

# PUTRA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE e-NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, 2021  
e ISSN No. 2773-5095

iputra upm  
iputra\_upm  
iputra upm

AGRICULTURE • INNOVATION • LIFE

## GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



Noraihan and look forward for her new beginning in making i-PUTRA better and greater role in the future.

Joining Mdm Fairuz is Mr. Syafiq Hariz who has been appointed as the Head of Alumni Consultation and Industry Engagement at Alumni Relations Centre begins 4th January 2021. We will surely miss Mr. Syafiq's contributions and cheerful personality to i-PUTRA over the years!

The year 2020 also marks a drastic change in our life because we are experiencing Covid-19 outbreak of nationwide pandemic. It is our new norm of wearing a mask, washing our hands frequently, and practicing social distancing. And so far, all of us are doing great at it and began to accept the new norms affecting our daily life.

To-date, Selangor is one of the regions that are under Movement Control Order (MCO) due to increasing cases of Covid-19 in Malaysia. It started from 13<sup>th</sup> January until 26th January 2021, and has been extended until 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021. It is hope to reduce the number of daily cases. During this difficult time, our office is closed due to MCO, and only operates for urgent cases and by appointment basis only. Any other applications, such as new enrollment and renewal student pass and Visa is on hold temporarily, until further notice from the EMGS and Immigration Department.

New year 2021, may it bring harmony, peace, love and strength to overcome our daily challenges. We need to stay united, and stay positive as we still engulf and struggle with Covid-19. Please do our part in breaking the Covid-19 chain.

#KitaJagaKita

Be Safe. Take care of each other and God bless.

**Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr Hasfalina Che Man**  
**Editor-in-Chief of i-PUTRA e-Newsletter**

Thank you 2020, Welcome 2021!

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021! New year will always embark on a new beginning for all of us. New spirits, new strength, new hope, as well as new opportunity. All of us are waiting for 2021 to come. It brings the light to the end of the tunnel.

For 2020, i-Putra has been going through some rapid changes, be it in student's visa issues, mobility, the departments programme as well as in the internal management. We have witnessed a few key people who have vital key roles leaving i-Putra to pursue their future career. The latest was Mdm Fairuz Muchtar Bawaze'er, the Head of i-Putra has been relocated and transferred to her new office at the Division of Admission and Academic Governance in UPM. We like to take this opportunity to wish her all the best in her future endeavours. And also, a heartfelt welcome to Mdm Noraihan Noordin as she is appointed as the new Head of Administration i-Putra. We welcome Mdm

## **SIGNING MoA MOBILITY AGREEMENT BETWEEN UPM AND SOARING FALCON INTERNATIONAL SDN. BHD.**



Figure 1: MoA Signing Between Mr. Ibrahim from Soaring Falcon International Sdn Bhd and Prof. Dr Suhaimi from i-PUTRA.

The 2021 year is a new beginning where i-Putra started off with new collaborations or partnerships i-PUTRA is honoured to welcome Soaring Falcon Sdn. Bhd as our latest mobility partner (Figure 1).

The main objective of the MoA signing is to initiate 5 years the Students Mobility Programmes from China to Malaysia and other mutual activities between the signatory parties. The collaboration opens up a wider opportunity in enhancing and improving the social communications between the two countries. In addition, the MoA signing will strengthen the bond between China and Malaysia creating more opportunities and new openings for other collaborations for both UPM and Soaring Falcon Internationals Sdn.Bhd.

We thank you Soaring Falcon Internationals for trusting UPM and together we work towards Excellence!

## **MEETING WITH UPM INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (UPMISA) AND STUDENT AFFAIRS DIVISION (BHEP)**

The synergy of 2021 is unstoppable. As per said, i-PUTRA had a meeting with UPMISA and BHEP to appoint an ambassador from UPMISA to strengthen the collaboration for the betterment of international students (Figure 2).

A monthly meeting between both parties will be held in order to discuss future activities and other issue related to visa and student pass. We hope the collaborations will give more benefits to the international students in UPM and make their study here a wonderful experience.



Figure 2: Photo with Mohannad Saleh, President of UPMISA received a token of appreciation from i-PUTRA.

## **DISCUSSION WITH THE DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR (Academic and International) UPM (TNCAA), DATO' RAIHAN SHARIF (BOARD of DIRECTORS, UPM), ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, i-PUTRA & UPMISA**

On 11th January 2021, i-PUTRA had a discussion with Prof. Ts. Dr. M.Iqbal Saripan (TNCAA), Dato' Raihan Sharif, Alumni Association & UPMISA (Figure 3). The main highlights of the meeting were regarding Visa and Student Pass of the international students in UPM, scholarships, academics, postgraduate studies and other internal issues. The meeting was held in Chancellory Building, UPM Serdang. Many constructive comments were presented by UPMISA for i-PUTRA to continue improving our services and to be a better Service Provider for our international students. All the recommendations and suggestions had been brought to our attention.



Figure 3: Photo ceremony with TNCAA, Dato'Raihan, i-PUTRA, UPMISA and Alumni Association.



## ZOOM MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF HUNGARY

The 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 marks the calendar of zoom meeting with the Ambassador of Hungary; H.E. Dr. Petra Ponevacs-Pana. The meeting started off with a courtesy call of Prof. Ts. Dr. M. Iqbal Saripan, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), UPM. The meeting also had been attended by Prof. Dr. Zalilah Mohd Shariff (Dean, School of Graduate Studies), Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr. Hasfalina Che Man (Deputy Director, i-PUTRA), and Dato' Rosdi Wah (Head of Administration (Academic and International) (Figure 4).

The main objective of the Zoom meeting was to brief H.E Dr. Petra Ponevacs-Pana regarding UPM in general and specifically the priority issues of mutual interest regarding the close bilateral and potential cooperation between the Embassy and UPM. It was a good and fruitful discussion with regard to future collaboration between Hungary and UPM.

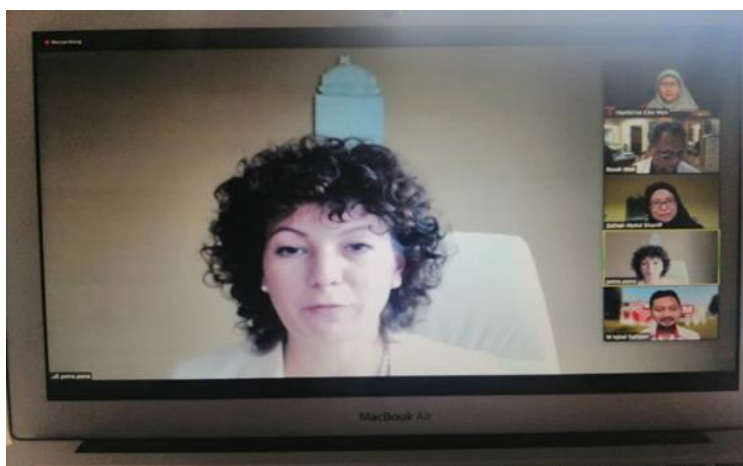


Figure 4: Zoom Meeting with H.E. Dr. Petra Ponevacs-Pana, Ambassador of Hungary.

## ZOOM MEETING: INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF PHILIPPINES (PUOP) AND i-PUTRA

On 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021, a Zoom meeting was held between i-PUTRA and Polytechnic University of Philippines (Figure 5). The meeting was held to develop a collaboration between UPM and Polytechnic University of Philippines particularly with the Faculty of Educational Studies, UPM. Dr. Hazel Samala is from the Faculty College of Education and she is also from the RMC Office of the Vice President for Research, PUOP.



Figure 5: Participants of Zoom Meeting regarding International Collaboration and Partnership with Dr Hazel Samala from Polytechnic University of Philippines

## ERASMUS+ GRANT FOR MOBILITY PROGRAMME WITH ATATURK UNIVERSITY

i-PUTRA is proudly to announce that we had successfully secured ERASMUS+ grant through Ataturk University Turkey for the calendar year of 2021. This grant enables students and staff to undergo a mobility program funded by ERASMUS+ beginning from 2021 to 2023.

The virtual discussion kick-off was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 via zoom hosted by Ataturk University and was attended by Prof. Dr. Taşkın ÖZTAŞ, Prof. Mehmet Ertugul and Mdm Pinar Ucak from Office of International Affairs.

While, Prof. Dr Suhaimi Ab Rahman, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ir. Hasfalina Che Man, Mdm Noraihan Noordin, Mdm Ida Suhaila Md Tahir and Ms. Nadia Zawani Hussin were the representatives from the i-PUTRA (Figure 6).



Figure 6 : Zoom meeting regarding bidding project under ERASMUS+ by Ataturk University and i-PUTRA

## The Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility

The Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility supports the international exchange of students, academics, ideas and good practice between cooperating institutions. The program provides funding for study abroad periods, visiting lecturer exchanges and professional training abroad for university staff between Erasmus+ Programme countries (in Europe), and Partner countries (outside of Europe). Below are the types of mobility that has been practically exercised in the Erasmus+ programme:

- ✚ Student mobility for studies
- ✚ Student mobility for traineeships
- ✚ Staff mobility for training
- ✚ Staff mobility for teaching

Students must be registered in a higher education institution and enrolled in studies leading to a recognized degree or other recognized tertiary level qualification (up to and including the level of doctorate).

Students receive a grant, which is a contribution to travel and the cost of living and studying in another country. Students are selected for an Erasmus+ Study Mobility on the basis of academic ability and the relevance of the proposed study plan to their studies at home university. Participants in the Erasmus+ Study Mobility Program continue to pay tuition fees at home institutions but are exempted from tuition at the host university.

For academicians and administrative staffs of higher education institutions to undertake teaching (academic staff only), learning and/or professional experience in another country. Academic and professional staff can do a teaching placement abroad, or undertake training, job shadowing or observation. Activities can last from two days to two months. Staff from any public or private organisation active in the labour market or in the fields of education, training and youth may also be funded to teach at the institution.

The mobility is carried out in the framework of prior "inter-institutional agreements" between the sending and receiving institutions. By signing an inter-institutional agreement, the institutions involved agree to cooperate for the exchange of students and/or staff in the context of Erasmus+

## INSIGHTS INTO ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME



### What is Erasmus+ programme?

The European Union's Erasmus+ programme is a funding scheme to support activities in the fields of Education, Training, Youth and Sport.

The role of i-PUTRA is to plan, execute, and to create an understanding environment with the international communities in UPM and to bid new grant for international programme as in Erasmus+ in which acted as Erasmus coordinator for UPM.

The programme is made up of three so-called "Key Actions" and two additional actions. They are managed partly at the national level by National Agencies and partly at the European level by the EACEA. The European Commission is responsible for Erasmus+ policies and oversees the overall programme implementation. Erasmus+ actions managed by EACEA are listed below:

- ✚ Key Action 1: Mobility Learning Mobility of Individuals (ICM)
- ✚ Key action 2: Cooperation for Innovation and Good Practices (CBHE)
- ✚ Key Action 3: Policy – Support to policy reform
- ✚ Jean Monnet: Supporting teaching studies and debate on the EU

## Cooperation for Innovation and Good Practices (CBHE)

Capacity-building projects in the field of higher education support the modernisation, accessibility and internationalisation of higher education in Partner countries. The projects aim to encourage cooperation between the EU and Partner Countries and support eligible Partner Countries in addressing challenges in the management and governance of their higher education institutions. This includes improving the quality of higher education, developing new and innovative education programmes, modernising higher education systems through reform policies as well as fostering cooperation across different regions of the world through joint initiatives.

The CBHE projects, which lasts from two to three years are not limited to academicians only, the project is also a great platform for non-academicians to hone their skills in their respective field. This programme could strengthen the internationalisation of HEI to broaden their network in research and scientific exploration along with technological innovation. It also helps to upgrade the facilities provided in the universities and provide training for staff abroad. The training serves as a great opportunity to develop the staff professional practices, build relationships with international peers, and gain fresh ideas about their work.

The relevant information concerning the funding opportunities and application procedures within the Erasmus+ programme can be found here:

[https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding_en)

## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION BETWEEN UPM & WTW TRAINING HOUSE SDN. BHD.

It is with great pleasure to receive interest from a local education consultant with UPM mobility programme. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, i-PUTRA holds a meeting with Dato Seri James Wong from WTW Training House Sdn. Bhd. to discuss on expanding UPM's networking and potentials in student mobility from China and to China.

The fruitful meeting was chaired by Deputy Director of i-PUTRA; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ir. Hasfalina Che Man together with Assoc. Prof. Ts. Gs. Dr. Mohd Johari Mohd Yusof (Deputy Dean of Academic, International & Students' Affairs) Faculty of Design and Architecture, Mdm Noraihan Noordin (Head, i-PUTRA), Ms. Nadia Zawani (Head of Mobility Section) and Mdm Ida Suhaila Md Tahir (Head of Global Engagement Section) (Figure 7).



Figure 7: Virtual meeting between DS James Wong from WTW Training House Sdn Bhd and i-PUTRA

## PUTRA EXPERIENCE: VIRTUAL MALAY LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL PROGRAMME II (VMLCP)

PUTRA Experience Virtual Programme again kicks off this year with our highly requested programme “The Virtual Malay Language and Cultural Programme II” (VMLCP). The 8 hours programme was held via ZOOM on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and has garnered 70+ participation from various countries such as South Korea, China, Bangladesh, Japan, Pakistan, Peru, Mexico, Germany and many more.



Figure 8: Joget demonstration by UPM Buddies joined by participants from Mexico and Indonesia

The VMLCP was designed for inbound students abroad to learn the national language of Malaysia through the Malay language 101 class (4 hours), and immerse themselves with the Malaysian traditional culture through various activities such as traditional games and dance (3 hours) (Figure 8). This was our 2<sup>nd</sup> joint effort between CALC, i-PUTRA and UPM Buddies.



We hope this programme able to promote UPM and Malaysia as an ideal study and mobility destination to the participants.

The language lesson was provided by the Centre for the Advancement of Language Competence (CALC) by two distinguished language instructor; Ms Sofia Hanie Izyan and Mdm Nur Aimie Nabila Fauzi. The language class was divided into two parts. The first half of the Malay Language 101 class focuses on conversation skills. During this lesson, the students were exposed to basic greetings and an introductory lesson on conversation skills (formal and informal). The second session of the Malay Language class was on the basic counting systems and numerals in Malay language (Figure 9). In both sessions, the participants were also given the chance to practice their basic Malay language through oral presentation.

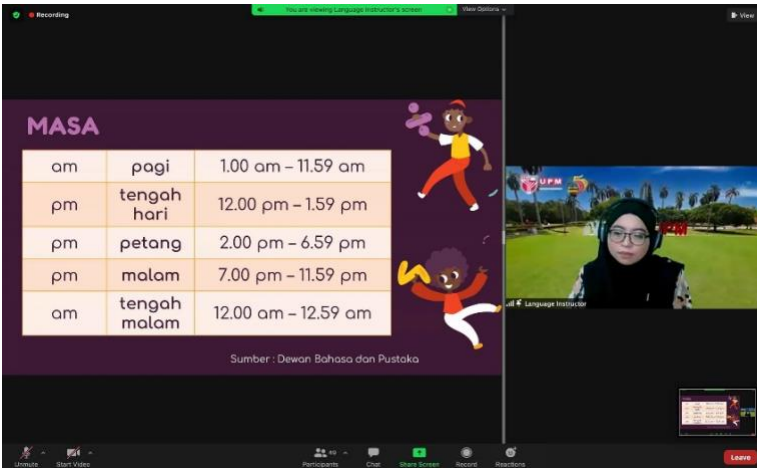


Figure 9: Language instructor from CALC during Malay Language session

## STANDARD OPERATING OPERATION (SOP) FOR NEW AND EXISTING STUDENTS

The government of Malaysia has announced that all international students except those from the United Kingdom may enter into Malaysia to further their studies in their respective educational institutions. The standard operating operation (SOP) for new and existing students as per listed in the Figure 10.

All of UPM’s international students are required to fill up online form once they have checked-in at the Quarantine Centre. i-PUTRA will use this information to arrange for transportation and placement at a temporary university residential college (only available upon request). Transport arranged by Student Affairs Division/University Officials from Quarantine Centre to UPM/student existing residential is free of charge. This transport service is only available from 1 March 2021 - 21 March 2021.

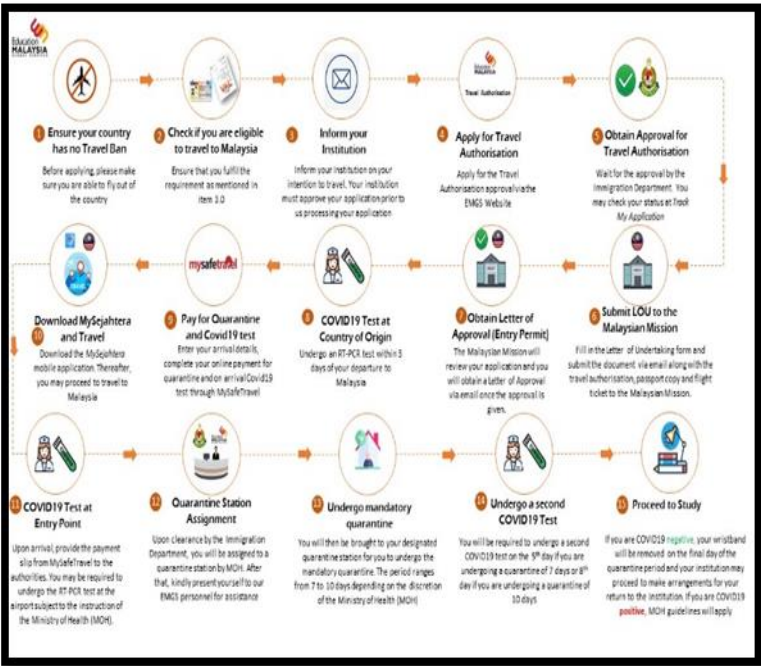


Figure 10: Infographic visual of the SOP to enter Malaysia.

## ANNUAL MEETING WITH UPM’S MOBILITY COORDINATOR

In gearing up for 2021 on 4th March, i-PUTRA had an annual meeting with appointed UPM mobility coordinators who are from the faculties, schools and institutes in discussing UPM’s way forward planning and operational matters in mobility administration. This includes summer programme, Edutorism and Virtual Programme.

Since October 2020, UPM hasn’t received any semester exchange inbound mobility students due to COVID-19 and the Malaysian border is not opening its door to this traveller category. However, as UPM adapting and adjusting to the new norm, this 2nd semester 2020/2021 we are fully prepared to welcome inbound mobility students virtually. This year we shall receive students from German, France, Japan, Indonesia, Egypt and many more.

Chairing this meeting is i-PUTRA’s Director Prof. Dr. Suhaimi and later continued by Ms. Nadia Zawani Hussin, the Head of Mobility to present the mobility way forward and ideas. The meeting was attended by 38 mobility coordinators from various offices (Figure 11).



Figure 11: Zoom meeting between i-PUTRA and 38 mobility coordinators.



Figure 12: Virtual meeting between HKBU and i-PUTRA.

## VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION MEETING WITH HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY (HKBU)

An initial virtual meeting between Hong Kong Baptist University and Universiti Putra Malaysia via each International Office was held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021. The short yet concise meeting was organised by HKBU in the hope to build a new collaboration emphasizing student's mobility programme. In the meeting HKBU sharing their Virtual Education Programme and 100 Talents programme which enables HKBU to collaborate with 100 faculties all around the world to further explore mobility potentials.

From HKBU was Ms. Yvonne Lee, the Director International Office, Ms. Charlie Chan and Ms. Pheobe while from UPM is Prof. Dr. Suhaimi Ab Rahman as the Director of i-PUTRA, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ir. Hasfalina Che Man (Deputy Director), Mdm. Noraihan Noordin (Head of Administration), Mdm Ida Suhaila Md Tahir (Head of Global Engagement) and Ms. Nadia Zawani (Head of Mobility) (Figure 12).

## VISIT FROM EDUCATION MALAYSIA DIVISION (BEM)

i-PUTRA received a visit from Education Malaysia Division (BEM) of Department of Higher Education (JPT), through 'Sesi Libat Urus' programme on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Together joining the session is Dato' Haji Rosdi Wah, Head of Academic Division, Mr. Nuruliman Ibrahim (Head of Student Affairs Division), Mrs. Norliya Yahya (Head of International Recruitment) (Figure 13). The meeting was mainly discussed related issues of the international students at UPM such as SOPs of the returning of international students, vaccination programme for international students and EMGS. At the end of the meeting, all the delegates were ushered to visit the facilities at i-PUTRA. With the cooperation from the governance, it is hope that the universities in Malaysia will be able to increase the numbers of international students for the coming.





Figure 13: With the delegates from BEM after the meeting.

## NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS VIRTUAL WELCOMING PROGRAMME

On 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2021, PUTRA International Centre (i-PUTRA) had successfully organised for our new international students. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, UPM has been closely following Malaysia state directives and public health recommendations and SOPs surrounding COVID-19. In order to navigate large-scale events during the COVID-19 pandemic safely, the decision was made to hold the New International Student Virtual Welcoming Programme (NISVWP) for the Second Semester 2020/2021 virtually.

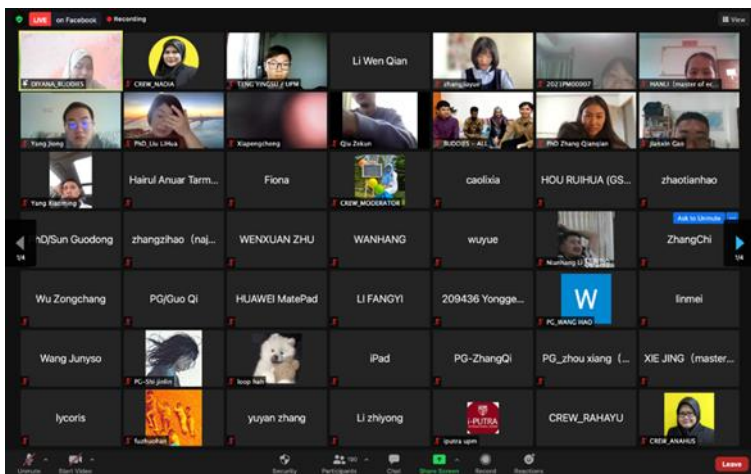


Figure 14: Students participation via ZOOM platform.

This semester NISVWP was attended by 400+ students coming from undergraduate, postgraduate fulltime students and also mobility students who are currently taking their programme remotely and attending the programme via Zoom and i-PUTRA Facebook account (Figure 14).

We are also honoured to have our Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Innovations, YBhg Prof. Dato' Dr. Zulkifli Idrus who is currently Acting Vice Chancellor of UPM (Figure 15) and i-PUTRA Director, YBhg. Prof. Suhaimi AB Rahman to give welcoming speech for our new international students.



Figure 15: Acting Vice Chancellor UPM, YBhg Prof. Dato' Dr. Zulkifli Idrus giving his welcoming speech.

Likewise NISVWP provides information and insights on what to be expected during students study time in Malaysia and in UPM such as on Academic Rules and Regulation which was presented by Dato' Haji Rosdi Wah (the Head of Academic Division and Governance). Student Finance and Fee was presented by Madam Mazitah Ahmad (Head of Students Financial Section) from UPM Bursary and Visa and Student Pass was briefed by Mr. Abdul Razif Abdul Razak (Head of Visa and Pass of PUTRA International Centre).



Figure 16: Buddies interactions with new international students

Students were also introduced to UPM Buddies Associations (Figure 16) and UPM International Students Association (UPMISA).



## THE 21<sup>ST</sup> INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING (JKPA) PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES MALAYSIA HOSTED BY i-PUTRA

On the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, i-PUTRA was honored to host the 21<sup>st</sup> International Steering Committee Meeting (JKPA) Public Universities Malaysia. The meeting was held at Senate Hall, Chancellory building, UPM with hybrid meeting mode (Figure 17 and 18). The meeting was attended by the public university's directors of the international office, Bahagian Education Malaysia (BEM) and EMGS. The objective of the meeting is to discuss on international students' issues such as Visa and Student Pass, mobility and international students' recruitment. After lunch, the delegates were ushered to the coach provided to visit i-PUTRA.



Figure 17: Photo session of the delegates with Acting Vice Chancellor of UPM, YBhg Prof. Dato' Dr. Zulkifli Idrus.



Figure 18: During the JKPA meeting in the Senate Hall, UPM

The Chinese New Year Year of 2021 was celebrated on 12th February 2021. It is the year of the Ox according to the Chinese Zodiac. Happy Chinese New Year 2021 from i-PUTRA.



## RAMADAN WISHES FROM EDITORIAL TEAM 2021/2022

To all Muslimin and Muslimat. We wish you a blessed and Happy Ramadan Kareem.

Prof. Dr. Suhaimi Ab Rahman  
(Advisor)

Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr Hasfalina Che Man  
(Editor-in-Chief)

Madam Noraihan Noordin  
(Proof-read Editor)

Madam Ida Suhaila Md.Tahir  
(Column Editor)

Ms Nadia Zawani Hussin  
(Column Editor)

Ms Farah Liyana Abd Halim  
(Storyline Editor)

Ms Siti Afiqah Mastor  
(Graphic Editor)

Contact us for further enquiries/suggestions:  
[depdir.intl@upm.edu.my](mailto:depdir.intl@upm.edu.my)