

Universiti Kuala Lumpur **XGRESS**

“We Are UniKL
Now, Let’s Make It
Stronger!”

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**Turning Oil Palm
Waste**
into High-Tech Carbon Fiber:
A Green Innovation

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**From a
Mother’s Dream**
to the Dining Tables of
Malaysians

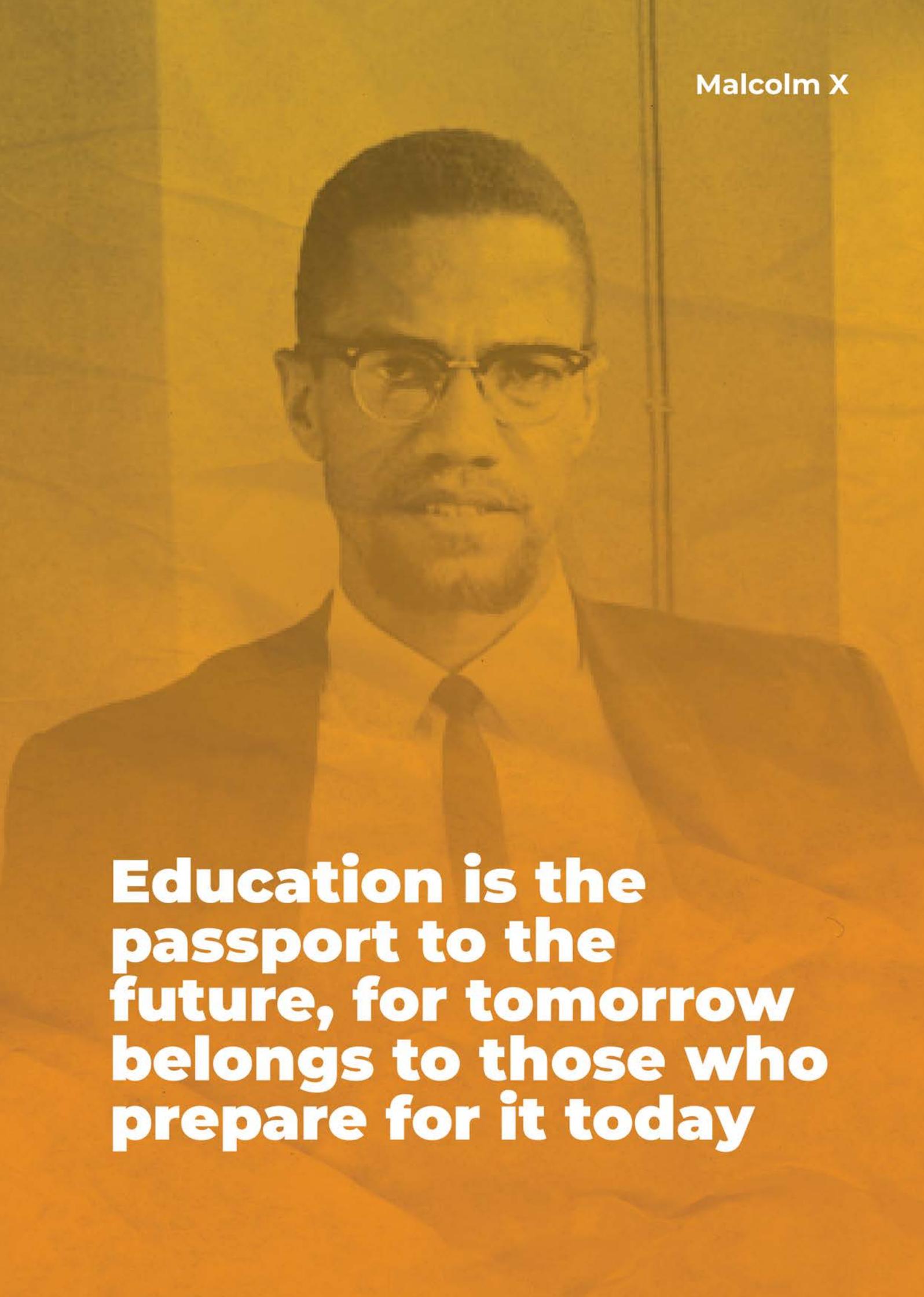
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**Think You Know
TVET?**
Think Again!

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**FinTech.
DBA. Future.**

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Malcolm X

**Education is the
passport to the
future, for tomorrow
belongs to those who
prepare for it today**

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Shaping 50% of Malaysia's Future GDP



The year 2024 has marked a pivotal moment in Malaysia's FinTech landscape, with more than 280 active companies in the sector. According to *The FinTech Malaysia Report 2024*, the payments vertical leads the pack, accounting for 22% of market share.

Looking ahead to 2025, FinTech's momentum shows no signs of slowing down. Capitalising on this upward trend, Universiti Kuala Lumpur Business School (UniKL BIS) is stepping up to play a defining role — offering a specialised FinTech programme and, soon, a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) under its new Graduate School of Business.

Prof. Dr. Naziruddin Abdullah, Dean of UniKL BIS, shared that both programmes are strategically aligned with three high-impact sectors: logistics, aviation, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) — key engines of Malaysia's economic growth.

With a Master of Science and PhD in Economics, Prof. Dr. Naziruddin envisions the FinTech and DBA programmes as pivotal steps toward positioning UniKL BIS among the top business schools in Southeast Asia.

Prof. Dr. Naziruddin Abdullah
Dean of UniKL Business School

“These industries will contribute significantly to the nation’s economic trajectory. We anticipate that together, they will account for no less than 40% to 50% of Malaysia’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP).”

Currently onboarding its second student cohort, the FinTech programme is already gaining traction. The DBA programme is expected to launch by early 2026.

“To my knowledge, only two local universities offer FinTech programmes, and even then, at a more superficial level. We do not see them as direct competitors, but we are not complacent either.

“We know that Malaysian students returning from overseas with FinTech qualifications will enter the same job market. That is why we are determined to be stronger and more competitive,” he noted.



Unlike conventional programmes offering only four or five FinTech-related subjects, UniKL BIS delivers a more comprehensive curriculum with up to eight FinTech modules — equipping students with deeper insights and practical skills.

But a strong curriculum is only part of the equation. Industry engagement and academic collaboration are equally vital.

UniKL BIS has engaged with two globally recognised institutions established by Bank Negara Malaysia: the Asia School

of Business (ASB) and the International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF) University.

“With ASB, the feedback has been very encouraging, particularly on Action-Based Learning (ABL), where our students will be attached to real-world industries throughout their studies.

“INCEIF brings the same value but with a focus on Islamic finance, further enriching our academic landscape,” Prof. Dr. Naziruddin explained.

As UniKL BIS continues to expand its programme offerings across the business education spectrum, the introduction of the DBA will play a critical role in cultivating Malaysia's next generation of industry leaders.

While FinTech addresses current market needs, the DBA is a forward-looking initiative.

It targets professionals with managerial or senior-level experience across logistics, aviation, and SME sectors — individuals capable of leading transformation, not just adapting to it.

“We are not looking to recruit fresh graduates,” Prof. Dr. Naziruddin stressed. “Our DBA candidates will be seasoned professionals — ideally managers and above — who can drive meaningful change in their organisations.”

Still, as the global economy shifts, how resilient will these programmes be in the long run?

“As the world evolves, so must we,” he said. “That’s why we conduct regular curriculum reviews. The Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) allows us to revise up to 30% of course content annually, giving us the agility to stay aligned with market demands.”

In an era where agility and expertise are critical, UniKL BIS is doing more than keeping up — it is preparing the talent Malaysia needs to power the future.



“We Are UniKL— Now, Let’s Make It Stronger!”



“We have long been united under the slogan We Are UniKL. But I envision taking it beyond a mere slogan—turning it into a steadfast movement toward authentic unity.”

With a goal to break barriers, the newly minted President of the Universiti Kuala Lumpur Student Representative Council (USRC), Muhammad Anas Ishak, is determined to transform We Are UniKL into an even more powerful force—one that truly unites all 12 campuses into one cohesive family.

Officially receiving the Letter of Appointment on 7 March, the Bachelor of Maritime Operations (Hons) student from UniKL Malaysian Institute of Marine Engineering Technology (UniKL MIMET) wholeheartedly acknowledges that the responsibility comes with a gauntlet of hurdles ahead.

While realising the vision is a challenge worth conquering, he said a proper plan should be meticulously laid out with the help of USRC members.

“What I have considered from the beginning is how to foster a sense of unity across campuses. Since UniKL has multiple campuses, each with its unique strengths and specialisations, the challenge lies in achieving alignment and cohesion among them.

“However, to address this, I plan to establish a more systematic communication framework. By doing so, both the campuses and the Chancellery can implement a structured

approach to identifying and addressing gaps at each campus.

Bringing together all 12 campuses into a unified voice is the pinnacle of his vision. However, his ambitions for the transformation of UniKL students extend beyond the university level, driving the establishment of the Private Higher Education Institutions (IPTS) Student Council (ISC).



“Gradually, from the ground up, this will ultimately bridge any existing disparities and work towards greater uniformity

Muhammad Anas Ishak
President Universiti Kuala Lumpur
Student Representative Council (USRC)





Muhammad Anas Ishak, (left) alongside the USRC members.

As this initiative takes shape, the USRC plays a vital role in streamlining efforts to ensure the ISC's successful formation.

Muhammad Anas Ishak added that, as a member of the Board of Government-Linked Universities Student Leaders (BLOGS), they presented the idea to the Minister of Higher Education, Dato' Seri Diraja Dr. Zambry Abd Kadir, during the In-Person With Doc Zam x LEADx Symposium held at UniKL MIMET on 14 March.

"ISC is an initiative and idea from BLOGS, which is already part of Majlis Perundingan

Pelajar Kebangsaan (MPPK). Our goal is to bring a unified voice for IPTS students as well.

"We established a team to conduct groundwork for ISC's formation, including structuring and implementation strategies. From all the work done, we presented it to other IPTS student representative council presidents during a symposium at UniKL MIMET. Alhamdulillah, based on the information shared, we gained strong support and commitment from them, reinforcing that the formation of ISC should take place.

“Our goal is to represent their voices in the form of resolutions, which we then submitted directly to the Minister of Higher Education. On that very day, he acknowledged our efforts and took it to the next step,” he said.

As the President of USRC, he aims to carry out his responsibilities with full dedication, amplifying the voices of students to ensure their concerns are heard and brought to the right channels.

“This role is not about putting my name and face forward—it is a responsibility I embrace wholeheartedly.

“I am here because they chose me, and I strive to learn and serve to the best of my ability. With the support of my fellow USRC members, I hope to address arising issues effectively and bring meaningful change,” he said.





Tracking Every Move

The Malaysian physiotherapy market is projected to reach USD 55.39 million (approximately RM235.77 million) by 2030, according to the Malaysia Physiotherapy Equipment Market Analysis.

Recognising the immense potential of this growing field, Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) is taking proactive steps to develop talents who can lead in this specialised area.

Physiotherapy is fast becoming one of the most promising and sustainable career paths in healthcare, driven by increasing awareness of its importance.

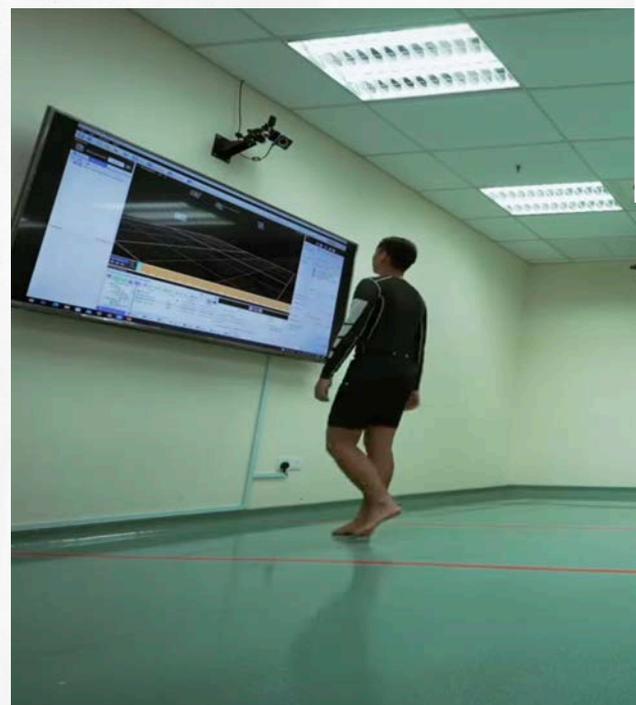
At the heart of UniKL's efforts is its dedicated medical campus, the UniKL Royal College of Medicine Perak (UniKL RCMP), which has established a state-of-the-art Motion Lab to support

teaching, research, and innovation in physiotherapy.

The Motion Lab is primarily used for teaching human movement in subjects such as Biomechanics and Kinesiology.

According to Mohd Murtadha Ramly, the lecturer in charge of the Bachelor of Physiotherapy programme at UniKL RCMP and coordinator of the Motion Lab, students use motion capture technology—specifically the Vicon system—to study gait analysis and human movement.

“This helps students develop a clearer understanding of gait assessment. The lab is also used for final-year projects and research activities related to human movement,” he explained.





INNOVATION INSIGHT |

Operating since 2021, the lab has significantly enhanced the way students learn biomechanics. From manual observation and video recording to 2D analysis, they now advance to 3D motion analysis.

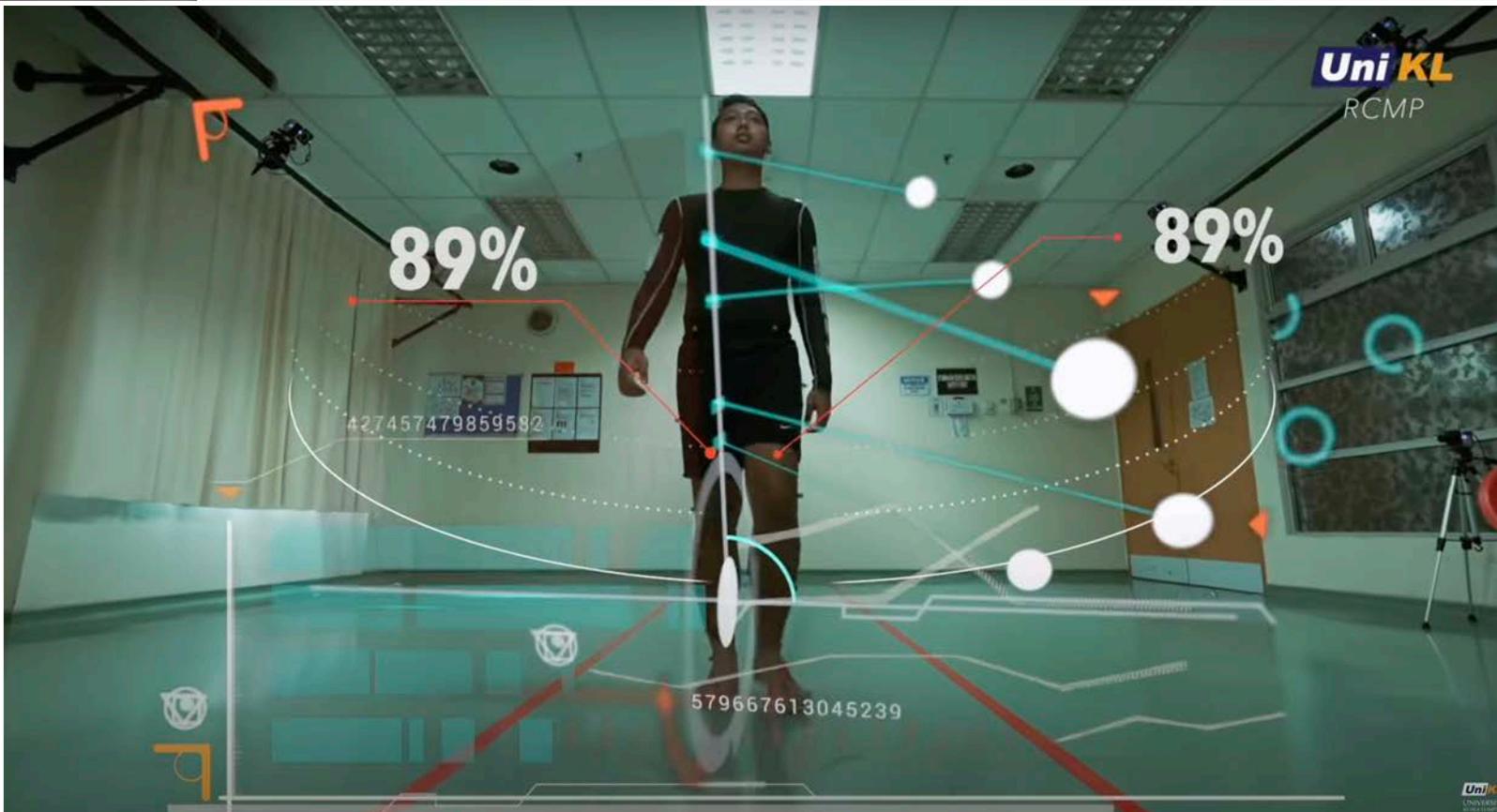
The lab is equipped with eight infrared cameras, one video camera, a screen monitor, a processing system, and a computer.

Students learn to perform anthropometric measurements, marker placement, camera calibration, data collection, and data processing. These skills help them visualise and understand human movement in three dimensions, offering more detail than traditional 2D analysis.

The system also provides precise measurements such as joint angles and gait cycles, enabling students to evaluate performance—whether their own or a patient’s—with greater accuracy.

By working with various motion capture datasets, students also practice clinical reasoning and treatment planning.

While the technology greatly enhances teaching and learning, Mr. Murtadha noted a current gap between such advanced systems and their real-world application.



“Advanced motion capture systems like Vicon or Qualisys are costly and require specific infrastructure, which limits their use in most clinical settings. Smaller or public clinics often cannot afford them, and many physiotherapists lack the training needed for data interpretation and software operation,” he said.

To ensure the lab remains aligned with advancements in the field, UniKL RCMP plans to upgrade the system by integrating electromyography (EMG) and force plates, which are crucial for comprehensive movement analysis.

“At the moment, the lab is not used for hospital-related purposes, but plans are underway to enhance its capabilities with these additional tools,” he added.

Turning Oil Palm Waste into High-Tech Carbon Fiber: A Green Innovation

The transformation of agricultural waste into high-tech materials has become a reality. Researchers have developed an innovative and sustainable method for extracting lignin, a crucial plant component, from oil palm biomass for carbon fiber production.

Carbon fiber, renowned for its strength-to-weight ratio surpassing steel and lighter weight compared to aluminum, has applications in aerospace, sports equipment, and space technology. Conventionally, carbon fiber production relies on petroleum-based sources, which are costly and environmentally detrimental.

The quest for a more sustainable and economical alternative has led scientists to focus on lignin, a natural polymer that is abundant in plants. The utilisation of oil palm biomass, particularly fronds and fruit bunches, presents a dual benefit.

It repurposes agricultural waste that would otherwise be discarded or burned, thereby contributing to air pollution. Simultaneously, it provides a renewable source for high-value materials, potentially creating new economic opportunities in agricultural regions.



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kelly Yong Tau Len (left) leads the research project, to transform the agricultural waste into high-tech materials.

Malaysia, one of the world's largest palm oil producers, generates massive amounts of agricultural waste annually. Although some of this waste is burned or left to decay, researchers have found a groundbreaking way to put it into good use. By extracting lignin from discarded palm fronds and fruit bunches, scientists have turned waste into valuable materials.

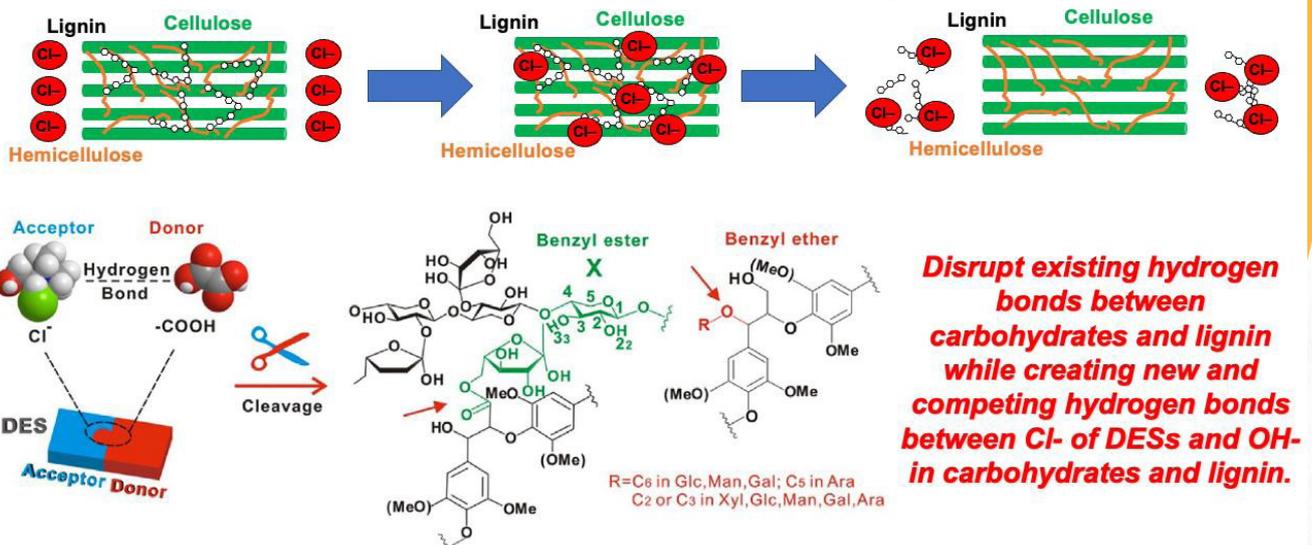
By carefully adjusting the temperature, reaction time, and chemical ratios, scientists have discovered the best way to extract high-quality lignin. These findings revealed that lignin derived from palm fronds exhibited superior properties for carbon fiber production. It contains more phenolic hydroxyl groups that improve its ability to be converted into strong, heat-resistant fibers.

To efficiently extract lignin, researchers have turned to an innovative solution, namely Deep Eutectic Solvents (DES). DES are liquid mixtures composed of simple natural chemicals such as choline chloride (a salt derivative) and glycerol (commonly used in skincare products). These solvents effectively dissolve lignin without the adverse environmental impacts associated with traditional chemical extraction methods.

This breakthrough has significant implications for waste valorization in the palm oil industry. Rather than discarding palm oil byproducts, they can now be repurposed as valuable materials, promoting a circular economy approach. The utilisation of DES in the extraction process offers a more environmentally friendly alternative to conventional chemical methods, aligning with sustainable chemistry principles.

Lignin Extraction using DES

Lignin isolation from the lignin-carbohydrate complex (high purity lignin)



The development of a cost-effective plant-based substitute for petroleum-derived carbon fibers could potentially revolutionise various industries. Sectors such as aerospace, sports equipment manufacturing, and automotive engineering benefit from reduced production costs and improved material sustainability.

optimise production and assess economic feasibility. The potential applications of lignin-based carbon fibers are extensive and can significantly affect various industries. Electric vehicles, aircraft, and construction materials can benefit from this eco-friendly alternative. By repurposing agricultural waste into high-performance materials, this innovation has the potential to revolutionise multiple sectors and contribute to a more sustainable future. The next time you see an oil palm tree, you might just be looking at the future of eco-friendly carbon fiber!

Before lignin-based carbon fibers become mainstream, scientists need to fine-tune the process to ensure the highest purity and strength. Further research is required to



Soya Tenaka: From a Mother's Dream to the Dining Tables of Malaysians

Soya Tenaka — a name that reflects deep aspirations and, above all, sincerity.

In 2019, Ummu Sakinah Ghazali, a graduate in Islamic Finance from Universiti Kuala Lumpur Business School (UniKL BIS), was pursuing a stable career in Kuala Lumpur, with the security of a monthly salary.

But life took a different turn when a spontaneous moment changed everything.

While flipping through her mother's old documents, she came across a business proposal dated 1990.

In it, her mother, Habibah Ujang, had laid out a dream of starting a tofu business — complete with hand-written recipes and a budget plan.

Though her mother eventually became a teacher, the idea had stayed alive on paper.

"I still remember how detailed her proposal was. She even included how to use wooden tofu moulds. Now, we have replaced those with our own custom-made steel moulds," she recalled with a smile.

Inspired by that forgotten dream, Ummu Sakinah decided to breathe life into it. Together with her mother, she founded Soya Tenaka, which now offers a wide range of soy-based products, including soy milk, tau fu fah, tofu, and more recently, tofu skin or fucuk.

Their tofu skin journey started from a common problem — the difficulty of finding halal-certified

tofu skin in the market. This challenge sparked innovation.

"It was hard to find tofu skin that was halal, clean, and safe to eat," she said. "So, we started experimenting with our own recipe. By the end of 2019, we had built a small production facility and began investing in specific machinery, including a tofu skin drying machine."

Today, Soya Tenaka earns nearly RM20,000 in monthly sales, but every ringgit is hard-earned.



Soya Tenaka offers a wide range of soy-based products, including soy milk, tau fu fah, tofu, and more recently, tofu skin or fucuk.

The process of making tofu skin is meticulous and laborious. By 4 a.m., the soybeans are soaked — a delicate balance that must avoid oversoaking or contamination — then slow-boiled to extract the fresh beancurd sheets.

From their small facility in Kampung Titian Akar, Linggi, Ummu Sakinah and her mother continue to produce what is likely the only halal tofu skin in their area — a point of pride for the family.

In fact, the name Soya Tenaka itself is derived from "Titian Akar", paying tribute to the village that nurtured their roots and inspired their journey.

Of course, success does not come without hurdles. One of their biggest challenges is production capacity. Currently, their equipment can only produce around 60 packets per cycle, far short of the over 100-packet demand.



“We began production during the recent Ramadan, but had to pause the process due to limited stock. We are now planning to expand and invest in more machines to meet demand and operate more efficiently,” said Ummu Sakinah.

However, the most pressing challenge remains the cost — both to purchase and maintain machinery, and to keep the facility clean and up to halal standards.

“Since we are in the food business and hold halal certification, hygiene is everything. We also have to pay staff specifically for cleaning, so our operational costs are quite high,” she added.

Despite the obstacles, Ummu Sakinah believes in growing the business through sincerity and service. One of their most effective marketing strategies is simple: community giving.

Her products — clean, honest, and local — speak for themselves. Nothing is wasted at Soya Tenaka. Every part of the soybean is used.

“Our soybeans are fully utilised. We produce soy milk, tofu, tau fu fah — and even the pulp is given to local farmers as livestock feed.

“We are proud to have developed four soy-based products, all while supporting the agricultural community around us,” she said.

“Sometimes we donate soy milk to the nearby mosque, and through that, people got to know about our products. It is organic marketing through kindness,”

Ummu Sakinah Ghazali
UniKL Business School Alumna



TVET MYTH BUSTED

THINK
AGAIN!

Think You Know TVET?

Let's debunk the top 5 myths about TVET.

Time to separate fact from fiction and celebrate the real skills of the future!

MYTH 1

"TVET is for students who aren't good at academics."



MYTH 2

"TVET graduates only work in low-paying jobs."



MYTH 3

"TVET jobs are dirty or dangerous."



MYTH 4

"TVET doesn't lead to further education."



MYTH 5

"TVET is a dead end."



4 Key Strategies For 2025 - Chairman



Chairman of UniKL YB Dato' Sri Sh Mohmed Puzi Sh Ali (right), walking together with President/Chief Executive Officer of UniKL Prof. Ir. Dr. Azman Senin during the Majlis Amanat Tahun Baru 2025

Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) is ushering in 2025 with four strategic priorities aimed at driving the university forward: producing high-quality graduates with strong employability rates, establishing a robust financial sustainability strategy, prioritizing staff hospitality, and fostering productivity through technology.

The Chairman of UniKL, YB Dato' Sri Sh Mohmed Puzi Sh Ali, emphasised that these strategies will bolster the university's 10-year strategic direction, the Transformation and Global Expansion Period, which began in 2022.

Under the first strategy, he highlighted the need to strengthen UniKL's unique programme offerings aligned with the High Growth and High Value (HGHV) sectors, ensuring they meet current industry demands.



“This year, I want us to explore the potential of introducing an Underwater Welding program at UniKL Malaysia France Institute (UniKL MFI). This field is critically important due to the shortage of local expertise, despite the attractive salaries it offers.

YB Dato' Sri Sh Mohmed Puzi Sh Ali
Chairman of Universiti Kuala Lumpur



“To my knowledge, no other institution currently offers such a programme. Given the high demand from industries like shipbuilding and ship repair (SBSR), oil and gas, and dam construction, this initiative will enable us to produce more highly skilled graduates,” he said during the Majlis Amanat Tahun Baharu 2025 UniKL on January 22.

Additionally, he stressed the importance of improving UniKL’s position in global university rankings to attract more international students.

This, he noted, is a core focus during the Transformation and Global Expansion Period, aimed at enhancing the university’s global prominence through aggressive student recruitment and other initiatives.



During the event, UniKL's Project Management Office (PMO) unveiled the UniKL Centralised and Integrated Data System (uCIDS), a key mechanism for data management at UniKL, which aligns with the fourth strategy for 2025.

"These systems are in line with the directive of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Rural and Regional Development, the YAB Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, to use dashboards as the primary tool for monitoring the performance of ministries and agencies.

"UniKL has taken proactive steps to support this vision, positioning itself as one of the earliest adopters of this initiative," he concluded.





Deputy PM Launches UniKL MIMET Wave Tank

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Rural and Regional Development (KKDW), Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, officially launched the Hydrodynamic Wave Tank Centre at the Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Institute of Marine Engineering Technology (UniKL MIMET) campus during his official visit.

This cutting-edge facility is poised to become a pivotal catalyst for the growth of Malaysia's maritime industry.

With an investment of RM12.7 million under the 11th Malaysia Plan (RMK-11), the centre is set to enhance research, innovation, and human capital development in the marine and maritime engineering sectors.

Accompanying the Deputy Prime Minister during the visit were the Secretary General of KKDW, YBhg. Datuk Muhd Khair Razman Mohamed; the Chairman of Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA), YBhg. Datuk Wira Dr. Asyraf Wajdi Dato' Dusuki; the Chairman of MARA Corporation (MARACorp),

YBhg. Encik Mohamad Rafi Shahzada; the Chairman of Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL), YB Dato' Sri Sh. Mohmed Puzi Sh. Ali; as well as senior representatives from various ministries, agencies, and institutions.

The Hydrodynamic Wave Tank Centre, an internationally recognised facility, is specifically designed for learning, research, and consultancy activities involving ship models and deep-sea offshore structures. Measuring 30 meters in length, 10 meters in width, and 6 meters in depth—with an additional 4 meters at the centre—the tank is equipped with 20 paddles capable of generating waves up to 0.5 meters high, equivalent to 25-50 meters of real-world waves depending on the model scale.

Beyond producing regular, irregular, and oblique waves, the facility also includes a moving platform that can tow ship models at speeds of up to 1.5 meters per second (equivalent to 15-18 knots of actual ship speed).

This advanced setup is expected to significantly benefit 80 to 100 students per semester, particularly those from UniKL MIMET, in their academic and research pursuits.

The centre is also anticipated to attract maritime industries and agencies, both domestically and internationally, for consultancy and commercial activities under the management of the Asia Marine Design Centre (AMDeC) at UniKL MIMET.

To further realise its potential, several short- and medium-term plans are underway. These include obtaining accreditation from the International Towing Tank Conference (ITTC), fostering collaborations with government-linked companies (GLCs) such as Petronas and MISC, and establishing a regional marine design hub.

The launch of the Hydrodynamic Wave Tank Centre marks a significant milestone in Malaysia's maritime sector, reinforcing UniKL MIMET's commitment to innovation, education, and industry advancement.



3+2 Degree Programme with Korea

Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) has embarked on its first 3+2 transfer degree programme agreement with Korea, specifically in the field of information technology.

This initiative, led by UniKL Malaysian Institute of Information Technology (UniKL MIIT), was formalised through a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Seoul National University of Science and Technology (SeoulTech).

The agreement was signed by the President/Chief Executive Officer of UniKL, Prof. Ir. Dr. Azman Senin, and the President of SeoulTech, Prof. Dr. Dong Hwan Kim, on 13 February 2025, at the UniKL City Campus.

“Today, we take another significant step in strengthening our collaboration by formalising our partnership through MoA for the 3+2 Transfer Degree Programme. This programme enables Diploma in Information Technology students from UniKL MIIT to continue their Bachelor of Computer Science and Engineering at SeoulTech.

“I also hope today’s agreement will serve as a stepping stone for more collaborative initiatives between our institutions, including regular faculty exchanges, joint research efforts, and industry collaborations that directly contribute to the IT workforce,” said Prof. Ir. Dr. Azman during the signing ceremony.





In 2024, 20 UniKL students had the privilege of participating in the Winter Camp at SeoulTech, and by January 2025, the number had increased to 25.

Similarly, UniKL has welcomed students from SeoulTech to Malaysia. Fourteen students participated in the English Edutourism Programme at UniKL MIIT in July 2024, followed by another 10 students in January 2025.

Under this new agreement, the collaboration is expanding beyond student mobility. As part of

an upcoming faculty exchange programme, Dr. Husna Osman from UniKL MIIT will be based at SeoulTech's Office of International Affairs for 12 months.

"It is remarkable that we have initiated a 3+2 programme connecting both universities, fostering mutual trust and collaboration. We are confident in its success.

"We are always open to welcoming your students and providing opportunities for ours to study at your university," said Prof. Dr. Dong Hwan Kim.



UniKL MIAT: First Tech University With Taxiway

Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Institute of Aviation Technology (UniKL MIAT) has become the first technical university in Malaysia to be equipped with a taxiway, apron, and security fence, enhancing the institute's aerospace learning facilities.

This follows the successful handover of the project to UniKL MIAT by the Public Works Department, or Jabatan Kerja Raya (JKR), as the implementing agency.

The ceremony was officiated by the Director General of Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA), YBhg. Dato' Sri Azhar Abdul Manaf.

"Today, we witness another historic moment as UniKL receives a completed project from JKR—the taxiway, apron, and security fence. This is a significant and latest development, making UniKL the only university in Malaysia with a hangar directly connected to a commercial taxiway.

"As a result, we believe that in the future, our students will greatly benefit from the training conducted by UniKL MIAT. If we compare this to medical students, they gain hands-on experience treating patients, and in cases of surgery, they operate on live bodies.

"Similarly, in aviation studies, previously at UniKL MIAT Sepang, students could only observe aircraft maintenance, assembly, and engine startups. However, with this new development, I hope students will gain even greater industry exposure and experience," he said after officiating the handover ceremony, held on 25 February 2025.





Also present were the Deputy Director General of Works (Infra Sector), Ir. Mohd Shahrom Ahmad Saman; the Deputy Director-General (Education) of MARA, Ir. Dr. Mahzan Teh; and the President/Chief Executive Officer of UniKL, Prof. Ir. Dr. Azman Senin.

For the record, on April 15, 2020, the implementation of the construction project for the taxiway, apron, and security fencing at the UniKL MIAT Subang campus, connecting the campus to the aircraft taxiway facilities at Subang Airport, was approved under the Eleventh Malaysia Plan (R M K - 11) with a total project cost of RM 14.9 million.

The construction project commenced on April 12, 2023, carried out by the contractor Yakin Serba Sdn Bhd through a tender procurement process.

With the completion of this taxiway construction, the hangar facilities at UniKL MIAT Subang can now accommodate fixed-wing narrow-body aircraft, such as the Boeing 737 and Airbus A320, which are widely used by airlines in Malaysia and Southeast Asia.

To enable the maintenance of narrow-body aircraft at the UniKL MIAT Subang hangar, UniKL MIAT will collaborate with Asia Aerotech Sdn. Bhd., a Part-145 aircraft maintenance company under MARA Corporation.

This collaboration with Asia Aerotech Sdn. Bhd. is part of an ecosystem adapted from the Teaching Factory model pioneered by UniKL.

Through this partnership, approximately 100 students per semester will have the opportunity to undergo On-the-Job Training (OJT) with the Part-145 company, enhancing their skills in the field of aircraft maintenance.



UniKL, Alumni Donate RM230K to Wakaf MARA Madani

Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) has reaffirmed its commitment to Bumiputera socio-economic development by contributing a total of RM130,000 to the newly launched Wakaf MARA Madani, a waqf initiative formulated as part of the resolutions of the Bumiputera Economic Congress (KEB 2024).

The university's contribution includes RM30,000 channelled through the UniKL Alumni Association (UNIKMA), reflecting a strong spirit of alumni solidarity and support for nation-building efforts.

The initiative also gained further momentum with an additional RM100,000 contribution from Perniagaan Mazlan & Hashimah (K) Sdn Bhd (PMH), a company owned by Mohd Izwan Mazlan, a proud alumnus of UniKL Malaysia France Institute (UniKL MFI) and recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award in Leadership at the UniKL Alumni Appreciation Night 2024.

"May every small step we take continue to bring goodness, open doors to abundant sustenance, grant lasting blessings, and earn continuous rewards.



“PMH is honoured to support a waqf initiative that empowers the ummah and strengthens the socio-economic well-being of our community and nation,” said Mohd Izwan, who now serves as the company’s Chief Executive Officer.

In total, the contributions from UniKL, its alumni association, and an MFI alumnus-owned company amount to RM230,000 — a significant show of support for Wakaf MARA Madani.

The waqf initiative was officially launched by Prime Minister YAB Dato’ Seri Anwar Ibrahim on 15 March 2024, in conjunction with MARA’s

59th anniversary, and serves as a strategic vehicle for sustainable Bumiputera economic empowerment.

Effective January 2025, Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA) will officially serve as the Mutawalli (waqf asset administrator) under the appointment of the Majlis Agama Islam Wilayah Persekutuan (MAIWP) for a five-year term.

Adding further incentive for participation, the initiative has received Ministry of Finance approval for income tax deductions of up to 10% under Section 44(11C) of the Income Tax Act 1967.



RM50K+ Aid From OCBC Al-Amin For UniKL Students

OCBC Al-Amin Bank Berhad (OCBC Al-Amin) has contributed over RM50,000 to Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) to support student welfare through food relief initiatives and the establishment of a dedicated reading corner.

As part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts, OCBC Al-Amin allocated RM15,437 for Gerobok Rezeki and Food For Love—programmes aimed at providing essential food supplies to UniKL students.

Additionally, RM34,805 was used to set up the OCBC Al-Amin AZKA Corner at the Tunku Azizah Knowledge Centre (TAKC) in UniKL City Campus, offering students a conducive space for learning and personal growth.

The donation was officially handed over by OCBC Al-Amin's Chief Executive Officer, YBhg. Tuan Syed Abdull Aziz Syed Kechik to UniKL President/CEO, Prof. Ir. Dr. Azman Senin, during a ceremony held at TAKC, on 4 March 2025.

Pusat Pungutan Zakat Majlis Agama Islam Wilayah Persekutuan (PPZ-MAIWP), serving as the facilitator, played a key role in ensuring the smooth implementation of the initiative.

Speaking at the event, Prof. Ir. Dr. Azman emphasised the significance of the OCBC Al-Amin AZKA Corner beyond just being a reading space.

"This corner is not just a learning area but a knowledge hub that deepens our understanding of zakat's role in economic development and societal

well-being. I am also pleased to learn that PPZ-MAIWP will continue contributing scholarly materials to enrich this space.

The event was also attended by PPZ-MAIWP Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Operations), YBhg. Encik Mohammed Hassan; UniKL Deputy President (Academic and Technology), YBhg. Prof. Dr. Kushsairy Abdul Kadir; UniKL Deputy President (Student Development and Campus Lifestyle), YBhg. Prof. Ts. Dr. Zalizah Awang Long; and Yayasan UniKL Executive Director, Dr. Morni Hayati Jaafar Sidik.

As the university's social responsibility arm, Yayasan UniKL will oversee the distribution of the donation, ensuring that students benefit from the initiative.

"I hope this collaboration marks the beginning of more initiatives between UniKL and OCBC Al-Amin, particularly in equipping students with financial management knowledge,"

Prof. Ir. Dr. Azman Senin
President/CEO of Universiti Kuala Lumpur



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Employers' Choice Award For Second Year Consecutive

Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) has once again earned a spot among 44 local universities recognised in the 2025 Employers' Choice Award, marking its second consecutive year of achievement.

The list, curated by Talentbank — a Malaysia-based career discovery and recruitment platform that connects graduates with top employers — reflects the high demand for UniKL alumni, who are seen as industry-ready and highly employable.

Representing UniKL at the award ceremony was the Deputy President (Student Development and Campus Lifestyle), Prof. Ts. Dr. Zalizah Awang Long.

Also present were Puan Mariam Yahaya, Covering Chief Management & Services Officer (CMSO), and Dr. Mohammad Faiz Md Noor, Director of the Centre for Alumni & Career Services (CACs).

According to Talentbank, the comprehensive survey included feedback from 733 leading employers such as Maybank, CelcomDigi, CIMB, Nestlé, Hartalega, Hong Leong Investment Bank, PwC Malaysia, PETRONAS, Public Bank, Sunway, Standard Chartered Bank, BDO, DKSH Malaysia, AIA Berhad, Telekom Malaysia, Generali Insurance Malaysia, and Western Digital.

These employers consistently identified UniKL as one of the

institutions producing graduates who meet industry needs.

UniKL shares this recognition with other esteemed institutions, including Sunway University, Taylor's University, Multimedia University, Universiti Malaya, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, and Universiti Sains Malaysia, among others.

UniKL currently boasts an impressive employability rate of 97.5%, with all 12 campuses recording above 90%.

In 2024, UniKL further solidified its reputation as a launchpad for career success, earning a place among the Top 10 Most Desirable Private Higher Education Institutions to Work With.



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UniKL expands TVET in Jakarta & West Sumatra

Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) has formalised two landmark partnerships with the Provincial Governments of DKI Jakarta and Sumatera Barat (SUMBAR), Indonesia, through the signing of Letters of Intent (LoIs).

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Rural and Regional Development (KKDW), Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, said the signing of these LoIs underscores a shared commitment to strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), while also stimulating

socio-economic growth in both countries.

"It also reflects Malaysia and Indonesia's dedication to producing a skilled workforce equipped to face global challenges, combining academic excellence with cultural values for sustainable development.

"These five-year collaborations are expected to leverage UniKL's academic and research capabilities, supported by regional government policies and Indonesia's industry networks.

"The goal is to enhance employability through industry-aligned TVET programmes, strengthen research and innovation in vocational education, promote cultural preservation through curriculum integration, and drive economic growth powered by an agile and adaptable workforce," he said after witnessing the signing ceremony at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 21 April 2025, during his three-day official visit to the country.



UniKL was represented by its President and Chief Executive Officer, Prof. Ir. Dr. Azman Senin. The Provincial Government of DKI Jakarta was represented by its Deputy Governor, Mr. Rano Karno, while SUMBAR was represented by its Governor, Mr. Mahyeldi Ansharullah.

Also in attendance, the Chairman of Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA), Dato' Dr. Asyraf Wajdi Dato' Dusuki, the Chairman of UniKL,

Dato' Sri Sh Mohmed Puzi Sh Ali and the Director General of MARA, Dato' Zulfikri Osman.

The Lol with DKI Jakarta focuses on developing TVET programmes in key areas, including joint research, student mobility, industry linkages, technical support, and credit transfer.

This initiative supports Jakarta's aspiration to develop a skilled

workforce for infrastructure development, urban planning, and public administration, advancing its vision to become a global economic hub.

Meanwhile, the Lol with SUMBAR introduces the Ulul Albab Hufaz TVET Minangkabau programme, which integrates Islamic principles and Minangkabau cultural heritage into vocational training.



The programme aims to empower Hafiz al-Quran (Quran memorisers) with technical expertise and entrepreneurial skills to meet both local and international industry demands.

“Through this approach, UniKL aims to attract between 1,000 and 1,500 applicants from Indonesia annually, with DKI Jakarta and West Sumatra identified as the primary recruitment zones during the initial phase.

“This initiative supports Malaysia’s policy of exporting education and fostering academic mobility within the ASEAN region,” he added.

In addition, Dato’ Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid also witnessed the exchange of Lol documents between the Government of West Sumatra and Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS), marking a strategic collaboration to coordinate and facilitate the enrolment of sponsored students from West Sumatra into Malaysian higher education institutions.

The scope of collaboration includes student visa applications, pre-departure programmes, and student placement at suitable universities in Malaysia.

26 UniKL Students Secure Jobs After China Training Year

A total of 26 students from Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) have been selected to participate in the prestigious Program Latihan Kemahiran Industri ECRL (PLKI-ECRL) at Liuzhou Railway Vocational Technical College (LRVTC), China, marking a significant step towards building global competencies in the railway sector.

This initiative is part of a strategic collaboration between Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA), Malaysia Rail Link Sdn Bhd (MRL), and UniKL.

It aims to prepare Malaysia's next generation of railway professionals for the operation and maintenance (O&M) phase of the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project.

Under this one-year programme, students from UniKL will pursue a specialised diploma in Railway Transportation Operations at LRVTC as part of the ECRL Industrial Collaboration Program (ICP), with 15 students from UniKL British Malaysian Institute (BMI), nine from UniKL Malaysia Italy Design Institute (MIDI), and two from UniKL Malaysia France Institute (MFI) selected to participate.

"The next plan after finishing my studies in China is to work with MRL for a year. Maybe after the one-year bond with MRL, I'll continue my bachelor's degree.



"And then, if the opportunity arises, I'd love to return to work with MRL," said Aleeya Ameera Mohamad Azmi, a Diploma in Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technology student from UniKL BMI.

She is one of 26 UniKL students selected to undergo the one-year programme in Railway Transportation Operations in China.

Following the academic programme, students will undergo a three-month internship at the ECRL project site in Malaysia, offering them hands-on

experience with real-world railway systems and operations aligned with international—specifically Chinese—railway industry standards.

Upon successful completion of both the academic training and internship, all participants will be offered job placements with the ECRL operator, contributing directly to one of Malaysia's most ambitious and significant infrastructure projects.

For Khairul Hakimi Mohamad Fadzil, another participant, the plan is clear: "I plan to pursue my bachelor's degree after returning

to Malaysia—to increase my value and secure my future, God willing."

Malaysia faces a critical shortage of skilled professionals in railway transportation, signalling, and rolling stock maintenance.

The PLKI-ECRL programme addresses this gap by providing international exposure to advanced railway technologies, strengthening students' employability for the ECRL and future railway projects, and enabling dual certification that bridges Malaysian and international railway qualifications.

UniKL formalises AI partnership with MBZUAI

Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) has formalised a strategic partnership with one of the world's top 10 artificial intelligence (AI) research institutions, Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI).

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was exchanged on 28 May 2025 during the ASEAN-GCC Economic Forum 2025, in the presence of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Minister of Home Affairs, YB Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail.

The signing was witnessed by key leaders, including Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Rural and Regional Development (KKDW), Dato' Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi; Secretary-General of KKDW, Datuk Muhd. Khair Razman Mohamed Annuar; and Chairman of Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA), Datuk Wira Dr. Asyraf Wajdi Dato' Dusuki.

UniKL was represented by its President and Chief Executive Officer, Prof. Ir. Dr. Azman Senin, while MBZUAI was represented by its Vice President of Public Affairs and Alumni Relations, Sultan Al Hajji.

The partnership paves the way for a comprehensive bilateral collaboration in AI, encompassing knowledge sharing, technological exchange, and research initiatives.

It also aims to elevate the quality of teaching and learning in the AI domain across Malaysia.



“UniKL is committed to becoming a key enabler in Malaysia’s journey towards technological leadership in ASEAN by building a vibrant ecosystem of innovation, talent, and impactful partnerships.

“Through this collaboration with MBZUAI, UniKL develops the talent in High Growth High Value industries such as AI, cybersecurity, green tech, renewable energy and advanced manufacturing—while embedding entrepreneurial thinking across disciplines.

“This prepares a generation of innovators and problem-solvers to lead Malaysia’s digital and industrial transformation,” said Prof. Ir. Dr. Azman after the ceremony.

The AI partnership with MBZUAI will be spearheaded by UniKL Malaysian Institute of Information Technology (UniKL MIIT), which is envisioned as

the university’s centre for AI excellence, particularly within the Southeast Asian region.

This milestone follows an official UniKL delegation visit to MBZUAI on 27 February 2025, led by UniKL Board Member En. Zairul Amri Adam; Prof. Ir. Dr. Azman and the Dean of UniKL MIIT, Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Mohd Nizam Husen.

According to Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Mohd Nizam, this marks a promising beginning for UniKL MIIT to further establish itself as a key driver of AI development within UniKL, MARA, and KKDW.

“This MoU focuses on advancing collaboration in the field of AI, with UniKL’s KAIa — the AI Centre at UniKL MIIT — serving as the nucleus of our AI initiatives. Through this partnership, we aim to strengthen cooperation in research, academic programmes, and student mobility,” he added.

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