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**Up close & personal: Humanizing technology with Pa**

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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 Menson in Cameron Highlands, Pahang, on March 23, 2019.

Themed 'Humanizing Technology', the programme was coordinated by the Pahang Islamic Religion Department in collaboration with the state's Pilgrimage Board (Tabung Haji) and Natives Development Department (Jabatan Negeri) of 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 Menengah Kebangsaan at 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 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 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 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 Makmur, of the existence of UMP, and how they can benefit from the latter's presence," Professor Dato' Dr.

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

Meanwhile, Village Tour Programme Director, Ee Hui En, from the Faculty of Engineering Technolo 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 un reality,” she added.

As a volunteer, Hui En and fellow UMP Scholars had made the efforts to repair the bicycles left behi completed their degrees and moved on – and refurbished these bicycles to almost brand new con Kebangsaan Menson.

In conjunction with the Village Tour, a solar project presentation ceremony to the Pos Menson village head,

Completely developed by the undergraduates and collaborating staff, the solar project was UMP and MUI 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 promot MUIP also donated food hampers.

To celebrate programme accomplishment, the entourage held a Cultural Night with performances by the U boarding school’s hall.

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

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## **Hassan Al Faiz Mohamed awarded Mercedes-Benz**

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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 University of Applied Sciences, Bachelor's Degree (Honors) in Automotive Engineering – lucked out when he was selected to be the recipient of the Mercedes-Benz (MBM) scholarship for the duration of his baccalaureate.

According to the Industry & Community Network Department (ICoN), only 11 out of the 21 applicants were selected by 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.

“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 Al Faiz Mohamed signed an acceptance agreement with MBM Deputy Vice-President, Patrick Baur, and the company's Human Resources Director, in the presence of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Ir. Dr. Wan Azhar Wan Yusoff.



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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 of collaboration among the different personalities that make up the departments, with a variety of activities like water confidence and team-building exercises.

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

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## **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 Seremban, has reached the 'Orange: Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups' level.

According to a Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) lecturer from the Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earthquake Engineering, Dr. 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.

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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 20

“If we refer to the trends recorded and compiled under the Oceanic Nino Index (ONI) from 1950 to 2019, the El-Nino – namely, from 1982 to 1983 (+2.2); 1997 to 1998 (+2.4); and 2015 to 2016 (+2.6) – with a marked period of 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 and if nothing is done, future El-Nino could be more extreme and would cause adverse effects than the one

She further explained that, for every extreme El-Nino weather pattern, it will be trailed by two consecutive 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 pattern of 2015 and 2016 – and this could signify the formation stage 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 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 observed by weakening up to March 2019. Last month, we saw the formation of cold temperature weather pattern and if 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 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.

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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 1.5 to 2.0 degrees Celsius 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 3 to 4 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 exposures to the sun.”

“We can’t prevent a natural disaster, but we can prevent a disaster within the disaster,” Dr Nadrah exclaimed.

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## **UMP Library implements Waste4Fine to promote payment mode of bottles**

By: WAN NURULHUDA WAN ZAKARIA, UMP LIBRARY

In support of the on-going UI Greenmetric Programme, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) Library has implemented Waste4Fine – via plastic drinking bottles and cans – 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

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

“By turning in 1-liter plastic drinking bottles, students will earn a 10 sen discount on their Library fines, and 10 bottles of 1-liter capacity 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 is available on Wednesdays during the library’s operational hours.

Meanwhile, UMP Librarian Wan Nurulhuda Wan Zakaria said, library staff at the circulation counter will 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 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” 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 Waste Management and Environmental 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.

The university’s Sustainable Green Campus and Environmental Management initiatives have borne fruits and No. 6 domestically, in the recently announced UI Greenmetric World University Ranking 2018.

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