites to communicate with students, conduct lectures, and deliver information to them.

I can say that this online learning experience has benefited the students by opening new opportunities and increasing new knowledge as well as professionalism for them. I hope that the lives of people in Gaza will change for the better and the siege will end. I also hope that the COVID-19 pandemic will end so that I can return to Malaysia to do my PhD, which I started a year ago at USM.

My small family saw a lot of pictures and memories in Malaysia and I also hope I can take them on a trip to Malaysia one day.

**Khaled A M Alhalabi**  
**Master of Communication (2010)**  
**Palestine**

*Disclaimer: All photos were taken before the COVID19 pandemic.*

Keputusan melanjutkan pelajaran di peringkat ijazah sarjana muda telah saya nekadkan seawal tahun 2008. Saya awali usaha itu dengan meneliti setiap program pengajian jarak jauh di pelbagai peringkat Universiti dan kolej, dari hujung selatan tanah air sehingga ke negeri utara semenanjung. Jelas saya amat 'cerewet' tentang kewangan, masa dan komitmen di mana itu perkara utama yang harus saya perinci. Ditambah pula komitmen sebagai pimpinan kanan dan petugas sebuah badan sukarela yang sentiasa menuntut komitmen luar biasa. Nekad itu akhirnya membawa saya menyertai keluarga besar Pusat Pengajian Pendidikan Jarak Jauh (PPPJJ) Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) sekitar tahun 2013.

Sebagai mahasiswa jarak jauh pelbagai perkara harus diteroka. Penggunaan teknologi maklumat merangkumi rangkaian internet, kelas maya, tugas, kuiz, kelas intensif dan lain-lain antara perkara baru yang mengubah sisi masa dan rutin kehidupan. Sekali lagi masa dan komitmen menjadi cabaran kepada saya untuk mandiri memenuhi etika seorang mahasiswa berketrampilan.



## NEKAD, TEKAD dan TEPAT

**“Masa adalah suasana dan ruang berharga. Ia harus diurus dan bersifat kental serta tidak harus dikompromi. Setiap inci masa diguna dengan mentelaah bahan yang mengarah kepada bidang pelajaran.”**

Masa adalah suasana dan ruang berharga. Ia harus diurus dan bersifat kental serta tidak harus dikompromi. Setiap inci masa diguna dengan mentelaah bahan yang mengarah kepada bidang pelajaran. Tidak kurang juga, masa dipenuhi dengan menghadiri seminar berkaitan, berinteraksi dengan pensyarah dan perkara yang berkaitan bidang pengajian.

Sebagai mahasiswa jarak jauh, saya harus lebih terbuka tentang ilmu diluar lingkungan. Percambahan minda bukan hanya di atas lembaran kertas dan senaskah buku. Justeru, pengalaman belajar di luar konteks harus wujud kerana antara istimewanya mahasiswa jarak jauh adalah kemampuan mengharmonikan ilmu teori dengan pengalaman hidup. Saya yakin nekad ini, nekad tepat untuk saya meneroka pengalaman sebagai mahasiswa jarak jauh di USM.



**“Setiap daripada komitmen yang diteroka akan ada ujian dan cabaran. Saat getir sepanjang menjadi mahasiswa, tidak pernah seinci pun untuk saya membataskan aktiviti keilmuan.”**

Tahun demi tahun silih berganti. Tahun pengajian beranjak hinggalah di pertengahan pengajian. Minggu intensif adalah ruang yang ditunggu-tunggu setiap tahun. Pelajar akan dikumpul dan ‘dimastautinkan’ di kampus untuk merasai pengalaman belajar seperti pelajar sepenuh masa. Di sini sesi diskusi ilmu terus semarak, perbincangan, pertukaran maklumat dan kolaborasi pelajar-pensyarah makin rancak dan mengujakan. Saya sendiri tidak ketinggalan menyusun jadual masa senggang dengan membuka ruang diskusi bersama pelajar lain dan pelajar baru.

Sebagai pelajar, ilmu yang diraih harus dihidupkan. Ilmu perlu disampaikan kepada generasi baharu. Setidak-tidaknya memantapkan pengetahuan khusus di samping mengenali rakan-rakan mahasiswa baharu yang lain. Saya mengambil peluang itu untuk memahirkan apa yang telah diajar. Sepanjang bergelar mahasiswa saya penuhi dengan aktiviti keilmuan antara pensyarah dan pelajar lain.

Setiap daripada komitmen yang diteroka akan ada ujian dan cabaran. Saat getir sepanjang menjadi mahasiswa, tidak pernah seinci pun untuk saya membataskan aktiviti keilmuan. Antara cabaran tersebut adalah apabila terpaksa berulang-alik daripada Kampus USM ke Hospital Besar Ipoh ketika kursus intensif. Menjaga kedua-dua orang tua yang uzur dan seorang kakak yang menderita akibat penyakit kanser. Sebagai seorang anak, tanggungjawab itu harus dipikul dan dilaksana. Saya masih ingat, ketika hari pertama sesi pendaftaran kursus intensif di tahun terakhir, almarhum ayahanda saya pergi mengadap Illahi, dan ibunda pula pergi seminggu selepas kursus intensif dan kekanda saya pada hari yang sepatutnya saya bergraduasi menerima segulung ijazah. Sesi pengijazahan pada hari itu bertukar kepada upacara menguruskan jenazah ke tempat persemadian.

Meskipun dianggap tragis, detik serta pengalaman itu adalah kenangan tidak dapat saya lupakan. Sepanjang menjadi mahasiswa harus saya banggakan kerana ujian dan cabaran tersebut telah berjaya saya harungi. Saya hingga kini yakin bahawa nekad yang saya bulatkan adalah tepat. Kini saya sekali lagi tekad untuk menjadi sebahagian daripada pelajar pasca-siswazah di Rancangan Pengajian Pendidikan Jarak Jauh, USM dengan matlamat menghidupkan ilmu dan kesarjanaan. Semoga rentas jalan dan pengalaman menjadi pedoman kepada mahasiswa PJJ lain mengorak langkah membina kejayaan hakiki.

**Ramdani Abd Karim**  
**B. Soc. Sc. 2017**  
**Calon Sarjana Sains Politik**  
**Pusat Pengajian Pendidikan Jarak Jauh**  
**Malaysia**



*Disclaimer: All photos were taken before the COVID19 pandemic.*

## WHY NOT?

My motto in life is “Why not?” to everything. With that motto, it brought me to my very first experience with USM back in 2007. It was for a summer programme organized by the Faculty of Letters at Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan and USM International Office (IO) which is now known as International Mobility and Career Centre (IMCC). At that time, I was an undergraduate student of English and American literature and I barely had any academic connection in Malaysia.

Although we stayed only for 4-5 days at USM, we were all impressed by the hospitality of USM Student Buddies and IO officers. To be honest, I cannot recall any negative moments that happened during the two-week programme. Resultantly, the summer programme sparked my interest in the culture and literature of Malaysia. So, I decided to proceed with a master's degree programme in Malaysian Literature in English (MLE) at Ritsumeikan University after I went back to Japan in 2008.

Associate Prof. Dr. Mohamad Rashidi Mohd, from School of Humanities was my supervisor when I came back to USM as an exchange student in 2009. I was the first postgraduate exchange student from Ritsumeikan University after the establishment of MoU between USM and Ritsumeikan. As I was new to the area of study, his advice on my research was meaningful. At that time, I was required to write a short article on *The Return* by K. S. Maniam. However, as MLE not popular in Japan, I had difficulty in seeking professional advice. With the help from Assoc. Prof. Rashidi who was always patient and tried to provide necessary assistance, my research deliberately made some progress. This led me to think that I would certainly like to seek further academic advice from him in research project at PhD level.



**“My motto in life is “Why not?” to everything. With that motto, it brought me to my very first experience with USM back in 2007.”**





Consequently, a lot of memories were created in USM. All my memories in Malaysia are unforgettable, but my experience as a member of the USM Buddies, which then was supervised by Madam Latifah Abdul Latif, is one of the most important memories. USM Buddies was a student organization that aimed to support the life of exchange students in USM. Though I was an exchange student myself, I was allowed to join a community/family consisted mainly of local students and eventually elected as one of the three general secretaries. With much support from my friends and the officers at IO, I managed to act as a leader of the organization and gained unforgettable memories and experiences.

Now, I am a lecturer in Shigakkan University, Aichi. Our small but unique university is known for its sports as we have produced a number of Olympians namely Yoshida Saori, one of the famous ones, who won the gold medal in women's wrestling. I think I am a fortunate person as Shigakkan University is trying hard to provide our students with the very best campus life in the middle of the pandemic. Even though I am new here, I am still trying to contribute as well to the community with my previous experiences.

In order to curb the spread of COVID-19, Shigakkan University provide our students with free PCR tests on campus. With this, students are able to engage in extracurricular activities even in the current situation. So far, this procedure has been running effectively.

Besides that, to cope with the current devastating situation, we also try to communicate with our students as often as possible so they will not feel left out. Most of our students are from the neighbouring regions and Aichi prefecture but there are some students who come from remote areas. So, the faculty members try to contact the students who belong to their lectures occasionally.

**"...our bond with the students become weaker at times due to, contradictorily, a lack of communication. Therefore, heartfelt communication can be an effective countermeasure in order to stay positive in this gloomy situation."**

We are now living in the age of technology, and communication has technically been made much easier compared to the previous generations. However, in my opinion, our bond with the students become weaker at times due to, contradictorily, a lack of communication. Therefore, heartfelt communication can be an effective countermeasure in order to stay positive in this gloomy situation. As for me, the constant cheerful WhatsApp messages from my respected supervisor has been supporting my PhD project since I am currently based in Japan.

Last but not least, I hope the current situation will get better soon so I can come back to Malaysia with my family again. Hopefully this time with my younger son who has so far never been to Malaysia even though his brother was born and raised until the age of three in Malaysia.



**Yosuke Nimura**  
**Ph.D Student (School of Humanities)**  
**Japan**

*Disclaimer: All photos were taken before the COVID19 pandemic.*



## USM-MY ALMAMATA, Oozes Positivity Always

The first thing I did when I was considering to study in Malaysia was looking up for videos on YouTube. Why USM? Instead of thinking to study in the island city of Penang, I guess I was seduced by USM scenery of the pond, the trees, and the bridge.

Just like the movie "THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY", I also had the good, the bad, and the ugly moments ha ha! But, there were more joyous moments than the other two. All the good moments are precious but there is one memory that stands out and has remained with me until today. It was a phone call that I received from the Vice Chancellor, Professor Faisal Rafiq where he told me to meet him nearby Masjid Al-Malik Khalid USM. He took me to his official residence, Anjung Jannatun and as luck would have it, Prof. Rafiq and his family graced me with their presence for my last morning walk in USM. Together we walked from his home to IPS until Tasik Harapan, then continued to Desasiswa Bakti Permai and all the way to the clinic and finally back to his home. There, I was treated to a sumptuous breakfast specially served for me and VC at the foyer of his residence. We shared some discussions about life in general and other issues. Not only he wished me a safe trip, his wife also gave me a present which specially made in Terengganu for my wife.



When I was at Singapore airport on my transit flight back to my home country, I had a call with Muhammed Ubale Kiru. Upon his request, I shared a picture of me and him on Facebook and to my surprise, that photo went viral because of USM MPRC. When I turned on my Internet connection while on transit in Ethiopia, I was brought to tears with all the comments and likes by academic and non-academic staff of USM, students, and friends all around the world on the Facebook post. I have never imagined my little contribution to USM would give me so much joy, happiness, and fulfillment. Plus, IMCC also has given unconditional support for me and most international students during this tough time. Being away from home, the bond created here gave me a lot of comfort and succor.

Arriving in Nigeria was a double joy after finishing my Master's Degree from one of the top-ranking universities in the world. The first thing I did upon arriving was seeing my family and kids after such a long time in USM. My institution was also happy to have me back and currently, I am the assistant teaching practice coordinator. My office is responsible to send students to teach at primary and junior secondary schools as teaching practicum.

I know and have interacted with at least three people that have died of COVID-19 here. Even though Malaysia is not as it used to be due to the current situation, my prayers are always with you all in USM. Plus, my time in USM has taught me that if you are positive and resilient in everything you do, success will be yours.

#StayPositiveAlways

**Yussuf Yakubu**  
**Master of Computer Science (2020)**  
**Nigeria**

*Disclaimer: All photos were taken before the COVID19 pandemic.*

# MY DOCTORAL JOURNEY@USM

I started my doctoral journey at the School of Educational Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), on the 9th of February 2017. I received my Senate Letter as a full-fledged Doctor of Education with a specialization in Educational Technology and Multimedia on March 26th, 2020. At the moment, I am the chairperson of the Department of Technical and Technology Education as well as the Graduate Program Coordinator of the University of Science and Technology of the Philippines in Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines.

So, you might ask how my doctoral journey went? Let me tell you that it was, by far, the most exciting, most challenging, and most meaningful stage of my entire educational life. They say high school life is the most memorable one. But for me, it was my doctoral studies.

Studying in a foreign country was never easy. Leaving my two kids back in the Philippines for the first time in three years was, perhaps, every mother's worst pain. That was my biggest challenge. There was not a day that had gone by without me crying because I missed them dearly. Being in a foreign land with not a single relative is another blunder. And, USM has only one Filipino student staying inside the campus. That made the experience even more terrible, not to mention the financial, intellectual, physical, and emotional struggles. I cannot say I did not undergo depression because I did.

But do you know what got me through all these? It was the beautiful and meaningful learning and living experience that I had in USM.

It all started when I was appointed as one of the International Student Ambassadors of the Institute of Postgraduate Studies (IPS) back in October 2017. I was later delegated as a member of the USM International (USMi) Executive Committee in March 2019. Various meetings and activities followed after these appointments. Dr. Nafiu Aminu and I spearheaded Team and Capacity-Building among the student ambassadors in December 2017. Besides, I was the co-project manager of the first-ever USMi Familiarization event of USMi in September 2019.



**“Studying in a foreign country was never easy. Leaving my two kids back in the Philippines for the first time in three years was, perhaps, every mother’s worst pain... But do you know what got me through all these? It was the beautiful and meaningful learning and living experience that I had in USM.”**





**“To everyone whom this journey inspires, my guiding philosophy is: “You can never test how deep the water is unless you start to wade,” and “Winners never quit, quitters, never win.” I am forever grateful to have been trained in USM.”**

Among some other events that were entrusted to me include hosting the university’s Three-Minute Thesis Competition in April 2018, and Majlis Persada Kencana 2018. In 2019, I emceed several other event such as USMi’s Art Exhibition, USMi’s Networking Activity, the International Research Conference of ARUP, PPIP Appreciation and Award ceremony and IR 4.0 Disruption Program in Penang State in January 2020.

All these active participation in the university’s activities had led me to brushing elbows with USM’s Highly Esteemed Top Management.

As a student, I also joined the Three-minute Competition in PPIP and garnered the Championship award. I attended several international research conferences in Malaysia and other countries and even published papers in reputable journals. I can say I did well with my coursework as I maintained a CGPA of 3.89 in my Ph.D journey. I finished my studies within time, because by the 12th of February 2020, I was already back home in the Philippines unpacking my luggage.

What kept me going despite all the odds? It was my strong faith in the Almighty God. He is the source of all the strength and wisdom for me to keep on going. I also maintained a good friendship with my classmates and fellows in the student ambassador circle and USMi, which I considered as my family away from home. Despite the distance from my family, constant communication with them helped my well-being. Of course, the passion to learn and to grow intrinsically motivated me in my journey.

To everyone whom this journey inspires, my guiding philosophy is: “You can never test how deep the water is unless you start to wade,” and “Winners never quit, quitters, never win.” I am forever grateful to have been trained in USM. This has truly been a blessing for me.

God bless us all!

**Sarah Namoco  
Ph.D (2020)  
Philippines**

*Disclaimer: All photos were taken before the COVID19 pandemic.*



Prof. Dr. Sivamurugan Pandian

OPTIMUMKAN  
PLATFORM ALAM MAYA

## Meriahkan Ulangtahun **Kemerdekaan** Negara Secara Kreatif

Tanggal tiga puluh satu  
Bulan lapan lima puluh tujuh  
Merdeka, merdeka  
Tetaplah merdeka  
Ia pasti menjadi sejarah

Tanggal tiga puluh satu  
Bulan lapan lima puluh tujuh  
Hari yang mulia  
Hari bahagia  
Sambut dengan jiwa yang merdeka

**“Kita memerlukan tanggungjawab luar biasa, pemikiran luar biasa, metodologi luar biasa, tindakan luar biasa dengan harapan mencapai objektif luar biasa. Penyatuan kesemua anggota masyarakat tatkala berada dalam keadaan luar biasa ini penting jika peranan masing-masing memberi maksud dan makna ke atas semangat kemerdekaan.”**

Demikian antara petikan lirik lagu Tanggal 31 Ogos nyanyian Dato' Sudirman bin Haji Arshad yang kebiasaannya kerap dimainkan saat negara menghampiri tanggal keramat meraikan ulangtahun kemerdekaan negara. Pun begitu, telah hampir dua tahun, kemeriahan sambutan Hari Kemerdekaan agak berlainan dari tahun-tahun sebelumnya. Jika dahulu kemeriahan menyaksikan perarakan di setiap negeri adalah antara acara yang ditunggu-tunggu, namun kini ia menjadi salah satu perayaan yang dibuat secara sederhana mengikut prosedur operasi standard (SOP) yang ditetapkan oleh kerajaan untuk melindungi rakyat dari pandemik COVID-19 yang mengancam nyawa.

Pun begitu, kemeriahannya tetap ada. Ia tetap menjadi tarikh yang dinanti walau tiada perhimpunan berwarna-warni menghiasi jalanan. Ikuti bual bicara khas Alumni Bulletin bersama ahli akademik USM merangkap pemegang gelaran Ikon Patriotisme Kebangsaan selama dua tahun berturut-turut (2016,2017) dan pemegang gelaran “Tokoh 1Malaysia Award (2009)”, Prof. Dr. Sivamurugan Pandian yang berkisar kepada sambutan Hari Kemerdekaan Ke-64 negara dalam suasana normal baharu.

## **Bagaimanakan cara terbaik untuk kita menyemarakkan semangat kemerdekaan di saat negara bergelut dengan pandemik?**

Kita berada dalam suasana sambutan kemerdekaan yang berbeza. Kita memerlukan tanggungjawab luar biasa, pemikiran luar biasa, metodologi luar biasa, tindakan luar biasa dengan harapan mencapai objektif luar biasa. Penyatuan kesemua anggota masyarakat tatkala berada dalam keadaan luar biasa ini penting jika peranan masing-masing memberi maksud dan makna ke atas semangat kemerdekaan. Hari ini, komuniti alam maya bergerak ke fasa baharu. Walau tidak bersemuka, keamatan mula dibina. Walau tidak bergabung, namun ia membawa kita berdampingan dan bergaul tanpa mengira batasan gender, umur, kaum, agama dan latar diri kita. Tindakan kolektif untuk memenuhi masa dengan komuniti alam maya boleh membawa sifat 'kepunyaan' ke atas negara dengan pendekatan 'kreatif' untuk menyemarakkan semangat kemerdekaan boleh dilakukan. Pengisian dan penghayatan kemerdekaan di alam maya wajar dilakukan sebagai alternatif untuk menyemarakkan semangat kemerdekaan.

## **Rakyat sentiasa dihimpit kebimbangan dengan situasi semasa dalam negara, baik disebabkan pandemik mahupun ketidakstabilan politik? Adakah dengan laungan semangat kemerdekaan dapat meredakan sedikit tekanan yang rakyat hadapi, atau setidaknya mengalih perhatian ke arah sesuatu perkara yang lebih positif?**

Sewajarnya laungan semangat kemerdekaan dapat meredakan suhu politik yang mendidih sehingga membawa kepada keadaan tidak menentu dan ketidakstabilan yang berpanjangan. Walau berbeza fahaman politik, ia tidak boleh menjejaskan usaha untuk meningkatkan penghayatan ke atas nilai kemerdekaan. Memahami pengertian kemerdekaan boleh diperhebatkan di bulan Ogos atau bulan kemerdekaan supaya warga Malaysia sedar betapa sukarnya membina Malaysia tetapi mudah untuk merobohkannya jika kita tidak berhati-hati dengan tindakan kita. Jujurkan kita pada Malaysia? Ini persoalan yang perlu dijawab oleh setiap individu yang menamakan dirinya warga Malaysia kerana kita masih melalui proses untuk membina jati diri yang ampuh dalam kalangan warga kita. Dalam mendepani apa sahaja cabaran, kita perlu mengingatkan diri masing-masing bahawa kesedaran palsu ke atas negara akan memberikan kesan yang cukup besar kepada penghuni negara ini.

## **Apakah harga yang perlu dibayar jika kita mensia-siakan keharmonian masyarakat berbilang kaum di negara ini?**

Malaysia merupakan sebuah negara yang rencam, pelbagai, majmuk dan anekaragam. Meraikan perbezaan dalam kepelbagaian adalah benteng kita kerana dalam apa keadaan sekalipun, perpaduan, kesepaduan dan penyatupaduan menjadi dinding kepada Malaysia meskipun perpaduan diuji dalam keadaan hari ini. Tiga prinsip asas dalam hubungan antara etnik yang kemudiannya membawa kepada perpaduan adalah faham, hormat dan terima yang menjadi kunci perpaduan. Nilai keinsanan dan keehsanan perlu diperteguhkan dengan pematuhan kepada asas hubungan dalam kalangan manusia iaitu bersedia untuk berkompromi dan berkorban dengan diindahi oleh keikhlasan untuk mengatasi virus pandemik ini. Berat sama dipikul, ringan sama dijinjing' dan 'bukit sama didaki, lurah sama dituruni' menjadi amalan dalam kehidupan kita. Keikhlasan perlu ada untuk memastikan kehidupan berukun dan keamanan terpelihara.

Misalnya, perpaduan COVID-19 memerlukan kejujuran bersama. Ia harus datang sendiri dengan perlakuan yang dipersetujui majoriti. Akhlak diri akan menjadi penanda aras untuk kita melangkah berdampingan untuk merealisasikan impian memelihara negara ini bersama. Barangkali kita tidak bergaul, bercampur, bersampingan mahupun bergabung sebelum krisis COVID-19 tetapi hari ini kita boleh teguh selesa bermesra di dunia alam siber. Ini boleh dilanjutkan apabila 'kebiasaan' normal lama akan kembali dalam sedikit masa lagi.

**“Tiga prinsip asas dalam hubungan antara etnik yang kemudiannya membawa kepada perpaduan adalah faham, hormat dan terima yang menjadi kunci perpaduan. Nilai keinsanan dan keehsanan perlu diperteguhkan dengan pematuhan kepada asas hubungan dalam kalangan manusia iaitu bersedia untuk berkompromi dan berkorban dengan diindahi oleh keikhlasan untuk mengatasi virus pandemik ini.”**



**“Keluarga masih boleh mengibar Jalur Gemilang; sambutan di media sosial dan media konvensional masih boleh diteruskan terutama siaran penceritaan kemerdekaan. Begitu juga secara kreatif, media sosial digunakan untuk jalinan program dan aktiviti kemerdekaan.”**

## Menyambut ulangtahun kemerdekaan di era pandemik? Apakah alternatif yang boleh dipraktikkan?

Ramai bertanggapan oleh kerana berada di era pandemik, kita tidak boleh meraikan kemerdekaan seperti sebelum ini kerana persoalan penjarakan sosial. Namun, banyak platform lain boleh digunakan. Keluarga masih boleh mengibar Jalur Gemilang; sambutan di media sosial dan media konvensional masih boleh diteruskan terutama siaran penceritaan kemerdekaan. Begitu juga secara kreatif, media sosial digunakan untuk jalinan program dan aktiviti kemerdekaan. Malahan, pertandingan bertemakan kemerdekaan masih boleh dilakukan di alam maya. Saya percaya walau program fizikal dilarang, alam maya boleh menjadi telapak untuk membangkitkan semangat jiwa Malaysia di bulan kemerdekaan ini.

# Merdeka!

### Apakah cara terbaik untuk mendidik masyarakat khususnya generasi muda mengenai erti sebuah kemerdekaan?

Generasi merdeka dan generasi pasca merdeka mempunyai pandangan berbeza mengenai kemerdekaan. Bagi generasi merdeka, mereka melihat sendiri keperitan kehidupan di bawah zaman penjajahan manakala bagi generasi pasca-merdeka, mereka merasakan adalah tanggungjawab pihak berwajib untuk mengurus negara dengan pengisian yang rasional dan praktikal, bukannya emosional. Walaupun begitu, pelbagai agen memainkan fungsi mereka untuk terus mendekati kemerdekaan.

Ia bermula dari rumah bagaimana nilai kemerdekaan bukan sekadar satu slogan tetapi menjadi amalan darah daging kita. Begitu juga peranan sekolah, pentadbir dan guru-guru serta rakan sebaya; peranan media; agensi kerajaan, pemimpin dan diri sendiri perlu mengambil inisiatif untuk memahami dan mahu memahami erti sebuah kemerdekaan. Kepelbagaian pendekatan perlu disesuaikan dengan perubahan demografi dan geografi tanahair. Konsep 'Bela Negara' perlu juga dibawa bersama nilai patriotisme dan nasionalisme warga Malaysia. Walaupun identiti diri kini bermula menjadi 'hybrid identity' atau 'shifting identity', itu tidak bermakna kita boleh abaikan jati diri menjadi warga Malaysia. Perlembagaan dan Rukun Negara adalah dokumen keramat yang secara berterusan digunakan untuk mendidik, menyemai, memupuk dan mengajar erti sebuah kemerdekaan.



## Apa Kata Alumni Kita!



Semangat kemerdekaan dan hari bersejarah negara perlu sentiasa diingati dalam apa jua keadaan pun. Ia adalah momen bersejarah yang perlu diingati oleh setiap dari rakyat Malaysia. Sebagai guru, sambutan kemerdekaan di peringkat sekolah sememangnya akan berlainan dari tahun-tahun sebelum pandemik melanda negara. Namun ia bukan halangan untuk semangat itu disebarkan dalam jiwa anak-anak.



Banyak alternatif normal baharu yang boleh kita praktikkan. Sebagai contoh, penganjuran pertandingan yang bersesuaian dengan minat murid-murid zaman sekarang termasuk doodle kemerdekaan, tiktok tokoh kemerdekaan, mewarna digital, penghasilan video kreatif dan sebagainya. Sambil mereka seronok beraktiviti, mereka lebih mengenali kemerdekaan berbanding hanya membaca atau mendengar sahaja.

**Azlina Man**  
Sarjana Muda Sains dengan Pendidikan (2003)  
Guru  
Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Jengka 2, Pahang



Harapan saya sempena sambutan kemerdekaan kali ini, rakyat akan terus bersatu-padu, berdiri teguh dan bekerjasama membendung penularan wabak COVID-19. Patuhi prosedur operasi standard (SOP) yang ditetapkan dan sentiasa menjaga diri dan keluarga masing-masing. Saya turut berharap semua orang yang disayangi dan yang saya kenali sentiasa dalam keadaan sihat sejahtera. Sama-sama kita berusaha melindungi diri dan insan tersayang serta berdoa semoga kita dapat kembali kepada kehidupan normal sebelum ini.

Saya rindu dengan rutin sebelum pandemik termasuk kembali ke USM, berjumpa dengan rakan-rakan dan pensyarah, melawat di sekitar asrama Indah Kembara, makan tengah hari di kafetaria Red House dan berjogging di Tasik Harapan yang indah dan mendamaikan. Saya juga amat rindu dengan makanan yang sedap dan murah di kafetaria Indah Kembara. *How I missed the old days!*

**Bryan Lai Thiem Wah**  
Sarjana Muda Komunikasi (2006)  
Wartawan Kanan merangkap Eksekutif Digital  
Nanyang Siang Pau, Pulau Pinang



Saya amat berharap Malaysia dapat merdeka dari pandemik COVID-19 dan rakyat Malaysia dapat merdekakan fikiran dan berganding bahu untuk memerdekakan negara Malaysia dari dijajah dengan pemikiran yang masih ditakuk lama #herdimmunity

**Ch'ng Pei Huan**  
Sarjana Muda Pendidikan (2015)  
Pegawai Perkhidmatan Pendidikan  
DG41/GURU  
SMK Raja Muda Musa



Harapan saya untuk sambutan kemerdekaan tahun ini adalah kerjasama dan timbang rasa seluruh rakyat Malaysia untuk menyambut ulangtahun bersejarah ke-64 negara dari kediaman masing-masing. Masyarakat Malaysia haruslah bertanggungjawab dan lebih bersabar dengan mematuhi arahan dan SOP yang dikeluarkan oleh kerajaan. Hanya dengan kuasa seluruh rakyat yang membolehkan kita menangani malapetaka COVID-19 ini.

Saya juga amat berharap pada tahun-tahun akan datang, kita akan dapat memenangi perjuangan menentang pandemik COVID-19 dan menyambut Hari Kemerdekaan negara dalam suasana yang cukup meriah dan bermakna. Salam Hari Kemerdekaan!

**Madhu Reuban Govindasamy**  
Sarjana Muda Sains Komputer (2021)  
Siswazah Baharu

**Apa  
Kata  
Alumni  
Kita!**



Saya ingin melihat para pemimpin yang menerajui negara dapat bersatu hati bersama semua rakyat Malaysia untuk terus berjuang menangani COVID-19 dan dunia pulih seperti sedia kala. Masyarakat berbilang kaum di negara ini perlu menghayati semangat kemerdekaan dan berjuang untuk mengekalkan keharmonian yang kita kecapai, berkat dari perjuangan nenek moyang kita terdahulu.

Semoga kita semua dapat berusaha melindungi diri dan keluarga masing-masing. Hayati kemerdekaan bersama keluarga tersayang dan patuhi SOP walau di mana kita berada kerana ia juga adalah salah satu bentuk perjuangan untuk kekal sihat dan sejahtera.

**Farhana Amiruzan**  
Sarjana Muda Sains Gunaan (2005)  
QI Specialist  
KLCC, Kuala Lumpur



Saya mendoakan semoga semua rakyat Malaysia terus bersatu padu menentang pandemik COVID-19, tanpa mengira ras, bangsa dan agama. Malaysia Boleh! Kita perlu menyambut ulangtahun kemerdekaan negara walau dalam apa jua keadaan kerana ia lambang penyatuan dan semangat bersatu-hati masyarakat berbilang kaum di negara ini.

Salam Malaysia Prihatin dan selamat menyambut Hari Kemerdekaan ke-64 negara buat seluruh rakyat Malaysia!

**Efesius Abu Constantine**  
Sarjana Muda Sains Gunaan (2006)  
Guru  
SK Stella Maris, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

Setiap rakyat Malaysia daripada pelbagai lapisan masyarakat, samada tua atau muda, haruslah mengangap dan melihat diri mereka sebagai perajurit-perajurit yang harus bersatu hati bersama-sama berjuang menentang musuh yang sama iaitu COVID-19. Kerjasama yang sepakat, hati yang nekad dan semangat yang tidak luruh amatlah diperlukan bagi membebaskan dan seterusnya memerdekakan kita daripada pandemik ini. Mari kita kuatkan semangat untuk teruskan perjuangan sehingga COVID-19 berjaya ditewaskan. Malaysia boleh!

**Kathleen Mujan Nandong**  
Sarjana Muda Sains Perumahan Bangunan dan Perancangan (2007)  
Perunding Latihan Kanan  
Institut Tadbiran Awam Negara, Bukit Kiara



#### PANTUN MERDEKA ALUMNI

Tuan di pangkin asyik seloka,  
Garang wajah terasa jenuh,  
Tuan yakin sudah merdeka,  
Malang dijajah wabak membunuh.

Hikayat didendang Melaka bergolak,  
Kitul khianati terbunuh bendahara,  
SOP kecundang vaksin pun ditolak,  
Rebahlah nanti gapura negara.

Genderang bertalu perang tak tamat,  
Kalau menyerang helahnya rapi,  
Pendekar dahulu berkeris keramat,  
Kita sekarang berkeris SOP.

Lashkar berhimpun semuanya rebah,  
Menang musuh menyusun taktik,  
Pencak kita pun, bunga berubah,  
SOP dipatuh jurus terbaik.

Waadat diikat Raja disembah,  
Kekal daulat dalam istana,  
Berpanji muafakat tiangnya muhibah,  
Baru lah bersilat menangkis Corona.

#### NUKILAN:

**Abdullah Mahyudin**  
Sarjana Muda Komunikasi (2018)  
Wartawan RTM  
RTM Pulau Pinang  
(Pemantun Terbaik Akhir Pesta Pantun Piala Seri Melaka  
(PISMA) Nusantara (Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapura))





## “MY UNFORGETTABLE MOMENT and Learning Experience in USM”

Upon gaining a degree in Business Computing and Information Technology from the University of Wales UK, I have been particularly interested in the academic field to help develop my career in that direction. In the line of the above, I began to search where to further my studies. That is how Malaysia came to my mind because of its reputation in quality education and highly impressive academic researches. After securing my admission to study M.Sc. Computer Science (mixed mode) at Universiti Sains Malaysia, I was privileged to ask my colleagues, who were Malaysian postgraduate alumni, to guide me in choosing a supervisor. But, to my surprise, about 90% of them advised me not to select a female lecturer as a supervisor, which caught my attention though, I knew they expressed their opinion and experience. Therefore, because of the mere speculations, I began to think of writing my research thesis on sentiment analysis and opinion mining in the machine learning domain, despite the fact that I have no idea or experience on how to start then. However, the duration of my programme is two years maximum. I also asked some of my friends who successfully completed the same programme I applied to know if I can finish in one year span, which is the minimum duration of the programme. All of them told me that it is impossible to complete within a year. However, I decided to give it a shot and face the challenges.

Alhamdulillah! I can proudly say that I made it in one year. My programme commenced on 17th February 2020. I was expecting to meet new friends from different countries and diversities but, unfortunately, I had entered face-to-face classes for only four weeks, and the rest of my programme ended up fully online due to the COVID-19 pandemic that leads to a total lockdown enforced by the Malaysian Government in order to curb the spread of the deadly virus. I faced many challenges at the beginning of my online studies because there is no chance to meet up with classmates and brainstorm.

I tried my best to deal with my family's emotional stresses, at the same time coping with the academic challenges that I faced due to the lockdown. But to no avail. I decided to defer the semester, but I eventually managed to continue. As a new postgraduate student, I need to choose a supervisor and write a proposal by the end of my first semester. However, due to the lockdown, I find it very difficult to ask someone to guide me in choosing a potential supervisor. I had no option than to visit my school website to read the profile of the lecturers. Going by the advice given to me from some of the alumni, I decided to select two potential male supervisors and one female supervisor to manage me. To my surprise, the female supervisor Dr. Syaheerah Lebai Lutfi replied my request within 24 hours, but the male supervisors did not reply up to this date. Alhamdulillah! My supervisor, Dr. Syaheerah Lebai Lutfi, was the best supervisor and a mentor I could ever ask for throughout my studies in Malaysia. I have never regretted working with her. As a mixed-mode student, I had the privilege to publish a paper in a highly reputable journal (Q2 journal). All this achievement was guided and mentored by my supervisor, and I learned a lot from her. May ALLAH reward her with Jannatul Firdous.

*“Sometimes we need to listen to our hearts  
and feel like everything is possible.”*

*“Never allow someone to discourage you  
because you have different destiny in life.”*

*Long-live School of Computer Science*

*Long-live Universiti Sains Malaysia*

*I am a proud USM Alumni.*

**AlHassan Adamu**  
**Ph.D 2017**  
**Nigeria**

# 20 YEARS ON, KANITA CONTINUES to Champion Gender Equality



In conjunction with its 20th anniversary as a Centre of Excellence (CoE) of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), the Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA) has conducted a virtual talk entitled "Gender Equality 2021 - The Icelandic Experience".

The talk, presented by the First Lady of Iceland, Madam Eliza Reid, was streamed live via USM Facebook not only to USM staff and students but also colleagues and network beyond the university, at the national and global levels.

**"According to Eliza, gender equality doesn't happen on its own accord. It has to be a conscious decision, it has to be something that people will always be aware of and it requires a change in mindset."**

"As many of you have probably experienced on your own, there exists gender discrimination, coded in law and there are some forms of lock nearly everywhere in the world and that includes Iceland where we still have some 'unfair' laws such as pensions for example," she said.

Eliza said Iceland topped the World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Index for the past 12 years, and Iceland was also a member of the UN Human Rights Council until 2009.

"Apart from that, Iceland is signatory to the Istanbul Convention on combating violence against women and domestic violence, while the current government has pledged to eliminate the gender salary gap by 2022.

"On 1st January 2018, Iceland became the first country in the world to make it illegal to pay men more than women for doing the same job. Gender quotas were implemented for the boards of publicly-traded companies and publicly-funded childcare centres.

"Women on national sports teams were also earning the same bonuses as their male counterparts and after the 2016 election, Iceland has the highest number of female MPs of any non-quota regulated parliament," she said.



**USM International Women's Day 2019**

According to Eliza, gender equality has a powerful potential to improve the economy, security and the overall well-being of a population, and in countries where gender equality is greatly practiced, both men and women are healthier, happier and live longer.

She also shared with the audiences, “the fight for gender equality in Iceland on 24 October 1975 made history when 90% of women in Iceland, in both urban and rural communities, did not go to their paid jobs or do housework or childcare at home, and as a result of that, many industries shut down for the day. Through this historic incident, the first comprehensive Icelandic legislation on equals rights and equal status of women and men was adopted in 1976.”

“Gender equality doesn’t happen on its own accord. It has to be a conscious decision, it has to be something that people will always be aware of and it requires a change in mindset,” she said.

Earlier, in his pre-recorded welcoming speech, USM Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan said, USM is continuously making efforts towards bridging the gender gap at all levels - within the organisation and at both the national and international levels.

“We are proud of KANITA that has pioneered gender studies and gender-based research in this country, collaborating with local and global partners in advocacy-related work to empower women and achieve gender equality,” he said.

**“I believe it is accurate to postulate that the position of Iceland in the happiness index is very significantly related to it having the narrowest gender gap in the world.”**



**Harpwell Asean Women Leadership Training 2018**



**USM World Breastfeeding Campaign 2017**



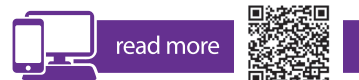
**Program Meja Bulat: Pengajian Gender 2018**

He added that, “we can all certainly learn from Iceland, which has been listed by The World Population Review as the fourth happiest country in the world for 2021 out of 153 countries. I believe it is accurate to postulate that the position of Iceland in the happiness index is very significantly related to it having the narrowest gender gap in the world.”

To commemorate this anniversary, a special forum entitled “Reflecting on Gender Studies in Malaysian Public Universities” was held too, featuring three prominent panelists - Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Professor Dr. Sharifah Hapsah (Professor Emerita of Medical Education and former Vice-Chancellor of UKM); Professor Dato’ Dr. Rashidah Shuib (former Director of KANITA and Honorary Professor, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Unit, School of Health Sciences, USM); and Associate Professor Dr. Shanthi Thambiah (Gender Studies Programme, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, UM).

*Text: Thigambarishini Gobi*

*Editing: Tan Ewe Hoe / Mazlan Hanafi Basharudin*





Lukisan 3D

# Open Wall

ruang tonjolkan kreativiti seni

Penularan wabak COVID-19 di seluruh dunia amnya dan di Malaysia khususnya, menjadikan pusat pameran dan juga muzium-muzium di dalam negara terpaksa menghentikan operasi bagi mengelak penularan virus itu. Perkara ini juga tidak terkecuali bagi Muzium dan Galeri Tuanku Fauziah (MGTF) yang terletak di Kampus Induk, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Pulau Pinang.

Sejak pelaksanaan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan (PKP) 1.0, terdapat beberapa siri pameran yang dijadualkan di MGTF, USM ditangguhkan kerana pelawat tidak dapat hadir dalam kapasiti yang ramai serta menghadkan bilangan pelawat berdasarkan kapasiti premis. Kemudian, kerajaan melaksanakan Perintah Kawalan Pergerakan Pemulihan (PKPP) yang membenarkan aktiviti-aktiviti pelancongan domestik beroperasi bermula pada 10 April 2021.



Profesor Madya Hasnul Jamal Saidon

MGTF USM mengambil peluang ini dan buat pertama kalinya menganjurkan *Open Wall* untuk menyembuhkan dinding galeri MGTF USM dengan catan terbaik yang dilukis dengan kejujuran tulus dan terus kepada subjek bertemakan 'Terbuka'.

"Buat pertama kalinya, *Open Wall* ini dianjurkan dan ianya terhad kepada pelajar, kakitangan dan ahli keluarga USM sahaja dengan mematuhi penjarakan fizikal, mewajibkan pemakaian pelitup muka dan mematuhi SOP yang telah ditetapkan," kata Pengarah MGTF USM, Profesor Madya Hasnul Jamal Saidon.

"MGTF USM mengambil peluang ini dan buat pertama kalinya menganjurkan *Open Wall* untuk menyembuhkan dinding galeri MGTF USM dengan catan terbaik yang dilukis dengan kejujuran tulus dan terus kepada subjek bertemakan 'Terbuka'.



Harith Darwisy, 14 tahun, dengan lukisan bertajuk 'Like'



“Kami meraikan peserta dengan memberi ruang dinding terbuka kepada mereka untuk mengisi makna mereka sendiri terhadap tema yang dekat dengan mereka.

“Pengalaman kesenian yang paling berharga adalah cinta atau kasih sayang dan pemberian yang tidak dapat diganti adalah masa yang berkualiti.

“Karya agung tersebut dipamerkan di dinding galeri setaraf dengan artis profesional walaupun itu adalah pengalaman pertama mereka melukis,” tambah Hasnul yang telah menyertai 60 pameran kumpulan tempatan dan 22 pameran kumpulan antarabangsa.

“Lebih menarik lagi, mereka berpeluang melahirkan kreativiti tersebut samada secara bersendirian, bersama rakan-rakan, pasangan, anak-anak mahupun rakan sekelas.

“Melakukan aktiviti seni bersama bukan sahaja dapat mengembangkan kemahiran positif, malah menjadi pendekatan terbaik untuk menjalin hubungan yang positif bersama keluarga.



**Rama-rama dan gunung: Kreativiti dalam mentrasformasikan lukisan kepada objek 3D**



**Peluang untuk mencatat kreativiti tidak dilepaskan oleh staf dan anak-anak**

*Open Wall* yang dilaksanakan ini menggunakan pendekatan terbuka dan organik untuk membolehkan pengesahan dan penemuan isu-isu, masalah, persoalan, kemungkinan dan potensi berkaitan dengan hubungan antara penghasilan seni dengan kesihatan mental dan kesejahteraan sosial. Seni ternyata memberi kesan positif kepada anak-anak dan juga orang dewasa, malah membentuk kita menjadi seseorang yang lebih gembira. Semasa melukis, seseorang akan melepaskan hormon kortisol iaitu hormon yang berhubungan dengan tekanan. Ia juga dapat memperbaiki aktiviti otak di mana otak akan membebaskan hormon endorfin dan dopamin yang membuatkan kita menjadi lebih gembira.



“Apa yang menarik perhatian saya, terdapat seorang pelukis muda iaitu Harith Darwisy, 14 tahun datang beberapa hari untuk melukis selama 1 hingga 2 jam setiap sesi untuk menyiapkan karya agungnya mengikut tempo sendiri sambil ditemani adik dan bapanya yang juga staf USM.”

“Kami menerima pelbagai reaksi positif daripada para peserta termasuk dari dalam dan luar negara,” kata Hasnul.

“Program *Open Wall* ini sangat bagus dan dapat membantu saya meredakan tekanan menghadapi situasi pandemik, walaupun saya bukan artis profesional saya sangat selesa dan bebas dalam mengekspresikannya perasaan di dalam lukisan,” kata Channaporn Trakunjae, pelajar Pusat Pengajian Sains Kajihayat dari Thailand yang menghasilkan lukisan bertajuk ‘MCO 1.9 conceal, don’t feel’.

“Saya berpendapat, program sebegini sangat memberikan manfaat kepada para pelajar yang ‘terkurung’ di dalam kampus serta dapat mengabadikan hasil kerja tangan dalam memori sepanjang pengajian di USM,” kata Sherin Abdelrahman pula yang berasal dari Palestin dan sedang melanjutkan pengajian di Pusat Pengajian Bangunan, Perumahan dan Perancangan USM.

“Kerjasama yang diberikan oleh warga USM sangat meyakinkan. Ramai yang berminat dan turut serta sehingga memaksa kami menyediakan dinding-dinding baru untuk dilukis. Ianya menimbulkan perasaan seronok dan gembira dalam kalangan peserta walaupun mereka perlu mematuhi SOP yang telah ditetapkan.

“Pada saya *Open Wall* ini telah mencapai sasaran dalam kalangan warga USM dan pihak MGTf USM juga menerima permintaan luar biasa dari rakan-rakan di luar USM untuk menyertai *Open Wall* ini.

**“Open Wall yang dilaksanakan ini menggunakan pendekatan terbuka dan organik untuk membolehkan pengesahan dan penemuan isu-isu, masalah, persoalan, kemungkinan dan potensi berkaitan dengan hubungan antara penghasilan seni dengan kesihatan mental dan kesejahteraan sosial!”**

“Sehubungan itu, kami telah melancarkan *Open Wall Online* bagi menggalakkan lagi orang awam untuk menyertai program ini secara maya dengan menghantar fail digital lukisan mereka kepada pihak pengurusan MGTf USM.

“Pada perancangannya, lukisan ini akan dipamerkan di galeri maya yang boleh diakses secara atas talian dan juga secara fizikal di dinding-dinding pameran MGTf USM.

Selain itu, MGTf juga bercadang untuk menjadikan *Open Wall* sebagai siri pameran tahunan MGTf USM samada secara terbuka atau tertutup kepada warga USM.

*Open Wall* ini juga merupakan program dua hala di mana peserta menghasilkan seni visual manakala kakitangan MGTf USM memberi refleksi terhadap subjek atau imej lukisan yang dihasilkan dengan penghasilan objek 3-Dimensi (3D). Objek 3D ini akan diimbas dengan menggunakan *3D Scanner Apps* dan dicetak untuk dipamerkan pada masa hadapan secara fizikal dan atas talian.

“Harapan saya, hasil lukisan ini dijadikan sebagai “soft toys” untuk dijadikan sebagai cenderamata. Dari segi akademik, satu kajian terkait di antara seni dan kesihatan mental akan dilaksanakan berdasarkan hasil soal selidik tahap kepuasan melukis dalam kalangan peserta dan rasa sejahtera yang diperolehi mereka semasa menyertai *Open Wall*. Penulisan ilmiah hasil daripada *Open Wall* ini dirancang untuk dibukukan dan dikatalog secara atas talian untuk tujuan dokumentasi,” tambah Hasnul yang mula dilantik sebagai Pengarah MGTf USM pada 1 Jan 2020 mengakhiri temubual.

Teks: Nor Rafizah Hj Md Zain  
Foto: Ebrahim Abdul Manan



*Pelajar dari Pusat Pengajian Seni, Siti Nur Balqis Abdul Halim melahirkan ekspresi bertajuk ‘Nak Balik Raya’*



*Sherin Abdelrahman, pelajar HBP dari Palestin*

# USM MULAKAN OPERASI PPV:

## Sumbangan Institusi Pendidikan Tinggi Jayakan Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan



**“USM diberi tanggungjawab untuk menjadi salah sebuah lokasi PPV di bawah PICK. Ia juga selaras dengan usaha Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi (KPT) untuk sama-sama membantu PICK dalam menyediakan akses yang lebih banyak kepada rakyat untuk divaksin.”**

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) menzahirkan sokongan dan komitmennya dalam Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) apabila Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) di Universiti ini beroperasi secara berperingkat di tiga lokasi berasingan.

Selepas kejayaan pembukaan PPV dan PPV Khas (SPPV) (termasuk secara pandu lalu bagi kes-kes yang berkeperluan) di Hospital USM, Kubang Kerian, Kelantan bermula Mac 2021 yang lalu, PICK di USM kini telah mula dijalankan di dua lagi lokasi di USM iaitu di PPV Dewan Utama Pelajar (Dewan Peperiksaan), Kampus Induk dan PPV Sains@Bertam di Kepala Batas, di sini.



Pengerusi PPV@USM, Profesor Dr. Md Roslan Hashim berkata, Jawatankuasa Khas Jaminan Akses Bekalan Vaksin COVID-19 (JKJAV) yang dipengerusikan secara bersama oleh Menteri Kesihatan Malaysia dan Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi ditubuhkan untuk memastikan akses bekalan kepada vaksin COVID-19 untuk negara dapat diperolehi dengan kadar segera, selamat, sempurna dan berkesan.

“Sehubungan dengan itu, USM diberi tanggungjawab untuk menjadi salah sebuah lokasi PPV di bawah PICK. Ia juga selaras dengan usaha Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi (KPT) untuk sama-sama membantu PICK dalam menyediakan akses yang lebih banyak kepada rakyat untuk divaksin,” ujar beliau yang juga Timbalan Naib Canselor Kelestarian dan Pembangunan Institusi USM.

Mengulas mengenai operasi PPV USM, beliau berkata: “Operasi pemberian vaksin di USM melibatkan koordinasi menyeluruh bersama pihak-pihak yang terlibat di bawah Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM), Kementerian Sains, Teknologi & Inovasi (MOSTI) pihak berkuasa tempatan, USM dan sebagainya bagi memastikan kelancaran proses vaksinasi kepada penerima.

“USM juga bekerjasama rapat dengan PIC Negeri Pulau Pinang (Pegawai Daerah Timur Laut dan Seberang Perai Utara) untuk menyelaras pembekalan vaksin kepada kedua-dua PPV USM. Penyelaras terperinci ini amat penting untuk dilakukan dengan mengambil kira kapasiti maksimum penerima vaksin di kedua-dua PPV USM adalah sekitar 200 sehingga 1,000 orang sehari,” ujar beliau lanjut.

**“Penyelaras terperinci ini amat penting untuk dilakukan dengan mengambil kira kapasiti maksimum penerima vaksin di kedua-dua PPV USM adalah sekitar 200 sehingga 1,000 orang sehari.”**

Dalam pada itu, operasi di PPV Dewan Utama Pelajar (Dewan Peperiksaan) dan PPV Sains@Bertam dikendalikan sepenuhnya oleh warga USM membabitkan beberapa kategori petugas iaitu petugas kesihatan, petugas operasi dan juga sukarelawan dalam kalangan bekas staf, staf dan pelajar USM, yang turut menzahirkan keterujaan untuk turut serta menyumbang tenaga demi menjayakan operasi menangani penularan wabak COVID-19 ini.

### Operasi Hari Pertama Berjalan Lancar

Meninjau keadaan sebenar di hari pertama PPV@USM dilancarkan di Kampus Induk dan di Sains@Bertam, keadaan berjalan dengan lancar dan semua petugas dapat memberikan komitmen terbaik setelah melalui beberapa siri latihan dan lawatan tapak ke PPV yang sedia beroperasi di sekitar Pulau Pinang.

Pengerusi Lembaga Gabenor Universiti, Dato’ Dr. Awang Adek Hussin juga sempat meluangkan masa turut serta memerhatikan perjalanan operasi PPV di Dewan Utama Pelajar (Dewan Peperiksaan) USM.

Menurut Awang Adek, beliau merasa gembira dan berbangga dengan penglibatan pihak USM dalam menjayakan Program Imunisasi COVID-19 Kebangsaan (PICK) ini.

“Ini adalah agenda kebangsaan, yang mana rakyat perlu diberi vaksin dengan kadar segera. Terima kasih diucapkan kepada Naib Canselor USM, Profesor Dato’ Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan dan Pengerusi Jawatankuasa PPV@USM, Profesor Dr. Md. Roslan Hashim yang telah bekerja keras dalam memastikan kelancaran pelaksanaan operasi pada hari ini.

“Inilah semangat yang seharusnya ada, dan dengan usaha penuh dedikasi secara berterusan, operasi ini pastinya akan terus mampu dilakukan walaupun dengan peningkatan penerima vaksin dari sekitar Pulau Pinang,” ujarnya lagi.

Beliau seterusnya berkata bahawa inilah semangat yang patut dipupuk terutama dalam kalangan siswa siswi, kerana universiti bukan hanya tempat menimba ilmu. Ia juga boleh berperanan sebagai tempat membina semangat sukarelawan, agar menjadi individu yang lebih seimbang dan holistik.

Terdahulu, Naib Canselor USM turut menzahirkan rasa teruja dengan komitmen semua pihak dalam menjayakan misi pertama PPV@USM tersebut yang turut menerima kehadiran pegawai-pegawai utama universiti dan pegawai-pegawai dari Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri Pulau Pinang.

Kesemua vaksin selesai diberikan kepada 50 orang penerima pertama/sulung dalam operasi pada hari pertama berkenaan.

Untuk rekod, sehingga artikel ini diterbitkan, USM telah menerima ribuan penerima vaksin yang datang untuk mengambil dos pertama dan kedua mereka di PPV@USM.

### USM Laksanakan PPV Pandu Lalu: Beri Kemudahan Kepada Komuniti

Selepas kejayaan pembukaan PPV secara statik bermula pada Jun lalu di Pusat Pemberian Vaksin Dewan Utama Pelajar (PPV@USM), operasi PPV ini diteruskan dengan penambahbaikan melalui pelaksanaan kaedah vaksinasi secara pandu lalu bermula pada 23 Julai 2021.

Seperti PPV secara statik, PPV pandu lalu USM juga dikendalikan sepenuhnya oleh warga USM sendiri yang melibatkan sukarelawan staf akademik dan bukan akademik, staf perubatan, pelajar dan juga pesara USM.

Kaedah pemberian vaksin di USM melibatkan koordinasi menyeluruh bersama pihak-pihak yang terlibat di bawah KKM, MOSTI, pihak berkuasa tempatan, USM dan sebagainya bagi memastikan kelancaran proses vaksinasi pandu lalu kepada penerima.



**“PPV pandu lalu USM juga dikendalikan sepenuhnya oleh warga USM sendiri yang melibatkan sukarelawan staf akademik dan bukan akademik, staf perubatan, pelajar dan juga pesara USM.”**



Menurut Md. Roslan, kaedah pengoperasian vaksinasi secara pandu lalu ini tertakluk kepada keperluan terhadap kes-kes tertentu sahaja. Beberapa kriteria yang membolehkan penerima vaksin menggunakan kaedah ini termasuklah penerima vaksin dos kedua sahaja, penerima vaksin bersetuju untuk pandu lalu, 15 minit tempoh pemerhatian (ditentukan melalui dos pertama) dan penerima vaksin berada pada tahap kesihatan yang baik.

“Bagi permulaan, PPV@USM dijangka akan menerima sekitar 200 penerima vaksin secara pandu lalu.

USM juga sentiasa bersedia untuk sama-sama membantu menyediakan perkhidmatan yang terbaik dan profesional bagi memastikan hasrat kerajaan dalam mencapai *herd immunity* dapat direalisasikan dengan kerjasama dan sokongan dari KPT, MOSTI, KKM, Kerajaan Negeri dan kementerian serta agensi-agensi lain yang terlibat,” ujar beliau lanjut.



### Menarik Di PPV@USM: PPV USM “Beraya” Aidiladha

Satu keunikan timbul di PPV USM baru-baru ini tatkala soal keseriusan masih menjadi keutamaan di setiap PPV di seluruh negara yang masih berjuang untuk memberi sebanyak suntikan yang boleh saban hari agar negara dapat mencapai sasaran imuniti kelompok secepat seperti yang dirancang.

Pada hari kedua Hari Raya Aidiladha (21 Julai 2021) yang disambut seluruh umat Islam di sini menyaksikan petugas-petugas PPV di Dewan Utama Pelajar (DUP) USM mengenakan pakaian kebangsaan ataupun baju raya untuk bertugas melayan penerima vaksin.

Menurut Ketua Penyelaras Pentadbiran PPV USM, Zulkifli Che Hussin, idea ini timbul apabila para petugas dan sukarelawan yang kesemuanya terdiri daripada warga USM sendiri (staf perubatan, staf akademik dan bukan akademik, pelajar malah pesara USM) memberi cadangan secara spontan untuk berbaju raya demi memeriahkan lagi suasana di PPV USM pada hari tersebut.

“Setiap hari bekerja kita akan menerima hampir 800 orang penerima vaksin dan ini merupakan bulan kedua PPV ini beroperasi, jadi idea sebegini sedikit sebanyak dapat memberi motivasi dan mengurangkan tahap stres para petugas dan sukarelawan,” katanya.

Bagi sukarelawan daripada kalangan pelajar pula, ini adalah salah satu cara bagi mereka untuk meraikan Hari Raya Aidiladha kali ini tatkala jadual yang padat dengan peperiksaan akhir semester yang dilalui dan juga pada yang belum atau tidak dapat pulang lagi ke kampung halaman.

### ‘Uncle Plastik’ Berhati Mulia Viral di Media Sosial dan Media Cetak

PPV USM turut dikejutkan dengan kehadiran seorang penerima vaksin warga emas yang diberi gelaran “uncle plastik” sehingga tular dan mendapat liputan yang sangat meluas dari media-media utama negara dan luar negara.

Kehadiran Hor Boon Chung, 63, dengan mengenakan plastik di kepala ketika menerima dos pertamanya pada 8 Julai lalu mengundang pelbagai reaksi namun apa yang menarik, beliau disifatkan sangat khuatir dengan penularan wabak berkenaan sehingga membuatnya mengenakan plastik di kepalanya.



Pun begitu, petugas-petugas kesihatan di USM telah memberikan nasihat sewajarnya mengenai tatacara yang betul untuk perlindungan daripada jangkitan, termasuk menyumbangkan *face shield* kepada Boon Chung.

Boon Chung juga ternyata sangat berhati mulia apabila turut memberikan sumbangan kepada petugas-petugas PPV@USM dan tidak henti-henti mengucapkan terima kasih. Antara kata-kata beliau yang tidak boleh dilupakan oleh kebanyakan petugas adalah: "Wang boleh cari tapi nyawa tiada ganti."

Kehadirannya ketika menerima dos kedua pada 29 Julai selepas tiga minggu turut disambut baik oleh para petugas.

Pengerusi PPV@USM, Profesor Dr. Md Roslan Hashim turut mengambil peluang menyerahkan sedikit cenderahati sebagai tanda penghargaan kepada Boon Chung yang berjaya 'mencuit rasa' dalam kalangan petugas PPV dan juga masyarakat secara keseluruhannya.

**"Alunan pelbagai genre muzik yang dimainkan oleh kakitangan Dewan Budaya dan alumni-alumni USM itu turut dipersembahkan bagi mencetuskan suasana mendamaikan di PPV USM yang setiap hari menerima kehadiran beratus-ratus penerima vaksin."**

### Hiburan Santai Buat Penerima Vaksin Dan Peneman

Dewan Budaya USM tampil memberikan persembahan secara santai, bertujuan untuk menenangkan minda penerima-penerima vaksin dan peneman di Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV) USM, di sini.

Alunan pelbagai genre muzik yang dimainkan oleh kakitangan Dewan Budaya dan alumni-alumni USM itu turut dipersembahkan bagi mencetuskan suasana mendamaikan di PPV USM yang setiap hari menerima kehadiran beratus-ratus penerima vaksin.

Pengarah Dewan Budaya USM, Ramnah Ramli berkata, kehadiran pasukan Dewan Budaya dengan disertai alumni Universiti di PPV USM adalah antara sumbangan yang dapat diberikan kepada menara ilmu ini dan komuniti secara amnya.

"Kita mungkin tidak dapat menyumbang dalam aspek perubatan namun kita mempunyai cara tersendiri untuk turut membantu. Dengan cara ini, kita berupaya mencetuskan suasana yang lebih rileks buat semua petugas dan penerima vaksin.

"Kita telah membuat susunan irama-irama yang sesuai untuk dimainkan dan seboleh-bolehnya cuba untuk membantu dalam menangani isu-isu berkaitan kesihatan mental melalui alunan-alunan muzik yang sesuai," ujar beliau.

*Teks: Marziana Mohamed Alias / Hafiz Meah Ghouse Meah / Mazlan Hanafi Basharudin / Mohamad Hafiz Asyraf Mohd Arop  
Suntingan: Tan Ewe Hoe*



# IT'S ALL ABOUT US:

## Kanan Builds His Own Strong Character, Avoids Blaming Others For Mistakes

Having a good chat time with this young man, the editorial team discovered that Kanan a/l Kalimuthu, 28, has built his own identity with a lot of positive attitudes that one needs to hold on to. Hardworking, easy going, and always ready to learn and make mistakes, he has the right attitude to succeed. His turning point in life is when he got the opportunity to enrol himself in one of the most beautiful and preferred universities in this country, namely Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM).

He shared his 12 year-old dream where one day, he would be a USM student. "It's my dream back then when I was 12 years old, I've joined an excursion to USM with my fellow classmates. It was amazing to see the beautiful campus and also the environment where youngsters at that time were having their good times there. In addition, I have a few relatives who have studied in USM, including my only brother, Nantha Kumar, cousins and a few closest friends.

"My grandma's house is situated in Minden Heights, which is very near to USM. At times, my late father would always take me to my grandma's house, which led me to be aware of USM at an early age. Then, I was selected to play football for Penang state and I had the opportunity to play at the USM field. That was amazing. I felt as if USM was very close to me and I have sentimental values of USM and Penang as well," said him.

Kanan is currently the newly-appointed Marketing Officer at the Penang Football Club. He has been blessed with having skills on the football field. He has worn the Penang jersey and played for the state since he was eight years old. In his position as the goalkeeper, Kanan has also played for the USMFC team while he was at USM and took part in the IPT league, which was truly a highlight in his football career.

### Campus life is my turning point

Kanan has always felt that he belonged to the University. USM has been part of his life as by being in the beautiful campus, he learnt a lot. All the sacrifices that he has going through has paid-off as he has gained valuable lesson



**"I am not that type of person who likes to blame others for any mistakes that I've done. It will always be on us. We are responsible of the decision we made, no matter in any chapter of life."**

when he fulfilled his dream to become a USM student and now he is officially a USM graduate.

"In my early years at USM, I was a bit clumsy and playful. I have difficulties to adapt to the new phase in my life. Furthermore, it was a bit hard for me as I represented USMFC and played for the Malaysian IPT League. I did not do well but luckily, I realized that I cannot continue to be like that. I have to raise up and find ways to bring back my energy and find a balance between studying and football.

"I am truly blessed with the support of my family, friends and lecturers. Of course, sometimes we have been scolded by them, and I have always looked at myself because no one can force us to change except ourselves. I have always reminded myself to always do self-checking. I am not that type of person who likes to blame others for any mistakes that I've done. It will always be on us. We are responsible of the decision we made, no matter in any chapter of life," he said.



"Since then, I have gained my confidence to overcome the weakness in me. Slowly I have started to find my balance and given the very best, both in my academic journey and football. I could not deny that varsity life and football has taught me so much, especially in building my confidence and skill in communication, to find my own strength and importantly, to deal with challenges," said Kanan.

**"I'm actually exhilarated that I am a USMian and I'm one of those who have had the chance to become who am I now. The Holistic, Entrepreneurial, Balance, Articulate and Thinking (HEBAT) agenda is created to build strong characteristics within ourselves."**

Apart from that, Kanan is strongly agree that discipline is of the utmost importance to ensure that we always do the right thing. "In this challenging era, there are possibilities for us to be trapped between what is right and wrong and I am pretty sure once we build up the discipline within ourselves, we might be able to grow with a high sense of integrity.

Kanan also enjoyed meeting people, talking to them, sharing ideas and learning new things as it has helped him to become more holistic. As his current job requirements is pretty much related to meeting up with other people, the persuasive skills that he had learned in USM does help him a lot.

"The working environment is not as easy as we think. But luckily, as I had said before, I gained experienced while I was still a student. I'm actually exhilarated that I am a USMian and I'm one of those who have had the chance to become who am I now. The Holistic, Entrepreneurial, Balance, Articulate and Thinking (HEBAT) agenda is created to build strong characteristics within ourselves. I'm proud to carry the USM image and will continue to give back to the University," said Kanan who had an opportunity doing his internship programme in Kementerian Belia dan Sukan before the pandemic.

### Having the experience working during the pandemic

Kanan is like many of us, never had he imagined that the pandemic of COVID-19 has taken so much from us. He was a student during the pandemic, and now, he is a staff during the pandemic. Unfortunately, he is also responsible in handling quite a challenging and huge role as a marketing officer for PFC. There is surely a lot of pressure because the way we do things currently are totally different before the pandemic hit us. Despite all that, still, he is very positive towards everything and is committed towards striking a goal.

"I would like to urge everyone to stand up and grab whatever opportunity that come to us. There will be many opportunities and it is up to us to either take it seriously or stay dreaming. For the upcoming juniors or the students or those who have just graduated out there, I say that the opportunities are out there. The willingness to absorb the opportunity and work is within us," said Kanan. He agreed that we ourselves need to explore the jobs and the opportunities to shine. As for him, the tougher the job, the more you get to learn.

"I have had to make 1000 calls if needed, I have sent hundreds of emails and no one has entertained me. I attended quite a number of interviews with mountainous hopes. I had also waited. But at the same time, don't ever give up. That's what I wanted for my colleagues out there. What we have learned in USM is not only about knowledge. It's beyond knowledge, and experiences we have gained. Don't pull back when luck is not with you, just keep trying and there will always be light at the end of the tunnel.

"As of now, we have to deal with the pandemic, even if it is hard and depressing. As for me, I am not only trying my best to cope with my responsibilities in my daily task, but I have found ways to distract myself from stress. I am doing personal coaching online. This pandemic isn't stopping me from doing what I feel is good for me and my future undertakings.



**Kanan with his teammates, USM MINDEN TIGER 2019**

## Mom is his best idol

Kanan was raised by a single mother as his dad had passed away when he was 6 years old. Even though he is less fortunate to not have a father figure when he was growing up, his mother never let him down. She is the best mom ever for Kanan and his only brother. "My mom's most generous gift is giving all of herself to me and my brother. She never complaint, she never revealed the pain she had gone through after dad left us, she never stopped earning to raise us well and she is a lover who is royal to her soulmate. She has never let anyone to be in her heart except her late husband."

"She gave me such self-worth and encouraged me to pursue my dreams. Now I have arrived to where I should belong. My mom is not that type who will always cuddle her child or 'manja-manja', but she has done her best to ensure that we would be able to spread our wings all by ourselves. I would say all the good habits in me have been inherited from my mom. She is hardworking and will give her very best to her sons," Kanan said and being thankful that he is blessed with a mom having such a beautiful heart.

"She is my best idol in life. She has brought me up with confidence and integrity. She has made me strong and no one could ever play her role in my life," said Kanan.

**"It's always feel good to give back. It has boosted my morale and built connections between me and others. I will always find ways to give back especially to the University. Even if I can't do it in terms of the monetary aspects, I will try my best to make the University proud of myself, based on my achievements. I will bring the University's name in whatever field that is possible. I am proud to be part of the USM community."**

## It's time to give back

Kanan's dream is to give back to society and also to his mom, the one who has taught him to always be a kind-hearted man. "It's always feel good to give back. It has boosted my morale and built connections between me and others. I will always find ways to give back especially to the University. Even if I can't do it in terms of the monetary aspects, I will try my best to make the University proud of myself, based on my achievements. I will bring the University's name in whatever field that is possible. I am proud to be part of the USM community.

"Same goes to my mother. Even though she never asked anything from me, I will always make sure she gets the best love a son could give to his mom. She had given all she has to me and my brother and now is the time for her to rest and be pampered by our love and hugs. I feel so blessed to have had her in my life!"



**Kanan together with the Penang Indian Football Association 2019**



**Kanan with his teammates, Piala Belia Pulau Pinang 2012**

### Personal Achievements

- Piala Belia - Penang Fa 2012
- Nike Chance Malaysia National Finalist 2012
- KLFA - 2013
- Politeknik Malaysia - 2014/2015
- Sukan Institusi Pendidikan Malaysia (SIPMA) 2015 - Naib Johan
- USM Minden Tiger - 2018 (SUKIPT/Div1 Liga IPT)/2019 (Div 1 Liga IPT)

### Coaching Licence (FAM)

- Goalkeeper Coach for SPT Indian FA, Penang 2017-2022
- Goalkeeper Coach for Penang Indian FA Under 12 (MIFA Dato' Ms Maniam Cup 2019) - Champion
- Goalkeeper Coach for Penang Indian FA Under 23 (MIFA Piala Bardhan 2020) - 3rd Place

Text: Marziana Mohamed Alias

Editing: Mazlan Hanafi Basharudin

Photo: Ebrahim Abdul Manan/ Kanan Kalimuthu

Disclaimer: All photos were taken before the COVID19 pandemic.

Cabaran bidang tugas personaliti yang diketengahkan pada edisi kali ini bukan calang-calang hebatnya. Beliau sering dijadikan tempat rujukan jika berlakunya kes-kes berkaitan dengan bidang tugas perubatan dan kesihatan, secara tidak langsung menjaga kesejahteraan seluruh warga kampus Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). Ditambah pula dengan pandemik COVID-19 yang kian menggusarkan setiap daripada rakyat Malaysia pada ketika ini, sosok tubuh kecil molek ini makin dihimpit kesibukan.

Beliau cocok digelar *The Iron Lady*. Pun begitu ketika gelaran itu diletakkan padanya, beliau lantas terus merendah diri. Hanya yang keluar dari kata-katanya: "Usaha ini bukan daripada saya semata-mata. Saya berbangga dan amat bersyukur dapat menjalankan tugas dalam suasana yang cukup kondusif. Kerjasama yang erat di antara semua pihak yang banyak menjayakan kerja-kerja harian saya dan juga para *frontliners* kesihatan di USM ini."

Begitu *humble* beliau melontar kata-katanya. Beliau yang dimaksudkan ialah Pengarah Pusat Sejahtera USM, Dr. Normala Abdul Wahid yang sudah pasti dalam rutin hariannya sebagai ketua jabatan yang mengawal selia hampir 90 staf, doktor perubatan, isteri, ibu, anak dan sebagainya, pelbagai cabaran hadir yang menuntut beliau untuk bertindak sewajarnya. Pun begitu, apa yang mengagumkan, anak jati Pulau Pinang ini dilihat tidak pernah tunduk pada tekanan. Malah, kelibatnya sentiasa ada khususnya di saat-saat getir Universiti perlu menguruskan pandemik ini dengan sebaiknya.

**"Saya teruja mengatakan kerjasama di antara semua pihak di USM, baik daripada pengurusan tertinggi, staf bukan kesihatan sehinggalah kepada komitmen pasukan kerja di bawah seliaan saya di PS, ia adalah melangkaui perkataan hebat."**

## IRON LADY USM

### **Semangat Kerja Berpasukan Jayakan Pengurusan Pandemik COVID-19 USM**

Beliau yang berpengalaman hampir 21 tahun bertugas di Pusat Sejahtera USM berkata, perkara yang paling disyukurnya adalah dikurniakan staf yang berdedikasi dan sentiasa bersedia menjalankan tugas pada bila-bila masa yang diperlukan. Malah katanya, pandemik ini membuka matanya betapa kerjasama dan bekerja secara berpasukan adalah faktor terpenting dalam memastikan objektif atau matlamat organisasi dapat dijayakan dengan sebaiknya.

**Dr. Normala Abdul Wahid**



“Tanpa *teamwork* dan apabila semua orang mahu bekerja mengikut caranya sendiri, ia akan menyukarkan kerja kita untuk menyelesaikan sesuatu isu. Saya teruja mengatakan kerjasama di antara semua pihak di USM, baik daripada pengurusan tertinggi, staf bukan kesihatan sehinggalah kepada komitmen pasukan kerja di bawah seliaan saya di PS, ia adalah melangkaui perkataan hebat.”

“Walaupun adakalanya tanggungjawab berat yang Universiti terpaksa hadapi sepanjang menguruskan pandemik memberikan cabarannya tersendiri, namun kita berjaya mencari jalan penyelesaian kerana semua orang tahu tugas masing-masing dan saling hormat-menghormati terhadap peranan semua pihak. Saya juga tidak pernah menghadapi masalah untuk meminta sokongan dan kerjasama daripada semua pihak dalam USM. Sehingga kini semangat bekerja secara berpasukan seperti yang dipraktikkan di USM adalah yang terbaik bagi saya. Hal ini kerana setiap daripada kita tahu apa matlamat utama Universiti, iaitu memberikan hanya yang terbaik buat semua,” ujar beliau.

#### Di Sebalik Pandemik COVID-19

“Seperti kebanyakan dari kita semua, saya juga turut terkesan dengan perkembangan pandemik ini sejak di hari pertama saya mengetahuinya melalui media-media massa. Masih saya ingat pada ketika COVID-19 ini sedang merebak dengan cepat di China, kita juga dalam masa yang sama akan menerima pelajar-pelajar dari beberapa wilayah di negara itu. Ia mula mendatangkan kerisauan jauh di lubuk hati saya.”

**“Sehingga kini semangat bekerja secara berpasukan seperti yang dipraktikkan di USM adalah yang terbaik bagi saya. Hal ini kerana setiap daripada kita tahu apa matlamat utama Universiti, iaitu memberikan hanya yang terbaik buat semua.”**



**“Namun saya turut bersyukur kerana di USM, walaupun ada kes-kes terpencil berlaku, kita berjaya mengawalinya dengan baik hasil daripada usaha kolektif semua pihak.”**

“Sepertinya naluri saya mengatakan kita perlu melakukan sesuatu. Kita perlu mengambil pendekatan mencegah virus berbahaya itu dari menular di negara ini khasnya di Menara Ilmu ini. Malah pada ketika itu kerana ia masih di peringkat terlalu awal, tiada sebarang sekatan yang dikenakan kepada mana-mana pihak yang masuk ke Malaysia. Pun begitu, saya meminta untuk pihak Universiti mengadakan satu mesyuarat bagi melihat perkara ini dengan lebih teliti dan menyeluruh supaya wujud satu koordinasi untuk proses kemasukan pelajar-pelajar ini dapat dilakukan dengan sewajarnya,” ujar Dr. Normala.

Namun, tidak pula disangka perebakan wabak itu mula dikesan di negara ini. Dari satu kes ke satu kes sehinggalah wujudnya satu kluster yang agak besar jumlahnya. “Saya juga tidak pernah terfikir bahawa virus ini boleh menular sehingga ke tahap ini di negara kita (kes tertinggi dicatatkan melebihi 21,000 kes).

“Namun saya turut bersyukur kerana di USM, walaupun ada kes-kes terpencil berlaku, kita berjaya mengawalinya dengan baik hasil daripada usaha kolektif semua pihak. Sejak dari awal pandemik lagi kita telah menyusun strategi yang sepatutnya termasuk menyediakan blok-blok pengawasan, pengasingan dan sebagainya. Kita telah menjangkakan wabak ini dan risikonya sebelum keluarnya sebarang arahan untuk kuarantin kepada mereka yang baru tiba dari luar negara dan sebagainya,” ujar beliau lanjut.

## Tanggungjawab Digalas Dengan Baik Rentetan Pengalaman

Ketika ditanya mengenai kemampuannya menyerap segala tekanan, di saat semua pihak kebanyakannya tertumpu kepada beliau bagi mendapatkan respon segera bagi isu-isu yang berkait dengan bidang tugas kesihatan, Dr. Normala mengakui beliau bersyukur kerana pengalaman kerjaya sejak mula menyertai barisan petugas kesihatan di bawah Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) amat membantunya.

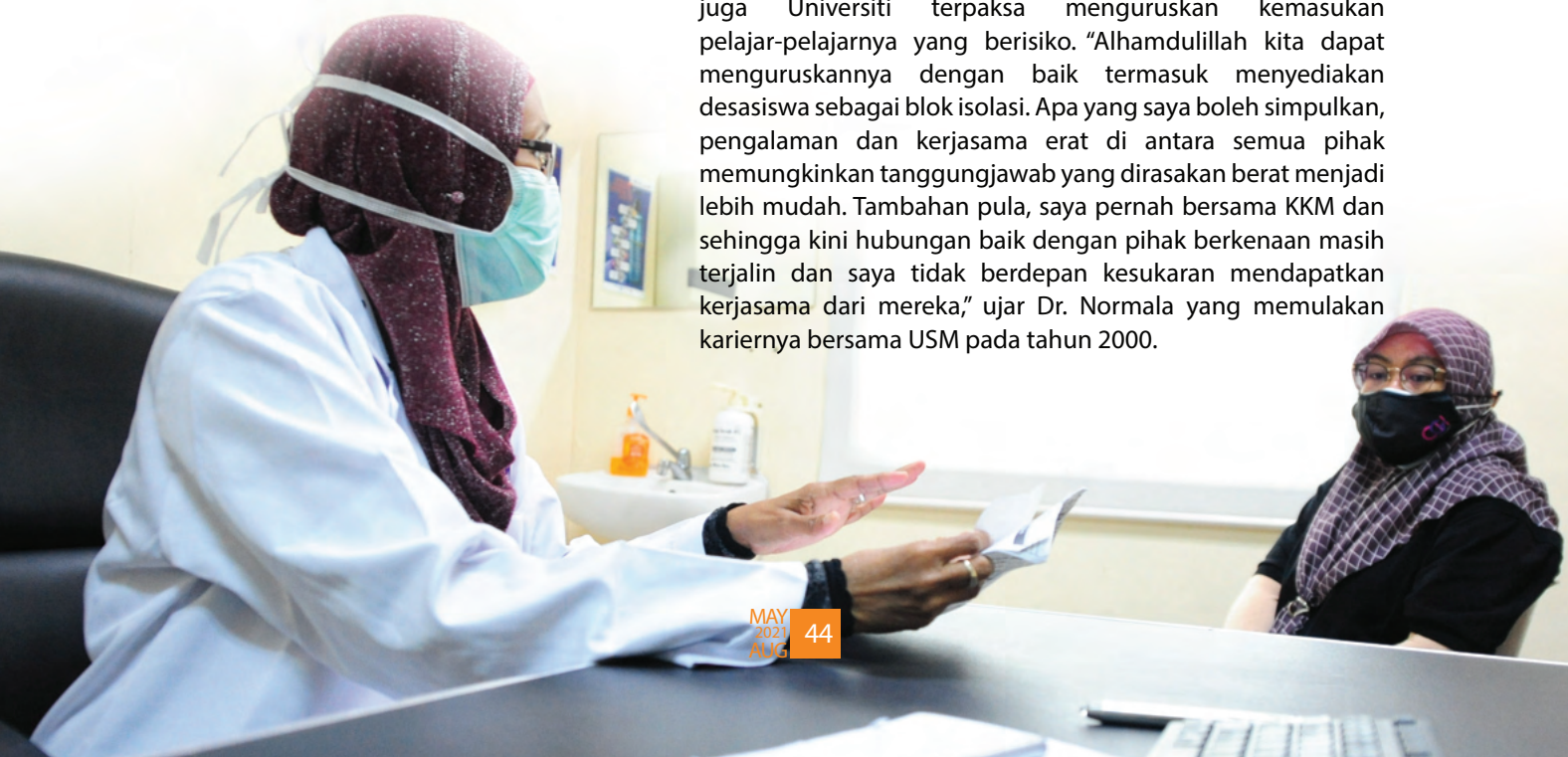
“Saya sebenarnya mula berkhidmat bersama KKM sebaik menamatkan MBBS dari Universiti Malaya. Semasa saya memulakan *housemanship*, saya amat teruja kerana berpeluang bekerja bersama-sama dengan pakar-pakar hebat dan konsultan dalam bidang perubatan. Kemudiannya saya telah dilantik menjadi Ketua di Pejabat Kesihatan Daerah Barat Daya dan mengurus serta menyelia pusat-pusat kesihatan di Bayan Lepas, Air Putih dan juga Teluk Bahang.”

“Banyak yang saya lalui dalam fasa ini dan saya berpengalaman menguruskan pelbagai perkara di bawah *communicable diseases* termasuk denggi, air dan makanan, *maternal and child health*, pesakit luar, perubatan kesihatan konvensional dan sebagainya. Justeru ia sedikit sebanyak menambahkan pengalaman saya menguruskan pelbagai jenis penyakit-penyakit berkaitan komuniti,” ujarnya yang turut memiliki ijazah sarjana dalam bidang Perubatan Komuniti (*Master Of Community Medicine*).

**“Dr. Normala mengakui beliau bersyukur kerana pengalaman kerjaya sejak mula menyertai barisan petugas kesihatan di bawah Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) amat membantunya.”**

Tambah beliau, ada satu ketika Pulau Pinang digemparkan dengan kes *typhoid* dan ia berlaku di Gertak Sanggul, satu kawasan di daerah Barat Daya. Justeru, beliau terlibat secara langsung dalam pengurusan wabak berkenaan. “Kami menjalankan pelbagai proses yang berkaitan termasuk mengenal pasti dari mana punca ia berlaku, melakukan penjejakan kontak (*contact tracing*) dan sebagainya. Kami bersungguh-sungguh menjalankan tanggungjawab pada ketika itu dan tahu apa yang sepatutnya dilakukan, menangani masalah itu dan membangunkan SOP yang diperlukan.”

Malah ujarnya, ketika di awal perkhidmatannya bersama USM, beliau turut berpengalaman membantu secara langsung menguruskan wabak SARS, iaitu dalam tahun 2004. Ketika itu juga Universiti terpaksa menguruskan kemasukan pelajar-pelajarnya yang berisiko. “Alhamdulillah kita dapat menguruskannya dengan baik termasuk menyediakan desasiswa sebagai blok isolasi. Apa yang saya boleh simpulkan, pengalaman dan kerjasama erat di antara semua pihak memungkinkan tanggungjawab yang dirasakan berat menjadi lebih mudah. Tambahan pula, saya pernah bersama KKM dan sehingga kini hubungan baik dengan pihak berkenaan masih terjalin dan saya tidak berdepan kesukaran mendapatkan kerjasama dari mereka,” ujar Dr. Normala yang memulakan kariernya bersama USM pada tahun 2000.



## Cabaran Bergelar *Frontliners*, Pemimpin Organisasi Dan Suri Hati Keluarga

Cabaran dalam menggalas pelbagai peranan dalam kehidupan seharian adalah sesuatu yang sering diperkatakan dan bukan semua individu berupaya memainkan peranan dengan sebaiknya. Dr. Normala juga tidak terlepas dari cabaran bergelar isteri, ibu, anak dan juga pemimpin dalam satu organisasi yang besar, ditambah pula ketika negara bergelut dengan virus COVID-19 yang belum berkesudahan. Pun begitu, *Iron lady* USM ini disifatkan tidak pernah mengalah dan beliau sentiasa ada di saat suka dan duka USM.

Menurut beliau, rasa kecintaan (*passion*) terhadap bidang tugas membuatnya terus teguh berbakti. “Saya tidak dapat bekerja dalam suasana yang tiada cabaran. Itu membosankan. Saya merasakan dalam kehidupan ini kita perlu ada cabaran. Corak kerja sebegini memberi kepuasan kepada saya,” katanya yang tidak pernah mengeluh dalam menggalas tanggungjawab, walaupun adakalanya perlu keluar di malam hari untuk menunaikan amanahnya.

Mengulas rahsianya membahagikan masa di antara karier dan keluarga, Dr. Normala sekali lagi menegaskan beliau bertuah kerana memiliki sistem sokongan (keluarga dan staf) yang memahami dan banyak membantu mempermudah urusan hariannya. Suami beliau yang juga pernah menyarung uniform Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) sentiasa memberi sokongan dan faham dengan cabaran tugas bergelar *frontliners* kerana kedua-dua mereka berada dalam kategori yang sama.



**“Ketika di awal perkhidmatannya bersama USM, beliau turut berpengalaman membantu secara langsung menguruskan wabak SARS, iaitu dalam tahun 2004. Ketika itu juga Universiti terpaksa menguruskan kemasukan pelajar-pelajarnya yang berisiko. Alhamdulillah kita dapat menguruskannya dengan baik termasuk menyediakan desasiswa sebagai blok isolasi.”**



“Saya juga bersyukur kerana masih diberikan kesempatan merasai kasih seorang ibu. Ibu saya tinggal bersama-sama dan sehingga kini di usianya yang mencecah 79 tahun, Allah SWT masih memberi kekuatan kepadanya untuk terus membantu saya. Ibu banyak menyumbang dalam melengkapi hidup kami sekeluarga kerana pada ketika saya dan suami sibuk dengan urusan membantu masyarakat, beliau sentiasa ada memberi dorongan dan membantu di mana yang perlu,” ujar ibu kepada tiga cahaya mata ini yang turut mengakui mereka sekeluarga memang telah lama menganggap ibunya sebagai ketua keluarga yang selalu membimbing dalam kehidupan mereka. Paling lucu, Dr. Normala mengakui dalam nada ketawa, ketiga-tiga anaknya tidak bercita-cita menjadi doktor dan polis, mungkin kerana ‘takut’ melihat kesibukan kedua-dua ibu bapa mereka.

**“Saya tidak dapat bekerja dalam suasana yang tiada cabaran. Itu membosankan. Saya merasakan dalam kehidupan ini kita perlu ada cabaran. Corak kerja sebegini memberi kepuasan kepada saya.”**

## Pandemik COVID-19: Perkongsian Sebuah Pengalaman

Editorial turut berkesempatan menebual figura hebat ini berkenaan pengalamannya berdepan pandemik COVID-19. Ikuti temubual seperti di bawah:

### Apakah pengalaman yang tidak dapat dilupakan sepanjang menguruskan pandemik di USM?

Salah satu aspek penting dalam pengurusan kesihatan ialah kerahsiaan maklumat pesakit. Justeru, pada awal terdapatnya kes positif melibatkan pelajar USM, nama dan maklumat berkenaan pesakit telah dibocorkan secara tidak sengaja sehingga menjadi viral. Saya amat kesal dan sedih kerana ianya berlaku. Ia adalah satu isu berkaitan etika perubatan dan segala maklumat sepatutnya sulit dan dirahsiakan. Saya sama sekali tidak menjangkakan ia berlaku dan tular begitu cepat. Pun begitu, ia mengajar saya dan pasukan saya untuk lebih berhati-hati khususnya melibatkan maklumat sulit. Saya juga sentiasa berwaspada dengan media sosial yang kita tahu bagaimana pantasanya maklumat disebarkan dan mempengaruhi masyarakat.

Saya tidak dapat melupakan perkara itu kerana ia amat mendukacitakan. Stigma masyarakat pada ketika itu menjadikan keadaan lebih buruk dan ia meninggalkan kesan yang mendalam bukan sahaja buat pesakit dan keluarganya, malah diri saya sendiri. Ia bukan sesuatu yang baik untuk saya kenang sepanjang karier saya.

### Apakah sisi positif yang diperoleh daripada pandemik ini?

Kerjasama. Saya tidak akan mampu menggalas tanggungjawab ini jika tiada kerjasama mantap dan pasukan USM yang hebat. Semangat kerja berpasukan antara petugas kesihatan dan bukan kesihatan dalam kampus amat saya banggakan. Selain itu kita mempunyai maklumat yang komprehensif kerana sering bekerjasama dengan pelbagai pihak luar seperti KKM, JKN, dan juga Majlis Kesihatan Universiti Awam (MAKESUM) dan ia membantu proses *brainstorming*, perkongsian idea dan proses-proses yang perlu kita laksanakan untuk menguruskan pandemik.

Proses ini sentiasa berubah-ubah mengikut keadaan. Namun kita sentiasa bersedia dan menjangkakan apa yang bakal berlaku dan membangunkan SOP yang sewajarnya melalui Nerve Centre dan semua pihak yang terlibat. Paling mengujakan, kita sentiasa mengambil jalan penyelesaian secara kolektif hasil perbincangan dan persetujuan bersama. Begitulah caranya kita menguruskan pandemik ini di dalam kampus dan saya teruja kerana kita jarang menghadapi masalah untuk membuat keputusan kerana semua pihak memberi input dengan cemerlang.

## Apakah jangkaan seterusnya?

Pandemik ini banyak mengubah cara kita bekerja. Normal baharu mengambil tempat dalam urusan harian kita. Kita perlu melihat di luar normal dalam menjalankan rutin Universiti termasuk dalam hal berkaitan kemasukan pelajar, konvokesyen, menguruskan pelajar-pelajar kita jika berlakunya kes-kes positif dan KKM tidak lagi mampu menampung jumlah kes yang semakin tinggi saban hari.

Perkara-perkara sebegini perlu diambil perhatian selagi pandemik ini belum selesai.

### USM kini turut menjadi salah sebuah Pusat Pemberian Vaksin. Bagaimana caranya untuk mendidik atau meyakinkan masyarakat untuk mengambil vaksin?

Saya berpendapat, ada sekumpulan masyarakat yang bukan tidak mahu mengambil vaksin, namun lebih kepada 'nanti dahulu' atau 'lihat pengalaman orang lain dahulu'. Kita perlu memberi pendedahan yang sewajarnya dan yakinkan bahawa mengambil vaksin adalah tanggungjawab bersama dalam membantu merealisasikan '*herd immunity*'.

Namun bagi golongan anti-vaksin, usaha untuk meyakinkan mereka agak sukar kerana pengaruh daripada pelbagai maklumat yang mereka baca dan ikuti di media sosial lebih kuat. Namun apa yang penting bagi saya, jika kita tidak mahu mengambil vaksin, itu adalah pilihan sendiri dan jangan bertindak untuk mempengaruhi pihak lain untuk melakukan tindakan serupa.

Saya harap lebih ramai sedar tentang kebaikan vaksin dan betapa kritikalnya kita untuk membantu negara keluar dari pandemik ini. Banyak kehilangan dan kesengsaraan yang kita terpaksa hadapi kesan daripada pandemik ini. Justeru adalah amat penting untuk kita memikirkan mengenai kesusahan orang lain dan tidak mempengaruhi orang lain untuk menjadi tidak mengambil vaksin.

Ini adalah saat yang paling getir untuk kita melindungi diri dan keluarga dengan memastikan kita melakukan perkara yang betul. Sebagai contoh; mengambil vaksin, jika sakit dapatkan rawatan di fasiliti kesihatan, jika berdepan isu kesihatan mental, jangan malu mendapatkan pertolongan. Banyak talian-talian yang disediakan untuk membantu kita menghadapi tekanan dan *stress*. Kita juga jangan mudah percaya kepada berita palsu. Dapatkan fakta yang benar dan tepat khususnya yang berkait dengan kesihatan.

Akhir sekali, ingin saya tegaskan khusus untuk warga USM, jika anda memerlukan sokongan dan bantuan, silalah ke Pusat Sejahtera kerana kami sedia membantu anda. Kita perlu mengekalkan semangat bekerjasama dan amalan kerja sebagai satu pasukan untuk memastikan kita dapat mencapai matlamat utama Universiti.



## The 'LIGHT DORMITORIES'



**Left: Royal Army Service Corps at the Block 10 in the '60s  
Right: The First Battalion of Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment posing against Block 11 in 1952**

Blocks 10, 11 and 12 (buildings H20, H23 and H24) are three of a kind. They are like the soldiers who once occupied the premises. Despite the blemishes that come with age, they stand strong and proud, full of character and charm, in a neat row. Through the years, they have never faltered under the relentless onslaught of their enemies - the harsh tropical weather. Contrary to the sterile identities that the word "barracks" seem to suggest, these enduring edifices still effortlessly cast their own peculiar kind of enchantment.

Widely acknowledged as the 'heart' of Desasiswa Cahaya, where the undergraduate dormitories are, all three represent the last remaining vestiges of old world charm. What is perhaps most enduring is the spirit that makes H20, H23 and H24 unique. Perhaps it is also a case of 'first love' to the early Mindeners.

Cuddled by the shady *pukul lima* trees, these old army barracks offer a blissful break for those longing for the laidback ambiance of a peaceful kampong which many pioneering inhabitants yearned for. It was this impression of repose that gave encouragement and motivation to many and it makes a particularly convenient stay for those wanting to indulge in a bit of nostalgia and those thrilling days of yesteryear.

Strategically located in a row along Lorong Cahaya, each dormitory has a two-storey footprint of approximately 14,000 square feet of floor area which share common access to wide recreational open spaces in between the buildings which were once army drill grounds. This forges the spirit of neighbourliness, which was fairly pervasive.



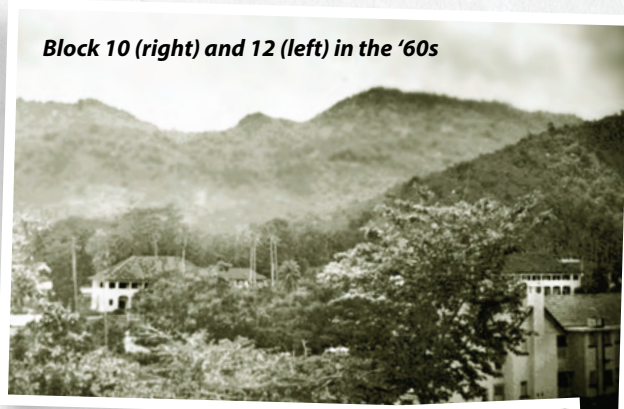
**Block H20 is now Bahagian Hal Ehwal Pembangunan Pelajar & Alumni**

## present

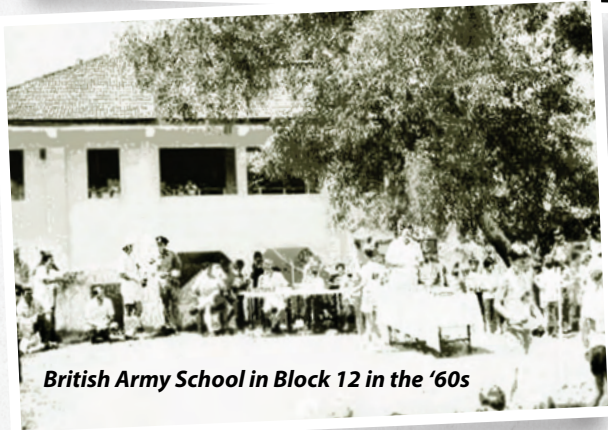




The apparent visual qualities of the three buildings were once compared by pioneering student Fatimah Busu in the early '70s to "... the grounds of an ethereal palace set within woods..." Her sense of awe and wonderment holds good till today. Indeed, these three stalwarts of 1938 buildings represent consistent examples of 'palatial' army barracks more than any other military structure on the campus. The three buildings are certainly the best positioned barracks and were eye-catchers in their heyday. The distinctive chamfered colonnade verandahs on the ground floor facade are attentively compelling.



**Block 10 (right) and 12 (left) in the '60s**



**British Army School in Block 12 in the '60s**

Old pictures have brought to light a great deal of evidence that the buildings, despite their 'regality', provided a sense of respite and seclusion. The staid-looking 'palace' of H20, H23 and H24 were once a restful haven to a large number of British and Commonwealth military personnel. In the early 50s, transient guests included the first Battalion of Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and the first Battalion of Manchester Regiment, their presence adding prestige to the memory and history of these barracks. As the picture testifies, the buildings had much original character with a wide verandah around the peripheral enclosure. Even though the architectural style can be traced to Gujarati origins, the expression, however, is entirely vernacular.

Through the years it has gone by many names: The Barracks, The Royal Army Service Corps (RASC) Stores, The British Army Children School, among others. In 1971, each barracks was tastefully refurbished to meet the requirement for 26 rooms to accommodate 2 or 3 students to a room. They now go by the name Desasiswa Cahaya, literally the 'Light Dormitories'.

The modest barracks exude quiet dignity without being luxurious. It might not be plush but the room could be rented for a meagre price. Back in the early 70s the room rate was Malaysian \$8.80. Yes, that's right...Malaysian \$8.80 per week! The comfort provided by the 240 sq ft room is surprisingly satisfying to those who have stayed there. The air that wafts across the rooms is cool, refreshed by the whirl of the old General Electrical Company (more popularly known as GEC) ceiling fans, a definite invitation for an afternoon siesta.

**"What was once the heart of Desasiswa Cahaya, however, is now being encroached on by development, which could be a prelude to all manner of surprises. The appearance and the ambiance of the place may be rapidly changing but their intrinsic character and charm have remained."**

In more than 70 years of their existence, the premises have endured remarkably well up till now. One would expect dilapidated walls and worn-out corners but surprisingly all remain intact as if the walls were plastered just yesterday. This is another silent testament to the quality of "old world" construction. What was once the heart of Desasiswa Cahaya, however, is now being encroached on by development, which could be a prelude to all manner of surprises. The appearance and the ambiance of the place may be rapidly changing but their intrinsic character and charm have remained. Those who knew H20, H23, and H24 during the earlier years can continue to reminisce through the stories of the early years despite the current transformation.

*(The article is reproduced from The Leader, Vol.4, No.3 in September, 2009. Published by Pejabat Pemajuan dan Perhubungan Alumni (PPPA), USM.)*

*Text: Rusli Jamaluddin*

*Photo: Courtesy of www.mindenbarracks.com*

## PILOT STUDY Drive-through COVID-19 Vaccination At USM Kubang Kerian A Success

The Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) teaching hospital, Hospital USM here has scored a first when it successfully ran a pilot project for drive-through COVID-19 vaccination in the country.

Approximately 130 individuals were involved in this pilot project, where all the recipients adhered to the existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and processes, similar to those at the Vaccine Administration Centres (PPV).



read more



Text: Tan Ewe Hoe • Photo: Wan Mohd Rashidi Wan Mood



## “BERFIKIRAN JAUH DEMI UNIVERSITI” - Pengerusi LGU

Pengerusi Lembaga Gabenor Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Dato' Dr. Awang Adek Hussin menyeru agar semua warganya untuk sentiasa berfikir jauh dalam menunjukkan sokongan kepada universiti dalam situasi pandemik ini.

Perkara tersebut dinyatakan dalam ucapan beliau kepada lebih 100 warga kampus yang hadir di Majlis Bacaan Yaasin, Tahlil, Doa Munajat dan Solat Hajat secara atas talian anjuran Pusat Islam Kampus Kejuruteraan serta Kelab Kebajikan dan Sukan Staf Kejuruteraan (KKSSK) baru-baru ini.



Teks: Siti Faizah binti Abd Halim



read more



## IBADAH QURBAN IPPT Berjalan Lancar Dalam Suasana Kesederhanaan

Hari Raya Aidiladha yang disambut umat Islam tahun ini banyak mengajar semua umat erti kehidupan dalam norma baharu yang banyak berubah akibat wabak pandemik COVID-19 yang belum menunjukkan tanda-tanda pengakhirannya.

Demikian antara suasana yang dirasakan semua yang menyambut perayaan ini tidak terkecuali Institut Perubatan Dan Pergigian Termaju (IPPT) yang menganjurkan ibadah qurban dalam suasana pematuhan prosedur operasi standard (SOP) yang ketat.

Teks: Ustaz Mohd Mohsin Bin Sirun  
Suntingan: Hafiz Meah Ghouse Meah



read more



# USM's

## Impacts on Nation-Building



usm in numbers

**APEX**

the first (2009) and only in Malaysia

**30K+**

number of current students

**RM61.2M**

total grants (2019)

**52**

years of educational services

**RU**

one of country's five Research University

**14**

QS-WUR top 200 subjects

**5,397**

publications

**RM2K-  
RM3.5K**

average fresh grad pay

**1,896**

faculty staff

**50+**

schools and research centres

**10K+**

number of current staff

**0.83%-  
1.81%**

percentage of Penang GDP accounted for from USM Main-Engineering campus expenditure

**1.7**

marginal publications per faculty

**2.31%-  
2.70%**

percentage of Kelantan GDP accounted for from USM Health campus expenditure

**3.7**

the accumulated multiplier effect (2010-2019), i.e., for every RM100 spent, an additional RM270 of revenue were generated in the past

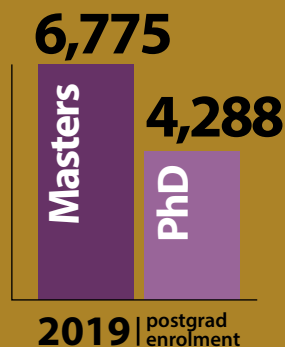
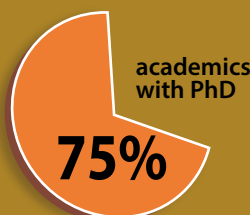
**4.2**

marginal supervisions per faculty

**1:4**

ratio of academics to non-academics

**#147**  
QS-WUR 2022 ranking



**RM1.46B**  
revenues

**RM1.44B**  
expenses

**180K+**  
graduates produced since inception



## PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address (home): \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home): \_\_\_\_\_ Handphone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Email 2: \_\_\_\_\_

## EMPLOYMENT DETAILS

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (office): \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

## QUALIFICATION(S) DETAILS

Graduate	Course	School	Year Graduate
Diploma			
Degree			
Master			
PhD			

*\*Qualifications from USM only.*

I, hereby attach a money order/cheque (number: \_\_\_\_\_) / cash amounting to RM \_\_\_\_\_ payable to PERSATUAN ALUMNI UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA.

\*Fee also can be transfer to Persatuan Alumni USM CIMB Account (86-0094662-3).

*-Please attach the payment receipt together with this form.*

For:  Life membership registration (RM100 only)  
 USM Alumni contribution

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### FOR SECRETARIAT USE ONLY

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership card:  Printed  Posted

