GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

Welcome the year of 2020.

We take this opportunity to welcome all international students to UPM. We, at i-PUTRA are hoping to share the recent issues and activities thru this quarterly publish e-Newsletter.

Though, the early semester kept us all busy but suddenly all over the world is struggling against the virulent pandemic COVID-19. Today we are witnessing the unbounded global spread of the disease. Recently, Malaysia government has imposed the Movement Control Order (MCO) from 18th March until 31st March 2020 (Phase 1), and extended until 14th April (Phase 2) and till 28th April 2020 (Phase 3). And has been extended for the fourth phase until 12th May 2020. The MCO strategy is very crucial as a preventive measure to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Multiple precaution measures have been taken by International Office (i-PUTRA), UPM in order to prevent spreading COVID-19 among the students and staffs. Due to MCO, the International Office (i-PUTRA) UPM has to be closed the operating hours. Since the MCO from 18th March 2020, our office continues its service for selected days and hours as international students have to collect the returned passport from the Immigration Department of Malaysia (JIM). At i-PUTRA, the students and staffs are requested to adhering to the MCO safety measures and guidelines such as social distancing and keep sanitizing the waiting area.

Students residing in UPM Guesthouse Resident during MCO are given their basic needs, packed foods for breakfast, lunch and dinner. In taking care of the international students’ welfare including exchange/mobility students, i-PUTRA also provide assistances to facilitate the students to leave UPM during MCO.

Those who decided to leave Malaysia and return, should research (in advance of scheduling and purchasing return travel): any travel advisories or restrictions, and may be subject to health protocols such as enhanced screenings at airports, and mandatory quarantines, for approximately 14 days after entry into this (or any other country). Therefore, interns / mobility / students exchange who choosing to leave the country may have consequences on academic progress and visa status, for reasons that i-PUTRA cannot predict or control. The decision to stay at UPM, or the decision to leave is a deeply personal one that considers finances, family, health needs, etc.

The details and updated information can be obtained at https://educationmalaysia.gov.my/covid-19-guidelines-and-advice-for-international-students/ or by browsing the Official MKN @ https://t.me/MKNRasmi.

Kindly visit our website at i-PUTRA regarding COVID-19 updates http://www.intl.upm.edu.my/covid_19-3716 and other informations such as visa and pass.

Today is the 7th day of Ramadhan. Ramadhan Kareem and Happy Fasting to all Muslims.
i-PUTRA ENGxMal PROGRAMME PARTICIPATION WITH AJOU UNIVERSITY KOREA

7 JANUARY 2020 – Students from Ajou University Korea were participated in i-PUTRA’s ENGxMal Programme for 14 days. The programme emphasized an intercultural exchanges and academics series.

Figure 1: Korean students involved in i-PUTRA’s ENGxMal Programme.

ENGxMal: UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CITY TOUR IN MALACCA

8 JANUARY 2020 – About 12 of the inbound students’ from Ajou University, Korea participated in ENGxMal: English Learning at Malaysia programme in UPM. The students were involved in UNESCO World Heritage City tour in Malacca.

Figure 2: Ajou University students’ participation in UNESCO World Heritage Programme.

MEETING WITH AJOU UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES AND UPM TOP MANAGEMENT

23 JANUARY 2020 – A fruitful meeting was held with representatives from Ajou University; Prof. Jay Ick Lim the Vice President for International Affairs, Prof. Trou Felver, a professor at School of Business and Ms. Rachel Younghyun Kwon, the coordinator of International Exchange and Cooperation.

Chairing the meeting was Prof. Dr. Zainal Abidin Talib together joined with Assoc. Prof. Norasidah Mohamed Nor (Deputy Dean for Academic and International) and Mrs Nurzatul Hakimah Mahmud (Mobility Coordinator) from the faculty of Economics and Management, Mrs. Fairuz Muchtar Bawaze’er (Head of i-PUTRA), Mrs. Ida Suhaila (Head of Global Engagement) and Ms. Nadia Zawani (Executive Officer of Mobility).

Through this meeting, i-PUTRA has successfully sealed a few mobility and global engagement for UPM students and staffs. The respective university has engaged with numbers of students to be a part of i-PUTRA short mobility programmes this year. During the meeting, the delegates have been introduced to UPM’s top management such as our Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Ajou University Korea has an MoU with UPM; and being recognized among top private universities in Korea.

Figure 3: A successful meeting with Ajou University representatives from Korea and UPM top management at Le Meridien, Putrajaya.

UNIVERSITAS SRIWIJAYA (UNSRI) DELEGATES VISIT TO UPM

8 JANUARY 2020 – UNSRI is a leading Indonesian state university, focusing on teaching and research areas of ecologicy, agriculture and environmental sustainability. During the session, the delegates were introduced to UPM Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academic and International. The MoU engagement was held between representatives from UPM and UNSRI.

Figure 4: MoU engagement with Universitas Sriwijaya and UPM.
MOBILITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMES WITH JEONBUK NATIONAL UNIVERSITY KOREA (JNBU)

29 JANUARY 2020 – i-PUTRA welcomed delegates from Jeonbuk National University Korea (JBNU). Jeonbuk National University is a national research university founded in 1947, located in Jeonju, the Republic of Korea. JNBU firstly signed an MoA with UPM since 2019.

In the meeting, JBNU proposed mobility opportunity to UPM which involves increasing semester exchange quota up to 60 students per year (inbound and outbound) and offered partially sponsored summer school. The semester exchange opportunity includes sponsored accommodation and three times meals for our students and this is certainly an opportunity not to be missed.

The fruitful meeting was chaired by i-PUTRA’s Director, YBhg. Prof. Dr. Zainal Abidin Talib and the representative from School of Graduate Studies, Prof. Dr. Zalilah Mohd Shariff, Prof. Dr. Japar Sidek Bujang from Faculty of Science, Associate Prof. Dr. Khalina Abdan Deputy Dean of Research and Innovation, Faculty of Engineering and Associate Prof. norsida Man, Head of Department for Agriculture Technology from the Faculty of Agriculture. The meeting later then attended by UPM Vice-Chancellor, Professor Datin Paduka Setia Dato’ Dr. Datin Paduka Dato’ Aini Ideris.

VISIT FROM CROATIAN REPRESENTATIVES FROM COLLEGE OF SLAVONSKI BROD

12 FEBRUARY 2020 – i-PUTRA received a courtesy visit from two representatives of College of Slavonski Brod, Croatia on Monday, 10th February 2020. Both the Director and Head of i-PUTRA, Prof. Dr. Zainal Abidin Talib and Mrs. Fairuz Muchtar Bawaze’er respectively welcomed the Croatian guests.

PARTNERSHIP WITH ANKARA YILDIRIM BEYAZIT ÜNIVERSITESI (AYBU)

18 FEBRUARY 2020 – As one of i-PUTRA initiatives to enhance mobility opportunity in UPM for; we have taken the opportunity to visit future partner university in Turkey, Ankara Yildirim Beyazit Universitesi (AYBU) and to meet the International Relations Rector, Prof. Dr. Mete Gundogan. In the meeting, an ERASMUS+ (Scholarship under European Union) agreement has been handed over; in which UPM students and staff will be able to study and conduct research in AYBU. The meeting was later extended with Mrs. Aycan to further discuss on future directions of activities to engage student and staff at AYBU under MEVLANA and ERASMUS+. This meeting able to further strengthen Malaysia-Turkey bilateral relationships.
NATIONAL AUDIT DEPARTMENT OF MALAYSIA VISIT TO i-PUTRA

17 FEBRUARY 2020 – Two officers from National Audit Department of Malaysia, has audited the process of international students intake and visa-related administration at i-PUTRA. The audit session started with a welcoming remarks by i-PUTRA’s Director, YBhg. Prof. Dr. Zainal Abidin Talib. The delivered presentation in this audit session involved representatives from Academic Division, School of Graduate Studies, ELS, Bursar and also i-PUTRA. The auditors have been introduced to Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Academic and International, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Saripan.

Figure 8: An audit session at i-PUTRA.

EURIE EURASIA HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT

19 FEBRUARY 2020 – EURIE Eurasia Higher Education Summit was taking place at Lutfi Kirdar Convention Centre, Istanbul from 19-21 February 2020. This summit provides collaborative platforms between academics, international education professionals and university leaders to create pro-active and innovative solutions for the future of higher education. Through this initiative, PUTRA International Centre was hoping to seek more mobility opportunity and networking expansion.

Mrs. Fairuz Muchtar Bawaze'er and Ms Nadia Zawani Hussin were representatives from i-PUTRA to joined EURIE Eurasia Higher Education Summit. In conjuction with this summit, EURIE conference program was also organized to address current issues in internationalization of higher education and to cover key topics in higher education management. There were more than 50 sessions of plenary talks, panels, seminars, roundtables and workshops being held.

Figure 9: Summit attended at Lutfi Kirdar Convention Centre, Istanbul Turkey.

MyExperience PROGRAMME AT WORLD TRADE CENTRE KUALA LUMPUR

20 FEBRUARY 2020 – UPM international students have been invited to the launching ceremony of MyExperience Programme at World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur. The event was officiated by YB. Datuk Mohamaddin Ketapi, Minister of Tourism Malaysia, Arts and Culture. The event also involves the launching of Visit Malaysia Year 2020 book.

Figure 10: MyExperience Programme at World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur which was officiated by Minister of Tourism Malaysia, Arts and Culture; YB. Datuk Mohamaddin ketapi.
EXPLORE MALAYSIA: BROGA HILL HIKING DAY BY I-PUTRA

23 FEBRUARY 2020 – i-PUTRA organised Broga Hill Hiking Day which involved 21 international students and four members of Buddies Association with 3 i-PUTRA staff. This program was the first activity conducted by i-PUTRA for the second 2019/2020 semester. The participants taking part in the program gave positive feedbacks and willing to join again this hiking activity in the future.

NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WELCOMING PROGRAMME (NISWP)

29 FEBRUARY 2020 – New International Students Welcoming Programme (NISWP) was an orientation day organised by i-PUTRA every year. This half-day programme was attended by all new undergraduate, postgraduate and mobility students. We hope that through this session, students would be able to get insightful information about UPM and their journey studying with us. NISWP was supposed to happen a week before the academic calendar begun however, this programme has been shifted due COVID-19 to prevention measures taken by the university. NISWP was successfully assisted by the Buddies Association UPM.

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CITY OF MALAYSIA VISIT

1 MARCH 2020 - Day 2 of NISWP involved a trip to UNESCO World Heritage City of Malacca. The city is filled with diverse culture and numbers of attractions such as museums and eateries. Malacca has always been the best state to learn about Malaysia history. The trip also involved the collaboration of UPM Buddies Association.

IMT-GT UNINET STEM MEETING AT CANCELOR PUTRA BUILDING

10 MARCH 2020 - A fruitful IMT-GT UNINET STEM meeting chaired by YBhg. Dato Prof. Dr Noraini Idris, President STEM, IMT-GT UNINET TO CIMT at Canselor Putra Building. This meeting was hosted by Prof. Dr. Mohd. Basyaruddin Abdul Rahman, the Chairman Dean Council of Science and Mathematics Malaysia with the objective to gather all stakeholders and create strategies and support on IMT-GT UNINET STEM activities. The IMT-GT UNINET STEM stands for Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) Universities Network (UNINET) Science Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM). (IMT-GT) is a sub-regional cooperation initiative formed in 1993 by the governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand to accelerate economic and social transformation in less developed provinces.
Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) is concerned about the health risks caused by the outbreak diseases Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) or also known as COVID-19; on UPM community that currently happening around the world. The university management has taken proactive measures in order to prevent and to exert maximum control since the university has a significant number of international students. With this in mind, UPM would like to have full cooperation from all international students (New and existing), from all other countries to adhere with the following instructions.

a) Students who will arrive from or for those who have been to the country abroad recently will need to undergo health screening at the airport managed by the Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH).

b) For a new student, the first step of registration will begin at the University Health Centre (PKU) and to undergo health screening.

c) Home-surveillance for 14-days will be imposed on all students and all student’s related activities will put on hold. Lecturers are allowed to conduct class online or put on hold their classes during the MCO. Students are REQUIRED to wear a face mask if needed to do outing.

d) Students are NOT encouraged to gather in a large group for any student’s activity during the MCO.

e) If any UPM staff or students shown any Covid-19 symptoms kindly seek health screening at PKU or nearest health facilities immediately.

We hope through these prevention measures would help the UPM community healthy and safe.

Kindly visit our website at i-PUTRA regarding COVID-19 updates and precaution measures by UPM and i-PUTRA to combat the spreading of COVID-19 among the community and nations at http://www.intl.upm.edu.my/covid_19-3716.

Zohrul, Airen, Ashibur and Fahad are all fine and safe at UPM!
Come spread this positivity by posting the same message of you and your friends and tag us @iputra_upm with hashtag

#IamFineAtUPM
#IamFineAtUniv
#WeAreFine
#MRO
#WeLoveUPM

With Best Wishes,

Prof. Dr. Zainal Abidin Talib
Director
PUTRA International Centre
Universiti Putra Malaysia