

ALUMNIbulletin

alumni.usm.my

JAN 2023
APR VOL9

WINNING TOGETHER





16



18



21



22



27



29



33

2 welcome

- 2 • From the Vice-Chancellor
- 3 • From DVC to Alumni

4 highlights

- 4 • HARPSWELL AND USM Continue Collaboration in Regional Women Leadership Programme
- 5 • USM PARTNERS WITH ABSOLUTE ANTIBODY to Offer Antibodies For Neglected Tropical Diseases
- 7 • CEMACS - KAHAKU JAPAN Underwater World Langkawi Bring Deep Sea Creatures to Langkawi
- 9 • STEM it up!
- 10 • USM, NICKO JEEP MANUFACTURE Ink MoA to Promote Research Collaboration on Health Science
- 11 • USM - B.BRAUN MEDICAL INDUSTRIES Seal MoU to Upgrade Skillset and Knowledge of B.Braun Personnel
- 12 • BHEPA@A Glance
- 16 • PTPTN ALLOCATES RM231,000 to Assist 462 Needy USM Students

18 what's up alumni

- 18 • PaUSM SARAWAK Jayakan Program Back To Campus (BTC)
- 19 • 'Kopi Session' Bersama Alumni USM@UNIMAS
- 20 • BERAMBEH Siswa USM dan Alumni
- 21 • Bengkel Persediaan MAJLIS MALAM ALUMNI NEGARA (MAN 2023)
- 22 • USM DAN UKM Kongsi Amalan Terbaik Pengurusan Alumni
- 23 • Proudly A USM ALUMNUS!
- 24 • Memorable moments in USM!
- 25 • Pusat Islam USM Terima Sumbangan dari Alumni

Cover rationale: Chess is an incredible teaching platform/tool/aid. It's fun. It's social. And it's a wonderful equalizer. The game also teaches strategy and critical thinking. When you play, you have to sit and think. The ones who can sit and think and look for a better move are the ones who can win. Chess can bring inclusivity among many. By having inclusivity among the campus community, the University could achieve the aim of Winning Together.

27 special feature

- 27 • Oyen Sebuah Kisah Kucing Jalanan USM
- 29 • TABULA RASA The Final Curtain Call
- 33 • NEW GENUS OF MUSSELS Named After USM Alumna
- 37 • BARN OWLS Have Insatiable Appetite for Rodents
- 39 • NAIB CANSELOR: Bekerjasama Untuk Kepentingan Orang Lain dan Perkasa Agenda APEX
- 40 • CULTURE is Spirit, INHERITANCE is Responsibility

43 personalities

- 43 • AMALAN GAYA HIDUP SIHAT Mulakan Masa Muda dan Sekarang!
- 47 • Hidupku Berubah 360°
- 52 • LIFE is What You Bake of It

54 places@usm

- 54 • USM AWARDED UNESCO CHAIR In Human Genetics on Thalassaemia
- 54 • VICE-CHANCELLOR TOURS USM-KLE CAMPUS Together with MARA
- 55 • NAIB CANSELOR BERAZAM BERSAMA-SAMA Perkukuh Jenama IPPT dan Pusat Perubatan USM Bertam
- 55 • USM PASANG SISTEM SOLAR: Inisiatif Kurangkan Pencemaran Karbon Dioksida dan Perkasa Konsep Kampus Lestari

56 sustaining heritage

- 56 • KHIDMAT MASYARAKAT Bersihkan Pantai Pulau Gazumbo

58 USM in numbers

- 58 • RETURNING ALUMNI

© Alumni Development Centre, USM 2023

Alumni Bulletin is published half-yearly by Alumni Development Centre, USM. Please forward your enquiries and comments to dir_alumni@usm.my. No part of this bulletin may be reproduced without prior permission of the publisher. Views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of the publisher. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information, the publisher cannot be held liable for any errors and omissions.

♻️ This bulletin is printed on Conservation Smooth White 104gsm, recycled with 100% post consumer fiber.

From the Vice-Chancellor

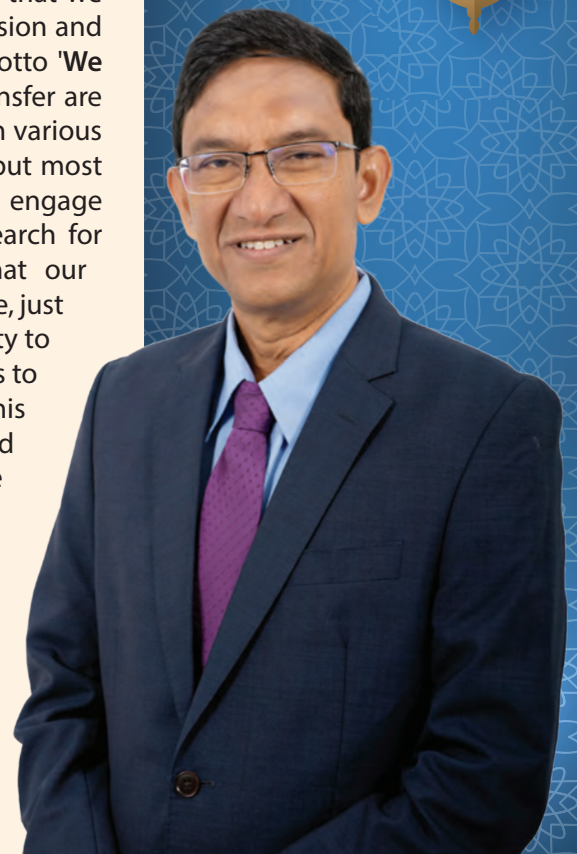
Greetings, USMers!

As the Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Sains Malaysia, I encourage everyone to devote all your energy and experience to this great University. We must continue our success, glory and leadership. Continue leading the University and in addition, continue being relevant at the local, national and global levels. I believe the university needs 'Inclusive Excellence' which reflects the values of our students, staff, administrators, faculty members, board of governors and alumni; working hand in hand towards preserving the integrity and success of this great university. We strive to remain competitive through education and research activities and to uphold our vision; "Transforming Higher Education for a Sustainable Tomorrow". We will continue to promote sustainability among the community and empower our students to become transformative; intellectually, socially, and emotionally in the pursuit of their studies and experience at Universiti Sains Malaysia. We must continue to evolve so that we will remain competitive, as that is the only way our core mission and vision can be celebrated. We also need to remember our motto 'We Lead'. Therefore, knowledge generation and knowledge transfer are at the core and our goal is not only to educate students from various backgrounds to attain knowledge in their respective areas, but most importantly lifelong skills in how to learn, how to engage constructively despite having differing opinions in their search for truth and to always remain curious. We are hopeful that our graduates will find their passion which will shape a sustainable, just and truly inclusive society. I would like to take this opportunity to thank donors and industries for their wonderful contributions to the University both financially and non-financially. This synergetic collaboration between the industry, USM and alumni will definitely propel the university forward with grace and dignity.

Finally, I believe that with inclusive excellence, we will be able to achieve "WINNING TOGETHER." Best wishes to everyone and "Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri."

Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Abdul Rahman Mohamed

*Vice-Chancellor
Universiti Sains Malaysia*



EDITORIAL TEAM

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

EDITORS Sharifah Darweena Syed Ahmad Amir Feisal (B.Sc. 2007) • Marziana Mohamed Alias (B.Comm.2005)

ARTWORK Alec Chin (B.Comm '92) **CONTRIBUTORS** Azmien Ielia Mohd Khairunizan (B. Comp. Sc. 2021) • CEMACS USM • Dayang Noor Aldurrah Zainal (B.Comm. 2002) • Dr. Annette Jaya Ram • Ebrahim Abdul Manan • Ghazali Ismail Facebook • Hafiz Meah Ghouse Meah (B.Mgmt. 2011) • Isyam Amran (M. Ed. 2004) • Izadiana Ishak Ahmad • Jolhan Allis (B. Sc. HBP, 2004) • Kho Ying Han (B.Sc. 2018) • Mazlan Hanafi Basharudin • Mohamad Abdullah (B.A. 1987) • Mohamad Syukran Abdul Rahman @ Omar (B. Econ. 2016) • Mohd Fairus Md Isa • Mohd Taufik Sulong • Mohamad Alif Ismail (B. Fine Arts. 2016) • Muhammad Adib Mat Zain • Muhamad Ihsan Abu Bakar (B. Fine Arts. 2016) • MPRC • Naziroh Shafii • Nico Budai Daniel (M.Sc. 2022) • Norizan Ishak • Nor Amin Zainal Kamarudin (B. Fine Arts 2016) • Nor Rafizah Hj. Md Zain • Nur Farrah Ezlin Mohd Suhaimi • Shahnizam Ab Rahim • Siti Farhah Fuadi Jamil Azhar (M. Ed. 2011) • Syahnaz Riza Sukor (B. Mgmt. 2005) • Sydney Lim Xin Ni • Tan Ewe Hoe (B. Sc. 1993) • The Leader Vol. 2 No. 4 (December 2007) • UMT • UNIMAS

From DVC to Alumni

Assalamualaikum wbt. and *Salam Sejahtera*,

Wishing everyone a blessed Ramadhan and in good health always.

USM continues to grow through relentless strong support and collaboration with our Alumni, especially for the benefit of our students, such as financial and in-kind support for the BHEPA food banks, *infaq* for “*buka puasa*” events; and through engaging in various talks to encourage and motivate the students to strive for greater achievements. *Alhamdulillah!!*

The Division of Student Development Affairs and Alumni (BHEPA) incessantly empower students to conduct programmes with the ultimate aim of giving back to the community. With the focus on “*Pemeriksaan Mahasiswa*”, the current emphasis by the Ministry of Higher Education for a more holistic student development approach, USM is ever ready to take up the challenge as we believe our students have ample awareness and the ability to come up with impactful projects, which can directly contribute to the targeted communities and indirectly contribute back to the University. In fact, student empowerment has always been the primary focus of USM, granting students enough freedom to run their own programmes, handling their own association accounts, among which in raising funds and engaging with diverse stakeholders to create more flavours to their programmes, all with minimal guidance from BHEPA.

BHEPA believes that the University is the platform or training ground for our students to express their own creative ideas, innovation and at the same time learn to organize and implement meaningful, effective and successful programmes. It is this process that brings about students’ learning and maturity as they engage themselves in team work. Hence, BHEPA will continue to support students’ development efforts, working closely with the *Majlis Perwakilan Pelajar (MPP)*, *Majlis Persatuan Anak-Anak Negeri (MAPAN)* and *Majlis Penghuni Desasiswa (MPD)*, which are all the student pillars for USM, and together making a difference in bringing out impactful projects to train potential leaders and projecting a more visible USM.

Thus, the University would like to reach out to our Alumni to continue to guide and support our student associations’ initiatives in every form. With such efforts, USM will continue to progress and thus “*Winning Together*” in line with the University’s aspirations. *InsyaAllah*.

Thank you again for the unwavering support to USM and wishing everyone a prosperous *Hari Raya AidilFitri* celebration with your families. May we all be given greater strength and *rezeki* in contributing in our own way to the development of our beloved USM students.



Professor Dr. Azlinda Azman

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





HARPSWELL AND USM Continue Collaboration in Regional Women Leadership Programme

As part of the ongoing 'Harpswell ASEAN Women's Leadership Summit: Many Countries One Sisterhood' programme, the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Centre for Research on Women and Gender (KANITA) and the School of Social Sciences (PPSK) in collaboration with Harpswell Foundation, held a dinner programme with former Chief Minister of Penang (1990 – 2008), Tan Sri Dr. Koh Tsu Koon as the guest of honour.

The 10-day women leadership programme was organised for young professional women, aged 25-30 years old and coming from the 10-member countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Koh was invited for a presentation on 'Georgetown's Journey to UNESCO World Heritage Inscription' whereby he briefly explained the history of Penang from his own perspective in promoting the tourism sector of Penang.

Koh highlighted several efforts which have led to the promotion of cultural diversity as a tourist attraction in Penang.

Among them were cultural performances and old movies in Penang and introduction of efforts by guilds and corporations in 1993 that includes the preservation of heritage buildings such as Khoo Kongsi and Suffolk House.

As a former lecturer and deputy dean of education in USM (1975 - 1982), Koh said he is pleased and proud that USM has become the cradle for the development of future women leaders in ASEAN and beyond, through the Harpswell programme.

"I am also very impressed by the sense of purpose, quality and tenacity as demonstrated by the Harpswell Team and four batches of participants, with USM's strong support," he said, while adding that he had recommended to the Harpswell Founder and Trustee, MIT Professor Dr. Alan Lightman, whom he came to know when they were studying in Princeton, that the Harpswell programme be based in USM, Penang.

Also present were Professor Dr. Alan Lightman himself; Programme Executive Director, Dr. Alison Pavia; and KANITA USM Project Leader, Professor Dr. Noraida Endut.

Harpswell ASEAN Programme in Women's Leadership has the mission to bring about positive social change in Southeast Asia through the action and equal participation of women.

*Text: Nur Farrah Ezlin Mohd Suhaimi
Photo: Nor Amin Zainal Kamarudin*





UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA PARTNERS WITH ABSOLUTE ANTIBODY

To Offer Antibodies For Neglected Tropical Diseases

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) recently announced a partnership with Absolute Antibody Ltd., an industry-leading provider of recombinant antibody products and services, to develop engineered recombinant antibodies specific for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), such as lymphatic filariasis and typhoid.

Antibodies targeting various antigens against parasites or bacteria are now commercially available in newly engineered formats, providing valuable research tools for scientists worldwide striving to produce better diagnostics and treatments for NTD.

Neglected tropical diseases are a collection of infectious diseases that are predominantly found in many lower to middle income countries (LMIC) that directly affect more than one billion people.

Although multiple initiatives have been launched over the past decade to overcome NTDs, the challenges of NTDs still remain a significant economic and social burden on developing nations.

The World Health Organization's (WHO's) 2030 road map pertaining to NTDs highlights the importance of strengthened, institutionalized "post-elimination" surveillance which translates to the need for good diagnostics.

The newly available antibodies would be valuable tools for researchers working with lymphatic filariasis and typhoid.

Originally developed by the laboratory of Theam Soon Lim at USM, the antibodies target BmR1 and BMSXP from *Brugia Malayi*, and HlyE from *Salmonella Typhi*.

Under the partnership, Absolute Antibody has engineered the antibodies into new recombinant formats and made them accessible to a wider scientific audience via an online reagents catalogue.

"Originally developed by the laboratory of Theam Soon Lim at USM, the antibodies target BmR1 and BMSXP from *Brugia Malayi*, and HlyE from *Salmonella Typhi*.

Under the partnership, Absolute Antibody has engineered the antibodies into new recombinant formats and made them accessible to a wider scientific audience via an online reagents catalogue."

The recombinant antibodies with the help of Absolute Antibody will undergo a new lease of life. The recombinant antibodies can be produced with a higher batch-to-batch reproducibility while allowing the development of new applications.

The antibodies are now available in human and veterinary formats for use as serological controls in diagnostic applications.

Researchers also have the possibility to request customized engineering for various species, isotypes and subtypes best suited for their research project.

"We're excited to partner with the Antibody Development lab of Theam Soon at USM to offer recombinant antibodies related to NTDs," said Dr. Michael Fiebig, Chief Scientific Officer at Absolute Antibody.

"Our collaboration increases the availability of these valuable reagents while furthering their utility through antibody engineering," he added.

"Having access to useful research reagents related to NTDs is key for researchers in LMICs working in the area," said Theam Soon, Associate Professor at the USM Institute for Research in Molecular Medicine (INFORMM).

"I am glad to partner with Absolute Antibody to develop new antibodies for other NTDs, as improved accessibility and availability of these valuable reagents will help researchers worldwide to overcome NTDs."

"Neglected tropical diseases are a collection of infectious diseases that are predominantly found in many lower to middle income countries (LMIC) that directly affect more than one billion people."

"Although multiple initiatives have been launched over the past decade to overcome NTDs, the challenges of NTDs still remain a significant economic and social burden on developing nations."

Absolute Antibody, Ltd.

Absolute Antibody was founded in 2012 with a vision to make recombinant antibody technology accessible to all. We offer antibody sequencing, engineering and recombinant production as custom services, as well as a unique catalog of recombinant antibodies, engineered into new and useful formats. In 2022, we became part of Absolute Biotech, a new company that unites multiple life science brands into one organization specializing in antibody reagents and services. For more information, visit: <https://absoluteantibody.com/>.

Universiti Sains Malaysia

Universiti Sains Malaysia, a public institution of higher learning established under the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971, is Malaysia's premier public university with research and teaching facilities, experience, and a multi-disciplinary team of experts from among its staff members to undertake the creation, development, dissemination and application of knowledge that can contribute towards achieving the Malaysian Government's goal of nation building. USM has set its mission to be "a pioneering, trans-disciplinary research-intensive university that empowers future talents and enables the bottom billions to transform their socio-economic well-being". For more information, visit: <http://www.usm.my/>
Information on the Antibody Development Lab can be found here: <https://informm.usm.my/theamsoon>



CEMACS + KAHAKU JAPAN

Underwater World Langkawi
Bring Deep Sea Creatures to
Langkawi with New Exhibition

A brand new exhibition has recently been launched in the Underwater World Langkawi (UWL) showcasing the amazing deep sea life.

The exhibition was expertly curated with the efforts from the Centre for Marine and Coastal Studies (CEMACS), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and the National Museum of Nature and Science (known as Kahaku in Japan).





A whole world of life exists in the depths of the sea where survival means adapting to extreme environmental conditions.

Creatures that live in the deepest parts of the sea must get used to the total dark environment and very low temperatures. These organisms also face low oxygen levels and high pressures.

Deep sea animals have to possess unique adaptations to survive, reproduce and thrive in these harsh conditions. Searching for food is challenging when sunlight doesn't penetrate to these great depths.

Most organisms occupying the deep sea are detritus feeders and feed on food sources such as dead plankton (detritus) or animal carcasses that sink to the bottom of the sea floor.

As technologies develop, scientists are able to explore the deep sea using submersibles or robot operated vehicles. New discoveries are being made, and helps us to understand this least explored part of Earth better.

Established in 1877, Kahaku is one of the oldest museums in Japan that offers a comprehensive exhibition of natural history and history of science and technology.

The launching of the exhibition was officiated by Dr. Hiroaki Saito, Director of the Centre for International Collaboration, Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute, University of Tokyo and the Director of CEMACS, Professor Dato' Dr. Aileen Tan Shau Hwai.

The General Manager of UWL, Noraini Jumaat was present to welcome the VIP delegation, and she shared her enthusiasm of hosting this exhibition at the facility for a period of one year (15 December 2022 - 15 December 2023) during the opening ceremony event.

UWL will be the home of the deep sea creatures specimen which are on loan from expeditions done by Japanese researchers.

Visitors will be able to view unique deep sea animals such as parasitic fish, volcanic vent endemic snails and alien-like isopods among others.

The specimens from Kahaku will surely be a treat and an enriching experience helping us to understand these organisms living in such harsh conditions.

The exhibition is also in line with creating awareness towards the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14: Life Below Water.

SDG 14 essentially implores us to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources targeted at sustainable development.

Highlighting deep sea creatures which are unseen and hardly on our minds creates awareness and is an avenue for improving understanding and education on the SDGs.

It is indeed a great opportunity for visitors to see these illusive creatures up close in this exhibition at UWL.

The cooperation between CEMACS and Kahaku is a pride to USM and is immortalized in this educational exhibition which is placed in one of the Malaysia's most beloved attraction.

Be sure to check out this exhibition if you find yourself in Pulau Langkawi this year.

*Text: Dr. Annette Jaya Ram
Editing: Tan Ewe Hoe*

STEM it up!

Breaking Negative Stereotypes and Misconceptions on STEM



Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) via the School of Communication held the finale of the STEM it up! Campaign organised by the School's Persuasive Communication Final-Year Students 2022/2023 in collaboration with Shell MDS (M.) Sdn. Bhd.

With the aim to break negative stereotypes and misconceptions regarding STEM among Malaysians, the STEM it up! Campaign intends to create and increase awareness about STEM education and career opportunities specifically among students aged 13 to 22 years old, parents and job-seekers in STEM-related fields.

Various projects have been conducted and the whole campaign was carried out for 2 months with selected secondary schools along with the USM Engineering Campus which included the activities of STEM Challenge, STEM Xplore and STEM Quest.

It also showcased the four main STEM exhibitions consisting of Penang STEM, Penang Math Platform, WAU Rocketry USM and Pusat Sains Negara, along with three other exhibitors, namely American Chemical Society USM International Student Chapter, Tech Dome Penang and USM School of the Arts which were introduced for the students to explore and to know more about STEM.

Present at the closing ceremony was the Director of Industry and Community Collaboration Division, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia, Dato' Mohamad Sharil Abdullah who also officiated the STEM it up! closing ceremony.

Also present were the USM Deputy Vice-Chancellor Student Development Affairs and Alumni, representing the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Azlinda Azman; Dean, USM School of Communication, Associate Professor Dr. Bahiyah Omar; Human Resource Manager, Shell MDS (M.) Sdn. Bhd, Adrian Saba representing its Vice-President, Amir Hamzah; Corporate Relations Manager Shell MDS (M.) Sdn. Bhd., Adriana Jute; Head of National Science Centre, Northern Region Branch, Hafizul Hanif Abu Bakar; General Manager Penang STEM Sdn. Bhd., Richard Chung; Chief Executive Officer, Tech Dome Penang, Khoo Boo Wooi; Advisor of STEM it up! Campaign, Dr. Suriati Saad; Project Director of STEM it up! Campaign, Rayane Mok Roc Tsen; and principal officers of the university.



Text: Nur Farrah Ezlin Mohd Suhaimi



USM, NICKO JEEP MANUFACTURE Ink MoA to Promote Research Collaboration on Health Science

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) via the School of Health Sciences (PPSK) has entered into a strategic partnership with Nicko Jeep Manufacture Sdn. Bhd. with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA).

Signing on behalf of USM was the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Abdul Rahman Mohamed, and on behalf of Nicko Jeep Manufacture was its Managing Director, Datuk Kenny Low Teck Fatt, and witnessed by Dr. Ayu Suzailiana Muhamad, representing the Dean of PPSK and Nicko Jeep Head of Sales and Marketing, Lim Chong Keat.

The aim of signing the MoA is to seek mutual collaboration with an industry partner such as Nicko Jeep Manufacture to facilitate opportunities for PPSK students and research collaboration with the school.

Both parties are looking forward to embark on jointly-undertaken collaborative research and grant applications; joint publication of the results of the collaborative research; knowledge-sharing through workshops, training programmes and seminars; and jointly developing modules and books.

According to Abdul Rahman, as a result of this MoA, USM students will be able to engage with the private sector for their industrial training practice, and learn hands-on and acquire intrapersonal skills in a private setting, while in terms of academics, this will enable the academicians to conduct more collaborative research that will benefit both parties.

"I believe that we can cultivate not only a spirit of giving back to the community, but also to realise the vision of USM in developing a holistically intellectual future," he said.

Meanwhile, Kenny Low said that Nicko Jeep is honoured to have a scientific collaboration with USM, which is one of the world's leading research universities, particularly in the promotion of Health Science.

"In this collaboration, we are creating synergistic benefits for both parties by exploring opportunities to develop and support educational programmes and research activities, among others.

"Therefore, we take this opportunity to thank the research team and USM for the forthcoming two years research with Himalaya Sports Candy," said Kenny Low.

Ayu Suzailiana in her speech said that PPSK is a teaching and research-oriented school, whereby the school is committed in producing graduates who are able to pursue their own goals and directions, while also contributing to the development of an industrialised and civilized nation.

"To achieve this goal, the school provides a diverse and comprehensive interdisciplinary wellness-based programmes for educational, scientific and human capital development," said Ayu.

The research collaboration between USM and Nicko Jeep Manufacture was the result of a proposal forwarded by Associate Professor Dr. Garry Kuan Pei Ern entitled 'The Effect of Himalaya Salt Candy on Psychophysiological Parameters Among Medical Students and Active Individuals'.

Ayu hoped that the collaboration is a good start for both parties and good publications will be generated as one of the research outputs from this project.

Also present were Nicko Jeep Manufacture Sales and Marketing Director, Low Teck Long; PPSK Lecturer and Principal Researcher, Associate Professor Dr. Garry Kuan Pei Ern; and principal officers of Nicko Jeep Manufacture and USM.

*Text: Nur Farrah Ezlin Mohd Suhaimi
Photo: Mohd Fairus Md Isa*



USM - B.BRAUN MEDICAL INDUSTRIES

Seal MoU to Upgrade
Skillset and Knowledge
of B.Braun Personnel

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) via the Graduate School of Business (GSB) has entered into a partnership with B. Braun Medical Industries Sdn. Bhd. (BMI) through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen their collaboration and further explore opportunities to develop, support and enrich the educational and training programmes in the fields that will be beneficial to both parties.

Based on the principles of equity and reciprocity, this MoU sets out the general framework for the establishment of academic programmes - Professional Certificate in Applied Operations and Management (Operators) and Professional Advanced Certificate in Applied Operations and Management (Line Leaders) - specifically tailored for BMI's People Development Programme, targeting the production operators and line leaders.

Through this collaboration, USM as a premier research university in the country has the expertise to help craft the modules for the students from a holistic educational approach to upgrade their skillset and knowledge.

Signing on behalf of USM was its Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Abdul Rahman Mohamed and on behalf of B. Braun was its President, Lam Chee Hong.

Also present as witnesses were GSB Dean, Associate Professor Dr. Fatyah Hashim and Vice-President of Human Resources, BMI Compliance and Legal, Asia Pacific, Khoo Bee Lin.

Abdul Rahman, in his speech, said he is confident that the collaboration involving the offering of Professional Certificate and Professional Advanced Certificate programmes by GSB USM will be a catalyst for the professional development of the BMI personnel in their lifelong learning journey.

"The programme, which targets the Production Operators and Line Leaders at BMI, aims to equip them with the necessary skills to function efficiently and effectively at the production level, and at the end of the programme, they will receive a certification that will raise their career development potentials," he said.

Abdul Rahman also added that one aspiration of USM is to empower the lifelong learning process, and he is happy that GSB USM has taken the initiative to develop professional programmes that cater to the needs of the industry or workers in industries who would like to continue raising their competency levels.

Meanwhile, Chee Hong in his speech said that as an organisation, BMI is committed in protecting and improving the health of people around the world and they are proud to work with institutions especially USM, who share the same commitment to excellence in healthcare and research.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such dedicated and talented individuals as we look forward to progress alongside each other for many years to come," said Chee Hong.

Also present were the USM Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Industry and Community Network, Professor Dr. Azlan Amran and principal officers of USM and BMI.

"USM as a premier research university in the country has the expertise to help craft the modules for the students from a holistic educational approach to upgrade their skillset and knowledge."



*Text: Nur Farrah Ezlin Mohd Suhaimi
Photo: Mohd Fairus Md Isa*

BHEPA @ A Glance



ADIKARMA NIGHT OF CULTURE (ANOC) 3.0

Program kesenian yang dipimpin oleh Ahmad Ashahirin Hamlet ini merupakan program tahunan Kumpulan Kesenian Adikarma dengan kerjasama Pusat Pembangunan Bakat. Tujuan utama pelaksanaan program ini adalah untuk menarik penglibatan ahli baru dan pelajar tahun satu dalam menentengahkan tiga jenis persembahan utama iaitu tarian, muzik dan lakonan. Program ini juga dapat memupuk semangat kerjasama dan kepimpinan dalam diri pelajar kerana turut melibatkan Unit Pengurusan dan Unit Multimedia.

FOODBANK@HEPA

MRFoodBank@HEPA adalah inisiatif BHEPA dengan kerjasama Pusat Islam telah dirasmikan pada 13 Februari oleh Profesor Dr. Azlinda Azman, Timbalan Naib Canselor HEPA mewakili Naib Canselor. Inisiatif utama adalah bagi meringankan beban pelajar dalam menghadapi kos sara hidup yang tinggi di era ini. Pelajar dihadkan untuk memilih lima (5) item makanan sahaja bagi memastikan stok makanan ini mencukupi untuk dikongsi dengan semua pelajar yang memerlukan di Kampus Induk.



SESI PERKONGSIAN KHAS ISU KAUNSELING DAN KESIHATAN MENTAL

Sesi perkongsian khas ini berlangsung pada 18 Februari dan dikendalikan oleh Ahmad Anwar Omar dari Unit Kaunseling, BHEPA dan Dr. Sulosannah a/p Sinnasamy daripada Pusat Sejahtera. Sesi ini melibatkan barisan Pengurusan Majlis Penghuni Desasiswa dan Majlis Penggawa/Penolong Penggawa ketiga-tiga kampus iaitu frontliners dalam mengenalpasti pelajar yang ada masalah kesihatan mental dan memerlukan bantuan sokongan psikososial.

Sesi perkongsian yang dijalankan secara hibrid (bersemuka dan atas talian) ini juga antara lain melibatkan penerangan mengenai senario semasa isu Kaunseling dan Kesihatan Mental di USM. Panel juga mengupas aspek pengamalan yang bersepadu yang dijalankan di USM meliputi praktis garis panduan Pengurusan Kesihatan Mental Dalam Kalangan Pelajar (PGKM).

LAWATAN MUHIBAH PUSAT KAUNSELING UniMAP KE UNIT KAUNSELING BHEPA

Delegasi Pusat Kaunseling UniMAP yang diwakili oleh 8 orang pegawai dan staf pentadbiran telah berkunjung ke Unit Kaunseling BHEPA pada 23 Februari. Delegasi telah diberikan penerangan khusus mengenai pentadbiran kes kaunseling, aspek perkongsian maklumat perjawatan, pengurusan rekod sesi, garis panduan Pengurusan Kes Kesihatan Mental (PGKM) serta program-program yang dikendalikan di peringkat USM.



SUMBANGAN "FOOD BANK" ALUMNI 2.0

Profesor Dr. Azlinda Azman, Timbalan Naib Canselor HEPA meluangkan masa menyantuni para pelajar di kafeteria Damai hari ini bagi program "Food Bank" Alumni USM 2.0. Program ini berlangsung sepanjang minggu peperiksaan di Kafeteria yang ditetapkan. Hadir sama ialah Dr. Zul Fahmi Mohamed Jaafar, Pengarah Program Foodbank Alumni USM 2.0, ahli jawatankuasa Persatuan Alumni USM dan Majlis Penghuni Desasiswa (MPD) Aman Damai.



PEMERKASAAN MAHASISWA MELALUI JALINAN STRATEGIK USM-PSU

BHEPA dengan kerjasama Sekretariat Ekspo Konvokesyen 2022 (ConvEx' 22) telah membuat lawatan ke Prince of Songkla University (PSU), Kampus Phuket pada 2 Mac bagi penukaran idea berkaitan aktiviti pelajar khususnya Ekspo Konvokesyen. Lawatan ini diketuai oleh Timbalan Naib Canselor HEPA, Profesor Dr. Azlinda Azman. Ucapan pembukaan telah disampaikan oleh Assoc. Prof. Pun Thongchumnum, Timbalan Presiden, PSU Kampus Phuket. Melalui lawatan ini, para sekretariat turut dapat membuat perkongsian agenda pemerksaan mahasiswa melalui jalinan strategik bersama-sama pelajar dan staf PSU.

LAWATAN KHON KAEN UNIVERSITY KE BHEPA

BHEPA USM dan Majlis Perwakilan Pelajar (MPP) telah menerima lawatan penanda aras daripada delegasi mahasiswa Khon Kaen University, Thailand pada 6 Mac. Profesor Dr. Azlinda Azman, Timbalan Naib Canselor HEPA berkongsi tentang struktur pengurusan di BHEPA. Delegasi daripada Khon Kaen University turut berkongsi pengurusan universiti dan lawatan telah diserikan dengan persembahan daripada Kumpulan Kesenian Adikarma USM diikuti dengan persembahan daripada delegasi mahasiswa Khon Kaen University.



LAWATAN HAL EHWAL PELAJAR (HEP) UiTM KE USM

Timbalan Naib Canselor HEPA, Prof. Dr. Azlinda Azman serta pegawai-pegawai BHEPA mengalu-alukan kedatangan delegasi UiTM sekaligus memberikan taklimat mengenai gerak kerja pengurusan HEPA di USM. Lawatan ini diketuai oleh Dr. Shahsuzhan Zakaria, Pengarah Pusat Pembangunan Pelajar UiTM, Shah Alam bersama dengan 60 orang delegasi yang juga terdiri daripada Pengarah-Pengarah Kanan HEP, Timbalan Rektor, Dekan dan Timbalan Dekan HEP daripada seluruh Malaysia. Antara intipati lawatan ini meliputi perkongsian USM berkaitan Pengurusan Desasiswa, Keusahawanan Pelajar dan jalinan hubungan strategik HEPA di antara dua buah universiti sejajar dengan agenda kesejahteraan dan pemerksaan mahasiswa.



PENGAGIHAN JUADAH MOREH OLEH MAJLIS PERWAKILAN PELAJAR

Majlis Perwakilan Pelajar melalui BHEPA USM telah mengedarkan juadah moreh kepada pelajar USM mengikut jadual yang telah disusun. Inisiatif dan usaha ini adalah sebagai salah satu cara untuk membantu pelajar USM mendapatkan makanan terutamanya dalam golongan B40.



PROGRAM JARINGAN MENITI PUNCAK 2023: Menyerlah Potensi, Membina Masa Depan

Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) Seberang Takir, Terengganu, Dato' Seri Dr. Hj. Ahmad Razif Abd Rahman yang juga merupakan alumni Pusat Pengajian Ilmu Pendidikan (PPIP), kembali berbakti kepada alma mater dan komuniti. Beliau bekerjasama dengan PPIP menganjurkan program Meniti Puncak bersama SMK Ibrahim Fikri, Kuala Nerus, Terengganu iaitu sebuah program yang memberi manfaat kepada komuniti terutamanya dalam bidang Pendidikan.



Program yang berlangsung pada 6 Mac hingga 8 Mac, melibatkan 118 pelajar Pra-U (Tingkatan Enam) sekolah tersebut dengan tema 'Menyerlah Potensi, Membina Masa Depan'. Objektif utama program adalah untuk memberi pengalaman dan pendedahan sebenar kepada para pelajar akan gaya hidup di kampus universiti, iaitu dengan membawa para pelajar melihat prasarana di sekitar USM.



DUSis RUANG NIAGA LATIH PELAJAR BIDANG KEUSAHAWANAN

Bagi menggalakkan para pelajar khususnya mahasiswa di Kampus Kesihatan menceburi bidang perniagaan, Koperasi Siswa (KOSISWA) USM Kelantan Berhad dengan kerjasama BHEPA serta alumni Kampus Kesihatan mewujudkan Dataran Usahawan Siswa (DUSis) atau lebih dikenali dengan nama komersilnya D'Rimbun. DUSis telah dibuka pada 8 Mac lalu yang mana perasmianya telah disempurnakan oleh Timbalan Naib Canselor HEPA, Profesor Dr. Azlinda Azman.

USM NAIB JOHAN DEBAT TENAGA IPT 2022

Pasukan Debat USM telah dinobatkan sebagai Naib Johan Pertandingan Debat Tenaga antara Institut Pengajian Tinggi (IPT) 2022 anjuran Majlis Perwakilan Pelajar Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN) dengan kerjasama Kelab Debat UNITEN bersempena dengan Youth Energy Summit 2022.

Pendebat USM adalah:

- i. Siti Nur Salsabiela Ahmad Shukri
(Pusat Pengajian Sains Kemasyarakatan)
- ii. Muhammad Amirul Hakim Ahmad Roziman
(Pusat Pengajian Sains Kimia)
- iii. Mohamad Firdaus Kasah Hamid@Kasmidy
(Pusat Pengajian Sains Komputer)
- iv. Muhamad Hafizi Mohd Hanafi
(Pusat Pengajian Ilmu Pendidikan)



Pertandingan ini bertujuan untuk meningkatkan pengetahuan dan menyebarkan kesedaran mengenai isu tenaga dalam kalangan pelajar universiti di Malaysia disertai oleh 12 pasukan IPT dari seluruh Malaysia yang bertemakan isu tenaga.



PASUKAN DEBAT TIONGHUA USM, JUARA PIALA DUNIA MALAYSIA MEWAKILI ASIA TENGGARA DI CHINA

Pasukan Debat Persatuan Bahasa Tionghua (PBT) USM telah muncul sebagai Johan Keseluruhan dalam Pertandingan Perdebatan Cina Piala Dunia Peringkat Asia Tenggara 2023 yang berlangsung di USM baru-baru ini. Pertandingan ini telah disertai oleh 5 pasukan terbaik antara 15 penyertaan dari universiti-universiti di Malaysia dan Singapura.

ANUGERAH TOKOH SISWA 2022

Pelajar Pusat Pengajian Ilmu Pendidikan, Saudara Abdullah Nudin telah menerima Anugerah Kepimpinan Pengucapan Awam peringkat Kebangsaan bersempena Majlis Anugerah Tokoh Siswa 2022 anjuran Kementerian Pendidikan Tinggi (KPT) yang berlangsung Mac lalu.



DPP USM SIRI 1, SIDANG AKADEMIK 2022/2023

Dewan Perundingan Pelajar (DPP) USM telah bersidang buat pertama kalinya bagi Sidang Akademik 2022/2023 di Dewan Persidangan Universiti, USM. Prof. Dr. Azlinda Azman, TNC HEPA telah merasmikan dan menyeru agar usul-usul yang dibincangkan perlulah bersifat terbuka dan tidak mencemuh dan jangan menjatuhkan satu sama lain agar dapat memacu institusi ini ke tahap yang lebih membanggakan.

Turut hadir sebagai pemerhati adalah pelajar daripada Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK), Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UNISZA) dan Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM).

PROGRAM SINAR RAMADAN: USM CAKNA OKU RUMAH AMAL, KULIM

Program ini merupakan sebuah platform untuk membina keberanian serta memperkukuhkan komunikasi dalam kalangan pelajar bersama masyarakat luar. Jalinan kerjasama USM dengan Rumah Amal, Kulim ini adalah untuk memperkasakan agenda pelajar kurang upaya ke arah minda kelas pertama.

Antara pengisian program ialah lawatan serta aktiviti memasak dan mengagihkan bubur lambuk dan jua aktiviti Ice Breaking dan slot motivasi. Seramai 37 pelajar USM dan 43 pelatih Rumah Amal turut serta mengambil bahagian dalam acara yang diadakan.



Turut hadir dan menyantuni pelajar ialah, Profesor Dr. Azlinda Azman, Timbalan Naib Canselor Hal Ehwal Pembangunan Pelajar dan Alumni (HEPA), Cik Jelfariny Mohd Jelahni, Timbalan Pendaftar BHEPA, Cik Sheilawanis Abdul Karim, Ketua Unit Kebajikan Pelajar & OKU, Pegawai dan staf BHEPA USM, Nurul Ain Roslan, YDP Sekretariat Insan Istimewa, Farah Izzati Rabu, Pengarah projek manakala Barisan Pengurusan Tertinggi Rumah Amal Kulim dihadiri oleh Puan Zarina Mohd Nor, Pengetua Rumah Amal, Kulim, Tuan Haji Zulfakri Haji Shuib, Timbalan Pengerusi, Tuan Haji Haroon Awang, Encik Ho Nee Yong Bendahari serta Ahli Jawatankuasa pula dihadiri oleh Puan Hasnah Hassan dan Encik Mohamad Amin Abu Bakar.



MENTERI PENDIDIKAN TINGGI SAMPAIKAN SUMBANGAN E-MOTOSIKAL

Menteri Pendidikan Tinggi, Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin hadir Majlis Iftar di USM sekaligus menyampaikan sumbangan e-motosikal melalui Skim Wakaf Siswa Upaya untuk Pelajar Kurang Upaya (PJU) USM. Bantuan tersebut adalah salah satu inisiatif membantu meringankan beban kepada golongan yang memerlukan dengan kerjasama Pusat Islam USM.

Turut hadir ialah Pengerusi Lembaga Gabenor Universiti (LGU), Dato' Seri Dr. Awang Adek Hussin, Naib Canselor USM, Prof. Ir. Dato' Dr. Abdul Rahman Mohamed bersama Timbalan-timbalan Naib Canselor serta pegawai-pegawai utama universiti.



PTPTN ALLOCATES RM231,000 to Assist 462 Needy USM Students

The National Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN) has allocated RM231,000 to ease the financial burden of 462 students from low-income/underprivileged families studying at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM).

In a statement issued, PTPTN, a corporation under the Higher Education Ministry, said the allocation was one of its initiatives through the KPT-PTPTN Prihatin Study Assistance programme to help underprivileged students.

"Each USM student from the poor and hardcore poor families is eligible to receive a one-off assistance of RM500, which will be deposited into their bank account.

"This programme is also implemented in collaboration with the Implementation Coordination Unit (ICU) of the Prime Minister's Department and USM to ensure that the recipients, who are all PTPTN borrowers, are from the eligible target group," it said in a statement today.

The presentation ceremony was held at the university's Al-Malik Khalid Mosque, here last Sunday, in conjunction with USM's breaking of fast event, which was attended by the Higher Education Minister, Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin and several top officials from the Ministry of Higher Education.

"I hope that this latest initiative will motivate students to continue to achieve great success in academics and personality, thus becoming the pride of their parents, university and nation."

- Awang Adek

Also present were USM Board of Governors chairman, Dato' Seri Dr. Awang Adek Hussin; USM Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Abdul Rahman Mohamed; and PTPTN Chief Executive, Ahmad Dasuki Abdul Majid.

Meanwhile, Awang Adek who lauded the latest initiative by PTPTN via the KPT-PTPTN Prihatin Study Assistance programme to ease the financial burden of the needy students, said, "Students of this generation are very blessed to have PTPTN and the support from the government who are always concerned about their welfare while pursuing higher education."

"I hope that this latest initiative will motivate students to continue to achieve great success in academics and personality, thus becoming the pride of their parents, university and nation," he added.

PTPTN was established in 1997 to provide education loans to Malaysian citizens so they could continue their studies at local public or private institutions of higher learning recognised by the government, and has since helped countless students fulfill their dreams of furthering their education at the tertiary level.

"Each USM student from the poor and hardcore poor families is eligible to receive a one-off assistance of RM500, which will be deposited into their bank account."



"This programme is also implemented in collaboration with the Implementation Coordination Unit (ICU) of the Prime Minister's Department and USM to ensure that the recipients, who are all PTPTN borrowers, are from the eligible target group"



Text: Tan Ewe Hoe
Photo: Mohd Fairus Md Isa



Program BTC telah berlangsung dengan jayanya hasil inisiatif Persatuan Alumni USM Sarawak, PERKASA (Perkumpulan Anak-anak Sarawak USM) serta kerjasama daripada PAUSM Induk.

PaUSM SARAWAK

Jayakan Program Back To Campus (BTC)

Para alumni Sarawak hadir bersama Penaung PaUSM Sarawak, YB Razi Sitam yang merupakan Timbalan Menteri Pembangunan Kesejahteraan Komuniti bagi mengimbau kembali kenangan dan berjumpa dengan pelajar-pelajar di USM.

"BTC adalah idea YB sejak sekian lama dan akhirnya menjadi kenyataan kali ini. YB banyak memberi sokongan dari segi sumbangan dana serta dorongan positif kepada persatuan terima kasih YB" ujar Jolhan Allis, Pengarah Teknikal Program BTC.

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth."

"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth" kata Muhammad Ali salah seorang alumni USM dari Sarawak yang hadir.

Jolhan menzahirkan penghargaan kepada semua AJK yang terlibat dalam menjayakan program ini dan mengerahkan keringat bagi memastikan kelancaran program.

Penaung serta ahli PaUSM Sarawak turut menghadiri dan memeriahkan AGM Persatuan Alumni USM yang dirasmikan oleh Naib Canselor USM, Profesor Dato' Ir. Dr. Abdul Rahman Mohamed pada hari terakhir BTC.



Teks/Foto: Jolhan Allis

Pusat Pembangunan Alumni (PPA) telah mengadakan satu perjumpaan santai bersama para alumni Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) yang berkhidmat di Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) bertempat di Richiamo, Cafe Siswa UNIMAS.

Perjumpaan yang dihadiri oleh mantan Timbalan Naib Canselor BHEPA, Profesor Dr. Kamarudin Kana yang merupakan alumni Pusat Pengajian Sains Kesihatan 2003, Profesor Madya Dr. Khairul Adha A. Rahim, alumni Pusat Pengajian Sains Kajihayat 1993, Dr. Ringah Anak Kanyan, Timbalan Dekan (Industri dan Komuniti Jaringan) alumni Pusat Pengajian Seni 2022 serta beberapa alumni lain dari pelbagai bidang turut hadir memeriahkan sesi tersebut.



“Kopi Session”

Bersama Alumni
USM@UNIMAS



“Sesi santai bersama alumni ini akan dilakukan dari masa ke semasa bagi mengeratkan jaringan para alumni dengan pihak Universiti” kata Sharifah Darweena Syed Ahmad Amir Feisal, Penyelaras PPA.

Sharifah turut memaklumkan bahawa PPA berfungsi sebagai pusat untuk menghubungkan para alumni secara keseluruhannya serta menjaga pangkalan data para alumni. Selain itu PPA akan mengeluarkan Alumni Bulletin dan video Alumni Insight sebanyak 3 (tiga) kali setahun.

Dalam pertemuan itu juga, wakil Persatuan Alumni USM (PAUSM) serta Persatuan Alumni USM Sarawak (PaUSM Sarawak) Muhammad Iqbal Ismail turut mengambil peluang untuk membentangkan perancangan Persatuan Alumni dalam usaha mengetengahkan dan menyerlahkan keterlihatan Persatuan Alumni dalam menyumbang kembali kepada Universiti.

Justeru, sokongan dan komitmen yang tinggi daripada para alumni dalam setiap program yang akan diadakan oleh pihak Universiti dan juga Persatuan Alumni, khususnya program-program yang berkaitan dengan alumni amatlah dialu-alukan.



“Sesi santai bersama alumni ini akan dilakukan dari masa ke semasa bagi mengeratkan jaringan para alumni dengan pihak Universiti.”

- Sharifah



Teks: Syahnaz Riza Sukor

Suntingan: Sharifah Darweena Syed Ahmad Amir Feisal

Foto: Syahnaz Riza dan PPP, UNIMAS



BERAMBEH

Siswa USM dan Alumni

Program Mahasiswa/Mahasiswi Berambek Ke Debak anjuran Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) dengan kerjasama Pejabat Daerah Kecil Debak serta Badan Bukan Kerajaan (NGO) telah diadakan selama 4 hari 3 malam melabuhkan tirainya dengan mengadakan Majlis Tautan Kasih.

Majlis dirasmikan oleh Timbalan Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Kanak-kanak dan Kesejahteraan Komuniti Sarawak, YB Encik Mohammad Razi Sitam alumni Komunikasi 1997 yang juga merupakan Penaung Persatuan Alumni USM Sarawak (PaUSM) Sarawak di Dewan Millennia, Debak.

Dalam ucapan ringkasnya, Mohammad Razi menjelaskan selain untuk memberikan galakan kepada mahasiswa dan mahasiswi terlibat dalam aktiviti sukarelawan, program ini juga dapat memupuk semangat kerja sebagai satu pasukan serta menerapkan nilai integriti di kalangan mahasiswa/i bersama masyarakat setempat.



“...program ini juga dapat memupuk semangat kerja sebagai satu pasukan serta menerapkan nilai integriti di kalangan mahasiswa/i bersama masyarakat setempat.”

- Mohammad Razi



“Program ini turut memberikan pengisian program anak angkat kepada penduduk kampung sekitar Debak seperti Kampung Dit, Kampung Debak Laut, Kampung Babu Hulu dan lain-lain lagi.”

Justeru, sebagai alumni USM, beliau berharap agar program seumpama ini diteruskan sebagai ruang kepada mahasiswa/i untuk berkongsi ilmu antara mahasiswa/i USM serta para pelajar sekolah di Kampung Debak agar memupuk semangat para pelajar menyambung pengajian di Institusi Pengajian Tinggi Awam (IPTA) khususnya di USM.

Program ini turut memberikan pengisian program anak angkat kepada penduduk kampung sekitar Debak seperti Kampung Dit, Kampung Debak Laut, Kampung Babu Hulu dan lain-lain lagi.

Ia turut diserikan dengan persembahan daripada Mahasiswa/Mahasiswi USM serta persembahan oleh penduduk di Kampung Debak.

Program ini turut dianjurkan bersama BHEPA Kampus Kejuruteraan, Persatuan Alumni USM Sarawak (PaUSM) Sarawak dan Persatuan Alumni USM (PAUSM).

Teks dan Foto: Syahnaz Riza Sukor

Suntingan: Sharifah Darweena Syed Ahmad Amir Feisal

Bengkel Persediaan

MAJLIS MALAM ALUMNI NEGARA (MAN 2023)



Majlis Alumni Universiti Awam (MALumni) telah menganjurkan Bengkel Persediaan Majlis Malam Alumni Negara (MAN2023) bertempat di Elysium, Kuala Terengganu Drawbridge, Terengganu.

Sebanyak 18 buah Universiti Awam (UA) telah hadir ke Bengkel anjuran bersama Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTEM) dan Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT).

Bengkel dimulai dengan jamuan makan malam anjuran Pusat Alumni Universiti Malaysia Terengganu serta dihadiri YBrs Profesor ChM. Dr. Marinah Mohd Ariffin, Timbalan Naib Canselor (Penyelidikan dan Inovasi) UMT bersama YBrs Profesor Madya Dr. Yusof Shuaib Ibrahim, Pengarah Pusat Alumni UMT yang mengalu-alukan kepada semua wakil yang hadir ke Bengkel MAN2023. Beliau berharap majlis yang bakal diadakan ini dapat sambutan yang memberangsangkan dari semua UA.

Majlis dirasmikan oleh Pengerusi MALumni Profesor Madya Dr. Raman Noordin, Timbalan Naib Canselor Hal Ehwal Pelajar dan Alumni Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS). Beliau turut mengalu-alukan kedatangan peserta dan berharap bengkel ini akan mencapai objektif yang dikehendaki.

Sementara itu pada bengkel yang sama, turut diusulkan cadangan tempat dan tarikh yang baharu bagi MAN2023. Beberapa jawatankuasa telah dibentuk diantaranya jawatankuasa penajaan, media dan promosi, penerbitan, pengurusan acara dan persembahan serta lain-lain lagi.

Bengkel ini turut dihadiri Cik Idura Yaakup wakil dari Bahagian Mahasiswa Holistik, Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi (KPT).



“Sebanyak 18 buah Universiti Awam (UA) telah hadir ke Bengkel anjuran bersama Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTEM) dan Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT).”

Teks: Syahnaz Riza Sukor
Foto: UMT





USM DAN UKM

Kongsi Amalan Terbaik Pengurusan Alumni

Pusat Pembangunan Alumni (ADC) Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) hari ini menerima lawatan penanda aras dari delegasi Pusat Perhubungan Alumni (PPA) Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) bagi berkongsi amalan terbaik dalam pengurusan alumni kedua-dua buah universiti.

Timbalan Naib Canselor Bahagian Hal Ehwal Pembangunan Pelajar & Alumni, Profesor Dr. Azlinda Azman hadir dan mengalu-alukan delegasi ke USM. Azlinda turut memberi penerangan ringkas mengenai jaringan antara Jabatan di USM serta peranan Alumni Ambassador di setiap Pusat Pengajian yang berfungsi untuk membantu ADC meningkatkan jaringan kerjasama bersama Alumni dan pihak Industri. PPA UKM diketuai oleh Timbalan Pengarah (Aktiviti & Jaringan) yang menjalankan tugas Pengarah PPA, Dr. Hilwa Abdullah@Mohd Nor hadir bersama lima (5) pegawai PPA.

Hilwa berkata tujuan utama mereka mengadakan lawatan ini adalah untuk berkongsi amalan terbaik dalam pengurusan alumni serta tatacara pengurusan aktiviti anjuran ADC. "Saya berharap kita dapat berkongsi pendapat mengenai amalan terbaik pengurusan Alumni serta perkongsian sistem dan data Alumni yang berkesan" kata Hilwa.

Disamping itu, Penyelaras ADC USM Sharifah Darweena Syed Ahmad Amir Feisal turut membuat pembentangan pelan tindakan dan perancangan aktiviti ADC sepanjang tahun 2023 serta pencapaian terdahulu.

Turut hadir ialah Timbalan Pengarah (Penjanaan dan Pemasaran) PPA Dr. Seri Mastura Mustaza dan staf ADC.

*Teks: Syahnaz Riza Sukor
Suntingan : Nor Rafizah Hj Md Zain
Foto : Mohd Fairus Md Isa*



Proudly A USM ALUMNUS!

My passion has always been to help people in need. This is the reason I joined USM to pursue my PhD in Social Work at the School of Social Sciences. With its green and easily accessible campus concept together with flexible programs, USM holds a good reputation as a place to pursue one's studies.

USM has been one of my main choices because of its remarkable reputation besides its ideal location as a green campus in Georgetown. I love everything here in USM from its campus to its lecturers to friends to food and to its many other advantages. I studied at the School of Social Sciences whose lecturers are mostly highly respectable and professional in their respective fields of study.

One of my best supervisors was Professor Dr. Kamarulzaman Askandar. He guided me well throughout my PhD journey with his invaluable advice and relentless guidance.



Currently I am working in Iraq as the Head of Office for the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Here at IOM, we manage the migration sector (which includes labor) by facilitating migration, migration and development, counter-trafficking, migration and immigration health, border management and the overall management of migration-related matters.

It supports government and civil society members to create healthy conditions for the revitalization, stabilization and reform in social, economic and political life as well as managing safety order and regular migration.

My words to students out there are Dream Big, Work Hard and Make it Happen!

Dr. Yoko Fujimura
PhD 2021
Japan

Editing: Isyam Amran

The most memorable experiences while studying in USM were actually in the connection I made with my lecturers and friend through our WhatsApp group platform. The WhatsApp group was highly convenient resulting in a conducive study environment for me.

How did I come to USM? Since USM and Ostbayerische Technische Hochschule (OTH) Regensburg Germany are partner universities, it enabled me to have an opportunity to enroll in a dual degree programme involving both institutions. Also, I was convinced by USM's good reputation and that its offered courses attracted me a lot.

Memorable moments in **USM!**

For me, being a USM Alumni means to stay connected with the school and the lecturers. I cherish every moment that brought countless good memories while I was studying here. The lecturers, administrative staff and friends helped me a lot throughout my two-year studies in USM. I deeply hope one day I shall return to USM.

One of my favourite subjects that is still stuck in my head is *Solid State Physics Theory* by Dr Mohd Marzaini Mohd Rashid. His class awakened my interest and subsequently influenced my decision to conduct my PhD study in this field. Furthermore, Dr Mohd Marzaini who was a very supportive lecturer, also supervised me when I was doing my Master's degree thesis.

I am currently working at the Institute for Solid State Physics in the Department of Advanced Materials Science, University of Tokyo. At the same time, I am pursuing my PhD. I am ecstatic about my decision since I have been very motivated to explore more in this field of study.

Upon completing my Master's Degree, I made a decision to start working as well as pursuing my PhD for the sake of my career advancement as an academician. I have always been very interested in Physics and research. I am happy with what I am doing right now since I am able to learn a lot from various perspectives.

Lastly, my advice to all is to do what is right for you! As for myself, I was initially hesitating to do my PhD since working at that time seemed more reasonable from the financial point of view. However, I eventually decided to pursue it as I had overflowing support from those around me. It is definitely worth pursuing your dreams both personally and professionally.

Last but not least, don't take things too seriously and just CHILL.

Nico Budai Daniel
Germany
Master of Science (Solid State Physics) 2022

Editing: Isyam Amran



“I cherish every moment that brought countless good memories while I was studying here. The lecturers, administrative staff and friends helped me a lot throughout my two-year studies in USM. I deeply hope one day I shall return to USM.”





Pusat Islam USM Terima Sumbangan dari Alumni USM,
KEMBALI MENYUMBANG DI ALMA MATER



Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) melalui Pusat Islam USM petang ini telah menganjurkan program Iftar bersama Alumni USM di perkarangan Masjid Al-Malik Khalid USM. Program Iftar yang dihadiri lebih 50 alumni itu bertujuan untuk memberi peluang kepada mereka menggamit memori berbuka puasa di kampus pada suatu ketika dahulu.

Diselitkan dalam program adalah penyerahan replika cek bernilai RM15,150, sumbangan para alumni kepada Pusat Islam USM yang disampaikan oleh ahli Lembaga Gabenor Universiti (LGU), Noor Azam Mohd Noor kepada wakil Pusat Islam USM, Mohd Fakrur Amirul Mohamad Rodzi disaksikan oleh Timbalan Naib Canselor Hal Ehwal Pembangunan Pelajar dan Alumni, Profesor Dr. Azlinda Azman.

Menurut Azlinda dalam ucapannya, beliau amat mengalu-alukan kedatangan para alumni bersama keluarga untuk berbuka puasa di kampus dengan sokongan Noor Azam yang juga merupakan alumni USM, Sarjana Muda Sains Gunaan tahun 1983.

“Bagi pihak USM, saya mengucapkan terima kasih kepada para alumni kerana memberikan sumbangan infaq kepada Pusat Islam USM dan berharap agar sumbangan dan silaturahim dapat berkekalan dari semasa ke semasa.”

- Azlinda



“Bagi pihak USM, saya mengucapkan terima kasih kepada para alumni kerana memberikan sumbangan infaq kepada Pusat Islam USM dan beliau berharap agar sumbangan dan silaturahim dapat berkekalan dari semasa ke semasa,” kata Azlinda.

Azlinda juga berkata beliau mengalu-alukan perbincangan terbuka antara pihak alumni bersama universiti demi membantu memanfaatkan dan meningkatkan pencapaian universiti.

Turut diselitkan adalah sesi perkongsian oleh alumni USM iaitu Ketua Eksekutif Kopi Hang Tuah, Mazwan Noor yang berkongsi sedikit pengalamannya ketika menjadi pelajar USM. Beliau turut mengambil keberkatan bulan yang mulia ini dengan menaja rempah ratus kepada pihak Masjid Al-Malik Khalid untuk penyediaan juadah berbuka sepanjang bulan Ramadhan.

Turut hadir ialah Penyelaras Pusat Pembangunan Alumni (ADC) USM, Sharifah Darweena Syed Ahmad Amir Feisal.

Teks: Nur Farrah Ezlin Mohd Suhaimi

Foto: Nor Amin Zainal Kamarudin



Oyen

Sebuah Kisah
Kucing Jalanan USM

Kekejaman terhadap kucing terutama kucing jalanan merupakan masalah yang memberi kesan bukan sahaja kepada haiwan malahan kepada orang yang mengambil berat tentang mereka.

Melihat kepada kepentingan sesebuah masyarakat membantu meminimumkan masalah kesihatan ekoran daripada masalah pengabaian yang berkaitan kucing jalanan dan tanggungjawab untuk tidak mewujudkan sebarang diskriminasi terhadap kucing jalanan, Sekretariat B.E.L.A.S. Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) mengambil inisiatif untuk menganjurkan Pameran Kucing Jalanan 2023, "Oyen: Cerita Tentang B.E.L.A.S."

Bermula pada Ogos 2020, sebuah kumpulan yang dikenali sebagai Pencinta Kucing Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) yang diasaskan oleh pensyarah, Dr. Sarini Azizan mula beroperasi secara bebas dalam membentuk kumpulan yang membantu kucing-kucing jalanan yang berada di dalam kampus USM.

Sehinggalah ia berkembang ke arah pengumpulan dana yang telah dilakukan untuk menampung perbelanjaan perubatan kucing jalanan yang memerlukan rawatan. Usaha Pencinta Kucing USM mendapat perhatian ramai yang membawa kepada penambahan ahli hasil daripada pengumpulan dana yang diadakan.

Justeru itu, melalui galakan dan sokongan semua pihak, maka akhirnya tertubuhlah Pencinta Kucing USM yang telah membuka mata ramai pihak dan banyak sokongan serta bantuan telah diterima daripada pelbagai pihak dalam merealisasikan hasrat murni ini.

Pencinta Kucing USM didaftarkan secara rasmi pada tahun 2022 sebagai salah sebuah sekretariat sah dengan nama baharu iaitu Sekretariat B.E.L.A.S.



"B.E.L.A.S. membawa maksud BELIEVE (Keyakinan & Kebenaran), EMPATHY (Keupayaan Menyelami & Memahami Emosi Orang Lain), LOVE (Perasaan atau Berperasaan Kasih Sayang), AFFECTION (Bersifat Belas Kasihan & Pengasih), dan SALVATION (Kesejahteraan & Keamanan)."



Sekretariat ini bernaung di bawah pentadbiran Bahagian Hal Ehwal Pembangunan Pelajar & Alumni (BHEPA), Universiti Sains Malaysia ini merupakan sekretariat aktif yang diuruskan oleh pelajar USM dengan membawa matlamat yang sama seperti Pencinta Kucing USM.

B.E.L.A.S. membawa maksud BELIEVE (Keyakinan & Kebenaran), EMPATHY (Keupayaan Menyelami & Memahami Emosi Orang Lain), LOVE (Perasaan atau Berperasaan Kasih Sayang), AFFECTION (Bersifat Belas Kasihan & Pengasih), dan SALVATION (Kesejahteraan & Keamanan).

Sehingga tahun 2022, Sekretariat B.E.L.A.S. telah berjaya menyelamatkan kucing jalanan di sekitar USM dengan usahasama staf dan pelajar USM. Antaranya pemandulan 45 ekor kucing, pengambilan kucing angkat sebanyak 77 ekor, mengambil sebagai haiwan peliharaan sebanyak 7 ekor, 17 ekor dilepaskan ke habitat yang lebih terjaga dan daripada itu terdapat 14 ekor yang mati akibat kes-kes tertentu.



“Kekejaman terhadap kucing terutama kucing jalanan merupakan masalah yang memberi kesan bukan sahaja kepada haiwan malahan kepada orang yang mengambil berat tentang mereka.”



“Pencinta Kucing USM didaftarkan secara rasmi pada tahun 2022 sebagai salah sebuah sekretariat sah dengan nama baharu iaitu Sekretariat B.E.L.A.S.”

Paling mencuri tumpuan adalah kos menyelamatkan dan bil perubatan kucing jalanan sejak tahun 2020 dianggarkan sebanyak hampir 20 ribu ringgit telah dibelanjakan manakala kos makanan pula adalah sekitar 10 ribu ringgit.

Majlis Perasmian Pameran Kucing Jalanan 2023 Universiti Sains Malaysia - Oyen: Cerita Tentang B.E.L.A.S. telah disempurnakan oleh Tengku Permaisuri Selangor, Duli Yang Maha Mulia Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin di Muzium & Galeri Tuanku Fauziah (MGTF) USM.

Turut hadir bagi meraikan majlis perasmian adalah Naib Canselor USM, Yang Berbahagia Profesor Dato' Ir. Dr. Abdul Rahman Mohamed; Timbalan Naib Canselor Hal Ehwal Pembangunan Pelajar dan Alumni Universiti Sains Malaysia, Yang Berusaha Profesor Dr. Azlinda Azman; Dekan Pusat Pengajian Sains Kemasyarakatan USM, Yang Berusaha Profesor Madya Dr. Mohamad Shahrudin Samsurijan; Penasihat Utama Sekretariat B.E.L.A.S., Yang Berusaha Dr. Ainul Mohsein Abdul Mohsin dan Pegawai-pegawai Utama Agensi Kerajaan Pulau Pinang.

Teks : Hafiz Meah Ghouse Meah
Foto : Mohd Fairus Md Isa

Tabula Rasa

The Final Curtain Call

If I could make days last forever
If words could make wishes come true
I'd save every day like a treasure
Then again, I would spend them with you
Jim Croce, "Time in a Bottle", 1972.



“We are settled into familiar positions in bright auditoriums, but we do not really feel settled. We are not familiar with how this is going to go, this last act of Tabula Rasa, this particular show” said Jenny Tan (B.Sc. 1975) the keyboardist of the band.

Tabula Rasa is the longest surviving band in USM. The band was formed in September 1971 through Persatuan Seni Muzika, which was the name of the music club at the time when USM was known as Universiti Pulau Pinang. The band began with no name. Soon after, the word ‘Tabula Rasa’ struck a chord during an anthropology lesson for the first year Social Science students that year. Its meaning - a clean slate - was so apt to the eager young students at the time that it was immediately taken up as the band’s name and thus earned a place in the history of USM bands.

The lead guitarist Hamdan Omar said the moment had come when he played his guitar for the very last time with Tabula Rasa. “I understand that good things don’t last forever and that includes even the University’s oldest band. Bands stop performing for various reasons. Some call it quits much earlier in their careers than others. For Tabula Rasa, we decided to play our last show by hosting Tabula Rasa 50th Anniversary Hi Tea and gather with the pioneers and fellow alumni.”

The staging of Tabula Rasa Farewell also coincided with the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Minden pioneers. This was also to showcase and document a campus spirit. Hamdan added, “Tabula Rasa has been an active musical group and the longest surviving University band. Although 50 years have passed, each one of us now is different than how we were back then. When we interviewed many of our peers and colleagues about the way they were, it was as if the time was standing still.”



“We are settled into familiar positions in bright auditoriums, but we do not really feel settled. We are not familiar with how this is going to go, this last act of Tabula Rasa, this particular show.”

- Jenny Tan



“I understand that good things don’t last forever and that includes even the University’s oldest band. Bands stop performing for various reasons. For Tabula Rasa, we decided to play our last show by hosting Tabula Rasa 50th Anniversary Hi Tea and gather with the pioneers and fellow alumni.”

- Hamdan Omar

Reminiscing from the moment Tabula Rasa was formed, the band initially comprised a loose array of members who joined in as and when possible, in accordance with their availability, the needs as well as taste of the group. This scenario continued throughout 1972 and 1973, and in 1973 the Tabula Rasa band members were Hamdan as the lead guitarist, Tan Sri Md. Isa Rastam as the bass guitarist, Omar Haron as the drummer (the three of them were the alumni of Social Sciences 1974), Ihsan Ibrahim (B. Sc. 1974) as the rhythm guitarist and Zainal Abidin Ahmad Shariff also known as ZABAS graduating in Arts in 1975 as the lead vocalist.

Tabula Rasa rapidly gained popularity at that time, when student life was less technology-driven, thus providing an avenue for those undergraduates who were interested to express their musical talents through singing and playing of musical instruments on extra-curricular basis (since there was no structured degree course in Music then). Weekends saw their informal and formal performances filling the void in recreational activities and releasing stress with the playing of music after exhausting sessions of lectures and tutorials.

Campus residents were entertained through live performances at in-house concerts, tea-dances and other campus events organized by the various USM societies, clubs and interest groups at that time. In those days, there were no computers equipped with internet, hand phones, I-pod or in other words all types of wireless gadgets were non-existent.

“What brought me and my wife together was perhaps Tabula Rasa. When the band performed during the night called Spinning Wheel at the campus, that’s when I spotted my wife or rather she spotted me,” said the former USM Vice-Chancellor Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dato’ Dzulkifli Abdul Razak (B. Pharm 1976).

“Every time on stage, we often observed our audience. Dzulkifli preferred Samba Pa Ti for instrumental and another Santana number. We would always consider our audience preferences and the singers’ choices were mainly Eric Clapton, Beatles, and of course Santana” said Jenny.

“This last show brought warmth to my soul. As much as I will be missing this gathering but we have to admit age is catching up and some of us do have health issues. However, if there is invitation, we will still consider if all of us are in good health,” she added.

“I never knew about Tabula Rasa until I first heard them playing at 2017 reunion. And they were kind enough to play some songs specially for me at one or two reunions. I can’t thank them enough. I still hope to hear Jenny and the boys from time to time” said Siti Zaleha Md Nor (B.Soc. Sc. 1973).



“What brought me and my wife together was perhaps Tabula Rasa. When the band performed during the night called Spinning Wheel at the campus, that’s when I spotted my wife or rather she spotted me.”

- Dzulkifli Abdul Razak

Back in USM, Tabula Rasa once went into hibernation with the graduating class of 1974 but its core members kept in touch over the years while each was building up their own careers and families. Then, in 1989 at the urging and support of fellow alumni, the Tabula Rasa band became active again at 'ad hoc' informal alumni gatherings. Because of their commitment to their respective careers, the members of the band would alternate with the additional presence of Jenny, Datuk Abdul Wahab Abdullah (Bob) alumni of Social Sciences 1976 as the percussionist, Abdul Rais Abdul Majid as the mandolin player, Mohd Zulkifli Itam as another vocalist, both the alumni of Social Sciences 1974. From time to time they featured fellow musicians from the alumni and associate musicians.



Wan Chee Wing, alumni of Humanities 1974 said she still remembered during those days she was the president of Seni Muzika and Tabula Rasa was a key band in their musical repertoire, which included a choir, an angklung orchestra and singers.

Since 2005, Tabula Rasa had actively involved with alumni activities. They performed in the series of *Balikampus*, Sireh Pulang ke Gagang and other USM activities supporting the Alumni Office and Alumni Association.

“I never knew about Tabula Rasa until I first heard them playing at 2017 reunion. And they were kind enough to play some songs specially for me at one or two reunions. I can’t thank them enough.”

- Siti Zaleha Md Nor

According to Sharifah Munirah Syed Mohamed (B. Soc. Sc. 1974) Tabula Rasa always brings back precious memories during our campus days.

“Coming from the millennials batch, I truly enjoyed Tabula Rasa performance. I still remember watching them performing at Sireh Pulang ke Gagang back in 2010. As an alumni, the band definitely was something that my cohort missed out,” said Shahrill Ramli (B.Sc. 2007).

“Being a part of this band and organising their last show has given me opportunities to gather with my friends once again. Tabula Rasa is all about having a good time through music and friendship. The band performed with Rosnan Nordin, Noorani and Atikah Minden Dancers the alumni from the 80’s,” said Zaini Rahmat (B. Arts 1974). “I give the biggest thank you to everyone that made this last show unforgettable. Every member and every supporter has made this possible. There are not enough words of gratitude I can say,” he added.

Good things don’t last forever and that includes even the longest surviving University band of all time. Bands stop performing for various reasons, and some call it quits much earlier in their careers than others. After five decades of ups and downs, Tabula Rasa played their last show during the celebration of Minden Pioneers 50th Anniversary.



“Being a part of this band and organising their last show has given me opportunities to gather with my friends once again. Tabula Rasa is all about having a good time through music and friendship. The band performed with Rosnan Nordin, Noorani and Atikah Minden Dancers the alumni from the 80’s.”

- Zaini Rahmat

*Text: Sharifah Darweena Syed Ahmad Amir Feisal
Source: The Leader Vol. 2 No. 4 (December 2007)
Editing: Isyam Amran*



NEW GENUS OF MUSSELS

Named After
USM Alumna

Associate Professor Dr Khairul Adha A. Rahim's research team led by Dr Alexandra Zieritz from the University of Nottingham that comprised 11 researchers from eight different institutions, discovered two new species and one new genus of freshwater mussels in small streams at the Gomantong Forest Reserve in Sabah and near the village of Kuala Mendalam in Sarawak respectively.



Their discovery came 94 years after the last freshwater mussel from Borneo was described as *Ctenodesma scheibeneri* in 1927. The other 17 species known from that island were described much earlier that is between 1840 and 1903. Borneo has an exceptionally high number of endemic freshwater mussels, with 15 of the 20 are currently recognised as native species being only restricted to this island.

Dr Zieritz said: “The discovery means that there is a lot that we do not yet know about Borneo’s freshwater mussel diversity. Despite our efforts over these past few years, we have so far only surveyed a small proportion of the island, restricted to only Malaysian Borneo and Brunei. Hardly any recent data on freshwater mussels are available for Kalimantan, the Indonesian part of Borneo, which makes up 73 per cent of the island.

Freshwater mussels are a crucial part of many freshwater habitats globally. They live at the bottom of every freshwater habitat that includes rivers, streams, lakes and ponds, where they filter algae, bacteria and other organisms from the water, thereby acting as biological filters and playing a major role in nutrient cycling. They can remove algae, bacteria and other materials at a rate of about 1 liter of water per hour per mussel. Most of these materials are subsequently transported to the benthos (organisms living on the bottom of the habitat), providing food for insects and other invertebrates, which thrive in mussel beds in terms of both abundance and diversity.

They have also been shown to enhance biodiversity of insect larvae and other small organisms by providing a three-dimensional habitat. Especially in Asia, people use them directly as a food source and their pearls and shells for ornamental purposes. Other ecosystem services that they provide worldwide include their use in biomonitoring that is monitoring of water quality and bioremediation, for instance, wastewater treatment.

“The mussel species found in Limbang, Sarawak, was named *Khairuloconcha lunbawangorum* after Associate Professor Dr Khairul Adha from the Faculty of Resources and Science Technology (FRST), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS).”



The scientists found that both species are unique to Borneo and are described by the researchers as “quite different from anything we have known to date”. Therefore, they represent a new freshwater mussel group or genus.

The mussel species found in Limbang, Sarawak, was named *Khairuloconcha lunbawangorum* after Associate Professor Dr Khairul Adha from the Faculty of Resources and Science Technology (FRST), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) and the Lun Bawang ethnic tribe in Sarawak. The mussel species found in Kinabatangan, Sabah was named *Khairuloconcha sahanae* in memory of one of Khairul’s research colleagues, Dr Sahana Harun.

There are many rules to follow and requirements to meet and these are enshrined in the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. In other words, it is rather difficult scientifically to identify and place the name of an organism by its own name, especially at the genus level.

To better understand this rare discovery, Khairul explained, “Genus and species are the classification or taxonomic ranking of groups of living organisms. Species is the lowest and most specific classification while genus is the upper classification of species.

Therefore, when Khairul was given such recognition, it was like a dream come true, a feeling that could not be expressed in words.

“I feel very honored to have a species named after me. In the field of zoology, one way is to find a novel species and to get it named after you. That said, this is no easy feat. For most, this remains a dream” said Khairul.

“Therefore, when Khairul was given such recognition, it was like a dream come true, a feeling that could not be expressed in words.

“I feel very honored to have a species named after me. In the field of zoology, one way is to find a novel species and to get it named after you. That said, this is no easy feat. For most, this remains a dream.”

- Khairul



Making it more special, he is the first Malaysian to be awarded the patronymic name for mussels. It is an appreciation of the highest standard that is not easily achieved by any other researchers. Khairul graduated from Universiti Sains Malaysia with Bachelor of Applied Sciences from School of Biology in 1993. He is currently a senior lecturer in UNIMAS at Department of Aquatic Sciences.

Khairul, a Negeri Sembilan native, was inspired by his late grandfather, Sulaiman Nahu, who was famous for his ability to catch and recognise the different types of fish in the river. The knowledge and experience he had gained from his village life have strengthened Khairul's interest in the field of zoological science and inspired him to become a leading aquatic biologist in Borneo.

On our recent meeting, he told our team that he has achieved what most scientists would dream of that is to have a genus named after you.



“Freshwater mussels are a crucial part of many freshwater habitats globally. They live at the bottom of every freshwater habitat that includes rivers, streams, lakes and ponds, where they filter algae, bacteria and other organisms from the water, thereby acting as biological filters and playing a major role in nutrient cycling.”

“I have nothing else that I want to achieve, my dream has recently turned into reality and I hope this could give inspiration to our future Malaysian scientists” he added.

Reminiscing their research journey, Khairul said their road to discovery was full of wonders and new experiences. There was even an evening when their water sampling was disrupted by sightings of a crocodile.

Khairul also recalled a time when the team picked *pucuk paku* (a Sarawak jungle fern) for a meal. Cooked with shrimp paste, the meal was devoured by team members from the USA, Portugal, and UK who tasted the ferns for the first time and loved them.

The findings of the team's four-year study are published in the journal *Aquatic Conservation: A new genus and two new, rare freshwater mussels (Bivalvia: Unionidae) species endemic to Borneo are threatened by ongoing habitat destruction.*

The team is also responsible for the first ever DNA sequence data of Bornean freshwater mussels, generated in 2016.

Reference: <https://www.newsarawaktribune.com> • <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/news>
Text: Sharifah Darweena Syed Ahmad Amir Feisal • Editing: Isyam Amran

BARN OWLS HAVE INSATIABLE APPETITE FOR RODENTS,

Serve as Alternative to Farmers in Managing Oil Palm Plantations



Barn owls have been proven to be highly-effective biological pest control agents against rodents in oil palm plantations, especially in the context of Malaysia.

Based on findings by researchers, mice can form up to 99 percent of a barn owl's diet, and a pair of barn owls and their brood could eat up to 1,300 mice yearly.

In view of that, it can be seen as one 'green' solution that could encourage the use of barn owls by small oil palm plantation owners in managing pests on their plantations.

In addition to being sustainable, such a method could also reduce the use of pesticides that could be harmful to the environment, as well as to avoid having negative side-effects to other living things that would eat the poisoned mice.

Realising the uniqueness available in such an ecosystem, the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Barn Owl and Rodent Research Group (BORG), and working together with the Malaysian Palm Oil Green Conservation Foundation (MPOGCF) have launched the Barn Owl for Oil Palm Smallholders Initiatives (BOSI).

BOSI is a special project comprising of the handing over and installing of 20 nest boxes for the barn owls, known by its scientific name as *Tyto javanica javanica* to the small plantation owners in the township of Bagan Samak, Bandar Baharu in Kedah.

The BORG Coordinator, who is also a lecturer at the USM School of Biological Sciences (PPSK), Associate Professor Dr. Hasber Salim said, the BOSI programme is capable of assisting smallholder plantation owners in controlling and reducing the population of rodents effectively.

"The boxes supplied have been designed to attract the barn owls to build their nest within a safe and suitable environment. Smallholders were also shown how to construct and place the nest boxes correctly.

"This also relates to the use of proper GPS mapping techniques to ensure that the nest boxes are evenly-distributed, with a nest box for every five hectares within the area," he said.

Added Hasber, throughout the duration of this project, the research team will be closely monitoring the rate of the barn owls occupying the installed nest boxes, its breeding process as well as the population density of mice in the area.

He further said, BORG is thrilled to be working with MPOGCF, not only in sharing the same objective of conserving the biodiversity, but also in providing financial assistance and full support in ensuring that the project will be running smoothly for the next two years.

Meanwhile, the General Manager of MPOGCF, Zamakhshari Muhamad said, they are committed in supporting the conservation and sustainable efforts, especially with regard to the palm oil industry.

“In addition to being sustainable, such a method could also reduce the use of pesticides that could be harmful to the environment, as well as to avoid having negative side-effects to other living things that would eat the poisoned mice.”



He also expressed confidence in the output in the implementation of BOSI, to create greater awareness among the smallholders on the effectiveness of using barn owls as a long-term solution to the pest management problem.

Certificates were also presented to participants at the ceremony, which saw the attendance of the Advisor of BORG, Professor Dr. Abu Hassan Ahmad; Deputy Dean Academic, Career and International PPSK USM, Associate Professor Dr. Yahya Mat Arip; principal officers of MPOGCF and USM researchers.

*Text: Marziana Mohamed Alias
Translation: Mazlan Hanafi Basharudin
Photo: Mohd Fairus Md Isa*

NAIB CANSOLOR:

Bekerjasama Untuk Kepentingan Orang Lain dan Perkasa Agenda APEX

Di dalam keluarga Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), terapkan nilai bekerjasama untuk kepentingan orang lain demi masa depan yang lebih baik.

Demikian ujar Naib Canselor USM, YBhg. Prof. Ir. Dr. Abdul Rahman Mohamed ketika Sesi Perjumpaan Naib Canselor dengan Ketua Jabatan/PTJ USM di Dewan Persidangan Universiti.

Rahman menekankan bahawa walaupun pada 3 tahun lalu merupakan waktu yang amat mencabar buat USM, namun dengan kerjasama semua warganya serta kekuatan yang ada, USM berjaya laluinya dengan cemerlang.

“Kebolehan dan keupayaan serta bakat yang dimiliki USM membuatnya dipandang tinggi oleh masyarakat dan entiti di luar sana,” katanya yang baru memulakan tugas sebagai Naib Canselor ke-9 USM bermula 3 Januari 2023.

Rahman turut menambah bahawa dalam setiap keputusan dan permasalahan yang berlaku, perkataan “tidak” itu tidak boleh dijadikan sebagai alasan tetapi menyediakan penyelesaian untuk sesuatu perkara itu.

Jelasnya lagi, beliau turut akan memperkasakan agenda APEX USM yang merupakan antara senjata terkuat universiti ini untuk meletakkan institusi ini agar dapat berdaya saing di segala peringkat.



“Kebolehan dan keupayaan serta bakat yang dimiliki USM membuatnya dipandang tinggi oleh masyarakat dan entiti di luar sana.”

- Rahman

“APEX merupakan perkara yang utama dan perlu diberi penekanan yang terperinci antaranya dalam pendekatan kelestarian serta bidang-bidang SDG yang menjadi asas kepada zaman kini,” ujarnya lagi.

Terdahulu Rahman juga berterima kasih kepada mantan Naib Canselor USM YBhg. Prof. Dato’ Dr. Faisal Rafiq Mahamd Adikan sepanjang sumbangan dan jasa yang dicurahkan daripada tahun 2019 hingga 2022.

Yang turut hadir sama ialah Timbalan Naib Canselor (Akademik dan Antarabangsa) YBhg. Prof. Dato’ Gs. Dr. Narimah Samat; Timbalan Naib Canselor Hal Ehwal Pembangunan Pelajar dan Alumni (BHEPA) YBrs. Prof. Dr. Azlinda Azman; Pengarah Kampus Kejuruteraan YBhg. Profesor Dato’ Dr. Nor Azazi Zakaria; Pendaftar USM YBhg. Dato’ Dr. Musa Hj. Ali dan Ketua-Ketua Jabatan/PTJ USM daripada Kampus Induk, Kejuruteraan dan IPPT. Sesi ini turun dipancarkan secara Webex di Kampus Kesihatan USM.

*Teks: Hafiz Meah Ghouse Meah
Foto: Shahnizam Ab Rahim*

CULTURE is Spirit, INHERITANCE is Responsibility

《文化是精神, 传承是责任》

The Chinese Arts and Cultural Secretariat of USM (USM SKKT) was founded in 2013 with two core purposes, to consolidate the distinguishing features of Chinese culture, as well as to pass down the profound and good tradition. Grounded in the National Educational Philosophy, USM SKKT aims to develop well-rounded H.E.B.A.T. (i.e. holistic, entrepreneur, balance, articulate, thinking) undergraduates that excel in logical thinking, intelligence quotient (IQ), emotional intelligence (EQ), adversity quotient (AQ), moral intelligence quotient (MQ) and fitness.

USM SKKT also provides an ideal platform for students to deepen their knowledge on Chinese arts and culture. Through various events and activities, exhibitions, and performances, the secretariat reinforces the public's knowledge on the traditional arts and culture to help preserve the invaluable heritage.





The core values of USM SKKT are 1V3C, which stand for Volunteerism, Charity, Culture and Cultivation. The secretariat has devoted itself to volunteer and participate in social and community aids, fundraising and cultural events, to develop excellent individuals who uphold the Chinese culture, morals, and arts. Since the secretariat's establishment, the members strive to raise social awareness in different aspects, while fulfilling the social responsibility with real action in terms of providing manpower, financial support, and time.

A few significant projects conducted over the years, other than the flagship events and projects, are as follows:

Share the Love (2016)

A project where 5000 free-to-share umbrellas were provided across USM campuses for the convenience of the USM Community. This project was supported by the USM Division of Industry & Community, MPP USM, USMinfo, sponsored by Great Eastern Malaysia to spread and flourish the concept of "sharing is caring" among the community. This is an initiative to provide a medium to encourage the multi-races community in practicing the greatness of sharing. This project also earned the secretariat a title in the Malaysia Book of Record.

Pantai Timur Needs You! (2015)

This was a humanitarian relief ad-hoc project to support the University's call to help the East Coast in the Ops Banjir. In this 30-hour campaign, the secretariat is humbled to join forces with the university and the student representative council, in gathering more than 20 supporting organizations and 2700 donors for monetary donation and daily essentials to be donated to the rescue center based in USM Health Campus, Kelantan.

City Wanderer's Wandering Challenge Asia Tour 2019: Penang Station (2019)

The secretariat has hosted the challenge together with the International City Wanderer Education Association, GRADUAN Malaysia, and the Student Representative Council of USM. This challenge has brought youths aged 16-26 to explore the world and gain a deeper understanding of self, their family, the community, and the society. The participating teams had accomplished a series of tasks, which varied from writing a confession to parents, to preparing meals for the homeless and social experiments in the street at George Town. The winning team was invited to participate in the international conference in Taiwan, and they have earned the Overall Champion title in the conference.





The motto 《文化是精神, 传承是责任》 brings out the gist and the missions of the secretariat. The members, over the years, brought meaning to the motto as the love and understanding to the quintessence of Chinese culture has been passed down along the generations, while the impact and spirit has also rippled across the national universities' society network and the local communities. The secretariat has also received and defended the "Outstanding Organisation of the Year" award in the national GRADUAN Paper Plane Award, while bagging numerous awards with different projects contested.

CULTURE IS SPIRIT, INHERITANCE IS RESPONSIBILITY
《文化是精神, 传承是责任》

The Alumni of the Chinese Arts and Cultural Secretariat of USM (SKKT Alumni) was formed in 2017 by the former core members of the secretariat. These members were the main forces from different batches of the USM SKKT program. The alumni continue to guide the Chinese Arts and Cultural Secretariat of USM, providing timely advice and support to the current secretariat members. Besides serving as a resource pool and network, the alumni also provide a vision and framework for training and competency development through knowledge and experience sharing.

The upcoming 10th Anniversary Celebration of USM SKKT, entitled "Transcendence", signifies the continuation of the spirit and mission of the predecessors to ensure the legacy continues to shine. The alumni and the secretariat will collaborate to create more exciting events in the upcoming celebration. This celebration will also serve as an opportunity to share blessings with those in need while demonstrating the secretariat's appreciation to all supporters who contributed throughout the 10-year journey and create future visions together.

Text: Sydney Lim Xin Ni & Kho Ying Han
Editing: Siti Farhah Fuadi Jamil Azhar



理大中華文化藝術社
CHINESE ARTS & CULTURAL SECRETARIAT OF USM

理大新慶十周年慈善義賣晚宴籌備委員會
THE USM 10th ANNIVERSARY CNY CHARITY CARNIVAL 2016

Berpeluang menemubual Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif, Yayasan Buah Pinggang Kebangsaan Malaysia (NKF), Khor Xin Yun memberikan perspektif cukup menarik yang menyentuh kepada keperluan mengamalkan gaya hidup sihat dan mengutamakan kesihatan mental untuk kehidupan yang lebih berkualiti.

Dengan pengalaman luasnya dalam pelbagai sektor berkaitan industri penjagaan kesihatan, Khor, anak jati Pulau Pinang yang kini berusia 36 tahun boleh disifatkan sebagai seorang yang sangat mementingkan aspek kesihatan dalam kehidupan. Komitmennya terhadap cara hidup berkualiti dizahirkan melalui pelbagai amalan yang dipraktikkan sejak dari kecil.

“Sebahagian besarnya saya terpengaruh dengan gaya hidup yang diamalkan oleh kedua ibu bapa sejak kecil, terutamanya dalam memilih apa yang hendak dimakan. Sejak kecil saya diasuh untuk mengamalkan makanan sihat dan semulajadi termasuk buah-buahan, sayur-sayuran dan sebagainya.



AMALAN GAYA HIDUP SIHAT

Mulakan Masa Muda dan Sekarang!

- Khor Xin Yun

“Pun begitu, adakalanya saya juga makan makanan yang saya kategorikan sebagai *cheat food*, sekadar suka-suka menikmatinya. Namun yang penting saya seimbangkan semula dengan aktiviti senaman dan riadah untuk kekal sihat dan cergas,” ujar Khor yang turut aktif bermain pelbagai aktiviti sukan termasuk badminton, ping pong, lawan pedang dan sebagainya.

“Ramai yang beranggapan mengamalkan gaya hidup sihat menelan kos yang tinggi dan susah, namun bagi saya ia adalah kunci kepada kejayaan kerana dengan hidup yang sihat dan cergas, kita berupaya melakukan apa sahaja perkara yang kita suka.”

- Khor

Alumni USM yang memperoleh Ijazah Sarjana Pengurusan Perniagaan (MBA) dan Ijazah Sarjana Muda Sains Farmasi ini turut mengingatkan kepada semua agar mendapatkan rehat dan tidur yang secukupnya bagi menjamin tubuh kekal sihat dan dapat mengoptimumkan aktiviti seharian, khususnya bagi yang berkerjaya dan menguruskan keluarga.

“Sebahagian besarnya saya terpengaruh dengan gaya hidup yang diamalkan oleh kedua ibu bapa sejak kecil, terutamanya dalam memilih apa yang hendak dimakan. Sejak kecil saya diasuh untuk mengamalkan makanan sihat dan semulajadi termasuk buah-buahan, sayur-sayuran dan sebagainya.”

- Khor



“Bagi saya, rutin ini yang menjadi rahsia kepada kejayaan saya sehingga saya berada di mana saya berada pada hari ini. Ramai yang beranggapan mengamalkan gaya hidup sihat menelan kos yang tinggi dan susah, namun bagi saya ia adalah kunci kepada kejayaan kerana dengan hidup yang sihat dan cergas, kita berupaya melakukan apa sahaja perkara yang kita suka,” katanya.

Justeru katanya, setiap individu perlu tahu tujuan dalam kehidupan masing-masing dan berusaha untuk mencapai objektif yang ditetapkan. Sudah tentunya bagi Khor, beliau mempunyai prinsip-prinsip tertentu yang diamalkannya dan berharap agar masyarakat di luar sana dapat meletakkan keutamaan kepada mengamalkan gaya hidup sihat sebagai satu budaya.

“You have to start young and it must start now!” kata wanita tinggi lampai yang cukup aktif ketika menjalani kehidupan sebagai pelajar USM, termasuk mewakili USM dalam beberapa acara sukan termasuk olahraga.

Pengalaman berharga mencorak kejayaan dalam kehidupan

Khor yang juga ibu kepada dua cahaya mata ini turut berpengalaman bekerja di bawah Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) selama lima tahun bermula 2011. Di situ, beliau mendapat pengalaman berharga yang mengajarnya untuk lebih menghargai kehidupan.

Ketika bertugas sebagai *ward pharmacist* di Hospital Kulim, beliau berdepan dengan pelbagai pengalaman berbeza. Namun, ada dua insiden yang tidak dapat dilupakannya kerana ia mencorak dirinya dan prinsip hidupnya sehingga ke hari ini.

“Saya pernah membantu seorang pesakit kanser dan kencing manis. Seorang ibu, dan ketika si ibu dalam rawatan, beliau ditemani anak perempuannya yang masih bersekolah namun saiz badan anaknya adalah tiga kali ganda orang dewasa. Ketika itu saya terfikir, macam mana ia boleh terjadi sedemikian? Ini adalah kes sebenar yang berlaku di Malaysia. Pendek kata, mungkin disebabkan gaya hidup yang tidak betul serta kurangnya ilmu mengenai kehidupan yang sihat menyebabkan ia berlaku.

“Bayangkan anak-anak ini, ketika mereka membesar, sudah pastinya penyakit kronik seperti kencing manis dan sebagainya akan diwarisi. Justeru ia membuka mata saya mengenai *preventive care*, satu bidang yang cukup dekat di hatinya yang memberikannya seribu pengalaman sehingga dilantik menjadi CEO NKF.



“Satu lagi kes, seorang pekerja kilang wanita yang sangat rajin namun penyakit diabetes yang dihidapinya membawanya sehingga terlantar di unit rawatan rapi hospital. Bila saya lihat latar belakangnya, beliau minum sebotol minuman berkarbonat setiap hari selama 10 tahun sejak bekerja di kilang. Hal ini tidak sepatutnya berlaku dan ia boleh dicegah dengan adanya ilmu dan pengetahuan mengenai amalan hidup sihat,” katanya.

“Khor menyertai jawatankuasa penganjur bagi Asia Pacific Pharmaceutical Symposium dan dari situ, ia memberi pengalaman bagaimana beliau mengenal potensi dan keupayaan diri untuk menguruskan satu acara besar di peringkat antarabangsa bersama rakan-rakan dan para pensyarah.”

“Saya kerap bertanya kepada diri sendiri, tiadakah jalan atau inisiatif yang paling mujarab untuk mencegah hal ini daripada terus berlaku. Dari situ saya mula meneroka bidang *preventing healthcare* – meneroka pelbagai penyelesaian dan membangunkan minat yang tinggi dan mendalam mengenai *preventive care* menggunakan kaedah penyelesaian digital,” katanya.

Rentetan dari kisah benar yang berlaku di sekelilingnya yang membolehkan beliau mencapai apa yang dimilikinya hari ini. Khor tidak berpaling dan terus kukuh melakar kejayaan. Beliau meninggalkan kerjaya sebagai penjawat awam dan mula mengasaskan syarikat yang menyediakan teknologi digital, rekabentuk perkhidmatan dan rangkaian komuniti untuk membantu komuniti meningkatkan kualiti penjagaan kesihatan mereka.

Ibarat kata pepatah, di mana ada kemahuan, di situ ada jalan. Khor meneruskan kariernya, membina seluruh pasukan dari kosong, sehingga membawanya kepada peluang untuk berkhidmat sebagai CEO NKF. Dengan pengalaman lebih sedekad dalam pelbagai sektor dalam industri penjagaan kesihatan, Khor telah mencipta rekod prestasi cemerlang dalam menerajui pendigitalan dan transformasi yang membantu organisasi berkembang dan beroperasi dengan lebih cekap.

Terima kasih USM!

Khor turut meluangkan masa bercerita mengenai kehidupannya sebagai seorang mahasiswa satu ketika dahulu. Ada beberapa perkara yang mungkin tidak dapat dilupakannya sampai bila-bila kerana ia telah mencorak sebahagian dari dirinya. Antara kisah-kisah itu termasuk:

1. MEWAKILI USM DALAM ACARA SUKAN

Khor mewakili Universiti dan negeri Pulau Pinang dalam pelbagai sukan termasuk badminton dan lawan pedang. Paling menarik, Khor juga beberapa kali mencipta rekod peribadi dalam sukan-sukan yang diwakilinya, termasuk sukan lawan pedang yang hanya dikuasainya dengan hanya sebulan lebih berlatih.

2. BAKAT KEPIMPINAN DIASAH

Bakat kepimpinannya juga telah diasah sejak di USM. Khor menyertai jawatankuasa penganjur bagi Asia Pacific Pharmaceutical Symposium dan dari situ, ia memberi pengalaman bagaimana beliau mengenal potensi dan keupayaan diri untuk menguruskan satu acara besar di peringkat antarabangsa bersama rakan-rakan dan para pensyarah.

3. PERTUKARAN PELAJAR KE AMERIKA SYARIKAT

Khor terpilih mengikuti program pertukaran pelajar yang ditaja oleh USM ke Amerika Syarikat. Beliau ditugaskan untuk mengikuti latihan amali bersama ahli farmasi di sana untuk membantu pesakit dalam kategori miskin dan ia telah mengubah persepsinya mengenai kehidupan. Bagi Khor, "the grass is not always greener on the other side".

4. DIMARAHI KERANA DIANGGAP BIADAP

Pernah satu ketika pelajar USM dikehendaki mengikuti program keusahawanan. Khor dan kumpulannya berjumpa dengan pengedar aksesori di George Town dan kerana terlalu teruja untuk menerangkan idea dan pendapatnya, beliau dimarahi dan dianggap biadap. Insiden itu memberi refleksi kepadanya untuk melihat sesuatu dari pelbagai sudut pandang dan memperbaiki diri ke arah yang jauh lebih baik.

Mengakhiri perbualan hampir sejam bersama Alumni Bulletin, Khor merakamkan ucapan setinggi-tinggi terima kasih kerana USM telah banyak mencorak dirinya sehingga di mana beliau berada pada hari ini.



Teks: Marziana Mohamed Alias
Foto: Nor Amin Zainal Kamarudin

HIDUPKU
BERUBAH

360°

Membina Kehidupan di Pulau Pinang

Saya berasal dari Terengganu dan berkahwin pada tahun 1996. Isteri saya orang Sungai Petani, Kedah dan bekerja di Balik Pulau, Pulau Pinang. Sejak 1996, saya menetap di Balik Pulau.

Pengalaman sebagai peniaga pasar malam amat mencabar dan sukar. Namun pasar malam adalah antara tempat untuk menerapkan nilai-nilai positif pada diri.

Saya bermula sebagai peniaga kecil keropok lekor Terengganu untuk pasaran Balik Pulau dan kemudiannya berkembang sebagai peruncit dan pengedar keropok lekor di Pulau Pinang.

Akhirnya, perniagaan keropok lekor menjadi sebab untuk Allah mengubah hala tuju hidup saya melalui kembara hidup yang tidak diduga.

Belajar di USM adalah Idaman kalbu

Hampir setiap hari keropok lekor dari Terengganu yang saya tempah akan sampai di depan pintu pagar USM. Bermakna hampir setiap hari saya akan melihat USM. Hampir setiap hari juga, hati ini berdetik "...alangkah indahna jika dapat belajar di Universiti yang gah seperti USM".

...Allah maha mendengar.

Ini detik awal cinta saya kepada USM. Melihat pelajar-pelajar USM yang masing-masing dengan buku di tangan, hati berdetik lagi...alangkah indahna dapat belajar di USM.

Ramai pelanggan keropok saya, bekerja di USM dan salah seorang darinya memperkenalkan dirinya sebagai Haji Wan. Beliau akan menunggu saya di tempat stok keropok lekor saya sampai. Dari awalnya sebagai penggemar keropok lekor yang saya jual, kemudiannya terjalin hubungan persahabatan yang semakin rapat antara kami.

"Taufik, minat tak nak sambung belajar di USM?"

"Mestilah saya minat nak sambung belajar di USM," jawab saya.

Setelah permohonan lengkap dihantar dan setelah beberapa jangka masa, akhirnya saya menerima surat tawaran menyambung pengajian di Pusat Pengajian Pendidikan Jarak Jauh USM. Ini satu yang amat mengejutkan dan saya yakin, akan berlaku suatu lembaran baharu dalam hidup saya selepas ini.

Tibalah hari pertama orientasi.

Alangkah terkejutnya saya apabila terpandang barisan pensyarah yang lengkap berjubah sedang bergerak ke pentas utama dan saya amat kenal susuk salah seorang dari pensyarah-pensyarah itu. Rupa-rupanya Haji Wan adalah salah seorang pensyarah di PPPJJ dalam bidang Geografi.

"Saya kini siswa USM. Saya perlu mula cepat menyesuaikan diri sebagai pelajar di salah sebuah universiti unggul di negara ini, ketika yang sama sebagai ayah kepada 3 orang anak, juga sebagai peniaga pasar malam," detik hati Mohd Taufik Sulong, 50, Alumni Sarjana Muda Sastera dari PPPJJ USM.





Pengalaman Sambung Pengajian, Jerih Perih, Pahit Manis.

Cabaran awal menyambung pengajian ialah untuk sentiasa set di minda bahawa diri ini kini seorang siswa USM dengan selalu bercakap pada diri sendiri, cara berfikir dan cara mengurus kehidupan diri ini pasti berbeza dengan teman sekeliling yang tidak sambung belajar.

Pasti mencabar untuk seorang peniaga pasar malam yang selama ini tangannya keras kerana diguna untuk memotong keropok lekor tetapi terpaksa kembali memaksa diri untuk memegang pen dan menulis dengan pantas untuk mencatat nota dan menulis tugas. Ini bukan sesuatu yang mudah.

Begitu juga dengan otak saya yang selama ini hanya diguna mengurus tempahan keropok lekor dan menyelesaikan hal-hal rumahtangga, kini otak perlu diperah sepenuhnya untuk memahami fakta, mengingati hal-hal baru, mencari solusi-solusi terhadap permasalahan yang berbangkit. Amat mencabar dan amat memeningkan.

Menyesuaikan diri dengan rakan-rakan sepengajian yang sebahagian besarnya adalah guru-guru yang menyambung pendidikan untuk kenaikan gaji, ia memerlukan ketabahan.

Cabaran semasa kursus intensif di USM dengan kelas yang padat dan peperiksaan yang telah dijadualkan adalah cabaran berganda kepada saya. Saya perlu bijak mengurus masa untuk memastikan pengajian saya berjalan lancar dan urusan memasar keropok lekor tidak terjejas.

“Ramai pelanggan keropok saya, bekerja di USM dan salah seorang darinya memperkenalkan dirinya sebagai Haji Wan. Beliau akan menunggu saya di tempat stok keropok lekor saya sampai. Dari awalnya sebagai penggemar keropok lekor yang saya jual, kemudiannya terjalin hubungan persahabatan yang semakin rapat antara kami.”

Ketika teman-teman sepengajian sedang enak dibuai mimpi, saya terpaksa bangun awal untuk mengedar keropok lekor tempahan para peniaga. Saya perlu memastikan tempahan dihantar sebelum kelas bermula. Jika tidak sempat menghantar sebelum kelas bermula, saya perlu menghantar pesanan keropok lekor selepas kelas. Ketika kursus intensif, saya amat sibuk.

Begitu juga semasa peperiksaan akhir. Saya akan pastikan tempahan dihantar sebelum peperiksaan bermula. Semasa peperiksaan akhir, saya akan hantar tempahan keropok dengan motor honda EX5 PEX3937 untuk memudahkan saya mencelah apabila terperangkap dalam kesesakan jalan raya.

Apa pun, kembara untuk mendapat segulung ijazah dari PPPJJ USM penuh dengan onak dan duri. Saya sentiasa memujuk diri sendiri supaya terus tabah berusaha, terus positif dan terus berani meredah halangan yang bakal menghasilkan buah yang bakal dinikmati.

Penghargaan Yang Tidak Ternilai

Pelbagai kenangan manis dinikmati sepanjang kembara yang mencabar ini. Pada saya, yang teristimewa ialah apabila dipertemukan oleh Allah teman-teman seperjuangan yang baik. Terima kasih kumpulan cikgu-cikgu dari Pahang yang peramah, berhati mulia dan amat membantu peniaga pasar malam ini untuk mendapat segulung ijazah. Terima kasih Cikgu Asram dan isteri (Cikgu Hamidah), Cikgu Jo, Cikgu Kak Ton dan lain-lain yang tidak dapat saya sebut kesemuanya. Semua memang hebat. Terima kasih.

Barisan pensyarah PPPJJ yang baik, berpengalaman, berpendidikan tinggi, tidak lokek mencurahkan ilmu dan siswa-siswi yang dirai seperti anak sendiri menyebabkan kita mudah untuk menyesuaikan diri dan sentiasa bermotivasi untuk berusaha bagi menamatkan pengajian sebaik mungkin.

Saya juga mendapati seluruh organisasi dan kakitangan PPPJJ USM begitu bersemangat, tersusun dan bermotivasi untuk memberi peluang kedua kepada kami untuk meningkatkan tahap pendidikan kami dan menikmati pengalaman belajar di dalam kampus khususnya semasa kelas intensif. Terima kasih kepada PPPJJ USM dan seluruh kakitangannya, khususnya Kak Gayah yang baik.

“Saya perlu memastikan tempahan dihantar sebelum kelas bermula. Jika tidak sempat menghantar sebelum kelas bermula, saya perlu menghantar pesanan keropok lekor selepas kelas. Ketika kursus intensif, saya amat sibuk.”



USM sebagai organisasi induk turut memberi sokongan tidak berbelah bagi kepada siswa-siswi PPPJJ. Semasa kursus intensif, pelbagai kemudahan pembelajaran dan pengajaran disediakan untuk kemudahan kami. Perpustakaan yang selesa, kafeteria yang bersih dan murah serta kampus dalam taman yang indah dan nyaman mengindahkan lagi kembara ilmu kami. Pendekatan teknologi yang mesra pelajar untuk terus belajar dan berhubung dengan para pensyarah serta pihak pentadbiran PPPJJ USM memotivasikan kami untuk terus belajar hingga berjaya dengan cemerlang.

Keputusan untuk sambung belajar di PPPJJ USM adalah keputusan tepat kepada insan-insan yang percaya bahawa peningkatan tahap ilmu akan meningkatkan kualiti kehidupan anda pada masa depan. Jangan bertanggung lagi untuk belajar di PPPJJ USM.

Selain itu, isteri saya berkerjaya sebagai seorang pendidik. Perkara tersebut turut memotivasikan saya untuk meningkatkan tahap pendidikan saya. Alhamdulillah, saya telah berjaya.

Saya amat yakin dengan kata-kata "Bangsa berjaya adalah bangsa berilmu".

Saya juga yakin bahawa semakin berpendidikan tinggi, semakin banyak solusi terhadap sebarang masalah yang berbangkit dalam kalangan masyarakat.

Peluang Tidak Datang Selalu

Orang awam perlu merebut peluang untuk sambung belajar di RPJJ USM kerana sistem pendidikan yang dirangka demi untuk memudahkan pembelajaran untuk merangkul ijazah dan ijazah tinggi demi masa depan dan keluarga yang lebih cemerlang.

Semakin cepat anda mendaftar sebagai pelajar di PPPJJ USM, semakin cepat untuk anda mendapat ilmu baharu demi merubah masa depan keluarga ke arah yang lebih gemilang. PPPJJ USM adalah antara pusat pendidikan jarak jauh terbaik di negara ini. Jangan lepaskan peluang mendapat pendidikan tinggi dari para pensyarah yang berpendidikan dan berpengalaman demi kebaikan pada masa depan, Jom daftar segera sebagai pelajar di PPPJJ USM.

Air mata kegembiraan mengiringi saya ketika menaiki pentas konvokesyen yang gah. Dengan ini, saya Mohd Taufik bin Sulong, seorang peniaga pasar malam berjaya membuktikan segala impian kita boleh dicapai dengan usaha gigih yang berterusan. Tiada yang menghalangi kita, melainkan tembok halangan ciptaan sendiri di minda kita sendiri. Kini, saya juga telah dua kali menaiki tangga DTSP dengan menyarung jubah ungu kebanggaan.



“Perpustakaan yang selesa, kafeteria yang bersih dan murah serta kampus dalam taman yang indah dan nyaman mengindahkan lagi kembara ilmu kami. Pendekatan teknologi yang mesra pelajar untuk terus belajar dan berhubung dengan para pensyarah serta pihak pentadbiran PPPJJ USM memotivasikan kami untuk terus belajar hingga berjaya dengan cemerlang.”

Alhamdulillah

Terima kasih kepada seluruh warga PPPJJ USM dan USM dan usaha anda telah merubah masa depan saya.

Kejayaan mendapat ijazah pertama dari PPPJJ USM telah membawa kepada kejayaan-kejayaan yang lebih gemilang.

Dari pasar malam, dengan ijazah tersebut saya menyambung pengajian Sarjana Pentadbiran Awam di USM dan bergraduat pada tahun 2014.

Pada 2018, saya juga diberi amanah sebagai Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Kemajuan dan Keselamatan Kampung (JKKK) Pondok Upeh, Balik Pulau dan berjaya merangkul anugerah JKKK Cemerlang peringkat Daerah Barat Daya pada tahun 2010 dan lima JKKK terbaik bagi seluruh negeri Pulau Pinang.

Yang paling istimewa, saya dilantik sebagai Ahli Majlis, Majlis Badaraya Pulau Pinang (MBPP) serta diberi amanah sebagai Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Pasar Malam, Pasar Pagi dan Pasar Tani.

Kini, saya diberi amanah sebagai Pembantu Khas kepada ADUN Pulau Betong Haji Mohd Tuah Ismail.

Perjuangan yang jauh akhirnya membuahkan hasil yang gemilang.

Alhamdulillah, segala-galanya daripada Allah.

*Teks dan Foto: Mohd Taufik Sulong
Suntingan: Nor Rafizah Haji Md Zain*

LIFE is What You Bake of It

I am the second in the family of five. My dad, Dr. Zainal Abdul Latiff (B.Arts 1974), is a retired lecturer from School of Arts, and my mum, Tengku Khazainah Tengku Abdul Rahman (B.Arts 1975) is a retired teacher. I practically grew up in USM. Both my parents are USM alumni. Upon returning from The United States, we stayed at the Fajar Bakti hostel that was allocated for USM staffs who had a family.

During my early childhood years, I enjoyed visiting the convocation booths with my sisters and friends. It was fun seeing the graduates in their graduation robe. I then graduated from School of Communication in 2002. The most memorable moment for me as a student was during Ramadhan where we would gather for *buka puasa* and later perform *terawih* prayers at the USM mosque which is also known as Masjid Khalid al Walid. Those were some of my most unforgettable memories of USM. Since one of my hobbies is swimming, I would also go for a swim with my sister and a few friends at the USM swimming pool on weekends.

“I got my inspiration from both of my parents. They have been inspiring me all my life. They never gave up. They worked hard for our family. Now I am lucky to have them supporting and motivating me to achieve my goals in life.”

Why I chose to study in USM? USM has been so close to me that I actually regard it as my second home. I am really missing the Penang food particularly that found on USM campus as I have now settled down in Kuching. I really miss food at Red House, Desa Bakti and a few other cafeterias. Penang delicacies such as *nasi kandar*, *pasembor*, *serabai* and many more are deeply missed.

I did my matriculation at International Islamic University (IIUM), Petaling Jaya and then continued my first degree in USM. As a communication student, we were taught to be confident and independent. That is what brought me to be who I am today. We also learned how to communicate information effectively. Good communication is essential in all industries and it surely helps to sell products to the public besides maintaining a strong relationship with clients.

My school's courses have helped me to seek opportunities to develop speaking, writing and analytical thinking skills that will eventually result in the effective process of disseminating meaning.



Upon my graduation in USM, I furthered my studies by doing a Master's degree in UiTM. I also worked as a lecturer at KDU Penang Campus for a few years. As a lecturer, I needed to be knowledgeable, positive and energetic for my students. From there I learned the power of good public relations.

I was passionate about teaching like my father but at the same time keen to explore the culinary world. So, I decided to study culinary arts at SATT College, Kuching. With the combination of communication and culinary fields, I began to teach and bake simultaneously. In culinary, we need to focus on the skills required for the professional food industry that include including food safety, hospitality baking and others. I got my inspiration from both of my parents. They have been inspiring me all my life. They never gave up. They worked hard for our family. Now I am lucky to have them supporting and motivating me to achieve my goals in life.



When I moved to Kuching 17 years ago, it was difficult and hard to look for a part-time lecturing job at a local college. There were not many colleges that were offering a part-time lecturer post at that time. So after a lot of time had passed, I decided to create my own brand called La Durra.

I am currently a part-time trainer providing training for corporate companies. Besides that, I also give private culinary lessons. Now I bake during my free time. I bake cakes, cookies, bread and also some desserts. I also organize online classes for international primary school students in KL.

Last but not least, I know baking is not really a glamorous career. It requires working at very early hours. It is indeed a rather physically and mentally demanding job. We are working with our hands all day long and if something goes wrong, it's because you are doing it wrongly. So we have to be on point all the time.

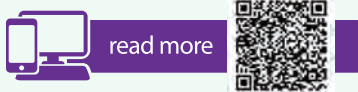
“LIFE IS WHAT YOU BAKE OF IT”

*Text and photo: Dayang Noor Aldurrah Zainal
Editing: Isyam Amran*



The UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme was established in 1992 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This programme, which involves over 850 institutions across 117 countries, promotes international inter-university cooperation and networking to enhance institutional capacities through knowledge-sharing and collaborative work.

The UNESCO Chair in Human Genetics on Thalassaemia was awarded to Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in November 2022. This is the first chair in human genetics awarded by UNESCO. It will focus on human genetics with a particular reference to thalassaemia, which is one of the commonest genetic diseases globally. This project will be led by Professor Dr. Zilfalil Alwi from the Human Genome Centre, USM.



*Text: Hafiz Meah Ghouse Meah and Mazlan Hanafi Basharudin
Photo: Ebrahim Abdul Manan*

VICE-CHANCELLOR TOURS USM-KLE CAMPUS Together with MARA

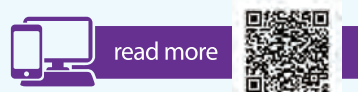


Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Abdul Rahman Mohamed recently led a delegation on a working visit together with senior officials from MARA to USM-KLE, India.

The aim of the visit was to inquire on facilities that will be provided for the new intake of MARA-sponsored students who will register at KLE in Belgaum, India for the 2022/2023 Academic Session.

Among the agenda of the working visit is the renewal of a 'Memorandum of Agreement' (MoA) between USM and KLE.

Translation: Mazlan Hanafi Basharudin



NAIB CANSELOR BERAZAM BERSAMA-SAMA Perkukuh Jenama IPPT dan Pusat Perubatan USM Bertam

Naib Canselor Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Profesor Dato' Ir. Dr. Abdul Rahman Mohamed meminta seluruh warga Pusat Perubatan USM Bertam (PPUSMB) dan Pengurusan Institut Perubatan dan Pergigian Termaju (IPPT) bersama-sama universiti untuk mengukuhkan jenamanya sebagai pusat rawatan terkemuka.

Beliau bercakap ketika menyantuni barisan Pengurusan PPUSMB IPPT sempena lawatan rasmi beliau di sana.

Ketika perbincangan, Naib Canselor meminta supaya semua pihak berusaha mengukuhkan jenama yang ada sebagai sumbangan kepada komuniti setempat.



read more



Teks: Naziroh Shafii • Suntingan: Mohamad Abdullah • Foto: Norizan Ishak

USM PASANG SISTEM SOLAR: Inisiatif Kurangkan Pencemaran Karbon Dioksida dan Perkasa Konsep Kampus Lestari



Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) meneruskan inisiatif menggunakan tenaga solar bagi menjana tenaga elektrik yang lebih lestari melalui pemasangan sistem solar panel photovoltaic (PV) di Kampus Kejuruteraan dengan kapasiti maksimum 4.3 MWp (Mega Watt Peak).

Timbalan Naib Canselor Jaringan Industri dan Masyarakat USM, Profesor Dr. Azlan Amran berkata, dengan pemasangan sistem solar itu, Kampus Kejuruteraan USM dijangka dapat mengurangkan kadar pencemaran karbon dioksida (CO₂) sehingga 97,000 tan metrik bagi tempoh 25 tahun yang akan datang.

Selain itu katanya, projek yang menelan belanja sebanyak RM14 juta melalui kaedah Pelawaan Memberikan Cadangan (RFP) ini turut dapat menampung sehingga 45% penggunaan tenaga tahunan daripada tenaga boleh baharu berkenaan.

Teks: Marziana Mohamed Alias



read more





KHIDMAT MASYARAKAT

Bersihkan Pantai Pulau Gazumbo

Sekumpulan pelajar Studio Perancangan Tahun 3 Program Sarjana Muda Perancangan Bandar dan Wilayah, Pusat Pengajian Perumahan, Bangunan dan Perancangan, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) bersama Persatuan Pedagang dan Pengusaha Melayu Malaysia (PERDASAMA Pulau Pinang), Penang Youth Development Corporation (PYDC) dengan kerjasama Majlis Bandaraya Pulau Pinang (MBPP) telah menjayakan Program Gotong-Royong Pembersihan Pinggir Pantai di Pulau Gazumbo, Pulau Pinang, pada 21 Januari lepas.

Aktiviti tersebut yang merupakan projek khidmat masyarakat USR (University Service Responsibility) melibatkan seramai 25 pelajar dan beberapa orang sukarelawan, dan diketuai oleh Pengarah Projek, Muhammad Adib Mat Zin.

Menurut Muhammad Adib, pelajar-pelajar bukan sahaja memfokuskan pada kemahiran kognitif dan pemikiran kritis tetapi juga inisiatif tanggungjawab sosial pada masyarakat dan persekitaran yang dapat membudayakan siswazah dalam pembentukan sahsiah diri berkualiti.

“Antara bentuk sokongan yang diperoleh adalah dari segi keselamatan sukarelawan, penyediaan bot sukarelawan dan bot mengangkut sampah dari Pulau Gazumbo, kelengkapan peralatan untuk pembersihan, makanan serta kemeja-T untuk sukarelawan.”



Katanya, selain itu, mereka juga berpeluang menjalin dan mewujudkan kerjasama dengan pihak berkepentingan serta meningkatkan semangat gotong-royong dan kerja berpasukan.

Program pembersihan pantai itu turut mendapat kerjasama dan sokongan penuh daripada Mohd Faruk Abdul Rahman selaku Ahli Majlis MBPP; Malik Faisal Abdul Rahim, Yang Dipertua PERDASAMA Pulau Pinang; dan Muhammad Afiq Mohd Razak selaku Eksekutif Program daripada PYDC.

Antara bentuk sokongan yang diperoleh adalah dari segi keselamatan sukarelawan, penyediaan bot sukarelawan dan bot mengangkut sampah dari Pulau Gazumbo, kelengkapan peralatan untuk pembersihan, makanan serta kemeja-T untuk sukarelawan.

Kursus Studio Perancangan Tahun 3 dikendalikan oleh Dr. Mohd Ismail Isa dan Dr. Suraiyati Rahman yang menerapkan pendekatan holistik dalam perancangan strategik dari segi fizikal, ekonomi, sosial dan persekitaran.

“Pulau Gazumbo adalah pulau buatan yang terhasil daripada lebih tanah semasa pembinaan Jambatan Pulau Pinang. Pulau kecil itu dapat dilihat oleh pengguna laluan Jambatan Pulau Pinang kerana lokasinya berhampiran dengan Jambatan Pulau Pinang.”



“Pelajar-pelajar bukan sahaja memfokuskan pada kemahiran kognitif dan pemikiran kritis tetapi juga inisiatif tanggungjawab sosial pada masyarakat dan persekitaran yang dapat membudayakan siswazah dalam pembentukan sahsiah diri berkualiti.”

Tambah Muhammad Adib, kerjasama dan sumbangan daripada semua pihak yang terlibat dalam program ini amatlah dihargai dan diharap dapat diteruskan pada masa akan datang.

“Kesedaran terhadap kepentingan pemuliharaan ekosistem dalam mewujudkan imej persekitaran pinggir pantai yang bersih adalah tanggungjawab bersama,” ujarnya.

Pulau Gazumbo adalah pulau buatan yang terhasil daripada lebih tanah semasa pembinaan Jambatan Pulau Pinang. Pulau kecil itu dapat dilihat oleh pengguna laluan Jambatan Pulau Pinang kerana lokasinya berhampiran dengan Jambatan Pulau Pinang.

*Teks: Muhammad Adib Mat Zain
Suntingan: Tan Ewe Hoe
Foto: Ghazali Ismail Facebook*

RETURNING ALUMNI

Until 2022

22K

Returning Alumni

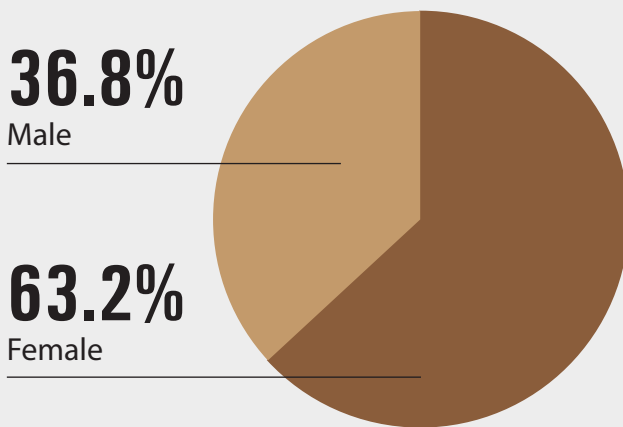
10%

Tuition Fee Discount

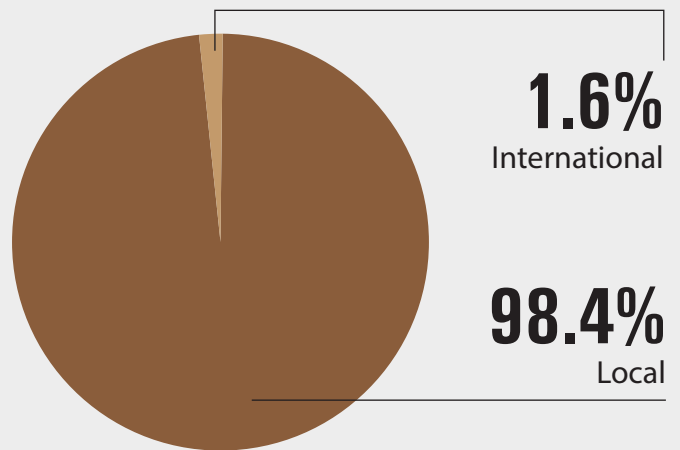
2.4K

Return >2 Times

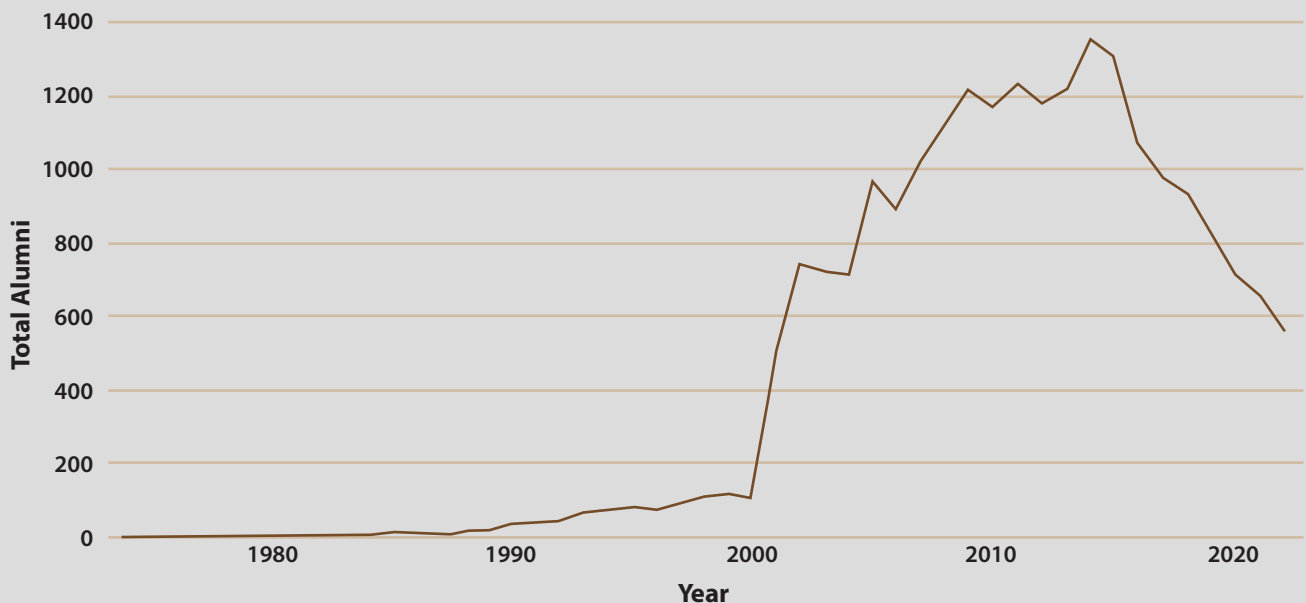
Alumni Gender



Alumni Nationality



Returning Alumni by Year





WISHING YOU
A
**Selamat
Hari Raya
Aidilfitri**

from
Alumni Development Centre