

# PEKAN REVIEW

Bridging Universiti Malaysia Pahang to the world community



Universiti  
Malaysia  
PAHANG

Engineering • Technology • Creativity

PM'S WIFE LAUNCHES  
**WE CARE**  
**"WHAT'S MY SIN?"**  
CAMPAIGN AT UMP

**PRIME  
MINISTER**

LAUNCHES UMP  
GREEN TECH PROJECT



VICE-CHANCELLOR LAUNCHES  
**UMP'S 2011-2015  
STRATEGIC PLANNING**

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PM's Visit Spurs Development Progress In UMP Pekan Campus.



PM Launches UMP Green Tech Project



Vice-Chancellor launches UMP's 2011-2015 Strategic Planning



PM's wife launches **We Care** "What's My Sin?" campaign at UMP

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## ▶▶ Pekan Review



### **Greetings and Salam 1Malaysia!**

Foremost is my bountiful gratitude to the editorial team for their tireless effort and priceless contribution of ideas and creativity to this bi-annually magazine, in true alignment with promoting the spirit of Pekan Review's mission to bridge our beloved university to the rest of the world.

A special focus of the present edition is our feature on the auspicious visit by Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak to UMP Pekan for the very first time since the commencement of campus' operation and his premiership.

Dato' Sri Najib debut visit has visibly injected a strong spirit of enthusiasm, entrenching further an undeniable sense of belonging in UMP communities to continue to excel in the global academia.

What made the trip more memorable was Dato' Sri Najib's graciousness to officially launch UMP's Green Technology Project, initiated by our Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation) Professor Dato' Dr Rosli Mohd Yunus.

This edition of Pekan Review also features the revitalized version of UMP's Vision and Mission, as prolifically outlined by our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Daing Ibrahim, during his annual commissioning address earlier in the year.

In UMP's 2011-2015 Strategic Planning, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir emphasized the need for transformative approach, attitude migration and strategic alignment of our efforts to elevate UMP to become a world-class first choice technological university within the next five years.

As the university strives further to lead and offer the best facility and expertise there is to the various industries, in accordance with its 2011-2015 Strategic Planning, UMP was recently honored with the accreditations of ISO 14001:2004 for Environmental Management System; OHSAS 18001:2007 for Health & Safety Management System; and MS 1722:2005 Part 1 of the Chemical & Microbiology Testing Laboratory at the Faculty of Chemical Engineering & Natural Resources. These accreditations speak volume of the quality assurance the university strongly advocates to encourage industries to conduct product testing here at UMP.

Last, but not least, with the publication of Pekan Review Volume 4, we hope that readers would have gotten to know our beloved university a little better and be pleased with the articles featured thus far.

It is also hoped that the articles have helped our readers benefit in more perspectives than one as you endeavor to enrich your knowledge bank.

Again, thank you, from the bottom of our hearts – and enjoy reading!





# Vice-Chancellor's Voice

## UMP: IT'S TIME TO TRANSFORM AND MIGRATE FOR A BETTER POSITIONING

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Greetings to all readers,

How times fly. We are already half way through 2011 and yet we have achieved more than we expected. Congratulations to all the hard-working and ambitious UMPians.

With the launching of the UMP Strategic Plan 2011-2015 in late January, a new breed of high prestige workforce with a culture of excellence is gunning its way in striving for success.

Inspiring to be the first choice technological university, UMP has taken an innovative approach by introducing a High Performance Team in helping implement the agendas of its strategic plan.

To transform, we have to be able to migrate from ordinary to extraordinary and the journey might not be smooth all the way. Having a strong mind and resilience, we could achieve many great things.

AND WE DID!. We have high end Centralised Laboratory that will spur research and testing activities in accommodating the industries in the east coast region. We succeeded with our MAI-UMP Apprenticeship Industrial Attachment in providing skillful workforce in Tooling & Manufacturing Engineering, Technology Development and Component Testing. We have launched our first ICT Business Centre that will generate income to the university, and the list goes on and on. But all in all we are on the right track of becoming the ultimate choice in the technological field.

Transformation requires a rapid shift in the mindset and to think outside the usual and I challenge all UMPians to prove that we definitely can do it. This is the right time to transform and migrate for a better positioning.

Good Day and Best Regards,

**Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim**  
**Vice-Chancellor**  
**Universiti Malaysia Pahang**





# PM'S WIFE LAUNCHES **WE CARE** "WHAT'S MY SIN?" CAMPAIGN AT UMP

**I**nstitutions of higher learning (IPT) should shoulder the role of nurturing undergraduates to excel not only in academic, but holistically, in life as well, said the Prime Minister's wife, Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansur, at the launching of the "We Care - What's My Sin?" campaign at the Sports Complex of Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP).

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"The knowledge acquired at the tertiary level should encompass the effort to MoUld the undergraduates into becoming a noble society. Academic knowledge should also be balanced with the non-academic's," emphasized Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah at the campaign launch on January 24, 2011. She said what was becoming worrisome of late was the fact that an increasing number of youth and teenagers have been caught in the baby-dumping criminal and immoral activities, when matter of fact, these are the generations the country was counting

on to lead and spearhead future national development and social well-being.

She further highlighted that probably due to the stress caused by economic pressures and costs of modern living, many parents have inadvertently neglected their parental priorities of raising their children responsibly.

Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah said the society should now bear the responsibility to ensure that the matrimonial and filial institutions be fortified in order to give birth to ethical and morally strong future generations.

On that note, she lauded the commitment showed by the university, the Ministry of Higher Education and UMP's Women Organization (Matahari) on the initiatives taken to combat social ills and baby-dumping activities by conducting the "We Care - What's My Sin?" campaign at the IPT level.

Minister of Women, Family & Community Development, Senator Dato' Sri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, who was present



to witness the launching said IPT denizens should translate their awareness of the critical issues concerning child abuse and baby-dumping into concerted efforts to help alleviate the nation of social ills.

She hoped such a campaign could disseminate the message of and be the catalyst to the implementation of the Child Protection Policy at the school, tertiary and public levels.





Meanwhile, in his welcoming address, UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Daing Ibrahim said the university took pride in being able to work hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Women, Family & Community Development to propagate the campaign.

Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir said the campaign at the IPT level has been largely promulgated by the Students'

Council.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, UMP has also taken the initiative to compose a special song for the campaign in its commitment to engage the community at large to work together in combatting the rising social ills and baby-dumping activities of late.

At the official launching ceremony, Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah was gracious

to present prizes to winners of the Poem Competition 2011 (public IPT level) – the top spot went to Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) with the poem entitled "Takut"; second place went to Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia with "Seperti Inikah Dunia?"; third place to Universiti Malaya ("Suratan Lara"); fourth to Universiti Teknikal Malaysia (UTeM) Melaka and fifth to UMP.

To enliven the campaign, an educational and awareness exhibition was jointly organized by the National Anti-Drug Agency, National Family & Community Development Board and Pahang State Department of Education. A talk show with celebrities of the reality television show "Imam Muda", Asraf and Akhil Hayy, was also held.

Organized for the first time at UMP, the campaign received warm support and cooperation from media partners like Utusan Malaysia and Astro, as well as artistes association Karyawan. The one-year long campaign will see a variety of programmes to be jointly conducted by the university's Students Council and Matahari.



# PM'S VISIT SPURS DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS IN UMP PEKAN CAMPUS

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Prime Minister Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak made an official visit to Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) permanent campus in Kuala Pahang on March 12, 2011.

It was his first visit to the campus which was attended by more than 4,000 UMP staff, students and residents living in Pekan and Kuantan.

Dato' Sri Mohd Najib also took the opportunity to check the site's progress that would house three faculties – Electric and Electronics Engineering, Faculty of Mechanical





Engineering Faculty of and Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering Faculty.

He said UMP would become a conducive, cheerful and sustainable campus resort as the second stage of planning was based on tourism concept.

The campus is located in Kuala Pahang that follows through Tanjung Gosong shoreline up to Lagenda Beach.

The Prime Minister also witnessed the exchange of documents between UMP and Urban Environmental Industries Sdn. Bhd. as well as UMP and Pahang State Development Corporation (PKNP).

The deal with PKNP involved UMP purchasing 30 units of houses at Batu Empat, Peramu Jaya which would be turned into UMP Park.

Also present were Higher Education Minister, Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, Menteri Besar, Dato' Sri

Diraja Haji Adnan Haji Yaakob, UMP Vice-Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim and Urban Environmental Industri Sdn.. Bhd..'s Chief Executive Officer Thomas Thang.

At end of the visit, the Prime Minister announced a grant of more than RM110 million meant for the main Administration Complex, Communication And Information Technology Centre, Human Science and Modern Language Centre and hostels to accommodate some 2,000 undergraduates.

He also announced that an allocation would be set aside to construct a new, two-kilometre road from Peramu that would lead to UMP.

UMP staff and students were indeed very fortunate and honoured with the visit by the Prime Minister which provided the boost to further drive development of UMP Pekan Campus.





## PM LAUNCHES UMP GREEN TECH PROJECT

This project, situated at a four-acre factory in the Gebeng Industrial Area, has the capacity to process a maximum of 40 tonnes of oil daily.

**M**alaysia Prime Minister, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, paid Universiti Malaysia Pahang's (UMP) Pekan Campus an official visit on March 12, 2011, to launch the university's green technology project, involving the development of the base oil extraction technology to recycle used lubricant oil.

The project is currently being undertaken by the university's subsidiary, UMP Green Technology Sdn. Bhd., in collaboration with Urban Environmental Industries Sdn. Bhd..

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According to UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Daing Ibrahim, the product of this green technology project could be the answer and one of the solutions to prevent further deterioration of mother earth, arising from fossil fuel burning, which has resulted in environmental pollutions.

"The development of this green technological advancement will surely boost the quality and quantity of existing products relying on age-old technology," said Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir.

"This project, situated at a four-acre factory in the Gebeng Industrial Area, has the capacity to process a maximum of 40 tonnes of oil daily.

"With such a project, it will certainly help various industries – fishery, automotive, maritime and oil disposal – from dispensing the used lubricant oil into the ocean, sea, river or streams," said the Vice-Chancellor.

"What used to be looked upon as an environmental pollutant, can now be considered an economic resource generator, which could prove really fruitful," he said, adding that this new green technology could spare us the long time-dependence on fossil fuel.

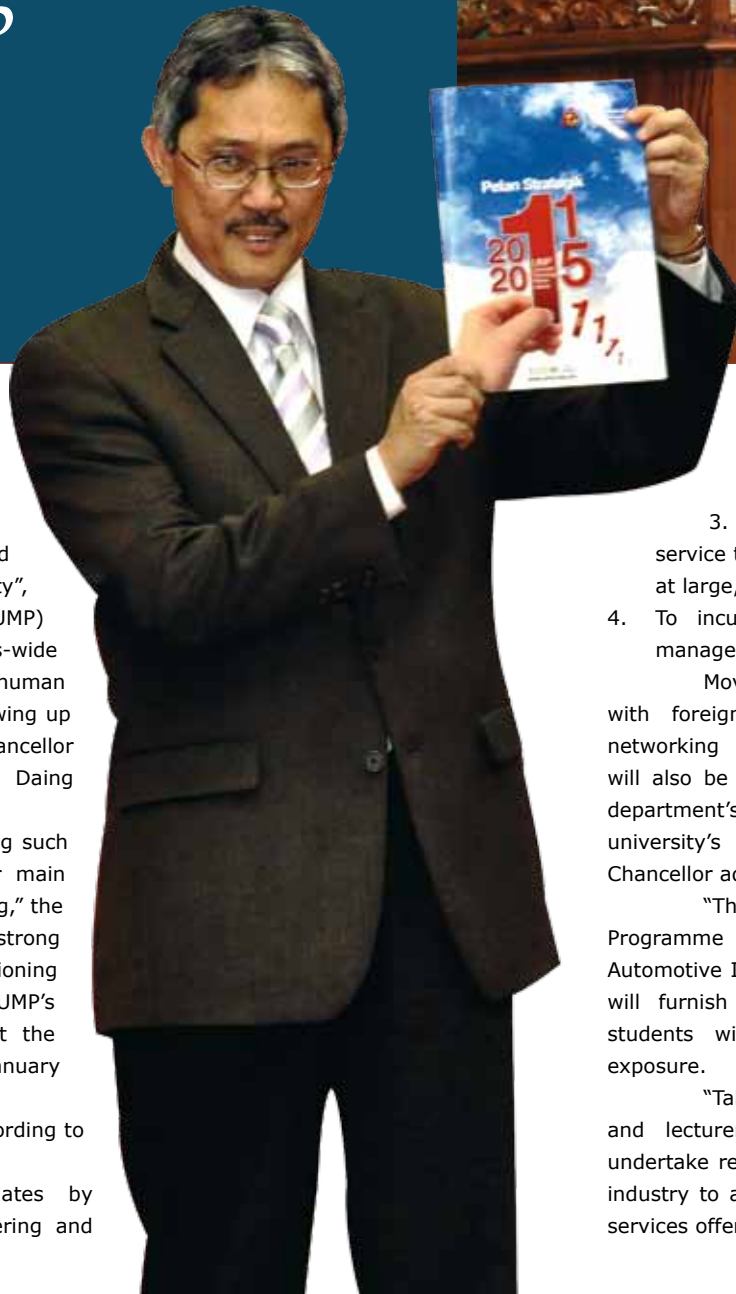
"It could also help elevate the good name of the country's lubricant oil industry and propagate employment opportunities for the local masses.

At the launching ceremony, the Prime Minister was privy to witness the exchanging of collaboration documents between UMP and Urban Environmental.

UMP was represented by Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir whilst Chief Executive Officer, Thomas Thang stood in for Urban Environmental.

# Vice-Chancellor launches UMP's 2011-2015 Strategic Planning

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**W**ith a long-term vision to become the "first choice world class technological university", Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) has to execute a holistic campus-wide transformation, a migration of human capital attitude and a careful drawing up of strategic planning, said Vice-Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Daing Ibrahim.

"And parallel to achieving such a vision, we have outlined four main objectives in our strategic planning," the Vice-Chancellor said to the 5,000-strong attendees at his annual commissioning address and the official launch of UMP's 2011-2015 Strategic Planning at the university's Sports Complex on January 25.

The four objectives, according to Professor Dato' Dr Daing, were:

1. To produce skillful graduates by offering competitive engineering and

technology programmes.

2. To spearhead industry-related research initiatives.
3. To provide excellent service to the industry and community at large, and
4. To inculcate effective and efficient management work culture

Moving forward, smart partnership with foreign universities and cohesive networking with the various industries will also be a part of every faculty's and department's focus to carry out the university's strategic planning, the Vice-Chancellor added.

"The Graduate Attachment Programme secured with the Malaysian Automotive Institute recently, for example, will furnish the automotive engineering students with the necessary industrial exposure.

"Taking cue from this, students and lecturers alike will also have to undertake research collaborations with the industry to add value to the products and services offered," he emphasized.



With such a vision in mind, the university has also identified four key result areas (KRAs) to elevate its strategic positioning – namely academic quality upgrade, financial perpetuity, socio-economic development and branding



“With such a vision in mind, the university has also identified four key result areas (KRAs) to elevate its strategic positioning – namely academic quality upgrade, financial perpetuity, socio-economic development and branding,” said Professor Dato’ Dr. Daing.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, these four KRAs will eventually help UMP distinguish itself from the cluster of other engineering institutions of higher learning, in terms of four offerings – namely academic programme, research facility, consultancy and publication.

Similar KRAs in the last nine years have lent a hand for UMP to evolve in two major phases – laying the groundwork to be accredited as a technical university; and the strengthening of such foundation to breed excellence, he added.

Accounting for the four objectives and four KRAs, the drawing up of UMP’s 2011-2015 Strategic Planning also took into consideration the university’s present pool of achievements, a review of the National Higher Education Strategic Planning, 1Malaysia concept and the Government Transformation Programme.

At the same event, Professor Dato’ Dr. Daing presented letters of appointment to his deputies and assistant facilitate the realization of UMP’s KRAs – Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz to spearhead efforts in upgrading the quality of academic programmes; Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato’ Dr Rosli Mohd Yunus to facilitate financial perpetuity; and Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin to lead socio-economic development.



## UMP CELEBRATES INDUSTRY'S CONTRIBUTION WITH AN APPRECIATION NIGHT

event in Hilton Hotel in Kuala Lumpur on April 2, 2011, the Director-General of the Department of Higher Education at the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), Professor Dr Rujhan Mustafa, said human capital development in the country is an equally important role for MOHE.

"One such instance, MOHE's National Strategic Planning of Higher Education has placed the employability of graduates as a critical agenda, with a 75 percent target of employment within the first six months upon completion of studies," said Professor Dr Rujhan, adding that he believed, establishing a close bond with the industry will help UMP achieve such a target.

"UMP has laid down a complementing strategic planning, not only to ensure employment of its graduates within the country, but I was made to understand, that even a number of them have secured jobs with multinational companies abroad," he said.

Meanwhile, according to UMP's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Daing Ibrahim, over the years, the university has received tremendous support from the industry through collaborations in research, staff development training and student industrial training.

"Thankfully, these initial

**U**niversiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) held, for the first time ever, a UMP-Industry Appreciation Dinner & Award Night, in a show of appreciation to the various industries which have contributed to the university's academic development programme, research collaboration and product commercialization, as well as industrial training placements.

Themed "*UMP-Industry: Towards Synergistic & Sustainable Partnership*", the event was organized by UMP's Department of Academic & International Affairs, in close cooperation with the University-Industry Centre and the Department of Student Affairs & Alumni.

In his officiating address at the

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collaborations have continued to expand and have now encompassed several other sectors, including automotive, green technology and information & communications technology.”

At the event, guests witnessed the presentation of Special Recognition Award to Tenaga Nasional Bhd., Telekom Malaysia, Auto Part Manufacturers Co. Sdn.. Bhd., Panasonic AVice-Chancellor Network Johor and Petronas Carigali Sdn.. Bhd.. for their cooperation in placing UMP students’ industrial training.

Perusahaan Otomobil Kedua Sdn.. Bhd.. (Perodua) received a similar award for its contribution of 13 robots, worth some RM2.3 million, for UMP’s industry-based teaching and learning programme. Perodua is also the university’s industrial partner in a green technology project.

Other award recipients were Sapura Industrial Bhd., Malaysia Automotive Institute, IBM Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. and HeiTech Padu Bhd..

Elaborating on the extensive

university-industry collaboration, Professor Dato’ Daing Nasir said, UMP has recently gone on to foster stronger ties with HeiTech Padu and IBM, with the founding of an Academic Initiative Centre of Excellence, the first of its kind in the country.

“The Centre will focus on the development of specific skills using technology from IBM, thus producing graduates who will be both knowledgeable and highly-skilled to meet the industrial demands for information technology (IT) development,” he said.

Aside from IT, UMP has also embarked on a green technology project – the recycling of used lubricants using extraction technology – with the collaboration of Urban Environmental Industries Sdn.. Bhd.. The project was officially launched by the Prime Minister, Dato’ Sri Mohd Najib Tun Razak, during his visit to Pekan, Pahang, recently.





## UMP CELEBRATES AT CENDEKIA BITARA AWARD NIGHT

**F**or the third consecutive year, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)

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held its Cendekia Bitara Award Night to confer due recognition to its denizens who excel in the fields of research, publication, creativity and quality.

Themed "Water for Life", this year's Cendekia Bitara saw seven categories awarded – Personality, Publication (Journal), Publication (Book), Research Product, Creativity, Quality and Patent.

The award presentation ceremony – which was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Kuantan, Pahang, on April 17, 2011 – was graced by the Pahang State Chief Executive, Dato' Sri Diraja Adnan Yaakob

In his address, Dato' Sri Adnan took pride in the university's progress and expressed his hopes that UMP researchers would continue to carry out research activities that will directly benefit the community and contribute to nation-building.

He went on to call upon UMP researchers to lend their expertise and cooperate with government leaders to address the many issues plaguing the fields of science and technology.

Meanwhile, UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Daing Ibrahim said, research, development and commercialization (RDC) have been emphasized as one of the critical agenda in UMP's 2011-2015 Strategic Planning as the university aspires to spearhead the latest

initiatives in industry-related researches.

On that note, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir said he was proud of the accomplishment made by the Lestari Project, known as Phytogreen, which has proceeded to the commercialization phase, with the assistance and collaboration of Ranhill Water Services Sdn. Bhd..

"UMP researcher from the Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources (FKASA), Abdul Shukur Abdul Razak, did the university proud when he successfully developed a cost-effective eco-friendly wastewater recycling system. The system demonstrates how best wastewater can be recycled for the benefit of the public at large," highlighted the Vice-Chancellor.

"Towards that end, UMP has initiated talks with the State Economic Planning Unit to establish a centralized testing laboratory, to be launched in June," he said.

"This laboratory will provide the best available services in the East Coast of peninsula, offering testing capabilities on chemical and biotechnological materials," he added.

At the presentation ceremony, Associate Professor Dr Mimi Sakinah Abdul Munaim from the university's Faculty of



Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering (FKKSA) was conferred two Cendekia Bitara awards – Personality and Research Product. She took home RM10,000 cash and certificate of appreciation for each award in recognition for her internationally accredited researches – one of which won her the “Best Woman Inventor” accolade from the World Intellectual Property Organization, for her project to produce sorbitol, a sugar substitute, from sawdust.

With the awards to her credit, she was recently selected to head three research projects under the sponsorships of the Ministry of Higher Education, and



the Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation.

A second Research Product Award went to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato' Dr Rosli Mohd Yunus, who also bagged RM10,000 cash and a certificate of appreciation, for his “Recycling of Base Oil from Spent Lubricant” research, using extraction technology to help reduce environmental pollution.

Associate Professor Dr Mimi Sakinah's FKKSA compatriot, Associate Professor Dr Hayder A Abdul Bari, took the third Research Product Award for his research activity using aloe vera plant as a drag reducing agent for liquids transportation through pipelines.

Associate Professor Dr Zularisam Abdul Wahid, who hailed from UMP's FKASA, also received the Research Product Award, for his research project entitled “Development of Clean Renewable Fuel from Wastewater towards a Sustainable Energy Source using Green Technology Approach: HEC2”.

The Creativity Award went to a team of trio from the Department of Research & Innovation – Datin Fazia Ali, Muhammad Ilzam Jamat and Mohd Khairulnazri Saidi – whose exhibition booth design has won them recognitions at national and international expositions.

For the Publication (Journal) category, the recipients were Dr Ahmed Mohamed Ahmed Haidar, Dr Chong Fui Chin,

Sunarti Abd Rahman, Professor Dr Jose Rajan, Fadhlur Rahman Mohd Romlay and Professor Dr Korada Viswanatha Sharma.

Also present to celebrate the momentous night were UMP's Chairman of the Board of Directors, Dato' Mohd Hilmei Mohd Taib, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dr Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz.





**U**niversiti  
Malaysia  
Pahang  
(UMP) has  
recently

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upgraded its Oracle 11gR2 database and the information infrastructure applications system, *Oracle Real Application Cluster (RAC)*, in line with the university's requirements to enhance its information technology (IT) capability and ensure its long-term viability and effectiveness.

The upgraded facility will not only benefit the university's 7,000-strong scholarly community, but also the general public and prospective students, allowing them a simpler and quicker access to UMP's website.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Daing Ibrahim, other than the database and applications system, the upgrading project would also involve hardware improvement, i.e. replacing old equipment with new ones.

Since 2003, UMP has put into practice an Integrated Management System (IMS) in its operations, employing *e-Community* applications like Financial

## UMP UPGRADES IT APPLICATIONS SYSTEM

IMS, Human Resources IMS and academic portals.

"The implementation of a wide range of IT applications system has resulted in increased productivity and time-savings in our delivery system and services," said Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir at a document exchange ceremony with Oracle Corporation Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. at the university's Chancellory Banquet Hall on April 15.

At the ceremony, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dr Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz, and Acting Director of the Centre of Information & Communications Technology, Roslan Awang Abdul Rahman, received upgrading certification documents from Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir for Academic IMS and e-Community application, respectively.

This implementation has given UMP a sense of firewalled security of the

This implementation has given UMP a sense of firewalled security of the real-time data and information gathered by the university

real-time data and information gathered by the university.

"The successful completing of this upgrading project reflected a positive response to our ongoing efforts to boost UMP's efficiency and competitiveness." he added.

Oracle Corporation Malaysia Senior Sales Manager, Juharimi Hasan, expressed his hopes that the company's bilateral collaboration with UMP will assist the country in human capital development, especially in producing professional engineers.





The Chemical & Microbiology Testing Laboratory (Chemital) at Universiti Malaysia Pahang's (UMP) Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering (FKKSA) recently received its international accreditation when it was certified to have complied with international standards ISO 14001:2004 for Environmental Management.

Chemital also became the first laboratory to be integrated with the Safety & Health Management Systems OHSAS 18001:2007 and MS 1722:2005 Part 1. Last year, similar certifications were awarded to the Civil Engineering laboratories.

The certifications were awarded under the Malaysian Laboratory Accreditation Scheme for sample testing services based on two main subject matters – namely chemical and microbiology.

In microbiology, Chemital can now carry out testing of cosmetic, traditional and personal hygiene products. With these certifications, small and medium enterprises can now apply to utilize Chemital facility and expertise.

According to UMP Vice-Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Daing Ibrahim, the international accreditation was in line with the university's 2011-2015 Strategic Planning to develop UMP as a leader in industrial services offering, providing the required facilities and expertise at the university.

## UMP CHEMICAL LAB GETS INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION

Research & Innovation

"To the industries, the certifications meant an undoubted guarantee of quality and safe product testing.

"Additionally, the aspect of safety of university employees and students in managing dangerous chemical testing at the laboratories is also emphasized and assured here," said the Vice-Chancellor at the ISO and IMS certificates presentation ceremony held at the Banquet Hall of the Chancellery Building in Gambang on April 12, 2011.

Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir also expressed his hopes that the certifications will be the stimulus for other faculties to follow suit – in getting professional bodies' accreditations – to supplement the university's efforts to foster close relationship with the industries and to generate alternative financial resources.

The accreditations will give a boost of confidence to external parties, especially related industries, to utilize the university's laboratory services, he added.

Concurring with the Vice-Chancellor's statements, the Director of Accreditation Division of the Department of Standards Malaysia, Shahrul Sadri Alwi, was all praise for the efforts undertaken by UMP to become the preferred university and the leader in serving the industry and community at large with its array of expertise.

"UMP has taken a step in the right direction by getting its laboratories accredited. This effort will ensure quality testing for the university students to produce researches of equivalent standard, leading to offering the best available services to industries and external parties," Shahrul said.

At the ceremony, Dean of FKKSA, Associate Professor Zulkafli Hasan was on hand to receive the MS ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and IMS (OSHAS:2007) certificates from Shahrul and NIOSH Certification Sdn.. Bhd.. Director, Dr Sharudin Shari, respectively.

# UMP, NIU FORGED A COOPERATION, OFFERING ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY



graduates or technologists who meet the needs required by the job market.

"UMP has taken positive steps in exploring the opportunities together with universities abroad in meeting the objectives outlined by the ministry by forging the cooperation with Northern Illinois University (NIU).

"We pick NIU because it has vast experience in technology engineering-based programmes which are implemented by College of Engineering and Engineering Technology (CEET). It is recognized by the US certification body," he said.

He added that the cooperation would indirectly help UMP to add more values on its engineering technology programmes to be offered next year.

It would also give more

**U**niversiti  
Malaysia  
Pahang  
(UMP)  
created

*Forging a  
Cooperation*

history when it signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Northern Illinois University (NIU), in offering an engineering technology programme, on May 20, 2011 at De Kalb Illinois, US.

UMP was represented Vice-Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and International) Professor Dr Badhrulhisham Abd Aziz while NIU, by Executive Vice-President, Dr Raymond W.Alden III and Associate Provost, International Programme, Dr Deborah Pierce. Also present was Higher Education Minister, Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin.

Dato' Dr Daing Nasir said the MoU



met the objective set by the ministry for each university member of the Malaysia Technical University Network (MTUN) to place a target of offering 60% technology programmes and 40% of engineering programmes by 2015.

"The programs offered are in line with the Malaysian Government's aspirations and initiatives in producing more able and competent engineering

added values to engineering technology programmes offered via curriculum development and joint courses to ensure that these courses would receive recognition from the international body - American Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).

Also present was Higher Education Department Deputy Director General Professor Dr Morshidi Sirat and NIU top management.



# UMP, TM Seal MoU To Launch Metro-E, Wi-Fi



Over 6,000 students are expected to benefit from easy and quicker access to the Internet 24-7 on-campus. This is hoped to facilitate a better teaching and learning environment for both students and academic staff.

Mohamed Zamzam and Vice-President of Sales (Government Sector), Hamdan Ismail.

In his address, Dato' Kairul Annuar said under the Digital Campus project, TM will connect UMP two campuses vide a high-speed fibre optic network.

"With TM 40Mbps Metro-E and TM Wi-Fi, UMP is the first university in the East Coast to covet the Digital Campus status," he said.

At the same ceremony, Dato' Kairul Annuar presented a corporate contribution of RM10,000 to the university's 1Malaysia Fund meant to help students who require financial assistance to pursue their tertiary studies.



Also present to witness the two ceremonies were TM Pahang General Manager, Md Rasidin Kadak; Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Students' Affair & Alumni), Professor Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin; Registrar, Haji Mustafa Ibrahim; Acting Director of Centre of Information Technology & Communications, Roslan Awang Abdul Rahman; and UMP 1Malaysia Club President, Abang Fairul Syarmil Abang Mohammad.

## Collaboration

**U**niversiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) and Telekom Malaysia Bhd..

(TM) recently marked another historical milestone when the two sealed a memorandum of understanding (MoU), with the latter agreeing to provide Metro-Ethernet (Metro-E) and wireless broadband (Wi-Fi) access services, connecting the two UMP campuses in Gambang and Pekan.

The MoU, aimed at developing Internet broadband access at UMP, was signed on February 11, 2011, at the university's Banquet Hall at the Chancellery Building in Gambang.

Over 6,000 students are expected to benefit from easy and quicker access to the Internet 24-7 on-campus. This is hoped to facilitate a better teaching and learning environment for both students and academic staff.

According to the university's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Daing Ibrahim, the UMP-TM collaboration will enhance the ability of students and

researchers alike to access online articles, electronic books, journals and cyberspace electronic databases.

"Although the distance between UMP two campuses in Gambang and Pekan is only 60km, Metro-E will connect communities in the two locations seamlessly as if they were in one campus," said the Vice-Chancellor.

"Such services will enable efficient management of time and reduce the cost of logistics. It will definitely promulgate effective communications," he added.

"At the same time, the university's collaboration with TM corresponds to the Government's call for the use of information and communications technology (ICT) to provide quality and effective customer services in Malaysia," said Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir.

At the MoU signing ceremony, UMP was represented by Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Professor Dato' Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus, whilst TM was represented by its Executive Vice-President (Government Sector), Dato' Kairul Annuar



## 61 FKP STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM MAI APPRENTICE PROGRAMME

### Student's Activities

About sixty-one undergraduates from Universiti Malaysia Pahang's (UMP) Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering (FKP) recently completed phase 1 of the Malaysia Automotive Institute (MAI)'s Automotive Graduate Apprenticeship Programme.

Conducted in collaboration with MAI beginning in January, the successful apprentices will next proceed to do their industrial training at the various local automotive companies.

The four months internship will see multi-faceted industry participation, the likes of Sipro Plastic Industries Sdn.. Bhd., Permintex Sanko Technologies Sdn.. Bhd., Delloyd Ventures Bhd., Burnmark Industries Sdn.. Bhd., Autokeen Sdn.. Bhd., Miyazu (M) Sdn. Bhd., APM Plastic Sdn.. Bhd., Ingress Corporation Bhd., Sapura Group of Companies, Sugihara (Malaysia) Sdn.. Bhd.. and WSA Engineering Sdn.. Bhd..

A certificate presentation ceremony was held to mark the completion of the apprenticeship. The Deputy Minister of International Trade & Industry, Dato'



Jacob Dungau Sagan, graced the event attended by MAI Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Madani Sahari; and UMP Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Students' Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin.

According to Dato' Jacob, with the collaboration between the institute of higher education and industries, he believed UMP will be the catalyst to the Government's efforts to produce 5700 competent engineers by the year 2015.

Under such collaboration with MAI, third-year UMP-FKP undergraduates were given the opportunity to enroll in an apprenticeship programme focusing on MoUld Engineering (Plastic Industry), Die Engineering (Metal Industry) and Lean Manufacturing Systems.

Meanwhile, MAI CEO Madani explained that the apprenticeship programme was set forth to bridge the



gap between the skilled engineers that academia were producing and the specific skills that the national automotive industry needed.

Graduate-apprentice was given an all-encompassing holistic programme, complete with soft skills courses, exposure to corporate culture and practical on-the-job training.

The apprenticeship programme comprised three phases, said Professor Dr Yuserrie. "In the first four months of Phase 1, undergraduates are exposed to the workings of the automotive industry, relevant skills and corporate culture, involving the learning of academic subjects taught at the university by industrial trainers, coordinated by MAI.

"Phase 2 of the programme is the industrial attachment where students will spend another four months gaining invaluable experience working with the related local automotive manufacturing companies."

Meanwhile, Professor Dr Yuserrie said Phase 3, which is set to commence this September, will see apprentice embarking on industrial projects assigned by the organizations they trained with.

At this juncture, the students' apprenticeship will be divided into attending lectures on campus and working on their projects with their respective companies.

To date, this apprenticeship programme has trained a total of 120 undergraduate engineers from Universiti Teknologi MARA and UMP.

MAI endeavored to extend this programme to include all engineering schools across the country in the hope that such programme will help produce technically skilled engineers, who in turn will boost the competitiveness of the local automotive industry.



# RESEARCHERS PUT UMP FLAG IN USA

**D**r. Arun  
Gupta,  
Senior  
Lecturer  
from

*Research &  
Innovation*

Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering (FKKSA), received gold medal for his project on "Nano-wood composite" in Furniture Category at The Invention & New Product Exposition (INPEX) 2011 at Pittsburgh, USA recently.

INPEX is a unique trade show that showcases numerous inventions, new products and innovations that are available to license, market or manufacture.

The team members have developed a new kind of composite, called Nano-Wood Composite, by using high thermal conductive carbon nano tubes.

The product will take less time in manufacturing and will have higher strength. It can be used for furniture, auto mobile and several other places.

The product will emit lesser amount of formaldehyde vapours and boards are more eco friendly.

The composite can be used as a replacement for solid wood, MDF and particleboard. It will help the Malaysian wood industry to increase the existing export market and will provide jobs to the people.

There are 22 MDF and Particleboard plants in Malaysia with the total production capacity of 3.5 million cubic meters per year.

Previously this product got two gold medals one in Bio Malaysia 2010 and another in CITREX-UMP-2011.

Other team members in the project are ProfesorDr K.V.Sharma, Professor Dato' Dr. Dr. Rosli Mohd Yunus, Associate Professor Zulkafli Hassan and Anuj Kumar.



Some of the top companies of Malaysia and US are interested to apply this technology in their plants and to manufacture nano wood composite.

Associate Professor Dr. Hayder A. Abdul Bari from FKKSA also received gold medal for the development of novel mechanical technique to improve the flow

in pipeline. It will help in reducing the cost of power consumption in oil industries.

"The Invention Show" brings inventors and entrepreneurs together with industry representatives in one convenient forum. The exhibition is considered as the largest in USA



## NURAIN COVETS 'EYREC GREEN TECHNOLOGY YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD'

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s Faculty of Chemical & Natural Resources Engineering (FKKSA) undergraduate, Nurain Mohd Yusoff, coveted the "EyReC Green Technology Young Scientist Award" and a gold medal, at the International Engineering Invention & Innovation Exhibition (i-ENVEX) 2011, with her project entitled "Sustainable Production of Alternative Sweetener From Empty Fruit Bunch Using Membrane Bioreactor (Waste to Wealth)".

Together with the accolade, Nurain took home RM500 cash, a trophy and a certificate of appreciation from the exhibition conducted by Universiti Malaysia Perlis and held at the 2020 Hall in Kangar, Perlis, on April 10, 2011.

Her fellow faculty-mate, Azimah Saman bagged a similar gold medal and a special award, "Best of the Best Award", with her project called "Sustainable Production Of Natural Dye From Waste Using Membrane Reactor (Waste to Wealth)".

The two projects were coordinated



by the undergraduates' award-winning Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor Dr Mimi Sakinah Abdul Munaim.

Aside from the two awards, UMP stood out among the crowd of public institutions of higher learning when the university proudly swept another five gold, five silver and seven bronze medals in total, delivering a 100 percent medal tally for the all research projects submitted for the exhibition.

The additional five gold medals

were from the efforts of:

- Nurul Azreen Abdul Ghani and Nur' Ain Abdullah: *Sustainable Building Material From Domestic Waste: Bio Brick*,
- Raja Nurshafarin Raja Osman and Nor Hidayah Dahari: *Sustainable Drinking Water Supply From Rain Water Harvesting by A Submerged Bio-Membrane Reactor (MEMRAIN)* – coordinated by UMP's Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources (FKASA), Associate Professor Dr Zularisam Abdul Wahid.
- Mohd Firdaus Mohd Yasin: *Plant Watering Robot Using Solar* – coordinated by UMP's lecturer at the Faculty of Electrical & Electronic Engineering (FKEE), Nor Maniha Abdul Ghani.

Meanwhile, the silvers were brought home by FKASA undergraduates, Mohd Zulfadhli Juhari and Ahmad Faiz Nasir, for their research on the "Application Of Biofilter System For Domestic Wastewater Treatment"; three projects by FKASA students Nadia Faira Mat Zali, Surain Sazali, Muhammad Iqram Zulkifli, Muamar Zulikhman Mohd Nazeri, Nor Asahton Junet, Noor Alia Atiqah Ahmad Rohaidi and Norbaizurah Rahman; and FKEE students Tan Piow Yon and Lee Kong Haur.

The seven bronze medals, on the converse, were the works of two FKASA students, two FKEE and one each from FKKSA, the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and the Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering.

i-ENVEX 2011 saw the participation of 292 innovative products from 600 researchers, hailing from countries in the region like Singapore, Laos, the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia and Cambodia.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Daing Ibrahim, was on cloud nine to bear witness to such an accomplishment in the university's quality research activities.

He expressed his hopes that through such an international exhibition, university students from the various countries would also have gotten the chance to foster closer ties and to share their research knowledge and skills in their fields of expertise.



# 3 RESEARCH PROJECTS SCORED HIGH MARKS AT ARCHIMEDES 2011

By: MOHAMAD ILZAM JAMAT

**F**or the first time, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) submitted entries to the biggest exhibition and research competition in Russia – the 14th Moscow International Salon of Invention & Innovation Technologies (Archimedes) which was held at Sokolniki Eco Center, Moscow from April 5-9, 2011.

*Research & Innovation*

UMP was the only representative from Malaysia. It was also the first for the country.

The university submitted the works of Associate Professor Dr Ahmed N Abd Alla from the Electric and Electronic Engineering Faculty titled, 'A GSM-Based Smart Energy Detective System for Monitoring of Real Time Power Consumption.'

It uses Smart Metre, an electrical metre that has been specially designed to record power consumption rate used and allowed consumers to check the bill anytime they want.

The distinctive features in the research attracted the judges' attention and the device was announced as the Top Notch Award recipient.

Another entry by Dr Rizalman Mamat from the Mechanical Engineering Faculty titled 'Design of a Smart LPG Furnace' was accorded the gold medal. His



research involved producing a non-ferrous metal smelting furnace ferrous such as copper and aluminum.

It has value-added features that are better than furnace currently available in the market.

A research titled 'Development of a Membrane Anaerobic System (MAS) in Treating of Slaughter House Wastewater' by Faculty of Chemical and Natural Resources Engineering by Associate Professor Dr Abdurahman Hamid Nour won a bronze medal.

# CENTRALIZED LABORATORY A BOON TO RESEARCH & TESTING ACTIVITIES



**U**niversiti  
Malaysia  
Pahang (UMP)  
recently  
launched

*Research &  
Innovation*

the Centralized Laboratory, which is expected to be the one-stop referral point for industrial product research and testing in the country, especially in the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

The official launching ceremony, which took place at UMP's Gambang Campus on June 17, 2011, was graced by the Pahang State Chief Executive's representative, State Executive Committee (Exco) member, Dato' Mohd Sharkar Shamsudin.

The Centralized Lab, strategically located at the Technology & Innovation Park in Gambang, is equipped with high-technology peripherals, capable of testing chemical and biotechnological materials, as well as those materials concerning water quality, food safety and other products of halal, medicinal and cosmetic in nature.

According to Dato' Mohd Sharkar, the founding of such laboratory at such a strategic location near UMP will be a boon to the high-tech industries in the country focusing on halal food products, biotechnology, agro-technology and the information and communications technology.

At the launching ceremony, Dato' Mohd Sharkar – who is also the Pahang State Chairman of the Communications,

Science, Technology & Innovation Exco – also bore witness to the double signings of a memorandum of agreement (MoA) between UMP and the Republic of Ireland's Institute of Technology Tallaght (ITT), and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with The Malaysian Organization of Pharmaceutical Industries (MOPI), to jointly offer a dual degree programme in Pharmaceutical Technology Engineering at UMP.

"The collaborations with ITT and MOPI in the field pharmaceutical industry are hoped to lend a helping hand in producing skillful and competitive

engineers and technologists for future's employment market and demands," said Dato Mohd Sharkar.

Commenting on the MOA, UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Daing Ibrahim, said the strategic collaboration with ITT – who is an expert in such a field, backed the fact that the Republic of Ireland was the pioneering country to embark on pharmaceutical industry – will further enhance the dual degree programme offered at UMP.

"At the same time, our cooperation with MOPI – who has the support of 34 pharmaceutical-related industries in the country – will facilitate the acquisition of necessary work





experience through an industrial training programme for UMP's undergraduates during their fourth and sixth semesters," said the Vice-Chancellor.

"With the MoA and MoU sealed, our students will now have the opportunity to undergo international industrial training in their eighth semester," added Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir.

"The twin collaborations and the research facilities offered at UMP, are also expected to further stimulate the development of the country's pharmaceutical industry," he said.



UMP will be the first public institution of higher learning in Malaysia to offer such a programme at the Baccalaureate level, with the first intake to enrol in next year's academic session.

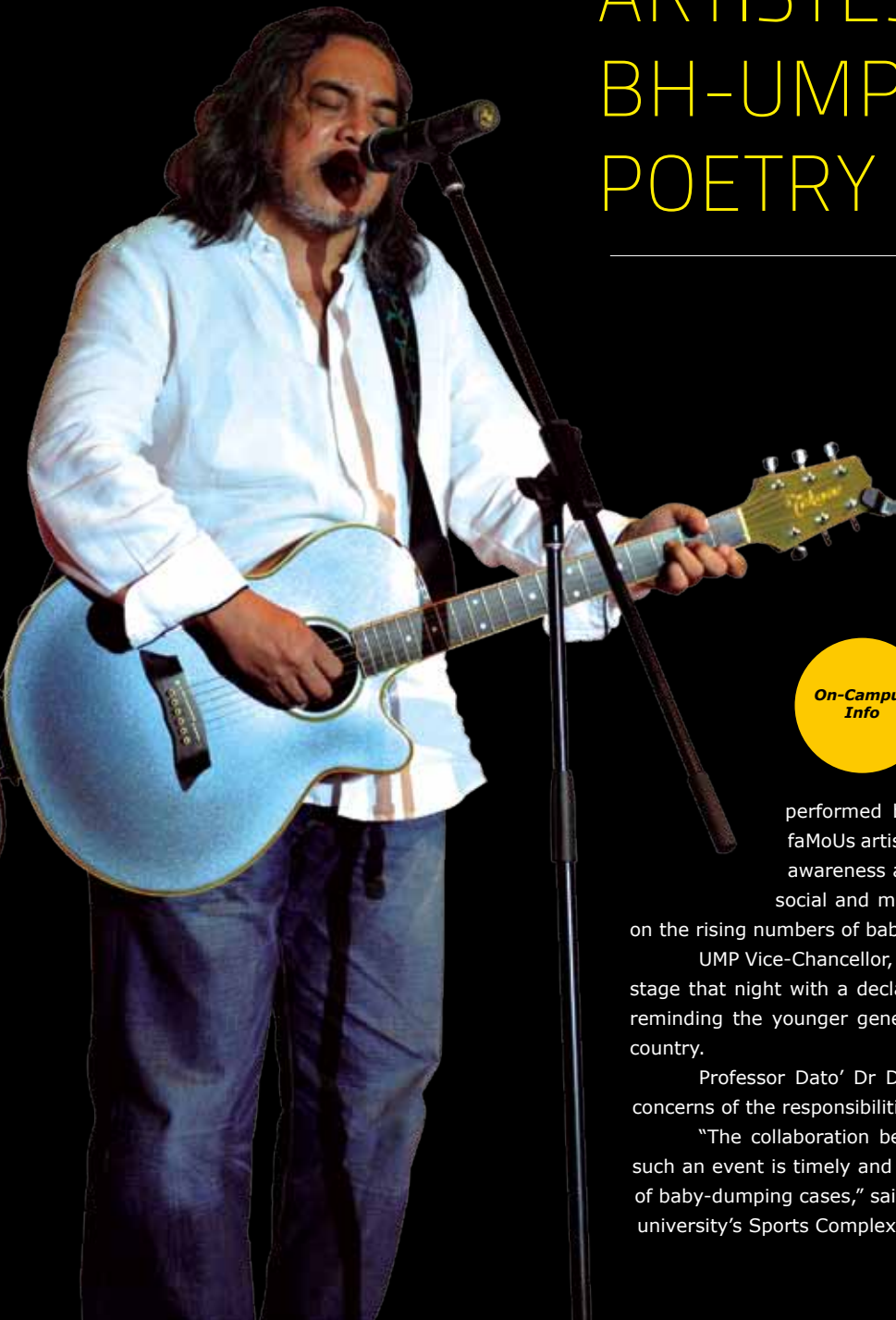
The MoA was signed by Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dr Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz, on behalf of UMP while ITT was represented by President Pat Maclaughin and Science Chief Micheal Ahern.

Meanwhile, for the MoU, President Leonard Ariff Shatar and Deputy President Ching Kien Peng signed for MOPI.

Present to witness the historic moments were Republic of Ireland Ambassador to Malaysia, Declan Kelly, and UMP's Chairman of the Board of Directors, Dato' Mohd Hilmey Mohd Taib.



# LITERARY FIGURES, ACADEMICIANS, ARTISTES CELEBRATES BH-UMP RIONG POETRY RECITAL NIGHT



“The collaboration between UMP and Berita Harian (BH) in organizing such an event is timely and appropriate for a society faced with rising number of baby-dumping cases

## On-Campus Info

Universiti Malaysia Pahang’s (UMP) first-ever We Care-“What’s My Sin?” campaign took off with the staging of a Poetry Recital Night, performed by well-known literary figures, academicians and faMoUs artistes, with the concept of poetic lyrical songs to raise awareness and inculcate civic consciousness in addressing the social and moral decadence permeating the country, especially on the rising numbers of baby-dumping.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato’ Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim took to the stage that night with a declamation of his poetry entitled “My Dear Children”, reminding the younger generations that they were the apparent heirs to the country.

Professor Dato’ Dr Daing Nasir also expressed all parents’ worrisome concerns of the responsibilities shouldered to ensure that their children excel.

“The collaboration between UMP and Berita Harian (BH) in organizing such an event is timely and appropriate for a society faced with rising number of baby-dumping cases,” said the Vice-Chancellor in his keynote address at the university’s Sports Complex on the night of January 11, 2011.





Among the artistes entertaining the hall-packed audience that night were Ramli Sarip; jazz singer Taheera Rosheena; Southeast Asia Literary Award 2000 recipient, Associate Professor Dr Lim Swee Tin; Pahang Marsli poet Ramli Selamat; and reality television show Imam Muda winner, Muhammad Asyraf Mohd Ridzuan.

Other attending celebrities include Akademi Nasyid 2008 participant, Mohd Shukri Nasron (Cicik); e-Literature Activists Association's cyber poets; Malaysia (e-Literature) Anbakri and Kablam, accompanied by keyboardist Juan Einriqie,

who was specially-flown in from Singapore; poets Indie and Fynn Jamal; and TV3 broadcast journalist Ahmad Fitri Yahya acting as the host for the event.

Guest of honor gracing the official launching of Poetry Recital Night was Her Royal Highness the Consort of Sultan of Pahang, Tunku Hajjah Azizah Aminah Maimunah Iskandariah Almarhum Sultan Iskandar Al-Haj.

Other figures who took to the stage were Berita Harian Group Editor, Datuk Mior Kamarul Shahid, and Political Secretary to the Ministry of Women, Family

& Community Development, Datuk Suhaimi Ibrahim.

Aside from the educational stage performances, visitors to the event were also invited to contribute and donate to the "What's My Sin?" fund to help needy and abandoned children.

Over 3,000 students from UMP, secondary schools, institutions of higher learning and non-governmental organizations within the Kuantan vicinity thronged the Sports Complex to celebrate and participate in the campaign.



## CAMPUS ELECTION RUNS SMOOTHLY, CONCURRENTLY IN GAMBANG & PEKAN

**U**niversiti  
Malaysia  
Pahang's  
(UMP)  
campus

*Student's  
Activities*

election ran smoothly without a hitch, with 4,596 students, or about 75% of the university's population, filling their ballot papers at the two campuses in Gambang and Pekan.

The balloting process was conducted concurrently at the Gambang Campus' Sports Complex and for the first time, at the Pekan Campus' Faculty of Electrical & Electronic Engineering building, on February 23, 2011.

This year's campus election marked another milestone when it was conducted simultaneously at the two campuses, utilizing electronic voting system called "e-Vote" to elect student representatives for the Students' Council (MPP) 2011/2012 session.

Prior to D-day, election fever was felt around campus with candidates seen actively campaigning their manifesto to the constituents.

Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Students' Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr Yuserrrie Zainuddin, who was also chairman of the overseeing committee, said the 2011/2012 MPP line-up were divided into two categories – namely, faculty and general seats.

"For the new session, an additional



three seats were allocated, bringing the total number to 24, compared with 21 last year. Sixteen seats were allocated for the faculty while the general was composed of eight," said Professor Dr Yuserrrie.

"This year also saw a 74% increase in the number of candidates to 53 – including 23 females – compared with only 39 the year before," he added.

"The statistics reflected UMP students' rising awareness of the importance of their voice to be heard and represented."



The election results were announced at 6pm by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dr Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz, at the Sports Complex.

According to the Assistant Vice-Chancellor, the election results saw 15 out of the 23 female candidates vying for the faculty and general seats forming the new line-up for MPP 2011/2012.

One of the female candidates, who won the general seat with the highest number of votes, Shahira Mohd Basir, 21,





from the Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources (FKASA), said she will work towards realizing her manifesto to promulgate students' on-campus welfare and security.

She also looked forward to establishing a common premise for students to collate their research projects as part of the efforts to stimulate creativity and innovation among UMP undergraduates.

Another general seat winner, Mohd Zulwafi Baharudin, 21, from FKASA, said he will see to it that students' well-being and safety receive adequate attention from the university's management.

Meanwhile, two candidates from the Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering, Mathan Raj Suparmaniam and Norazlin Sarju won their seats without being contested.





# UMP pays tribute to the Malay language

Modern Languages & Human Sciences (PBMSK) and its International Office.

“The programme runs for six weeks beginning June 1 with eight students from various academic back ground - anthropology, political science, history and ethnic music studies.

“The students are staying with host families in Kampung Lepar Hilir 2 and throughout the programme, they will be exposed to matters such as Malay Sultanate, Pahang traditional food, Malaysian cultural, cottage industries and the country’s historic heritage,” he said during a gathering with the students held at Banquet Hall,

Chancellery on June 1, 2011.

He added that when foreigners showed the interest in mastering the language, it was a great honour to the Malays.

He hoped for the best and that the experience gained in Malaysia especially in Kuantan would remain in their hearts when they returned home.

PBMSK Dean, Professor Dr Abd Jalil Borham said, nine UMP undergraduates were assigned as facilitators and they were assisted by four lecturers from the centre, using teaching and learning module from authentic materials.

**I**n its efforts to glorify the Malay language, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) introduced a Malay language programme for international students (BMfIS) so they could learn and understand better the subject, its history, arts as well as the life style of Malaysians.

On-Campus Info

The programme is a continuation to a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between UMP and NIU recently that paved the way to form a networking that included exploring the possibility of tapping the expertise in both universities to set up engineering technology programme.

It also involved other activities such as student exchange, short term academic staff attachment, twinning programmes and student mobility.

UMP Vice-Chancellor Professor Dato’ Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim said it was a pioneer programme and to involve students from Northern Illinois University (NIU).

He added that it would be managed together with UMP’s Centre for





He added that PBMSK wanted the Malay language to be an active medium for international students to use.

“In fact, the programme will be the link to a better understanding between the different cultures and trigger new ideas in our effort to internationalise the Malay language in both universities,” he said.

NIU South East Asia Studies Centre Director Professor James T. Collins said he was very satisfied with the efforts and commitment showed by both parties in making the programme a success.

He added that he hoped more areas could be explored following the collaboration.

One of the participants, Coral Carlson, 58, who already has three masters’ degree in public administration, policy studies and history looked forward to learn about the Malay culture and its role in the local community in South East Asia including Pahang.

She said that age was never a hindrance in learning something new.

Another participant, Brett McCabe, 35, who is studying history, said he had conducted a study on Jawi writings in Kelantan and now wanted to further pursue the Malay language and Jawi writings here.

The participants also visited



‘keropok’ factory in Tanjung Lumpur, Pahang Weaving Centre, Sungai Lembing Museum and DRH-HICOM Group automobile factories in Pekan.

During weekends, they would be involved with activities together with their host families and participate in outdoor activities such as boat rides along Kuantan River, a trip to Pahang National Park and getting the feel of preparing for a Malay, traditional wedding.

NIU is the main centre for Malay language studies in the US and to date, it has successfully organised international programmes in Malaysia, Brunei and Thailand.

Also present at the gathering were Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Professor Dato’ Dr Rosli Mohd Yunus, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Students Affairs and Alumni) Professor Dr Yuserrie Zainuddin and Senior Officers.

# UMP SHARES NEWFOUND INNOVATION IN WASTEWATER TREATMENT

“The public should be aware of the importance of treating our wastewater, because eventually, this water will be released into our rivers.



**U**niversiti  
Malaysia  
Pahang  
(UMP)  
shares

Research &  
Innovation

newfound innovation in wastewater treatment when its lecturer Abdul Syukor Abdul Razak from the Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources (FKASA) discovered a method to treat domestic wastewater using several organic plants to rid of contaminants.

The method – using the *python green* and *inclined plate clarifier* system – is currently being applied to a pilot project collaboration between UMP and Ranhill Utilities Bhd. at the wastewater treatment lodging and oxidation pond of Taman Anggerik Phase 1 in Johor Bahru.

Other parties to the joint effort are Hitachi Plant Bhd., DGE Group and a government agency from Denmark, DANIDA.

An official ceremony to mark the multi-party collaboration was recently organized by the Johor Bahru City Council, in conjunction with the Wastewater Treatment Open Day at Taman Anggerik Phase 1.

Themed “Water for the City: Needs & Challenges”, the ceremony was officiated by the Chairman of the International Trade & Industry, Energy, Water, Communications & Environment Committee, Tan Kok Hong,



on April 2, 2011.

Also present at the ceremony were UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato’ Dr Daing Nasir Daing Ibrahim; Johor Bahru City Mayor representative, Aishah Abdul Kapi, who is the City Council’s Deputy Secretary; and Ranhill Utilities Chief Executive Officer, Ahmad Zahdi Jamil, who is also the President of the Water Association of Malaysia.

According to Tan, he hoped admirable cooperation such as this, involving local authority, private sector and public university in contributing to public good would extend to the whole state of Johor, in particular, and nationwide, in





general.

"UMP's research in wastewater treatment has resulted in producing a more cost-effective method as compared to the existing technology in oxidation pond treatment," he said.

Meanwhile, Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir assured that UMP will continue to carry out further researches into *phytoremediation* in order to raise the efficiency level of the appropriate organic plants to be used in the pilot and subsequent projects.

"This project will demonstrate the short- and long-term impacts, from the aspects of environmental engineering and ecosystem sustainability," said the Vice-

Chancellor.

"Ranhill Utilities will be providing the financial and facilities assistance whilst the City Council will host the project site," he added.

In her ceremony address, City Council Deputy Secretary Aishah expressed her gratitude to the university for selecting Taman Anggerik Phase 1 as the location for the green technology pilot project.

"Implementation of the *phytoremediation* technology in wastewater treatment is not only a first for Johor, but also for the country," said Aishah.

"The public should be aware of the importance of treating our wastewater, because eventually, this water will be

released into our rivers.

"Evidently, wastewater treated using UMP's green technology has proved to comply with the Environmental Quality Standard A, as per the 1974 Circular (Amended 2010).

On the sideline of the ceremony, 200 students from schools within the vicinity as well as undergraduates from UMP's FKASA were seen participating in the community aerobic exercise.

A certificate presentation was also held to honour government and private agencies which complied with the requirement set for property developer and maintenance contractors.

# FKASA ALUMNI COMMITTEE LAUNCHED

“The achievements are not only in excellent academic standings, but also in admirable research and development activities.



**U**niversiti  
Malaysia  
Pahang's  
( U M P )  
Faculty of  
Civil Engineering & Earth

Resources (FKASA) held a hi-tea gathering at The Legend Hotel in Kuala Lumpur on April 2, 2011, to commemorate the official launch of the faculty's alumni membership drive committee.

Organized in collaboration with the Department of Students' Affairs & Alumni (Saffad), the event was officiated by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dr Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz.

In his address, Professor Dr Badhrulhisham said the founding of such committee deserved a pat on the back as it showed the tenacity of the faculty to drive memberships for the university's alumni associations.

“This faculty-specific alumni will certainly prove beneficial for UMP,

in general, and FKASA, in particular,” he said, adding that it was also hoped that the membership drive will facilitate a more systematic compilation of alumni's database as well as foster stronger ties among the university graduates.

Professor Dr Badhrulhisham expressed his wishes to see FKASA alumni to be able to continue to forge good relationships with the university as well as with the industries, as demonstrated by other alumnus abroad, quoting universities in Japan as an example.

“The concept is easy to comprehend and achieve, especially when we have alumni members working in various industries. They should act as the catalyst for future university-industry partnerships,” he added.

Professor Dr Badhrulhisham also took to the podium to highlight UMP's proud achievements of producing high quality graduates, claiming its rightful place to be on par with other more established public

institutions of higher learning in the country.

“The achievements are not only in excellent academic standings, but also in admirable research and development activities.

“Alumni members are literally the university's ambassadors to the community at large. They play pivotal roles in our efforts to make UMP the technical university of choice,” he emphasized.

Among the notable top management team at the event were Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Students' Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr Yuserrie Zainuddin; Director of Postgraduate Studies, Datin Professor Dr Nasly Mohamed Ali; FKASA Deputy Dean, Noram Irwan Ramli; and Saffad Deputy Registrar, Abdul Shukur Ishak.

The FKASA alumni committee is the second after the establishment of the first for the Faculty of Chemical Engineering & Natural Resources Engineering last year.



**Students' Activities**

**O**ver 38,000 visitors flocked to the

National Institutions of Higher Learning's "Jom Masuk U" two-day carnival at the newly opened Sultan Ahmad Shah International Convention Centre (SASICC) in Kuantan on March 5-6, 2011.

The carnival was a collaborative programme between the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) and the Ministry of Education in promoting students to pursue further studies in tertiary education.

Students from 120 schools from all over the state of Pahang attended the educational carnival, receiving their first exposure to the many options and opportunities availed in post-secondary school education.

Many of the students came with their parents, seeking academic counseling and consultation, enrolment eligibility review and financial assistance programme, to help them make the right choice on the suitable local university before the application closing deadline.

The carnival provided the best avenue for students, parents, teacher and the community at large to procure adequate and true to the letter information on the many courses offered by the public (IPTA) and private (IPTS) institutions of higher learning, polytechnics and community colleges across the country.

The two-day carnival saw over 80 exhibition and booth participants – for instance, 20 from IPTA, 35 IPTS and 30 government agencies, including the Management Division of Students Enrolment, Department of Higher Education, Department of Polytechnic Studies and Community Colleges, National Board of Higher Education Fund, Malaysia Quality Agency, school, matriculation and teachers' training divisions, Department of Labour, Ministry of Youth & Sports, among others.



## FLOCK "JOM MASUK U" CARNIVAL IN KUANTAN

Students from 120 schools from all over the state of Pahang attended the educational carnival, receiving their first exposure to the many options and opportunities availed in post-secondary school education.

Cultural performances by the students from the Sekolah Kebangsaan Methodist Kuantan, Sekolah Kebangsaan Ahmad Pekan and Sekolah Kebangsaan Shah Pekan further enlivened the carnival. A "Jom Masuk U" quiz, self-defense martial arts display, singing competition and lucky draw were among the many activities organized to draw in the crowd.

Familiar figures spotted touring the exhibition booths were Universiti Malaysia Pahang Vice-Chancellor Professor Dato' Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim and Deputy Director-General of MOHE's Department of Higher Education, Professor Dr Morshidi Sirat.





## CNY CULTURAL WEEK RECEIVES WARM RECEPTION

Over 500 Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) community members from various ethnic backgrounds gathered together to celebrate Chinese New Year (CNY) at the parking bay of Residential Colleges 1 & 3 at the university's Gambang campus on February 12 this year.

The celebration, themed "1UMP", was organized by the Arts & Culture Unit of the CNY Secretariat, in collaboration with the Department of Students' Affair & Alumni.

Guests attending the gathering were celebrated with a lively atmosphere, and the venue was enlivened with decorations of CNY traditions with full display of Chinese cultural heritage.

"Students are encouraged to foster cross cultural unity through organizing

of such a programme and activity. The younger generation must also learn to uphold inter-ethnic relationship for the sake of the country's economic, social and political stability," said the Vice-Chancellor in his speech text, read by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dr Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz, at the official opening of the gathering.

"Hence, the Government's 1Malaysia concept encompasses the right platform to empower a national race – the Malaysian race," said the Vice-Chancellor.

Event organizing chairman Tan Jun Liang said with such a programme, university students will get to share their cultural experience through activities, exhibitions and direct sales on campus.

"This year's CNY theme of "1UMP" exudes a warmth feeling and inculcates a spirit of unity among students of various backgrounds. Hence, CNY is not only celebrated with close family members,

This year's CNY theme of "1UMP" exudes a warmth feeling and inculcates a spirit of unity among students of various backgrounds. Hence, CNY is not only celebrated with close family members, but also among friends and the surrounding communities

but also among friends and the surrounding communities," Tan added.

The evening celebration saw guests entertained with UMP orchestral and cultural performances by the students, as well as the staging of a lion dance, 24 Festive Drums, Diabolo and 1Malaysia dance.

Aside from the evening celebration, Tan said the university's Chinese associations would be opening booths on campus to introduce and sell a variety of Chinese goods and delicacies throughout the festive month.

"Such an activity would also help introduce the university to the community at large, exhibit students' creativity and foster better relationship between students and the community," said Tan.

Present to grace the occasion were Chairman of Pahang's Metal & Steel Association, Dato' Kent Lew; President of Pahang Chinese Cultural Association, Dato' Lee Jin Xian; President of Kuantan Basketball Association, Rendy Yup; and UMP Mandarin Association Advisor, Chong Ah Kow.

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## UMP SET UP FUND FOR JAPAN'S TRIPLE DISASTERS

**I**n a show of solidarity and communal concern for Japan's recent triple disasters, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) has set up a humanity aid fund on March 28 to help ease the suffering faced by the people from the Land of the Rising Sun.

The launching of the fund was officiated by the Dean of Centre for Modern Languages & Human Sciences (PBMSK), Professor Dr. Abdul Jalil Borham, on behalf of UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim.

The fund was launched in conjunction with the university's "Love Your Earth" campaign, organized by the Human Sciences Club, in close cooperation with PBMSK, the Department of Students' Affair & Alumni, and a non-governmental organization, Soka Gakkai Malaysia (Pahang

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Chapter).

The three-day campaign, held at the library's auditorium at UMP Gambang campus, also showcased an exhibition entitled "Seeds of Hopes" to promote love and concern for the environment.

According to Professor Dr Abdul Jalil, sustainable development had become a global community agenda agreed during a United Nations conference on environment in Rio de Janeiro.

"Loss of biodiversity, decline in natural resources, global warming, climate change and natural disaster are signs of sustainable development being compromised.

"Researchers have linked that natural phenomenon such as earthquake, volcano eruption, massive flooding and storms are caused by human greed when carrying out development activities," he added.

He also said one could not deny

the role of science and technology in helping to improve civilization, but neglecting the safety and sustainability aspect would bring about adverse impacts on the earth's biodiversity balance.

This could threaten the lives of human and other form of lives on earth, he added.

He hoped UMP students would be ethical advocates and engineering practitioners who were aware of the importance of maintaining earth sustainability.

Meanwhile, Soka Gakkai Pahang chairman Micheal Kok Fook On said the organisation had conducted similar exhibitions abroad such as Australia, Italy, Jordan, Taiwan and United Kingdom.

He added that it was about sharing the responsibility of caring the earth for future generation.

## UMP, SIRIM AGREED TO DEVELOP NANO TECHNOLOGY

**R**ealising the importance of developing nano technology in the country, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) and Sirim Malaysia Berhad (SIRIM) has agreed to cooperate in matters relating to transfer of technology and training as well as carry out joint research so as to spur growth in the area.

The cooperation involved human resource development through training and exchange of experts between UMP and SIRIM.

Other than UMP, SIRIM was also working together with South Korea's AJOU University and Iran University of Science and Technology (IUST).

A document exchange ceremony was held at Grand Borneo Hotel, Kota

*Join Cooperation*

Kinabalu, Sabah on June 7, 2011 in conjunction with the International Research and Commercialisation of Nano Technology (ICONT 2011).

UMP was represented by Faculty of Science and Industrial Technology Faculty dean Professor Dr Mashitah Mohd Yusoff while SIRIM, by Research and Technology Department Deputy President Dr Zainal Abidin Mohd Yusof.

It was witnessed by Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Johnity Ongkili.

In his speech, Datuk Seri Dr Maximus said the government had decided to create several centres of excellence (CoE) for nano technology in a move to build up a strong national research and to further encourage its development.

"MOSTI is now evaluating nano technology centres which will be selected as

centres of excellence (CoE). There is a huge need to build up research capability.

"Under the Ninth Malaysian Plan until 2010, the government has invested some RM140 million for research and development grants. Malaysia now has 16 centres that focus on nano technology research involving 450 researchers," he added.

According to Professor Dr Mashitah, the cooperation between the faculty and Nano Technology Industry Research Centre (INTeRC) would allow UMP to conduct strategic integration project in teaching, research and development of advanced materials by focusing on nano substance for renewable energy application.

She also said both parties had expressed their intentions to work closer in obtaining international and national grants in advanced material field including developing prototypes.

# MLCC OFFERS MANDARIN LANGUAGE TO STAFF



**U**niversiti  
Malaysia  
Pahang  
(UMP)'s  
Mandarin

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Language and Culture

Centre (MLCC) had taken the initiative to introduce the language among staff in its efforts to improve credibility and ability of mastering Mandarin as a third language. Centre for Modern Languages and Human Sciences (PBMSK) Dean, Professor Dr. Abdul Jalil Borham said the objective was to improve the staff's communication skills in many languages.

"MLCC was set up in January last year and it was UMP's innovative move to help encourage economic growth in the east coast region by collaborating with a university in China.

"MLCC now offers three programs - a short course in basic communication skill, business program and translation.

"Hebei University will send three Mandarin teachers to help make the program a success," he said in his speech when officially opened the course and handing over sponsorship by Sin Chiew Daily here recently.



Professor Dr Abdul Jalil added that he was happy with the commitment showed by the daily in supporting MLCC.

He said the newspapers would be used as reference by the staff in strengthening their command in the language.

According to the program's supervisor Chong Ah Kow, the short course was carried out every Wednesday from 10am until 1pm at the language multimedia laboratory.

"Fifteen participants have confirmed their registrations and will learn

about vocabulary and simple communication skills for daily use," he added.

The Federation of Stationary and Book Traders vice president Albert Tey Tong Sing, who was also present, handed over sponsorship of the newspapers to Professor Dr Abdul Jalil.

Other guests included Sin Chiew Daily east coast manager Tan Kee Seng, its education program planner Tan Kian Seng, Treasurer Zainudin Othman, Chief Librarian, Tuan Haji Ruslan Che Pee and PBMSK Deputy Dean Associate Professor Dr. Mohd Nubli Abdul Wahab.





## UMP INECCE DISCUSSES ISSUES ON ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

**U**niversiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP)'s Faculty of Electrical & Electronics Engineering (FKEE) held its first Electrical, Control and Computer Engineering International Conference (InECCE 2011) for two days beginning June 21, 2011 at Hyatt Regency Kuantan Resort Hotel.

The theme was 'Engineering and Green Technology for Sustainable Global Development.'

The conference attracted participants comprising academicians and professionals in the fields of electrical, control and computer engineering.

UMP also held its official opening and dinner graced by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International), Professor Dr. Badhrulhisham Abdul Aziz, who represented the Vice-Chancellor.

According to Professor Dr Badhrulhisham, the conference was a

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platform where participants were able to enhance their knowledge and expertise towards creating a sustainable environment.

"Green technology can be defined as promoting values, ethics and principles that are combined with science, technology and engineering for a sustainable global setting," he said.

He added that sustainability was a continuity of human life using natural resources without compromising the environment for the sake of future generation.

Professor Dr Badhrulhisham also presented the best working paper, hoping it would further spur ideas that could produce green technology and engineering and eventually, help to uphold current resources for future generation.

He said the conference was in line with UMP strategic plan (2011-2015) in pioneering research initiative between the university and industries.

FKEE acting dean Ir Zulkeflee Khalidin said the cooperation between

researchers and academicians to iron out issues on electrical, control and computer engineering could forge a network that could lead to an amicable solution.

A total 101 presenters took part in the conference involving those from Malaysia, Australia, Germany, Bangladesh, India, Iran, Libya, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia and Philippines.

A participant from Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) received an award in System Electrical Engineering category while Siti Maryam Sharun from Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP) won the control system and instrumentation engineering category.

Other recipients were Low Tang Jung from Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP) for computer system engineering and his colleague, Fadzrul Izuddin Abd Aziz won the special award for engineering and green technology.

Also present to deliver keynote addresses were Professor M.O.Tokhi from University of Shieffield, who spoke on sound and vibration control while Professor David Chang from Hong Kong Polytechnic University who explored the topic on, 'Biometric: Challenges and Development in the New Era.'

The conference ended with a paper presented by UMP visiting Professor Dato' Ir (Dr) Zaidee Laidin who deliberated on a topic titled 'Requirements for Alternative Energy: Issues in Nuclear Plant.'

The paper centered on the importance and impact of using nuclear power in the country.

He provided an overview of the future energy resource scenario in Malaysia and suggested the possibility of using an alternative energy resource other than nuclear.

He added that it would require a concerted effort by all parties including the Government, scientists and researchers as well as public awareness on the using of alternative energy resource.

Also present were Dato' Dr Ir Abu Hashim Abdul Ghani and IEEE Computer Association Chairman (Malaysia Chapter) Mohamed Rawidean Mohd. Kassim.

# A TURNING POINT IN A STUDENT'S LIFE IN THE PRISON CAMP OF GAZA / OCCUPIED PALESTINE

## By Dr. Ismael Abu-Jarad About the author

### Knowledge Sharing

Dr. Ismael Abu-Jarad is from Beit Lahia Town in the north of the Gaza Strip or what he calls (The Prison Camp of Gaza) in occupied Palestine. He was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, 1978. He obtained his Bachelor's degree in English literature from Al Azhar Univeristy and his MBA (majoring in leadership) and his PhD in Project Management / Strategic Management from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). He is currently a senior lecturer at Department of Technology Management, Univesiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP). Dr. Abu-Jarad loves writing. He has published a number of research papers in international journals. He has recently published a case study entitled "Arrogant Businessmen and a Challenge in Penang, Malaysia". His book entitled "Organizational Innovation and Organizational Performance: A Study on Housing Developers in Malaysia" is in process of publication by LAMBERT Academic Publishing. His areas of interest in research include, but not limited to organizational innovation, organizational performance, organizational culture, leadership effectiveness, leading change, personality traits, time management and time orientation / psychological perspective of time.. He could be contacted via e-mail (ismael\_malaysia@yahoo.com) or via mobile phone number +609-012-561 0834.

**T**he Prison Camp of Gaza in Occupied Palestine is a 5 by 25 mile strip facing the Mediterranean from the west, the borders with Egypt from the south, and the territories of what was called State of Israel back in 1948 from the east and north. I call The Gaza Strip a prison camp because it has been under an Israeli blockade since 2006 where people cannot go out or in Gaza. More than 350 patients who were in bad need of medical treatment died because they could not go to Egypt to receive the necessary medical treatment they needed. Those patients are perceived as martyrs by the community in Gaza.

In the north of the Prison Camp of Prison Camp of Gaza, between the towns of Beit Lahia in the west and Beit Hanon in the east, just a few hundred meters away from the Israeli Occupation Forces Tanks along the borders, resides the Ahmed Al Shukeri Secondary Boys School. This school is different from other schools in the world. What makes it different is the fact that it is a place where besides English, Mathematics, and other school subjects, the students learn lessons about belongings, sharing and caring, sacrifice, challenge, and cooperation; they live a daily danger of losing their own lives. It is a school with no fence because the Israeli tanks destroyed its walls. The classrooms of this school have no windows as the windows were broken by the shower of bullets coming from the Israeli tanks some hundred meters

away from the school. Below is a story of two brothers in this school.

Once upon a time, there were two brothers who had a unique story to be remembered and shared. The two brothers were Nabeel, an Arabic name that means "Noble", who was 17 years old and his brother Husam, an Arabic name that means "The Sword", who was 16 years old. Nabeel was one of the best students who used to be the first to come to school and the last to leave it. He used to go early to help other cleaning staff clean the floors of the 26 classrooms. The reason why Nabeel was leaving the school late was usually discussing with the headmaster and some teachers some issues related to the performance of other students who are not doing well. He was highly self-motivated and self-confident. To him, the school was the place where he believes students must build their personalities and careers. However, Nabeel was missing his village near Jaffa and could not forget the fact that he is known as a refugee whose grandfather was kicked out of his land. Deep in his heart, there is wrath against the Israeli Occupation Forces that assassinated two of his cousins. He told many of his classmates that he once he saw his martyred cousins in his dream. One of those cousins ,as one of his classmates said, was calling Nabeel in his dream to join him in Paradise.

Husam was a year younger than Nabeel. However, he was a slow learner. He had no interest in studying at school and he





Secondary students in Beit Lahia Boys Secondary Schools, Gaza, Palastine

was planning to leave the school. On their way from their small house in Jabalia Camp to the school, Nabeel was blaming Husam for not taking the school seriously. On their way to school, Nabeel reminded his brother, Husam, of his indifference and carelessness towards the school. "Aren't you aware that your whole future relies on how well you do in the school?", Nabeel asked Husam. But, Husam's replied that there is no future in Gaza. He asked Nabeel to take a look at the sky, which was full of Apache Helicopters that were anxiously waiting for their catch. "Look at the sky and you will know what future we have in Gaza", Husam said with pain and sorrow. " Or if it is difficult to put your head up", he added sarcastically, "you can look at that side of the hill and you'll see the Markava tanks waiting for us to reach the school to start welcoming us with some flowers (heavy bombardments). "Now, do you know what future I am talking about??!!", Husam asked. With tears in his eyes, he continued "we simply have no

future, brother. Let's not deceive ourselves. It is not because we don't want to have a bright future, but because they do not allow us to have one".

Nabeel sighed deeply and replied "No, you are wrong brother. Don't be pessimistic. This is what the Israeli Occupation Forces want. They want us to be illiterate; they want us lagging behind so that they can rule us and keep our land under their occupation. We should not make them achieve what they are strategically planning to achieve." However, Husam seemed unconvinced and argued back and said: "even if what you are saying were true. Could you tell me what kind of job are you going to find when you finish your university if you find the money to pay for the fees of course? You will be unemployed and you will get depression or go crazy, so it is useless to take the school seriously." Nabeel tried to win the argument and said: "you should do your best and leave to God the rest...If you don't study, you will

definitely be jobless, but if you study, there is still hope to build up a family." While the two brothers were having such a debate, the Apache Helicopter started shooting. Then while scared, Husam said : "See! I told you I did not want to come to school today, but you insisted we should come. May Allah make this day end peacefully, amin".

Reaching the school, they found the headmaster and the teachers calling upon the students to enter the classrooms immediately. They were informed that there will be no morning assembly because the situation is not that secure. The Apache helicopters were all over the place and the roars of the tanks engines were so loud that everyone expected the Israeli Occupation Forces to invade the territory, which means some more deaths, some more injured people, and some more destroyed buildings, and some more uprooted trees.

Nabeel and Husam entered their classrooms quickly as the headmaster urged them to do so. All students were scared.

Nabeel looked angry and dissatisfied with what was going on. To Nabeel, as a student, occupation must end and they must enjoy learning freely without having their own lives at risk. Nabeel told the teacher that he was thinking of killing himself if that was the only way to revenge for his cousins by killing some Israeli soldiers, who are his enemies. The teacher was surprised and tried to cool him down. "Nabeel, if you kill yourself, who will teach our kids and the coming generation, who is going build our country? , we need you". , the teacher said to Nabeel. The whole class was silent

and then the teacher started the English class by writing "You Must Remember that the Israelis want you to be illiterate and ignorant", don't make them achieve that. The class went on. It was a very frightening day in the school. In the last fifteen minutes before the bell of departure rang, the headmaster has announced a state of emergency asking all to leave immediately as the Israeli tanks were approaching the area. It was another invasion for the Israeli tanks. Every student was rushing as if escaping from an unavoidable death. Husam was waiting for Nabeel who was still

busy asking the students to leave quickly. When Nabeel reached the gate of the school, he looked at the tanks and started insulting and scolding them.... "Go away, stop depriving us of education and of life, bastards", Nabeel was shouting. He was very angry with what was going on. He shouted louder and louder and became more and more angry. Then he picked up a stone he found on the ground, just nearby, and threw it on one of the tanks, which was a bit far. Then, some other students started doing the same thing (throwing stones at the Israeli tanks). Soon, it was



*Dr. Ismael while presenting his paper in Budapest, Hungary*



a big demonstration where more than 300 students were approaching and throwing stones at the tanks. The Israeli tanks started shooting here and there. Husam started shouting at Nabeel..." let us go back, it is getting dangerous", but Nabeel was staring at the tanks from a distance and he started recalling the two brothers who were assassinated by the Israeli Occupation Forces and the fact that his grandfather was kicked out of his own house...the youthful passion and the sense of revenge made Nabeel hold another stone that was on the side of the street and threw it at the tank again. Nabeel was shouting angrily and throwing more stones and then he unbuttoned his shirt and said loudly: "kill me, I am in my land. Kill me, I am not scared of you, bastards". It was just a few seconds when Nabeel fell off the ground and was showered with blood. Three 7.7 – centimeter bullets penetrated his chest and head. He was dead. He was called a martyr, known in the language of the Palestinians as "shaheed", a person who sacrifices his life for sake of his own country.

Husam saw his brother dead and started screaming "No...No...Please don't die, I want to see you a doctor as you always wished to be", Husam said while his eyes were gushing tears. Two of Nabeel's teachers and some other students including Husam carried Nabeel and put him in the ambulance, which has just reached the place. Nabeel was no more there. He was buried just besides the graves of his martyred cousins. In the school, there was MoUrnning for three days. The study stopped and Nabeel's picture was hung on every wall of the school. Another picture was placed on Nabeel's seat in the classroom to convey the message that though Nabeel was not among his classmates, he was still there in their minds and their hearts. A delegation from the school headed by the headmaster and Nabeel's teacher visited Nabeel's family to express their own condolence with the family members. One week after, students started coming back to the school after the Occupation Forces pulled back from the

territory.

The teacher found the situation very much challenging, but he had to find a way to encourage the students to focus on their studies. The teacher found it extremely difficult to make the students focus on their studies, so he had to use the incident of Nabeel's absence as a stimulus. He decided to deliver a speech in the morning assembly. He told the students: " Listen ...Nabeel was killed while defending this school. He is the martyr of the school. He died ...We won't see him anymore, but he will always remain in our hearts. We must try to achieve what the Israeli Occupation Forces deprived Nabeel of achieving. Nabeel was dreaming of becoming a doctor to save the lives of those injured while fighting our enemies. You all must focus on your studies and try to excel as we have no other solution except for gaining knowledge if we want to achieve our independence. Will you study hard for sake of Nabeel? , the teacher raised his voice pitch. Will you? " then the students replied, yes we will. Husam was among the students who said "yes, we will" while shedding tears. The teacher invited Husam over a cup of tea during the short break. He explained to him what he should do to improve his performance in his different subjects. He encouraged him a lot and offered him some private tuition free of charge. Husam started taking the school seriously and gradually started to excel. The motive was to achieve what his brother Nabeel could not achieve. Husam was at his 11th grade. He had two years to finish his schooling. Surprisingly, Husam did very well and got the third highest grade in the school. His grade allowed him to study medicine in Egypt as students could not study medicine in Gaza.

Eight years later, Husam became a medical doctor. He joined Al-Shifaa' hospital in the city of the Prison Camp of Gaza. He was insisting on working in the reception especially when there are invasions to save the lives of those injured while fighting the Israeli Occupation Forces. Husam's mother was insisting that he gets married

and settles down. Two years later, Husam's mother proposed Husam a bride, whose father was killed by the Israeli Occupation Forces. It was planned that Husam's wedding party takes place on Friday evening, but on Thursday night , there was another invasion and Husam insisted to continue working in the reception. Husam was so shocked when he saw Nabeel's teacher lying on the bed at the reception. Husam said with astonishment:" Nabeel's teacher)!? Oh MY God! No... He immediately examined the teacher and decided to carry out an operation to remove a bullet that the teacher received on the chest while he was teaching the students. The teacher was fine and could speak. It was 11am on Friday, the big day for Husam, when the teacher talked to Husam and thanked him. Husam told the teacher he was so happy that the teacher was still alive. He told the teacher about his plan to get married on that same day. The teacher asked with astonishment: "what ? are you getting married today? " and you are still here???" go ... go please.. Husam replied by saying : "ok teacher" I will go after one hour. I have already called my father and we will not celebrate the wedding, but I am getting married tonight and I hope after some time, I will be able to make a son...I wish to call him Nabeel. Smiling to the teacher while walking away, Husam said: "*Life in the Prison Camp of Gaza goes on, teacher...*"

# The Traditional Malay House

BY: MOHAMMAD AFFENDY OMARDIN

## ► Introduction

Traditional Malay house is a vital part of the Malay culture. The aesthetical design of the house bears strong influence of yesteryears' Islamic architecture. Additionally, considerations of residential prerequisites, cultural conformities and climate conditions do play important roles on drawing the blueprint. Elements surrounding its neighbourhood and the occupants' assessment of privacy are also taken into account. To the Malay, a house is more than just an abode – it is a conference hall, a mosque, a wedding ballroom, a labor room and a mortuary, all packaged into one.

### Short Story

#### ► Design approach

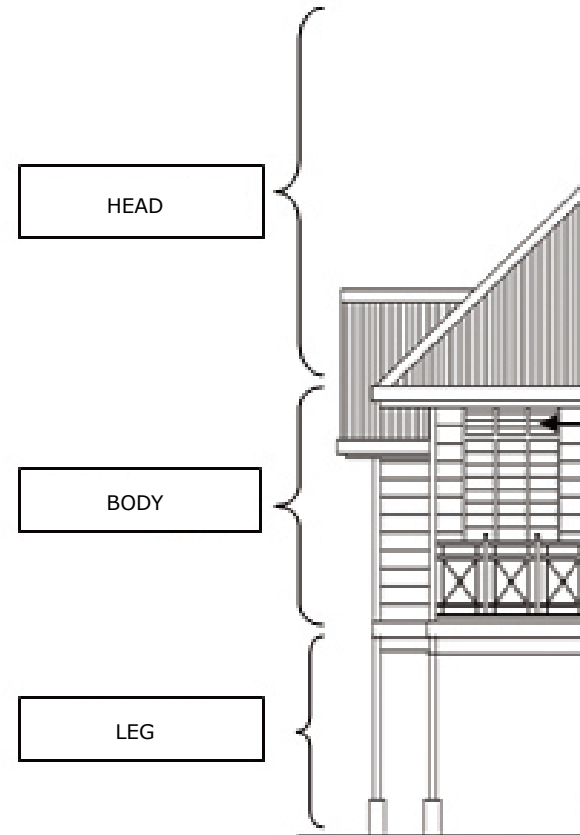
Designing a traditional Malay house calls for innovative thinking. It premises on the ingenuity of the carpenter to utilize elements within his environmental reach to be incorporated into the design. For instance, a passive system can be employed to allow sunlight to permeate the interior during the day, and wall openings for natural breeze to ventilate the entire house.

Different spatial functions may require different intensity of sunlight to permeate. Accordingly, spatial designs, too, will entail different amount of circulated natural breeze to create a comfortable interior. The layout is designed in such a way to benefit from cross-ventilation and air movement. Fresh air allows for healthy living and movement for convective and evaporative cooling for the human body.

#### ► Building orientation

The house is segregated into three sections, namely front, middle and back. The front section is categorized as the lobby, where guests are received. The middle compartment consists of separate rooms for parents and children. It is also used to segregate the ladies from the men during a mass congregation. The back section is traditionally utilized as the kitchen, where food preparation takes place.

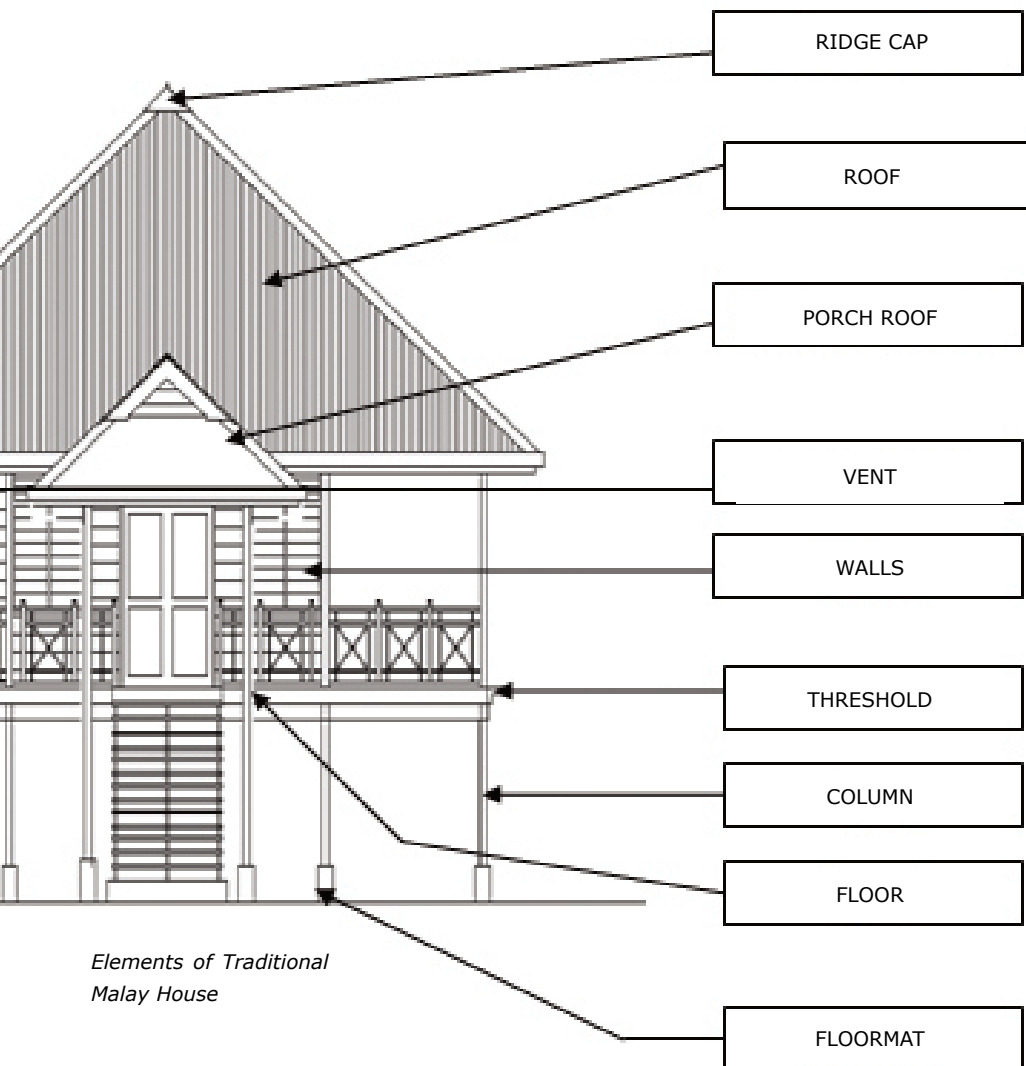
Meanwhile, with regards to façade, the house is normally constructed facing west, more specifically, the longitude and latitude coordinates of Mecca in Saudi Arabia. This is mainly because, for the most part, Malays are Muslims. Such a construction plan facilitates prostration direction in a prayer. And for that matter and out of religious obligation, the outhouses or washrooms are constructed facing the opposite horizon, east.



The floor layout of a traditional Malay house is mundanely rectangular, with doors and windows installed at certain heights, angles and projections in order to preserve the sanctity and privacy of its female occupants.

Meanwhile, the assessment of interior privacy includes both visual and acoustical. Visually, public and private spaces segregation includes separation for bathing. The acoustical privacy, on the converse, ensures sound transmission from the house to the outside and the private area is prevented.





*Picture 1: Building anatomy*

#### ► Building anatomy

A traditional Malay house is akin to the human anatomy. The followings are the analogy:

Caput (Head)	:Roof
Collum (Neck)	:Beams or columns
Thorax (Chest)	: Walls
Abdomen (Stomach)	: Binder
Pelvis	: Floor
Membrum superius (Arms)	: Roof of the lobby
Membrum inferius (Legs)	: Foundation of beams/columns

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