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UPM
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA
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**PUSAT
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PUTRA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE (i-PUTRA)
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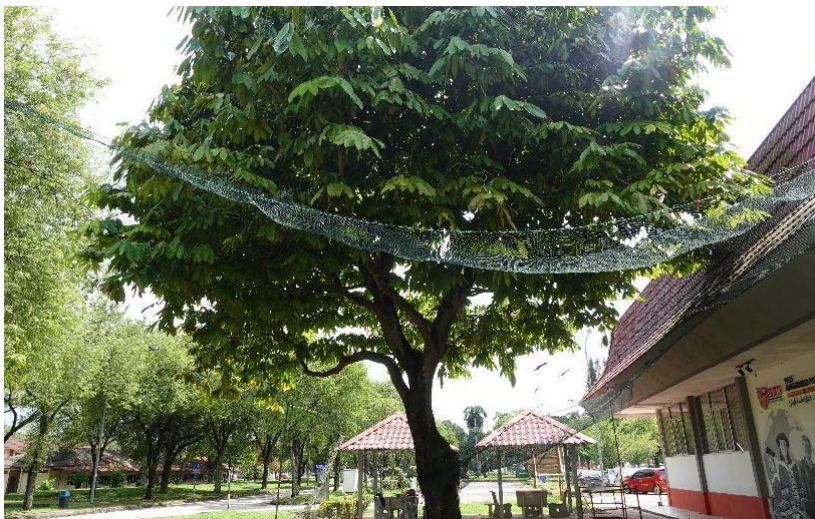
i-PUTRA NEWSLETTER



UNEARTHING THE TALENT, CREATIVITY, AND INNOVATION OF STAFF

"Creativity" and "innovation" are two words that are frequently thrown around during brainstorming sessions to generate ideas, invent something new, and provide solutions to every problem. Creativity unleashes potential, and the creative mind will always turn something into a viable solution.

To provide the best customer experiences, i-PUTRA is constantly thinking about innovation. UPM Service Quality and Innovation Day in 2022 has seen i-PUTRA receive two (2) bronze awards for Projek Inovasi Perkhidmatan (Service Innovation Project) for the Innogreen Project and the e-Tracking Project. The Innogreen Project is a project that supports green sustainability through the idea of the Leaves Collection Project. The idea came up because it took more than one hour for the staff to clean up dry leaves every day.



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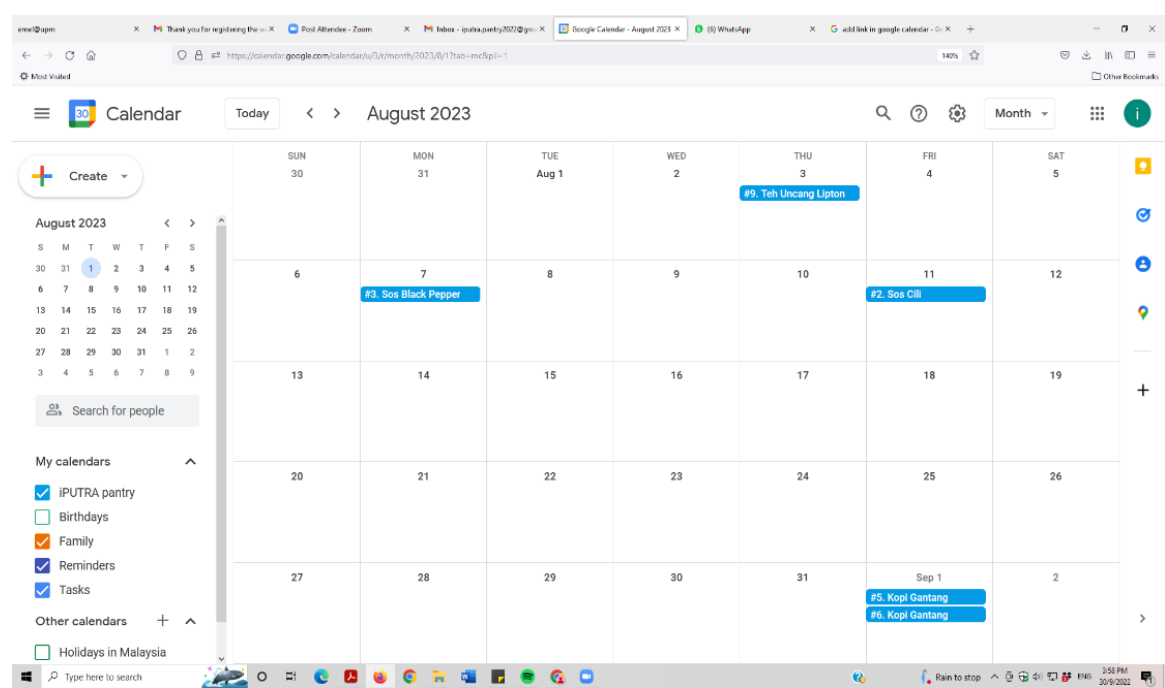
Graphic Editor

Miss Suhana Johan

There are a few big tree trunks that are more than 10 years old in the i-PUTRA yard. They produce a big bunch of dry leaves daily, making the surroundings look cluttered. Through the Leaves Collection Project, cleaning work can be shortened.

The e-Tracking Project was created to improve work quality and customer service. e-Tracking is a mechanism for monitoring emails from registered i-PUTRA customers and is a fast communication medium. The objectives are to enhance customer services, facilitate email monitoring, and reduce the risk of unanswered emails.

Apart from that, i-PUTRA also sent another contribution through the Food Expiration Tracking Project. It was developed to identify the expiration date of food and dry ingredients stored in the refrigerator and pantry. The stored dry ingredients are in large quantities and require monitoring to ensure that they are used before their expiration dates. Purchases can also be controlled, pantry cleanliness can be maintained to reduce food waste, and food poisoning can be avoided.



To sum up, these innovation projects have not only unleashed creative and critical thinking but also fostered a spirit of unity and togetherness. It also allows every staff member to showcase their competency and maximise their potential. We look forward to coming back stronger in 2023!

REMEMBERING 2022 WITH THE BUDDIES ASSOCIATION

Buddies Association UPM held the first physical programme of the year where we took a trip to the historical city of Melaka on 15 October 2022. This trip was successfully joined by 152 committees and participants from many different countries, mainly China, Germany, Austria, France, South Korea, and Indonesia. Our second programme of the year was Buddies Induction, where we welcomed new students into the club. This term, we managed to gather 128 new students into our club through two induction programmes held physically on 28 October 2022 and virtually on 31 October 2022 through the Zoom application.



Image: Melaka Trip



Image: Friday Night Live

There are two signature programmes of the Buddies Association (UPM): Santime and Jom Teh Tarik. Both of these programmes are sharing and storytelling-based events where we invite international and local students to share about their respective countries or states. Santime, where we invite international students to be the speakers, was held on 12 November and 17 December with a total of 57 participants. Meanwhile, Jom Teh Tarik, where local students were invited as speakers, was held on 11 December with a total of 45 participants.

This year, Buddies Association UPM introduced a brand new programme called Friday Night Live where we invite international, Sabahan, and Sarawakian students who stayed on campus during the Christmas holiday to celebrate the holiday together. The activities include a costume contest, performances, a sharing session, a feast, and a gift exchange.

THE LATEST GUIDELINE FOR GETTING INTO MALAYSIA AS OF JANUARY 10, 2023

RETRACTING THE ELECTRONIC VISA APPROVAL LETTER (EVAL) EXTENSION REQUEST

Effective 17th December 2022, all extensions for eVAL requests will not be made available anymore. This is because the Malaysian Immigration Department has been processing eVAL extension requests since 13th July 2020 for international students that were unable to travel to Malaysia upon receiving the initial eVAL approval because of global border closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide.

The extension request was introduced and implemented during the high period of COVID-19 cases, when the whole world was greatly affected by it. It is one of the ways that is deemed possible to help the student who cannot enter Malaysia for study purposes extend the validity of the eVAL so that they can travel to Malaysia accordingly. And after the international border had been reopened, the Immigration Department analysed the extension request and decided to retract it as most of the eVAL had expired, more than 18 months from the date of its approval. This is to ensure that the student will be using the latest eVAL approval date to gain entry into Malaysia.

If an eVAL has expired, education institutions are required to submit a new application and obtain a new eVAL. Kindly note that the respective education institution must ensure that the previous eVAL that was approved by the Malaysian Immigration Department is cancelled before making the new application. The previous eVAL application can be refunded (if it is permissible based on the EMGS refund procedures).

*Source: Education Malaysia Global Service website; latest bulletin (https://educationmalaysia.gov.my/news_update/update-on-the-electronic-visa-approval-letter-eval-extension-request/)

PROGRESSIVE ACHIEVEMENT FOR UPM MOBILITY PROGRAMME

The mobility programme is one of UPM's vital activities that is set up to support universities' achievements and has been given KPIs for many years. Since the pandemic, the year 2022 has seen progressive development, with 1617 inbound students and 239 coming for a physical programme for semester exchange. At the same time, UPM has sent out 1014 UPM students to take part in the outbound programme all over the world.

As we know, the mobility programme provides benefits such as global networking opportunities for students to experience overseas student life, pursue high-quality academic programmes, pick up a new language, experience new cultures, and gain a global network.

PROGRESSIVE ACHIEVEMENT FOR UPM MOBILITY PROGRAMME

Graduate students are encouraged to have extra skills in this day and age, so many initiatives have taken place to provide quality education and international exposure.

The faculties, schools, colleges, student associations, clubs, and language centres in UPM have been working together to encourage mobility participation by organising a number of activities, such as the summer programme, educational visits, exchange semesters, internships, and many more. This effort shows a synergy between offices to achieve university goals.

As 2022 closed its curtain, i-PUTRA too has put an effort into collaborating with our strategic partners, such as partner universities, the Ministry of Higher Education, agents, international associations, and embassies, offering all-year financial incentives to students, and UPM offices, and taking part in international education exhibitions. These engagements are to make sure that UPM holds its place progressively in becoming a university of international repute. May 2023 opens up more opportunities for UPM and allows us to expand mobility programmes for students.



Image: Inbound Semester Exchange student's semester 2 (2021/2022) at the i-PUTRA student farewell party.

"THE VIRTUAL OUTBOUND MOBILITY PROGRAM SHARING SESSION PROVIDES INSIGHT ON THE OUTBOUND MOBILITY EXPERIENCE"

"Broaden your horizons and satisfy your wanderlust through the Outbound Mobility Program."

To support the university's internationalisation efforts and to encourage current UPM students to broaden their horizons by participating in the outbound mobility program, i-PUTRA took the initiative to organise the Outbound Mobility Program Sharing Session, which was held on the 28th of October 2022. The sharing session was organised to provide the current student with an insight into the outbound mobility program.

Three (3) outbound mobility alumni were selected as panellists in the online seminar. The first panellist, Mr. Radhi Amir from the Faculty of Educational Studies, is a UPM Alumni who graduated from UPM in 2022. Throughout his studies at UPM, he has participated in various outbound mobility programs, which have consisted of short-term academic visits, volunteer work, and a semester exchange program.

Without a doubt, the pandemic has posed a significantly different challenge in terms of pursuing physical outbound mobility. Providing their insight on their outbound mobility experience was our second panellist, Ms. Macderine Ovia Dapi from the Faculty of Agriculture, who underwent a semester exchange to Thailand, and our third panellist, Mr. Ubaidullah BadrMrrom from the Faculty of Modern Language and Communication, who went for a short academic visit to South Korea. Around 130 UPM local and international students joined the one-hour sharing session, and the programme concluded with a Q&A session with the panellist.



Image: The promotional poster for the sharing session.

COLLABORATION VISIT FROM AIRLANGGA UNIVERSITY, INDONESIA

14 December 2022 - Airlangga University (AU) made an official visit to the Faculty of Veterinary, UPM, with the purpose of exploring the potential for collaboration on academic mobility and research related to public health, aquaculture, and veterinary science. They are also interested in UPM-Airlangga journals' collaboration through PERTANIKA. Receiving the delegates from UPM is Prof. Dato' Dr. Mohd Azmi Mohd Lila. The Dean Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ts. Nur Azura Adam (Dean of Agriculture), Prof. Dr. Suhaimi Ab Rahman (Director of i-PUTRA), and representatives from the UPM Office

Representing AU are Mrs. Susy Katikana Sebayang (Coordinator of the Collaboration and Partnership Unit and editor-in-chief of the Journal of Public Health Research and Community Health Development), Mr. Aditya Yudhana (Academic Publication, Research, and Community Development), Mr. Fikri Faisal (Faculty Ambassador of the School of Health and Life Sciences and Editor in Chief of the Journal of Medik Veteriner), Mr. Arif Habib Fasya (Collaboration and Partnership Unit Officer of the Aquaculture Study Program), Mrs. Janet Wulandari, and Bintang Gumilang.

The faculty members also took the opportunity to bring the AU team on a short tour of the UPM Teaching Hospital (HPUPM) and the University Veterinary Hospital. The AU Team's arrival at the University Veterinary Hospital was welcomed by the Deputy Dean of the Veterinary University Hospital, Prof. Ts. Dr. Faez Firdaus Jesse Abdullah.

We are delighted to receive the visit from the AU team to our green campus, as they are one of UPM's important partners that are actively undertaking partnerships, especially through the mobility program. Through this opportunity, we look forward to future cooperation between UPM and AU.



i-PUTRA TAKE PART IN ANOTHER MALAYSIA BOOK OF RECORDS THIS YEAR

10 & 11th November 2022 - Putra International Centre, (i-PUTRA) took part in the PUTRA Longest Non-Stop Volunteerism Activities (PUTRALoVa) organised by Co-Curriculum and Student Development Centre (PKPP). Led by Ms. Nadia Zawani Hussin, Head of Mobility Section, i-PUTRA staff contributed skills and creativity through mural project venues at the PKPP building.

The site-specific massive mural was done by i-PUTRA staff, beginning with designing, sketching, and painting it. We manage to pull the effort together by completing a doodle art consisting of icons and images related to skills and development based on themes provided by the organizer. On the last day, the mural was finally completed at 3:00 am, which was a live stream on Facebook.

Mural painting is not just an activity but a platform where people from different backgrounds come together to contribute. This activity indirectly opens channels of communication while working on community development and public art. The new mural has a new look that may entice people to visit it.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in this effort, and congratulations to PKKP for initiating another Malaysia Book of Records project. Kudos to the I-PUTRA team, too, for working tirelessly to ensure that we delivered the best outcome!



THE FAITHFUL ELEPHANT

It is said that there are two elephants who are good friends. a female and another male. Everywhere they go together,

One day, the male elephant fell ill. When the female elephant finds out that the male elephant is sick, she feels very sad. He immediately got a male elephant.

"O male elephant, don't say that." "I will find food for you," said the female elephant.

"You are very kind," the male elephant said with emotion.

"You are also kind to me." "In the past, when my foot was stepped on by a thorn, it was you who healed my foot," said the female elephant. From that day on, it was the female elephants who looked for food for the male elephants. Day after day passed, and the disease of the male elephant was getting worse.

"O female elephant, I think I will leave you forever," said the male elephant.

"Don't say that, oh, male elephant. "You will be cured," said the female elephant.

A few days later, the male elephant died. The female elephant is very sad. For days, the female elephant did not eat or drink. He sat next to the dead male elephant.

Because the female elephant did not eat or drink, she eventually fell ill. The female elephant died one day after being sick for several days. He died by the side of his friend, the male elephant. Such is the story of two elephants who never want to be separated until the end of their lives.

In the beginning, the local residents called the place "Steakawan." Finally, the term "setiakawan"



Source: Himpunan 366 Cerita Rakyat Malaysia. 1995. Utusan Publication & Distributors Sdn Bhd.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP IN MALAYSIA



Image :Islamic house of worship
Mosque/ *Masjid*



Image :Chinese house of worship
Temple or Tokong



Image :Indian house of worship Kuil
Hindu or Mandir

Source: Culture Trip and The World Travel Guy.