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**Eggplant planting using fertigation technology in U**

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In a move to fully utilise unused area in campus, UMP Technology Sdn. Bhd. (UMPT) which is wholly-owned by UMP Holdings Sdn. Bhd. to promote commercialisation activities of UMP products, has successfully cultivated eggplant using the fertigation technology at the UMP Gambang campus.

Research and planning on the project commenced middle of last year while work on the farming site and construction of the polybags commenced in the first year following approval from the management and UMP Holdings Sdn. Bhd.

According to UMPT General Manager, Dr. Nur Aainaa Syafini Mohd Radzi, the site covered an area of 3,000 trees for commercial purposes while another 1,000 trees for experimental purposes and technology improvement.

“The eggplants were placed in a nursery for growing before transferred into polybags in March and April, and started to be harvested in the middle of May.

“*Alhamdulillah*, we harvested between 250kg and 350kg every two days. We expect the produce to increase in the beginning of June and will continue to harvest the produce until November,” she said.

She added that currently, the produce were sold from the farm to wholesalers and nearby supermarkets at a price of RM1.50 per kg.

Dr. Nur Aainaa Syafini said the fertigation technology was not new for UMP as the university had carried out research on the technology for research purposes at the UMP Model Farm and community activities to help improve the livelihood of the local programme in Kuala Pahang.

“Based on the potentials in using this system especially the lucrative returns, which is three to four times higher than the traditional farming method, has attracted the attention of many parties to use the technique for commercial ventures.

“This will also open the door for UMP other products to be commercially produced.

“Fertigation is a farming technique that maximises the produce through controlled application of water and fertiliser.

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“This application will ensure that adverse impacts from the use of fertiliser to the root, soil and under the fertigation technique is applied, it involves substrate and media such as coconut husks and rice husk ash,”

She also said farming could be done without the use of fertile soil and can be carried out in urban area and could help increase produce and prevent soil-borne diseases.

“Apart from helping to churn money for the company, this pilot project had its own advantages because it added.

She hoped that the project would pave the way for other UMP agriculture-based products be commercialised in the open market.

“We hope that we are able to expand farming activities using the fertigation technology so UMPT can be a success in Pahang.

“At the same time, the project will provide job opportunities to UMP students and the locals to boost their income.

UMPT is now in the process of identifying areas near the campus that could be leased by the company for suitable land for expansion purposes using the fertigation technology.

Throughout the implementation of the project, UMPT consulted the Department of Agriculture and Collaborative Agency (FAMA) for the commercialisation aspect of the produce.

For those who are interested to do their own fertigation farming project, UMPT offers consultation services and

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**40 UMP undergrads volunteer for *Singgah Sahur*@K**

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Universiti Malaysia Pahang's (UMP) MyGift squad, comprising 40 undergraduates, recently took renowned *Singgah Sahur* programme in the capital city of Kuala Lumpur on May 14, 2019.

The *Singgah Sahur@KL* programme is one of MyGift's community service campus activities.

The activity, which began at midnight until 3am, saw volunteers from the squad handing out 600 food packs, manning the Dang Wangi district police station (IPD) and the Terminal Bersepadu Selatan (TBS), or integrating to the general public and homeless individuals.

At the Dang Wangi IPD, MyGift squad was welcomed by the personnel on duty, Inspector Baalana Panrengam, who were both criminal investigation officers.

Accompanying the volunteers at the programme was Petronas ICT Sdn. Bhd. Chief Operation Officer (COO) MyGift trustee.

According to Izwan, such programme lends exposure to the volunteering undergraduates, as they learn to work by the police personnel on night duty throughout the fasting month of Ramadan.

"Their presence and contributions brought cheers to those at the IPD," he said, adding that he had also seen that the B40 family group, are beneficiaries of the MyGift initiative.

"To the students, such programme helped highlight the plight of the homeless individuals and what civil service is all about through, during which time many of us may be comfortably sleeping at home or having pre-dawn meals with family."

Meanwhile, MyGift Programme Director, Najihan Zanian, who hails from the Faculty of Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering, is proud of the commitment showed by the undergraduates – who had sacrificed their precious time, especially during the fasting month, to volunteer for the *Singgah Sahur@KL* programme.

Najihan said among the activities the volunteers undertook during their visit to Kuala Lumpur that night were distributing food packs to homeless individuals and cleaning up of the area where the latter are seen putting up, including the one near the bus terminal.

"Another interesting activity was the distribution of pre-dawn, or *sahur*, meals together with the personnel on duty," he said.

Accompanying the volunteers during the distribution was Maju TMS Sdn. Bhd. Manager, Khairon Ishak, who was also at the bus terminal.

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## Ramadan excursion to Palu evokes sense of h

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An excursion during the recent fasting month of Ramadan to the district of Palu in the centre of Sulawesi, Indonesia, by a group of 16 Malaysian volunteers from Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP), who personally experienced self-effacement when they visited the district in the last September's double catastrophe of earthquake and tsunami.

Accompanied by the Senior Executive from the Department of Student Affairs & Alumni (JHEPA), Abdul Wahid Shah Mohd Nordin, Nurul Waheeda Abdul Rahman, Nor Adzwa Rosli, Muhammad Zulhazmi Zakaria and Nurul Hafizah on May 16, 2019, just 11 days into the fasting month.

The humanitarian mission was organized by Yayasan Dana Kebajikan Muslim Malaysia (YDKMM), or Malaysian-Muslims Welfare Fund, in collaboration with UMP student-consumers' movement, Gerakan Pelajar Teknik Engineering Students Association (CHEST); Ibsan Foundation; and Bernama News Channel (BNC), and two (YOSH) icons, Ardell Aryana and Nadzmi Adhwa.

According to the Mission Director, Ezwan Shah, who is also the executive committee for Community Service and Students Council, about 16 volunteers in total were involved in the humanitarian mission, to help channel funds to tsunami victims, especially those living in the critical red zones of Balaroa, Talise Beach, Petobo, and Jono.

"Upon arrival at our destinations, our Malaysian volunteers were aided by fellow volunteers from Relawan Indonesia. The items delivered to the victims were prayer paraphernalia like women's praying veils, prayer mats and the holy book. It was highlighted that the items were handed to the community at Desa Bangga, Dusun 2 in Sigi, who suffered badly as a result of the tsunami.

"Stationeries collected from donors at UMP, such as books, pencils, pencil boxes and the likes, were given priority and highlighted.

Aside from that, Ezwan Shah said, volunteers also brought along basic living necessities like bags of cooking oil and rice, and handed them to the communities of Desa Bangga, Lero Ngapa, Desa Lero and Darul Tauhid, for use as 'Sembako'.

As for their temporary shelters, or popularly known as 'Huntara', the folks of Desa Lero and Darul Tauhid were located on the sea shores, as unlike those at Desa Bangga, they had suffered the subsequent onslaught of tsunami after the earthquake.

In addition to the handing over of donations and contributions, Malaysian and Indonesian volunteers alike were seen interacting during the humanitarian mission, and together, mingled with the village folks and their children, vide a number of photos taken.

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According to Nurul Waheeda, aside from holding congregated iftar, or breaking of fast with the community, the volunteers and Relawan Nusantara Palu collaborated in getting the children to participate in several co-curricular activities, English and other academic undertakings using appropriate modules, as the children had been left behind in the village.

Meanwhile, Nor Adzwa said her team of volunteers took on a different role and focused on coordinating and supporting the school-going children of Desa Bangga, to help the latter deal with the aftermath reality and overcome their trauma.

“It was in plain view how delighted the children were to see our Malaysian volunteers. And it’s really amazing to see them continue with learning, despite the hardships they have to put up with, and what little they have after the earthquake,” she said.

For Muhammad Zulhazmi and Nurdiana, the two were grateful that they were selected, out of the 16, to join the mission.

“We believe such mission helps instill selfless trait in the volunteers and drive us to reflect more on how our country can help others,” he said.

“It is truly admirable and yet, heart-wrenching to see how patient these folks are, faced with double calamities in the whole month of Ramadan in such dire conditions,” he said.

At the conclusion of the excursion, and on behalf of the team, Ezwan Shah extended their gratitude to JHEPA and the various faculties for their contributions in making the Ramadan humanitarian mission to Palu successful.

“One thing is certain, this mission will leave a lasting footprint in the minds and hearts of the volunteers, to take home with them,” he said.

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**UMP’s IPS and Postgraduate Association brought cheers to orphans at  
Sayang Care Centre**

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Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s Institute of Postgraduate Studies (IPS) and Postgraduate Association that brought cheers to 60 children at the *Hembusan Kasih Sayang* Care Centre in Taman Guru here.

The event was held on May 30, 2019 and was organised under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) p

They contributed essential items, food and raya pocket money to the children, comprising orphans and those

Programme Director, Helmi Mohamed Isa said they got to mingle with the children and celebrate Hari Raya

"The CSR programme can help instil compassion and make them feel more appreciative towards the less p

"IPS will continue to organise programmes such as this in the future," he said.

The centre's principal Mohd Uqbah said the place was home for 29 boys and 31 girls and that four houses v

He welcomed contributions from the public to help ease their financial burden and help the children lived m

For those who wish to contribute, they can contact Ustaz Uqbah at 019-517 3072 or Puan Nazihah at 019-2

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***Ziarah Prihatin* Ramadan: UMP Alumni extends help, bring**

In view of the festive celebration of Hari Raya Aidilfitri, and coupled with concerns about the plight of a number of needy families in Kuantan, Pahang, the Graduates Association at Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP), or fondly referred to as UMP Alumni, has organized a Ramadan programme to extend a helping hand and bring cheers and joy to the needy.

Held over the weekend of May 18, 2019, the *Ziarah Prihatin* Ramadan was also a coordinated effort with the Universiti Malaysia Pahang (JHEPA), Yayasan Ikram, I-Bantu Pahang, Ikram Kuantan, Gema Pahang, Hidayah Centre Pahang, Ikram Kuantan, and the Member of Parliament.

Converging at the UMP Mosque that Saturday, the programme saw 50 volunteers – comprising UMP Alumni and several representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGO) – gathered at 9am before Programme commenced with a briefing of the day's agenda.

According to Mohd Najib, who is also Deputy President of UMP Alumni and a lecturer at the university, the programme is an improvement from previous years', and this is reflected in the higher number of *Asnaf* recipients – or those in need of welfare and assistance.

About 80 selected *Asnaf* families around Kuantan benefited from the *Ziarah Prihatin* Ramadan programme. They were in groups of convoy to visit and distribute packs of food and cash donations.

"Doing our bid for the society, these selected *Asnaf* families not only get assistance during the fasting month but also to help them cope with the daily cost of living. And at UMP Alumni, we also continue to draw up more charitable projects," he said.

"In fact, following this *Ziarah Prihatin* Ramadan, UMP Alumni will continue with the next edition of seasonal programmes such as Hari Raya Aidilfitri, Baju Raya Project, *Ziarah Prihatin* Aidiladha and Back to School uniform distributions," he emphasized.

Mohd Najib said the Alumni was impressed with and truly appreciated the commitment showed by every individual contributors, in making the annual programme a success.



From the eyes of volunteer Afiqah Yeop – who is an undergraduate studying at the Faculty of Chemical & Materials Engineering – such programme conducted during the holy month of fasting helps inject a sense of appreciation and gratitude. She can comprehend what it is like for poverty stricken families have to make do just to get through their daily lives.

“It certainly is heartening that we can help lighten their burden and bring cheers to their lives with our programme. The programme has given me strength to continue participating in many more community services to help the needy.”

Meanwhile, Asnaf recipient Suhaimi Deraman, who hailed from Kampung Tanjung Api in Kuantan, said the programme, and the donations received will certainly ease up his responsibility of preparing the family for the coming year.

“It is extremely difficult for me to bear and shoulder the cost of raising eight children, without a full-time job, on a meagre pay of RM700 from doing odd jobs,” lamented Suhaimi.

Concurrently, that weekend also saw UMP Alumni holding the *Singgah Sahur* programme when they visited *Rumah Anak Yatim & Miskin Nur Iman* in Kempadang.

Twenty volunteers – comprising UMP alumni and undergraduates as well as representatives from NGO Ikrar – helped feed 40 children and staff at the orphanage.

Towards the evening, UMP held a congregation of breaking of fast, dubbed *Majlis Iftar Perdana* and handed a contribution to 20 *Asnaf* individuals at the Kampung Jaya Gading Mosque.

Present at the event were the Chairman of the Village Community Management, Azmi Muhammad, and the

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