

# PUTRA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE e-NEWSLETTER

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AGRICULTURE • INNOVATION • LIFE

## GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

*"With patience and persistence, even the smallest act of discipleship or the tiniest ember of belief can become a blazing bonfire of a consecrated life. In fact, that's how most bonfires begin – as a simple spark."*

~ Dieter F. Uchtdorf, German Businessman

Hello and welcome to i-PUTRA @ UPM International Centre's 2<sup>nd</sup> newsletter in the 2021!

This year again has been challenging ever since quartile two has kicked off. With many goals to achieve with changing policies due to the nation pandemic occurrences and somehow becomes an obstruction. As of today, Malaysia has undergone 50 days of Full Movement Control Order nationwide ever since and counting until the positive cases have reached phase two criteria. However, this will not stop us to grind the best effort in achieving our goals by end of the year in becoming the best service provider to students, our stakeholders and taking quotes from Dieter F. Uchtdorf would highlight our determination.

This issue you may see the progressive undertake by i-PUTRA such as expanding its networking to United Arab Emirates kingdom, sending outbound mobility students to study abroad physically via scholarship programmes, charity effort, online webinars and a collaborative virtual programme which will embark in August.

i-PUTRA also bid farewell to our dedicated staff who have been with us for many years and now relocated to a new office such as Ms. Nur Za Ireen binti Ahmad Razei, Firdaus, Mr. Mohd Al-Firdaus Jamrin, Mrs. Yurnalisma Abdul Manaf and Mrs. Mashitah Abdul Wahab. Nevertheless, we also would like to welcome our new team members Mr. Muhammad Nazim Baharum and Ms. Ummu Bari'ah Ramli to the international office family.

This year we had to celebrate Eidul-fitri in our respective home. Raya celebrations were set to be muted as Malaysia continues to grapple with the pandemic. Despite the hurdle this year, I believe that the national Covid-19 vaccination programme will eventually result in herd immunity and successfully curb the spread. From the bottom of my heart, I pray that the Almighty makes our lives beautiful and our struggles meaningful.



#KitaJagaKita #StaySafe  
Be Safe. Take care of each other and God bless.

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

## OPPORTUNITIES FROM JBNU KOREA

Despite the COVID-19 restrictions, it does not loosen the strong networking between UPM and Jeonbuk National University Korea (JBNU). On 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021, another annual meeting between JBNU and UPM was held online via Zoom hosted by Putra International Center (i-PUTRA). The meeting was attended by the key players in student mobility and in internationalisation from JBNU which includes Prof. Mun Suk Ahn (The Vice President of JBNU), Prof. Dr. Jaewoo Shim (The Deputy Vice-President of Office of International Affairs), and Prof. Dr. Zainal Abidin Talib (Visiting Professor at Department of Physics, JBNU and former director for the Putra International Center).

Also joining in the meeting from UPM are Prof. Dr. Suhaimi Abd. Rahman (The Director of PUTRA International Centre), YBhg. Dato' Haji Rosdi Wah (Head of Administration for Academic and International, Academic Division UPM), Assoc. Prof. Ir. Hasfalina Che Man (Deputy Director of PUTRA International Centre), Mrs. Noraihan Nordin (The Head of Administration of PUTRA International Centre), Ms. Yunha Park from (Office of International Affairs, JBNU) and Miss Nadia Zawani Hussin (The Head of Mobility of PUTRA International Centre).

The 90 minutes fruitful meeting discussed mobility opportunities for both universities. Some of the output from the meeting includes JBNU expressing their willingness to receive up to 30 students from UPM to undergo a semester exchange programme beginning the spring semester. JBNU which is one of the prestigious universities in Korea offers a wide range of faculty and courses while providing free accommodation and daily meals to UPM's exchange students.

The meeting also discussed other mobility opportunities including virtual programmes, internships and double degree proposals. In addition, each university also shared some of their students' feedback and outcome from the previous semester exchange programme.

The partnership between JBNU and UPM begins in 2019. Since then, many activities had been initiated such as inbound and outbound mobility programmes. We plan to further boost-up the promotional strategy as to encourage more students to take up this amazing opportunity.



Figure 1: Meeting members between Jeonbuk National University and Universiti Putra Malaysia.

## UPM AIMS SCHOLARSHIPS 2021/2022 KICK-OFF MEETING

With new hope and careful plans for mobility during the era of the pandemic, on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 i-PUTRA kick off its first Asian International Mobility for Students (AIMS) 2021/2022 scholarship programme meeting with UPM AIMS field members. The fruitful morning meeting was chaired by i-PUTRA's Director Prof. Dr. Suhaimi and later continued with AIMS' presentation by Ms. Nadia Zawani Hussin, Head of Mobility and also joined by Mrs. Noraihan Nordin, Head of Administration of i-PUTRA and Ms. Hajar Najiyah Mohd Pauzi, the Outbound Administrator.

AIMS is an exclusive programme under the umbrella of Malaysian Higher Education through 10 selected Malaysian's public university members in collaboration with the Asian region government. Each selected university offers 4 types of the field chosen by the Ministry of Higher Education to be offered to G2G university members such as Agriculture, Forestry & Environment, Business & Management and also Food Technology and Science. AIMS Programme is a SEAMEO RIHED's regional initiative to support the mobility of students and enhance cooperation in higher education among countries in Asia. Connecting governments, universities and students, the AIMS Programme provides a multilateral platform for academic exchange and collaboration to strengthen regional integration and community building. It provides students with opportunities to study abroad within selected disciplines and advance their learning and intercultural skills as confident global citizens.

Invited to the meeting is UPM's AIMS mobility coordinator; Dr. Norakmar Abdul Aziz (Senior lecturer, Faculty of Forestry and Environment), Ms. Fahezah Nor Mohamed (Senior Assistant Registrar, Faculty of Agriculture), Mrs. Dalina Kamaruddin (Senior, Assistant Registrar, School of Business and Economics) and Mr. Ruzaini Tamin (Senior Administrative Assistant).

i-PUTRA shared insights on optimising AIMS scholarships allocation for 34 future receivers to undergo an outbound mobility programme to 9 Asian countries in September 2021. The meeting also discussed the possibility of the AIMS virtual exchange programme and plans for a dedicated webinar to boost awareness about the scholarship opportunity among local undergraduate students.



Figure 2: Online discussion between i-PUTRA and UPM AIMS faculty members that were also a mobility coordinator.

We would like to thank the faculty members for attending the meeting and working together with i-PUTRA to ensure the success of the AIMS UPM mobility programme throughout the years.

## VIRTUAL MEETING WITH GD-GOENKA UNIVERSITY, INDIA

Despite the disruption of the global economy and how we live our daily life due to the pandemic, this does not halt us from continuing our commitment to assist the students. Inline to adapting with the new norm in meeting potential international partners, i-PUTRA have conducted a virtual meeting with one of India's top private university, GD Goenka University which was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021.

The meeting discussed pertinent issue regarding inbound student mobility with a focus on internships up to a year from GD Goenka to UPM in the field of agriculture and engineering. The meeting was attended by the representative from GD-Goenka, Dr. Sahadeva Singh, the Dean, School of Agriculture and Mr. Susanta Bose, the Director of International Partnerships and Student Mobility.

Chairing the fruitful discussion was Prof. Dr. Suhaimi Ab Rahman Director of PUTRA International Centre and attended by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Juwaidah Sharifuddin the Deputy Dean (Academic, Student Affair & Alumni) from the Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. Muhammad Hazwan Hamzah from the Faculty of Engineering, Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr. Hasfalina Che Man, the Deputy Director, Mdm. Noraihan Noordin, 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 from PUTRA International Centre.



Figure 3: The meeting discussing inbound student mobility focusing on internships up to one year from GD Goenka to UPM in the field of agriculture and engineering.

## THE ACT OF GIVING DURING THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADHAN

Ramadan is a special time of reflection, self-awareness and philanthropy. While most people associate Ramadan with fasting and as merry festivities, the celebration is also about the importance of giving back to the community.

This year through The Centre for Management of Waqaf, Zakat and Endowment (WAZAN), PUTRA International Centre Director has been invited to hand over a small donation for our international students who are in need and having financial difficulties. The occasion was held at WAZAN centre together with Dr. Haji Razali Othman, the Director of WAZAN.

We would like to extend our gratitude to WAZAN for looking into international students matters and treated them with kindness, compassion and responsibility. May WAZAN office continue to flourish and maintained as one of UPM's vital entities in many years to come. Giving back to others always brings out the best in people, and Ramadan is a welcomed reminder to remember those less fortunate and continue to give a helping hand to those in need throughout the year.



Figure 4: The Centre for Management of Waqf, Zakat and Endowment (WAZAN), i-PUTRA Director has been invited to hand over a small donation for our international student

## MORE SEMESTER EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES FOR UPM STUDENTS

As we are adapting to the new norm while entering another phase in student mobility, i-PUTRA is now beginning to open prospects to UPM students who are interested to embark on a semester exchange at UPM's partner university physically starting September 2021.

On 30th April, i-PUTRA has taken the opportunity to promote 64 allocations for the semester exchange programme with benefits and scholarships\* which are offered for the year 2021 through a series of webinars. This opportunity was provided by UPM's bilateral partner Jeonbuk National University (JBNU), Korea and the prestigious Asian International Mobility for Students (AIMS) program under the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia which enable students to study in the Asian region under scholarship.

The webinars were divided into two 60-minutes sessions with a specific target audience according to the type of scholarships offered. The webinars consisted of 3 parts which include programme insight, student experience and promotion. In the first webinar entitled An Insight: Semester@JBNU, we invited the mobility coordinator from JBNU, Ms. Yunha Park to explain and provide some insight on the student application to JBNU. We also invited the outbound Alumni, Ms. Nurul Shalihin Basri, from the Faculty of Agriculture who went for semester exchange in JBNU to share her semester exchange experience.

While for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Webinar (AIMS) later in the afternoon, we invited Dr. Fiffy Hanisdah Saikim who is the AIMS Executive Secretary for Malaysia to give a brief introduction and insights on the prestigious AIMS followed by a sharing session by Ms. Siti Maryam Shaharudin, an AIMS scholarship receiver. Each webinar was moderated by Ms. Nadia Zawani Hussin, the Head of Mobility at i-PUTRA and garnered almost 200 viewers on the zoom platform.

We hope through these efforts, the awareness of student mobility increases among students and help them to plan their studies and to experience study abroad. As we all know mobility is an amazing opportunity for students to meet people from all over the world and immerse themselves in an exciting new culture and society. It is also a great way to improve language and communication skills and broaden perspective and outlook on life.



Figure 7: Sharing session slot between JBNU UPM mobility alumni students and Dr. Umi Khalthom Abdul Manaf who are currently in JBNU until spring 2022.

## I-PUTRA EXPAND NEW NETWORKING IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITH UBT

On 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021, i-PUTRA International Centre has taken a proactive initiative in exploring new networking and possibilities in the middle east by having an engagement session with the University of Business and Technology (UBT) in Jeddah Saudi Arabia. The 60 minutes meeting was held via zoom and was hosted by i-PUTRA. Chairing the session is i-PUTRA's Director, Prof. Dr. Suhaimi AB Rahman and joining with Madam Ida Suhaila Md Tahir the Head of Global Engagement, and Miss Nadia Zawani Hussin The Head of Mobility. While from UBT was Dr. Sharifah Fatimah Syed-Ahmad as a lecturer and a Supervisor of the Marketing Department. The fruitful discussion explores possibilities in mobility, joint research, and many more.



Figure 8: Discussion between UBT and UPM chaired by i-PUTRA's Director Prof. Suhaimi Abd. Rahman.



Figure 10: The preliminary meeting was chaired by IISMA's Chairman, Mr. Junaidi

## UPM WAS SHORTLISTED IN INDONESIAN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY AWARDS 2021

It is a great pleasure to announce that UPM has been shortlisted in the Indonesian International Student Mobility Awards 2021 (IISMA) in which UPM shall be receiving inbound Indonesian students with scholarships beginning September 2021 and forth. Among the 3000 applications from all over the world, UPM was selected as the top 5 in Malaysia and competing with another notable university globally.

The first meeting with IISMA 2021 Committee members to discuss students' application procedure and the way forward for the program. The preliminary meeting was chaired by IISMA's Chairman, Mr. Junaidi and the rest of his team. Joining the meeting from UPM is PUTRA International Centre representative is Ms. Nadia Zawani Hussin, the Head of Mobility together with other Malaysian top Public Universities such as UM, USM, UTM, and UKM.

Indonesian International Student Mobility Awards is the scholarship scheme provided by the Government of Indonesia to fund Indonesian students for mobility programs at the top universities overseas. Undergraduate students could spend one semester at the overseas university partner to study, to experience the host country's culture, and undertake practical assignments to hone their skills.

The scheme is centrally managed by the Directorate General of Higher Education (DGHE), Ministry of Education and Culture (MoEC) and is open for undergraduate students from all Indonesian higher education institutions under DGHE.

## NEW NETWORKING WITH ZHENGZHOU UNIVERSITY OF LIGHT INDUSTRY (ZZULI), CHINA

i-PUTRA have once again embarked on a new networking effort, this time with the Zhengzhou University of Light Industry (ZZULI) which is located in the city of Zhengzhou, the capital of Henan Province. Presently the university has evolved into a multi-disciplinary university with a primary focus on engineering, have included other disciplines such as Sciences, Liberal arts, Economics, Management, Law, and Pedagogy.

The University has assumed about 2,000 major scientific research projects including those of the National Natural Science Foundation and Social Science Foundation. 4 projects have been awarded national second prize and more than 100 provincial prizes.

With a high reputation university, UPM has taken the opportunity to bridge the networking via Dato' Seri James Wong consultancy, WTW Training House (M) Sdn Bhd. The fruitful meeting was hosted online via ZOOM on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021, and chaired by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ir. Hasfalina Che Man, the i-PUTRA's Deputy Director. From ZZULI counterpart in attending the meeting is Cao Lingzhi, Dean of International Education College; Meng Li, the Vice Dean of International Education College and Zhao Dan, the Director of Cooperation Programs and Tan Hongling, the Director of International Relations Office.

Together in joining the meeting from i-PUTRA is Prof. Dr. Suhaimi Ab Rahman the Director, Madam Noraihan Noordin the Head of Administration, Madam Ida Suhaila Md Tahir the Head of Global Engagement Section and Miss Nadia Zawani Hussin the Head of Mobility Section.



Figure 11: Discussion between ZZULI, China and UPM chaired by i-PUTRA's Director Prof. Suhaimi AB Rahman

## MORE FUTURE COLLABORATION WITH PHILIPPINES UNIVERSITY

24<sup>th</sup> June 2021, PUTRA International Centre (i-PUTRA) has hosted a new networking session between The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, UPM with the Batangas State University (BatStateU) in exploring future collaborations and opportunities.

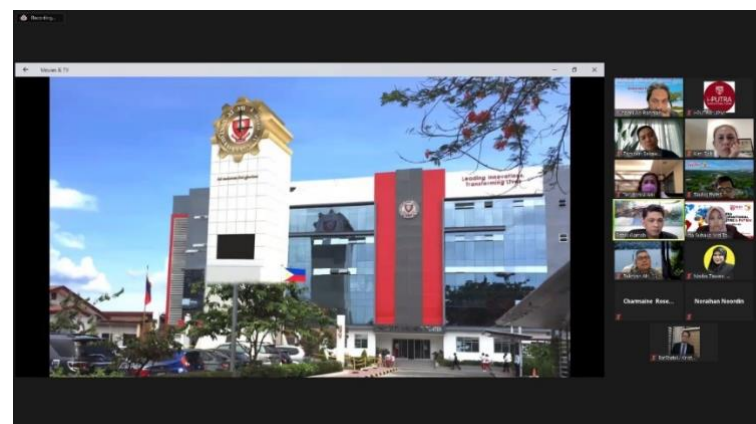


Figure 12: Engr. Edzel M. Gamab, the Director of External Affairs shares a presentation on behalf of BatStateU.

The fruitful meeting was focusing on Nursing Department between universities and looked at the potentials through mobility and joint research efforts. BatStateU is the only state university in the Philippines with engineering and IT programs accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) – Engineering Accreditation Commission and Computing Accreditation Commission. In addition, the university was endorsed by the Regional Development Council as the region's Center for Science, Technology, Engineering and Environment Research; Center for Technology Business Incubation and

Development; Center for Oceanographic Research and Aquatic Life Sciences; Center for Disaster Risk Management Education and Research; and Center for Inclusive Social Innovation for Regional Growth. Not only that the university is also strategically located in the second-largest economic region in the Philippines, which puts it at a prime position not only as a premier provider of higher and advanced learning but also as a viable economic development zone.

The 90 minutes meeting was chaired by Prof. Dr. Suhaimi Ab Rahman, the Director of PUTRA International Centre and attended by Prof. Dr. Zamberi Sekawi, the Dean of Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences; Prof. Dr Soh Kim Lam, the Head of Nursing Department together with i-PUTRA's entourage Prof. Dr. Ir. Hasfalina Che Man, Deputy Director, Madam Noraihan Nordin Head of i-PUTRA, Madam Ida Suhaila Md Tahir The head of Global Engagement and Miss Nadia Zawani Hussin the Head of Mobility.

The representative from BatStateU is the Vice President of Development and External Affairs, Dr. Kristoffer Conrad M. Tejada, Dr. Charmaine Rose I. Trivino, the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Teodorica G.Ani, the Vice Chancellor for Development and External Affairs and Engr. Edzel M. Gamab the Director of External Affairs. The meeting was hosted via ZOOM and ended at 5:00 pm (8+ GMT).

## 27 DAYS MORE TO KOREA!

28<sup>th</sup> June 2021: Happening today is an interactive session between JBNU mobility coordinator Ms. Yunha Park and Ms. Jina Kang with 17 UPMs' undergraduate students who will embark on their semester exchange for the Fall intake 2021 at JBNU. The 60 minutes online session was organized by mobility section i-PUTRA and hosted by the head section of mobility, Ms.Nadia Zawani Hussin. Throughout this interaction, students were given the opportunities to get their queries answered to help them prepare for their travel plans and arrangements which includes, insurance, quarantine, campus life, and etcetera.

JBNU has been receiving more than 20 mobility students from UPM since 2019 and recently the quota has been expanded to 30 students from 15 per semester. Students were given the benefits of free accommodation with 3 meals a day (excluding weekends), in addition, each student was eligible to apply for university financial aid through i-PUTRA before their mobility program.



Figure 13: UPM shall be sending 17 students to JBNU in the Fall Semester 2021

## VIRTUAL ONLINE MEETING WITH IMAM ABDULRAHMAN BIN FAISAL UNIVERSITY (IAU), SAUDI ARABIA

30<sup>th</sup> June 2021, Putra International Centre (i-PUTRA) has hosted a virtual online meeting with Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University (IAU) Dammam, Saudi Arabia in an effort to expand our networking in the United Arab Emirates region. Joining i-PUTRA in this meeting, the representative from the School of Business and Economics (SPE) UPM.

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 fruitful meeting discussed future collaboration between i-PUTRA, SPE and IAU through mobility programmes by exploring potentials and opportunities in having MoU. 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 and joined by Associate Professor Dr. Norashidah Mohamed Nor, the Deputy Dean of Undergraduate and Alumni (SPE) to further discuss with IAU counterpart at the College of Business is Dr. Faisal Al Hudithi, the Dean and Assistant Professor Dr. Adnan Ahmed Latif.



Figure 14: The meeting members between i-PUTRA, SPE and IAU

Also attending the meeting is Dr. Nur Syazwani Mazlan, a lecturer and SPE Mobility Coordinator with Madam Dalina Kamaruddin. The representatives from i-PUTRA includes; Mdm. Noraihan Nordin, Mdm. Ida Suhaila Mat Tahir and Ms. Nadia Zawani Hussin.

## MORE VIRTUAL PROGRAMMES FROM i-PUTRA SOON.

Since the Malaysian boarder is still closed for international students under the category of mobility, PUTRA International Centre (i-PUTRA) have taken the opportunity to design and curate special virtual cultural programmes in collaboration with Faculty of Modern Language and Communications and Centre for The Advancement of Language.

Here, i-PUTRA would like to take the opportunity to invite all international students abroad coming from partner and non-partner university to participate in i-PUTRA in our next virtual programme installations; "Virtual Malay Language and Cultural Programmes" which will be offered for free. The programmes provides 150 slots and activities includes lecture of Malay folklore, literature, traditional dance and Malay dagger introduction and demonstration. The programme will be held at Warisan Museum UPM and conducted by professionals virtually.

For students who is interested, please feel free to browse our website at [intl.upm.edu.my](http://intl.upm.edu.my) and to learn more and pre-book your seat. Or participants may contact our mobility coordinator at [mobility@upm.edu.my](mailto:mobility@upm.edu.my) for futher enquiries.



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