
VOL. 24 APR 2019

Up close & personal: Humanizing technology with Pa

By: MOHD FERDAUS MUSA, CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Some 35 undergraduates and scholarship recipients from Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) participated in a Village Tour to the natives at Pos Mensen in Cameron Highlands, Pahang, on March 23, 2019.

Themed 'Humanizing Technology', the programme was coordinated by the Pahang Islamic Religious Affairs Department in collaboration with the state's Pilgrimage Board (Tabung Haji) and Natives Development Department (JPN) and the Student Affairs & Alumni and the Vice-Chancellor's Office.

The Village Tour provided the undergraduates with the opportunity to mingle with the students at Sekolah Tinggi Islam Negeri (STIN) Kampung Leryar.

Some 20 modules and experiments were presented to about 170 students – mainly of the Semai natives and students – in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

In addition, UMP donated 13 previously-owned bicycles for these students to use at the boarding school in Sekolah Tinggi Islam Negeri (STIN) Kampung Leryar.

According to Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dato' Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin, UMP is always open to the idea of exploring potential strategic collaborations through the sharing of knowledge and expertise, academically, or via similar Corporate Social Innovation programmes.

"It certainly gives the university great pride in seeing such special programmes being carried out by our students, who have secured their scholarships from UMP, and now dubbed the UMP Scholars."

"Through these social engagement initiatives, these students have helped boost the general public's awareness of the university's role in the development of the nation, the importance of Islam and the concept of *Malaysia Makmur*, of the existence of UMP, and how they can benefit from the latter's presence," Professor Dato' Dr.

He expressed his hopes that such programmes would have significant impact on the communities at Pos Menson and the natives among the participating undergraduates.

Meanwhile, Village Tour Programme Director, Ee Hui En, from the Faculty of Engineering Technology, said the programme was a great opportunity to experience mingling with the Semai natives up close and personal.

"This is my first time participating in programmes involving natives, and am thankful to UMP and fellow undergraduates for this opportunity to experience reality," she added.

As a volunteer, Hui En and fellow UMP Scholars had made the efforts to repair the bicycles left behind by the natives after they completed their degrees and moved on – and refurbished these bicycles to almost brand new condition.

In conjunction with the Village Tour, a solar project presentation ceremony to the Pos Menson village head, Haji Sirajuddin Lebai Ghazali, was held.

Completely developed by the undergraduates and collaborating staff, the solar project was UMP and MUIP's contribution to the community of Kampung Leryar, via the university's MyGift programme.

Both UMP and MUIP hoped that such project will help the community save on electricity bills whilst promoting the use of solar energy. MUIP also donated food hampers.

To celebrate programme accomplishment, the entourage held a Cultural Night with performances by the UMP students at the boarding school's hall.

Some 500 people attended the event, which also saw community service and mural painting, among other activities. Also present were Kuala Lipis Manager, Haji Sirajuddin Lebai Ghazali and MUIP officer in Cameron Highlands, Hazwan Hafiz.

Hassan Al Faiz Mohamed awarded Mercedes-Benz

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) undergraduate from the Faculty of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, Ahmed Hafez – who is undergoing the dual-degree programme coordinated by UMP and HsKA Universiti Bachelor's Degree (Honors) in Automotive Engineering – lucked out when he was selected to be the recipient of the MBM scholarship for the duration of his baccalaureate.

According to the Industry & Community Network Department (ICoN), only 11 out of the 21 applicants were successful in winning the scholarship. The other two recipients are Ahmad Faizal bin Hafez, a mechanical engineering student at UMP, and Hassan Al Faiz Mohamed, a mechanical engineering student at Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP). MBM, and Hassan Al Faiz Mohamed won the hearts of the selection committee.

Hassan Al Faiz Mohamed, 21, said he did not expect to win the scholarship, but nevertheless, was thankful for the opportunity.

"I will definitely undertake to do my very best and study hard," he said jubilantly.

At a presentation ceremony held at the MBM's production plant in Pekan on March 13, 2019, Hassan signed an acceptance agreement with MBM Deputy Vice-President, Patrick Baur, and the company's Human Resources Director, Dr. Wan Azhar Wan Yusoff. In the presence of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Ir. Dr. Wan Azhar Wan Yusoff.

Also present at the signing ceremony were the Dean of FKMP, Professor Dr. Rizalman Mamat, and the Hassan.

“Mercedes-Benz (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. is proud to award this prestigious scholarship to Hassan Al Faiz UMP, after Usamah Shamsudin, who graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree (Honors) in Mechatronics in 2011.”

Meanwhile, Professor Ir. Dr. Wan Azhar, said the university wished to extend its heartfelt gratitude to MEC for the continuous support and encouragement given to the university, especially to the undergraduates, as well as for the continuous collaborations with the university in the fields of research, teaching, and capital developments via the industry scholarships offering to the undergraduates of the dual-degree program.

ICoN explores strategic networking for industry-comm

By: SITI NURFARMY IBRAHIM, CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Acting as the liaison between academicians and the industries and communities, Industry & Co-Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) has, this week, expanded its strategic networking to include a number of

Through this strategic networking exploration, ICoN is seen capable of strengthening the collaboration process between various communities, in a more effective and directed roles, paralleled to the Industry Revolution 4.0.

“UMP has been selected to be a member of the Malaysian chapter of OISCA, and on that note, this college will be involved in various activities including skills-building programmes in agriculture, forestry and researches in the related fields,” said Professor Dr. Mohd. Zaini.

“Furthermore, the earlier collaboration and sharing of experience with Petrosains Sabah has helped boost (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programmes in the rural areas of the State,” he added.

Professor Dr. Jamil also highlighted that ICoN has conducted a field trip to Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Industry Community Network (CICN) on best practices in the management of industry-community networking.

During the field trip, ICoN and CICN jointly held a team-building programme to inculcate and instill a culture among the different personalities that make up the departments, with a variety of activities like water confident and

Professor Dr. Jamil believes these programmes can certainly help imbue a professional working culture that can transform departments and fortify organizations.

Extreme heat: El-Nino wreaking havoc

Of late, the environmental condition in the country has become worrisome as a result of the prevailing extreme dry weather when the count of average monthly rainfall has dipped below the normal level.

The Air Quality Index in a number of districts, like Rompin, Balok, Shah Alam, Putrajaya, Bukit Rambai and Tukimat, has been recorded as 'Orange: Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups'.

According to a Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) lecturer from the Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Sciences, Tukimat, the extreme heat issue in Malaysia is nothing new, but a regular occurrence towards the end of the year, falling during the months of February and March.

Notwithstanding, she said the recent drastic increase in temperature up to 38 degrees Celcius and for a further questioned whether this could have been the aftermath of the extreme El-Nino weather pattern of 2015 to 2016.

"If we refer to the trends recorded and compiled under the Oceanic Nino Index (ONI) from 1950 to 2019, there have been three extreme El-Nino – namely, from 1982 to 1983 (+2.2); 1997 to 1998 (+2.4); and 2015 to 2016 (+2.6) – with a marked pattern of three years," Dr. Nadrah highlighted during an interview aired on UMP TV.

She stressed that the surface temperature in the Pacific Ocean during an El-Nino weather pattern has also increased over the years and if nothing is done, future El-Nino could be more extreme and would cause adverse effects than the one in 2015 to 2016.

She further explained that, for every extreme El-Nino weather pattern, it will be trailed by two consecutive cycles of moderate El-Nino – namely, from 1983 to 1984 (+0.7) and 1998 to 1999 (+0.7). After that, two moderate El-Nino cycles will follow suit – four years after the first extreme El-Nino.

Based on such trend, Dr. Nadrah said the high temperature experienced in Malaysia this year could be the start of the formation of the moderate El-Nino cycle mentioned.

"The NINO 3.4 record showed that high temperature weather condition had actually begun to form back in September 2018 and continued until six months to March 2019, with readings of below +1.2 (moderate)," she said.

"Nevertheless, the expected parallel increase in surface temperature in the Pacific Ocean (SST) was not consistent with the formation of El-Nino, as the SST was still high. However, the formation of cold temperature weather pattern could balance out the high surface temperature in the said ocean, as long as this persists, it can actually balance out the high surface temperature in the said ocean," she added.

Dr. Nadrah further explained that the transition of monsoon seasons beginning in April will see a downfall in the formation of El-Nino.

"The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is anticipating the probability of another extreme El-Nino to form, instead," she said.

The frequency in El-Nino formation, she added, could also and probably be associated with the increased presence of greenhouse effects – which, accordingly, would stimulate the increase in surface temperature and subsequent formation of El-Nino.

She highlighted that NOAA has confirmed a 25 percent increase in the level of carbon dioxide, as a result of an even more extreme El-Nino weather pattern in 2016.

Using the SDSM-AR5 statistical methodology research, studies conducted by Dr. Nadrah predicted that there will be an adverse effect on water resources for the long term, while the increase in maximum temperature in areas will be up to 3.5 degrees Celcius with a probability of SPI reading falling to -2.2 (extreme dry) in the coming years.

"This high temperature weather pattern, occurring from February to July also brings low quantity of rainfall for the next 6 months. This kind of data input is important in monitoring the sustainability of water resources for the long run,"

"On that note, she advised higher water consumption during heaty seasons and avoid unnecessary exposure to the sun,"

"We can't prevent a natural disaster, but we can prevent a disaster within the disaster," Dr Nadrah exclaimed.

UMP Library implements Waste4Fine to promote payment mode of recycling plastic bottles

By: WAN NURULHUDA WAN ZAKARIA, UMP LIBRARY

In support of the on-going UI Greenmetric Programme, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) Library has embarked on a pilot project to encourage the public to recycle plastic bottles and cans via the Waste4Fine system – and has implemented it beginning March 13, 2019.

According to Acting Head of Library, Dzull Zabarrod Ahmad, the main objective of Waste4Fine is to inculcate the habit of recycling among the public.

recycling, and that students who face financial constraints can actually opt to pay their fines with the Waste4Fine programme.

"By turning in 1-liter plastic drinking bottles, students will earn a 10 sen discount on their Library fines, and those who bring in 10 bottles will earn them 20 sen discounts," he said, explaining the mechanics of such payment mode.

"Students can also pay their fines in full with these plastic drinking bottles," he added, saying that such payment mode will be available on Wednesdays during the library's operational hours.

Meanwhile, UMP Librarian Wan Nurulhuda Wan Zakaria said, library staff at the circulation counter will, upon request accordingly, will issue proper receipts to library users who opt for such barter trade payment.

"To promote and encourage all at UMP to participate in Waste4Fine, the library plans to have an official launch ceremony at the Pekan Campus Library," she said.

Wan Nurulhuda highlighted such programme is inherent to the recent launch of "Let's Break Up with Single-Use Plastics" campaign and faculty members alike are encouraged to reduce the usage of plastics.

"The campaign is an initiative by UMP Sustainability Committee, which falls under the purview of the Waste4Fine programme. It aims to raise awareness on the need to reduce and eventually, abandon single-use plastics on university ground," she added.

In this regard, several programmes have been and will continue to be implemented by the Occupational Safety and Health Management Office (OSHMO) to create a greater awareness of this Green Policy initiative in a sustainable manner.

Among them is 'MYTAPAU', wherein UMP residents are given incentives if they bring along their own containers when buying food.

The university's Sustainable Green Campus and Environmental Management initiatives have borne fruits and rewards. UMP is ranked 11th in the world and No. 6 domestically, in the recently announced UI Greenmetric World University Ranking 2018.

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