

PRESS RELEASE

OPENING CEREMONY OF UiTM-PETRONAS MARINE MATERIALS AND STRUCTURES RESEARCH SITE IN LANGKAWI

PULAU TUBA, 21 FEBRUARY 2023 – The Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Professor Datuk Ts. Dr Hajah Roziah Mohd Janor today officiated the opening of Engineered Marine Material and Structures (EM2AS) UiTM-PETRONAS Research Site held at Chalet Terapung Bestuba, Pulau Tuba, Langkawi. This research site is a collaborative project by researchers from the College of Engineering UiTM, the Institute for Infrastructure Engineering and Sustainable Management (IIESM) UiTM, the Marine Research and Excellence Centre (MAREC) UiTM, and the National Petroleum Limited (PETRONAS) in collaboration with Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) and Koperasi Komuniti Kepulauan Tuba & Selat Berhad (KOPTUBAS). The project was funded by the PETRONAS-Academia Collaboration 2021 Grant led by Professor Dr Aidah Jumahat from UiTM under the supervision of a Project Leader from PETRONAS Research Sdn Bhd (PRSB), Mr Alan Yin Liong Leong.

The research project is aimed at exploring the usage of natural materials and resources, waste materials, and recyclable materials for the development and construction of new structures, building materials, and maintaining and repairing damaged structures caused by marine life and seawater environment. The research also covers microbiology research, the formation of soft and hard layers of "fouling" on the material's surface, the strength and resistance of marine structural materials and their use on land, over seawater or in seawater. The project has the full support and cooperation of the LADA management led by Ir. Khairul Nizam Yusoff, who proposed several locations around the Tuba straits and islands, namely Teluk Bujur, Jambatan Pulau Tuba and Jeti Kilim.

According to the Vice-Chancellor of UiTM, Professor Datuk Ts. Dr Hajah Roziah Mohd Janor, the objective of the programme is to create a platform for the exchange of ideas and knowledge between local and international researchers, entrepreneurs, academics, as well as the industry in discussing the latest findings in the context of global sustainability, as well as strengthening research collaboration between researchers from the UiTM College of Engineering Studies with the industry and government agencies. "In line with the country's aspiration to boost research undertakings and nation development, UiTM has proactively

implemented programmes and activities that will promote high-impact research across a wide range of expertise."

"I believe that this programme will provide reciprocal benefits to all parties, as well as provide a clear picture to academics on the needs of the industry, as well as enable the industry to identify experts or researchers at the university who can contribute to empowering industry outcomes and thus promote innovation and growth in the field of technology and engineering in particular, " the Vice-Chancellor explained.

Prof. Datuk also believes that this academic and industry collaboration can meet the requirements of MySTIE's 10-10 framework, which combines S&T and socio-economic drivers as the main drivers of national development, and even partnerships with researchers on the latest discoveries, new products, *Entiti Kecemerlangan* (EK or Entities of Excellence) and Research Interest Group (RIG) can potentially lead to collaborations and research fundings.

The ceremony was also attended by Deputy Vice-Chancellors from both Public and Private universities in Malaysia in tandem with the Corporate Social Responsibility Programme with the local community at Pulau Tuba and with cooperation from KOPTUBAS's Chairman, En. Mohd Fadzlan Nor.

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About UiTM

[Universiti Teknologi MARA \(UiTM\)](#) is the largest comprehensive university in Malaysia providing innovative education with state-of-the-art infrastructure and technology within reach at its 34 campuses, 4 colleges of studies, 13 faculties, and 9 academic centres all over the country.

UiTM offers over 500 academic programmes at Foundation, Pre-Diploma, Diploma, Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD levels, as well as Professional Programmes. It continues to expand access to higher education, playing its role in nation-building by unleashing potentials and shaping the future.

Amongst its long list of recent accolades, UiTM is ranked 105th in the QS Asia University Rankings 2022, placed 651–700 in the QS World University Rankings 2022, and was ranked 361-380 for QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2023 and 4th in Malaysia. The Hospitality and Leisure Management subject was placed 42nd best in the world, and overall, 14 UiTM subjects are ranked in the QS World University Rankings by Subject. Moreover, UiTM was in the 101-200th position in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2022 and is the proud recipient of the 3G SDGs Championship Award 2022. In June 2022, UiTM received the Reader's Digest Trusted Brand Gold Award for the 12th time in the public university category and for the first time, UiTM was bestowed The BrandLaureate BestBrands Awards 2022 – the Nation's Pride Higher Education. The university ranked 150th in the UI GreenMetric (UIGM) World University Rankings 2021 and won gold for the Best International Print-Ads at the QS APPLE Creative Awards 2020.

With over 900,000 alumni in science, technology, humanities, and entrepreneurship, UiTM offers opportunities to shape leaders at national, industry, and global levels and is well poised to become a globally renowned university by 2025.

Media Enquiries

Senior Director
Communications Department
Universiti Teknologi MARA
Email: bkk@uitm.edu.my
Tel: +603 5544 2022