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**UMP & IPB sign MoU on blockchain technology to develop digital**

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Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) and the Bintulu Port Authority (IPB) recently sealed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote research and development in the field of blockchain technology, to boost efficiency in converting the latter into commercial products.

The collaboration is also seen as the university's efforts to improve competitiveness in holistic digitalization 4.0; as well as the port's initiative to leverage smart technology to meet demands in operation and commerce.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Sri Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim inked the dotted line for the university. The IPB Manager, Zulkurnain Ayub.

Also present at the signing ceremony held during the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) on March 28, 2019, were UMP Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato' Dr Mashudin Hashim, Officer and Director of IBM Centre of Excellence, Dr. Mohamed Ariff Ameedeen, and IPB Head of Legal Department, Mr. Mohd

According to Professor Dato' Sri Dr. Daing Nasir, leveraging its expertise in blockchain technology – with its IBM Centre of Excellence and supply chain technology by its Faculty of Industrial Management (FIM) – the university will transfer of expertise, and boosting of research and development.

"This opportunity to collaborate with IPB involves research and development, sharing of facilities, data and resources for mutual long-term benefits," said the Vice-Chancellor.

UMP is the first public institution of higher learning in the country to implement blockchain technology as part of its research and development activities, called UMP Valid8.

Meanwhile, IPB will be the first port in Malaysia to apply blockchain technology in its daily operations.

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## **Professor Ts. Dr. Kamal appointed as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation)**

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Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering (FSKKP) Dean, Professor Ts. Dr. Kamal Zuhairi was appointed as Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) for three years effective 1 January 2016.

Professor Ts. Dr. Kamal, 50, who is from Pahang, has an extensive years of experience as a lecturer. He has a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, USA, a master's degree in Software Engineering from University of North Carolina at Charlotte, USA and a doctorate degree in Software Engineering from University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, United Kingdom in 2008.

Professor Ts. Dr. Kamal, formerly with Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and worked at its Centre of Electrical and Electronic Engineering for 10 years of experience as a lecturer. He joined UMP in 2012.

He was the Dean for Research and Innovation from 2013-2015 and Dean for FSKKP since 2016.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Sri Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim congratulated Professor Ts. Dr. Kamal for his appointment. He said that Professor Ts. Dr. Kamal would lead the university's research and innovation and contribute towards its excellence. He also expressed his deepest appreciation to Professor Dato` Dr. Mashitah who had made great contributions to the development of technology and innovation in various universities in Asia.

"It is hoped that UMP will continue to chart great successes as a leading technology university in the fields of engineering and technology not only in Malaysia but also globally," he said.

He added that UMP would continue to explore new ideas to further enrich the fields of education, research and innovation in the fields of engineering, innovative engineering and technology ecosystem that would bring greater good to people in the country.

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## **UMP & Alcon Johor to jointly develop high-technology**

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) recently sealed a corporate agreement with CIBA Vision Johor Sdn. Bhd. The two parties will collaborate on research and development activities, internship placements, and students and staff exchanges.

The corporate agreement will also see opportunities in industrial training involving UMP students and academic staff. It will facilitate the exchange of skills and expertise between the two parties in research and development, with focus on identifying laser lenses mould, as compared to conventional machining.

Held at the Alcon headquarters in Tanjung Pelepas Port, Johor Bahru, on March 26, 2019, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Dr. Jamil Ismail, signed the corporate agreement on behalf of UMP, while Alcon Johor was represented by General Manager Jeyadeva Govindasamy.

Also present at the signing ceremony were Director of Industrial Relations Division at the Ministry of Education, Director of Industry & Community Network Department (ICoN) at UMP, Associate Professor Ir. Dr. N. N. N. Resources at Alcon Johor, Tan Bee Hong.

According to Professor Dr Jamil, the corporate agreement will set a new benchmark in the university-industry collaboration under the scope of producing high-technology contact lenses.

"The two parties to the corporate agreement have agreed to work together on research and human capital development, of which will entail industrial training for our students and exploring of other potential collaborations," he emphasized.

Also held concurrently with the signing ceremony was an education exhibition – where opportunities were provided for students to learn about career and skills in their fields of expertise.

At the said exhibition, UMP lecturer from the Faculty of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, Dr. Norliza binti Mohd. Ali, completed her industry-related programme, under the mentoring supervision of Alcon Johor General Manager Jeyadeva Govindasamy.

Dubbed the [CEO@Faculty](#), or AIExChange, the programme was conducted by the MoE at Alcon Johor for the benefit of students.

Alcon is the world-famous producer of the Air Optix contact lenses. The company, a pioneer in eyesight correction, has a strong portfolio in improving vision for the general public.

Over 285 million people worldwide suffer from vision problems, like cataract, glaucoma and, retinal and refractive errors. Alcon is committed to providing life-changing solutions to their eyesight healthcare.

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**UMP nurtures the culture of entrepreneurship among students**

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By: SITI NURFARMY IBRAHIM, CORPORATE COMMUNICATION DIVISION

The Centre of Entrepreneurship (MyPACE) and Faculty of Industrial Management (FIM) organised a workshop on Ecosystem Development Programme - which was held in Kemaman, Terengganu on April 1, 2019.

It was part of the efforts taken to realise the Institutes of Higher Learning Entrepreneurial Action Plan 2018 to 2020, which aims to develop a conducive and sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The workshop was attended by UMP staff and the objective was to provide exposure and to learn about the best practices in creating a conducive and sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem.

According to Chief Operation Officer and FIM Dean, Associate Professor Dr. Mohd Ridzuan Darun, the workshop was an opportunity for the teaching staff to learn about the best practices in creating a conducive and sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem, as well as to learn about the applications that had been implemented by other countries.

“They also got to experience the practical aspect of the incubator technique.

“The workshop is seen as a medium that can open up opportunities for the teaching staff as well as university students to gain exposure to the practical aspect of entrepreneurship, to enhance their business skill and to benefit from the knowledge gained.

“This, when handled and managed efficiently, can help towards the development of the country’s economy.

“At the same time, the aspect of entrepreneurship was also seen as fulfilling some of the objectives outlined in the speech, which is in line with the message contained in the Vice-Chancellor’s Speech 2019 – ‘Celebrating Success in Entrepreneurship’,” he added.

The speaker invited for the workshop was Director of Incubator, School of Business and Management, Bahru Dina Dellyana, a renowned speaker in the field of ‘Model Innovation, SME Development, Business Incubation and Entrepreneurship’.

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SMEs.

In her presentation, Dr. Dina suggested that acculturation of entrepreneurship should be executed through conferences which would enhance public awareness on the matter and help instil interest among students.

"It is also equally important to have a strong support system at the start-up stage, obtain knowledge and investors.

"In fact, participants get to learn how to execute an idea right up to making it a successful project or product management team. By having an application system, it can help monitor one's progress," said Dr. Dina.

Also present at the workshop were UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Sri Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim, UMP Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Dr. Syed Mohamad Hamzah Al-Junid Syed Abdul Rahman, MyPACE Director, Abdul Syukor Abd. Razak and MyPACE Communication Director, Dr. Mohamed Ariff Ameeden.

Some 1,000 undergraduates who took the UGE2002 Technopreneurship course also benefitted from the workshop, both at UMP campuses.

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## **Orienteering Certification Course Provided Exposure to Water Sports in the country**

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s Sports and Culture Centre joined forces with Magnetic Edge Orienteering Malaysia (AOM) to organise, for the first time, a Level One Orienteering Certification Course for

The programme was held at the Sports Complex hall in the university's Gambang Campus on March 26, 2016, at UMP and outside of UMP. According to Mohd Aznorizamin Ismail, who's performing the duties as the programme was a platform to expose the university's community about orienteering sports which had been popular among water sports enthusiasts.

"The programme helps to create awareness about orienteering sports activities among the students as well as wanting to obtain the Level One Certification from MEOSC and IQF. "Participants are taught about the theory and get to experience the actual thrills of the sports.

"This programme is in line with the Sports and Cultural Centre's strategic plan to produce sports champions and added values to the students when they graduated because they will have extra skills and experience in the national body," he said.

He hoped that more programmes such as this would be organised in the future as part of the efforts taken to elevate the country's water sports at the global arena.

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## **FKASA-Civer Dragon: Champion of Netball, FSKKP-Arctic Fox: Super 5**

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By: SITI NURFARMY IBRAHIM, CORPORATE COMMUNICATION DIVISION

FKASA-Civer Dragon emerged as the champion for Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) Netball League with a spot and FKM-Mecha Rhino at third place.

As for the UMP Super 5 Futsal League women's category, FSKKP-Arctic Fox won first place in the game's final, the first runner up, beating FIM-Bengal who had to settle for third place.

Competition was stiff for the men's category in the futsal game but FKEE-Dino Thunder boomed their way to victory. FTEK-Bison and International-Lions won second and third place, respectively.

Netball and futsal were two of the three games played at the UMP Sixth Internal Sports League organised in collaboration with the Student Sports Council (MSP).

The other game was football.

It was held at the Sports Complex Hall, Gambang Campus on March 29, 2019.

The tournament was a platform to produce talented athletes.

According to the Tournament's Director, Haizad Hashim, event such as this could help promote sports among students and encourage them to involve in sporting activities.

"Students will be more active, healthy, vibrant, dynamic, competent and competitive. They also got to foster a sense of belonging and team spirit.

"These activities could help instil a sense of identity in them, too.

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"There were three games – football, netball and futsal and we received participations from all faculties in the participations from the international students who went by the name of International-Lions," he said.

The tournament was officially opened by Mohd Aznorizamin Ismail, who's performing the duties as the Spo

Also present were Chairman of the Internal Sports League, Nur Adam Maximillian and Student Represen and UMP Sports Council President, Alex Tiong Sie Hung.

As for the UMP Football Super League, it is already entering into its second week and the winner will be known at UMP Gambang Campus Mini Stadium.

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