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# PEKAN REVIEW

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Bridging Universiti Malaysia Pahang to the world community

## **Moving together to drive the nation's technical o**

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) staff must all move together so as to boost the nation's technical vocational, education and training (TVET), in line with the needs of the high-tech industries.

This was the message that UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ir. Dr. Wan Azhar Wan Yusoff drove home in his UMP Vice-Chancellor 100 Days in Office Speech that was held at UMP Gambang Campus Sports Complex.

He said the university's management had carried out basic changes in restructuring of the organisation for the better use of the resources available in UMP for technical education with another profile that would shape TVET education. Secondly, to produce an academic administration system by way of participative leadership which involves all staff as leaders for a better succession plan and sustain the university's direction, he added.

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He said a Senior Dean, a post to be created soon, would assist Deputy Vice-Chancellors in their duties and groom future leaders to ensure UMP's excellence.

"As UMP grows, we need to share power with the Big Four - Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International Innovation), Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni) and Chief Operating Officer/Registrar to be preparing of more strategic plans.

"In fact, this move will help nurture leadership for the university's top positions," said Professor Ir. Dr. Wan Azhar.

He also said that in identifying integrity risk that could cause leakages in operation, all members of the board of directors and members of the board of directors in the university's subsidiaries.

He added that after this, all of the university's subsidiaries would be placed under UMP Holdings Sdn. Bhd. so as to improve the organisation's competency.

On the third reason, Professor Ir. Dr. Wan Azhar said it would involve changing of the academic delivery system in order to implement flexible education that had been approved by the university for quite some time now.

"For example, sharing of programme between faculties will allow students to sign up for programme at a college for the lecturers and trainers. In fact, more programmes can be shared between engineering and technology.

"In pushing ahead with this agenda, the university has also introduced College of Engineering Technology, College of Computer and Applied Sciences and College of Management and Humanity.

"The benefit of having these colleges is that it can help to accelerate the process of endorsing examination.

He also said in the next five years, the university expected to receive some 5,000 students taking the high-diploma (3,000), Engineering (3,000), Computer (2,000), Management (2,000) and with Mathematics and Science courses in the current year.

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“As a technical university, we should open the gate for TVET and to start taking in students for the 2019/2020 academic year,” he said.

“UMP offers two engineering technology programmes – Bachelor’s Degree with Honours in Automotive Technology and Bachelor’s Degree with Honours in Oil and Gas Maintenance Technology. This is in line with the focus given on Automotive Engineering and Technology. This is a new programme added.”

He also said the Bachelor’s Degree in Technology programme was offered at four technical universities (MUTM, MAMPU, MAMPA and MAMPA) for school leavers with DVM/DKM/DLKM certificates which would allow them to continue their studies at the university level with a strong emphasis on hands-on skill component.

This reflected the recognition to TVET and to enrich it as a high-level learning programme, he added. - “To enrich it as a high-level learning programme,” he added.

“At the same time, UMP should open the door for TVET by expanding the programme outside of campus to other parts of Terengganu and other places in order to increase the programme’s capacity,” he said.

On flexibility of learning that would increase the quality of post-graduate programme, Professor Ir. Dr. Wan Azhar said the Centre of Mathematics should play a more vibrant role.

He added that no great technical university in the world that did not have a Centre of Mathematics and no great university that did not have a Centre of Writing.

“The university management system must also be modernised in line with the changing of time and technology in applications and flexible working hours (flexi hour) to increase staff productivity,” he said.

“The modernisation of the administration can move the organisation and strengthen technology so decisions can be made strategically,” he said.

On meeting the objectives outlined in the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, Professor Ir. Dr. Wan Azhar had aimed to increase the number of students, to increase online programmes (MOOC) that were more practical in nature, to strengthen research and commercialised products that would become a teaching factory for the university students.

He hoped that one day, UMP would have a research group that made fundamental research products and services.

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products that had yet to be founded by others in the world.

He expressed his confidence that given sufficient time and resources and based on the expertise available advanced, this dream could be realised.

On efforts taken to bring the university closer to the community, Professor Ir. Dr. Wan Azhar said UMP would launch the 1.0 Programme and the Distinguished Scholar Talk Series (*Siri Bicara Cendekiawan Mulia*) for these programmes to benefit the society especially the people of Pahang and enrich the high-level TVET learning.

He also assured that UMP would stay committed in its role as an agent of transformation that surpassed a traditional university centre and that it would strategically build up its talents to ensure that its technology expertise could be used for research and innovative works and to drive its technical capacity to the highest level in the country.

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## **UMP and Haro Sports working together in motor sports vehicle**

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) is set to be the first institute of higher learning in Malaysia to have its own motor sports vehicle and become the main manufacturer for the Formula Comet.

The university signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Haro Sports and Entertainment Sdn. Bhd. for collaborations in automotive engineering and exploring the possibilities that would help expand the motor sports industry.

It was a collaboration between synergy partners, one from a public sector and another from the private sector.

It would also involve research works and transfer of motoring and racing technology to the trainers and technicians at UMP themselves.

The signing ceremony was held at Tun Abdul Razak Chancellery Banquet Hall at UMP Pekan on August 15, 2018. A Toyota 86 racing car to UMP.

UMP was represented by UMP Board of Director member (representing the Senate), Dato' Ts. Dr. F. M. Yusoff, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Innovation), Associate Professor Dr. Abdul Adam Abdullah while Haro Sports by its Managing Director, Mohamad Yamin Ahmad Shafie.

The collaboration would open a lot of opportunities for selected UMP students to venture into the field and conduct motor sports vehicle research and development programme as well as in racing and event management.

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This was in line with UMP's agenda in communalising technology and promoting bilateral ties with the industry through the Technical, Vocational, Education and Training (TVET) programme.

Dato' Ts. Dr. Rosli said, UMP was proud to see the initiative taken by the Automotive Engineering Centre with Haro Sports that would enhance transfer of technology in the field of manufacturing motor sports vehicles.

"Motor sport is seen as one eco-system that involves its development as an industry. The development is not just for the rider but also the many individuals that work behind the scenes. They are the backbone of the team. The industry is the backbone of the rider."

He also said it was in line with TVET-based education development plan - the Learning Factory and Teaching Factory which would constantly consist of students and representatives from the industry.

According to Fahrizal, the Formula Comet was seen as having huge potentials to be successful as there were many opportunities to expand the market.

"The potential to expand the market of Formula Comet motor sports championship has been identified in many countries in the South Asia, Pacific and East Asia regions.

"This will lead to more job opportunities and industrial training in motoring and racing, globally, and generally also help to boost the graduates' marketability and quality," he said.

He also said the collaboration would open up to a wider prospect of networking especially with potentially competitive industries.

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## **Two pairs of twins pursued their studies in**

Two pairs of twins quickly became the centre of attraction during the registration of new students for the academic year of 2019/2020 held at Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) on September 2, 2019.

Muhammad Adham Jamal Akhbar and Muhammad Akram Jamal Akhbar, 19, and Safrizal Syazwan Zainal Akbar, 19, were among 1,880 students who registered that day.

They arrived as early as 8.00 am.

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Nor Khamsiah Mansor, 50, mother to Adham and Akram, said the family was grateful that both of them although both signed up for different courses.

“Both of them have never been separated since small.

“At first, I was very worried if they would be studying in different universities, thinking how are we to send them that they are to continue their studies in the same university.

“However, Adham would be pursuing his degree in Civil Engineering in UMP Gambang Campus while Akram would be pursuing mechanical engineering in UMP Pekan,” she added.

Nor Khamsiah also said she and her husband, Jamal Akbar Ahmad, 46, had made comparisons with several other universities but UMP as the university had attained various achievements in the engineering field.

“As such, UMP was picked as their first choice when they submitted the UPU Online application.

“As parents, we always encourage our children and have never prevented them to choose the course that they themselves have always wanted to become engineers,” she said.

Adham and Akram, who are from Terengganu, were former students of Pahang Engineering Matriculation Centre.

As for Zainal Hayat Abdullah, 43, and his wife Masjuliana Muslim, 43, who are parents of Safrizal Syazwan and Safrina Syazwanie, they did not expect the twins to get offers from UMP.

Safrizal Syazwan is a Mechanical Engineering (Automotive) undergraduate while Safrina Syazwanie is pursuing her degree in Mechanical Engineering (Automotive) at UMP.

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## **German’s Business Engineering is now in Malaysia**

By: TS. DR. LEE KHAI LOON, SENIOR LECTURER, FACULTY OF INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT, UMP

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Business Engineering is a new branch in the business field and the programme is available at Universiti programme will become the frontrunners in business engineering of which they will integrate knowledge with innovative practices. They can be specialists in logistics, chain supply and production.

The Business Engineering Programme is offered at Faculty of Industrial Management (FIM), UMP and Business School, Reutlingen University (HsRT), Germany.

It is a premium programme and students who sign up for the programme will need to complete their first two

For those who meet the academic requirements including scoring 14 points in German language, TestDaF be allowed to continue their third year and fourth year of studies in HsRT.

This programme is not offered at any business or engineering programme in Malaysia. This is because understanding in business and engineering.

Students who complete their first two years in UMP and the last two years in HsRT will be awarded Engineering with Honours by UMP and Bachelor of Science International Operations and Logistics by HsRT

This programme, which combines the basic knowledge in business and engineering, has received full accreditation Agency (MQA) and the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT), United Kingdom (UK).

MQA has given its assurance on the quality of the programme while CILT (UK) supports the career development networking and access to industries related to logistics and transportation.

Students will also have access to the latest information pertaining to their career path through consultation workshop and training.

With solid support provided by the two universities, graduates of the programme will be armed with two required by the current industries as well as that of the future.

Students will be guided at the domestic level and at the international level and will advance as holistic market.

In order to facilitate students to adapt to the culture and industry in Germany, professors from HsRT will be language classes are held daily.

This way, students will be able to assimilate their knowledge in business and engineering and allows them technical-oriented business positions.

For the record, the programme has produced eight German graduates with dual degrees of which five convocation ceremony while three others received their degrees at UMP's 14th convocation ceremony.

This year, UMP will award Bachelor of Business Engineering with Honours to 16 Malaysian graduates graduate Syakiela Ahmad.

**Their views:**

"This programme provides a strong platform for students who want to expand their knowledge in international language." - Syakiela Ahmad.



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