

Inspiring Futures, Nurturing Possibilities

RES NANCE



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UKM ranked

230



06 | Prestigious **Five Star**
Award for **UKM**

07 | **UKM** is Among **The**
Top 1% University
in **The World**

09 | **UKM Scientist Discovered**
Lightning in Antarctica

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Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia is one of Malaysia's premier research universities. Its' astounding and renowned presence in the academia is reflected through the various contributions it has made to the society, remarkable research that its researchers take part in and the many cooperation it made with the industry. Flip through Resonance's pages to read about UKM's prestigious achievements in research, publications, students and staff related activities. Happy reading.

Editorial Team

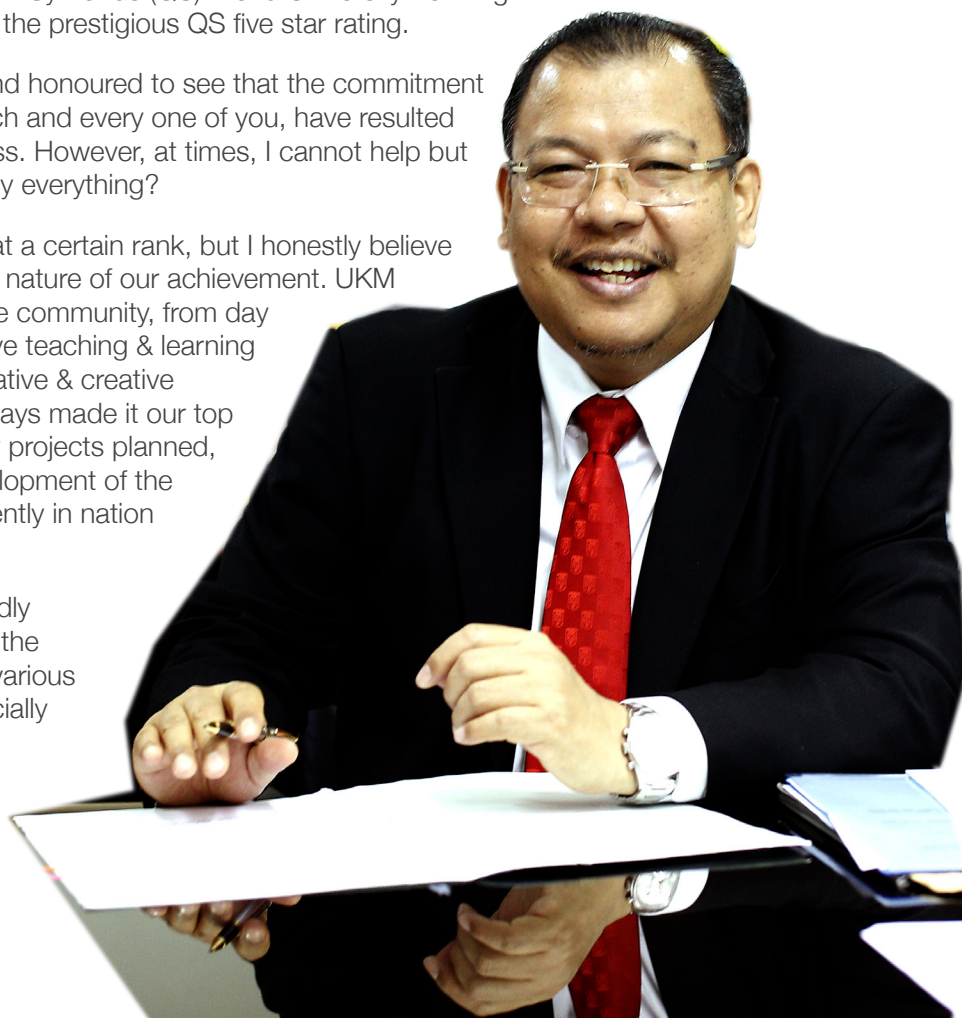
Message from the **Vice-Chancellor**

The past three months have been very colourful for Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. We were highlighted in various media for our achievement in recording the highest increase in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Ranking 2017/2018 and obtaining the prestigious QS five star rating.

I am indeed very proud and honoured to see that the commitment and dedication put by each and every one of you, have resulted in this tremendous success. However, at times, I cannot help but wonder, are numbers really everything?

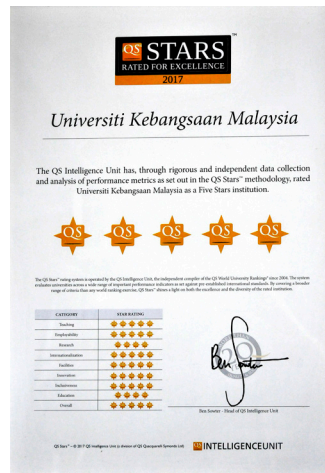
Numbers, may put UKM at a certain rank, but I honestly believe it does not reflect the true nature of our achievement. UKM has been involved with the community, from day one, through our innovative teaching & learning methodologies and innovative & creative research projects. We always made it our top priority, to ensure that any projects planned, will contribute to the development of the community and consequently in nation building.

Thus, while it is undoubtedly good to be recognized at the international level for our various accomplishments – especially in teaching & learning and research & innovation – it is also important to know that, at the end of the day, it boils down to how UKM engages with the community and truly become the Guardian of the Nation.



Prof. Dato' Seri Dr. Noor Azlan Ghazali

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Prestigious Five Star Award For UKM



Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia emerged as the only university this year, to be awarded the prestigious five stars in the QS Stars Rating, announced in Dubai recently.

According to UKM Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academic and International Affairs, Prof. Dato Ir. Dr. Riza Atiq Abdullah OK Rahmat, UKM excelled in almost all categories evaluated, which include Teaching & Learning, Employability, Research, Internationalization, Facilities, Innovation, Inclusiveness and Education.

The remarkable achievement put UKM almost at the same par with some top world universities. In addition, it helps to build a good image for the university.

This is the first time UKM participated in the QS Stars Rating and it proves to be a tremendous success for the UKM community. Since its inception in 2013, QS Stars Rating has awarded five stars to some 50 universities. The universities include University of Oxford and University of Cambridge.



UKM is Among The Top 1% University in the World

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) recorded the highest increase in Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Ranking 2017/2018, a total of 72 steps, and is now ranked 230 in the world. With the increment, UKM is now in among the elite top 1% university in the world.

Minister of Higher Education (MOHE), Dato' Seri Idris Jusoh said the increase of 72 steps is the best achievement among Malaysian universities, this year. MOHE is confident that with the strategic plans outlined by the ministry, the aim for Malaysian universities to be listed among the 100 world's best universities would be achieved earlier than expected.

Meanwhile, UKM Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dato' Seri Dr. Noor Azlan Ghazali said UKM is very proud of the achievement. He believes that this is a special gift from the university to all Malaysians, since this was a university established by the grassroots.

UKM visualises itself as an institution which is relevant, constantly referred to and highly respected. While 2016 has undoubtedly been a great year for UKM, the university envisions the future to be prosperous and filled with bigger achievements.

QS makes a yearly evaluation of more than 3,800 institutions, from a total of 30,000 institutions

worldwide, to give an individual rating for the top 400 universities. The ranking system evaluates four key areas which are research, teaching, marketability and internationalization.



UKM VC Reappointed as Bank Negara's MPC External Member

UKM continues to carve its name when its' Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dato' Seri Dr. Noor Azlan Ghazali was reappointed as an external member of Bank Negara's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) for two years starting 1st April 2017.

Prof. Dato' Seri Dr. Noor Azlan is one of the two exclusive external members of MPC, which is chaired by the

Governor. Other members are the Deputy Governors and Assistant Governors.

The MPC is responsible for formulating monetary policies as well as policies for the handling of monetary policy operations. Monetary policy is formulated and implemented autonomously by Central Bank of Malaysia (BNM), as mandated in the Bank of Malaysia Act 2009.

All MPC members will meet once every two months for two days. During these two days, members will be briefed on full details on Malaysia's economy with very intensive deliberations. Each member will offer their analysis of the current and future economic status and propose policy, especially with the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR), that set the direction of monetary policy.

After the discussions and deliberations, the MPC will make a decision and draft a statement that sets Malaysia's Monetary Policy, which will be posted on BNM's website.



UKM Scientist Discovered Lightning in Antarctica

Assoc.Prof. Dr. Wayan Suparta, a scientist from UKM's Climate Change Institute proved a classic hypothesis wrong when he discovered lightning in Antarctica, on his expedition, recently.

This is the first time that lightning has been detected in Antarctic Peninsula which refutes the classic hypothesis that there is no lightning in Antarctica. The phenomenon was revealed after he installed the lightning sensor and Electric Field Mill (EMF) at Carlini Base in Antarctica last year, to measure lightning strikes and the strength of the electric field in the atmosphere near the continent's thunderstorm clouds.

Based on his study, he found that lightning strikes at EFM-100 above the earth's surface (16~20km). His findings and observation will help improve the existing weather forecast model.

Dr. Wayan was in Antarctica from January 16 until February 28, 2017.

UKM's Institute of Climate Change has positioned itself as a depository for data and monitoring matters related to climate and climate change. It intends to put Malaysia on the map for international politics, especially in matters pertaining to climate change and related issues.



Role of Corporate Lawyer Pertinent in International Business Affairs

The increase of complexity in making business deals in international business and affairs makes the role of corporate lawyer more pertinent, says Prof. Akira Saito from Kobe University, Japan at a talk entitled *Transaction Cost for Reducing Conflict in the Real World*, recently. He said the diversity of Asian societies produce various opportunities for making mutually beneficial transactions, which requires Asian business lawyers to keep up with the changing international business environment.

Business lawyers plays an important role in promoting contractual order by reducing the transaction cost in order to achieve a reliable contract. Transaction cost is the key concept to

explain why the assistance of law and lawyers are required for promoting transactions in the real world. Thus, lawyers play a very important role in advancing the re-marketization process to make a standard-form contract.

The Visiting Professor Lecture Series themed *Legal Education in Globalizing Market Societies* was organized by The Centre for Education and Legal Profession (CELPRO), Faculty of Law (FUU), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) in collaboration with Azmi & Associates. The Lecture Series which was attended by the final year FUU students also featured renowned lawyer from Azmi & Associates, Norhisham Abd Bahrain as a speaker.





Space Exploration ^{with} UKM's Space Science Centre

UKM organised the Space Exploration and Updates Programme through the Space Science Centre in conjunction with the International Conference on Space Science and Communication (ICONSPACE2017), at the National Planetarium recently.

Four speakers were invited to share their experiences in the field of astronomy and space research. One of them was a young scientist, Nur Adlyka Ainur Annuar who was part of the team which discovered the existence of a Supermassive Black Hole.

Nur Adlyka said to find the black holes, the researchers utilised the Nuclear Spectroscopic Telescope Array (NuSTAR) which is the X-ray telescope (X-ray) owned by the Aeronautics

and Space Administration (NASA). She added NuSTAR can help in providing a clear image of the black hole despite the thick gas and dust. One of the black holes that found was sheltered from the thick gas and dust in the Galaxy NGC 1448 that was close to earth, 38 million light years away from our galaxy.

Meanwhile, one of the speakers, UKM's very own Professor Emerita Datuk Dr. Mazlan Othman said that Malaysians need to be innovative in contributing to the development of space science. In her speech, she also advised students to strive in achieving their ambitions. Also present were UKM Space Science Centre Director, Prof. Ir. Dr. Mardina Abdullah, Real Time Space Weather Expert, Dr. Zahra Bouya and UKM Antarctic Research Expert, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wayan Suparta.



UKMMC, the First Government Hospital Equipped with FUSE Endoscopy Technology

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Medical Centre (UKMMC) is the first government hospital equipped with a Full Spectrum Endoscopy (FUSE) technology to detect polyps, which are growths on the colon wall. The machine, which was generously donated by Waqf Selangor Muamalat, is a flexible system which has a 330 degrees angled tube camera.

According to UKMMC Gastroenterology and Hepatology Consultant, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Raja Affendi Raja Ali, polyps take between 10 to 15 years to develop into cancer and mostly occurs among most men aged 50 years and

above. A good way to detect polyps is through an endoscopy procedure to diagnose internal surface involving the oesophagus, stomach and duodenum.

The beauty of FUSE is that it is a full spectrum machine with cameras with views from the side, left, right, top and bottom, enabling it to detect subtly hidden polyps in the 'folding' intestinal. Hence, the use of FUSE can accurately identify areas of polyps, due to the nature of the flexible tubes, which allows it to look at uneven and pleated small and large colon surface.



With a combination of sophisticated programs, FUSE has been set to receive a combination of multiple high-definition (HD) video signal to translate the display seen at monitor on the high range of 4K.

Meanwhile, Head of UKMMC Endoscopy Service Centre Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ngiu Chai Soon said the process of removing the polyps does not usually

involve surgery. Polyps detected during the test screening will be discarded in full during the process of endoscopy using wire coil forceps. This coil will grip the polyps until polyps detached from the intestinal wall.

He said that the Endoscopy Service Centre receives about 25 patients outside of Kuala Lumpur include Penang, Johor and Perak, daily.



UKM Pledged Support to ASEAN Academic Community

As a leading research university, UKM will continue to be involved in ASEAN initiatives as a support for greater openness towards a richer interaction between ASEAN's academic community.

UKM Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Industry and Community Partnerships, Prof. Dato' Dr. Imran Ho Abdullah said UKM will continue to engage in various ASEAN initiatives through consulting, research collaboration, student exchange and special projects related to regional integration.

UKM has been involved with many initiatives involving ASEAN and one of them is the students exchange programs between UKM and other ASEAN countries. In addition, there are many students from ASEAN countries pursuing post-graduate course at UKM.

Prof. Dr. Imran was speaking at the officiation ceremony of The International Conference on Social Sciences and Humanities (ICOSH), which carried the theme Regionalism and Community

Building in ASEAN: Perspectives from Solid Sciences and Humanities.

Seminars and conferences, such as ICOSH, is an excellent platform for discussion on domestic and foreign issues. Over the years, ICOSH has grown in strength and substance, emerging as a credible forum for the knowledge sharing in all disciplines of social sciences and humanities in the country, and globally.

Meanwhile, Chairman of the ICOSH-UKM 2017, Assoc. Prof. Dr. D. Ravichandran said the conference aims to bring together academic experts to discuss their latest research findings in addition to getting collaboration for future research. He said the conference has attracted about 200 participants from different academic backgrounds such as psychology, history, communication and anthropology.

Also present was UKM Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Innovation, Prof. Dr. Mohd Ekhwan Toriman.

UKM IPI Director Awarded First Professor of Environmental Sustainability Wan Fatimah



UKM Institute of Climate Change (IPI) Director, Prof. Dato' Dr. Sharifah Mastura Syed Abdullah is the first person in Malaysia conferred the title Professor of Environmental Sustainability Wan Fatimah, sponsored by Dato' Nik & Associates Sdn. Bhd. (DNA Sdn. Bhd.). The sponsorship entails a contribution of RM728,000 for a period of two years.

Prof. Dato' Dr. Sharifah will be leading a research titled Spatial Analysis on Coastal Line Changes (*Analisis Spatial Perubahan Garis Pantai*) throughout her tenure. The project encompasses research about sea shores and coastal lines and how it could potentially impact the surrounding community. Her role as an advisor, is pivotal in ensuring that any potential impact caused, is minimized.

The research will also see a new system of land reclamation implemented. Sludges will be recycled and this method is envisaged as a way to reduce the disposal of sludge to the middle of the ocean.

Meanwhile, UKM Board of Directors Chairman, Tan Sri Dr. Ibrahim Saad said UKM's cooperation with the private sector, especially on research, is important. UKM believes the relationship is symbiotic as it not only benefits the university, by generating income, it also contributes to the advancement and modernisation of the country.

Also present at the ceremony are DNA Sdn. Bhd. Managing Director, Dato' Ir. Dr. Nik Mohd Kamel Nik Hassan and UKM Pro Vice-Chancellor of Strategic and Corporate Development, Prof. Dato' Ir. Dr. Mohd Marzuki Mustafa.

Japan to Enhance Cooperation

with PERMATApintar Negara



Japan's Crown Prince, Prince Naruhito expressed his desire to enhance Japan's cooperation with the PERMATApintar National Gifted Centre (PERMATApintar) of UKM and schools for highly skilled students in Japan, recently.

Prince Naruhito expressed his admiration when he found out that there are successful students from this programme, as young as 14 years old, who gained entry to universities abroad. These attracted him to strengthen Japan's existing cooperation with the PERMATApintar. The cooperation includes increasing the number of students from Malaysia and Japan that will be involved in the students exchange programme.



Meanwhile, UKM Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academic and International Affairs, Prof. Dato' Dr. Riza Atiq Abdullah O.K. Rahmat said the visit will give an opportunity for Malaysia and Japan to learn from each other and this process will benefit the gifted and talented students from both countries. This is in line with, PERMATApintar's aim to develop students who are competent to take on the challenges of the 21st century, with high self-esteem, confident yet humble, creative and innovative in their thinking.

The arrival of Prince Naruhito at the PERMATApintar at 11am was welcomed by Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor and Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Razali Ibrahim. This was followed with a briefing on the development of education and programmes provided by PERMATA and a tour of the exhibition on Mathematics, Physics, Biology and Chemistry as well as traditional music performances by the students of the PERMATApintar. The presence of the Crown Prince at PERMATApintar is a part of his five-day official visit to Malaysia.





Two Books Launched

In Conjunction With Argentina-Malaysia Diplomatic Ties



Two books were launched in conjunction with the anniversary of the 50th Diplomatic Relations between Malaysia and Argentina, organized by the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) held in UKM, recently.

The two books were *Alif: Lis Jorge Borges* short story collection by Zakaria Ali and *Argentina 20th Century History* by Mohd Firdaus Abdul Jabbar and Rashila Ramli.

The ceremony was officiated by the Secretary of the United States Department, Malaysia Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Datuk Kennedy Jawan.

Datuk Kennedy in his speech said that, the relationship between Malaysia and Argentina has been long established in several areas and will be further strengthened for mutual benefit.

He said that the publication of these two books reflect that the society would also like to find out more about the story that became a legend to the people of Argentina.

He believes positive steps can be designed and implemented between the two sides, especially UKM to attract more academicians from Argentina in order to learn more about the country in general and UKM in particular, in the socio-cultural engagement.

Also present at the ceremony were the Ambassador of Argentina to Malaysia, His Excellency Manuel Jose Balaguar Sales, UKM Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research and Innovation, Prof. Dr. Mohd Ekhwan Toriman and Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS) Director, Prof. Datuk Dr. Rashila Ramli.

Malaysia on Track to become Developed Nation

Malaysia has achieved independence for almost 60 years and that is proof that Malaysia is on its path to become a developed nation.

Malaysia Deputy Health Minister, Dato' Seri Dr. Hilmi Haji Yahaya said to achieve the developed nation status, many developments in all aspects

have been implemented, especially in education. In Malaysia educational aspects are emphasized, in which opportunities are continuously given to children and young people to get education.

In addition, to encourage young people to pursue education, the government has provided them with facilities such as loans from the Perbadanan Tabung Pendidikan Tinggi Nasional (PTPTN). Dato' Seri Dr. Hilmi was speaking at the Closing Ceremony of the Student Expression Carnival 2017 and the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between UKM and the Yayasan Patriot Negara Malaysia (YPNM), recently.

Also present at the ceremony were UKM Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Students and Alumni Affairs, Prof. Dato' Noor Aziah Mohd Awal and YPNM Chairman, Brigadier General (R) Dato' Husainay Hashim.

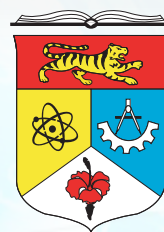


UKM and Celcom Axiata Collaborate to Develop Students' Entrepreneurship Potential

UKM and Celcom Axiata Berhad strengthened their long-standing cooperation with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), recently. The collaboration was initiated by Career Development Centre of UKM (UKM-KARIER), Centre for Entrepreneurship and Small and Medium Enterprise Development (SME-CESMED) and The Institute of Ear, Hearing and Speech (HEARS).

According to UKM Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dato' Seri Dr. Noor Azlan Ghazali, UKM welcomes strategic partners and industry to jointly train and develop students' potential. Among the cooperation which will be carried out by UKM and Celcom Axiata are research development of hearing aids by telephone, training of graduates with entrepreneurial skills and job placements for graduates.

The cooperation will focus on career development and entrepreneurship among future graduates. This include training and learning programs that is aimed to foster the interest of students to become entrepreneurs and create job opportunities.



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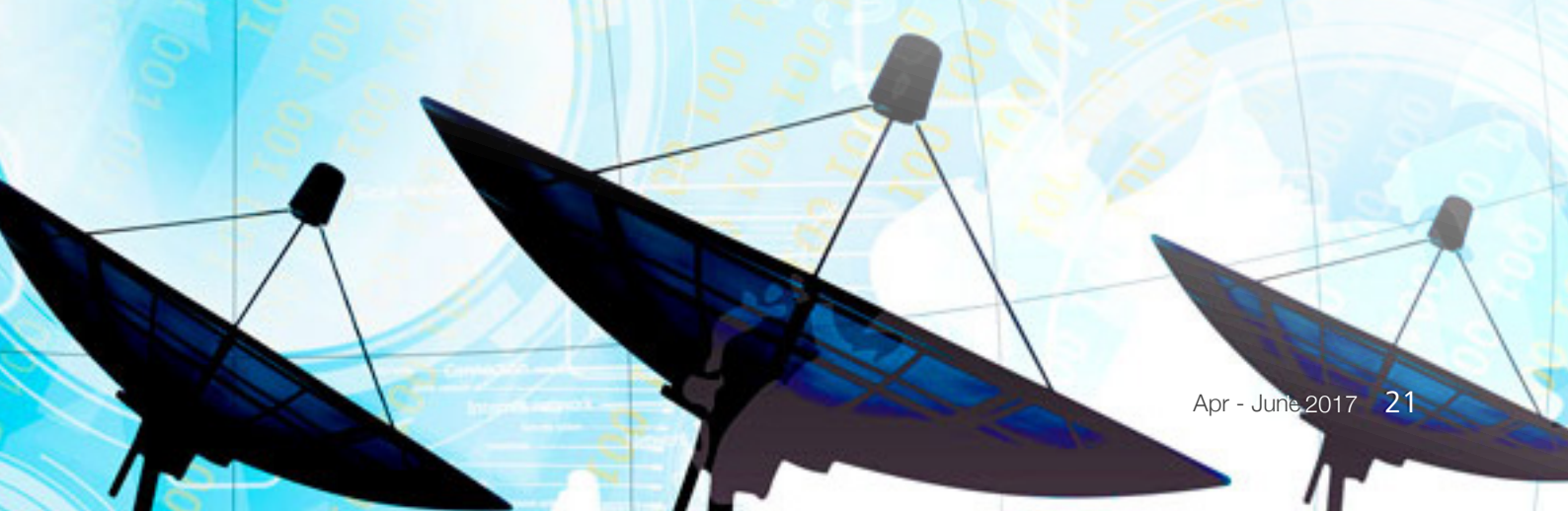
*The National University
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celcomTM

The MoU was signed by Dato' Seri Noor Azlan and Celcom Axiata Berhad Chief Human Resources Officer, Azmi Ujang, witnessed by Celcom Axiata Chief Operating Officer of Advanced Electronic & Digital Enablement Ramanathan Sathiamutty; Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Industry and Community Affairs Prof. Dato' Dr. Imran Ho; UKM-CAREER Director, Prof. Dr. Ishak Yusof; HEARS Director, Prof. Dr. Siti Sarah Mukari Zamratol Mai, and UKM-CESMED Deputy Director Assoc. Prof. Dr. Noor Azuddin Yaakob.

The event also saw Celcom Axiata giving out zakat to Unit Zakat UKM worth of RM50,000 to be distributed to 83 UKM's students.



UKM, CAMBRIDGE SIGN MoU

Move is to benefit Permata students

LONDON

MANY of Permata's gifted students have conducted research and these have been published in index journals.

Permata patron Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, who is also the prime minister's wife, said a great number of these students were tutored by members of the Faculty of Science and Technology of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM).

The signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between UKM's Faculty of Science and Technology and the University of Cambridge's Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology Department would benefit Permata's gifted students, she said at the signing of the MoU here on Monday.

The MoU was signed between the University of Cambridge's Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology Department head Professor John Dennis, and UKM's Faculty of Science and Technology dean Professor Dr Sahrim Ahmad.

Present were Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Rohani Abdul Karim, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said, Malaysian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Datuk Ahmad Rasidi Hazizi, UKM deputy



Permata patron Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor witnessing the exchange of documents after the signing of a memorandum of understanding by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's Faculty of Science and Technology dean Professor Dr Sahrim Ahmad (second from left) and University of Cambridge's Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology Cambridge Department head Professor John Dennis at Malaysia Hall in London on Monday. BERNAMA PIC

vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Riza Atiq Abdullah Rahmat, University of Cambridge's international officer Allen Swales and its Department for Research deputy head Professor Elizabeth Hall.

Rosmah said gifted students had the high-level abstract thinking and capability to acquire and apply advanced knowledge and strategies to solve problems as well as to adapt them to novel situations.

"When groomed from young,

their giftedness can be optimised to surpass the highest level of performance in any given field."

She said Hall, who was a visiting professor at the Permata Pintar's Nobel Mindset workshop at UKM in September, had opened opportunities for students to learn more about STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields.

"Her involvement enabled students selected for the Science Institute to visit Cambridge as part

of their study programme."

Rosmah hoped Hall's involvement with Permata Pintar would lead to greater collaborations to create opportunities and pathways for Permata students to benefit from the offerings at Cambridge.

She hoped the university would render assistance in the setting up of the Permata Research Centre to provide a conducive environment to nurture a culture of excellence in research among Permata alumni. **Bernama**

The New Straits Times

10 May 2017

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(From left) Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) former students Associate Professor Dr Datin Zuriati Zakaria, Professor Dr Asiah Sarji, Dr Datin Rukayah Aman and Dr Ramli Jaya at the UKM campus in Bangi, yesterday. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD



Pioneer student Professor Dr Koh Aik Khoon holding a photograph of students. PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH

DOWN MEMORY LANE

UKM PIONEERS PROUD OF GROWTH

Ex-students mark university's 47th anniversary

KALBANA PERIMBANAYAGAM,
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THERE was a time many people did not have faith in the newly established university. Some, in 1970, had even mocked the idea of a national university.

But today, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) marks its 47th anniversary with many remarkable academic and co-curricular achievements.

In a bid to commemorate the celebration, the *New Straits Times* caught up with a few of UKM's pioneer batch of students in 1970, boasting in its ranks, among others, the first Malaysian woman chemist, Associate Pro-

fessor Dr Datin Zuriati Zakaria, to share their early university experiences.

These veterans got together last week at UKM for a stroll down memory lane, as well as a catch-up session.

A prominent expert in the field of physics, Associate Professor Dr Koh Aik Khoon is not only a UKM pioneer, but also someone who has devoted his entire career to the university, lecturing on physics up to his retirement.

Recalling his first day at the Lembah Pantai campus on May 18, 1970, Koh said he entered with mixed feelings as UKM was an unfamiliar name to most.

"I am glad to note today that, what began with only 192 students and three faculties (Science, Arts and Islamic Studies) has since grown to over 20,000 students, 13 faculties and 14 research centres in Bangi," said Koh, who completed his Bachelor in Science majoring in Physics in 1974.

Koh was sponsored to continue his master's in University of Bath and subsequently obtained his doctorate in University of New South Wales. He then returned to UKM to become a physics lecturer from 1982 until 2012.

UKM was established a year after the May 13 incident, and many students were worried that the friction among the three main races would be brought into UKM.

"Surprisingly though, there was a time when I was invited to join the prayer at the surau."

As for Zuriati, she said although all of them had taken different paths, she was happy that they all still kept in touch.

The mother of three, who is married to fellow UKM pioneer Professor Datuk Sukiman Samani, said the university had gone through massive transformation from the time she studied.

Zuriati, who was also sponsored by UKM to complete her master's and doctorate abroad,

served in UKM upon completing her PhD and married Sukiman, a nuclear science expert and colleague.

"At that time, there were only two universities around — Universiti Malaya and Universiti Sains Malaysia, and both were using the English medium until later."

Zuriati noted that as a proactive measure to overcome shortage, the university decided to provide scholarships for students who graduated with excellent results to go overseas for further studies before being employed by the university.

Current Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Liow Tiong Lai, she said, was also a UKM Alumni.

Other pioneers who made a name for themselves are poet Adjunct Professor for Media and Communication Studies Asia E University Professor Dr Asiah Sarji, Optoelectronics-physic expert Dr Ramli Jaya, and write and botanic expert Dr Datin Rukayah Aman.

GS

UKM ready to face the revolution

RSITI Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) has set up a 112-strong task force to prepare the varsity for the fourth industrial revolution, said its Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Seri Dr Noor Azlan Ghazali.

UKM, which was recently placed 11th in the QS World University Ranking 2017, made it compulsory for all faculties in the upcoming year to take up a course on data analytics.

"We want to ensure everybody is looking into it and will be able to make sense of data that they have (because) nobody is exempted from the revolution," he said at a press conference at the university.



NOOR AZLAN GHAZALI
UKM vice-chancellor

UKM, which was recently placed 11th in the QS World University Ranking 2017, made it compulsory for all faculties in the upcoming year to take up a course on data analytics.

"One of our efforts that are in line with this aspiration is collaborating with the Higher Education Ministry and Research Triangle Institute (RTI) — a non-profit organisation from North Carolina, the United States.

"There will be an international seminar in September where together with the ministry and RTI, we will unpack the concept of the fourth industrial revolution in the Malaysian context.

"The ministry is still seeking for the most suitable and the latest mould for our country to progress and improve the quality of our industries as well as our human capital," he said adding that the varsity would also be focusing on a digitised economy whereby the students would be required to study entrepreneurship.

UKM's big leap in the recent QS World ranking, Noor Azlan said, had placed it in the top 1 per cent universities in the world. "This unprecedented achievement by a 47-year-old national university of a developing country would not be possible without the numerous strategic partnerships with various bodies from public and private sectors as well as world-class universities," he said adding that last year, UKM students had formed 320 links with industry players.



Another factor that had contributed towards the successful ranking, Noor Azlan said, was the rearrangement of the faculties.

"Previously the faculties were defined according to disciplines but we have rearranged them based on issues and their scopes. Some of the issues that we are facing in the country, have been included in 'the grand challenge'."

The current grand challenge, in which UKM researchers are focusing on, include contemporary Islam, B40 empowerment, STEM (science, technology, engineering



and mathematics), sustainable environment, a healthy Malaysia, Asean integration and the development of the Malay intellect.

"This is another way for us to do our research, consultation and services in a more organised way. When we interact with communities in a project, we take the 360 degree model approach. We work with corporate partners who want to see real change in the target communities and we embark on the project with a team comprising various experts from the

relevant faculties. And the project is there for a few years. This way our academic work impacts the ultimate beneficiaries in what is called translational research," he said.

Asked whether budget cutbacks by the government will affect research work, Noor Azlan said society needs to chip in, too.

"The government has stepped up on many occasions, but under the current economic environment, the society — which includes industry, corporates, stakeholders and

Noor Azlan Ghazali (second from left) with (from left) UKM deputy vice-chancellor (research & innovation affairs) Professor Dr Mohd Ekhwan Toriman, deputy vice-chancellor (industry & community partnerships) Professor Datuk Dr Imran Ho Abdullah, deputy vice-chancellor (academic & international affairs) Professor Datuk Dr Riza Atiq Abdullah O.K. Rahmat, deputy vice-chancellor (students & alumni affairs) Professor Datuk Noor Aziah Mohd Awal and Pro-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Marzuki Mustafa after the press conference announcing the QS World University ranking. PIC BY ROSELA ISMAIL

philantropists — must play their roles, too. In developed countries, universities are important platform to assure the continuity of development. I urge all stakeholders in Malaysia that the responsibility to fund an education does not only weigh on the shoulders of the government. We must come forward together. As a university, we want more partner to aspire together with. People will funds can use the university's expertise to work on problems and create impactful solutions," he said.

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