

PUTRA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE e-NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, 2021
e ISSN No. 2773-5095

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AGRICULTURE • INNOVATION • LIFE

EDITOR'S FOREWORD



Greetings from the green campus of Universiti Putra Malaysia, the home to established researchers and bright students. This issue encapsulates various events happening from July to September which highlights matters such as new collaborations, initiatives, students' activity, and COVID-19 solidarity response. Three more months before we draw the curtains to 2021, and it has taught us a lot in adapting to the real 'new norm' and accepting the reality that we shall enter an endemic phase soon.

To date, Malaysia is among the fastest countries when it comes to the COVID-19 vaccination initiative, which we hope to reach a 90% adult vaccination rate by mid-October. Malaysia has also recently begun to give vaccination to teens as young as 12 years old to 17 years old. Hopefully, through these efforts, our economy and all activities shall return to normal soon. Presently, internationalization initiatives have slowly started to resume as we have now begun to open our doors to mobility students physically and lifted the ban for the entry restriction to students from certain countries to Malaysia. In a few weeks, we hope to welcome our student's return to campus physically after months of endless virtual interactions.

Thus, I hope you would enjoy reading our newsletter and we look forward to serving more exciting news and events happening in the near future!

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COVID-19 SOLIDARITY RESPONSE FUND TO UPM VIA UAiTED



Image: UPM's Vice Chancellor giving a welcoming and thank you speech to The Association of Global Industry Academia Collaboration Malaysia and Sayling Wen Cultural and Educational Foundation

As the world faces an unprecedented challenge with communities and economies everywhere affected by the growing COVID-19 pandemic. Our nation has been coming together to combat the COVID-19 pandemic since 2020 by bringing organizations from across industries and sectors and individuals together to help respond to this global outbreak. In this occurrence, many have stepped in to give aid to institutions that are badly affected.

A blessing for September, where UPM is honoured to receive a generous donation from UAiTED for the university's COVID-19 relief. UAiTED is a strategic network of academic, profit and non-profit professional associations and organizations that are committed to assisting in the preparation, promotion, and professional development of future talents. The association is based in Taiwan and aims to prioritize collaborative efforts among strategic network members in providing unique opportunities for international young talents to achieve their potential. UPM is part of the UAiTED members who also serve in the leading independent Asia-wide membership organization seeking to provide a platform for international cooperation in practice, research, education, and innovation together with Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

The donation was divided into two where the university received a fund for UPM's students that were seriously affected by COVID-19 and a special donation by YBhg. Datuk Wira Wen Tai Chun and YBhg. Datin Wira Audrey Yang to UPM Teaching Hospital (HPUPM) which consists of 10 units of 5L Oxygen concentrator and 1050 pieces of Isolation Coverall.

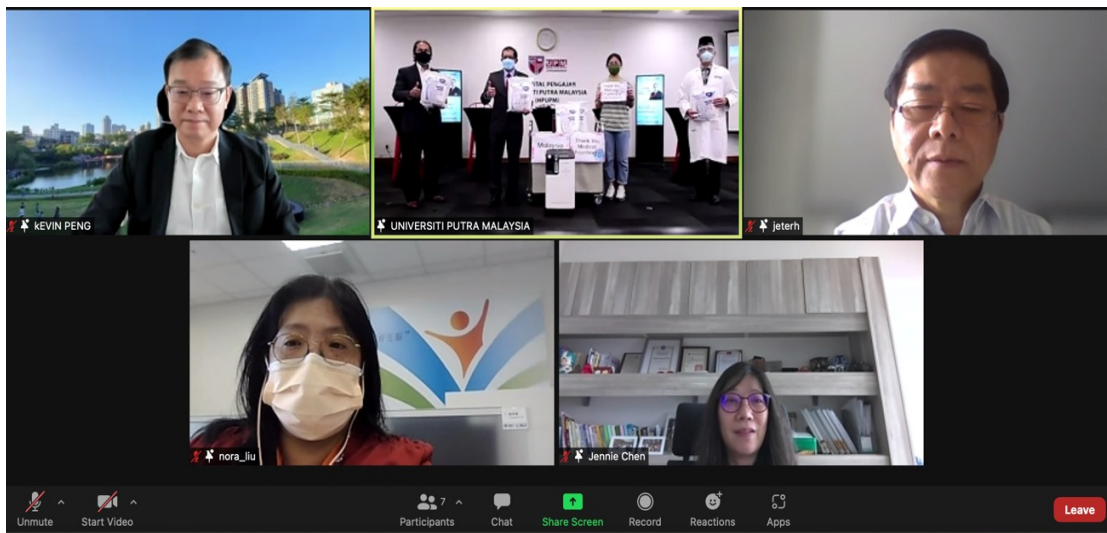


Image: The receiving arrangement witnessed by The Association of Global Industry Academia Collaboration Malaysia and Saying Wen Cultural and Educational Foundation representatives via zoom.

A private receiving arrangement was held in hybrid on 30th September 2021 and attended by UPM's Vice Chancellor YBhg. Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan Sulaiman himself together with The Director of HPUPM Prof. Madya Dr. Hj. Muhammad and The Director of i-PUTRA, Prof. Dr. Suhaimi Ab Rahman.

The arrangement was also attended by the representatives from Taiwan Mr Jeter He, The Executive Director, Ms Nora Liu The Project Manager from Saying Wen Cultural and Educational Foundation, Mr Kevin Peng the President of The Association of Global Industry Academia Collaboration Malaysia and Ms Jennie Chen Secretary of The Association of Global Industry Academia Collaboration Malaysia witnessing the arrangement via zoom.

With this in mind, on behalf of UPM, we would like to express our gratitude once more for all of the support shown to our university by numerous parties. 2021 is a new challenge that has put the majority of us to the test, either directly or indirectly. We must work together to combat this pandemic while remaining resilient and healthy.



MEANINGFUL CONDOLENCES TO THE LOSS OF OUR DEAR STUDENT



Image: The close small arrangement was attended by (From left to right) Director of i-PUTRA, Prof. Dr. Suhaimi ab Rahman, Director of WAZAN Dr. Hj Razali Othman and The President of Nigerian students UPM, Mr. Ahmed Abubakar AbuBakar, Ms. Sakina Nyah Mohamed and children and UPM Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan Sulaiman.

On 29th September 2021, PUTRA International Centre (i-PUTRA) and Centre for Management of Waqf, Zakat and Endowment (WAZAN) have organised a farewell arrangement for our late students who lost in the battle of COVID-19 at Hospital Serdang on 26th July 2021. The closed farewell arrangement was personally attended by UPM Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan Sulaiman together with Director of i-PUTRA, Prof. Dr. Suhaimi ab Rahman, Director of WAZAN Dr. Hj Razali Othman and The President of Nigerian students UPM Mr. Ahmed Abubakar AbuBakar.

The loss was deeply felt especially to his family whom he left behind. The late Nyah Mohammed from Nigeria is a former PhD. student at the Faculty of Human Ecology who left his wife with three children. To help and ease the loss of her beloved husband, UPM took the opportunity to help Mrs. Sakina Nyah Mohamed (wife) with a complete COVID-19 vaccination, swab test and a return ticket to Nigeria via Ethiopian Airlines. The donation was personally handed by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Mohd Roslan Sulaiman.

UPM hopes that with this small gesture, it could help to ease the burden of the deceased family. May Allah S.W.T place Alayarham Nyah Mohammed among the righteous ones. Amin.

THANK YOU FOR 3000 FOLLOWERS



i-PUTRA began its humble beginnings in social media accounts in 2017 and went fully active in 2018, amassing over 3000 organic followers on Facebook and Instagram. We joined the social media platform with the intention of rapidly broadening our reach out to share visa and pass information and updates. However, as time went on, the content of our account evolved from merely a platform to share simple announcement to a platform where students could get the most up-to-date information on opportunities such as scholarships, mobility, competitions, and even sharing student study experiences. As a result, this has inspired us to go further in sharing more opportunities, delivering timely information, and creating more content for our followers!

Thank you for your support!

Disclaimer: This photo was taken before COVID-19 pandemic



VIRTUAL MEETING WITH CHANDIGARH UNIVERSITY INDIA

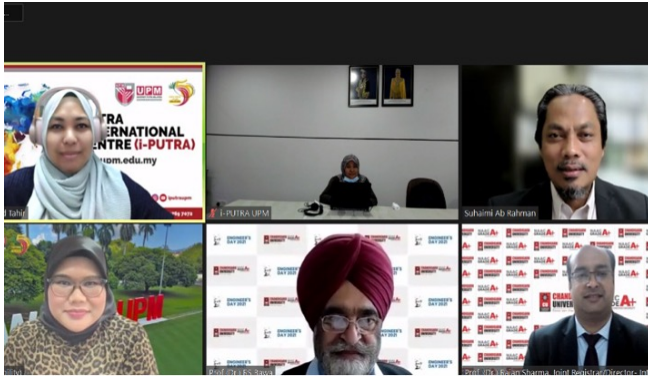


Image: Members of the meeting



Image: Prof. Dr. Bawa, the Pro- Chancellor of Chandigarh University India

On September 15, 2021, i-PUTRA was invited by Chandigarh University India to discuss future collaboration and the establishment of a partnership through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. The meeting was attended by the representatives from Chandigarh University, Prof. Dr. Bawa, Pro-Chancellor, and Prof. (Dr.) Rajan Sharma, the Director. The meeting was also joined by representatives from i-PUTRA, Prof. Dr. Suhaimi ab Rahman, Director of i-PUTRA, Mdm. Noraihan Noordin, Head of i-PUTRA, Mdm. Ida Suhaila Md Tahir, Head of Global Engagement, and Ms. Nadia Zawani Hussin, Head of Mobility.

Following the brief but fruitful meeting, both institutions are considering taking the first step toward establishing a virtual collaboration programme and student exchange.

DAY TRIP TO HISTORICAL SITE DURING CHUSEOK (추석) HOLIDAY!



Image: Pheobe Yeoh and her fellow friends taking a selfie with Prof. Dr. Shim Jaewoo

This semester, UPM sent 11 undergraduate students to Jeonbuk National University (JBNU) in Korea to embark on an adventure of a lifetime through a semester exchange programme in Jeonju, South Korea.

While in Korea, the students took the opportunity to explore the country and its interesting places. Some students may tour independently, but for some, they wish to explore with the locals! In this case, the JBNU Office of International Affairs has organised a small trip for the students to Honbuk Literary House which is a private and fun learning session with the Deputy Vice-President himself! Prof. Shim Jaewoo on 20th September 2021.

" Prof Shim is super kind! He taught us a lot and explained Korean History to us! We enjoyed the trip so so so much! We learned a lot and had such an incredible time yesterday! Right now is a public holiday and it's called (추석) Chusoek! It's a festival in Korea. We had holidays from Saturday until the upcoming Wednesday~ It is Chusoek (추석) holiday! It's a festival in Korea. We had holidays from Saturday until the upcoming Wednesday~"

Pheobe Yeoh
UPM exchange student to JBNU Korea

LARGEST VIRTUAL PROGRAMME ORGANISED BY I-PUTRA



Image: Some of the participants' photos from the programme

17th September, mark the final day of the UPM x ELS Virtual Cultural Immersion Programme organised (VCIP) by i-PUTRA with 210 Chukyo University Japan. The Program which began on the 13th September 2021 was a joint programme between ELS Language Centre, Malaysia along with the UPM Buddies Association UPM.

The UPM X ELS VCIP was designed and curated to be an interactive and fun learning experience in a casual learning environment. From this program, participants were able to get acquainted with our amazing local Buddies and learn each module together throughout the programme.

The exciting modules included an ice-breaker session, basic Malay language learning, and cultural exposure via lectures on Malay Traditional Dance: Zapin, The Art of Malay Dagger, virtual excursions, and many more.



Image: Our local Buddies, Jim interacting with the participants in one of the breakout sessions

It was an honour to be invited by ELS Language Centre Malaysia to provide a cultural immersion programme and introduce Japanese students to our beautiful country. Despite the pandemic that has engulfed our planet, we have become more interconnected than ever before. Borderless cross-cultural and academic exchanges are now possible thanks to the virtual world.

VIRTUAL SUMMER CAMP ORGANISED BY UPM BUDDIES ASSOCIATION



Image: The local Buddies snapshot.

For the first time since the formation of the UPM Buddies Association, the first-ever Buddies Virtual Summer Camp was organized. The Summer Camp was created specifically to prepare selected local students to become members of the UPM Buddies Association. Participants in the summer camp learned communication skills, 3rd language 101 (Japanese), cultural exposure, and presentation skills. Professionals such as Dr. Sanimah Hussin from the Centre for the Advancement of Language Competence (CALC) and dancers from Adimastuli's dance group also participated in the four-day programme. The virtual summer camp was conducted via zoom from 7 September 2021 and concluded on 10th September 2021.

OUTBOUND MOBILITY FROM THE EYES OF CHEW KANG YING



Image: Chew Kang Ying demonstrating some of the activities conducted in CERN

“In this CERN Summer School Program, it has been an eye-opener for me. The lectures do tell me that behind the scene of each discovery, there is a lot of expertise required for it to be functional and obtain the data that we want, while at the same time minimizing cost and damage to both the structures and environment. I realized that besides the important scientific discovery here, there is a lot of other significant workforce helping out to achieving it such as administrative work, QA and QC job, translator, educator, etc. I get to know how vastly different people, different backgrounds, nationalities, cultures, academic fields and specialties could be united to work on something this huge. I also had a chance to get some of the lectures to share their mindset on pursuing a particular field such as Theoretical Physics.”

Chew Kang Ying,
Institute for Mathematical Research, UPM
to European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)

Disclaimer: This photo was taken before COVID-19 pandemic



BRIDGING WITH ONDOKUZ MAYIS UNIVERSITY, TURKEY

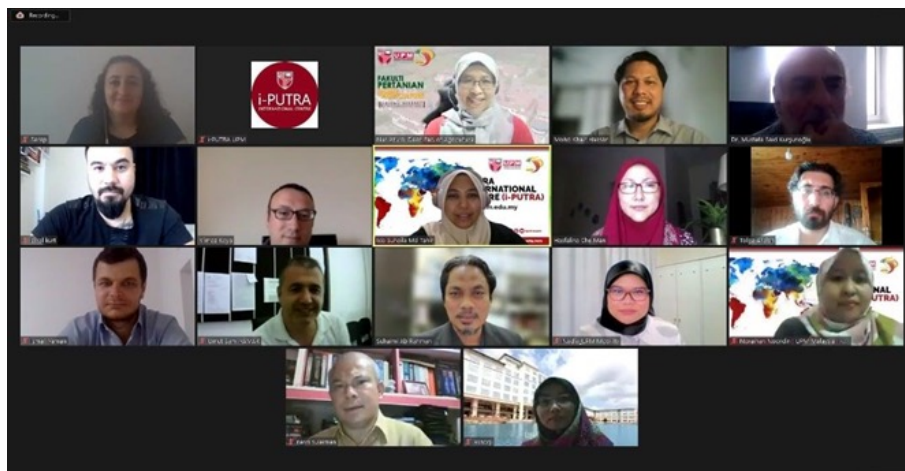


Image: Members of the meeting between UPM and Ondokuz Mayis University (OMU), Samsun Turkey

Few people realised that organising a meeting between foreign universities could be done easily and effectively online. The pandemic has enabled this method to be further explored and implemented, particularly in the area of internationalisation.

This week on 16th July 2021, i-PUTRA hosted another fruitful engagement session between Ondokuz Mayis University (OMU), Samsun Turkey and the Faculty of Agriculture along with the Faculty of Engineering, UPM. This engagement session was meant to explore the potential of future collaborations in partnership between UPM and OMU.

OMU is an established State University founded in 1975 to contribute and bring a new breath to the Black Sea region (where they are located) in the field of economic, cultural, and social life. Founded as a regional university 42 years ago, it is one of the country's strongest research and teaching institutions, adopting universal values to bring about innovation for the benefit of individuals and society, and working with intellectual rigour.

The 120 minutes meeting were chaired by i-PUTRA's Director Prof. Dr. Suhaimi AB Rahman and was attended by The Dean of Faculty of Agriculture Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nor Azura Adam, Head of Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr. Mohd Khair Hassan, and The Deputy Director of i-PUTRA Prof. Dr. Ir. Hasfalina Che Man. We are also delighted to have welcomed Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mustafa Said Kurşunoğlu (Head, International Relations Office), Assoc. Prof. Dr. İsmail Yaman (Vice-Head, Erasmus Institutional Coordinator), Mr. Tolga Arslan & Mr. Birol Kurt (International Relations Office), Dr. Serap karagöl (International Relations Office Coordinator of the partnership, Faculty of Engineering), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Umut Sami Yamak (Vice-Dean & Vice-Head of IRO Faculty of Agriculture) and Dr. Yılmaz Kaya from OMU. The meeting was attended by the administrator from i-PUTRA which are Mdm. Noraihan Noordin the Head of i-PUTRA, Mdm. Ida Suhaila Md Tahir the Head of Global Engagement Section and Ms. Nadia Zawani Hussin the Head of Mobility Section.

Through the discussion, OMU wishes to offer various opportunities such as virtual lectures, mobility opportunities, scholarships through MEVLANA and ERASMUS+ grants which would undoubtedly be beneficial to many UPM applicants.

EXTENDING OUR HANDS FOR FURTHER COLLABORATION BY INKING MOU VIA RAISONI GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS, INDIA

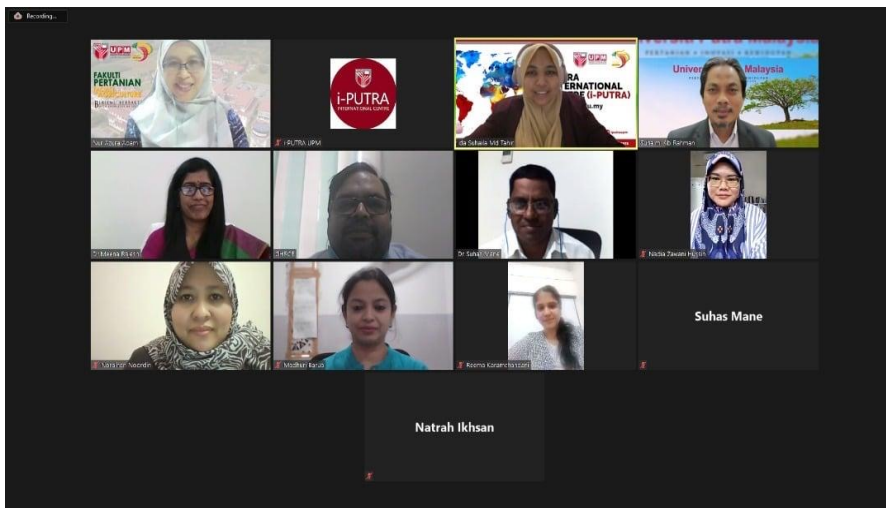


Image: Members of the meeting between GHRU and UPM

1st July 2021, marks the first day of Q3 which means that there are less than 6 months before the year ends to achieve our goals. i-PUTRA has always been proactive to bridge the gap between UPM and other international institutions. On this day, another networking session was arranged between GH Raisonni University (via Raisonni Group of Institutions India) and Faculty of Agriculture UPM.

GH Raisonni University (GHRU) is an independent, coeducational institution that provides diploma, undergraduate, postgraduate programs, and doctorate programs with different specializations and research facilities in the domain of Agriculture, Pharmaceutical Science, Engineering, Management, Law, Hospitality Management, and many more along with skill-based training that is deemed vital in today's economy.

Attending the meeting from GH Raisonni University is Dr. Meena Rajesh (Vice-Chancellor) & Dr. Suhas Mane (The International Relations Office). The well-spent 60 minutes meeting were also attended by Prof. Dr. Suhaimi Ab Rahman (Director of i-PUTRA), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nur Azura Adam (Dean, Faculty of Agriculture), Prof. Dr. Ir. Hasfalina Che Man (Deputy Director of i-PUTRA), Madam Noraihan Nordin (Head of i-PUTRA), Madam Ida Suhaila Md Tahir (Head of Global Engagement Section), and Miss Nadia Zawani Hussin (Head of Mobility Section).

In the meeting, GHRU expressed their wishes to establish a few possible collaborations with UPM such as the Credit Transfer Scheme (CTS), mobility programmes, joint conferences, joint research, and lectures by experts.

VIRTUAL MEETING WITH IMAM ABDULRAHMAN BIN FAISAL UNIVERSITY, SAUDI ARABIA

30th June 2021, Putra International Centre (i-PUTRA) has hosted a virtual online meeting with Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University (IAU) Dammam, Saudi Arabia. The meeting was an effort to further expand our networking in the United Arab Emirates region. The meeting was also joined by the representative from the School of Business and Economics (SPE) UPM in expanding our networking in the United Arab Emirates region.

IAU's begin its humble beginning in 1975 with two pioneering colleges, the College of Medicine and the College of Architecture. Almost four decades later this academic institution has grown into a leading research university with 21 colleges spread throughout the Eastern Province and a student population of over 45,000. Now it is one of the leading universities and thriving to become one of the best universities in the Kingdom.

The meeting was attended by both parties at 4:30 pm (+8 GMT) via Zoom platform and chaired by i-PUTRA Director, Prof. Dr. Suhaimi Ab Rahman. The meeting was joined by the representative from the College of Business IAU, Dr. Faisal Al Hudithi, the Dean and Dr. Adnan Ahmed Latif, assistant professor.
