



# ACADEMIC AFFAIRS *Quick Update*

Volume 11      Sept 2018



Selamat menyambut

# Hari Merdeka ke - 61

Sayangi Malaysiaku



# HAPPY MERDEKA DAY

31st August 2018

From Universiti Malaysia Terengganu



## UMT PROFESSORIAL INAUGURAL LECTURE SERIES

### Portunid Crab

Paving the Way  
for Sustainable  
Aquaculture



One of the Malaysian leading aquaculture scientists Professor Dr Ikhwanuddin Abdullah delivered his Inaugural Lecture on 16th August 2018.

Titled Portunid Crab: Paving the Way for Sustainable Aquaculture, the talk concludes his 10 years' of research in Portunid Crab reproductive biology, broodstock development, in-depth breeding technique and larval rearing which are fundamental knowledge for establishing production program.

## APCG THAILAND 2018



UMT scored another milestone when four of our Asasi STEM students were selected to represent Malaysia at 15th Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness (APCG 2018) Youth Camp in Bangkok Thailand recently. The program was organised by the National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA) and held at Thailand Science Park in Bangkok.

Over 200 students from ASEAN countries took part in the Youth Camp themed "Inspiration, Motivation and Creativity: Leading the Way to Giftedness." It was designed with the objective to increase public awareness, increase investment in gifted and talented students, and generate enthusiasm among stakeholders for the future knowledge in the field.

The four delegates representing UMT are - Muhammad Alif, Muhammad Nurthaqif, Nik Nur Syamimi, Wan Syahidah Hana - accompanied by Dr Laili Che Ros.

During the five day APCG 2018 Youth Camp, a range of activities were arranged for the students to show and share their gifts and talents in both science and arts, and to promote international friendship and cooperation among the best young students representing the next generation in the Asia Pacific Region. The camp activities were conducted by high profile professionals who encouraged the students to express their curiosity and creativity.

Aside from that, the students were given the opportunity to learn Thai culture such as Thai Dance, Muay Thai and making traditional deserts. Thus, the students also visited the Muang Boron Ancient City Historical Park to learn more about the Thai culture.

Thanks to the management of UMT, UMT Students Affairs and Alumni Department and UMT Strategic Transformation and Risk Centre, for providing the opportunity by sponsoring the students to attend the programme.

## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION UMT-IPB ON STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME



The School of Informatics and Applied Mathematics (PPIMG), UMT in cooperation with a partner university, Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), Indonesia are exchanging students in order to strengthen its international relationship. A total of 10 students of each university are involved and they embarked on a short course which started on 5th August 2018.

### Summer School PPIMG: Digitalized Culture and Heritage

UMT began to introduce its summer schools this year on "Digitalized Culture and Heritage," which carries 2 credits. The IPB's participants' arrival on the 4th August was greeted by a welcoming dinner at D'Rumoh Pata, with the presence of PPIMG's Deputy Dean (Academics and Student Affairs) and the Director of UMT International Centre.

The participants are required to attend a two-week intensive lectures, laboratory works and field trips, which provide them a window of opportunity to learn and experience the culture and heritage in Malaysia especially in Terengganu. At the end of the course, they should be able to relate some mathematical concepts to the exposure they got and finally documented the established relations in the form of video or augmented reality.

### Project Based Learning on Environmental Study, IPB

Meanwhile, students from UMT are attending 6 day short-course program, namely, The Project Based Learning (PBL) on Environmental Study: Preservation and Economic Potential. It is organized by Consortium Office of International Affairs consisting of Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), University of Jenderal Soedirman (Unsoed), and University of Mercubuana (UMB). This project is specifically designed for the undergraduate student, who is an active full - time student to study on Segara Anakan Mangrove area, Central Java.

The students will observe the problems that arise at the largest mangrove forest on Java Island. The decline in forest area creates serious impacts that can be studied from various fields of science, such as economics, biology, environment, fisheries and social. Through this PBL program, it is expected that the UMT students can become involved and will be more concerned about environmental damage that can cause various losses. It is hoped that this group will explore and gain more knowledge on the project beside observing Indonesia's cultural and lifestyle.

## A NEW LOOK CLASSROOM FOR BETTER LEARNING EXPERIENCE



UMT has refurbish and upgraded a few classrooms with new attractive and colourful designs. Unlike traditional classroom which focuses on teacher centred delivery, this vibrantly designed room is formed to encourage student centred learning and empower the student learning experience.

This new room fitted with the stylish custom made classroom furniture can be used for a flexible classroom arrangement to suit the various styles of teaching and learning activities. Be it a normal classroom style, a theatre setting, small group discussion or formation to roundtable meeting hall, this room can handle it.

Each room with a minimum capacity of 48 students was renovated to suit the requirement and support the on-going outcome-based education system and the implementation of blended learning across academic programs.

The management is determined to refurbish all the classrooms as part of UMT's new initiative in redesigning the delivery of academic programmes to be more flexible, practice-oriented and competency-based learning for student academic excellent.

New Straits Times

## EXPERIENCING MARINE STUDIES IN RUSSIA INTERNSHIP

By ROZANA SANI -

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August 22, 2018 @ 4:59pm

**A**MONG the fondest memories marine biology student Imran Luqman Muhammad Hatta, 22, has of his childhood are of visits to local aquariums, such as Aquaria KLCC and Underwater World Langkawi, with his parents.

He was especially enamoured with sharks due to their ferocity and reputation as “king” of the ocean.

“I was seven the first time I was introduced to sharks. I asked my parents to buy me books and take me to see movies and watched TV documentaries on not only sharks, but also other marine-related organisms, as well as the marine ecosystem.

“After turning 10, I made it a point to myself that I would become a marine biologist. I had discovered the various destructions that came in the form of pollution and over-exploitation that plagued the marine world.

“I made a personal oath that I would strive to become a marine biologist to not only be able to work with sharks and other marine organisms, but also to save them from extinction,” said Imran, who had his primary education at SRK St John’s 1 and secondary education at Victoria Institution in Kuala Lumpur.

And that was how he became aware of Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT). He decided to undertake his matriculation studies at the Pahang Matriculation College as a means to pursue a bachelor’s degree in marine biology at the university’s School of Marine and Environmental Sciences.

“I found out that the syllabus for marine biology is comprehensive and wide-ranged, but, at the same time, detailed and meticulously planned. I was also made aware of the various experts in multiple fields of marine biology, whom I now call my lecturers. Besides that, I was also intrigued by the array of field trips, sampling and outdoor



activities that were offered to marine biology students here,” said the final-year student.

Last December, Imran was approached by one of his lecturers, Associate Professor Dr Izwandy Idris, a polychaete or marine bristle worm expert, to go to the White Sea Biological Station (WSBS) in Russia for his internship.

WSBS is an educational and research centre under the auspices of Moscow State University’s Faculty of Biology.

Izwandy, who was the first Malaysian to visit the station seven years ago when he was doing his doctorate, knew of Imran’s interest in embryology. Imran intended to pursue a project in embryology for his master’s degree and the research station had an embryology department, which was one of the best in the world.

Imran sent an internship application to WSBS director Professor Alexander Tzetlin. A few weeks later, he received an email stating that he had been accepted for a three-month internship from June to September.



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"Getting to Russia was not easy. Applying for the visa requires a special invitation from the institution I would be visiting and it took more than a month to prepare. My parents and I were at the edge of our seats waiting for that special letter as we already purchased the flight tickets and made hotel reservations," said the only child. The letter arrived just in time during Ramadan for everything to come into place. Then, the journey began.

First, there was the flight to Doha and then onwards to St Petersburg, where they celebrated the first few days of Hari Raya Aidilfitri. They then took a domestic flight to a small Russian district called Apatity, which is quite secluded and had a very small population.

"After staying a night there, we had a very bumpy three-hour car ride to an even more isolated location, Poyakonda. Poyakonda is a fishing village located inside the Arctic Circle with a population of only 78 people. Once there, my parents and I went on one of the WSBS speed boats called Trident Indigo and headed for WSBS, which was 15 minutes away," said Imran.

At WSBS, Imran did work in various fields, primarily embryology and taxonomy of marine invertebrates. Every two weeks, he would work in a different course or field.

"I started off with embryology, where I learnt techniques to spawn, fertilise and maintain/care for marine invertebrates, such as sea stars, sea urchins and marine annelids, which are marine worms. I was also fortunate to operate several high-tech equipment, such as the Leica Photographic Microscope, where I took beautiful photographs of my microscopic organisms.

"Then, I joined the Benthic Invertebrate course, where I got to go for deep-water sampling at 120 metres on research vessels and was able to use various grabs, trawls and dredges. In this course, I was also able to operate a Russian-made remote-operated vehicle called Gnom and did some area-mapping using unmanned aerial vehicles, called drones," said Imran.

At the same time, he started a major project with his supervisor, Dr Nadezda Rimskaya-Korsakova on the Embryonic and Early Larvae Development of *Galathowenia oculata*, which are very small marine annelids.

"During this project, I was able to use other high-tech equipment, such as the Confocal Light Scanning and Scanning Electron Microscopes. Working on this extremely challenging project has provided me with valuable knowledge and skills that have paved the direction for my master's degree project.

"Currently, I am working with Dr Anna Zhadan on the diversity of marine annelids, where I learn the ways of taxonomical identification through identification keys, micro-dissections and scientific drawings as well as the proper ways to collect, process and preserve specimens."

Rimskaya-Korsakova specialises in embryology while Zhadan is an expert in taxonomy and biology.

"After each course, I will undergo an evaluation and do a presentation in front of them and other lecturers, where I show the findings and the results of my project or course work. I will be evaluated through these presentations.

"My evaluation will then be sent to the lecturer responsible for internship in UMT, Dr Suvik Assaw. He will then grade me accordingly. Izwandy will also be made aware of my progress here in WSBS as he is sort of the 'connection' between WSBS and UMT," said Imran.

At the end of the internship, Imran expects to have the necessary knowledge and skills to be successful in the project for his master's degree.

"I am also expecting to be an expert in embryology, particularly in marine annelids as the field is fairly new, and there is a lack of experts in Malaysia," he said.

In October, Imran expects to continue his master's project in UMT under Izwandy's supervision, where he will be working on the embryonic development of two species of marine annelids — *Marphysa moribidii* and *Diopatra claparedii*. The former being a species discovered and described by Izwandy himself.

"My experience in Russia has equipped me with more knowledge and skills that I would have imagined. These will be crucial in the execution of my master's project as working for 10 to 14 hours a day for seven days a week here in WSBS has taught me mountains of knowledge," said Imran.

Of doing internship abroad, Imran said Malaysia also has great internship opportunities, but not in the field of embryology.

"That is why I chose to go through all that trouble to study at WSBS. Knowing that I will gain rare knowledge and skills that can be monumental back in Malaysia is worth the trouble."

His advice for other students who were considering going to Russia like him was to learn basic Russian.

"If you're a Muslim, bring tonnes of canned meat. Don't be afraid to ask questions, even though there is a language barrier. Learn to enjoy the culture of another country and most importantly, don't be afraid to fail."

UMT's School of Marine and Environmental Sciences dean Associate Professor Dr Marinah Mohd Ariffin said all 22 UMT students who have enrolled in international industrial training abroad since 2016 were 100 per cent successful.

"The students are monitored or supervised via teleconferencing with UMT's international industrial supervisors. Some resort in frequent emails, phone calls or even personal visits," she said.

## CARAVANSERAI @MASJID UMT

Sarihan Caravanserai di Cappadocia, Turki

**Caravanserai/kervansaray** ialah kemudahan penginapan dan rehat sementara yang disediakan secara percuma kepada para musafir. Caravanserai merupakan ikonik waqaf peninggalan peradaban agung Turki Uthmaniyyah yang dikelola oleh badan pengurusan waqaf pada waktu itu, bertujuan untuk meringankan beban sesama muslim.

Kemudahan yang disediakan di Caravanserai @Masjid UMT

**PERCUMA!**



Ruang rehat dan tidur



Sarapan pagi



Pemeriksaan kenderaan

**Tarikh**

**2 & 3 September 2018**  
(sempena pendaftaran pelajar baharu)

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(*whatsapp/telefon*)



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