RESONANCE

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PERSADA Canselori Unveiled to Personify UKM's Role

Message from the Vice-Chancellor

It has been 44 years since a 111 year-old proposal at the Malay Rulers' Conference in Kuala Kangsar became reality. It has been a long time coming, but we got here.

It has not been easy, and funds were needed, but it seemed everyone wanted to chip in – even the Makciks back at the kampungs. They persevered, and their dream for UKM to come into being was realised in 1970. Even so, UKM faced scepticisms for a long time, but it proved the critics wrong.

It is more than timely for the university to celebrate its 44th anniversary. Much had been achieved since then, when we had to share facilities in Kuala Lumpur with an already established and renowned institution. There was even a time when UKM had to depend on academics from abroad. Gradually we came into our own and UKM has matured over the four decades.

However, UKM had always been first and foremost an institution for indigenous excellence, and still is. Recently a UKM academic, Prof. Dr. Ishak Hashim was named by Thomson Reuters news agency as one of the world's most influential scientific minds for 2014. There have also been others at UKM and alumni members who in their own way are contributing to the nation's development; they are trully the Guardians Of The Nation. They can be found in the private sector, medical services, scientific research and the government. All this from a dream that started more than a hundred years ago and fuelled by willing donors from among the rural areas.

I am proud to have contributed to UKM over the past 20 years first as a lecturer and later as Dean of the Economics and Business faculty and Chair of the Graduate School of Business in between my services at the Economic Planning Unit. The fact that the govemment uses UKM's expertise in charting Malaysia's economy says a lot about the university.

Our objective is to produce graduates with national identity; competent and dynamically innovative. This means UKM graduates will have a strong sense of ethical values, and possess knowledge and skills to explore new possibilities in order to survive a very competitive world out there. By having such traits and qualities, UKM graduates will automatically be sought after by employers, even before their graduation.

This is a great opportunity, for us to explore new business models, which can help us develop to be more sustainable. This can be done by a more intensive collaboration with the private sector, govemment and community.

Thank you.

Prof. Datuk Dr. Noor Azlan Ghazali

RESONANCE

UKM International Bulletin

RESONANCE connotes dynamism and vibrancy. Resonance reflects our vision and philosophy, and it is also in tandem with our sister publication SENADA. As one of the research universities of Malaysia, dynamism is a virtue much prized by us for it ensures our pre-eminence in the field. Other aspects of campus life are not neglected. After all we are a community of scholars, support staff and students. The pulse and vibrancy of the whole community can be felt as you read through the pages of RESONANCE. Happy Reading.

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Centre for Corporate Communications

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PERSADA Canselori Unveiled To Personify UKM's Role

By: Shahfizal Musa, Centre for Corporate Communications
Photo: Ikhwan Hashim & Shahiddan Saidi

The National University of Malaysia (UKM) unveiled a platform called PERSADA Canselori that will personify UKM's role as the guardian of the nation.

Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Noor Azlan Ghazali speaking at the launching of UKM's 44th Anniversary celebrations said the platform located at the Foyer of the Chancellory will discuss pertinent issues affecting the country that is aimed at drawing the attention of the nation. He hoped PERSADA Canselori will not merely be a branding exercise but a symbolic gesture that will propel UKM to undertake its role as the guardian of the nation more seriously.

UKM, Prof Noor Azlan said, is willing to go to the ground to fulfill that role saying that in the 44 years since its inception the university needed to adapt itself to stay ahead of the challenges going on in the world. He outlined six areas that UKM will focus on for improvements. One is to produce graduates sought after by the industry. This means shaping and moulding its students' character and personality to such a stage that they carry themselves with distinction. Second is closer and more efficient collaboration with stake holders so that UKM's impact can be felt and seen. Thirdly is producing high impact research. He said it does not matter how many discoveries are made but what counts is their impact.

Discoveries must bring benefit to the nation to be truly meaningful and that would be more in line with the aspirations of its founders. Fourth is nurturing the culture of innovation in every prime mover of UKM which should be upheld by every single staff at all levels and departments. Innovation is not merely the prerogative of researchers but should also be taken up by departments like the Treasury or Security. Fifth is the creation of wealth and how to deal with budget reduction imposed on public universities. The problem could be solved by the academic staff undertaking consultation work.

Currently UKM have more than 300 profesors which is 15% of its staff. Prof. Datuk Dr. Noor Azlan believes that if all its professors decide to mobilise their expertise through consultancy work, UKM can generate more than the RM120 million it needed for its annual operations. And lastly some of its infrastructure needed to be upgraded to meet current needs. One example he gave was that students need not have to come down from their residential colleges to get online.

He said the key measures needed to be carried out to ensure UKM will stay relevant while fulfilling its role as guardian of the nation and have the 3Rs - Relevant, Referred and Respected.

The celebrations was launched by Chairman of its Board of Directors Prof Emeritus Dato' Dr Mohammad Zawawi Ismail. Senior members of the University joined in the ceremony.

A Cost-Effective Way To Digitise Library Content

By: Saiful Bahri Kamaruddin, Centre for Corporate Communications
Photo: Izwan Azman, Centre for Corporate Communications

Software for university libraries and academic archival need not necessarily be costly and they can even be free yet useful if librarians are trained to use them effectively.

An Oxford University librarian-turned-academic Dr Richard Gartner said most of the digital asset management systems that he teaches are Open Archival Information System (OAIS), such as Fedora and Islandora which may be used to create large, searchable collections of digital assets of any type.

Dr. Richard Gartner

Dr Gartner who lectures at King's College London (KCL), said Islandora can recognise any file type when used with Fedora and is modular. He has worked on various projects ranging from river pollution to European History and used open source archival systems that proved satisfactory. His primary area of research is digital library metadata, in particular the development and application of XML standards.
In a talk to academics and students of the School for Mass Media and Communications (Mention) of The National University of Malaysia (UKM), he said Metadata is "data about data".

Metadata can be compared to the card catalogue of a library while the book or manuscript indexed in the card is the actual data. The main purpose of metadata is to facilitate discovery of relevant information, more often classified as resource discovery. XML (Extensible Markup Language) is a flexible way to create common information formats and share both the format and the data on the internet, intranets and elsewhere.

He however warned that no matter how good an archival system is, a lot of people are needed to scan materials. "Computers can't check for errors in scanning. Only humans can do that," he said.

One for the projects he helped set up is the Linking Of Parliamentary Records through Metadata (LIPARM). "LIPARM is a project to create a standard way of formatting data on Parliamentary proceedings in England, from politicians' speeches to committee papers, which could open up major new areas of democratic research," Dr Gartner said.

The LIPARM project was a one-year project to create an XML metadata scheme – a standard way of structuring and labelling information so that it can be easily analysed and compared – known as Parliamentary Metadata Language, or PML.
His core research interest is the use of metadata for integrating complex and diverse digital resources and the role of standards in facilitating that. His other research interests include digital library techniques and methodologies, the role of digital libraries in international development and empirical musicology and how libraries can be linked.

According to the King's College Website, Richard Gartner is a lecturer who has specialised in the field of digital libraries and electronic information provision for over 20 years. Before teaching, he was the New Media Librarian for Oxford University Libraries where he was responsible for the introduction of the Internet into the Bodleian Library, the Library's first CD-ROM network and its first digital imaging projects. In recent years, he has specialised in metadata for digital libraries, in which he has published widely.

UKM Opens Its Optometry Clinic In Setapak School

By: Shahfizal Musa, Centre for Corporate Communications
Photo: Shahiddan Saidi, Centre for Corporate Communications

The Sekolah Menengah Pendidikan Khas Setapak (SMPKS), here which enrolls visually impaired children from all over the country has received an optometric clinic courtesy of The National University of Malaysia (UKM) to enable the students to easily get treatment.

Such a clinic has long been the desire of the school but has now become a reality due to the assistance of UKM and the Carl Zeiss Inc. which sponsors the equipment. It was officially opened by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Prof Datuk Dr Mazlin Mokhtar.

Prior to the set up of the clinic there, the students had to go to the optometry clinic in the Faculty of Health Sciences UKM at the General Hospital here for treatment and follow ups.

Having an optometry clinic in the school, will make it easier to treat and monitor the visually impaired students. They can also be assured of getting the best treatment that UKM eye specialists can offer and at the earliest possible time. This is one of the countless efforts of UKM as a guardian of the nation to serve the community.

Prof Mazlin, when launching the clinic said when it comes to technology we always look to the future but we must also look back and document our past successes. He said we must remember the sacrifices of our predecessors as the past can serve as a guiding light to steer us in the right direction for the future.

He narrated how UKM started following donations given by the ordinary people and humble institutions like schools because many Malaysians then felt the need for the setting up of its own national university aimed at promoting and safeguarding national values. He said that in everything that we do we must act as if every single thing, time, money and effort being used today is actually what is lent to us by the future generations. So if something is borrowed it needed to be returned in a good or better condition.

He said since UKM's Optometry Department is the first in the region it should now start to think of serving beyond the Malaysian borders at least to expand to the ASEAN countries.

Principal of SMKS Encik Jalaluddin bin Yusof, said the school had wanted to set up an optometric clinic for a long time and was thankful that it has now materialised thanks to the efforts of UKM and Carl Zeiss Inc. which sponsors the equipment needed for the clinic.

Present at the launching ceremony ware Head of Optometry & Vision Science Programme of UKM Dr Zainora Mohamed, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences Professor Dr Siti Zamratol-Mai Sarah Mukari and industry representatives.

Inaugural Knowledge-Sharing Session Between UKM Economists And The Private Sector

By: Saiful Bahri Kamaruddin, Centre for Corporate Communications
Photo: Ikhwan Hashim, Centre for Corporate Communications

The private sector and academics from The National University of Malaysia (UKM) have agreed that sharing information and exchanging notes may help efforts to prepare Malaysia face the expected challenges in a globalised economy.

An official panel consisting of six economic academics from UKM and six representatives from the private sector acknowledged that they can work together on a regular basis to ascertain whether research theories overlap with real-life business practices.

They had their inaugural meeting at the UKM campus here last week organised by the Faculty of Economics and Management (FEP). It was moderated by Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Noor Azlan Ghazali, who expressed satisfaction with the outcome saying it would be an annual event. The panel named Kongsi Ilmu@FEP discussed the extent their respective fields had in common.

Prof Dr Mansor Jusoh, an expert on Islamic banking such as Al-Murabahah, proposed Islamic debt-based instrument using the principle of exchange or deferred contract of exchange.

A member of the private sector group, former Proton Chairman and now Chairman of Nadicorp Holdings, a new electric car venture, Datuk Seri Mohd Nadzmi Salleh acknowledged that Islamic debt-based financing serves as an automatic stabiliser on credit and money supplies. Demand for Murabahah goes down when the inflation rate rises.

Haji Shahrizin Hj Abdul Sarhadat, deputy director of MARA (Policies and Strategic Planning) concurred that Murabahah could help limit the taking of credit. Another academic Associate Prof Dr Tamat Sarmidi tabled his findings that when compared to the developed economies, Malaysia is ranked negative in financial liberalisation. Dr Tamat said this meant that

the country is not doing enough to encourage open competition and attracting foreign investments, which Malaysia is overly dependent on.

Commenting on that Datuk Seri Nadzmi said the country still needed affirmative action to "buffer" local businesses and help them build up capacities though he agreed that Malaysia needed to liberalise its financial sector, albeit in stages.

However, Dr Tamat remarked that implementing change step-by-step is not enough. "Someone told me that if you go to the dentist, don't pull out the teeth gradually over several visits. Do it all at once. It may be very painful but only once. It is better than going (to the dentist) several times and feeling the pain many times," he said.

Associate Prof Dr Noor Aini Khalifah, however, felt that the Malaysian economy was becoming too liberal to enable local companies to compete on an equal footing with the foreign companies. The domestic companies – from the small traders to conglomerates – are slowly but surely being replaced by their international counterparts, Dr Noor Aini said.

Datuk Seri Nadzmi said there are definite benefits of having foreign companies here though he cautioned that Malaysia should have a strategy to prepare for the time when large corporations may suddenly pull out. He gave the example of Dyson PLC, a British manufacturer of very high-end vacuum cleaners, which set up factories in Johor. Should Dyson dump us where do we go?"

Another academic researcher, Dr Rozita Amiruddin spoke of the need to place strong management in firms. In her paper, she said every company needs a tailor-made Management Control Systems (MCS) based on research and development requirements. The MCS should influence employees' behaviour towards increasing the probability of achieving an organisation's innovation goals.

The private sector panellists gave a lukewarm reception to the proposal with Datuk Seri Nadzmi saying that it was not necessarily true that strong control meant better success or that less control meant failure.
As for companies facing liquidation, Assistant Prof Dr Razali Haron proposed a formula to predict the optimum amount of debt a firm may have that could minimise bankruptcy risk.

Datuk Seri Nadzmi, however said in Malaysia there are many businesses that are being kept running for socio-political reasons despite losing millions of ringgit every month. "I run a bus company that makes no sense; no fare hikes allowed," he lamented, referring to the transport firm Konsortium Transnasional Berhad, where he is Chairman and Managing Director since 1996. He said service to the people is vital and the bottom line is not the only consideration to the government.

Explaining Traditional African Family Practices

By: Athirah Abdul Aziz (UiTM intern)
Photo: Shahiddan Saidi, Centre for Corporate Communications

The Western media only show the negative aspects of traditional family patterns in Africa, which has damaged the image of Africans in the West.
Abu Bakar M. Miyim, a Nigerian PhD candidate student at The National University of Malaysia (UKM) said Western networks have deliberately given a distorted view of Africa which persists until today, including that of polygamy.

Abu Bakar M. Miyin

Abu Bakar, who was invited to give a discourse on African Traditional Family Patterns and Inter-Generational Relationship by the Tun Fatimah Hashim Women's Centre for Leadership, UKM said the only channel that gives fair coverage about his country is China's CCTV.

He wanted to share the 'unknown' side of Africa, its society and traditional family patterns. He said the African family still maintains its strong bond through traditional practices such as the upbringing of children and maintaining strong family values.

His talk centered on the three major tribes in Nigeria, the Hausa, Yoruba and the Igbo. Abu Bakar who is a Hausa said that the Hausas are mostly Muslims occupying the northern part of Nigeria. His talk focused on family related issues such as polygamy, tribe, clan, the extended family, the dowry and the raising of children.

He said traditionally, African family practices polygamy because of the idea that the larger the family or clan, the more workers there are to work on the family farms. Hence, more wealth can be possessed by the family. However, nowadays the practice depended on the religion of the person. Muslims in Africa will take up to 3 to 4 wives, the number permitted in the religion while the Christians only practice monogamy.
The tribe is bigger in terms of size compared to clan but the latter has greater influence on the family. Four factors that link their kinship were profession-derived names, tribal marks, distinguishing personal names and determining the child's legitimacy as a clan member.

The clan's name is also included in a person's name like his which is Miyim which denotes that he comes from the clan's profession as hunters. He also has a tribal marking on his right cheek usually given to children at about the age of seven. Tribal marks were widely used during tribal wars to distinguish members of different clans.

Only legitimate children will bear the clan's name. The naming ceremony is very important as a child will not be considered as a part of the clan till his or her legitimacy is established. The test of a child's legitimacy in traditional Hausa customs is by dropping the child's umbilical cord into a can filled with water and milk. The clan chief will only accept the child as a part of the clan if the cord floats. If it sinks, the child will be considered as illegitimate and disowned.

A Nigerian ethnic group called the Ijaw will throw babies in the river to test their legitimacy. The infant will only be considered as legitimate if it floats. However, Abu Bakar asserted that an infant thrown into a river will always float. "It's the oldest science," he said.

The children are then taken care of by their fathers' brother, not by the biological parents. Nonetheless the real parents do not forget their children for they will continue to visit their children. This practice was done in order to prepare the girls to become wives and mothers and the boys to become husbands and fathers.
The Hausa people are patrilineal. Hence, their household family consists of relatives of the father. However, some tribes in Ghana and Northern Zambia practice matrilineal marriage as the extended family comprises of a man and his wife, their married daughters, son-in-laws, and their children.

Abu Bakar M.Miyin and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Madeline Berma

He also said that the dowry is not practiced in traditional African society. The practice was introduced by European missionaries and colonialists. Abu Bakar said that African bridegrooms work for the bride's father as a form of 'dowry' to wed his daughter instead of giving money or property.

The speaker is a PhD candidate at the Department of Electrical, Electronics and Systems Engineering and had been a lecturer in one of the Nigeria's universities. Present at the talk was the Director of the Tun Fatimah Hashim Women's Centre for Leadership, Assoc Prof Dr Madeline Berma.

Visits by Friends

24 April 2014, Busan Foundation for International Activities (BFIA), Korea

28 April 2014, Zhejiang University, China

28 April 2014, Talloires Network Partners – Youth Economic Participation Initiative UKM

Visits by Friends

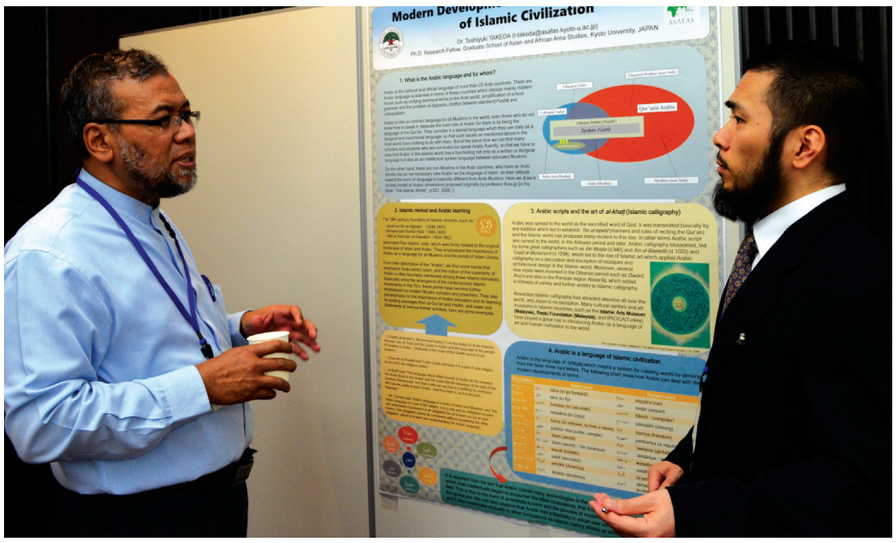
21 June 2014, - Welcoming and Activity 2nd ASEAN University Network (AUN)

24 June 2014, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Sanaa, Yemen

24 June 2014, SMA Izada Senior High School, Indonesia

Institute of Islam Hadhari and KIAS, Kyoto University marked a new phase in civilizational studies

By: Mohamad Firdaus Pozi
Photos: Mohamad Firdaus Pozi



Institute of Islam Hadhari, UKM and Center of Islamic Area Studies (KIAS), Kyoto University had successfully organized the 5th international Symposium on Islam, Civilization and Science 2014 (ISICAS 2014), held at Kyoto University on 31st May & 1st June. This symposium marks an annual academic gathering between two research institutes to discuss on multi-disciplinary topics such as on the role of Islamic civilization, al-Qur'an and Hadith sciences, Politics, economics and financial institution in Islam, ethics and environment, Sufism, interfaith dialogue, and scientific thought.

In total of 42 papers contributed by both UKM and Kyoto University were presented in the symposium and discussed among the researchers to share their knowledge and gained better understanding on the importance of awakening the Islamic Civilization through providing solutions to the fundamental problem facing by the Modern world.

Four 'Best Performance Award' are awarded to presenters from UKM namely Dr. Bayu Taufiq Possumah (Gold), Mohamad Firdaus Pozi (Silver), Nurliyana Mohd Talib (Silver) and Ammalina Dalillah Mohd Isa (Silver) as a recognition for their effort in conveying their ideas as a young and promising researchers for future, whilst Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Jalil is awarded 'The Best Organizer Award' for his tirelessly effort in organizing this symposium.

Prior to the symposium, YABhg. Tun Abdullah Hj. Ahmad Badawi had launched the establishment of Office for Hadhari Center for Islamic Civilizational Studies (HADHARI KU) at Kyoto University. This launching ceremony were attended by Prof. Datuk Dr. Noor Azlan Ghazali Vice Chancellor of UKM, Prof. Dr. Michiaki MISHIMA Vice Chancellor of Kyoto University, Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohd Yusof Hj Othman Director of Institute of Islam Hadhari, UKM, Prof. Dr. Yasushi KOSUGI Dean of ASAFAS, Kyoto University and Prof Dr. Mohd Nasran bin Mohamad Dean of Faculty of Islamic Study, UKM.

This establishment of HADHARI KU and annual international symposium marked a new phase between the two countries in sharing knowledge and values through an intellectual and cultural manner unlike only be seen as industrial partnership as before.

Reducing Food Poisoning In Schools

By: Athirah Abdul Aziz (UiTM Intern)
Photo: Ikhwan Hashim, Centre for Corporate Communications

All cooking utensils used in school canteens must be rinsed with hot water after being washed as a measure to reduce food poisoning. Currently this is not practiced nor is it a requirement.

UKM researcher Norul Hajar Nordin, a graduate student from the Institute of Environment and Development, said cross contamination between food and several food handling tools including the hands and kitchen utensils is the main reason for the high incidence of food poisoning in schools.

Norul Hajar Nordin

Presenting her research paper on Food Poisoning at The 4th Conference on Human Habitat and Environment here recently, Norul Hajar said the Ministries of Health and Education have formed a joint committee on a School Health Plan following recommendations by UKM to solve the rising number of food poisoning cases in primary and secondary schools.

Norul Hajar said there were 220 cases of food poisoning in schools which affected 8,010 students in 2011, a figure deemed serious. Such cases continued in 2013 mainly due to unhygienic school canteen environment and their poor management.

In her paper School Canteen Guidelines For A Better Living Towards Enhancing Quality Of Life Among School Students, she said a UKM team of researchers had produced the guidelines for school canteens to ensure hygienic environment and proper management of the canteens.

The guidelines recommend that all canteen workers maintain self-hygiene while handling food, especially the cleanliness of their hands. Clean hands while handling food was important as proper hand hygiene can prevent up to 34% e.coli infections.

Norul Hajar who was a member of the UKM team said other recommendations focused on several factors involved in ensuring clean school canteens and hygienic eating areas.

Canteen facilities such as toilets, hand washing sinks and dustbins, must be clean and not smelly while all areas within their vicinities such as the floors, walls, ceilings and drains must be kept clean on a daily basis because their surfaces are prone to pathogenic and non-pathogenic microorganisms which can contaminate food.

The conference was organized by the Institute of Malay World and Civilization (ATMA) UKM and the Research Centre for Sustainability Science and Governance (SGK) of the Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI) and the Environmental Management Society (EMS) Malaysia.

The Principal Fellow at ATMA and chairman of the organising committee, Professor Datuk Dr Jamaluddin Md Jahi opened the two-day conference. The first session of the conference entitled Human Habitat and Environmental Governance was chaired by Associate Professor Dr Sharifah Zarina Syed Zakaria, a Senior Fellow and Chairman of Research Centre for Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability (KASES), UKM.

UKM And Mercy Malaysia Renew Pact

By: Saiful Bahri Kamaruddin, Centre for Corporate Communications
Photo: Abd Ra'ai osman, Centre for Corporate Communications

The National University of Malaysia (UKM) and MERCY Malaysia have renewed their cooperation in carrying out emergency relief efforts and providing aid to man-made and natural disaster victims at home and abroad.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), organised by the Office of Industry and Community Partnerships Office was signed by UKM's Vice-Chancellor Profesor Datuk Dr. Noor Azlan Ghazali, and MERCY Malaysia President Dato' Dr. Ahmad Faizal Perdaus, who is also an alumni of UKM. Also present at the ceremony were Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Industry and Community Partnerships) Prof. Dato' Dr. Saran Kaur Gill and the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Students and Alumni Affairs, Prof. Datin Noor Aziah Mohd Awal.

MERCY Malaysia is a non-profit organization focusing on providing medical relief, sustainable health related development and risk reduction activities for vulnerable communities in both crisis and non-crisis situations. They also carry out community-based risk management, also known as CBDRM, a process of disaster risk management in which threatened communities are actively engaged to reduce the vulnerabilities and enhance their capabilities.

As one of the first collaborations under the new MOU, UKM and MERCY Malaysia have launched the UKM-Mercy Malaysia Youth for Humanity programme, that will involve 80 to 100 UKM undergraduates. The programme is designed to not only develop the students' basic skills and knowledge of volunteerism and humanitarian relief and recovery

work, but to promote an understanding that anyone, from any sector, has the ability to contribute towards humanitarian efforts.

Prof Dato Saran Kaur Gill in her welcoming remarks said the collaboration between UKM and MERCY Malaysia is aimed at enhancing research, education and service related to humanitarian relief, including instilling the spirit of volunteerism amongst undergraduates. She explained that participants of the UKM-Mercy Malaysia Youth for Humanity programme will undergo a series of experiential learning modules as part of their training to develop competencies and passion in humanitarian relief volunteerism.

According to UKM's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Datuk Dr. Noor Azlan Ghazali, the programme is designed to not only develop the students' basic skills and knowledge of volunteerism and humanitarian relief and recovery work, but to promote an understanding that anyone, from any sector, has the ability to contribute towards humanitarian efforts.

"Our partnership with MERCY today shows of the University's deep commitment towards inculcating qualities within our students that will take them far, no matter where they go in the future. While it remains to be important for them to excel in their studies, UKM goes further by planting the seeds of humanity within its students, which will in turn create graduates who not only excel in their industry, but does so with compassion and understanding of the problems which continue to plague communities across the region." Dato' Dr Faizal said that UKM makes up almost half of Mercy Malaysia's body of volunteers. He also added that some eight institutions have partnerships with the non-profit body.

"Our programmes are designed to encourage participation from the community and local government to identify, treat, monitor and evaluate the potential risks within their environment, thereby empowering them into implementation of solutions that they themselves developed," he stressed.

He explained that in the previous MoU, the emphasis was on volunteerism, the impact of aid and social development. He expressed his hope that the present collaboration will emphasize more on research in this critical area, which is needed is for social development and innovation. One way to encourage and fund such research initiatives is through the Humanitarian Innovation Fund, which was initiated several years ago by former MERCY Malaysia President Tan Sri Dr Jemilah Mahmood.

Dato' Dr Faizal also expressed appreciation for UKM's contributions in providing support and volunteers for humanitarian relief services to threatened communities. MERCY Malaysia has on-going projects in China, Maldives and Myanmar.

The Chronicle Of Yogyakarta: UKM International Relations Students Inspiring The Future At Borobodur

By: Nazuha binti Yusof, Programme of Strategy and International Relations, School of History, Politics and Strategy of Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSK).

Jaringan Siswazah Nusantara 2.0/2014 (JSN 2.0/2014) is a collaboration introduced in 2012 by the Programme of Strategy and International Relations, School of History, Politics and Strategy of Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FSSK), National University of Malaysia (UKM). It is part of the requirement under SKSS 6033: Globalization and International Security Issues subject. This program is aimed to introduce the postgraduate students to global practical learning by developing their soft skills such as communication and to polish their analytical skills in recognizing contemporary issues in the region. Through this programme, students will be expose on the academic writing which was already implemented in the previous JSN 1.0 in 2012.

For JSN 2.0/2014, the 4-day trip from 5th-8th May 2014 was led by Shahrulnizam B Sabda @ Abdullah with the support of Associates Professor Dr. Zarina Bt Othman, Head of the Programme of International Relations and Strategic Studies, as the head of delegation of 28 graduate students.

This year, the faculty tries to bring a new approach by organizing comprehensive Round Table Discussion with the Military Academy Magelang (AKMIL) and Indonesia Air Force Academy (IAFA). For this year's trip, we put forth the 'Peace Education, Training and Capacity Building in Southeast Asia' as the theme for our research paper presentation in both UGM and UPN. However, this selected theme does not apply for the research paper presentations in AKMIL and IAFA. Apart from exchanging ideas and knowledge, we aimed at establishing ties between UKM and several prominent knowledge institutions in Indonesia such as UGM, UPN, AKMIL and IAFA.

Our journey for JSN 2.0/2014 began with a visit to Department of International Relations, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, UGM one of the most respected university in international relations studies, on 6th May 2014. As we reached UGM, we were welcomed with an opening remarks by the UGM's representative Dr. Poppy S. Winanti, Head of Department of International Relations for Postgraduate Studies, UGM followed by a very creative speech by Associates Prof. Madya Dr. Zarina bt Othman, our head of delegation. In order to promote our newly developed programme, Masters of Social Science in East Asia Studies, we had a corporate video viewing segment from both universities, UKM and UGM.

This session was later followed by the first presentation which entitled Bilateral Sanction Policy by US towards Myanmar: An Early View by UKM's PhD student, Aini Fatihah binti Mohd Roslam. The main focus of her presentation was on US bilateral sanction policy such as economic policy that will resulted in an implication towards human right issues in Myanmar.

Our theme for the second presentation primarily discussed on Child Labor : Impact to The Southeast Asian Security, presented by our fellow master student, Afifi bin Nordin and Mohd Ikhram bin Mohd Ridzuan. The paperwork concentrated on how the Human Security Theory as a link between the child labor issues in the region. These presentations were received by a very overwhelming response from the audience that resulted with several interesting question and knowledge sharing during the round table discussion.

Afterwards, a presentation from two students of UGM stirred up the mood for another discussion on current issues of international relations field. Firstly, the speaker discussed the entry of Myanmar into ASEAN in ASEAN 1997. He greatly emphasized that ASEAN could bring pressure on Myanmar by the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) to sit together in the negotiations between the junta and the democracy movement and the ethnic Rohingya minority.also He came forward with the suggestion that if Myanmar became Chairman of ASEAN in the future, ASEAN should play a vital role in achieving peace in Myanmar and to encourage the implementation of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration of 2012.

As for the second speaker, the emphasis was on the role of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) in the conflict in Syria. Problems such as non-interference by the OIC member countries seems to be a proof the organization is failing in carrying out its functions. OIC is also deemed unable to bring the issue to the table for discussions and this would cause such conflicts to continue much longer. Many of the audiences pointed out that leadership issues had caused great concern for the implementation for peace and conflict resolution in Syria.

Next, we travelled up North to Magelang for a visit to the Military Academy (AKMIL). We received a warm welcome by the AKMIL and were also given such the great opportunity tour inside the academy. Our delegation then headed to the Seminar Hall of AKMIL for the research paper presentation by our PhD student. The research paper Uprising of China as a Maritime Power: An Analysis was presented by Noraini binti Zulkifli, who emphasized that China has no intention to be one of a global or regional power. Despite spending massive budget to strengthen up their national defense, their motivation is primarily to control their national interest. The topic managed to grab the whole audience attention and also the AKMIL higher officer who posed a lot of questions and also triggered another perspective towards the presentation such as new security dilemma, US pivot policy towards Asia, the anarchy state in the international system and also touched on relation between China, Korea and Japan having their own national interest.

On the second day, 7th May 2014, we started our fieldtrip with a round table discussion at the University of National Development Veteran (UPN) with the topic Implications of the Rise of Military Power China Towards US-Japan Security Pact Post Cold War, a paper presented by Hisham Kamal Kamal bin Othman. The discussion was related to the rising power of China in the development of their military strength which is regarded by the U.S. as a threat and a challenge the U.S. position in East Asia, and as the presenter had put forth, the US-Japan security alliance has been strengthened to deal with this threat. According to him, this alliance has succeeded in maintaining security, peace and stability in the region since the end of World War II, but the rise of China's military power would present new the implications on this pact.

Another interesting paper was presented by the representative of the UPN, Dr. Sri Muryantini, lecturer at the Department of International Relations Knowledge, UPN, entitled Relationship between Jakarta and Aceh Post-Tsunami, the Role of International Community Active. Round table discussion was held regarding the transitional changes in post-tsunami Aceh focusing on the role of the international community. According to the presenter, the Helsinski agreement signed in 2005 is a significant change in status to Aceh from the district military command to autonomy.

In the afternoon, a visit to the Indonesia Air Force Academy (IAFA) saw roundtable discussions revolving around the North Korea Nuclear Issue and Northeast Asian Security. The paper was presented by Mohd Syazwan bin Mohd Nasir and Mohd Hazwan bin Mohd Hassan. They discussed about the development of nuclear weapons North Korea is doing as a defence strategy against threats that would harmed her sovereignty. However, according to them, countries like Japan and South Korea are continously threatened with nuclear proliferation and missile tests conducted by North Korea. They concluded that Japan and South Korea have increased their military capabilities and defense with the cooperation of the United States as a measure to prevent the war in Northeast Asia.

In the nutshell, this trip has given us a very meaningful experience and invaluable knowledge insights between UKM and UGM, UPN, AKMIL also with IAFA. We hope this journey does not end here but will continue in the years to come with the support of management, particularly from the Graduate Management Centre.

UKM Pharmacists Urged To Produce Vaccines Acceptable To All Faiths

By: Saiful Bahri Kamaruddin, Centre for Corporate Communications
Photo: Shahiddan Saidi, Centre for Corporate Communications

A vaccine for Influenza that is acceptable to people of all faiths should be developed by pharmacy researchers at The National University of Malaysia (UKM).

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students and Alumni Affairs) Prof. Datin Noor Aziah Mohd Awal said a major barrier to acceptance of vaccines is that some Muslims and Hindus doubt certain types of medicines given free by the government comply with their religious beliefs.

Prof. Datin Noor Aziah Mohd Awal

Closing a three-day National Clinical Pharmacy Challenge organised by the Faculty of Pharmacy here today, Prof. Datin Noor Aziah, a Law professor, said under the Child Act 2001 every child has the right to receive treatment when made available that could improve their health.

The Act provided that anyone refusing to take his or her children for vaccination whenever a pandemic occurs in this country or overseas can be taken to court for neglect of duty to the dependents. However, the perception that some vaccines may contain compounds from porcine or bovine origins still persists and creates suspicion and even outright opposition to the dispensing of such treatments. She urged that vaccines that are universally accepted be produced that do not use components derived from animal organic compounds. From an Islamic point of view it is the duty of scientists to find a suitable vaccine that is 'halal' and acceptable to people of all faiths. "It is not just an option for Muslims, it is mandatory," she said.

Prof. Datin Noor Aziah said it is also the duty of pharmacists to counsel patients and consumers about the use of drugs and medicines to avoid misunderstandings that could lead to appalling errors in judgement or perceptions.

The law has made it very clear that any purported cure or medicine must explicitly state its effectiveness to the patients and medical practitioners. Failure to comply with the claims made by the pharmaceutical companies would be a violation under Contract Law.

"I and every law student remember that the very first example of violation of Contract Law in medical terms occurred in a case where a pharmaceutical company was sued by a patient over a 'Smoke Ball' cure for influenza in Britain in 1891," she said.

She was referring to the celebrated landmark case Carlill v Carbolic Smoke Ball Company (1892) an English contract law decision by the Court of Appeal, which held an advertisement containing certain terms to get a reward constituted a binding unilateral offer that could be accepted by anyone who performed its terms. She noted that the just-concluded Pharmacy competition, which was organised jointly by the UKM Pharmacy Students Association and the Malaysian Pharmacy association, did have a category that stressed the importance of truth of advertising and client counselling.

Also present at the ceremony were Dean of the Pharmacy Faculty Prof. Dr. Ibrahim Jantan, the Deputy Dean Assoc Prof. Dr. Mohd Cairul Iqbal Mohd Amin and Vice-President of the Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society Abida Syed M Haq.

Autism Run Attracted Over 2000 Participants

By: Shahfizal Musa, Centre for Corporate Communications
Photo: Shahiddan Saidi, Centre for Corporate Communications

More than 2000 participants made up of autistic children, their parents and members of the public participated in a 5 and 10 km 'Fun Run'. The run held in Tasik Titiwangsa here is to collect funds to provide the best care possible to children with autism. It includes an aerobic exercise where the wife of the Prime Minister Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor also participated.

Apart from raising funds the run is to increase awareness of autism among the public. It was organised by The National University of Malaysia (UKM), Permata Kurnia and the Ministry of Women, Community and Family Development.

Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah in her speech said an International Seminar on Autism on the theme 'Autism Is not A Tragedy, Ignorance Is' will be held on the 22nd and 23rd April 2014 at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre. The seminar is aimed at tackling the problem of autism which can be a burden to those afflicted by it and especially their families.

Autism can have a tremendous impact on the families as a child with autism looks no different from any other child and are thus expected to behave as normal children do. This sometimes caused strain in the family, because they don't see it as a medical condition but as a behavioral problem.

Sadly because of this ignorance, marriages sometimes fall apart because parents often blame each other for failing to control the child. The upcoming seminar will see participants from at least 34 countries. She said the first ladies from Albania, Sudan, Morocco, Republic of Kyrgyzstan and Sri Lanka have confirmed their attendance.

Present at the half day event today was the Vice Chancellor of UKM Prof. Datuk Dr. Noor Azlan Ghazali, students and members of the public.

Facts & Figures

About the University

Date of Establishment

- 18 May 1970

Campus Size

- Bangi Main Campus 1,100 hectares
- Kuala Lumpur Campus 20 hectares
- UKM Medical Centre 22 hectares

FACULTIES	Year of Establishment
Islamic Studies	18 May, 1970
Science & Technology (Restructured 19 July,1999)	18 May, 1970
Social Sciences & Humanities (Restructured 15 Nov., 2001)	18 May, 1970
Medicine	18 May, 1972
Economics & Management (Restructured 11 April, 2004)	1 Jan, 1974
Law	1 Feb., 1984
Engineering & Built Environment	1 Nov., 1984
Education	16 Oct., 1986
Health Sciences	1 Sept., 1992
Information Science & Technology	1 Oct., 1994
Dentistry	26 June, 1996
Graduate School of Business	10 Oct., 2007
Pharmacy	1 June, 2008

INSTITUTES	Year of Establishment
Institute of The Malay World and Civilisation (ATMA)	1 Dec., 1972
Institute for Environment and Development(LESTARI)	1 Oct., 1994
Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS)	1 April, 1995
Institute of Microengineering and Nanoelectronics (IMEN)	1 Nov., 2002
UKM Medical Molecular Biology Institute (UMBI)	1 July, 2003
Institute of Systems Biology (INBIOSIS)	1 July, 2005
Solar Energy Research Institute (SERI)	1 July, 2005
Fuel Cell Institute (SELFUEL)	1 July, 2006
Institute of Islam Hadhari (HADHARI)	1 May, 2007
Institute of Ethnic Studies (KITA)	8 Oct., 2007
Institute of Climate Change (IPI)	1 April 2011
Institute of Visual Informatics (IVI)	1 Mei 2011
Institute of Ear, Hearing and Speech (HEARS)	2013

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Resonance connotes dynamism and vibrancy. Resonance reflects our vision and philosophy, and it is also in tandem with our sister publication SENADA. As one of the research universities of Malaysia, dynamiasm is a virtue much prized by us for it ensures our pre-eminence in the field. Other aspects of campus life are not neglected. After all we are a community of scholars, support staff and students. The pulse and vibrancy of the whole community can be felt as you read through the pages of RESONANCE. Happy Reading.

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