
VOL. 11 DEC 2018

Resolution towards fulfilling UMP's vision as a leading tec

By: ROHANA OTHMAN, CORPORATE & QUALITY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT (JHKK)

For the very first time, all 80 members of the University Board of Directors (UBD) and the university management of department and senior officers got together in a programme called UMP Team Excellence.

The objective was to gather and collect ideas and recommendations that would fulfil UMP's vision to be the global status and financially sustainable.

The comprehensive programme was organised by Corporate & Quality Affairs Department (JHKK) and PNB Hotel, Kuala Lumpur on December 2, 2018.

It was officially opened by UBD Chairman, Dato' Sri Ibrahim Ahmad who was also one of the moderators in the programme.

Dato' Sri Ibrahim said all participants got the chance to give their opinions, suggestions and comments related to excellence, financial sustainability, producing holistic and marketable graduates, strategic investment, among others in the programme.

"The programme helps to foster closer ties, share of information, find means to further develop the university direction as a public university and as one of the technology universities (MTUN) that will meet the National Development Plan (Higher Education)," he said.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Sri Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim who was also one of the moderators in the Team Excellence programme was in line with UMP Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

"We are nearing the year 2019 and there are two more years to go for us to fulfil the aspirations outlined in the Generating Glory.

"The involvement of almost all of the members of UBD shows their strong support in making the vision a reality."

One of the members of UBD, Haji Ahmad Zakie Haji Ahmad Shariff, who was also one of the moderators in the programme, said the programme was a success as it provided a platform for the members to share their suggestions and out-of-the-box recommendations that could be turned into resolutions and immediately implemented for the glory.

UBD Chairman himself contributed many ideas during discussions with the university management to ensure that the outcome were achieved.

The programme also gave the opportunity for the UBD members and university's top management to have a better understanding of the efforts taken to further enhance UMP's quality.

At the same time, UBD got to know more about the university's current situation, development and operational issues.

UMP, BASF PETRONAS Chemicals signed MoU on sharing of technology and talent development

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) and BASF PETRONAS Chemicals Sdn. Bhd. signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore the potential for research collaboration and industrial cooperation. The MoU aims to leverage the innovative strengths and capabilities of a well-established university and a leading chemical company to drive research and development in various fields, including but not limited to, chemical engineering, materials science, and environmental management. The signing ceremony was officiated by Canseleri Tun Abdul Razak, UMP Pekan.

It would strengthen public trust towards UMP and its quality as a higher education institution. The collaborations on sharing of knowledge in engineering and technology as well as scientific expertise and experience of the university.

It would be in line with the university's aspiration under its industrial linkage and academic collaboration as with its theme, 'Communitising Technology'.

The objectives outlined in the strategic plan would be fulfilled through high-impact and sustainable programs and to be carried out in a large scale.

The seven main areas agreed in the MoU were talent sourcing for BASF PETRONAS Chemicals' own employments, academic development programme, industry excellence award sponsorship programme, student, leadership and professional development programme, sharing of expertise in research and sustainability-related initiatives.

UMP was represented by its Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Sri Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim and Assistant Relations), Professor Dr. Jamil Ismail while BASF PETRONAS Chemicals by its Managing Director Management Director Zairul Alwi. Also present were Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering

Professor Dato' Sri Dr. Daing Nasir said with the scientific and technology expertise it had, the university will involve exchange of experts, research development, training and industrial relation.

"The opportunity derives from this collaboration with BASF PETRONAS Chemicals will enable the university to involve exchange of experts, research development, training and industrial relation.

"It will also involve other aspects such as working together in research development and sharing of facilities and expertise in areas that will provide mutual benefits," he said.

Meanwhile Dr. Sven Crone said, the signing of this MoU with UMP is just timely and will strengthen the relationship between the two institutions.

"This mutually beneficial partnership will catalyse more active, win-win collaborations between BASF PETRONAS Chemicals and UMP."

Dr. Sven Crone also presented BASF PETRONAS Chemicals Excellence Award RM10,000 mock cheque to a selected student.

The award is given to a selected student who graduated with outstanding achievement and results and presented during the ceremony.

UMP, Sime Darby Foundation contributed 'Back-to-School' pack programme

It was an exciting day for 300 students from 60 primary and secondary schools as they received a set of notebooks and pens during the 'Back-to-School' programme organised by Universiti Malaysia Pahang, together with Sime Darby Foundation.

It was held in UMP Pekan Campus on December 12, 2018.

The children, who were from low-income families (B40) in Kuantan and Pekan, were selected under the engagement programme brought by UMP and SDF.

They received a set of uniform, shoes, stockings, school bags and stationaries.

The initiative was born out of the desire to reduce the parents' burden in preparations for the new school year.

Among the guests present to give away the school packs were UMP Board of Director member, Dato' A Officer, Hajah Yatela Zainal Abidin, UMP Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Industrial and Community Relations) Operation Officer/Registrar, Abd Hamid Majid.

According to Professor Dr. Jamil, the programme was a result of close cooperation enjoyed between UM and UPM to strengthen their already established strategic partnership.

"UMP is always open and willing to explore a wider strategic collaboration with SDF. This includes sharing expertise with and blend it with the foundation's focus and core activity, be it in the academic or corporate social

"In line with UMP's Strategic Plan 2016-2020, the management is committed to communalise the university's technology and volunteer works.

"There were various initiatives that were being carried out and being planned to ensure that the people especially the students are involved in social engagement activities.

"As such, in order to make its Community University agenda a success, the management welcomed a wide range of partners including NGOs, government agencies, government-linked companies, private companies, organisations and even individuals interested in the programme at large," he said.

Participants of this programme did not only distribute the school packs but also got together for a *gotong royong* (cooperative) activity. The names of the partners that were listed in the UMP Facelift programme.

To date, 114 homes have been repaired and upgraded under this programme. Their houses were given solar panels that would provide new comforts to the owners.

The foundation's volunteers also visited some homes as well as the Kuala Pahang House which was a one-day programme. The volunteers were out with the objective of enhancing interactions between UMP and the locals especially the younger generation.

The Kuala Pahang Facelift 2.0 initiative now focuses on activities that will provide motivation, increase knowledge and skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and English.

Campus Sustainability - one of UMP's Agendas for the Future

Among the priorities that Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) has always placed upon was the campus greenery in the planning of the university's annual budget.

The university's main campus that is located in Kuala Pahang is developed on swampland that has been reclaimed; this has been the main challenge to ensure that trees planted on the land survived.

The soil structure does not hold moisture and water and this is among the challenges that UMP has to face.

However, it is not a reason for UMP to set aside its focus to create a green and sustainable campus for its students. Studies have shown that organic fertilisers, derived from animal matter or plant matter can help enrich soil and improve its structure.

This is the approach that UMP has been using to enrich the nutrients in the sand soil at its Pekan campus.

Sand soil must be fertilised more often as compared to soil from a different structure because nutrients can only penetrate the topsoil. This is because sand soil has a large pore space which causes water to drain quickly from the root area of a tree for a long time. By adding the organic material, it will enhance the structure's capacity to hold water and nutrients.

Sand soil also has poor physical support for a tree to grow well especially a wood tree. As such, trees planted in sand soil require staking for a few seasons of growing to prevent from falling due to strong wind.

This clear-cut measure and direction under the leadership of UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Mohd. Zainal Abidin bin Mohd. Zainal Abidin has been implemented to transform the barren campus into a green setting. As a technical university, UMP cannot afford not to do anything to improve the environment. A comprehensive effort has been mobilised, one that is personally supervised by the Vice-Chancellor himself.

The result can be seen today when UMP is listed at the 97th position in the world and the sixth in Malaysia in the UI Green Metrics World University Ranking 2018 that was announced on December 19, 2017 at Balai Sidang, Universitas Indonesia in Indonesia.

The achievement registered in the UI Green Metrics World University Ranking 2018 resulted in UMP jumping 100 positions from 197th in 2017 to 97th registered in 2017 assessment.

The assessment was made based on six main criteria - Setting and Infrastructure, Energy and Climate Change, Research, Education which helped improve the university's overall score.

Congratulations to everyone in UMP.

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