



New standard
in renewable
energy

Pg.04



Finding
pleasure by
giving away

Pg.08



Rio :
'Mover and
shaker'

Pg.16

Universiti Kuala Lumpur **XGRESS**



GEARING TOWARDS RENEWABLE ENERGY



Uni KL
UNIVERSITI
KUALA LUMPUR

**THE SECRET
OF CHANGE
IS TO FOCUS
ALL OF YOUR
ENERGY, NOT
ON FIGHTING
THE OLD, BUT
ON BUILDING
THE NEW.**

- Socrates

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| FEATURE STORY

Gearing towards renewable energy

Malaysia will see the creation of a leading higher learning institution in renewable energy.





Advocating the usage of renewable energy sources, embracing solar, wind, and geothermal are among other efforts to strive for a low-carbon future; and all countries around the world are putting it as their top priority.

The efforts later followed by the focus of industrial players - regardless of the field, are shifting towards sustainability - which eventually leads them to adopt a few goals outlined in the Sustainable Development, and Malaysia is not left behind.

A report by the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water in 2019 stated that hundreds of thousands of high-skilled jobs are projected to be created in Malaysia during this transition to the green economy.

As the emergence of the renewable energy industry is developing, the hard truth that we have no choice but to accept is skill shortages in green jobs that will inevitably surface, bidding the government to always introduce new efforts associated with the creation of renewable energy talents to curb the concern from worsening.

Welcoming the undertaking, Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) through its electrical and electronics (E&E)-focused institute, UniKL British Malaysian Institute (UniKL BMI) will be offering Bachelor of Electrical Engineering Technology (Sustainable Energy) with Honours or BEET (SE) programme, in this upcoming September 2021.

As emphasised by the Dean of UniKL BMI, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kushsairy Abdul Kadir, the syllabus introduced in the programme is keeping abreast with the development of the industry, and the future graduates are believed to be highly in demand.

“We created this programme according to suggestions and guidance from Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA). Not only that, the students who enroll in this programme will be graduating with two professional certificates, namely Grid-Connected Photovoltaic (PV) Systems Design Course and Energy Manager certification.

“With these two certifications on top of the academic degree, I have faith that the graduates will have an additional advantage and in fact, in view of the increasing renewable energy industry demand talent, I expect our capacity of graduates creation will not be enough to fulfill it, eventually leading to 100 percent employability rate,” said him.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kushsairy during an interview session with CBSCD, recently.

Under the renewable energy vision and plan of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kushsairy, there are two sides of the same coin that set off as the focus of the institute namely generation and consumption of energy.

To complement that, UniKL BMI is establishing a centre of research with the living lab concept, which specially focalises on the renewable energy and energy efficiency areas.

The centre is set to be the first net-zero building in Malaysia in consonance with the direction of Malaysia towards sustainability.

The direction is certainly visible, but Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kushsairy admits that there is no denying this nation is still inadequate in expertise in energy storage and efficiency.

“Through this centre, we will not simply focus on renewable energy but also concentrate on energy optimisation and efficiency.

“On the strength of our hands-on learning, I believe the courses offered are still relevant in the next five to ten years.

- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kushsairy

When it comes to energy generation, it is important to stabilise it with energy storage technology,” he noted.

Alongside the new programme that will be offered this year with the newly-established centre, UniKL BMI is progressing towards being the leading academic institution in renewable and green energy.

In addition to the trailblazing endeavours, the Gombak-based institute plans to embark on a solar farm project on a 6-acre land located opposite the campus.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kushsairy revealed that the solar farm is projected to generate an energy capacity of around 3 megawatts (MW).

“If we have all this, we have the capacity to become a net-zero campus. This large-scale solar can be utilised as our teaching factory through joint ventures with the industry players which eventually

can provide our students with first-hand and hands-on learning as well as an internship programme,” he further elaborated.

Like all deans in 12 other UniKL institutes, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kushsairy aims to be as well as a leader possibly can for the betterment of the campus by regularly communicating with academic, technical, and managerial staff regarding current activities and programmes.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kushsairy - who holds Bachelor of Science (Engineering), M.Sc in Mechatronics Engineering and Ph.D. in Electronic & Electrical Engineering - wants to ensure that the programmes offered at UniKL BMI are still relevant and current.

“On the strength of our hands-on learning, I believe the courses offered are still relevant in the next five to ten years. For now, I can say that UniKL BMI is one of the biggest electrical and electronic school compared to other local universities.

“At the moment, this institute is the focal point for communication technology and electrical power and general electronics courses. The latest, we became the first academic institution in Malaysia to introduce a medical electronics programme, which is relevant to the current situation of pandemic Covid-19,” he added.

It is noteworthy to mention that UniKL BMI is gearing up to introducing another course in the area of semiconductors, which is expected to begin in September 2022.



Scan to watch the video interview



| STUDENT AMBASSADOR

Finding pleasure by giving away

Ahmad Adib never thought for once, volunteerism would bring him pleasure and his name to the eyes of the world.



Giving back to the communities with unpaid efforts, while pursuing a cause he is passionate about; Ahmad Adib Muzzammil Mohd Syahrol Anuar can best be described as busy as a bee when it comes to volunteerism.

His efforts eventually paid off, when he was conferred with one of the prestigious honours in Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL), Student Development and Campus Lifestyle (SDCL) Icon Award 2019/2020 for his immensely active involvement in volunteering activities during his degree studies at UniKL Malaysian Institute of Aviation Technology (UniKL MIAT), Sepang campus.

Flashing back to his high school time, Ahmad Adib is second to none in curricular and co-curricular undertakings, proven by his high-flying examination results in Ujian Pencapaian Sekolah Rendah (UPSR), Penilaian Menengah Rendah (PMR), and Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) by obtaining 5As, 8As as well as 7As and 2Bs, respectively.

“At school, I was active in Malaysia School Youth Cadet Corps (KRS) activities and pulled an all-nighter when it came to academics.

The best moment of my involvement in the uniform organisation was when I was selected to represent Penang state for a premier camping in Sabah. That was the first time I outbound to another state,” told him, who is the first child of five siblings as well as born and raised in the northwest coast state of Peninsular Malaysia.

For someone who always live up to expectations, Ahmad Adib was not spared from failure regardless of any course of life. After spending a year of foundation studies at a local university, his mediocre result robbed him of the chance to pursue studies, edging him further from his peers’ academic performance track.

“Such a painful experience, but I had to admit the defeat. At that moment, most of my peers were

pursuing their degree studies, and even there were those who furthered their studies abroad. It was a sorrowful period,” he told.

Thanks to his considerate mother who lifted his spirit to never give up, he eventually was introduced to aviation studies offered by UniKL at a ‘Karnival Jom Masuk U’ fair in Penang before enrolling in the course of Bachelor of Aircraft Engineering Technology (Hons) in Mechanical. “I had no knowledge about aviation studies, to begin with as it is a rare course. But, I started to love the course and have grown passionate about it. I would say that I am an aviation geek,” he quipped.

When it comes to gaining experience, it is an abstract subject and every student has a different standpoint. For Ahmad Adib, he got himself actively involved in Kelab Penyayang - an initiative of Yayasan Budi Penyayang Malaysia at the level of public institutions of higher learning that provides opportunities to the students in honing their talents to serve the community in need.



Contingent group photo for the sponsors on the deck of Nippon Maru Cruise Ship in the middle of South China Sea

He said the establishment of Kelab Penyayang set to be an example to other associations at the campus level that want to cultivate the spirit of volunteerism.

“Basically, this club emphasises volunteerism which connects the community and makes it a better place. Starting from

the first semester of my degree studies, I was appointed as assistant director for the ‘Amity Project’, which later on brought to participate ‘Pertandingan Piala Sukarelawan Menteri Pendidikan’, the brainchild of Yayasan Budi Penyayang Malaysia and aims to inspire the spirit of volunteerism among the members of the Kelab Penyayang and students of Malaysian institutions of higher learning.

“In the second year, I was finally elected as the president of Kelab Penyayang UniKL MIAT. Owing to my active involvement in this club, I was conferred with the SDCL Icon Award during my final year,” noted him.

One of the volunteering activities that he handled was providing free extra classes for orphans, bringing the club to win a few awards at the UniKL



“However, every dog has its day, and I was finally selected to join 26 others as Malaysian Youth Ambassador to the programme”



Malaysian contingent group photo with Ministry of Youth and Sports officers before boarding the flight from KLIA to Narita airport

level including an icon award. To him, volunteerism cost him little to nothing, and due to that, he kept that spirit throughout his degree studies.

Describing the effort is worth every sweat, Ahmad Adib who is now waiting for an internship, has been keeping his nose to the grindstone in making sure the world becomes a better place.

The volunteering activities also granted him the opportunity to represent Malaysia as the Youth Ambassador in an international social programme, Ship For Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Programme (SSEAYP 46/2019).

It took him a few stringent selection tests to pass - involving almost 7,000 well-qualified individuals from different backgrounds, namely doctors, lecturers, and even top students in the age range of 18 to 30 years old.

“There were three levels of selection test, from online test to interview session before selecting only 27 representatives from Malaysia to the international programme. It commenced with an online test in which approximately 7,000 applicants were required

to submit a ‘myself essay’ and resume.

“At that stage, only 300 were selected to a selection camp that was held for four days by which everyone tried their best to showcase their adroitness and talents. I felt so small. However, ‘every dog has its day’, and I was finally selected to join 26 others as Malaysian Youth Ambassador to the programme,” uttered him.

Sailing on a 50-day voyage with over 300 youths from ASEAN countries and Japan, the programme allowed a room for vibrant discussions among participants on social and youth matters and eye-opening cultural exchanges.

At each port of call, participants were given the opportunity to interact with the local youths, pay courtesy calls on dignitaries, visit local institutions, and experience a unique homestay programme.

In this programme, Ahmad Adib’s leadership talent outshined when he was elected as Head of Committee (HOC) Solidarity Group for Malaysian Contingent and Onboard Steering Committee for Solidarity Group for all contingents.

The role of antimicrobial peptides as potential therapeutic options for Covid-19 by computational studies

Dr. Vignesh Ramachandran
Senior Lecturer – Microbiology
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Almost a couple of years has passed since the first case of severe acute respiratory distress coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection was reported in China's Wuhan province. The coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) caused by SARS-CoV-2 has wreaked havoc all over the globe.

This pandemic has had serious implications on the global public health, economy etc., and has several nations on their knees irrespective of their development status.

During the last two years, there have been herculean efforts taken by the scientific fraternity for the prevention and management of COVID-19. Though there were several Covid-19 vaccines successfully developed and rolled out to the population, the virus continues to throw curveballs by the emergence of newer variants.

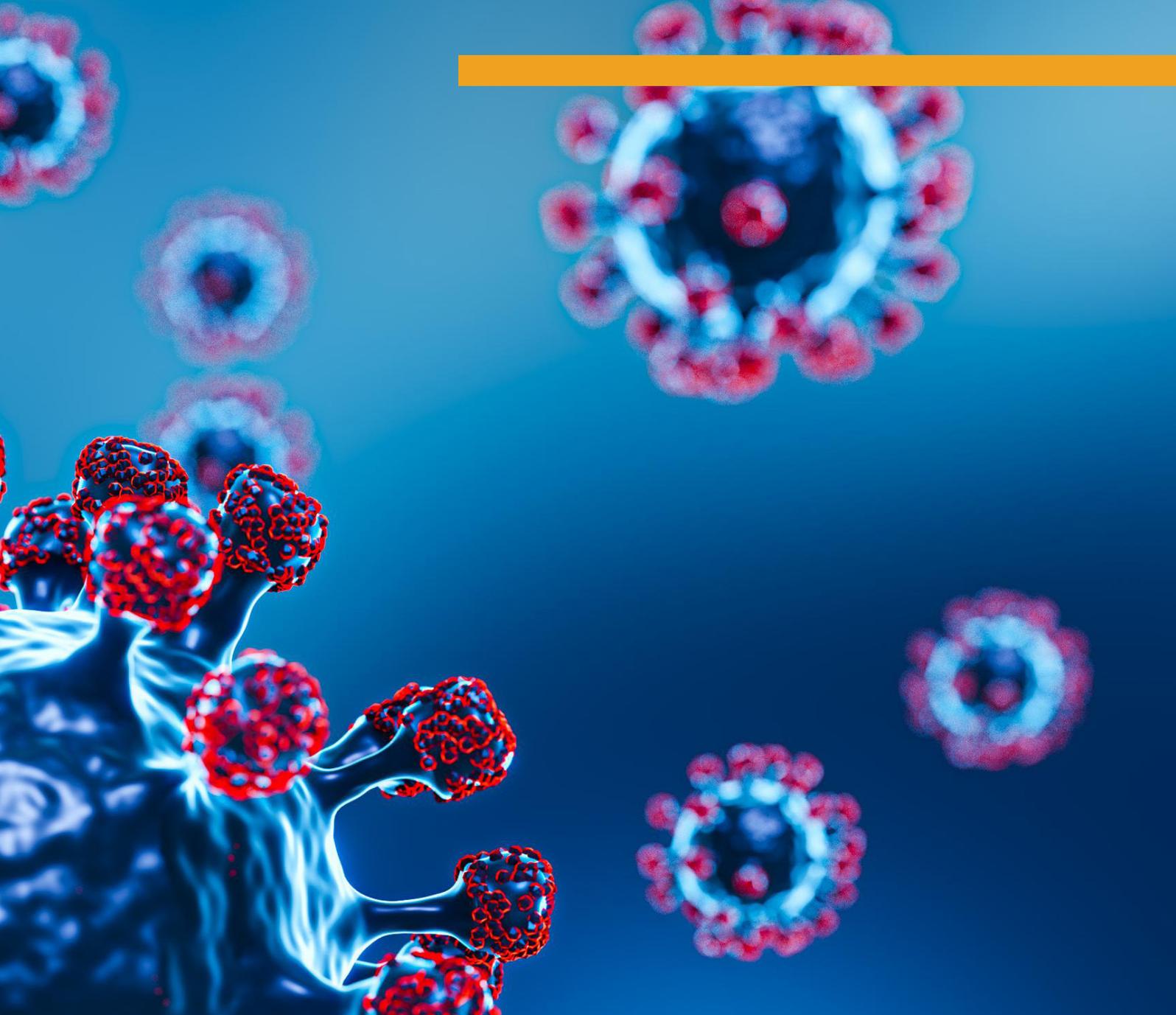
Quite a few drugs have been re-purposed to treat SARS-CoV-2 infection and tested by clinical trials. The re-purposed drugs included anti-malarial drugs chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine, anti-parasitic drug ivermectin, anti-HIV drug lopinavir/ritonavir;

remdesivir used as an antiviral drug against Ebola virus, and many others for possible treatment of SARS-CoV-2 infection.

However, the clinical trial findings were not encouraging, and hence it remains the need of the hour for developing therapeutic molecules for effective management of COVID-19.

Antimicrobial peptides (AMPs) are a class of small peptides present widely in nature as part of innate immune responses of most living things to counteract microbial infections. The sources of AMPs can be mammalian, amphibian, insect and microorganisms.

Various studies have documented the effects of AMPs against bacteria, fungi, parasites, and viruses. With the pipeline of newer antibiotics being sparse and the emergence of antimicrobial resistance as a global health challenge, AMPs are investigated with renewed interest as therapeutic candidates for combating infections caused by microorganisms.



At UniKL RCMP, we are currently investigating the peptide-protein interactions between the AMPs and spike protein of SARS-Cov-2 respectively, based on computational analyses. This study is funded by FRGS and includes collaboration with scientists from the Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, India and the University of Cincinnati, USA.

This study is designed to screen the AMPs based on various stringent physicochemical properties and analyse the peptide-protein interactions using in silico approaches, to narrow down and identify the peptides that would effectively bind to the active site of SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.

The findings of the study could lead to possible therapeutic options that are to be further evaluated by in vitro and in vivo studies in future. Being a computational approach, the screening of thousands of peptides is being performed and validated within a shorter duration and minimized costs.

The findings of the study would throw light on the potential role of AMPs in the fight against SARS-CoV-2 and have profound applications for the drug-development pipeline.

Research Team:

Dr. Vignesh Ramachandran – Senior Lecturer- UniKL RCMP
Dr. Muhammad Imran Bin Ahmad – Senior Lecturer – UniKL RCMP
Dr. Rehanna Mansor – Senior Lecturer – UniKL RCMP
AP Dr. Alex Anand – Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, India
AP Dr. Jason Tory Blackard – University of Cincinnati, USA
Fatin Fathia Binti Mohd Ali – Master Student

THE

World Health Organization (WHO) has reported that the world is currently experiencing growth in both the size and the proportion of older persons in the population. As people age and with the increase of life expectancy, the risk of developing neurodegenerative conditions such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease is also elevated.

The sad truth about neurodegenerative diseases is that they cannot be cured; once you have it, there is no turning back. That is why all currently available treatment for the conditions focuses on alleviating the symptoms. But if we cannot treat them, can we at least stop the progression? This is the question that needs to be researched and answered quickly.

Compared to Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, glaucoma is a much less talked about neurodegenerative condition which manifest in visual loss and blindness. The disease affects nearly 80 million people worldwide.

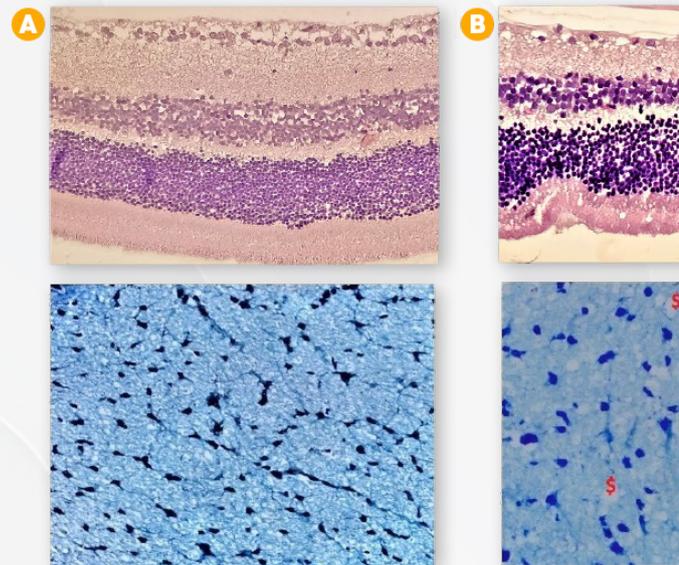
All currently available glaucoma medications only lower the eye intraocular pressure (IOP), but this therapy does not prevent retinal cell death which is the primary cause of impaired vision. They are not just expensive and provide only suboptimal IOP control, but are also associated with several adverse effects and does not protect against retinal cell death.

The problem faced by drug development researchers is that the mechanism of retinal cell death in glaucoma is unclear and involve multiple biochemical pathways. Many theories have been proposed, but all of them agree that the overstimulation of a N-methyl-D-aspartate or NMDA receptor is implicated in most theories. This receptor overstimulation results in a phenomenon called excitotoxicity which causes retinal cell death observed in glaucoma condition.

A compound called PhTX-343, isolated from the venom of solitary digger wasp, *Philanthus triangulum*, is a potential NMDA receptor blocker for the treatment of glaucoma. It is hypothesised that the compound can prevent retinal cell death by suppressing NMDA receptor overstimulation, prevent glaucoma progression, subsequently preserve visual functions.



PhTX-343: A Promising Anti- Effective approach to elim



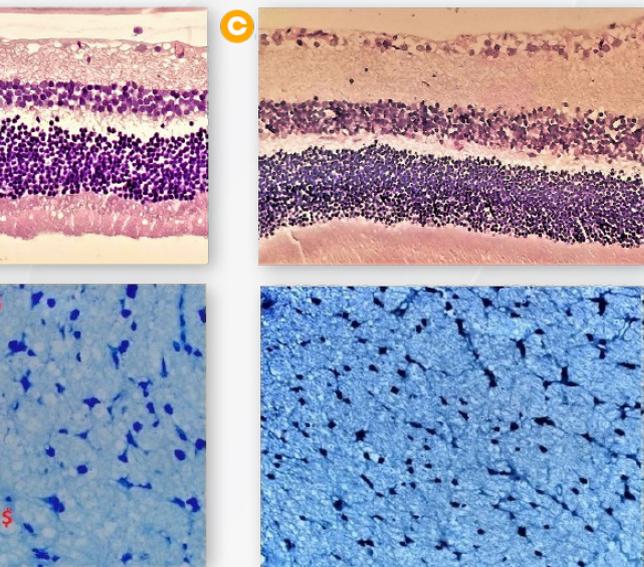
Histological assessments of retinal tissue after treatment (C) protect against retinal cell death (B) and appear similar to normal control (D) optic nerve (D)



Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Izuddin Fahmy Abu with his PhD students, Muhammad Fattah Fazel (left) and Mohamad Haiqal Nizar Mohamad (right) during PECIPTA 2019 research exhibition.

Glaucoma Agent

iniate avoidable blindness



emonstrated that PhTX-343
t NMDA-induced alterations
ormal healthy retinal (top) and
(bottom) (A).

Experimentation on glaucoma rat model has shown promising results that PhTX-343 protected the retinal cells from NMDA-induced injuries, assessed by histological and morphometric analysis, corroborated via visual behaviour assessments.

The current focus of the study is to elucidate the precise molecular mechanism involved in the neuroprotection against NMDA-associated glaucoma via protein and gene expression analysis.

This study is of paramount importance and in line with the national and global aspiration to eliminate avoidable blindness, and in the long run, contribute towards reducing worldwide economic burden due to increased prevalence of blindness in the society.

This study was funded by the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia under the Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS), and recently awarded the UniKL Excellent Research Grant Scheme (JERGS). The research findings have been published in renowned WOS and Scopus indexed journals namely *Frontiers in Pharmacology*, *PLoS One* and *Diabetes & Metabolism Journal*, and presented at numerous local and international conferences.

The project has won multiple research innovation awards such as Gold medal at the International Invention, Innovation, and Design Competition (3iDC 2020), and Silver medals at the Malaysia Technology Expo (MTE 2021), International Conference & Exposition on Inventions by Institutions of Higher Learning (PECIPTA 2019) and the 30th International Invention, Innovation & Technology Exhibition (ITEX 2019).

Led by Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Izuddin Fahmy Abu from UniKL MESTECH and undertaken by two PhD students, Muhammad Fattah Fazel and Mohamad Haiqal Nizar Mohamad, the research team also include multi-national researchers from International Medical University Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Volgograd State Medical University Russia, University of Nottingham United Kingdom, and University of Copenhagen Denmark.

Report by:

Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Izuddin Fahmy Abu
UniKL MESTECH
Director, Campus Lifestyle Division



The research team won Silver medal award at ITEX 2019.

‘Mover And Shaker’ in Entertainment Industry

It is never enough to only tell people that he has a big dream in sketching his own success story, hence hard works came along as the most important step to turn that dream into reality.



B

ehind the big names of music clips, there is a stagehand who is out of public view, nonetheless, the role creates a massive big shot in the entertainment industry. It is an agonising common that the public is unmindful of the stagehand of every successful film or video clip.

Under the name of Rio Films Sdn. Bhd, Mohd Rifaiee Omar embarked on his career as a director, editor, videographer, or basically epoch-making of the production house.

This is the story of Mohd Rifaiee, who is an eager beaver in his very own positive way to create a big name in the industry.

Who would have thought that he has directed and created more than 250 music videos for famous singers in Malaysia, namely Dato' Sri Siti Nurhaliza, Wany Hasrita, and Hafiz Hamidun.

Born and raised by an ordinary family, his involvement in the industry was out of passion and for livelihood. His passion for photography and videography sparked during high school time, where he was actively involved in all information technology (IT) and multimedia clubs.

At the age of only 16, Mohd Rifaiee who grew up in Johor Bahru, made his own money by shooting wedding photography, encouraged by his brother who is also into multimedia.

"I was elected to become president of IT and multimedia clubs during high school time. From then on, I grew my passion for that field which eventually brought me to further my studies in Diploma in Multimedia at Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Institute of Information Technology (UniKL MIIT).

"In the fourth semester, I took time for leisure pursuits by working at a production company based in Kuala Lumpur, CSD Productions. As I come from a middle-income family, I sought to make my own ends meet with the intention of not being a burden to my family," quipped him.

He kept the perfect balance between work and study despite having had to work from dusk until dawn. To make a story short, he managed to land a job at the very same production house, due to his dedication and bang-up work.

Owing to that, Mohd Rifaiee was promoted as chief editor and after three years of service, he was entrusted to take control of CSD Productions' subsidiary whereby the jobs retrieved were mostly geared towards wedding photography.

"As there were too many clients to handle at a time, the top management decided to establish a subsidiary whereby the jobs secured were mostly in the price range of RM3,000 to RM4,000.

"However, after two years of service at the company, I came to a decision to get something off the ground with the same nature of business. By and by, Rio Production was born, a new business that was established in collaboration with my brother.

"With my extensive experience in video editing and shooting, the wedding photography and videography jobs were getting traction despite the price was set a little lower compared to the established market players," said him, while adding that Hafiz Hamidun's 'zikir' compilation video was the very first celebrity video clips project that the company had managed to secure since its inception in 2010.

From that day on, Rio Production has been in its full swing in securing numerous video clips projects such as Anta Permana music video for the Asia's beloved and renowned singer, Dato' Sri Siti Nurhaliza, Tergantung Sepi by Haqiem Rusli, Rintihan Rindu by Wany Hasrita, Melamar Rindu by Tajul, Misteri by Ernie Zakri and 123 by Khai Bahar, to name a few.

For someone who always strives for the best and works round the clock, he wanted to give something a new lease of life by setting up his own production company called Rio Films.

Under this new establishment, Mohd Rifaiee is sure someone born with Midas touch in his field, given to a number of projects secured instantly after the independent undertaking, thanks to his previous renowned work.

Apparently, people especially the media industry players aware of my works. I was personally requested to direct television programmes where it knocked my socks off. I can see the business progress from just wedding photography projects and slowly transition to video clips and TV programmes projects," he noted.

"I wanted to give something a new lease of life by setting up my own production company called Rio Films"



**“Apparently,
people especially the
media industry players
are aware of my works”**



Notwithstanding only two years of operation since the outset, Rio Films turned a profit and currently has seven employees.

Unstirred by the pandemic of Covid-19 which has presented an unprecedented challenge to public health and business worldwide, Rio Films smooth sailed the difficult period owing to the backlog of editing projects, allowing him to maintain salary payment to his staff.

It is never enough to only tell people that he has a big dream to sketch his own success story, hence hard works came along as the most important step to turn that dream into reality.

“My success so far was not due to luck; it was blood, sweat, and tears. I know you’ve heard it a thousand times before, but I chose to always believe that hard works will pay off,” quipped him.



Launching of UniSeri your skin matters

Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Institute of Chemical and Bio-engineering Technology (UniKL MICET) has formulated a range of facial skin care products, UniSeri, using Bunga Telang as one of the basic ingredients of the product. UniSeri products have been on the market since last February.

UniKL MICET researchers said, the main benefit of Bunga Telang is that it is a high antioxidant agent, anti -aging, restores skin moisture, rejuvenates and stimulates youthful appearance. “UniSeri is the first facial skin care product produced by UniKL MICET and guaranteed safe without prohibited substances.”

For the first phase, UniSeri products consist of two products that have different advantages, namely Blu Telang Rejuvenate Serum and Blu Telang Pore Refining CC Cream. The main target for this Blu Telang Rejuvenate Serum product is for users in the age range of 35 to 50 years and for the Blu Telang Pore Refining CC Cream product, it focuses on users in the age range of 20 to 26 years.

Blu Telang Rejuvenate Serum (15ml); telang as a key ingredient high in antioxidants. It can slow down the aging process and moisturizes facial skin to combat dryness and dullness as well as reduce acne scars.

Blu Telang Pore Refining CC Cream (15g); can make facial skin color look more even, disguise dark spots or redness and can work well as a base product (primer) before the application of make-up. It also acts as a moisturiser during the day.

In upcoming September 2021, UniSeri will introduce two more new products, namely Blu Telang Daily Cleanser (50ml) and Blu Telang Hydrating Toner (50ml). With the presence of these two products, users can further complement their skin care routine. Apart from women, UniSeri is also very suitable for use by men.

“We care about consumer awareness in the selection of safe products in the Malaysian market, therefore we took this initiative by producing UniSeri, skin care products made from natural and safe ingredients,” told researchers.

The selection of Malaysian singer, actor and vocal teacher, Ernie Zakri as UniSeri Product Ambassador is perfect. This is because her busy daily routine requires the use of skin care products from natural ingredients that can make her look fresher throughout the day.



UniSeri is the first facial skin care product produced by UniKL MICET and guaranteed safe without prohibited substances

UniKL awarded with Putra Brand Gold Award in Education and Learning



Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) finally was awarded with PUTRA Brand Gold Award in Education and Learning Category. For the record, UniKL won Bronze in 2016 and Silver in 2018 and 2019 in the same category.

UniKL Acting President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Prof. Dr. Shahrulniza Musa said, to remain competitive and have stronger presence in the market, the technical university rides on the digital wave and maximising digital platforms

“For UniKL, active campaigns through mainstream media and digital marketing help to boost our brand image among consumers. Creative social media content has helped to reach a million viewers and popularised our brand.

“Mainstream media also promotes our brand by establishing a niche and brand differentiation. It established brand trust and reliability under uncertainties caused by the pandemic,” said him

As the apex of Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA) education, UniKL champions higher technical, vocational education and training (HTVET) and delivers high-quality education in all our hands-on



and non-technical programmes.

The Putra Brand Awards recognises Malaysia's most preferred brands based on public interviews, involving thousands of respondents this year.

Organised by the Association of Accredited Advertising Agents Malaysia, it is the only brand awards in the country endorsed by the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation.

The Asia University Rankings 2021

UniKL Soars

AMID the global Covid-19 pandemic that has affected student enrolment into universities, Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) continues to soar as a top-performing institution in the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2021.

The ninth edition of THE Asia University Rankings secured UniKL a spot amongst the top 551 universities from 30 territories. UniKL made its debut, alongside Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM), in the 401+ band.

In total 15 Malaysian Universities made entries into THE Asia University Rankings 2021 compared to 13 in 2020. The announcement was made on Wednesday (2 June).

UniKL Acting President and CEO (Deputy President Academic and Technology) Prof Dr. Shahrulniza Musa said the rankings demonstrate the important role UniKL plays in delivering HTVET programmes despite the challenges.

“We are delighted to be ranked amongst the top universities in Asia. In fact, it is quite remarkable for UniKL considering the challenges we face in the balancing act of achieving academic excellence, ensuring TVET education accessible to all students, delivering training-intensive TVET programmes and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the university. UniKL excels in all indicators. Apart from that we also cherish our commitment to international collaboration and partnerships,” stressed Prof Dr Shahrulniza.

“This is also a testament of our strength nationally and globally, and marks the success of our WE4Asia transformation programme launched in 2014. I would like to express my highest gratitude to all staff, students, alumni, MARA, our industrial partners, and other stakeholders of UniKL for the hard work and endorsing full trust in us,” he added.

In addition to this, a 2019 Graduate Employability Rankings revealed that UniKL’s institutions occupy nine of the top 20 positions among most employable graduates in the country with an average of 96 per cent graduate employability. The other Malaysian universities named in THE Asia

NO	UNIVERSITY
1	Universiti Malaya (UM)
2	Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP)
3	Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR)
4	Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)
5=	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)
5=	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)
7	Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM)
8	Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)
9	Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN)
10	Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP)
11=	Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL)
11=	Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)
11=	Multimedia University (MMU)
11=	Universiti Teknikal Melaka (UTeM)
11=	Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)

Source: As announced by Times Higher Education

	2020	2021
	43	49
P)	124	111
UTAR)	119	119
	145	136
JKM)	160	150
M)	143	150
	251 - 300	155
	156	163
EN)	201 - 250	201 - 250
P)	165	351 - 400
NEW	NR	401+
MAS)	401+	401+
	401+	401+
NEW	NR	401+
	401+	401+

at 12:00 noon BST on 2 June 2021

University Rankings 2021 are University of Malaya (49th), Universiti Teknologi Petronas (111), Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (119), Universiti Putra Malaysia (136), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (150), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (150), Universiti Utara Malaysia (155), Universiti Sains Malaysia (163), Universiti Tenaga Nasional (201-250), Universiti Malaysia Perlis (351-400) while Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Multimedia University and Universiti Teknologi MARA are placed in the 401+ band.

The latest Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings follow an illustrious year of UniKL being in the centre of the limelight.

UniKL was awarded Putra Brand Award 2020 gold medal in higher education and learning and also listed among the top 300 universities in the Quacquarelli-Symonds (QS) Asia University Rankings 2021 – ranked 291-300, moving up 50 places from the previous ranking.

UniKL also earned a five-star rating in the SETARA ratings exercise announced by the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) in December 2020, improving from the four-star rating last held in 2017.

Last year, UniKL marked a key milestone in Times Higher Education World Subject Rankings 2020 – ranked in its specialised subject areas, namely, 501–600 in Business and Economics, 801+ in Computer Science, and 801–1000 in Engineering. UniKL is categorised as Malaysian top six universities in Business and Economics and top 10 in Computer Science and Engineering respectively.

In September 2020, for the first time, UniKL made it to the list of the 2021 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings at 1000+ and in the Top 10 among Malaysian universities.

THE chief knowledge officer Phil Baty, said: These rankings are an important measure of the strength of higher education across the continent. It is great to see several of Malaysia’s universities improve or maintain their previous ranking positions, despite the growing competitiveness across the region.

“It will be interesting to see what happens in Malaysia over the coming years, and how universities adapt to the post-Covid world,” he said in a statement on Wednesday (June 2).

A three-peat and a new winner



Tengku Ahmad Tajuddin Tengku Abdul Jalil fired in the winning goal as Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) edged Maybank 1-0 to retain the Tenaga Nasional Berhad - Malaysian Hockey League (TNBMHL) Premier League title at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil on 25 March 2021.

It was UniKL's third straight Premier League triumph. Following the victory, UniKL ended their campaign in the league unbeaten at the top of the table standings with 19 points from seven matches, winning six and drew one. They now hold a proud record of an unbeaten stretch of 33 matches since 2019 — winning 30 and drawing three.

The varsity team, who had also retained the Charity Shield on 12 March, first won the Premier League title in 2019 and went on to create history last season by winning the Charity Shield, Premier League and TNB Cup (overall champions).

“Tengku Ahmad Tajuddin has been under rehabilitation for a long period and even when he was training (online) with the national team recently. He is not his usual self this season because of that, but when it mattered most, my experienced player made it count,” said a jubilant UniKL team manager Datuk Amir Azhar Ibrahim.

“This has been a great victory for us after retaining the Charity Shield. The team played well to

earn this win. Congratulations to all the payers for working hard throughout the match and as expected Maybank came very strongly against us in attack and defence,” he added.

The goal came in the 49th minutes off a goalmouth melee. The initial move was orchestrated by team captain Muhammad Marhan Mohd Jalil, who slipped the ball past two Maybank defenders from the right goal line, Izwan Firdaus Ahmad Tajuddin picked it from there and relayed the ball to Tengku Ahmad Tajuddin who had to break free from a tight situation in front of the goalmouth before netting the ball into the net.

UniKL Ladies also emerged champions in the Malaysian Women's League the previous week and then went into their next challenge – the Vivian May Soars Cup.

It was a memorable debut for UniKL Ladies as they lifted the Malaysian Women's Hockey League title in grand style with a 7-0 drubbing over Sabah with one match in hand at the same venue.

They eventually chalked up a 100 per cent record in the Malaysian Women's Hockey League as they outplayed Young Tigress 4-2 to register their fifth consecutive win at the National Hockey Stadium in Bukit Jalil on 24 March 2021.





Cooperation between **UniKL** and **Quandatics Academy**

Quandatics Academy Sdn Bhd has come on board as an academia-industry partner with Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) in promoting talent development for data analytics and related fields.

The collaboration will focus on joint ventures between both parties in the form of projects, research and development (R&D) activities in the area of Big Data and Data Analytics. It also hopes to create more job opportunities and industrial training placement for UniKL students.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony was held on May 5 at the City Campus Chancellery. UniKL Acting President and Chief Executive Officer Prof. Dr. Shahrluniza Musa signed the MoU on behalf of the university while Quandatics Academy Sdn Bhd was represented by its Managing Director Mr. Lim Meng Kooi.

The event was witnessed by the Dean of UniKL Malaysian Institute of Information Technology (UniKL MIIT) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zalizah Awang Long, Quandatics Academy Business Development Director, Ms. Shelly Lee Wai Ju and senior management staff of UniKL.

Quandatics Academy is founded in 2017 as a departmental spinoff from its parent company, Quandatics (M) Sdn Bhd and strives to promote learning in every country around the world.

It offers practical, real-world-applicable upskilling programmes to help professionals, students and all those keen on improving themselves to adopt the skillsets needed to thrive in the Big Data revolution era.

In 2020 UniKL introduced the Bachelor of Information Technology (Hons) in the Internet of Things programme. Among the courses offered in the programme are Data Science Essentials, Machine Learning, Programming for Data Analytics, Data Analytics, Data Visualization and many more.

Quandatics Sdn. Bhd will not only act as a UniKL strategic partner but will also be involved in an advisory role especially in developing syllabus contents that will meet the industry standards and requirements.

Students who enrol for the Bachelor of Information Technology (Hons) in the Internet of Things programme are not only provided opportunities to sit for professional certifications but get the chance to further their studies by following its unique curriculum design.

Hence, they will leave the university as market-ready graduates.

THE Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah, is an Honorary Member of the International Hockey Federation (FIH).

His Majesty, who is also the Chancellor of Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL), was named an Honorary Member at the #Hockeyinvites virtual conference held on the opening day of the 47th FIH Congress on May 21.

The FIH, in its official website, stated that Al-Sultan Abdullah's recognition was due to His Majesty's tireless efforts in promoting and developing hockey.

"His Majesty Al-Sultan Abdullah Ahmad Shah, who is the current Royal Patron of the Asian Hockey Federation, has initiated the regeneration of hockey in Asia and vowed to recreate its status as an extravaganza and symbolic sport on the Asian and global platform," it said.

His Majesty has also been instrumental in UniKL having its hockey stadium located at the UniKL Malaysia France Institute in Bangi. The 500-seat Tengku Abdullah Hockey Stadium was officially launched on August 20, 2018.

Numerous hockey national associations and other individuals were also recognised in the FIH awards.

Uzbekistan Hockey Federation was awarded Pablo Negre Award due to their tremendous

King appointed as FIH Honorary Member

Al-Sultan Abdullah's recognition was due to His Majesty's tireless efforts in promoting and developing hockey

efforts to improve playing conditions through new infrastructure and the implementation of youth development models as the country strives to become a major hockey hub of Central Asia. The Polish Hockey Association received the Theo Ikema Award, thanks to various hockey development projects resulting in 30 newly trained coaches and over 3,000 schoolchildren being introduced to the sport within the country.

As for the individuals, inspirational England and Great Britain striker Sam Ward – who suffered a career-threatening eye injury in 2019 – was revealed as the recipient of the Super Fair Play Trophy René G Frank.

"It comes in recognition of his perseverance, dedication, and energy not only in his recovery but also raising awareness of mental health issues and even volunteering his time to deliver food and medicines to his local community and supporting a young leukaemia patient, Alfie," it added.

Sharon Williamson of New Zealand was named as the winner of the HRH Sultan Azlan Shah Award for dedicating thousands of voluntary hours toward the delivery of New Zealand's brand-new National Hockey Centre in Auckland.



UniKL features in QS World University Rankings 2022

THE inclusion of Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) in the QS World University Rankings 2022 for the first time is a significant achievement for this young technical entrepreneurial university under the aegis of Majlis Amanah Rakyat (Mara).

In a world that often presumes that the older an institution is, the better it will do in terms of world university rankings is a misconception. Precisely 19 years since its establishment in 2002, UniKL has made impressive gains.

“We have been securing good positions in recent years in QS Asia Rankings and Times Higher Education World University Rankings. Today we etched another chapter by enlisting for the first time into the QS World Rankings 2022. We are deeply humbled by our achievements,” said UniKL Acting President and CEO Prof Dr. Shahrulniza Musa.

UniKL is among 22 Malaysian universities listed from a total of 1,300 universities in 97 locations globally in the annual university rankings by global higher education analysts QS Quacquarelli Symonds. UniKL is listed in the 801-1000 band alongside Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP), Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) and Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) while Multimedia University, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Universiti Malaysia Sabah and Universiti Malaysia Terengganu are placed in the 1001-1200 band.

“We are delighted to be ranked amongst the top universities in Asia. In fact, it is quite remarkable for UniKL considering the challenges we face in the balancing act of achieving academic excellence, ensuring TVET education accessible to all students, delivering training-intensive TVET programmes and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the university,” stressed Prof Dr Shahrulniza.

As a whole, the QS rankings saw more than half or 12 of the 22 Malaysian universities having recorded declines in their ranking, including Universiti Malaya which went down by six rungs from its 59th position last year to 65th spot this year’s rankings.

QS rankings are compiled based on six indicators, namely Academic Reputation (based on survey responses from 130,000 academics), Employer

Reputation (based on 75,000 employers’ survey responses on the relationship between institutions and graduates’ employability), Citations Per Faculty, Faculty to Student Ratio, International Faculty Ratio and International Student Ratio.

The latest QS World University Rankings 2022 shows that UniKL is recognised as an outstanding university for its high quality in teaching, excellence in research, and strong international partnership.

In recent weeks, UniKL also secured a spot amongst the top 551 universities from 30 territories in the Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2021, making its debut alongside Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM) in the 401+ band.

In total 15 Malaysian Universities made entries into THE Asia University Rankings 2021 compared to 13 in 2020. The announcement was made on 2 June 2021.

UniKL was also presented the Putra Brand Award 2020 gold medal in higher education and learning; and listed among the top 300 universities in the 2021 QS Asia University Rankings (ranked 291-300), moving up 50 places from the previous ranking.

UniKL also earned a five-star rating in the SETARA ratings exercise announced by the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) in December 2020, improving from the four-star rating last held in 2017.

Last year, UniKL marked a key milestone in Times Higher Education World Subject Rankings 2020 – ranked in its specialised subject areas, namely, 501–600 in Business and Economics, 801+ in Computer Science, and 801–1000 in Engineering. UniKL is categorised as Malaysian top six universities in Business and Economics and top 10 in Computer Science and Engineering respectively.

In September 2020, for the first time, UniKL made it to the list of the 2021 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings at 1000+ and in the Top 10 among Malaysian universities.

TOP UNIVERSITIES IN **MALAYSIA** BASED ON



No	University	2021	2022
1	Universiti Malaya (UM)	59	65
2	Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)	132	143
3	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)	141	144
4	Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)	142	147
5	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)	187	191
6	Taylor's University	379	332
7	UCSI University	391	347
8	Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP)	439	414
9	Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM)	531-400	511-520
10	MSU University	551-560	601-650
=11	Universiti Islam Antarabangsa M'sia (UIAM)	601-650	651-700
=11	Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)	651-700	651-700
=11	Sunway University	701-750	651-700
14	Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN)	701-750	751-800
=15	Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) NEW	NR	801-1000
=15	Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)	751-800	801-1000
=15	Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP)	801-1000	801-1000
=15	Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR)	801-1000	801-1000
=19	Multimedia University (MMU)	801-1000	1001-1200
=19	Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)	801-1000	1001-1200
=19	Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS)	801-1000	1001-1200
=19	Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT)	1001+	1001-1200

Also ranked in Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2021

www.unikl.edu.my



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Sabah Science, Technology and Innovation Minister, Datuk Yakub Khan visits UniKL MFI

Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysia France Institute (UniKL MFI) is committed to continuing and exploring more potential collaboration with the Sabah Department of Human Resources (JPSM), as an addition to their existing cooperation.

This came after the Minister of Sabah Science, Technology and Innovation, Datuk Yakub Khan undertook an official visit to Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysia France Institute (UniKL MFI).

UniKL Acting President and Chief Executive Officer, YBhg. Prof. Dr. Shahrulniza Musa in his welcoming speech said that the visit will be a catalyst for more cooperation between UniKL and the Sabah Ministry of Science Technology and Innovation in the field of research by offering research and development funds or grants to UniKL lecturers who have expertise in various fields.



“For your information, UniKL has signed a collaboration with JPSM on 22 January 2020. Many thanks to Yang Berbahagia Encik Zainudin Aman, who was then the Director of JPSM Sabah for trusting UniKL, leading to the establishment of strategic cooperation between JPSM & UniKL.

“As a result of the cooperation, JPSM has sent a total of 5 students - 4 people to further their studies at the Diploma level at UniKL Malaysia France Institute in Automotive. Meanwhile, another student continued his studies at UniKL British Malaysian Institute in Gombak, Selangor majoring in Electrical and Electronics. They were part of the January 2020 session intake group and are currently in semester three (3) of their respective majors,” said him.

During the visit, Datuk Yakub undertook a tour of the campus facilities and workshops available at UniKL MFI. He also had a friendly session with JPSM-sponsored students.

Also in attendance, Permanent Secretary at Sabah Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Zainudin Aman; Secretary of Public Relations at Sabah Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Romeo Anso; Political Secretary at Sabah Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Noraini Idris; Private Secretary at Sabah Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Razeki Rashid, UniKL Deputy President (International, Industrial & Institutional Partnership), YBhg. Prof. Dato’ Dr. Azanam Shah Hashim; and Dean of UniKL MFI, Prof. Ts. Dr. Jamel Othman.

UnikL Social Media Buzz

www.unikl.edu.my

TheStar

24 June 2021

Two more Malaysian universities join THE Young University Rankings

TOP UNIVERSITIES IN MALAYSIA BASED ON QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2022

No	University	2021	2022
1	Universiti Malaya (UM)	59	65
2	Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)	132	143
3	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)	141	144
4	Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)	142	147
5	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)	187	191
6	Taylor's University	379	332
7	UCSI University	391	347
8	Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP)	439	414
9	Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM)	531-600	511-520
10	MSU University	551-560	601-650
11	Universiti Islam Antarabangsa M'isa (UIAM)	601-650	651-700
12	Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)	651-700	651-700
13	Sunway University	701-750	751-800
14	Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN)	751-800	801-1000
15	Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UnikL)	NR	801-1000
16	Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)	801-1000	801-1000
17	Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP)	801-1000	801-1000
18	Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR)	801-1000	801-1000
19	Multimedia University (MMU)	801-1000	1001-1200
20	Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)	801-1000	1001-1200
21	Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT)	1001+	1001-1200

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Sea trial for Lakecruise Catamaran For Majlis Bandaraya Ipoh

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THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2021 TOP 500

EMERGING ECONOMIES

Congratulations! Universiti Kuala Lumpur

RANKED 401-500

TOP 15 UNIVERSITIES IN MALAYSIA

UnikL is ranked among 606 universities from 48 countries (emerging economies) that also made it to the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (total of 1,527 universities ranked).

ASTRO AWARDS

ABDUL HAKIM RAHMAN | 26 FEBRUARY 2021

KPT TUBUH JAWATANKUASA KHAS TANGANI MASALAH SOSIAL MAHASISWA

KUALA LUMPUR: Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi (KPT) menubuhkan Jawatankuasa Khas Menangani Masalah Sosial Mahasiswa bagi meneliti dan menangani masalah sosial mahasiswa.

Jawatankuasa itu diwujudkan bertujuan untuk meningkatkan perkembangan sahsiah serta menangani permasalahan sosial pelajar secara holistik," kata KPT dalam kenyataan.

Jawatankuasa tersebut akan turut disertai wakil pelajar, iaitu Muhammad Amir Asyraf Mohd Sabri, Presiden Majlis Perundangan Pelajar Kebangsaan, **Ali Hanifah Anran, Yang Dipertua Majlis Perwakilan Pelajar Universiti Kuala Lumpur** dan Naib Presiden II Majlis Perundangan Pelajar Kebangsaan Muhammad Nazmi Hakim Mohd Eiman.

TheStar

A top-rated university

THE STAR | 20 May 2021

A 2019 Graduate Employability Rankings revealed that UnikL's institutions occupy nine of the top 20 positions among most employable graduates in the country with an average of 96% graduate employability.

UnikL

HANDOVER CEREMONY OF UNIKL STUDENT MOBILE CARD

(UNIKL SIM BROADBAND INITIATIVE)

1st March 2021
UnikL Senate Meeting Room

TOP 10 MALAYSIAN UNIVERSITIES IN THE* WORLD RANKINGS 2021

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021 include more than 1,300 universities across 93 countries and regions.

	2021	2020	
1	Universiti Malaya (UM)	301-350	301-350
2	Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR)	501-600	501-600
3	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)	601-800	601-800
4	Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)	601-800	601-800
5	Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)	601-800	601-800
6	UTM	601-800	601-800
7	Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP)	601-800	601-800
8	Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM)	601-800	601-1,000
9	UNITEN	801-1,000	801-1,000
10	Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UnikL)	1,001	-

TOP 10 MALAYSIAN UNIVERSITIES IN THE* IMPACT RANKINGS 2021

The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings measures universities against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The indicators compare across four broad areas: research, knowledge transfer, outreach and teaching.

	2021	2020	
1	Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)	29	65
2	Universiti Malaya (UM)	101-200	60
3	UTM	101-200	201-300
4	UiTM	101-200	401-600
5	Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)	201-300	101-200
6	Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR)	201-300	201-300
7	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)	301-400	101-200
8	UNIMAS	301-400	200-300
9	Lincoln University College	401-600	401-600
10	Sunway University	401-600	-

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PUTRA BRAND AWARDS 2020 GOLD

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Aircraft Maintenance
Technology



Marine Engineering
Technology



Information Technology,
Networking System,
Multimedia and Animation



Welding, Air Conditioning and
Industrial Refrigeration,
Mechanical Engineering and
Industrial Maintenance Technology



Accounting, Business Administration,
Entrepreneurship, Islamic Finance,
International Business, Management,
Marketing and Tourism



Electrical Engineering,
Electronics Engineering Technology,
Telecommunication Technology and
Medical Electronics



Engineering Business Management,
Design and Manufacturing



Medicine, Pharmacy and
Health Sciences



Medical Science
Technology



Chemical Engineering and
Bioengineering Technology



Mechanical Engineering, Mechatronics,
Manufacturing, Applied Electronics and
Automotive Technology



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