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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 for research and development in the field of blockchain technology, to boost efficiency in converting the latter into a smart port.

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 commercialization.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Sri Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim inked the dotted line for the university on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Zulkurnain Ayub.

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

According to Professor Dato' Sri Dr. Daing Nasir, leveraging its expertise in blockchain technology – with the IBM Centre of Excellence and supply chain technology by its Faculty of Industrial Management (FIM) – the university aims to 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 and is 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 (DVC)**

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Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering (FSKKP) Dean, Professor Ts. Dr. Kamal Zuhairi, has been appointed as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) for three years effective 2016. He holds a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from University of Malaya, Malaysia, a master's degree in Software Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, USA, a master's degree in Software Engineering from University of New South Wales, Australia, and a doctorate degree in Software Engineering from University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, United Kingdom in 2000.

Professor Ts. Dr. Kamal, 50, who is from Pahang, has an extensive years of experience as a lecturer. He holds a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, USA, a master's degree in Software Engineering from University of New South Wales, Australia, and a doctorate degree in Software Engineering from University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, United Kingdom in 2000.

Professor Ts. Dr. Kamal, formerly with Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and worked at its Centre of Electrical Engineering, has over 20 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 Zuhairi for his appointment and 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 universities in Asia.

"It is hoped that UMP will continue to chart great successes as a leading technology university in the fields of research and innovation 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, and build an 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**

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

The corporate agreement will also see opportunities in industrial training involving UMP students and academic 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 Professor Dr. Jamil Ismail, signed the corporate agreement on behalf of UMP, while Alcon Johor was represented by 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. S. Resources at Alcon Johor, Tan Bee Hong.

According to Professor Dr Jamil, the corporate agreement will set a new benchmark in the university-industry 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 career and skills in their fields of expertise.

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

Dubbed the [CEO@Faculty](#), or AIEExChange, the programme was conducted by the MoE at Alcon Johor for the first time.

Alcon is the world-famous producer of the Air Optix contact lenses. The company, a pioneer in eyesight healthcare, has a 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, for life-changing solutions to their eyesight healthcare.

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

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 2015-2020, which aims to develop human capital through entrepreneurial activities.

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

According to Chief Operation Officer and FIM Dean, Associate Professor Dr. Mohd Ridzuan Darun, the workshop provided an opportunity for the staff to learn about 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 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 line with the message contained in the Vice-Chancellor’s Speech 2019 – ‘Celebrating Successful Entrepreneurship’,” he added.

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

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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 project 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, U Syed Mohamad Hamzah Al-Junid Syed Abdul Rahman, MyPACE Director, Abdul Syukor Abd. Razak and Communication Director, Dr. Mohamed Ariff Ameen.

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

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## **Orienteering Certification Course Provided Exposure to Water Sports in 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, 2019, inside UMP and outside of UMP. According to Mohd Aznorizamin Ismail, who's performing the duties as the sports officer, 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 and those wanting to obtain the Level One Certification from MEOSC and IQF. "Participants are taught about the theory and then 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 add 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: Champion of Football  
Super 5**

FKASA-Civer Dragon emerged as the champion for Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) Netball League v 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 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 wa last year. 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 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 a involve in sporting activities.

"Students will be more active, healthy, vibrant, dynamic, competent and competitive. They also got to foster 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 tournament. We also received 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 Sports Officer.

Also present were Chairman of the Internal Sports League, Nur Adam Maximillian and Student Representative Council President, 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 in the next week at UMP Gambang Campus Mini Stadium.

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