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VOL. 31 MAY 2019

**UMP welcomes its Fourth Vice-Chancellor**

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Professor Ir. Dr. Wan Azhar Wan Yusoff has been appointed as the new Vice-Chancellor for Universiti Malaysia Perlis effective from May 16, 2019 until May 15, 2022.

He is UMP's fourth Vice-Chancellor.

He received his document for the new post from former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Sri Dr. Daing Nordin bin Yusoff on May 15, 2019.

The handover of duties ceremony was witnessed by UMP Board of Directors' Chairman, Dato' Sri Ibrahim Ali bin Yusoff.

It was held at the Banquet Hall of Tun Abdul Razak Chancellery, UMP Pekan Campus on May 16, 2019.

Professor. Ir. Dr. Wan Azhar Wan Yusoff expressed his appreciation and acknowledgement to Professor Dato' Sri Dr. Daing Nordin bin Yusoff for his excellent service as the third Vice-Chancellor for 11 years.

"I have had the opportunity to personally learn a lot about his leadership in UMP.

"I am very thankful for the trust given to me to hold a variety of portfolios in UMP, over the years. The role has been extensively put to good use to improve oneself with value added experience and knowledge," he said.

Professor. Ir. Dr. Wan Azhar added that the experience and knowledge gained would hopefully, be a good asset for his new duties as the university's Vice-Chancellor.

Professor. Ir. Dr. Wan Azhar is from Pasir Putih, Kelantan. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan Ann Arbor, USA (1990), Masters' of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (1993), and a Doctor of Philosophy in Advanced Technology Manufacturing from Universiti Sains Malaysia (2004).

Prior to this new appointment, he was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International). He was appointed as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in 2008.

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He was a lecturer in UMP's Faculty of Mechanical Engineering since 2004.

Professor Ir. Dr. Wan Azhar, 52, has held the post as Dean for Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering (FME) and UMP Centre of Innovation and Academic Competitiveness Director from 2011 until 2013.

Dato' Sri Ibrahim also said with this appointment, he hoped that UMP would continue to maintain its status as a technology university, steering its way in the fields of engineering and technology, not only in Malaysia but also internationally.

"The university would like to express its gratitude to UMP's third Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Sri Dr. Ibrahim, the Father of Transformation, who has made vast contribution in elevating UMP as being among the best in Asia," he said.

"Being on the best track, UMP will continue to strengthen skills training in Technical Education and Vocational Training with the aspiration of the Education Ministry.

"The university will be supported by competent and professional staff and will make the academic infrastructure more relevant to the needs of industry and society," he said.

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## **UMP's book on *tahfiz* education and soft skill won award at the National Book Award 2019**

A book titled, '*Pendidikan Tahfiz dan Kemahiran Insaniah*' (*Tahfiz Education and Soft Skills*) published by UMP won the best general book (education category) at the National Book Award 2019 that was held at Putrajaya in 2019.

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The book was written by Centre for Modern Languages & Human Sciences (CMLHS), Senior Lecturer, Dr.

Dr. Rashidi said he wrote the book because he wanted to see the extent of *tahfiz* education and soft skill and generic skills and applying these skills in facing current challenges.

“There are seven elements of generic skills shared in the book to ensure a well-balanced *huffaz* is effective in critical thinking and problem solving, teamwork, continuous learning and information management, entrepreneurship and skills in leadership.

“The book also supports the government’s aspiration in producing 125,000 *huffaz* nationwide by the year 2030 with faith and *takwa*.

“The *huffaz* will be groomed to be leaders and professional workforce and are not limited to only being an imam.

“The book is also a production of a research work on enhancing al-Quran skills among students,” he said.

In the [Sharing@BookCafe](#) programme organised by UMP Library recently, Dr. Rashidi shared his experience comprising campus community and members of the public.

For those who are interested to get a copy of the 156-page book, they can contact UMP Publisher and (Rohaizad).

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## UMP partners with KOCEL to leverage global online learning

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) recently cemented a five-year partnership with China's Kocel Group (KOCEL) by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the latter's National Intelligent Foundry Industry Innovation Center in 2019.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Sri Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim, who headed the delegation to Yincheng University, whilst KOCEL was represented by its President, Peng Fan.

The signatories were duly witnessed by UMP Deputy Director of the Centre of Instructional Resources & e-Learning (CIReL), Dr. Gan Leong Ming, and KOCEL General Manager, Chang Jun Yong.

The new MoU spells out that both UMP and KOCEL will collaborate in the areas of online academic and professional development (for staff), under the massive open online course (MOOC) and global classroom. The two parties will also conduct joint online research for technological advancements.

"The MoU with KOCEL is a historic milestone for UMP, as we have also now established a tripartite collaboration with the Ministry of Education in providing industry-oriented and niche online education to both local and international students," said UMP Vice-Chancellor Daing Nasir.

He elaborated that some of the initiatives will include UMP-KOCEL niche MOOC exchange; intelligent manufacturing cultural interaction between KOCEL technology specialists with UMP academics and students; as well as joint research via UMP niche areas.

"Ultimately, this MoU provides ample visibility of UMP as Malaysia's No. 1 and preferred technological manufacturing industry in China," he said.

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Meanwhile, KOCEL President Peng Fan said the MoU is not just simply a collaboration between UMP policy to integrate industry-university teaching and learning approach.

“It also matches well with the “One Belt One Road” strategy to enhance the collaboration between Malay industry innovation,” he emphasized.

Accompanying Professor Dato’ Sri Dr. Daing Nasir to the signing ceremony were UMP Dean of Faculty of (FKKSA), Professor Dr. Zulkafli Hassan; Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering Mohd Ruzaimi Mat Rejab; Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Industrial Sciences & Technology (FIST), Associate Director of Confucius Institute at UMP, Yong Ying Mei.

Prior to the signing event, UMP delegation was treated to a field trip to KOCEL’s 'steel casting, intelligent and IR4.0 cutting edge' operating centre at NIFI, under the tour guide of NXU Dean of Mechanical Engineering.

KOCEL is a well-known name in the casting and foundry industry; supplying and servicing the Top 500 Electric Co (GE) and Siemens Pte Ltd.

The company has more than 50 years of experience in development and continuous innovation through sy in cast, intelligent machinery manufacturing, chemical and steel structure industries.

Meanwhile, KOCEL’s subsidiary NIFI is an industry-university-institute oriented open sharing online platform technology research and development for commercialization, industrialization and knowledge transfer.

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## **UMP renews MoU with Ningxia University**

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By: YONG YING MEI, CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

Having worked together successfully, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) and Ningxia University (NXU) of collaboration with the signing of another memorandum of understanding (MoU) on April 23, 2019.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Sri Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim, who headed the delegation to the Yinc university, whilst NXU was represented by its President, Professor He Jianguo.

The two universities have collaborated well since 2014, and over the last five years, several achievements in students and visiting professors exchanges as well as in external co-supervisory cooperation and research.

Meanwhile, under this new MoU, UMP and NXU are seeking to extent their collaborations in academic areas such as NXU's School of Mechanical Engineering, School of Chemistry & Chemical Engineering, School of Environmental Engineering, and the Laboratory of High-efficient Utilization of Coal & Green Chemical Engineering.

During the recent trip to NXU, UMP also took the opportunity to hold a number of key meetings to deliberate on the Mobility Programme, International Students Recruitment, China Scholarship Programme, Co-supervisory Conference and Research.

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Accompanying Professor Dato' Sri Dr Daing Nasir to the signing ceremony were UMP Dean of Faculty of (FKKSA), Professor Dr Zulkafli Hassan; Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, Mohd Ruzaimi Mat Rejab; Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Industrial Sciences & Technology (FIST), Associate Professor Dr Gan Leong Ming; Director of the Centre of Instructional Resources & e-Learning, Dr Gan Leong Ming; Director of Confucius Institute, Visiting Lecturer to UMP, Associate Professor Dr Jiang Xiaoxia.

On hand at NXU to receive the UMP delegation were Vice-President, Professor Xie Yingzhong; Vice-Dean of Affairs, Associate Professor Ma Xiaoling; Dean and Vice-Deans of the School of Mechanical Engineering, Zhang Bo and Professor Dr Yang Shuming, respectively; Dean of the School of Chemistry & Chemical Engineering, State Key Laboratory of High-efficient Coal Utilization & Green Chemical Engineering, Professor Dr Guo Hydraulic, Professor Dr Mao Mingjie and Professor Dr Liu Haifeng, respectively; and Vice-Deans of the School of Professor Ma Jun and Associate Professor Zhang Zhenxia, respectively.

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## **ECER Empower Programme produced champion students of flying and SPM exams**

A total of 81 pupils and students from primary and secondary schools who took part in the ECER Empower results in the three major public examinations - *Ujian Pencapaian Sekolah Rendah* (UPSR), *Pentaksaran Malaysia* (SPM) which they sat last year.

They included three Orang Asli pupils who were outstanding in their UPSR, 15 students obtained 5As in students of SPM.

The programme, which started in 2011, was organised by Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) and East Coast



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(ECERDC), together with UMP Advanced Education and UMP Women Association (Matahari).

It involved selected participants from 22 schools in rural area of Pekan and Kuantan with the objective of achieving excellence.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Hajah Fuziah Salleh presented prizes and certificates to the winners at the UMP Astaka Hall, Gambang Campus on May 2, 2019.

Also present were UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Sri Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dato' Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin, ECERDC Pahang Regional General Manager, Dato' Haji Mohd. Mazlan Sani, Chief Executive Officer, Associate Professor Dr. Rashid Ab. Hamid and Matahari President, Professor Datuk Dr. Mohd. Yusoff.

Other guests included Pahang Education Department Director, Dato' Dr. Haji Tajuddin Mohd. Yunus, Member of Parliament, Department of Socioeconomy and Special Project General Manager, Zainal Bahari.

The ECER Empower Programme also focused on economic development of youths, single mothers and women, aimed at making them to be financially sustainable.

Hajah Fuzian, in her speech said she was pleased to see the impact of the ECER Empower programme on adult participants and increase their incomes as well boost the academic achievements of the children.

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“With their excellent achievement, the pupils and students are recognised as champion of the ECER Empower Programme, serving as the example and inspiration for other students and programmes,” she said.

She advised them to continue with their successful strides, adding, it would be more difficult to maintain the momentum taken in reaching the next level.

“Therefore, there is still room for us to work together and when implemented, it will generate positive benefits for all,” she said.

Professor Dato’ Dr. Yuserrie, who read the speech of UMP Vice-Chancellor, said the students’ achievement is a testament to their hard work in the future.

“UMP is aware on the significance of its role in supporting the moves taken by the government to transform Malaysia into a high-income nation through expertise and ability, in the aspect of life-long learning, academic training and technology,” he said.

He believed that with close cooperation from all agencies and with the support from the state government, together with the education and socio-economic landscape of participants in the programme.

To date, 50,000 participants in ECER have benefitted from the ECER Empower Programme.

In Pahang alone, there were 37,491 participants including 28,361 involved in the academic and entrepreneurship training.

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## **PMLK celebrates Ramadan *Iftar* with local community**

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To appreciate the blessings of the holy fasting month of Ramadan, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) popularly referred to its Arabic term as *Iftar* – in a congregation between its students and the surrounding localities.

Dubbed the '*Program Iftar Perdana Mahasiswa & Masyarakat*', the Iftar congregation on May 11, 2019, was a series of programmes of endearing the students to the locals.

It was jointly coordinated by UMP's Off-Campus Students Association (PMLK), Department of Student Affairs (MPP), Academic Staff Association (PAKAD), Department of Social Skills from the Centre of Modern Languages & Human Sciences (CMLHS) together with the representatives from Makmur Gambang Jaya Residents Association.

According to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dato' Dr. Yuserrie Zainudin, the Iftar programme is a result of many efforts undertaken by UMP to build rapport and foster good relationship between its PMLK and the surrounding localities.

"The *Iftar Perdana* programme is certainly a positive platform for the university's off-campus students, enabling them to communicate with the local communities, under a warm and friendly ambience," said Professor Dato' Dr. Yuserrie Zainudin.

What was interesting to see at the *Iftar Perdana*, he highlighted, was the goodwill contribution of raw materials and vegetables, from the local residents.

Such noble and encouraging act is part of the university's ongoing initiatives, under the UMP Campus Partnership Programme, to pool contributions for the needy students – of which, was apparently and mutually enjoyed by both the university and local communities at the *Iftar Perdana*.

Meanwhile, Centre for Modern Languages & Human Sciences (CMLHS) Head of Department (Social Skills & Leadership) and PMLK Advisor, said UMP holds in high regards the importance of holistic development of its undergraduate students.

"On that note, developing leadership traits and social skills for off-campus students is seen as a necessity to prepare them for the challenging 'real world' situations they have to face daily. Living off-campus is actually an opportunity for them to better manage post-graduation real life," Dr. Rohana emphasized.

“Indirectly, PMLK can be the right platform to encourage the off-campus students into being accustomed to the community, into being community leaders after they graduate,” she pointed out.

From another point of view, the *Iftar Perdana* Programme Director, Muhd Haziq Abdul Halim, said such *Iftar* students at the university get easy access to preparing meals for their breaking of fast.

“As a matter of fact, the *Iftar Perdana* programme creates a stronger bond among the students, as well as each other cook and prepare the *Iftar* meals,” he said jubilantly.

Over 500 people attended the *Iftar Perdana*, where they were served with specially-cooked dishes for the *Masak Merah, Ikan Kerisi Goreng*, vegetables, fruits and desserts. A short talk on the blessings of Ramadan by Mohd Suharmi Mat Jusoh.

Also representing UMP at the *Iftar Perdana* were Dean of CMLHS, Associate Professor Dr. Muhammad JHEPA’s Welfare Department, Azlina Abdul Mubin; and MPP President, Zakwan Zulkifle; while the local group District, SM Mohd Hanif Ahmad; and Head of Committee for the Makmur Gambang Jaya Residents Association.

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