



LOOKING BEYOND
THE HORIZON
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Dr Sukiman Sarmani

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PAINFUL TO
IRONY GAINFUL
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THE RUGGED AND
ENRICHING LIFE OF
A MARINE ENGINEER
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Universiti Kuala Lumpur XPRESS

RISE OF THE TITANS

Bells of joy fill the air as UniKL lift 2019 TNB-MHL Premier League crown



UniKL
UNIVERSITI
KUALA LUMPUR

**“ LEARN FROM
YESTERDAY,
LIVE FOR TODAY,
HOPE FOR
TOMORROW.
THE IMPORTANT
THING IS
NOT TO STOP
QUESTIONING. ”**

- Albert Einstein

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A DECADE OLD DREAM REALISED

UniKL End 10-Year Drought
To Emerge Premier League Champions





We are the champions... Universiti Kuala Lumpur celebrate a 10-year wait to lift the 2019 TNB-MHL Premier League title at the Tengku Abdullah Hockey Stadium in Bangi.

THERE was never a dull day when Universiti Kuala Lumpur stepped on the 'Blue Pitch' of the Tengku Abdullah Hockey Stadium during the 2019 Malaysian Premier Division season.

And the greatest moment of all time came on 20 February. At precisely 6.25 pm, UniKL celebrated at full throttle to the tune of Queen's most iconic song in sporting events - We are the Champions.

It was an incredible moment for UniKL. Since making its debut in the National League in 2009 UniKL went from a cannon fodder journey to battlefield heroes within a space of 10 years.

The orange-jersey UniKL team was greeted with a standing ovation by an estimated 1,000 fans following a 2-1 triumph over Maybank in the penultimate fixture of the 2019 League.

Despite having one more match to play, the 31 points earned from 10 out of 11 matches was enough for the side coached by Arul Selvaraj to be crowned champions, leaving Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) in second position (27 points) in the final table standings.

Winning the 2019 League championship was also a 'healing balm' to comfort the agony of a 3-1 defeat against Terengganu Hockey Team in the curtain-raiser Charity Shield encounter on January 11 at the Batu Buruk Hockey Stadium in Kuala Terengganu.

However, there was despair in store for the League champions in the TNB Cup final on March 2. UniKL's hopes of clinching their second major title within a week came crashing following a 2-1 defeat against their old nemesis, Terengganu Hockey Team.

But all that is history now.

Just as Queen's songs such as 'Bohemian Rhapsody' and 'We Will Rock You' were inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame, UniKL carved its journey into the annals of the Malaysian Hockey League.

This is the second time the 'Bells of Joy' reverberated for UniKL, the first being in 2018 when the team defied all odds to claim the TNB Cup (overall championship title) - burrowing through the opposition as it went on its path of destruction with stupendous performances.



And in 2019, fortified by a squad inevitably dominated by World Cup and Olympic Games players with the likes of Dutchmen Martijn Peter Havenga, Valentin Verga and Robert Huib Kemperman, Australians Timothy Deavin and Kieran Ian Govers, and goalkeeper David John Harte from Ireland, past and present Malaysian national team stalwarts that included drag-flick specialist Muhammad Razie Abdul Rahim, national team captain Sukri Mutalib, Marhan Mohd Jalil, and not forgetting the hardworking youngsters, scenes of joy mirrored when UniKL clinched the League Cup.

An outpouring scene of euphoria sprang across the stadium too.

The President and Chief Executive Officer of UniKL, Prof. Dato' Dr Mazliham Mohd Su'ud, a staunch supporter of the university hockey team, together with UniKL Hockey President Dato' Amir Azhar Ibrahim, players and fans basked in this sweetest moment of glory against the backdrop of deafening roar of vuvuzelas and crackling blast of fireworks.

The reaction, however, was not limited to the fans, players and UniKL hockey officials.

The King of Malaysia, His Majesty Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah ibni Shah Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah, also shared UniKL's dream result with a congratulatory message to Prof. Dato' Dr Mazliham. His Majesty is the Chancellor of the University.

As the Royal Patron of the Asian Hockey Federation, His Majesty is known for his devotion of the game worldwide but more importantly has been instrumental in UniKL having its own hockey stadium. The construction of the 800-seating capacity hockey stadium was at the behest of His Majesty. It cost an estimated RM11 million with work commencing in 2015 and completed three years later.

The triumphant effort by the team, by large, is translated as one of the best branding exercises by UniKL, adding more value to its already glowing reputation as the leading private entrepreneurial university in the country.

"It is like putting the last piece of the jigsaw puzzle together to complete this marvellous work in emerging as champions," said an elated Prof. Dato' Dr Mazliham. "Now that we are League champions there is more work to be done to continue the momentum for the next season."

"It is the vision of His Majesty Tuanku Chancellor that UniKL creates programmes that produce thinking athletes and unveil new athletes that can represent the team at the national level," he added.

A sports management programme, said the numero uno of UniKL, will be embedded into the university's more than 130 programmes.

The construction of the hockey stadium located next to UniKL Malaysia France Institute was a dream come true for the university.

"For a long time, UniKL had dreamed of having its hockey field for training and also host local leagues. We have certainly reached a new milestone in our aspiration to be one of the leading hockey team in the country," said Prof. Dato' Dr Mazliham.

"This is the beginning of a new chapter. Our investment in hockey and construction of the stadium has been well worth," he added. "But we must not rest on our laurels and work harder to stay on top. It is always tougher to defend a title than to win it."

The Blue Pitch is currently undergoing renovation and is expected to be ready before December. And until then, let us cherish the sweet memories of 2019!



A portrait of Professor Emeritus Datuk Dr Sukiman Sarmani, a middle-aged man with grey hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue suit, a light blue shirt, and a yellow and blue striped tie. He is standing with his hands clasped in front of him. The background is a light blue gradient with abstract wave-like patterns.

LOOKING BEYOND THE HORIZON

Newly-elected UniKL Chairman and Pro-Chancellor talks about his vision and transformation in his latest venture.

PROFESSOR Emeritus Datuk Dr Sukiman Sarmani is an academician with a proven visionary.

An ideal provost personality, Prof Emeritus Datuk Dr Sukiman is the Chairman and Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) whose ultimate mission, just as his predecessors, is to see the success of this MARA-owned entrepreneurial university which celebrated its 17th Anniversary on 20th August 2019, and students his top priority.

The 69-year-old academician who has logged in more than 40 years in the teaching line as a lecturer, dean and consultant holds a Bachelor of Chemistry (University Kebangsaan Malaysia in 1973) and a PhD in Radiochemistry (University of Reading, United Kingdom, 1976). In 2018, he was conferred Emeritus Professor by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (National University of Malaysia).

His appointment as chairman of UniKL was effective on April 1, 2019, and 10 days later chaired UniKL Council and Board of Directors meeting for the first time. Before his appointment, Prof Emeritus Datuk Dr Sukiman was UKM's Deputy-Vice Chancellor for Academic and International Affairs (2004-2008). He was also chairman of the Atomic Energy Licencing Board under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation Malaysia (2010-2017).

Prof Emeritus Datuk Dr Sukiman beholds an affable and dignified charm that easily puts an interviewer at ease. His Engagement Session with all postgraduate studies Deans and Lecturer from 12 UniKL campuses touched on research and innovation, steps and measures that are taken to increase the number of publications, research papers and amount of grant received by each campus.

"For example, this year we received a total of RM7 million in grants from internal and external sources. It was not much from UniKL itself but we did receive a substantial amount from external sources. The funds are meant for research, consultancy and innovation," he said. "Off course RM7 million is a big amount but we would like to have more because in other universities, especially in foreign countries, they receive in the tune of millions. But we are only talking about RM10 to RM20 million."

UniKL, he says, plans to get more funding from industries and not just rely on the generosity of the Government.

"Publication is the output of our research. It is a measure of our strength and growth. However, the number is still low but then again looking at the trend since 2012 it has increased. I am very happy for UniKL for what this university has achieved. It's not the target but a lot of effort has been put in. This was due to the number of postgraduate students," added Prof Emeritus Datuk Dr Sukiman.

Since 2014, UniKL recorded a high number of postgraduate students who are researching under supervisors from faculties.

His main concern, however, is that there are many thesis papers submitted by students that did not end up as publication.

"This is very sad. I discussed with them (Deans and lecturers) that they must turn these thesis papers into publication. At the moment we are focussing on Scopus journal and we should have our research work materials accepted into the Institute for Scientific Information journal (ISI).

He observed that since 2014, UniKL has produced more than 200 postgraduates. In the 2019 16th Convocation, UniKL awarded Doctorates to 26 students and 51 in Masters.

"For a young university like UniKL (17 years) I consider this as a very good benchmark. UniKL was established in 2002 but it was only in 2012 that we talked seriously about postgraduate studies," he added.

"However, as for the Centre for Research and Innovation (CoRI), I had suggested to the Research

Management team that there should be an effective and quick use of the research grant. The window given for each research is 2 years. It is a very short period.," he said.

The newly-appointed chairman, who visited 12 UniKL campuses since moving into his office, has received feedback. The most glaring subject was on funding.

"There are two aspects here. Firstly, is to obtain more funds and secondly to manage the funds properly. Each researcher will be responsible for funds allocated and provide a financial report.

UniKL, he added, aspires to be one of the top universities in Asia and should go global. That has always been the intention.

"Publication is the output of our research. It is a measure of our strength and growth. However, the number is still low but then again looking at the trend since 2012 it has increased."

- Professor Emeritus Datuk Dr Sukiman Sarmani

"We must prepare our students and staff for international exposure. It is not a problem all along as they have been training and studying overseas.

The chairman also acknowledged that sending students to many foreign countries under the Mobility Exchange Programme incurs high cost especially to Europe. He had instead suggested alternatives.

The University International Office (UIO), he expressed, should look at countries in Central Asia such as Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. These are former Soviet Union bloc nations with a high level of technology.

"It is also much cost-effective for sending our students there. We should also look at countries such as India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

"These are fast emerging nations in IT, especially India. I am proud to say that we have been able to stay true to our commitment and more so, we have been able to prepare and plan for the changes that come our way," he stressed.

Professor Emeritus Datuk Dr Sukiman remains confident of what UniKL have been able to achieve in the past and continues to advance its pursuits.

FOUNDATION PROGRAMMES AN ENTHRALLING EXPERIENCE



THE euphoria of enrolling in foundation studies at Universiti Kuala Lumpur campuses has been an enthralling experience for local and foreign students.

Ohood Ahmed, an Egyptian national, is among 44 students currently pursuing a foundation programme in science and technology at UniKL Malaysia Italy Institute of Design (UniKL MIDI).

The 17-year-old lass, who hails from Cairo, said: "I was in Kuwait when I attended an international education exhibition by foreign universities. I was spoilt for choice and after carefully studying what each university had to offer I finally opted for UniKL."

"The environment here is also unique The Malaysian diverse culture and tradition interest me. I am getting along very well with my foreign and Malaysian friends," she added.

A total of 384 students registered for foundation courses for the first half of the 2019 intake in seven of 12 UniKL institutes nationwide. Foundation programmes are designed to help students understand better the way of life in a university and also prepare them to decide on their choice of a full degree programme.

UniKL Business School (UBIS) recorded 82 students, the highest figure for a new semester. A foundation in business is to prepare students for entry into the first-year Bachelor programme at UBIS majoring in business, international business, Marketing, Islamic finance and accounting.

The UniKL Royal College of Medicine Perak (UniKL RCMP) in Ipoh has an enrolment of 67 students in medical sciences created to prepare them for Bachelor's degree courses in medicine and health sciences whilst UniKL Malaysian Institute of Information Technology (UniKL MIIT), which is housed in the Chancellery, has 55 students pursuing computer technology programme.

UniKL is also an attraction for students intending to further their degree programmes in France, Spain, Russia and South Korea. There are currently a total of 136 students pursuing foundation programmes in MIIT (Pre-Korea - 26), UniKL Malaysia France Institute (Pre-France - 64), UniKL Malaysian Spain Institute (Pre-Spain - 13) and UniKL Malaysian Institute of Aviation Technology (Pre-Russia - 33 students).



Malaysian and foreign student in foundation programme sharing their experience.

Kento Okada, 18, and of Japanese parentage, is among the growing number of students who are attracted to what UniKL offers in comparison to other institutions of higher learning in Malaysia.

Among his newly acquainted friends in UniKL MIDI are Sudanese nationals Shihab Abdelaziz and Mohamed Almoiz, Ohood, Amjad Aishath and Haid Hussain from the Maldives, Indian national Sai Labbe Buddensaheb, Pakistani Atif Samran and Gambian Abubacarr Zaidi Nayan.

Kento, however, shares a different story. Born in Tokyo, he was nine years of age when his mother Tomoko Sakamoto decided to move to Malaysia. The young boy enrolled into government schools before completing his Malaysian Certificate of Education examination (SPM) with distinctions in several subjects including a B+ in the Malay Language paper.

"It has been my ambition to pursue a Bachelor's programme in Aviation Engineering but I have to go through the process of completing my foundation programme first," said an elated Kento. "I know of several seniors, and they have been instrumental in guiding me in deciding the choice of a university. UniKL MIDI, like all other UniKL branch campuses, offer hands-on training," he quipped.



Apart from the nine foreign students and 35 Malaysians enrolled in the foundation programme, MIDI has been a beacon for foreign students in doctorate programmes as well.

UniKL-MIDI is located in Taman Shamelin, Cheras and has also been a hotbed for international students wishing to do a Master's programme (Manufacturing Management) whilst 64 others signed up for bachelor's programme.

The institute offers degree programmes in design, manufacturing, business management and railway system. Currently, it has an enrolment of more than 600 students.

It was formed in 2003 as UniKL design faculty known as Faculty of Product Design and Manufacturing. The faculty offered three engineering technology programmes at that time. In 2007, the faculty was upgraded to become an institute and had its name changed to UniKL IPROM.

However, on February 19, 2018, the Education Ministry's Department of Higher Education approved the rebranding of the institute as UniKL Malaysia Italy Design Institute (UniKL MIDI).



Dr. Azman Senin, Dean of UniKL MIDI.

Italy is recognised for various global brands including Ferrari, Lamborghini, Maserati, Bulgari, Buccellati, Valentino, Versace, Prada, Armani, Dolce & Gabbana, Marni, Iceberg, Missoni, Trussardi and Moschino.

Among the renowned industry and learning institutions in Italy which have formed a collaboration with UniKL include Moda Pelle Academy, Istituto Marangoni, European Institute of Design, Politecnico di Milano and Politecnico di Torino.

The Rural Development Ministry, through Majlis Amanah Rakyat (Mara), allocates a development budget of RM15 million annually for UniKL MIDI's needs.



The Dean of UniKL MIDI, Dr. Azman Senin, said the partnership between UniKL and Italian universities started in 2014, through student exchange mobility programmes with Politecnico di Torino.

"UniKL MIDI creates a platform for Malaysian and international students to learn about the craftsmanship of Italian art and design," he said, adding that famous Italian designers would be invited to impart their knowledge and skills for the benefit of Malaysian students.

"We produce students who excel in different fields of study, including entrepreneurship skills," he said. "We sent six or seven students to Italy for six months under this exchange mobility programme."

UniKL MIDI, he stressed, will introduce furniture and fashion design programmes in collaboration with Italian counterparts.



"We will offer these two new courses in September 2020, in collaboration with two Italian universities," he said. Currently 687 students are pursuing a three-year degree programme at UniKL MIDI this year.

UniKL has taken a different direction from other academic-oriented universities and has represented itself as the "University of Choice" in Malaysia by championing Higher Technical and Vocational Education and Training (HTVET) through excellence in education, entrepreneurship and research, consultancy and community services.

"The number of UniKL international partners continues to grow in Asia, Europe, Latin America and it is our vision that UniKL plays a pivotal role in the development of human capital for Malaysia in design technology and creative industry," he added.

"Our partnership with Italy will benefit our students in terms of Italian technology and fundamental skills in design," said Dr Azman. "Italy is renowned for its creative design and technology, making it suitable for students to be exposed to a wide range of learning experience."



Foundation students at UniKL MIDI.



AN UNFOLDING STORY:

AGONISINGLY PAINFUL TO IRONY GAINFUL

Tokoh Siswa 2018 Recipient
Farah Izzati Ahmed Othman Flying High

SHE hurriedly scrambled down the staircase of Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysia Italy Institute of Design (UniKL MIDI) in Cheras. Farah Izzati Ahmed Othman had just finished lessons two floors above and wasn't going to miss this opportunity of an ad-hoc interview following changes to the schedule earlier.

Her face lit up like a beacon and eyes sparkled like orient pearls as she greeted a crew of two staff from the Corporate Branding & Strategic Communication Division of the Chancellery.

Born and raised in Bukit Mertajam, a small town located up north in Penang, Farah Izzati is no stranger to fellow students and academicians. Even the security guards are well accustomed to her affable personality.

Her popularity grew by the day and it did not take long for Farah Izzati to be the students choice, catapulting her into being elected President of UniKL-MIDI Students Representative Council (April 2017-2018). She was only 21 then and pursuing a Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Hons) in Business Management programme.

In line with UniKL's famous tagline of 'Where Knowledge is Applied and Dreams Realised', Farah Izzati is seen by many as an epitome of Malaysia's premier university in Higher Technical and Vocational Education and Training (HTVET) illustrious future graduate.

But Farah Izzati's story is not all about her popularity and neither is it on her election as leader of MIDI students' council. It is far more than that. Her grittiness, steadfastness and commitment in realising her aspiration of a successful undergraduate pushed her beyond the boundaries.

Backtracking her old years, Farah Izzati's secondary school education began at the Mara Junior Science College (MRSM) as a Form 1 student. After her sojourn in MRSM (for two years) Farah opted for a



Farah Izzati, aspires to be the best UniKL Alumni.

transfer and was placed in SMK Permai Indah before completing her Malaysian Certificate of Education (SPM) examination at SMK Sains Kepala Batas. She passed with flying colours by obtaining 9A.

Her excellent academic progress drew the attention of MARA who offered her a foundation course at Kolej Mara Banting, Selangor prior to furthering her studies at the University of Manchester. She was set for bigger things.

But the joy of studying in England never materialised. Instead, it was a sorrowful episode for this beautiful young woman, who was ready to fire on all cylinders, when her father passed away in 2015 – just several weeks before her departure to England. It turned into an agonising and painful moment... her heart shattered into million pieces.

Time, however, does not heal all wounds but the pain of loss does lessen with time. With solid support from family members, friends and most of all officials from MARA who constantly provided the 'human touch' by offering words of comfort, Farah Izzati not only found the strength but saw the light at the end of the tunnel once again.

MARA, said Farah, gave her the *carte blanche* to choose any of the Government-Linked Universities (GLU) to pursue her tertiary education.

"Despite being spoilt for choice, I opted for UniKL as it offered degree programmes with a hands-on learning experience," she added. "What drives me to move forward is I want to prove to everyone that no matter what the obstacles in life we face we can still excel in both studies and curriculum activities. The environment in UniKL was conducive in helping me achieve my dream and target."

The choice was the best decision ever. The fourth child of a former civil servant gained fame when she was awarded the 'Tokoh Siswa 2018' (Penghargaan Khas Ketua Pengarah Pendidikan Tinggi) for her outstanding achievement in innovation competitions and humanitarian affairs. She was among 227 students shortlisted from public and private universities before qualifying into the top 15 list of recipients for the award.

It was her distinctive performance in the Innovation Olympics competition in Pune, India in 2018 that shed a spotlight on her pristine ability.

"I am always extremely elated when representing UniKL and my country. In the competition, I was nominated as Miss Innovation World among more than 300 participants. Nothing is more satisfying than placing your country and university on the world map," she exclaimed.

Prior to receiving the 'Anugerah Khas' award, Farah, who turned 23 on May 23, received the 'UniKL Icon Award' in 2017 that was organised by the Centre of Student Development (CSD). She was an exemplary student with a CGPA of 3.8 and was actively involved in charity runs, futsal, swimming and fundraising events.

"The Anugerah Khas or Special Award has been a stepping stone for me. It gave me strength and direction. Next year I intend to compete in the 'Umum' or general category. Only all-rounder students are eligible to compete in this category," said Farah, who was also a delegate to the 8th University Scholars Leadership Symposium in Bangkok, Thailand.

"I come from a middle-class family and we are not well to do. I was President of UniKL MIDI (student representative council) in my second semester. It was at a very early stage and I was the youngest

to hold that position. You just have to be creative, hardworking and most of all have the desire and passion in making things happen."

Envisioning what her future holds for her, she aspires to be the Best UniKL Alumni.

"I want to give back to UniKL and MARA for giving me space, opportunity and platform to excel in my studies. That's why I am involved in humanitarian affairs as well," said Farah Izzati. "Not forgetting I am also focusing on my studies although sometimes it's quite difficult to balance between studies and extra-curriculum activities I'm managing it well," she added.

"Basically I dissect everything and look at the whole structure and that's how I design my own life. I'm not a person who gambles in doing something without making the right decision. It will take a longer time to fix a wrong decision right," she said.

Farah Izzati, however, takes great pride not only in her academic progress and social activities but more so as the 'Ambassador of UniKL and Malaysia' on the international stage in innovation events.

She appreciates the enormous supports from people around her very well through her outstanding personality.



Farah Izzati Ahmed Othman receiving the 'Anugerah Khas' award.



SOARING IN ITEX 2019

UNIVERSITI Kuala Lumpur scored big in the Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition (ITEX) 2019 by claiming 11 gold medals, four silver and one bronze.

A total 16 projects were submitted by UniKL in the exhibition held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in May. UniKL Malaysian Institute of Aviation (MIAT) won three gold medals whilst UniKL Malaysia Italy Design Institute (MIDI) and Malaysian Institute of Marine Engineering Technology (MIMET) grabbed two gold medals each. The single gold medal winners are UniKL Malaysia France Institute (MFI), UniKL Royal College of Medicine Perak (RCMP), UniKL Malaysian Institute of Chemical and Bioengineering Technology (MICET) and UniKL British Malaysian Institute.

This is the second time UniKL soared in an ITEX exhibition with a 68.75 percent success rate. In 2017 and 2018 ITEX exhibitions, UniKL posted a 100 percent success rate by claiming medals in every of the 16 products exhibited. With the advent of Industrial Revolution 4.0, the incorporation of digital technology in manufacturing and industrial practices has become a necessity. Hence, the 30th International Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition (ITEX) was organised in line with the shift towards a digital age.

Themed "Inventing for Digital Era", the Malaysian Invention and Design Society (MINDS) and C.I.S Network Sdn Bhd (CIS) co-organised the exhibition to create the perfect platform to premiere the latest inventions and set innovative ideas in motion.

The exhibition showcased more than 1,000 inventions from more than 20 countries. Twenty-nine Malaysian universities and 14 research institutions took part in the event.





VIRTUAL REALITY AIRCRAFT FLIGHT RESEARCH

This research focuses on how a group of lecturers, specialists, and final-year undergraduates from UniKL Malaysian Institute of Aviation Technology developed a virtual-reality app from scratch.

By utilizing a combination of software (Autodesk Maya and Unity 3D) and hardware (custom-made VR goggle and an Android-based smartphone), an app was designed to be used as teaching / learning aid for the Theory of Flight & Control course for aircraft maintenance undergraduates in Malaysian Institute of Aviation Technology.

A concept of pre-test-post-test analysis was carried out with the custom app being the treatment for the 46 students involved after they have taken their pre-test. The results attained from their post-test were then compared to pre-test results.

The comparative analysis indicated that the undergraduates were not only satisfied with the advantages of the app (saves learning aid costs, reduce learning time while increasing effectiveness of learning acquisition, provide extra, digital, demonstrative knowledge), but they also highly recommended for digital apps like this to be developed for other courses as well.

This is in line with the IR4.0 demands not only throughout Malaysia, but also worldwide. The research team had participated in three innovation competitions to exhibit this innovation for the purpose of gathering public and professional opinion.

Project Leader: Mohammad Anuar Yusof

Project Members: Dr Abdul Malek Ya'acob, Mohd Azman Mohd Zaki, Ismail A Bakar, Muhd Khudri Johari, Hanif Faiq Mohd Hashim, Zuriana Abdul Rahman, Ina Fazana Padil and Nurul Husna Zainol Abidin.



EARLY DROWSINESS DETECTION SYSTEM (EDDS)

Fatigue and drowsiness among drivers has been identified as one of the main reasons behind fatal crashes and injuries, especially driving along long and monotonous highways. Studies show that time-on-task effect has significantly deteriorated drivers' alertness.

UniKL MIAT developed an effective detection system called 'Early Drowsiness Detection System (EDDS)' that is capable of measuring and predicting the alertness level of a vehicle driver.

The system operates based on inputs received from Heart Rate Variability (HRV) and Eyes Aspect Ratio (EAR) of the driver. By integrating both biodynamic responses the device can determine the alertness level. If the alertness level is too low the system will trigger a command to the ignition mechanism of the vehicle and the driver will be unable to start the engine.

The EDDS system is also a reliable mode to measure the alertness level while driving through inputs from the lane departure and EAR.

Project Leader: Dr Mohd Amzar Azizan

Project Members: Dr Abdul Malek Ya'acob, Mohammad Rizal Ramly, Muhammad Ammar Norman, Mohammad Syafiq Syahmi Suhaimi, Muhammad Hamizan Kamaruddin, Hafizul Fikri Azhar.

ENERGY BOX

The Energy Box is a new technology/innovation aid for the community which has advantages as non-polluting the environment (green technology), environmentally friendly, innovation approach display, readily available sources and new market segment created (renewable energy gadget).

Project Leader: Dr Abdul Malek Ya'acob

Project Members: Muhammad Syafiq Omar, Mohamad Akmal Rusli, Muhammad Farhan Amzar Zulkarnain, Rozakry Rodzaidi, Dr Hazariah Mohd Noh and Ir Dr Mohammad Effendy Ya'acob.

YOUR FRIENDLY SALAT STOOL BUDDY

DR. Norhisham Seyajah from UniKL Malaysia Italy Design Institute (UniKL MIDI) won gold medals in two different projects namely Stool and Ergonomic Mobile Seat Design for Pregnant Women, respectively in the Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition (ITEX) 2019.

Salat or solat (prayer) is the obligatory Muslim prayer, performed five times each day. And for those unable to perform daily prayers due to sickness or injuries they are permitted to pray by sitting on a stool, chair or even by lying down on the floor. However, existing stools or chairs in the market are suitable for prayer in congregation.

For those recuperating from injuries, illnesses, physical deforms or the aged it is quite obvious that their movements are limited to a certain extent. The use of a well-designed stool instead of sitting on the floor is recommendable.

Salat 'Stool Buddy' is designed based on the needs of the user as an aid when performing prayers especially sitting between two prostrations (sujud). It is developed using a concept of folding and adjustable, and is user-friendly to consumers (both men and women) than conventional stools.

Following consultations with orthopaedic surgeons and physical therapists, 'Stool Salat Buddy' was designed and developed with the objective of minimising pressure on the lower back, knees and ankles of the user, thus easing any form of pain that the user may encounter during prostration.

Through research and experimentations, it is safe to say that Stool 'Salat Buddy' provides comfort and helps reduce tension in joints, ligaments and knees. This interesting design comes in different features such as colour, shape and functions. The other characters are ergonomic factor comfort features (sponge padded on top of the seat) while sitting and easy to carry and easy to operate.



Dr. Norhisham Seyajah with the Ergonomic Mobile Seat Design for Pregnant Women

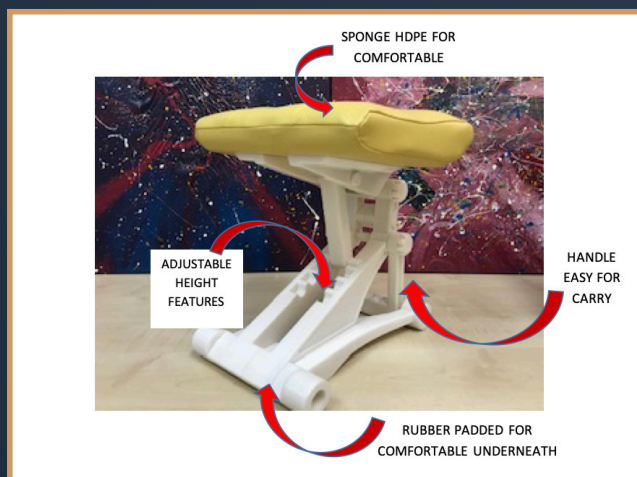


Image of Stool 'Salat buddy'

The anthropometric factor is emphasised on easy to adjust designs by height and user adaptability. Its folding concept makes it easy to use and storage purposes.

An important feature of Stool 'Salat buddy', according to Dr Norhisham Seyajah, is that it can support up to 250 pounds (113kg).

"We did not manage to secure investments, but we formed some linkages to collaborate with the pharmaceutical industry to develop this product," - Assoc Professor Dr Mahendran

Meanwhile, Associate Professor Dr Mahendran Sekar from UniKL Royal College of Medicine Perak bagged the gold award for his brainchild project called Nano Embelin, which facilitates cancer drug delivery.

His team members comprised fellow lecturer Ahmad Zawawi Musa and students Nurul Azima Mazlan, Puteri Zarith Sofea Yusri and Nurin Fatini Ghazali.

"We did not manage to secure investments, but we formed some linkages to collaborate with the pharmaceutical industry to develop this product," said Assoc Prof Mahendran.

Through ITEX his team had received many inquiries about their invention from researchers and the public alike.

THE RUGGED AND ENRICHING LIFE OF A MARINE ENGINEER

MIMET Graduate Wan Ahmad Safwan Taking It In His Stride

MARINE Engineering runs deeply in the family DNA of Wan Ahmad Safwan.

The former Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Institute of Marine Engineering (UniKL MIMET) graduate attributes his passion for ships, engines and the big blue sea to his father, a marine engineer himself, who works at the Pasir Gudang shipyard in Johor.

Following in their trail is another family member – Wan Farhan, an undergraduate at UniKL MIMET, located in the coastal district of Lumut in the state of Perak. The transformation of this sleepy little fishing village that it was three decades ago is attributed to the Royal Malaysian Navy setting its base here.


And much of this obsession by Wan Ahmad Safwan and his sibling also stems from the fact that the family home town of Seri Manjung is located approximately 7km from Lumut. The curiosity of watching ships passing daily was an awe-inspiring experience.

But what makes Wan Safwan's achievement special is that he is the first from UniKL MIMET to graduate as a Chief Engineer from the Malaysian Marine Academy (Akademi Laut Malaysia) in Malacca after completing his diploma programme.

"After graduating with a diploma from MIMET back in 2010, I worked between 3-4 years as a Class 3 Marine Engineer. In 2014 I decide to take a break from sailing to further my studies. At the end of 2014, I completed courses. I passed as a Class 2 Marine Engineer and in December 2018, I passed the Chief Engineer exam and with that I completed all of the exams that a marine engineer required," added the 30-year-old Wan Safwan, who has a two-year-old child.



Wan Ahmad Safwan



"When I am assigned on a ship, life can be tough physically and mentally as I will be away from my family for six months. It gets lonely. At times it can be frustrating working on keeping engines and other important machineries in working condition. But these are just some of the sacrifices marine engineers have to endure" added.

Patience, he says, is a virtue.

"The monetary remuneration of being a marine engineer is equally rewarding in the long run. It depends on our position on board. Students who wish to study in this field must be committed, and above all, be prepared to go through a regimented life of discipline," he stressed.

UniKL Malaysian Institute of Marine Engineering, added Wan Safwan, has a strong and powerful credential in the industry.

"Based on my experience, and that of my classmates, it wasn't difficult getting placements for an internship if we are from MIMET. We were the early batch to graduate in 2010. Our lecturers were very supportive and understanding and gave us space and time to understand what marine engineering is all about,"

"The hands-on training modules in UniKL MIMET is an advantage for all students. It builds our confidence level. Being the early batch of students we had to rely on lecturers for guidance. There were no seniors then. Today, MIMET students should have no problem as they can always seek our views and help on any subject matter," added Wan Safwan with a wry smile.

Wan Safwan is currently working as a Technical Superintendent for a shipping company based in Kuala Lumpur.

UniKL MIMET was established in 2004 in collaboration with Majlis Amanah Rakyat (Mara) and the Australian Government, represented by International Training Australia (ITA). It offers industry-specific programmes aimed at producing highly competent personnel for the marine and maritime industry.

Academic courses include ship design, ship construction and boat building that integrates theoretical teaching with practical application.

DISCOVER YOUR BEAUTY THROUGH NORCY

NORSIAH Ahiddin comes from a poor farming family. Growing up in Matunggong, a little town sandwiched between Kota Marudu and Kudat in the northern region of Sabah, has never been easy.

Friends and family members affectionately call her Norcy. She was a modest and rather shy girl during her school days at SMK Pinawantai. And as the years went by Norcy, the fifth of eight children of Ahiddin, thrived and grew into a strong confident young woman.

The 30-year-old carved a niche by exploring and venturing into the cosmetic world as a beauty entrepreneur. She founded Norcy Beauty Sdn Bhd, a prebiotic skincare brand company, in 2017.

Norcy Beauty products have gone on to expand rapidly in Sabah, Sarawak, Brunei and even made its presence in South Korea through promotional events. Today, Norcy has 129 agents throughout Malaysia and an estimated 90 co-founders who have been knocking on her door.

She has come long way since graduating with a bachelor's degree in clinical laboratory science from Universiti Kuala Lumpur Institute of Medical Science Technology (UniKL MESTECH) in 2017. It changed the course of her life.

"Upon graduation I worked in many laboratories. However, one morning I woke up and asked myself what am I doing? With all the experience I gained while studying in UniKL MESTECH I should start my own business and chart my own course rather than working for people," she said candidly. "So I decided to quit my job and go into the cosmetics business," said Norcy, who travels frequently between Kota Kinabalu to Kuala Lumpur to meet clients.



Norsiah Ahiddin, founder of Norcy Beauty Sdn Bhd.

"When I told my parents I wanted to setup my own beauty products they were sceptical. It was a 'Big No'. We are not a business-oriented family and that was why my parents and sibling did not give their blessings. They were worried for me. But today everyone is proud of what I have achieved," added Norcy with a laughter.

Norcy's success story, however, is not without its sad scripts.

While perseverance and a strong desire to realise her dream pushed her to the limits, quite often she had to endure the ignominy of being ridiculed in the initial days of business, even to the extent of being a victim to a con-artist of her savings. It left her heart-broken, teary-eyed and disillusioned.

"I started with an initial capital of RM200 that was used to buying herbs and other ingredients needed to make my own cosmetic products. I operated from my family home in Matunggong. Initially producing soaps and scrubs before gradually moving into other products. I would google on how to prepare these things."

The hardest part, said the recipient of 'Anugerah Siswi UniKL Malaysian Institute of Chemical Engineering' (MICET) award, was getting financial support from finance institutions.

"I had saved up to RM7,000 and lost everything when I became a victim to a scammer who said he could arrange for a bank loan. I was gullible then, trusted him and parted all my money. That was the last I ever saw of him!". Even banks had turned away as I had no collaterals. I was just someone with big dreams walking into a bank with high expectation!" she lamented.

Norcy, however, readily admits that there's always a silver lining in the cloud no matter how bad things can go at times.

The first break came when she approached SME Corporation Malaysia, a central coordinating agency under the Ministry of Entrepreneur Development Malaysia.

"Tunas Usahawan Belia Malaysia (TUBE), through SME, gave me an initial grant of RM15k. It was my first pitching. I told them I needed to open my own laboratory for research and development but they asked for certificates and a business plan. I had the business plan but the RM15k was not enough to open a laboratory."

Fortunately for Norcy, Lady Luck came knocking on her door, not once but twice. The turning point was when she received a grant of RM5,000 under the Youth Entrepreneur Scheme Sabah (YESS) in 2018 from the Sabah Youth and Sports Ministry.

Through a joint collaboration with Universiti Putra Malaysia-MTDC Technology Centre (R&D), Norcy's prebiotic skincare products were not only innovated but showcased impressive description and images that won her a RM100,000 IKS-SDC grant from the Sabah Economy Development and Investment Authority (SEDIA-TERAJU) in the same year.



Prebiotic skincare product.

"I went back to my home town and approached the Assistant District Officer, Bianus Kontong, that I would like to set up a cosmetic laboratory in this town. I want to give back to society, help create jobs for the unemployed including graduates. I showed the District Office officers of my business plan and the RM100k grant I received but the money cannot be released unless I have a premise to start a laboratory."

"The District Officer was convinced with my business plans and after discussions with other government agencies I received the nod to setup a laboratory in a nearby building. Within a month all renovation work was completed by the district office and I bought machineries, hired experience chemists, administration, marketing and production staff. It was in March this year that operations went full swing," she said, adding that part time workers were hired when demand is high.

"Our service in the laboratory strictly follows guidelines and regulations set by the Ministry of Health. Norcy BeautyLab is the first of its kind in Borneo (Sabah, Sarawak and Brunei). Our aim now is to setup an academy to teach founders how to maximise and market their business. They only have ground knowledge. We need to show that we have the credibility to help them in their business. It's a win-win situation," she said.

Her vision and mission, she added, is to create more job opportunities in her company and create an impact in the community and beauty industry. Norcy is currently publishing a book entitled 'Natural Cosmetic Making' that will be launched in October, 2019.

IDENTIFYING TIMBER SPECIES THROUGH DRONES

Ahmad Zhafri Hariz's PhD Research Work Will Contribute Immensely Towards Malaysia's Forest Management In The Long Term

DEVELOPMENT of IT technologies that will lead to conservation of the forests and attainment of its sustainable management are of particular interest to Ahmad Zhafri Hariz. He hopes this journey will be of immense benefit to Malaysia and other countries at global level.

Conservation of forest areas is of utmost importance for sustainable production of forest products and its services, which are important elements for this research and the development of IT new technologies. Good management practices will contribute significantly to sustainable development of the countries particularly on forest related industries such as furniture and other timber and non-timber products. Unsustainable logging of forest resources due, to lack of support from more advanced IT technologies, will hamper the efforts for these sustainable initiatives.

The 27-year-old Ahmad Zhafri is currently pursuing a doctorate degree programme in computer science at Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Institute of Information Technology (UniKL MIIT). His main focus areas are to study the development of new techniques in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and computer vision, to detect and identify species of timber using aerial imagery from an Unmanned Airborne Vehicle (UAV).

"The success of this study will greatly contribute to many initiatives for the last four decades on using aerial imagery, particularly remote sensing, in identifying timber species to support forest inventories, decision makings in forest logging operations as well as monitoring its progress of growth", he added.

Upon obtaining his Masters in Information Technology from Semyung University in South Korea in February this year the fourth child of Prof Dr. Roslan Ismail and Assoc. Prof Dr. Hejar Abdul Rahman (retired medical specialist in public health and former Universiti Putra Malaysia lecturer) was cajoled into furthering his studies in a PhD programme.

"My dad has been my inspiration all along and has countless times told me to always enjoy the process or journey which is something that I will always hold on to this day," said Ahmad Zhafri.



Ahmad Zhafri Hariz's

"He threw a challenge to all my siblings that we should receive a PhD degree before turning 30. He himself obtained his doctorate within three-and-half years without having a Master degree."

"People have their own ways of overcoming obstacles. As for me I take it as a great challenge in fulfilling my mission in the next 3-5 years of studying just as a long hiking trip," adding that every step is always closer to the peak no matter how small the steps are.

"My experience studying in South Korea has thought me a great deal of patience and perseverance throughout the 2 years of living abroad. What I want to get out of this journey is that my work and research will contribute to something even greater," he stressed.

He is not alone in the chase for a doctorate scroll. Following the trail of dad and Ahmad Zhafri is another brother – Ahmad Syazwan. He is also pursuing his PhD in the area of management at Semyung University and is expected to complete his PhD at the end of 2019.

While developing new IT techniques for forest management is his top priority, the bespectacled youngster has a deep adventure in mountain hiking. He has so far hiked Mount Tahan in Pahang, Mount Korbu, Mount Gayong, Mount Yong Yap and Mount Yong Belar – all in the state of Perak.

Mount Everest, the world's highest peak at 8,848 metres above sea level, located in the Mahalangur Himal sub-range of the Himalayas, will be his next destination. The challenges will be far greater than managing forest!

ESCAPE FROM ALEPPO

Syrian Finds Solace And Inspiration In Universiti Kuala Lumpur Following Outbreak Of War



RANA Altounjy (Pic) lived a peaceful life in Aleppo, a city in Syria serving as the industrial capital of the country, with her aged parents and an older sister.

Clutching a Master's degree scroll in accounting in one hand and a high level of confidence in the other, Rana had it all figured out after graduating from the University of Aleppo to venture into the job market with the hope of engaging in the teaching profession or the banking industry.

But her aspirations and dreams were rocked in late 2012, awakened in the silence of the night by sounds of gunshots, mortars and rumblings of tankers hammering its way into nearby residential buildings. It was the beginning of a dark chapter in the lives of citizens of Aleppo when anti-government forces besieged and bombarded the city.

The poundings went on for years as the world watched in horror the atrocities committed. Thousands, including women and children, lost their lives in the ensuing mayhem.

"Life was crazy as we will never know what is in store when the sun rises the next day," said 32-year-old Rana. "In the initial stage, I was involved as a volunteer in refugee camps surrounding the city for about a year. Then I decided that it would be better for me to further my studies in a PhD programme in a foreign country than watch the continuous destructions, horror and sufferings around me," she added.

Her parents were supportive of her decision but then came the hardest part – streamlining countries of choice for her destination.

"Only Malaysia, Maldives and Iran offered Syrians a gateway at that time with no requirement of visa upon entry. After a careful thought my parents and I decided that Malaysia was the better choice due to its political stability, multi-racial friendly society and being an Islamic nation added up the equation as a favourable destination," said Rana, who arrived in Kuala Lumpur in 2016.

But her dilemma did not end on arrival in Kuala Lumpur. Picking the right choice of a university was neither an easy task but it did not take her long to find one. After several 'fact-finding missions' around the city, Rana made her final stop at Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL), a leading private entrepreneurial university in the country.

"I was attracted with everything that UniKL could offer and I decided to enrol for a doctorate programme in management, majoring in Islamic banking and finance," said Rana, who will receive her doctorate degree in the 16th Convocation on October 12-14 at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre.

"I'm really happy that I made the right decision. When I first arrived, I was a little worried as this is the first time I travelled to this part of Asia. But studying at UniKL made me grow in confidence. The staff, lecturers and fellow students are friendly and accommodative."

"I find the lecturers very helpful, even going out of their way to ensure I understood areas of my research work. It took me 3 years to complete my course," she said.

Rana is currently working on her upcoming book titled 'Research Easy Lemon Squeezy' which she hopes to complete by 2020.

HIGHER DEMAND FOR JOBS IN RAILWAY INDUSTRY EXPECTED

THE demand for job opportunities in the railway industry is expected to increase to 40 per cent or an estimated 28,000 workforces in the next 10 years. This was revealed in the Second International Railway Forum 2019 that focused on career opportunities in the railway sector held at Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysia Italy Design Institute (UniKL MIDI) in Cheras.



The forum was graced by the Deputy Secretary-General of the Ministry of Transport, Dato' M. Jana Santhiran. Also present were UniKL President and Chief Executive Officer Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazliham Mohd Su'ud, the Dean of UniKL MIDI Ir Dr Azman Senin, UniKL top management, officials from MARA and industry players at the Asia Rail Centre. The panel of speakers were Professor Tao Huang from South West Jiaotong University, En Hasry Harun, the Director of Technology Depository Agency (TDA), En Haniff Ghazali, the Honorary Secretary of Malaysian Rail Industry Consortium (MARIC) and Puan Natasha Zulkifli, Stakeholder Director, YTL Sdn Bhd and Founder of Women in Rail (WIR).

The forum was organised by students of UniKL MIDI in collaboration with Asia Rail Young Talent.

Speaking at the forum, Dr Azman said the prediction on future workforce in the industry is due to the rapid growth in railway projects based on reports by Malaysia Rail Supporting Industry Route Map 2030 (MySIR) and National Land Public Transport Master Plan.

"As an education provider, we are motivated with the growth in this industry and see this as a new challenge and responsibility to produce highly skilled and knowledgeable students for the industry. Therefore, UniKL is committed to be a Development Centre for Rail Specialist in order to fulfil the railway industry demand," he said.

As one of the initiatives, UniKL has launched its new programme – Bachelor of Engineering Technology in Rail System (BETRS) and by July 2020 Diploma Engineering Technology in Rail System (DETRS) will be introduced. The Bachelor and Diploma programmes are strategically launched with the execution of key railway projects in Malaysia. These projects are MRT2, LRT3, Double Tracking Gemas – JB project and Klang Valley Rehabilitation project.

"The 'uniqueness' of UniKL is the fact that our programmes are equipped with knowledge and technology transfer from countries around the world. This has enabled UniKL to provide our graduates with knowledge, skills and career opportunities on land, sea, sky and Rail," said Dr Azman.

"I believe that upon your arrival at the campus, UniKL Asia Rail Centre, you would have noticed the Ampang LRV train with the actual MRT track, UC60 supporting the train installed in UniKL. This was made possible as UniKL is one of the beneficiary under the Industrial Collaboration Programme (ICP), managed by Technology Depository Agency (TDA)."



"The facilities are imitating the actual depot from Ampang Line Depot. We cannot do this alone but with the support of UniKL management and external agencies, we have managed to build the industry scale depot within the campus," he added.

This industry scale depot is being used for UniKL's MIDI teaching and learning activities. UniKL greatly emphasises hands-on element in all academic curriculum, with degree programmes comprises 40% of hands-on element. With this, students are trained with actual system being used by rail industry.

Due to rapid growth and workforce demand in the railway industry, UniKL has taken a step further to form a dedicated center to develop skilful workforce to the rail industry. The center is UniKL Asia Rail Centre that was established on 23 March 2016.



To date, UniKL has collaborated with key industry players such as TDA, Prasarana, RAC, Rapid Rail, KTM Berhad, Express Rail Link (ERL), MARIC, HARTASUMA, KTK DOM, RSC and other railway vendors together with UniKL. UniKL organised its first International Railway Forum in 2017 and issues that were discussed centres on creating awareness on career opportunities and entrepreneur development in order to support railway industry and sharing know how process in the railway system.

Recently, the Malaysian Government has announced the resumption of East Coast Railway Link (ECRL) with its budgeted project value at RM44 billion. ECRL project requires significant numbers of workforce for Construction, Systems Works, Operation and Maintenance. UniKL welcomes interested companies to collaborate for ECRL project with UniKL for workforce development.

"UniKL International Railway Forum 2019 also marks another milestone for railway industry. The presence of Professor Tao Huang from South West Jiaotong University shows our commitment to explore the next level in railway research," said Dr Azman.

Currently, under the ICP programme, six of UniKL lecturers have had the opportunity to undergo postgraduate studies at Southwest Jiaotong University. Their research areas include Detection Signal Monitoring in Railway Track, Detection and Diagnosis Technique for Polyamide Composite Insulator for Third Rail System, and The Effect on Whole Body Vibration and Ride Comfort for Metro Rail.



"UniKL would also like to express our highest gratitude to the Ministry of Transport, MARA, railway companies and all guests for their support. We are honoured to be associated with renowned rail players in Malaysia and ASEAN region," he echoed.

UniKL Asia Rail has been the preferred choice of Malaysia railway companies for its human capital development.

"Today, we have a certificate giving ceremony for Professional Certificate for Rolling Stock and Graduate Employability Training Scheme with four Malaysian companies. With the above track records, UniKL Asia Rail welcomes further partnerships with railway companies to cater the workforce training specialised areas," he added.

COMBATING EMERGING AND RE-EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES



Universiti Kuala Lumpur President/CEO Prof. Dato' Dr Mazliham Mohd Su'ud (fourth from left) with speakers at the 4th International Conference on Tropical Medicine and Infectious Diseases.

THE 4th International Conference on Tropical Medicine and Infectious Diseases with the theme "Combating Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases through Exploring New Frontiers in Research" was held at Premiera Hotel Kuala Lumpur.

This conference provided a great platform for Malaysia and international medical experts to exchange ideas and opinions apart from sharing their research findings on tropical medicine.

The event was attended by speakers and participants from 17 countries namely Malaysia, Cuba, Vietnam, Indonesia, China, United States of America, England, Hong Kong, New Zealand, India, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Iraq, Tanzania and Myanmar. Twenty speakers shared their valuable insights on emerging disease and re-emerging diseases in their respective countries and focused on their management.

Also present were UniKL President/CEO Prof. Dato' Dr. Mazliham Mohd Su'ud, Prof. Dr. Shahrulniza Musa, Deputy President (Academic & Technology); En. Hisshamuddin Omar, Chief Executive Officer and Head of Campus UniKL RCMP; Dr Syed Rahim Syed Hamid, Dean Faculty of Medicine and Dr Ahmad Fuad Shamsuddin, Dean Faculty of Medicine and Health Science.

Her Excellency Ibete Fernandez Hernandez, the Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba, in her keynote address congratulated Universiti Kuala Lumpur Royal College of Medicine Perak (UniKL RCMP) for organizing this biennial conference.

She said: "We need these types of conferences. It helps us reduce deaths, disabilities and economic destruction. I urge all the scientists and medical experts to work closely to combat diseases.

" I believe everyone needs to play significant roles and be game changers in battling these diseases as our life takes us on a continuous journey while unravelling our potential in helping to bring a brighter future," she added.

Hernandez hopes that this conference will further inspire all to reach greater heights in the future. For its part, Cuba aspires to be a reliable partner to Malaysia in achieving its 2020 smart vision for biotechnology, scientific and technological civilization of the future.

She said that during the last outbreak of Ebola, scientific collaboration among the many countries was important to fight the disease in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea. Cuba assisted in this fight against Ebola by sending a brigade of 256 doctors.

Associate Professor Dr. Davinder Singh, the chairman of the organizing committee, said the conference papers and discussions covered a few sub-themes ranging from topics such as tuberculosis, one health, nosocomial infections, vaccines to antibiotic resistance.

Associate Professor Dr Syed Rahim Syed Hamid, the Dean Faculty of Medicine, in his speech echoed that the conference aims not only to showcase the presence of distinguished personnel in this field and their discourses, but also to facilitate exchange of research findings and ideas of those actively involved in research.

He added that infectious diseases are a global problem and a variety of pathogens have been threatening across borders. The world has become a global village and globalization has made it possible for people to meet unfamiliar pathogens or promote dissemination from one part of the world to the other.

The conference was organized by UniKL RCMP in collaboration with Pedro Kouri Institute of Tropical Medicine Cuba and Pasteur Institute of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.



RAISING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

UNIVERSITI Kuala Lumpur Institute of Medical Science Technology (UniKL MESTECH) and 3M Seremban (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd jointly organised a “Beach Clean Up” in Pantai Cermin, Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan, on April 13.

This Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) event was the brainchild of 3M Seremban Senior Engineer for Safety, Health and Environment Khadijah Elias. The initiative acted as a platform to raise awareness within the surrounding community on the importance of preserving the environment.



The event was also supported by Majlis Perbandaran Port Dickson and SWCorp (Port Dickson branch).

An estimated 90 volunteers (students and staff of UniKL MESTECH together with members of 3M Seremban, were involved in the cleaning up. They worked closely along the 1.5km-long beach to collect rubbish and waste littered by irresponsible individuals.

Plastic waste, polystyrene and cigarettes butts were among the most common types of rubbish collected. All of the waste was collected and moved to the rubbish dumping area by SWCorp Port Dickson once the activity ended.

In addition, UniKL MESTECH students had also set up an educational booth focusing on beach pollution during the event. It emphasised aspects of beach pollution, especially the impact of plastic on aquatic lives.

Brochures and flyers on marine pollution from the Department of Environment Kuala Lumpur were also distributed to all volunteers and participants.

According to UniKL MESTECH Head of Environmental Health division, Mohamed Zul Fadhli Khairuddin, UniKL's environmental health programme is unique and fun because the institution prioritises similar activities like this as added value to teaching and learning on campus.



“Students experienced a fun-learning process by practising theories and improving their communication and interaction skills with the community,” he said.

The Dean of UniKL MESTECH, Dr Reezal Ishak expressed hope that more positive collaborations would be conducted with 3M Seremban in the future.

He praised the effort shown by SWCorp Port Dickson, which has always supported this kind of activity and is committed to the cleanliness of beaches around Port Dickson.

The event ended with a speech by 3M Seremban manager Joshua Sang, who pointed out that God had created the Earth and the sky for human beings, so it is the responsibility of human beings to preserve it.

UNIKL IS TIMOR LESTE'S CHOICE OF PARTNER

The partnership with Institute of Business (IOB) Timor Leste marks a new chapter in the history of Universiti Kuala Lumpur as this is the first of its kind collaboration between UniKL and Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

Speaking at the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that was held at the Chancellery, UniKL President and Chief Executive Officer Prof Dato' Dr. Mazliham Mohd Su'ud said while UniKL is the biggest private university leading HTVET in Malaysia, he is pleased to note that the Institute of Business (IOB) is also the largest private higher education institution in Timor Leste.



The IOB is the only institute of higher education that gathers all its resources in the areas of economy and business as well as technology of information and communication (ICT).

The MOA ceremony was witnessed by the Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste, Her Excellency Maria Olandina Isabel Caeiro Alves, Prof. Dr. Pedro Miguel Ximenes, who is President Board of Trustee, Institute of Business (IOB) and senior officials from the Embassy while UniKL was represented by Prof Dato' Dr Mazliham and senior university officials.

"As a leading technical university that champions Higher Technical Vocational Education and Training (HTVET) in Malaysia, UniKL aims to produce global enterprising professionals by providing a world class higher technical education embedded with an enriching university experience," he said.

Since its establishment in 2002, UniKL has experienced a rapid expansion to be the 'University of Choice' in Malaysia, spearheading the generation of knowledge in HTVET.

"UniKL is a unique university for several reasons; most notably because our campus is located across the country, and not just in Kuala Lumpur. With a current enrollment of 21,000 students, we take pride in championing entrepreneurial HTVET through excellence in research, education, training, entrepreneurship, and consultancy and community," added Prof Dato' Dr. Mazliham.

The agreement between UniKL and the Intitute of Business Timor Leste focuses on several key areas namely:

- Enable the upskilling of academic and teaching qualifications of IOB staff as appropriate to Masters and PhD.
- Exchange of academicians for the purposes of value-added study, training and research.
- Provide a platform for joint research and joint supervision; and explore other potential collaboration activities that benefit both universities especially in Oil & Gas, Data Analytics, Entrepreneurship and many more.

"This partnership is indeed an honour to UniKL and I trust this MOA will open more doors to many future opportunities. Through our collaborative efforts and continuous commitment, I am confident that we will be able to achieve bigger goals and deliver bigger outcomes than what was initially outlined in the MOA," he said.

"We shall work closely with IOB to embark on more beneficial projects that will contribute to the growth of both universities and countries. May this relationship between UniKL and IOB remain long, strong and fruitful," Prof Dato' Dr Mazliham said in his closing address.

TEARS FLOW AS HELIZA UNVEILS THE REAL STORY



"As Heliza narrated her experience, it touched our hearts deeply. We can only feel the pain from far away. We introduced this session as a way of connecting students with personalities who contributed their services towards humanitarian affairs."

- Zurafizza Adilla

Heliza Helmi
Humanitarian Activist

It was an emotional moment for 43 students of Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Institute of Information and Technology (UniKL MIIT) when former celebrity-turned humanitarian aid worker Heliza Helmi spoke of her nightmarish adventure in the Middle East.

A spokesperson for Aman Palestine, a non-government organisation, Heliza was the guest speaker at an event entitled Millennium Talk: 'One Way Ticket'. It was organised by MIIT interpersonal skills course students.

Known for her humanitarian work in West Africa and Eastern Europe as well, Heliza is best remembered by Malaysians as an attractive, wide-eyed finalist of Akademi Fantasia 5 and constantly renders spiritual pop music songs.

Her parents, says Haliza, have always been her guiding force and pillar of strength.

"They have always encouraged me to do what I loved, within the boundaries of a muslim woman, and what makes me happiest is spending quality time with them and doing a good job," she quipped.

Heliza visited Palestine in 2012, and was involved in humanitarian work in Russia, Jordan and Bosnia-Herzegovina at the height of its internal turmoil.

Together with Akademi Fantasia 4 graduate and singer-actress Salima Habibi, the duo lighted up the hearts of hundreds of children and the destitute in hospitals and orphanage homes who were victims of atrocities.

She went on to share some of her most unforgettable experience especially when she met a group of children kicking around a ball that was only partially inflated.

"What was very touching is that I saw a child reciting verses from the Quran while kicking the ball around. Now that is not a normal thing to do but in a war-torn nation like Palestine, the kids were just preparing for anything that may occur at any moment," she added.



"Moments later we received an emergency call instructing us to flee immediately from the area we had visited. The information that was relayed to us was that a missile was launched by the enemy of the state and it was heading in our direction."

"It was a chaotic moment as everyone ran for dear life. The next moment we realised we were actually seeking shelter in a grave. All of us just prayed for nothing bad befalls us," said Heliza.

There was pin-drop silence in the Bestari Hall of the Chancellery as Heliza narrated her experience, showcasing the sufferings of children, women and men through video footage. The mood in the hall was heart wrenching. Many were seen wiping away tears. The heinous crimes committed against children, women and hapless families by the enemies was simply unbearable.

Project Manager, Zurafizza Adilla Selamat, said the event served as an encouraging platform in a tell-all session of human sufferings in Gaza and Syria.

"As Heliza narrated her experience, it touches our heart deeply. We can only feel the pain from far away. We introduced this session as a way of connecting students with personalities who contributed their services towards humanitarian affairs," added Zurafizza.

"The Q&A session was very interesting. The whole idea was to get the participants (students) to engage in a two-way communication process. It helps in building their level of confidence," she stressed.

The Millennial Talk: 'One Way Ticket' was sponsored by Kabinet Dapur Saujana, Curve café and Ar Faqir Enterprise.



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