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[VOL.52 OCT 2019](#)

# PEKAN REVIEW

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Bridging Universiti Malaysia Pahang to the world community

## **UMP being ranked as best global universities for Engineering**

UMP once again has been recognized internationally after being listed in the Best Global Universities Subject Rankings for Engineering and Chemistry. The ranking, published by U.S. News on 21st Oct 2019, is to provide insight into how the subject rankings are powered by Clarivate Analytics InCites, in which a total of 10,100 universities from 87 different countries are ranked.

For Engineering subject, UMP is ranked at 271th place globally, and at 7th among universities in Malaysia. UMP is the top engineering university among Malaysia Technical University Network (MTUN).

For Chemistry subject, UMP is ranked #741 globally and it is also 8th among universities in Malaysia.

U.S. News adopts a robust methodology for Best Global Universities Subject Rankings, which covers Reputation, Research, Faculty, and Student Outcomes.

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Science Excellence Indicators. UMP achievement signifies that its researches in both Engineering and Chemistry have been recognized by the world. Congratulations.

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## **UMP Food Bank – aids for undergraduate**

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s Food Bank for Undergraduate initiative, aimed at helping to ease the cost of living for students on campus as well as those outside of the campus had been well-received.

The initiative was carried out by volunteers using the Food Pantry concept.

It was officially launched by Minister of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs, Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasiruddin Haji Kassim during a session held with the minister at Astaka Hall, UMP Gambang Campus on October 16, 2019.

Also present at the launching were the ministry's Deputy Secretary General, Datuk Rostam Affendi Daud (Student Affairs and Alumni), Professor Dato' Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin, UMP Board of Directors' member, UMP Food Bank Malaysia Foundation Chief Executive Officer, Abd. Wahab Long.

The programme was launched in 17 public universities and UMP was the 18th university to have a Food Bank.

To date, a total of 6,570 students from the public universities have benefitted from the programme including

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Among the sponsors that contributed to the programme were Tunas Manja Group, 99 Speedmart Sdn. Bhd., Palma Unggul Enterprise, Hock Ho Hiap Kee Oil Mill Sdn. Bhd., Nurfirman Sdn. Bhd., Nirwana Group, G Sufi Marketing and Syarikat Gean Ming Sdn. Bhd.

In his speech, Datuk Seri Saifuddin said the ministry, through the foundation, had taken steps to connect food manufacturers, restaurants and hotels, with universities in channelling food aids.

He also said the running of the food bank initiative was based on a concept 'From the Undergraduate to the

"We welcome university students to participate in the initiative especially student bodies, so we can together

Professor Dato' Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin also said the university had developed UMP Campus Pantry Portal for themselves, so those interested could get the latest information about the programme.

"It will also facilitate the public or alumni to make contributions, in cash or food.

"To date, a total of 1,400 students under the B40 category have benefitted from the Campus Pantry aim especially so towards the end of the semester.

"Since its inception, various activities have been organised to fill UMP Campus Pantry such as a charity hand clothes which are still in good condition are sold with the lowest price fixed at RM1.

"All the proceeds were channelled to the Campus Pantry," he added.

"Another means of filling the coffers was by encouraging staff to make salary deduction as an incentive to the Foundation," he said.

UMP had also implemented several of its own meal programmes such as the 'Food for All' where free meals are provided Monday to Friday (morning) and every Monday and Thursday for breaking of fast (*iftar jamaie*) at UMP (Sharing of Sustenance) where students could get their lunches at RM1.

The ministry and foundation welcomed participation from various parties for the programme in a move to re

They also believed that volunteerism could be instilled through this programme and hoped that the initiative including private institutes of higher learning, university colleges, teachers' training colleges and polytechnic

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# Malaysia–China Cultural Arts Festival showcases the cultural her

By: SITI NURFARMY IBRAHIM, CORPORATE COMMUNICATION DIVISION.

Translation by: DR. ROZAIMI ABU SAMAH, FACULTY OF CHEMICAL AND PROCESS ENGINEERING T

The organizing of the Malaysia–China 2019 Cultural Arts Festival held in conjunction with the launch of t seen to enhance Mandarin language skills and provide cultural exchange but also to strengthen good collaboration between UMP and its strategic partner, Hebei University, China.

Held at the UMP Astaka Hall, Gambang Campus on 12 October 2019, the festival successfully featured a performances including calligraphy arts, painting, lion dance and martial arts such as tai chi and wushu, as that reflects the diversity of proud customs and cultures.

The festival was officiated by the Dean of Student Services, Student Affairs and Alumni Department, Dr. Ma

Also present were the Deputy Director of the International Cooperation & Exchange Office, Hebei Univers

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Director of the Centre for Sports & Culture, Professor Dato' Ts. Dr Rosli Abu Bakar, the General Manager of the Department, Abd Hamid Majid, the Director of CI UMP, Yong Ying Mei and the Director of the Confucius Institute.

According to Dr. Mansor, the uniqueness of the plural society in Malaysia has attracted tourists to come to experience the ethnics' heritage.

“In this regard, the students on campus must foster unity and inter-racial relationship in all activities.

“The Shared Prosperity Vision under the Malaysian government today is a handy reference for us to learn from its foundation to strengthen the nation,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Malaysia–China cultural forum was panelled by Dr. Fan Yuguang of Hebei University and the Director of Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), and moderated by Mohd Zaki Ahmad.

There was also a cultural exhibition featuring the use of chopsticks, Chinese knots and traditional Malaysian performances involving students from both universities.

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**UMPH pledges highest integrity & corruption-free bus**

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UMP Holdings Sdn. Bhd. (UMPH) – the business arm of Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) – recently has raised the levels of employment, signed an undertaking and pledged their commitment to combat corruption and embezzlement.

At a ceremony held at the UMPH Complex at UMP's Gambang Campus on October 2, 2019, the presence of UMPH Chairman, Dato' Sri Mohd Hilmey Mohd Taib; UMPH Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Ir Syed Mohamad Hamzah Al-Junid; UMPH Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dato' Ts Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin; and Malacca State Deputy Director of Prevention, Sheikh Hamadi Sheikh Abdul Hamid.

According to UMPH, the commitment and pledge are hoped to reinforce the virtues upheld by the business sector – the highest integrity – simultaneously extolling a strong message to the surrounding communities that all must be done with trust and without prejudice, including combatting corruption.

Ir. Syed Mohamad Hamzah Al-Junid emphasized that as an organization that practices the highest integrity, UMPH must be free from corruption, whether directly or indirectly, in its dealings and procedures, including those involved in procurement and collaboration with other interested parties.

“Each and every one of us has to ensure full compliance of the written Code of Ethics, in order to develop a strong work culture within our organization,” stressed the CEO.

“We will also closely cooperate with the MACC to upgrade the reporting and whistleblowing avenues through the UMPH and other related parties – to channel any discovery and instance of corrupt practice – with confidence and integrity.”

Ir. Syed Mohamad Hamzah Al-Junid called upon everyone present at the ceremony to inculcate a high-integrity work culture at the heart and pulse of UMPH activities.

This form of work culture, the CEO explained, has to be visually seen and witnessed in every UMPH staff member's exemplary leadership roles, personal appearance, interpersonal interactions, and most importantly, in their respective responsibilities.

UMP was among the earliest agencies in Pahang to commit its corrupt-free pledge when the university's senior management, including ranking officers, deans, directors and heads of department, undertook the oath two years ago on October 2, 2017.

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**Let's Vocab @ STEM helps enhance pupils' command of English**

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By: SITI SARAH SUKOR, GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT FOR FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH GRA  
RDU190188

The Centre for Modern Languages & Human Science (CMLHS) at Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) received school pupils from around Pekan to the university to participate in a programme called "Let's Vocab @ STEM".

Organized in collaboration with the Industry & Community Network Centre (ICON), the Centre held the half-day programme on 29, 2019.

In preparation for the programme, the Centre for Modern Languages (CML) Director, Associate Professor Dr. Zuraina, and members Rosnani Ismail, Nurul Nadia Muhammad and Nabila Abdul Malek, to produce a learning module to enhance their English vocabulary in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects.

"The half-day program aimed to assist the Primary Year 4 pupils in enhancing their English vocabulary in the target vocabulary size were packed into the learning module," said Associate Professor Dr. Zuraina.

"The learning module consisted of vocabulary games, such as puzzle, word maze, word search and other activities to enhance the pupils' command of vocabulary," she highlighted, adding that the survey conducted at the end of the 'Vocab @ STEM' was an engaging, interesting and fun-filled in-class activities.

CML believes, as young learners of English, vocabulary expansion is a crucial component of the prerequisite for speaking, reading and writing.

"By conducting a programme like 'Let's Vocab @ STEM', the young learners stand to gain confidence in learning STEM, allowing them to comprehend learning techniques presented in the module," she said.

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**With a postponed success, Amir Ashraf rose to the title**

As the saying goes, 'Where there's a will, there's a way'. It is a fitting analogy to the Managing Director of Hamzah, 35, who continued to struggle in the business and managed to position himself in line with success.

Beginning with painful experiences, the young man from Kampung Tok Hakim Padang Midin, Terengganu, faced a situation where he ran out of money to buy milk for his children.

He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Electrical and Electronics from Universiti Malaysia Pahang, ambitious to start his own business from a young age.

Today, his dreams come true thanks to the efforts and prayers of his parents, family and the support from the

The son of Haji Hamzah Othman and Hajah Hasmah Mohamad has chosen the business in engineering and related things.

He initially encountered great objection from the people around him when he chose to venture into business.

“Most people consider this business to be high risk, but I take it as a challenge.

“To be honest, initially, my interest was not in engineering. But that changed when I fell in love with the firms and companies in Kuala Lumpur.

“This five-year work experience has given me the courage to establish a construction company in 2011 under the name Myvi. At that time, that Myvi car was my first office,” said Amir Ashraf.

However, he said the founding of the company was not as good as the drama we saw on television.

“I was a novice in the business world. However, the sky is not always blue, my business was in trouble at times, and my business partners.

“At that moment, I felt that the world was against me, but the advice and encouragement from my parents gave me the strength to continue.

“It is still fresh in my memory that my mother told me not to give up and continue because no one failed in their life. Her words further strengthen my spirit to go back to the drawing board,” he said.

He also advised, “Do not be afraid to start something, because when fear takes control, we will not dare to try.

At the same time, we also need to surround ourselves with positive people because the positive aura will drive us forward.

Amir Ashraf acknowledged that this business has many challenges as we are vulnerable to trials and difficulties.

“However, if we see this problem as a problem, we will not go anywhere, and it will continue to be a problem for us.

“Therefore, we need to take it as a challenge and consider it an opportunity that we need to overcome,” he said.

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He shared his valuable experience in the motivational talks he delivered.

Depending solely on one's experience as an engineer is not enough to build a company.

He also shared his success tips for starting an engineering and construction company.

“Not only we need passion and knowledge, but we also need the experience of managing a company. To create a great company.

“During my high school years, after my Malaysian Certificate of Education (SPM), I studied at the Johor study in UMP in electrical engineering,” he said.

Married to Syarifah Mahfudzah Syed Mafdzot, 34, they are blessed with three children – Ainul Syuhada, 6,

Currently, Profix Engineering Sdn. Bhd. has 12 staff comprising engineers, project supervisors and adm. Selangor.

In addition to being the Managing Director of Profix Engineering Sdn. Bhd., he is currently the Chairman of (INAP), the Industrial Advisor to the Politeknik Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin (PSMZA) Dungun, Terengganu and the National Palace, One Bangsar Bangsar Condominium and Sri Bangsar Condominium.

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ISSN 2180-3099



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