



Unikl  
Convocation  
Returns

Pg.04



Stepping  
Into  
20 Years

Pg.08



Colour  
Outside  
The Line

Pg.14

# UniKL **X**PRESS

Universiti Kuala Lumpur

# Convocation Returns



**UniKL**  
UNIVERSITI  
KUALA LUMPUR





# CONTENTS

- 4     **FEATURE STORY**  
      UniKL Convocation Returns
- 8     **SPECIAL COVER**  
      Stepping Into 20 Years
- 14    **STUDENT AMBASSADOR**  
      Colour Outside The Line
- 16 - 31 **EVENT/HIGHLIGHTS**
  - 16    3 UniKL's centres of excellence receive TCH appointment letter
  - 18    Antwerp-Bruges pays working visit to UniKL MIMET
  - 20    JLM honours Dr. Md Redzuan as Day of the Seafarer Icon
  - 22    UniKL, the first university in SEA to collaborate with IRSE
  - 24    4 UniKL lecturers receive 'Anugerah Cemerlang Pendidik MARA' award
  - 26    2021 graduates' employability: UniKL again tops the list
  - 28    Baling flood: 5 UniKL campuses come together to aid victims
  - 30    MDEC recognises UniKL as the Premier Digital Tech Institution
  - 31    UniKL builds Malaysia's first net zero energy building
- 32    **ALUMNI CORNER**  
      Flying into a success
- 34    **RESEARCH**  
      ClearKon: A contact lens for treating microbial keratitis



# UniKL Convocation returns with whirlwind of joy

On August 11th morning, the World Trade Centre (WTC) yard was flocked by more than 400 graduands in suits, dresses, and national outfits. Attired in convocation robes with different colours of hood stripes wrapped on their shoulders, it was filled with smiles, comings and goings as they waited to officially graduate from Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL).

Definitely, a whole different kind-of zing exuded on that morning, the UniKL Convocation finally returned for its 17th and 18th ceremony after a two-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic. For the first time, the academic setting combined two graduation classes of 2020 and 2021.

Graced by Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Mustain Billah, the main session of the auspicious ceremony honours 578 graduates, while the second session celebrated 727 graduates.

His Majesty Al-Sultan Abdullah, in his opening speech, said that UniKL has a huge mission to produce local and international human capital with high expertise and competitiveness. As a Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) university, His Majesty told, UniKL must continue to be a catalyst for industrial development in Malaysia.

Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan  
Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah  
Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Haji Ahmad  
Shah Al-Mustain Billah  
and  
Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Hajah  
Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah  
Binti Almarhum Al-Mutawakkil Alallah  
Sultan Iskandar Al-Haj



“That is why I highly praise UniKL’s move to pioneer various new fields such as sustainable energy, electric vehicles (EV), big data, Internet of Things (IoT) and aerospace,” said His Majesty Al-Sultan Abdullah.

Also in attendance were Raja Permaisuri Agong Tunku Hajah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah Binti Almarhum Al-Mutawakkil Alallah Sultan Iskandar Al-Haj; Rural Development Minister, Dato’ Seri Mahdzir Khalid; Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA) Chairman, Datuk Seri Panglima Hajah Azizah Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Mohd Dun; Director General of MARA, YBhg. Dato’ Azhar Abdul Manaf; Deputy Director-General (Education) of MARA, YBhg. En. Razlan Haji Samsuri; and President/Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Dr. Roziah Omar.

During the first session of the convocation ceremony, His Majesty Al-Sultan Abdullah, who is also the Chancellor of UniKL presented PhD scrolls to 24 graduands and Special Awards to 47 graduands. As part of the ceremony, Dato’ Seri Mahdzir and Datuk Seri Panglima Hajah Azizah were introduced as the new Pro-Chancellors of UniKL.

Meanwhile, Puteri Amalia Azar Firdaus and Obaida Hani Farouq Abul Khair were named as the Chancellor Award recipients for the classes of 2020 and 2021, respectively. They were selected based on their excellent academic results, apart from their contributions to the university, institute and the students’ community.

## Awe-inspiring moments

Graduation marks a milestone in the lives of students. As if on cue, all graduands trembled with anticipation to just in few steps conferred with scrolls. However, an Asperger’s graduate who was celebrated during the convocation ceremony’s ninth session was one of the books, making autism awareness, in general, move to acceptance resonate even more.

Having born with Asperger’s Syndrome - a form of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), it does not stand in the way of Amir Hisyam Zamri, 27, earning a bachelor’s degree in Telecommunication Engineering Technology from Universiti Kuala Lumpur British Malaysian Institute (UniKL BMI).

Despite his inability to communicate well and to socially engage effectively, it was his exerting effort to complete the studies tells an awe-inspiring story for one to reflect. The facilities, lecturers and friends at UniKL BMI that he finds accommodating.

“My favourite thing to do at UniKL BMI is to install servers and deal with wiring,” chuckled Amir Hisyam and soon after his mother, Norhayati Mohd Noor, explained that he is quite handy with repairs.



Arzmira Aisyah Mohd Sohaimi and Azrina Asyiqin Mohd Sohaimi Bachelor of Business Administrations (Hons) in Islamic Finance at UniKL Business School (UBIS)

While graduating from a bachelor's degree is commendable enough, Lailatul Amira Anuar, at a young age of 25 brought home two scrolls of bachelor's and master's degree from Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Institute of Marine Engineering Technology (UniKL MIMET).

For a good measure, during the first session of UniKL Convocation Ceremony, she was also accorded with the President's Award, a prestigious recognition that acknowledges a recipient's excellent academic result.

"Long wait of two years paid off and this award particularly goes to both of my parents. They gratefully expressed pride in my achievement, but the bottom-line is, it was the university that also contributed to my success," she told.

When asked what pushed her to pursue master's studies after completing her bachelor's degree, Lailatul replied: "It's now or never." Plucking up the courage to stay determine achieving her dreams favours her to embark on steady job as a part-time lecturer at the alma mater.



Lailatul Amira Anuar  
Bachelor's and master's degree  
from Universiti Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysian Institute of Marine  
Engineering Technology  
(UniKL MIMET)

**"Long wait of two years paid off and this award particularly goes to both of my parents. They gratefully expressed pride in my achievement, but the bottom-line is, it was the university that also contributed to my success," - Lailatul Amira Anuar**

As other graduates celebrating their achievement with fellow friends, but the convocation ceremony filled double excitement for the 26-year-old identical twin, Arzmira Aisyah Mohd Sohaimi and Azrina Asyiqin Mohd Sohaimi.

Not only they shared the same womb, but they chose same career path after graduating from Bachelor of Business Administrations (Hons) in Islamic Finance at UniKL Business School (UBIS).

"It came as a surprise to both of us when we found out about UniKL's Convocation Ceremony, considering we have been awaiting it for two years. It was an amazing experience, and having my sister together to complete this study was what plugged me away," said Arzmira Aisyah.

Never having separated since their first day at UniKL, they are landing jobs as analyst at two different major banks in Klang Valley. Azrina Asyiqin shared that they both wish to focus on their career development and are not planning to pursue a master's degree at the moment.

Held from 11th to 17th August, the ceremony saw a total of 10,547 graduates receive their respective scrolls, including 137 international students from 28 countries. Of this total, 5,338 individuals graduated in 2020, while 5,209 graduated in 2021. This has brought the number of alumni that has been produced by UniKL increased to 73,317 alumni.



# 2 decades of rising

## Stepping into 20 years

To get the inside story of UniKL's 20 years of journey, we spoke to YBhg. Dato' Azhar Abdul Manaf, the Director-General of Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA). Like most big birthdays, the interview with this salient figure provides an opportunity to reflect on how UniKL has remarkably changed.

A couple of decades is no twinkling period, it marks progression, change and revival. Stepping into its 20th anniversary on 20 August 2022, Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) has indeed come into its own.

20 years ago, UniKL was formed to consolidate its role as the Apex of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system in Malaysia. Education pathways are equipped with higher levels of TVET specialisation, while its international stature is upgraded.

It goes without saying that the skills and technical competencies of the local workforce became the utmost agenda for disrupting the education landscape that was previously leaned more towards academic-based.

The demand-supply of TVET talent locally was distinctly mismatched. As the nation expects more from technical higher learning institutions, here comes the role of UniKL to set it right.

As far back as the Rural and Industrial Development Authority (RIDA) was established in the 1950s, later known as Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA), it has long been its intention to promote technical education and skills among rural communities.

It started with 'Sekolah Pertukangan' by RIDA, which introduced informal technical training and eventually led to the founding of a few technical institutes for achieving that paragon aspiration.

YBhg. Dato' Azhar Abdul Manaf  
the Director-General of Majlis Amanah  
Rakyat (MARA)



“The formation of formal technical education became a curtain-raiser to skills education, which is now known as TVET, to improve the wellbeing of rural communities. This progressed to the establishment of Giat MARA, Kolej Kemahiran MARA and ultimately, the inception of UniKL marked the significant height of the TVET ecosystem under MARA.

“I can say that TVET programmes offered at UniKL have complemented the education system under MARA. Personally, if we look at it from UniKL’s evolution, I think we should be proud of this university,” he told.

UniKL was formed as part of the education group under MARA via the amalgamation of seven MARA skills institutions in 2002 and has since experienced rapid expansion as a university of choice in Malaysia. UniKL at present has twelve campuses.

If compared to other prominent universities nestled in Malaysia, UniKL is just at the beginning of the journey. Yet, it is borne with a major responsibility to provide challenging TVET programmes that will enable the development of the technological base of this Southeast Asian country.

These programmes offered came with the same intention of advancing automation on land, sea, and aerospace.

“If we look at universities of the same age as UniKL, even universities that have been established for a long time, I see that none of them is able to offer programmes involving these three clusters (land, sea and aerospace).

“UniKL should be proud of being able to offer or provide programmes that are now the choice of students to pursue higher education,” he further noted.



University Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Institute of Aviation Technology (UniKL MIAT)



Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Institute of Marine Engineering Technology (UniKL MIMET)



Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysia Italy Design Institute (UniKL MIDI)

## Howling success

Beyond a shadow of a doubt, UniKL needs new, strategic and relevant industrial partners at both local and regional levels to become an institute that delivers education well synced with technological advancement and development in the industry.

UniKL prevailed through the 20 years journey to waste no time in knocking on various opportunities to achieve greater heights. Beyond the general and technical education delivered on campus, UniKL delivers competitive and dynamic vocational education through partnerships with industries and research institutions.

In the second quarter of 2022 alone, UniKL created a commendable history when it became the first university in Southeast Asia to collaborate with an international licensing body on rail transport signal control systems. This is after it sealed a collaboration with the Institute of Railway Signal Engineers United Kingdom (UK), IRSE, which was established over 100 years ago.

On a national scale, a total of three centres of excellence (CoE) from UniKL have been officially appointed as TVET Collaboration Hubs, involving the areas of railways within UniKL Asia Rail Centre; satellites and avionics at UniKL Malaysian Institute of Aviation Technology (UniKL MIAT); and robotics at UniKL Malaysia France Institute (UniKL MFI).

Most recently, UniKL through its Kuala Lumpur-based institute, UniKL Malaysian Institute of Information Technology (UniKL MIIT) becomes one of more than 15 higher learning institutions in Malaysia as the Premier Digital Tech Institution (PDTI) for its proven track record in delivering quality digital technology education.

It is a noteworthy recognition by the Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC), the government's lead agency to implement the Malaysia Digital initiative. To have the PDTI status, the selected tertiary institutions need to comply with a few criteria including having more than 2,000 students and a curriculum industry standard.



Having met those criteria, UniKL MIIT has been identified as having tertiary education models that successfully produce quality talents for digital technology careers and graduates who become industry-ready. This fraction of UniKL's achievements has self-evidently demonstrated its long-term effort.

“Previously, we only received SETARA ratings - rigorous assessment methodology to rate an education institution's three core functions, namely teaching, research and services. But, now we have entered the ranking of the best universities in the world and this is a result of the efforts carried out.

“In fact, if we look at UniKL's collaboration, UniKL is among TVET universities that has many collaborations with the industries. In other words, these numerous collaborations show that this university prioritises hands-on programmes where the students can get better exposure to the industries.

“Eventually, they will be best positioned for demand in the industry,” he told.

“But, now we have entered the ranking of the best universities in the world and this is a result of the efforts carried out”



## Comfort is the enemy of progress

Despite the roaring success, being too comfortable with the current achievement might stunt UniKL's favouring progress, YBhg. Dato' Azhar reminded.

"There are too many significant achievements that have been attained during these 20 years. However, this effort should not stop here but rather needs to be continued to ensure that UniKL remains relevant and competes healthily with universities both domestically and abroad.

"UNIKL should not rest on its laurels, but strive to become one of the best TVET universities in Malaysia even at the level of Asia and the world," he stressed.

As he expressed his hopes, he would like to see UniKL provide teaching and learning completely online, including courses requiring hands-on learning. This is following suit of the current digital and technological advancements resulting from the unprecedented Covid-19.

"I hope that in another 10 years, UniKL will provide programmes that no longer require physical classes, but most students attend classes fully virtually.

"In addition to that, UniKL has to go beyond the hands-on approach and start thinking to provide education in the form of production-setting. This means that the students will enter the workforce directly (during their course of studies)," he hoped.

Considering what UniKL has faced now - the pandemic Covid-19 that hit the world, UniKL has taken suitable steps to execute its responsibility, he further noted. "As of now, UniKL cannot content itself with what it has. The University has to keep exploring new things and new opportunities, and InsyaAllah, with what we have embarked on and what we plan to do in the next 10 years, InsyaAllah, UniKL will become the best university."



**97.1% EMPLOYABILITY RATE**  
BY THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION





# “Colour outside the lines”

## Bilingualism brought Irfan Jasni to become self-assured

It might sound funny, yet unique for one able to master a foreign language and speak it confidently by learning through media sources like movies. It used to be that case, but it is no longer an alien practice as people nowadays even learn other languages through YouTube.

That is how powerful media sources can be. That is also how Irfan Jasni capitalises on the laid-bare benefit to master English. He was not born or raised in an English-speaking household but is unexplainably eloquent like a native speaker.

It is not the only centrepiece of Irfan Jasni to gain ground, his wise venture into debate competitions became the starting point to life-changing cognitive and professional skills for him.

“My childhood tells a different story. A little boy who was once timid to speak his mind, yet debate competitions served as a favourable circumstance

for me to be assertive,” said the 22-year-old student humbly.

“An English teacher of mine back in a technical school in Kuantan, Pahang, was seeking for students to join the English debate team. I gave it a shot and come what may, I stayed in the team for eight competitions,” added him, bringing up the bittersweet memory.

Positive confidence in speaking has led this student from UniKL Malaysia Italy Design Institute (UniKL MIDI) to be named for the Best Presenter at an international-scale event, the 5th Istanbul Youth Summit.

Irfan Jasni who is currently undergoing his 7th-semester study in Bachelor of Engineering Technology in Railway System with Honours was among only three selected representatives from Malaysia to participate in the summit which is organised by Youth Break the Boundaries (YBB) foundation in Istanbul, Turkey.

Muhammad Irfan, who is also the President of UniKL MIDI's Student Representative Committee (SRC) for 2021 and 2022 terms, said he bag the award through the presentation of a network programme called Get & Give.

"This programme presentation was conducted with the cooperation of a team of 10 students from Malaysia and Indonesia – which aims to help vulnerable students, children and youth during the Covid-19 pandemic crisis," told him.

The programme, he said, embodies four main activities which are Improvement on The Quality Teaching of Teachers, Quality Teaching of Parents, Free Books and Self Character Building.

Notably, this is his fourth participation in the international summit prior to International Eco-Schools Conference in 2014, and 2015 as well as Virtual Exchange Program with ITL Trisakti, Indonesia.

The summit was attended by participants from Turkey, Indonesia, Palestine, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Malaysia.

Prior to joining the international event, Muhammad Irfan said, participants were required to submit a 300-word essay, a TikTok video, and a posting on Instagram Story regarding the summit.

The fact that he can perform in both language and scientific principles - considering the course he is currently pursuing, might actually expand the boundaries of human cognizance.

A primary motive for his choice to attempt the debate activities was to explore his potential limits. Talking about his immediate future, he craves to build a career and participate in social activities overseas.

"I have been through a lot to get where I am now. So, I should appreciate those hardships that pushed me even harder. Yet, I am still learning to be the best.

"Through my participation in various programmes and competitions, I have seen that there are many opportunities overseas to explore.

"The time has come for me to break the ground, to improve my social skills and knowledge," he said.





# UniKL's COEs receive TCH appointment letter

A total of three centres of excellence (CoE) from Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) have been officially appointed as Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Collaboration Hubs.

It involves the areas of railways within UniKL Asia Rail Centre; satellites and avionics at UniKL Malaysian Institute of Aviation Technology (UniKL MIAT); and robotics at UniKL Malaysia France Institute (UniKL MFI).

The letter of appointment was handed over by the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) Deputy Secretary-General (Policy), YBhg. Dato' Dr. Haji Megat Sany Megat Ahmad Supian to the Dean of UniKL MIAT, Dr. Mohd Hafizi Shamsudin; the Dean of UniKL Malaysia Italy Design Institute (UniKL MIDI) and Director of UniKL Asia Rail Centre, Prof Madya Ir. Dr. Azman Senin; and Head of Research & Innovation at UniKL MFI, Prof Madya Dr. Mohamad Asmidzam Ahamat during the closing ceremony of 'Minggu TVET Negara 2022', which

took place at Politeknik Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah, Shah Alam, today.

The handover was also witnessed by the President/Chief Executive Officer of UniKL, Datuk Dr. Roziah Omar.

Upon the appointment, Dr. Mohd Hafizi saw that the endeavour would pave the way for a wide-ranging collaboration involving industry partners, higher education institutions, and government entities.

"This appointment will undoubtedly have a significant impact on UniKL MIAT, which will serve as the central hub for all aerospace-related research, as mandated and desired by the ministries involved.

"Our next mission is to implement activities and projects within the avionics section of UniKL MIAT, namely Satellite Communication and Avionics System Integration (SCASI) to realise more strategic collaborations," he said.



Also present at the closing ceremony were the Director-General of Polytechnic and Community College Education Department, YBhg. Ts. Zainab Ahmad; Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) Vice-Chancellor, YBhg. Lt. Kol. Prof. Ts. Dr. Zaliman Sauli; Director of Politeknik Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah, YBhg. Dr. Hj. Mohd. Zahari Ismail; ministry representatives and industry partners.

The appointment, meanwhile, according to Associate Prof Ir. Dr. Azman, acknowledges UniKL Asia Rail Center as a rail centre of excellence recognised by both government and industry.

“UniKL Asia Rail Center outlines the structure of programmes that are tailored to meet industry demand, which ensures the marketability of students,” he said.

A key component of the country’s sustainable economic development, the TVET programme is given the emphasis on empowerment, as well as on improving its ecosystem under the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP).

On February 3, the National TVET Council (MTVET) meeting chaired by the Prime Minister, Dato’ Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, approved the establishment of the TVET Collaboration Hub, which involves 11 ministries and is coordinated under MoHE.

In response to this development, the Minister of Rural Development, Dato’ Seri Mahdzir Khalid expressed his confidence that UniKL is ready to play its mandated role in empowering TVET by sharing resources, expertise and equipment.

In fact, during his opening remarks of ‘Ekspo Institusi Pendidikan TVET@ KPLB 2022’ on Thursday (23 June 2022), he mentioned that there is viable potential for students’ skills in the field to be further enriched, capitalising on more collaborations established with global industry players and institutions of higher learning.

“TVET is not a fantasy; it is a real field and must be disseminated to the community as I believe, many are ‘stranded’ in the villages due to unsatisfactory results in Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM). Even so, they can still enrol in TVET institutions of learning.

“TVET has the potential to raise the standard of living of individuals, but it also empowers a family institution for the better,” he said.

He further added, KPLB-supervised TVET institutions saw a marketability rate of 87.53 per cent last year, which is greater than the target rate of 86.7 per cent for graduates of higher learning institutes and public TVET institutions.





# Antwerp- Bruges pays working visit to UniKL MIMET

One of the largest breakbulk ports and the largest port for the throughput of vehicles in Europe, 'Port of Antwerp-Bruges' paid a working visit to Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Institute of Marine Engineering Technology (UniKL MIMET), last Wednesday (18 May 2022).

The delegation of the Belgium-based port included its Director, Mr. Mario Lievens and Senior Consultant, Mr. Michiel Dubos.

During the working visit, both parties exchanged views concerning the latest developments in the maritime industry and viable future collaborations that can be explored, which was also joined by a delegation of Lumut Port, led by its Chief Executive Officer, Tuan Haji Mubarak Ali.

UniKL MIMET, meanwhile, was headed by the Dean of the Lumut-based campus, Prof. Cmdr (Rtd) Dr. Aminuddin Md Arof, and accompanied by the Director of UniKL International Office, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zalhan Mohd



Zin as well as the Director of UniKL Marketing, Student Recruitment & Admission Division (MesRA), Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Eida Nadirah Roslin.

The working visit is believed to provide excellent opportunities for Malaysia – which is represented by UniKL MIMET and Lumut Port, and Belgium through Port of Antwerp-Bruges to embark on collaborative innovation within the sector and education of maritime.

The potential collaboration may capitalise on UniKL MIMET's strategic location, situated in the Lumut Maritime Terminal (LMT) area as well as the industry-specific maritime engineering technology programmes it offers, in addition to the shared position of the ports of Antwerp and Zeebrugge within the global supply chain.

As of now, the campus has sealed several memoranda of understanding (MoU) with major companies and government agencies such as Boustead Naval Shipyard, Vale, Destini, Jabatan Laut Malaysia, Technology Depository Agency Berhad (TDA) and others.

On the other hand, in the foreseeable future, Port of Antwerp-Bruges will account for more than 15% of Europe's liquid natural gas transited and it will of course remain Europe's most important chemical hub.

Finally, it will be the largest port for cruise ships in the Benelux. With a total throughput of 278 million tonnes per year, the unified port will be able to consolidate its leading position in the world.



## | EVENT/HIGHLIGHTS

Recognising his laudable contribution to the country's maritime industry, Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Md Redzuan Zoolfakar from Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Institute of Marine Engineering Technology (UniKL MIMET) was honoured with the "Day of the Seafarer Icon" Award 2022 by the Marine Department Malaysia (Jabatan Laut Malaysia – JLM).

It was conferred by the Deputy Minister of Transport, YB Dato Henry Sum Agong during the recently held Day of the Seafarer (DOTS) 2022 in Kemaman, Terengganu.

Dr. Md Redzuan has been actively involved in several professional contributions to society including being a member of The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology (IMarEST); a Professional Technologist under the Malaysia Board of Technologists; and a council member of Malaysia Maritime Education and Training Association (MyMET), to name a few.

"To be honoured as an 'icon' is one of the highest achievements that I personally find hard to believe. Honestly, this award could not have been achieved individually, but it embodies the spirit of collaboration between UniKL, and especially UniKL MIMET.



“This award is definitely a recognition to UniKL, particularly in the field of shipping. The bottom line is – I am overwhelmed that every sacrifice and effort on behalf of this marine industry is recognised and appreciated,” said the Head of Research and Innovation at UniKL MIMET.

After receiving a Diploma in Marine Engineering from Ungku Omar Polytechnics (PUO), Malaysia, Dr. Md Redzuan once sailed with steamships as a junior and fourth engineer with Malaysia International Shipping Cooperation (MISC) for four years.

That working experience on the ship has given him practical hands-on experience in applying theory and abstract concepts in working settings.



# JLM honours Dr. Md Redzuan as Day of the Seafarer Icon

In 2003, he completed his postgraduate qualification, MSc in Thermal Power and Fluid Engineering from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST).

One year later, he decided to join UniKL MIMET which got him involved in managing the Marine Engineering Technology section and lecturing engineering subjects at the same time.

In order to further upgrade his knowledge in Marine Engineering, he pursued PhD study at Newcastle University and completed it in July 2012.

For the record, under the auspices of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the 25th of June is celebrated annually as the International DOTS.



Director General of MARA,  
Dato' Azhar Abdul Manaf  
The Minister of Rural Development,  
Dato' Seri Mahdzir Khalid  
IRSE Chief Executive, Blane Judd  
Ministry of Rural Development  
Secretary-General, Dato' Ramlan  
Harun

Universiti Kuala Lumpur made history in the field of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) when it became the first university in Southeast Asia to collaborate with an international licensing body on rail transport signal control systems.

This is after the technical university sealed a collaboration with the Institute of Railway Signal Engineers United Kingdom (UK), IRSE, which was established over 100 years ago.

The Minister of Rural Development, Dato' Seri Mahdzir Khalid said that a precise agreement will be signed with the IRSE to enable UniKL to offer courses at the level of Advanced Diploma and Certificate of Competency (CoC) that are recognised worldwide.

"After this, Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA) will follow up with UniKL to finalise an agreement between UniKL and IRSE, which might involve the development of rail experts and professionals."

# UniKL, the first university in SEA to collaborate with IRSE

“Second, (we may) establish a collaboration in terms of membership for Malaysia and perhaps we can be an Assessment Center and IRSE representative in the Southeast Asian region,” said him in a statement, yesterday (15 June 2022).

Dato’ Seri Mahdzir had earlier held a meeting with IRSE Chief Executive, Blane Judd at the IRSE Headquarters in London to finalise the mutually agreed field collaboration.

Also present were Ministry of Rural Development Secretary-General, Dato’ Ramlan Harun, Director General of MARA, Dato’ Azhar Abdul Manaf and the Dean of Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysia Italy Design Institute (UniKL MIDI), Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr. Azman Senin.

Dato’ Seri Mahdzir added that through the collaboration, UniKL Asia Rail Center has been appointed as the Center for Offering Professional Development Programmes that start at the certificate and Advanced Diploma levels in the field of signal control certified by the IRSE.

IRSE also agreed to appoint UniKL as an Assessment Center for signal control engineers and professionals

who will be assessed by the UniKL Asia Rail Center and the UK licensing body in order to obtain certification that will be recognised worldwide.

Established in 1912, Dato’ Seri Mahdzir said, IRSE now has 5,000 members from 53 countries and has 5,759 professional licensees in the field of signal control systems and rail transport telecommunications.

For the record, UniKL Aisa Rail Centre is recognised as the nation’s first national higher institute focusing on rail technology offering professional courses, licence programmes and customised courses for the professional development of the rail industry workforce in Malaysia.

Meantime, Assoc Prof Ir. Dr. Azman said that students at UniKL can benefit from the high demand for rail transport communication signal control systems in the job market.

“Operators also want a skilled and competent workforce. The IRSE certification enables us to produce graduates that can work and be recognized not only at the Malaysian level, but also at the Asean level, and that is our first wish.

“Of course, we would like our students or graduates able to work and be recognised globally as well,” said him.



# 4 UniKL lecturers receive 'Anugerah Cemerlang Pendidik MARA' award

Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA) has named four lecturers from Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) to be honoured with 'Anugerah Pendidik Cemerlang MARA' 2022 award.

The awardees are the Deputy Dean (Academic & Technology) of Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Institute of Industrial Technology (UniKL MITEC), Ts. Dr. Sallaudin Hassan; Senior Lecturer from Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Spanish Institute (UniKL MSI), Dr. Muhamad Husaini Abu Bakar; Senior Lecturer from Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysia France Institute (UniKL MFI), Dr. Rifqi Irzuan Abdul Jalal; and Senior Lecturer from Universiti Kuala Lumpur – Institute of Medical Science Technology (UniKL MESTECH), Dr. Tong Woei Yenn.

It was conferred by the Minister of Rural Development, Dato' Seri Mahdzir Khalid during Sambutan Hari Pendidik MARA 2022, which was held at Premiera Hotel, today.

The candidates were assessed based on the Performance Appraisal Report in 2021, disciplinary record, personal appearance, involvement in co-curricular activities, contributions to the development of study programmes and contributions to the community or external organisations.



Dato' Seri Mahdzir Khalid  
YB Datuk Seri Panglima Hajah Azizah  
Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Mohd Dun  
Ts. Dr. Sallaudin Hassan  
Dr. Muhamad Husaini Abu Bakar  
Dr. Rifqi Irzuan Abdul Jalal  
Dr. Tong Woei Yenn.



Speaking during a press conference after the event, Dato' Seri Mahdzir said that MARA has allocated RM1.5 million to amplify the training and competency development of MARA educators.

This aims to ensure the quality of education at the MARA Institute of Education (IPMa) is comparable to that of developed countries.

"In about 18 years, a total of 4,336 MARA educators further their studies to the highest levels of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Master and other professional certificates.

"Over the past few years, there have also been several success stories involving MARA educators," told him.

Also in attendance, were the Deputy Minister of Rural Development II, YB Datuk Haji Hasbi Haji Habibollah; MARA Chairman, YB Datuk Seri Panglima Hajah Azizah Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Mohd Dun; Deputy Secretary-General (Policy) of Rural Development Ministry, YBhg. Datuk Che Murad Sayang Ramjan; Deputy Secretary-General (Development) of Rural Development Ministry, En. Mas Rizal Mohd Hilmi; Director General of MARA, YBhg. Dato' Azhar Abdul Manaf; Deputy Director-General (Education) of MARA, YBhg. En. Razlan Haji Samsuri; and President/ Chief Executive Officer of UniKL, YBhg. Datuk Dr. Roziah Omar.

Sambutan Hari Pendidik MARA is an annual event for celebrating the

MARA educators, which has been introduced in 2003 to replace the Sambutan Hari Guru MARA that is limited to MRSM teachers only.

It involves Taska MARA, Maktab Rendah Sains MARA (MRSM), Kolej MARA (KM), GIATMARA, Institut Kemahiran MARA (IKM), Kolej Kemahiran Tinggi MARA (KKTM), MARA – Japan Industrial Institute (MJII), German Malaysian Institute (GMI), Kolej Profesional MARA (KPM), Kolej Poly – Tech MARA (KPTM), UniKL and Kolej Universiti Poly – Tech MARA (KUPTM).



# 2021 graduates' employability: UniKL again tops the list

All 12 campuses of Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) again ranked top-20 in the 2021 Graduates' Employability for the category of private institutions of higher learning (IPTS).

The Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE), in the 'Kebolehpasaran Graduan 2021' reports that the graduates' employability rate of UniKL Malaysia Italy Design Institute (UniKL MIDl) surges to 100%, sharing the same spot with UCSI University.

It is followed by UniKL Malaysia France Institute (99.1%), UniKL Malaysian Institute of Information Technology (99.0%), and UniKL Business School (98.7%). The remaining campuses, meanwhile, filled up the 7th to 18th spots.

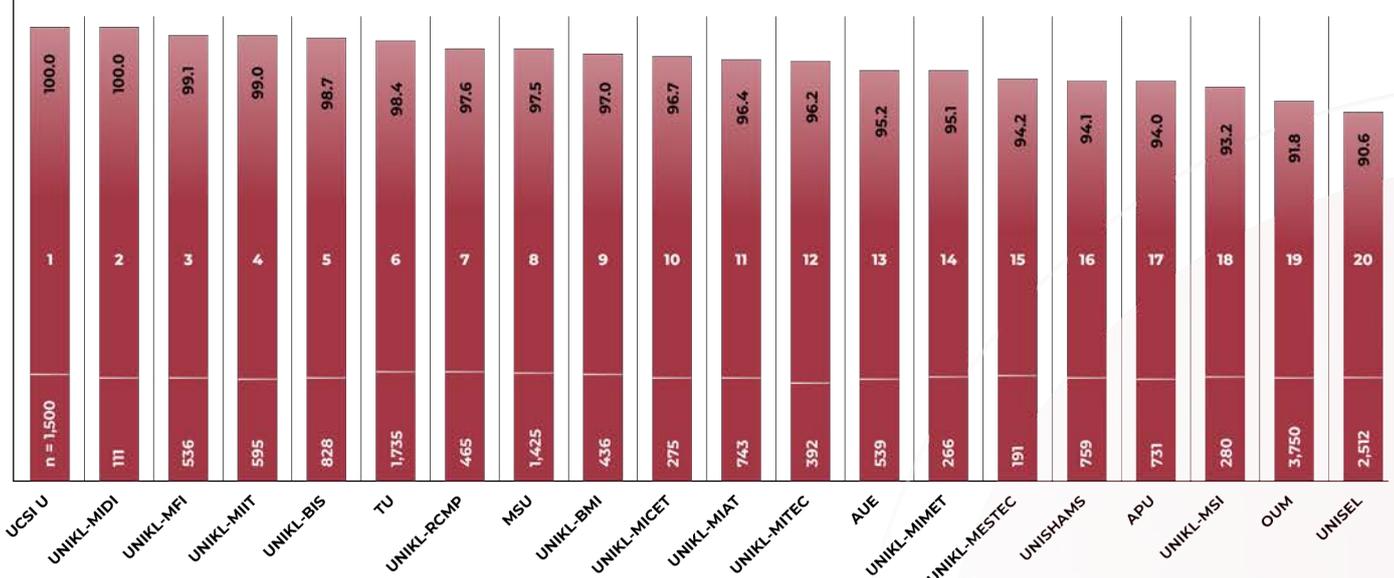
Overall, the graduates' employability rate of UniKL stands at 97.1%, better than 2020 with 96.1%.

"The graduates' employability rate in 2021 is 85.5%, improved 1.1% from the previous year.

"This growth is in line with the momentum of economic recovery and the labour market as more economic and social activities opened up in stages compared to the previous year," the report said.

The same report also indicates that the rate of unemployed graduates showed a 1% decline last year.

### Kadar Kebolehpasaran Graduan (Warganegara) Mengikut IPTS Bertaraf **Universiti** (20 Tertinggi)



The headwater phenomenon and flash floods that hit Baling, Kedah early last week fueled three Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) northern campuses and two other of its campuses to join forces channelling aid to the victims.

These campuses were UniKL Royal College of Medicine Perak (UniKL RCMP), UniKL Malaysian Institute of Marine Engineering Technology (UniKL MIMET), UniKL Malaysian Spanish Institute (UniKL MSI), UniKL British Malaysian Institute (UniKL BMI), and UniKL Malaysian Institute of Chemical & Bioengineering Technology (UniKL MICET).

On the 6th and 7th of July, over 50 students and approximately 10 staff pulled together in Kampung Hangus and Kampung Pisang, Baling, to carry out clean-up work and give donations in the form of necessities to the victims.





They helped scour the mud inside the house, dispose of the rubbish outside, and levelling the yard's ground.

Under UniKL Care's exertion, a total of RM1,022 was successfully collected among UniKL staff and outsiders – which was handed over to the victims on the first day of the relief mission in Kampung H Angus, led by UniKL MSI.

Contributions were channelled into basic food items, including rice.

Previously, media reported that waves of muddy water and fallen trees swept down the victim's houses and are believed to have been completely destroyed.

It was described as the worst flood incident ever to hit the district.

# Baling flood: 5 UniKL campuses come together to aid victims



# MDEC recognises UniKL as the Premier Digital Tech Institution

Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) becomes one of more than 15 higher learning institutions in Malaysia as the Premier Digital Tech Institution (PDTI) for its proven track record in delivering quality digital technology education.

It is a noteworthy recognition by the Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC), the government's lead agency to implement the Malaysia Digital initiative.

UniKL – represented by its President/Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Dr Roziah Omar, was honoured with the PDTI during 'Majlis Anugerah Penghargaan Industri Ekonomi Digital Malaysia 2022, on July 3.

Also graced by the Communications and Multimedia Minister, YB Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima TPr Annuar Haji Musa, a total of 50 awards were presented covering the digital

investment sector, digital creative content, intellectual property (IP) exports, education and human capital development.

With the recognition, the technical university through its Kuala Lumpur-based institution, UniKL Malaysian Institute of Information Technology (UniKL MIIT) has joined the likes of Universiti Malaya (UM), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) and many more as the leading digital tech-focused tertiary institutions.

To have the PDTI status, the selected tertiary institutions need to comply with a few criteria including a number of students more than 2,000 and curriculum industry-standard.

Having met those criteria, UniKL MIIT has been identified as having tertiary education models that successfully produce quality talents for digital

technology careers and graduates who become industry-ready.

In July 2021, UniKL was invited by MDEC for a briefing to apply for PDTI with 20 other institutions, whereby all required evidence had to be submitted within two weeks.

Following that, an announcement came out for the final stage in September 2021, and UniKL was given a month to prepare the supporting documentation before the audit. A final result was released in January 2022 announcing UniKL's selection for PDTI.

Borne out of a collaboration between MDEC, the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia and industry leaders, the PDTIs deliver end-to-end solutions to ensure that future graduates are propelled into becoming dynamic members of an innovation-driven and knowledge-powered Malaysia.





# UniKL builds Malaysia's first net zero energy building

Malaysia will soon witness the first zero-energy building (ZEB) through the establishment of Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL)'s Sustainable Energy Living Lab.

Located at UniKL's Gombak-based institute, UniKL British Malaysian Institute (UniKL BMI), the three-storey academic ZEB will house teaching and learning facilities as well as research laboratories for sustainable energy studies.

The Minister of Rural Development, Dato' Seri Mahdzir Khalid said that the building will produce more electricity through photovoltaic solar panels installed on the roof and facade of the building than what it consumes.

"Malaysia is gradually striving to achieve carbon neutral status by 2050, as the Prime Minister (Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob) has often emphasised.

"An important point (that we want to focus on is), that we need expertise among local students or Malaysians who are competent in the field of renewable energy (RE). This is our future," told him, while adding that UniKL BMI is among the higher learning institute that will spearhead talent development for sustainable and renewable energy in Malaysia.

He spoke at a press conference, after officiating the Sustainable Energy Forum "Achieving Carbon Neutral by

2050" and UniKL Sustainable Energy Living Lab Construction Project, at UniKL BMI, yesterday (27 July 2022).

Also present were the Director General of MARA, YBhg. Dato' Azhar Abdul Manaf; Deputy Director-General (Education) of MARA, YBhg. En. Razlan Haji Samsuri; MARA Senior Director of Investment, YBhg. En. Mohd Diah Abas; Group Chief Executive Officer of Mara Corporation Sdn Bhd, YBhg. Dato' Julainie Mohd Salleh; YB Senator, Datuk Dr Azhar Ahmad, President/Chief Executive Officer of UniKL, Datuk Dr Roziah Omar and the Dean of UniKL BMI, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kushsairy Abdul Kadir.

Through the establishment of the Sustainable Energy Living Lab which is expected to be completed in February 2023, UniKL will offer a Bachelor of Electrical Technology Engineering (Sustainable Energy) in addition to two professional certificates namely Energy Efficiency and Grid-Connected Photovoltaic (PV) Systems Design.

Following this, the technical university is expected to produce 1,000 internationally recognised technology engineering bachelor's degree holders in the sustainable energy sector by 2030 to meet the job demands of the industry in Malaysia.

On another note, the project leader of Sustainable Energy Living Lab, Mohd Akram Dandu, who was invited as a panellist at the forum, believes that

Malaysia is on track toward achieving its goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.

"Malaysia wants to go carbon-neutral by 2050, and the good thing is, UniKL has already progressed towards it and in fact, we are actually exceeding it (through the establishment of Sustainable Energy Living Lab)," remarked him, adding that it is high time for UniKL to explore more the potentiality of sustainable energy.

During the forum discussion, Mohd Akram highlighted that the Sustainable Energy Living Lab is capable of reducing around 18 tons of carbon emissions.

The forum also featured Senior Director of Smart Glass Division AGC Asia Pacific Pte Ltd, Singapore, Masayuki Hayashi; Director of Technical Development And Facilitation Division at Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA); Ts. Steve Anthony Lojuntin; Director and Professor at Solar Energy Research Institute (SERI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM); Prof. Dato' Ts. Dr. Kamaruzzaman Sopian, and Managing Director of IEN Consultants Sdn Bhd, Gregers Reimann.

For the record, UniKL is the only university that has been commissioned by the SEDA to run the Solar Photovoltaic Systems Design (GCPV Systems Design) programme.



It began with an ardent gaze at the soaring planes in the sky, this young boy from Australia had already set his eye on 'being part of' the powered flying vehicle.

It might sound like a typical story-tell - one would say, but it is a true anecdote of Obaida Hani Farouq Abul Khair, who turned that dream into reality.

Fast-forward to 2022; he is now employed by a global aviation company as an EASA/FAA-approved Powerplant Engineer.

"My determination to get involved in the aviation field was further triggered by an unexpected event that forestalled my opportunity to participate in a lifetime flight experience at Adelaide Airport. After graduating from high school, I did research about universities that offer aviation studies, and I stumbled upon the Universiti Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Institute of Aviation Technology (UniKL MIAT).

"Honestly speaking, UniKL MIAT stood up because it offers top-notch facilities including hangars and aircraft

# Flying into a success



which intrigued my interest. I knew that going there would furnish me with in-depth studies about engines and aircraft, thus propelling my future career, especially in aircraft engine maintenance,” said him.

The 17th and 18th UniKL Convocation recently saw him as the first international student who received the Chancellor’s Award that recognises the achievement of students in the graduating batch in both academic and their extracurricular.

Apart from attaining excellent academic results, his contribution to the university, institute and the students’ community are part of the criteria which he was assessed upon.

His decision to further his higher learning studies in Malaysia lured numerous questions from his surroundings, as there are many other universities abroad that might offer the same course. Obaida, however, always came up with the same answer: “Studying abroad like in Malaysia paved me with a distinctive experience as I came across new culture and lifestyle.

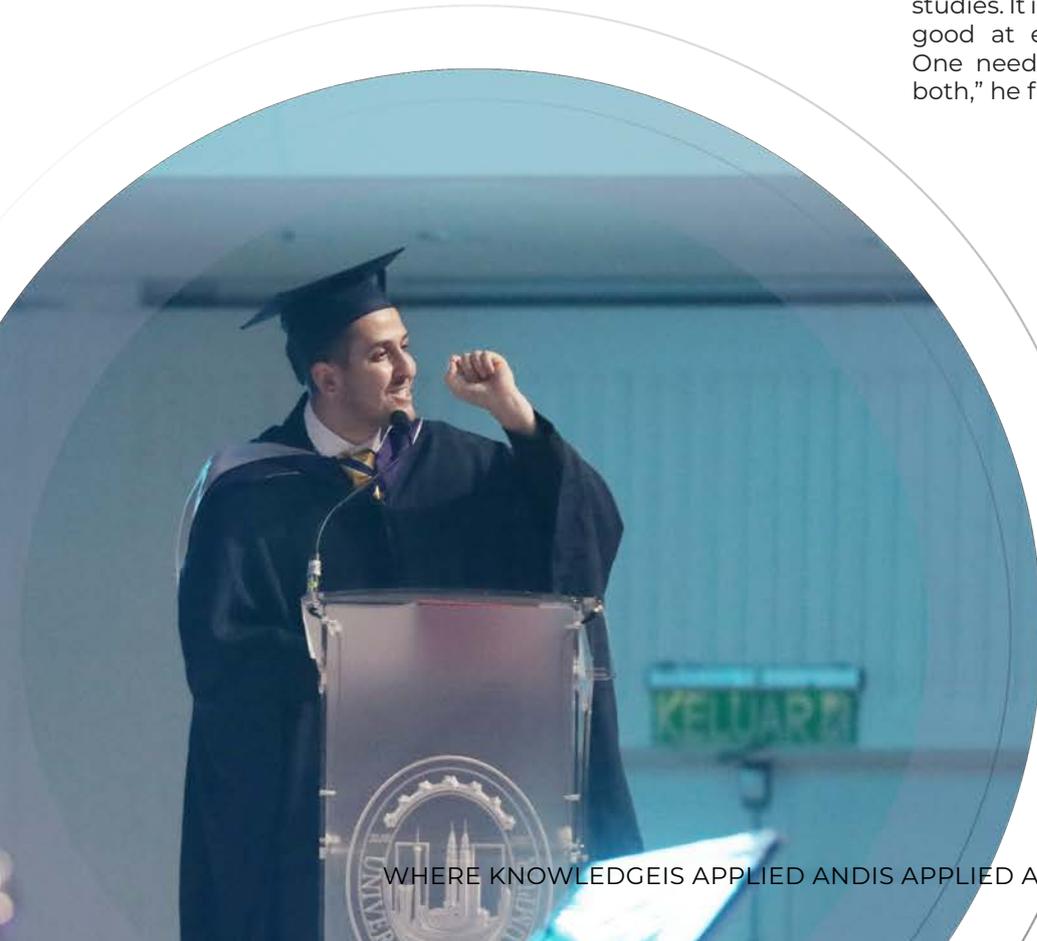
“This shapes me into a different person and life is there to be lived,” quipped him.

Describing furthering his study at UniKL as probably the best experience he could have asked for, Obaida said the extracurricular involvement and many opportunities that are laid bare generally give him an edge over other university graduates.

To say nothing of the top-notch practical experience that the university has to offer, he reflected. In fact, through UniKL MIAT, his potential was also recognised by the International Society of Transport Aircraft Trading (ISTAT) Foundation where he was the recipient of the ‘2018 Gilbert W. Speed Memorial Scholarship’, offered to only one student from around the world annually.

In 2019, he represented the ISTAT scholars at the ISTAT Asia Conference in Shanghai and to this date, he serves as an ISTAT Foundation Ambassador. This opportunity served as a gateway for Obaida in landing a professional job in the aviation industry.

“Through this, I was introduced to many conferences, whereby it also connected me to my current employer. It is not enough to be just really good at studies. It is also not enough to be really good at extracurricular involvement. One needs to have a healthy mix of both,” he further noted.



Obaida Hani Farouq Abul Khair  
The 17th and 18th UniKL Convocation

# ClearKon: A contact lens for treating microbial keratitis

Promotes 2 times faster healing among the patients

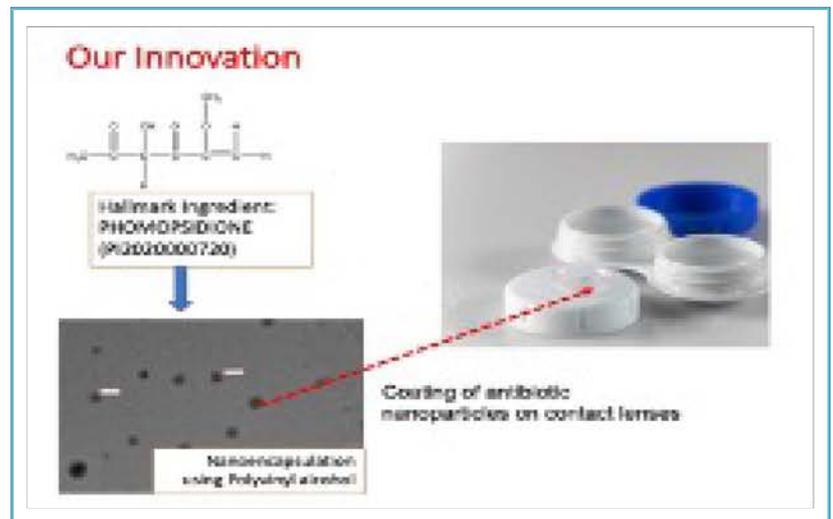
Microbial keratitis or infected cornea is the infection caused by pathogenic microorganisms that commonly occurs among the contact lens users. Many approaches were attempted to reduce the risk of microbial contamination on contact lenses, including the lens care solution that provide effective disinfection and frequent lens cases replacement.

However, these approaches are less effective due to the emergence of multidrug-resistant pathogens and the formation of biofilm by the microbes on the surface of the contact lens. Coating of antimicrobial compounds onto contact lenses is one of the effective measurements to prevent microbial keratitis.

Silver ions are commonly used as antimicrobial coating for contact lenses. However, the application of silver ions on ocular surface induced argyrosis, the toxic-blackening of the mucus membrane. Even so, high concentration of nanosilver caused cytotoxicity to the mitochondrial activity and it is not suitable for ophthalmic application. Thus, seeking a natural alternative is crucial to replace silver ions.

In this research study, the researchers developed an antimicrobial contact lens model impregnated with phomopsidione nanoparticles that inhibit keratitis causing clinical isolates, which is called ClearKon.

ClearKon is specially designed for patients with microbial keratitis, which promotes two times faster healing





## No More Tears Solution for Bacterial Keratitis

- 2X faster healing
- Kills 99.9% of bacteria
- Reduces inflammation rapidly
- Test according to European Union (EU) standard
- Toxic free ingredients
- No pain and burning sensation
- Avoid frequent use of eye drops



among the patients. It works by inhibiting bacterial growth on cornea tissues and reduces the inflammation responses.

All test microorganisms showed at least 99% of growth reduction, with the treatment of the contact lens model. The drug loaded onto the nanoparticles is sufficient to prevent the bacterial growth. In conclusion, this study provides an effective alternative to combat keratitis-causing microorganisms among contact wearers.

This phomopsdione nanoparticles coated contact lens also showed a sustainable release pattern of drug for 48 hours. The contact lens models exhibited inhibited keratitis causing microorganisms, particularly on Gram negative bacteria. The study could be extended to in vivo keratitis models to evaluate the antimicrobial potential on animal models.

ClearKon also has propelled the UniKL to bag a gold medal and Best Invention in Biotechnology

Dr TONG Woei Yenn, Assoc Prof  
Dr IZUDDIN Fahmy Abu, Dr  
Muhammad FAUZI Daud, Dr  
LEONG Chean Ring, KELVIN Soo,  
Dr SABRINA Karim  
Tel: 016-4822046  
Email : wytong@unikl.edu.my

### Excellent Antibiotic Activity of ClearKon

**Table 1: Antimicrobial activity of ClearKon on ASTM agar diffusion test.**

Test microorganisms	Diameter of inhibition zone (mm)	
	ClearKon	Negative control
<b>Gram positive bacteria</b>		
MRSA	24.0 ± 4.0	-
<b>Gram negative bacteria</b>		
<i>S. marcescens</i>	41.6 ± 3.2	-
<i>P. mirabilis</i>	29.0 ± 2.6	-
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	51.3 ± 1.9	-
<b>Yeasts</b>		
<i>C. utilis</i>	-	-

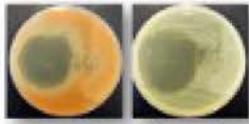


Figure 1: Agar diffusion test (ASTM).



**Table 2: The % of growth reduction of test microorganisms with the treatment of ClearKon.**

Test bacteria	% of growth reduction
MRSA	99.5
<i>S. marcescens</i>	99.9
<i>P. mirabilis</i>	98.9
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	99.9

by the Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA) at the International Exhibition of Invention, Innovation and Technology (ITEX) 2022. The research team members are Dr Tong Woei Yenn of UniKL Institute of Medical Science Technology (UniKL MESTECH); Assoc Prof Dr Izuddin Fahmy Abu (UniKL MESTECH); Dr Muhammad Fauzi Daud (UniKL MESTECH); Dr Sabrina Karim (UniKL MESTECH) and Dr Leong Chean Ring (UniKL MICET).

The research team spent five years developing the product, which started with a final project by a bachelor's student who performed the coating of antibiotic nanoparticles on contact lens models. For this particular project, they received funding from Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS), the Ministry of Education and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Italy. The patent of this unique technology has also been filed.



**UniKL**  
UNIVERSITI  
KUALA LUMPUR



# UNIVERSITI KUALA LUMPUR

WHERE KNOWLEDGE IS APPLIED AND DREAMS REALISED

## AREAS OF SPECIALISATION



Medical Science  
Technology



Aviation and  
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



Quality Engineering,  
Process Instrumentation,  
Facilities Maintenance and  
Industrial Logistic



Chemical Engineering and  
Bioengineering 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



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

**APPLY NOW AND REGISTER AT**

 **[www.unikl.edu.my](http://www.unikl.edu.my)**



+603 - 2175 4000



[marketing@unikl.edu.my](mailto:marketing@unikl.edu.my)



UniKL Page

### Editorial Board

#### Patron

Ybhg. Datuk Dr. Roziah Omar

**Advisor** Ybhg. Dato' Amir Azhar Ibrahim **Editor-In-Chief** Aizat Mustaffa **Editor** Anis Malek

**Designer** Syazwan Shahrir **Photographers** Asyraf Syahmie & Afiq Kamal

#### Published By:

UniKL Corporate Branding & Strategic Communication

Universiti Kuala Lumpur,

1016, Jalan Sultan Ismail, 50250 Kuala Lumpur.

Tel: 03 2175 4000

Fax: 03 2175 4001