E-Newsletter No. 2 / 2023

E-NEWSLETTER

Institute of Oceanography and Environment

UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA TERENGGANU UMT

INOS

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E-Newsletter No. 2 / 2023

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This groundbreaking initiative facilitates collaboration among academia, industry, and the community, aiming to drive innovation and address pressing issues.

INOS's Collaborative Laboratory Inauguration Marks a New Era in Marine Research

In a momentous event that gathered academia, industry, and the community, the Institute of Oceanography and Environment (INOS) marked a significant milestone with the inauguration of the University - Industry - Community Collaborative Laboratory. Prof. Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar, the Vice Chancellor of UMT, officiated the ceremony.

In his eloquent address, Prof. Dr. Mazlan Abd Ghaffar underscored UMT's role as a leader in marine research and its pivotal position in addressing complex global challenges. He emphasised UMT's strategic plan, prioritising research excellence, interdisciplinary collaboration, and technological innovation. This plan positions UMT as a leading university in marine sciences, nationally and recognised globally, and highlights the institution's dedication to cultivating outstanding researchers through lifelong learning opportunities.

Prof. Ts. Dr. Mohd Fadzil bin Mohd Akhir, Director of INOS, outlined INOS' vital role in advancing marine research. INOS was officially designated as a Center of Excellence in Marine Science by the Malaysian government, and it has been recognised as a Higher Institution Center of Excellence (HICoE) in marine science by the Ministry of Higher Education (KPT). This accolade makes INOS the seventh HICoE in Malaysia and the sole Center of Excellence in oceanography and marine science, focusing on marine ecosystems and biodiversity.

A Tripartite Collaboration Unveiled

The heart of the event was the unveiling of the University-Industry-Community Collaborative Laboratory. This groundbreaking initiative facilitates collaboration among academia, industry, and the community, aiming to drive innovation and address pressing issues. The laboratory is more than a physical space; it symbolises a commitment to shared knowledge, expertise, and resources to create practical solutions. It is a platform for cross-disciplinary research that offers holistic answers to complex challenges.

The speeches emphasised that collaboration among universities, industries, and communities forms the bedrock for sustainable development. UMT has firmly positioned itself to lead the charge in this endeavour. By creating spaces and opportunities for knowledge sharing, expertise exchange, and resource pooling, UMT is building networks that effectively channel innovation to address contemporary challenges. The University-Industry-Community Collaborative Laboratory is poised to become a hub for transformative research, fostering partnerships that will lead to practical, real-world solutions.

As we progress, this laboratory represents a beacon of hope, a symbol of progress, and a testament to what can be achieved when academia, industry, and the community unite for a common purpose. With this powerful tripartite collaboration, UMT and INOS are poised to make significant strides in marine research and its applications, benefiting society and ecosystems.

The Remarkable Discovery of a Fisherman Could Lead to Research on Hidden Wonders of the Deep

By **Ahmad Fakhrurrazi Mokhtar**

The scientific community is buzzing with anticipation following the astonishing oarfish discovery by a local fisherman, Harun Jusoh. Beyond the breathtaking images of this rare marine creature, there is a wealth of scientific knowledge of the ocean's mysteries awaiting.

Due to its deep-sea habitat, oarfish holds a unique place in marine research with several potentials. Thus, every encounter holds a priceless prospect to research its biology, behaviour, and ecological importance.

The unusual appearance of the fish caught by Harun first intrigued the local fishermen. Realising the significance of this discovery, some urged the fish to be handed over to UMT for extensive study. The oarfish was handed over to Noratikah Ab. Manaf, of the South China Sea Repository and Reference Centre (RRC), a subset of INOS. Despite some suggestions to sell the fish, Harun noted that his action was motivated by a desire to enhance our aquatic ecosystems' understanding. He further noted, "While I may sell the fish for a high price due to its rarity and demand, I sincerely believe in enabling UMT to benefit from this unique specimen for research purposes".

We are extremely honoured to recognise the contribution of our local community, which deserve to be named as our citizen scientist. This discovery highlights the symbiotic link between local knowledge and academic competence, allowing for exceptional learning and discovery. Azwarina Mohd Azmi Ramasamy, the RRC's Senior Curator, provided an insight into the significance of the oarfish. Although this species is known to live in our waters, the discovery was uncommon due to its fondness for deep-sea settings.

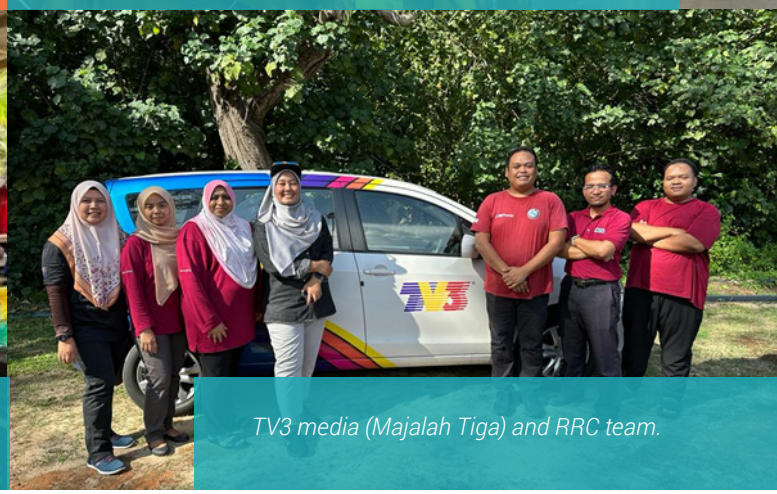
Azwarina delved into the historical archives to reveal earlier experiences with this rare creature, including the 2012 sighting off the shore of Pengkalan Maras, the 2015 findings off the coast of Pulau Redang, and two sightings in Miri, Sarawak, in 2018 and 2020. Some of these preserved specimens have found homes in research galleries and museums, where they enthral visitors about the wonders of the oceans. INOS took the lead in performing a thorough post-mortem examination, leading to the five scientific questions below:

1. Environment Dynamics
2. Deep-Sea Adaptations
3. Marine Biodiversity
4. Ecological Importance
5. Climate Change and Human Habitat

Stay tuned for updates as our experts explore the depths of information buried inside this intriguing oarfish.

Ethanol was used to preserve the oarfish specimen in a tank.

The unusual appearance of the fish caught by Harun first intrigued the local fishermen.



TV3 media (Majalah Tiga) and RRC team.

Empowering Conservation Through Innovation - INOS Celebrates Second Start-up, CMS Sdn. Bhd.

In a bold step towards advancing conservation efforts, INOS proudly announces the incorporation of its second start-up company, Conservation Management Solution (CMS) Sdn. Bhd. This significant achievement underscores INOS's commitment to fostering innovation and driving real-world solutions within marine conservation.

The birth of CMS Sdn. Bhd. is a testament to the dynamic ecosystem INOS cultivates - nurturing research and entrepreneurial endeavours and comprising alumni of the esteemed Sea Turtle Research Unit (SEATRU). The founders of CMS Sdn. Bhd. have harnessed their expertise and passion to form a company that stands as a beacon of achievement and inspiration for others.

CMS Sdn. Bhd. aims to spearhead the management of conservation outreach programs that extend beyond sea turtles, encompassing a broader spectrum of marine and environmental conservation initiatives. This venture signifies the potentials to generate impactful change and its ability to provide sustainable support for vital conservation projects.

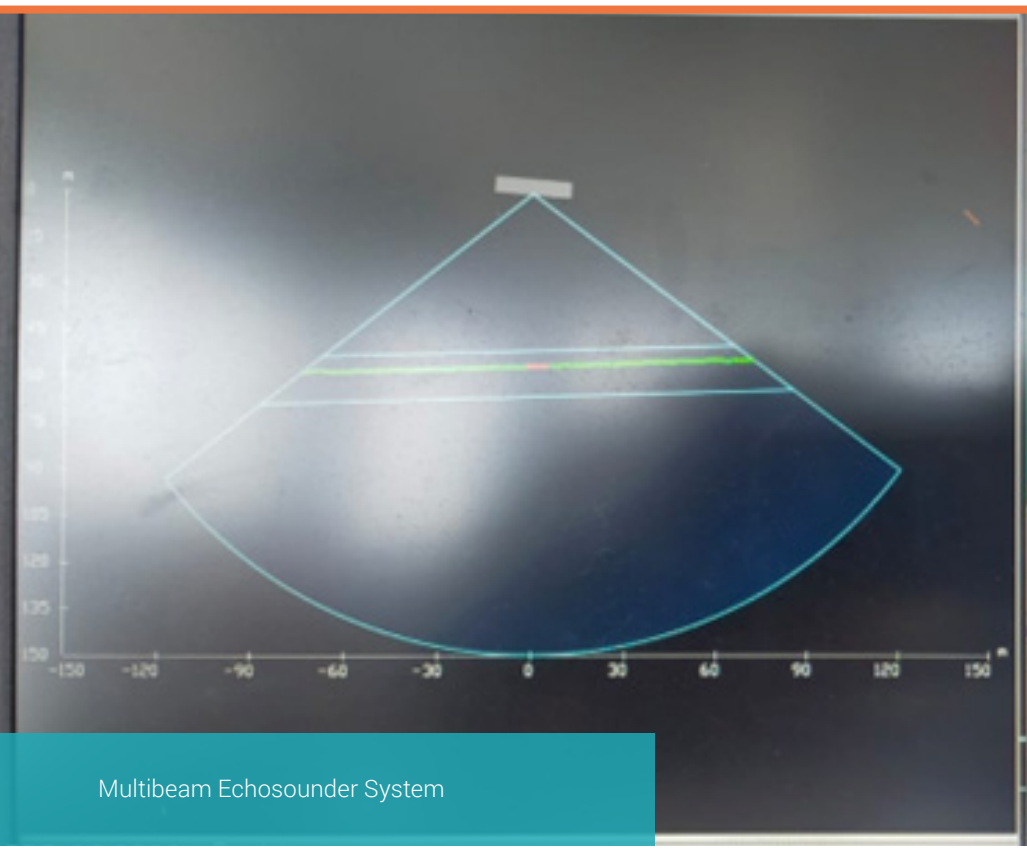
CMS Sdn. Bhd. has been licensed to commercialize the innovative UMT product Turtle Imprinting Database System (TIDES). This unique system has laid the foundation for their journey towards realizing their slogan: 'Digitally Transforming Conservation Funding through Database Development in Malaysia.' TIDES holds immense promise in revolutionizing how conservation projects are funded, a challenge that often plagues such endeavours.

The lack of accessible funding has been a persistent challenge in conservation initiatives, hindering the progress of critical projects to safeguard threatened and endangered species. The TIDES project, developed within the confines of UMT, is poised to disrupt this paradigm by leveraging the power of digital technology to revolutionize conservation funding. Through its innovative approach, CMS Sdn. Bhd. envisions a future where dataset and technology converge to support and drive conservation efforts more effectively.

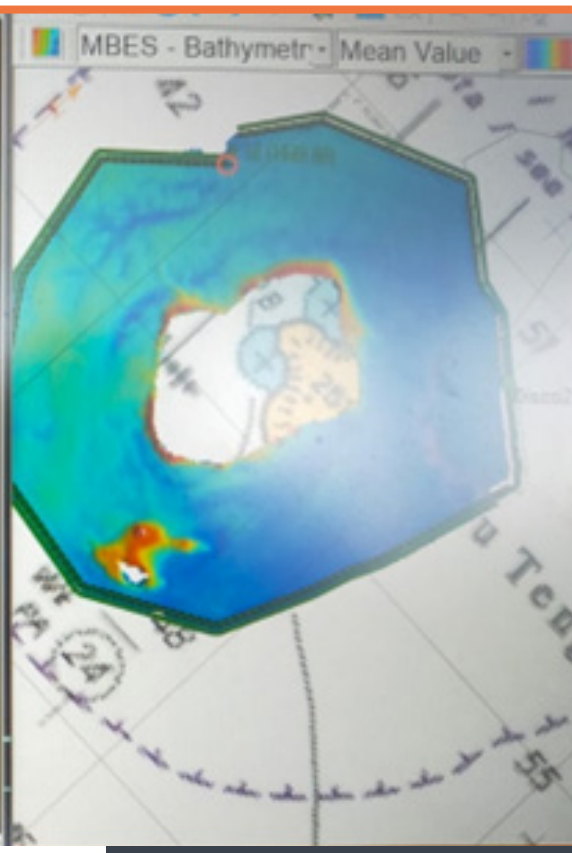
From left: Assoc. Prof. Dr Mohd Uzair Rusli (BOD, Conservation), Ms Tuan Emilia Tuan Mohd Noor (Operation Manager), Ms Syamsyahidah Samsol (BOD, Human Resource & Management), Mr Mohd Arizal Shamsil Mat Rifin (BOD, Digital Solutions).

The incorporation of CMS Sdn. Bhd. underscores the profound benefits of fostering start-up ventures within the university ecosystem. These endeavours bridge the gap between academic research and practical application while instilling an entrepreneurial spirit among university alumni and researchers. The success of CMS Sdn. Bhd. serves as a catalyst, inspiring others in UMT to explore the realms of entrepreneurship and innovation.

INOS proudly stands beside CMS Sdn. Bhd. pledging their commitment to transform conservation efforts through innovative solutions. The university community eagerly anticipates the positive impacts that this dynamic start-up on marine conservation and beyond, as they harness technology to shape a more sustainable future for our oceans and the environment.



Multibeam Echosounder System



Exploring the Underwater Depths of Tenggol Island

The "Hydrography Survey for Habitat Mapping at Tenggol Island, Dungun, Terengganu" initiative sets out to unravel the hidden nature of the undersea environment and pave a new path for marine spatial planning.

By **Azizi Ali**

Among all the beautiful islands that grace our country's coastline, Pulau Tenggol, or Tenggol Island, stands as one of Malaysia's most distinctive gems. Nestled in the embrace of Dungun, Terengganu, Tenggol Island boasts a unique tale of recent discovery and transformation. Formerly an untouched haven, Tenggol Island emerged from obscurity to become a favoured destination for travellers seeking unparalleled natural beauty and maritime wonders.

Pulau Tenggol's allure stems not only from its breathtaking beauty but also from its status as a newfound treasure. This island was virtually unknown a few years ago, hidden from the world's gaze. Its recent emergence from the shadows has captured the imagination of those drawn to its pristine shores. What was once a quiet, uninhabited oasis has undergone a remarkable metamorphosis, evolving into a sought-after haven for explorers seeking tranquillity and adventure.

A research effort is undertaken in important cooperation between the Department of Fisheries Malaysia and the Institute of Oceanography and Environment & Faculty of Science and Marine Environment at UMT. The "Hydrography Survey for Habitat Mapping at Tenggol Island, Dungun, Terengganu" initiative sets out to unravel the hidden nature of the undersea environment and pave a new path for marine spatial planning.

This ambitious endeavour aims to establish a comprehensive habitat map for marine park use. This map intends to provide critical assistance for marine spatial planning, which is vital for preserving and long-term managing our marine resources. The initiative relies on precise seabed mapping, a critical data collection component for informed decision-making.

The devices that serve as our compass in the depths are:

1. Multibeam Echosounder System: A cutting-edge technology for imaging the seabed and uncovering its complicated shapes.

2. Sound Velocity Profiler: An crucial tool for precisely measuring the speed of sound in water, which is required for accurate seabed mapping.

3. Tide Gauge: A must-have instrument for monitoring tide changes and ensuring that mapping data accurately reflects the dynamic character of the undersea area.

4. DGPS and heading: These navigation instruments assist our researchers through the ocean maze with precise accuracy.

Dr. Khaira Ismail directed this habitat mapping project as the lead researcher and Ts. Dr Azizi Ali as the principal technical officer is set to leave an indelible impact. Mr Mohamad Nasir, Mr Roslan Latif, Mr Azri Muhammad, and Mr Kamal are responsible for conducting the detailed field survey. Their expertise and dedication are the driving forces behind this endeavour's success.

The crew embarks on a 10-day expedition from the 9th to the 18th of July 2023 onboard the beautiful ship Discovery 2, UMT, to explore the unknown seas surrounding Tenggol Island.

The trip offers a richness of scientific discoveries and a profound connection to the ocean's depths.

This joint effort, which brings together the knowledge of the Department of Fisheries Malaysia, the Institute of Oceanography and Environment, and the Faculty of Science and Aquatic Environment at UMT, demonstrates the value of collaboration in revealing the mysteries of our aquatic environment. We anxiously await the outcomes that will affect the future of marine conservation and spatial planning as the seas wash against the shores of discovery. Keep an eye out for the reveal of the hidden beauties under the surface.

INOS Enhances UAV Education with Terengganu Inc.

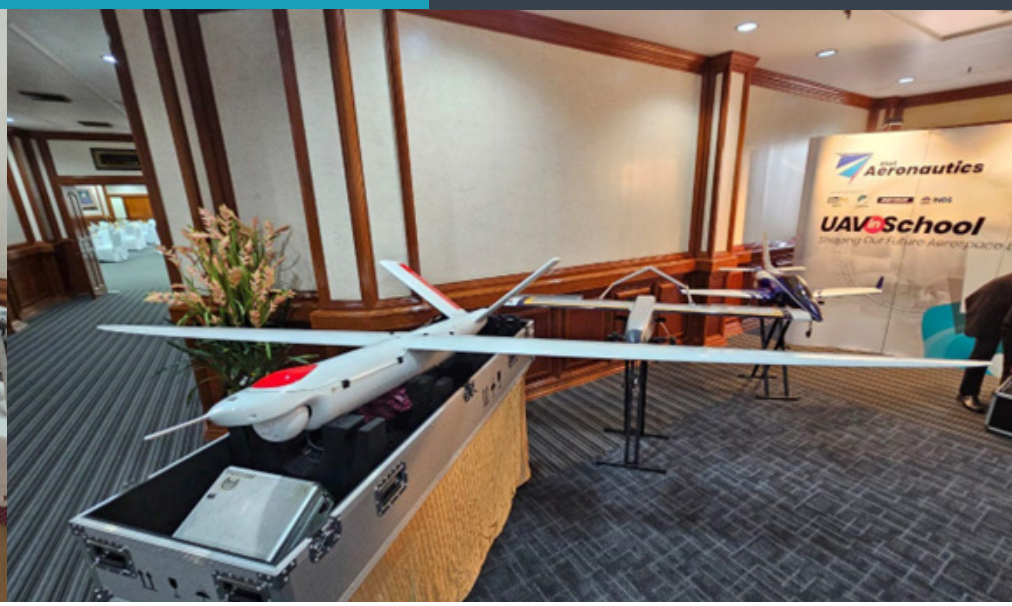
By **Aidy M Muslim**

A remarkable stride was achieved through the successful execution of the pioneering TI-BSas Aeronautics UAV In-School program, where INOS played a pivotal role as a supportive partner. Spearheaded by the esteemed Prof. Dr Aidy Mohamed Shawal, the initiative thrived with the invaluable expertise of the Remote Sensing INOS group.

The program, a collaborative effort with Terengganu Incorporated Sdn Bhd (Terengganu Inc.), marked a pivotal moment in education and technology. Terengganu Inc.'s generous contribution of RM45,000 kickstarted the initiative and reflected their commitment to advancing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, aligning with the spirit of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR4.0).

Under the leadership of Terengganu Inc.'s CEO, Burhanuddin Hilmi, this endeavour aimed to empower students with practical knowledge and skills, fostering a generation ready to embrace the challenges of the modern world. Burhanuddin's vision was to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world application, thus strengthening the foundation for future careers and achievements.

The partnership between INOS and Terengganu Inc. resulted in the launch of the TI-BSas Aeronautics UAV In-School program. This program, spanning four years from 2023 to 2026, unfolded at Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Bukit Sawa in Marang. The program's core purpose was to provide a comprehensive educational platform for students centred around unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology.



Blue School Program Inspiring Future Stewards of the Ocean

In the spirit of World Ocean Week 2023 (WOW2023), an enlightening educational initiative, the Blue School Program, was successfully conducted on June 8, 2023. This inspiring event brought together the students of Sekolah Kebangsaan Batu Rakit under the theme "Our Ocean, Our Future."

Jointly organized by Petronas Kertih Port in collaboration with the Sea Turtle Research Unit (SEATRU), the program aimed to cultivate awareness among school students about the paramount importance of safeguarding our oceans and their delicate ecosystems to preserve the environment.
necessary.

Led by Associate Professor Dr Mohd Uzair Rusli, the Sea Turtle Research Unit played a pivotal role in orchestrating this impactful event. The collaboration

Through engaging activities and interactive sessions, the Blue School Program provided students with a unique opportunity to explore and learn about marine life, conservation practices, and the interdependence between human actions and the health of our oceans. The program offered valuable insights and instilled a sense of responsibility among the young participants to become stewards of the sea.

The chosen theme, "Our Ocean, Our Future," served as a reminder that the well-being of our oceans directly impacts the well-being of our planet and future generations. By nurturing this understanding at a young age, the Blue School Program aspired to spark a lifelong commitment to environmental conservation among the students.

As the students immersed themselves in the various educational sessions and hands-on activities, the importance of individual actions in shaping the fate of our oceans became clearer. Through this program, they were equipped with the knowledge and motivation to make informed choices that contribute positively to the health and sustainability of our marine ecosystems.

We thank Petronas Kertih Port, UMT's Sea Turtle Research Unit, and all participants for their unwavering commitment to marine conservation and education. The Blue School Program serves as a reminder that together, we can inspire positive change and empower the leaders of tomorrow to become guardians of our oceans.

Behind the Lab Coats - The Journey of Dr. Joseph Bidai

Dr. Joseph Bidai, a passionate scientist, has quietly made his everlasting imprint on the delicate realm of oceanography. His journey begins in 1999, a watershed year in which Dr. Joseph Bidai's pursuit of a degree in Marine Science degree sparked an insatiable obsession with the sea.

A tapestry of experiences unfolded throughout his undergraduate academic years, expertly stitched by the leadership of UMT's (formerly known as UPMT) outstanding instructors. His compass was the study of marine science, mastery of fishing techniques, lessons in sea survival, and a profound exploration of the essence of the marine environment. Dr. Joseph Bidai's fascination in the sea environment has evolved into an unbreakable enthusiasm.

Dr. Joseph Bidai was able to merge theory and practise on a canvas given by the institution, bridging the worlds of fieldwork and the laboratory. Curiosity drove him to go on a voyage of physical sampling and gear tweaking. Each step reinforced his connection to marine studies, culminating in the collection of vital data that transcends the confines of science.

When one considers the possible impact, the results of this exertion become more significant. Data acts as a lighthouse, illuminating the route for critical decision-making. Dr. Joseph Bidai's passion extends beyond the laboratory walls, from Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for offshore oil and gas exploration to study marine pollution especially on marine sediment and core. Let us reveal the individual, Dr. Joseph Bidai, who has persistently accepted his position in the middle of this scientific symphony. Former Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) of UMT and Director of INOS, Professor Emeritus Dr. Noor Azhar Bin Shazili, emerges as a luminary. His loving guidance and compassionate demeanour have enhanced the lives of individuals who sought his counsel, especially during his pursuit of a master's degree by the year 2011 and later his pursuit of a PhD by the year 2022. The echoes of his mentoring reverberate across time, with a single visit frequently delivering the solutions to two difficulties. His leadership goes beyond the scientific, capturing the human side of discovery.

Dr. Joseph Bidai's passion extends beyond the laboratory walls, from Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for offshore oil and gas exploration to study marine pollution especially on marine sediment and core.

Dr. Joseph Bidai, our unsung hero, perseveres via teamwork despite budgetary restraints and outdated equipment. Collaboration with outside scholars has opened a treasure mine of materials. Collaboration with IIUM resulted in equipment exchanges, establishing a spirit of information sharing. Collaboration with other agencies and universities such as the Malaysian Nuclear Agency, the Department of Minerals and Geology Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, East Carolina University, University of Pennsylvania, Tongji University, the University of Tokyo, and others has also provided new experiences and learning.

As we peel back the layers of this scientific journey, a narrative of resilience and collective progress emerges. Dr. Jospeh Bidai symbolises the spirit of scientific endeavour, with a heart sensitive to the sea's whispers, a quest fueled by passion, directed by mentors, and reinforced by teamwork. This teamwork is carried out in conjunction with his partnership with several researchers such as Professor Emeritus Dr. Noor Azhar Bin Shazili, Professor Dr. Kamaruzzaman Yunus, Associate Professor Dr. Hasrizal Shaari, Associate Professor Dr. Ong Meng Chuan, Dr. Adiana Ghazali, Dr. Teh Sabariah Manan and Dr. Nor Hidayah.

Throughout his quest, he recalls the age-old idea that only those who dare to paddle together can survive the storms of research. Dr. Joseph Bidai carves a route to enlightenment with each stroke of his oar, connected by a desire to cross new waters. As the sun sets on his story, his dedication to scientific investigation shines brightly, leading both the curious and the brave.

Dr. Joseph Bidai was able to merge theory and practise on a canvas given by the institution, bridging the worlds of fieldwork and the laboratory.

Global Recognition: INOS Proudly Celebrates Prof. Aidy's Australia Awards Fellowship

With immense pride and joy, the Institute of Oceanography and Environment (INOS) congratulates Prof. Aidy Mohamed Shawal on his remarkable achievement of being awarded an Australia Awards Fellowship. This prestigious accolade is a testament to Prof. Aidy's exceptional expertise and dedication to advancing critical research areas in disaster management and geographic information systems.

The Australia Awards Fellowship, extended by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), brings to light Prof. Aidy's significant contributions to disaster management. The fellowship is hosted by the University of Technology Sydney, where Prof. Aidy will lead the project titled 'R182139 - Building Health Resiliency Systems through Multilateral and Interdisciplinary WASH Interventions'. This initiative underscores Prof. Aidy's expertise and highlights his invaluable role in strengthening Australia's engagement with the Asia-Pacific region.

The project's heart lies in exploring Geographic Information System (GIS) and Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technologies to bolster disaster management and health system resilience. Prof. Aidy's contributions will play a pivotal role in unlocking the potential of these innovative technologies to safeguard vulnerable communities affected by disasters, particularly those grappling with water, sanitation, and hygiene challenges.

One of the most inspiring aspects of Prof. Aidy's fellowship is its collaborative approach. The project assembles experts from various countries, including Australia, Malaysia, India, Nepal, Thailand, and the Philippines. This multidisciplinary partnership exemplifies Prof. Aidy's ability to foster global collaboration and reinforces INOS's commitment to facilitating international cooperation in addressing critical challenges.

The significance of Prof. Aidy's Australia Awards Fellowship extends beyond his accomplishment. It mirrors the core values of INOS, emphasizing the importance of research-driven solutions that transcend geographical boundaries. The fellowship aligns perfectly with INOS's mission to improve society and the environment through cutting-edge research and collaboration.
Prof. Aidy's achievement inspires the entire INOS scientific community, motivating us to strive for excellence and contribute meaningfully to global research initiatives. His success highlights the integral role that INOS plays in fostering a conducive environment for impactful research and its translation into real-world solutions.

Embracing the Postgraduate Journey at INOS

By **Syamsyahidah Samsol, President of INOS Postgraduate Club**

Embarking on the path of postgraduate studies is akin to embarking on a long and rewarding journey. Just like any voyage, there are moments when we need to pause and reflect on our progress before reaching our ultimate destination. The journey might sometimes feel challenging, akin to facing hurdles along the way.

In this expedition of learning and self-discovery, it is important not to rush through the experience without appreciating the scenic stops along the route. Just as travellers capture picturesque landscapes to cherish as memories, we must relish every step of our academic journey. These memories will undoubtedly become valuable assets that enrich our personal growth in the future.

Our youth is a fleeting moment, a phase that will not recur. Let us make the most of our postgraduate studies, ensuring that each moment is meaningful and impactful. As we delve into the depths of our chosen fields, let us remember to develop our academic talent and our character and values.

Together, as members of the Postgraduate Students Club of the Institute of Oceanography and Environment (INOS) at UMT, let us make the most of this unique phase of our lives. Let us celebrate every achievement, big or small, and support one another through challenges. The journey might be long, but the knowledge, growth, and connections we gain will undoubtedly make it worthwhile.

As we continue our academic endeavours at INOS, we invite more like-minded individuals to join us on this incredible journey. Let us create memories that will linger in our hearts forever. Remember, every scholar who becomes a part of our INOS community adds a unique colour to the canvas of our collective experiences.

Embrace the journey, appreciate the moments, and let us sail through our postgraduate studies with a sense of purpose and fulfilment.

INOS Open Day Spotlights Marine Research and Wonder

The Institute of Oceanography and Environment (INOS) opened its doors to a vibrant and enthusiastic crowd on the first day of its Open Day event, coinciding with the celebration of World Ocean Week (WOW2023). The event, held on June 7, 2023, marked an engaging occasion for nearly 300 visitors, including school students and industry partners, to delve into oceanography.

The INOS Open Day showcased a diverse range of attendees, all eager to learn and explore the marvels of marine science. The event was a remarkable opportunity for INOS to connect with the broader community, sharing knowledge and fostering a deeper understanding of the ocean's significance.

Throughout the day, visitors were guided through the INOS Research Gallery, where the innovative research outcomes of INOS researchers were on display. The gallery featured a collection of oceanographic research findings, highlighting the various dimensions of ocean exploration, from physical characteristics to marine life studies. As part of the WOW2023 special exhibition, an intriguing showcase titled "Unique and Rarely Known Marine Creatures" captivated visitors with a glimpse into the fascinating and often hidden world of marine fauna.

Coordinated with UMT students, interactive activities brought a vibrant energy to the event. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities that provided a taste of the experiences of marine science students. These interactions fostered a sense of engagement and curiosity among the visitors, enhancing their appreciation for the complexities of ocean ecosystems.

A significant highlight of the INOS Open Day was the guided visit to the INOS University-Industry-Community Collaborative Laboratory, showcasing the array of research support equipment available within INOS. This immersive experience allowed visitors to witness firsthand the advanced technology and tools utilized by researchers in their pursuit of understanding and preserving our oceans.

INOS is thrilled to have hosted this Open Day as a platform for knowledge dissemination to diverse community segments. The event provided a unique opportunity for INOS to bridge the gap between academia, industry, and the public, emphasizing the importance of ocean science in addressing the global challenges facing our oceans.

As INOS continues contributing to marine research and conservation, events like the Open Day underscore its commitment to sharing insights, sparking curiosity, and inspiring a new generation of ocean advocates. The success of the Open Day further reinforces INOS's dedication to promoting awareness and understanding of the ocean's vital role in our lives and the environment.

Empowering Community, Inspiring Change - Highlights from WOW2023 Carnival

By **Azida Abdullah**

The Institute of Oceanography and Environment welcomed a diverse gathering of individuals, young and old, students and professionals, all converging with a shared purpose—to celebrate our oceans and pave the way for a more sustainable future—at Teluk Ketapang Beach. What was the occasion? WOW2023 Carnival was an event that encouraged community participation and demonstrated the joint strength of our university and local citizens working together.

WOW2023 Carnival echoed the theme "Planet Ocean: Tides are Changing". While the event was much more than a day of fun and games, it was also about raising awareness, instilling a feeling of responsibility, and inspiring good action for our oceans.

The feeling of oneness that pervaded every contact and activity was an essential element of this Carnival. Families, friends, and neighbours interact with university employees and students, sharing tales, laughing, and, most importantly, a common desire to advocate for ocean protection. The range of ages and origins only helped highlight ocean health's universal necessity.

The event's success was measured in numbers, the genuine relationships made, and the spark of inspiration kindled. The Carnival offered opportunities for both learning and fun, from energising morning aerobic exercises to the colourful artistry of the colouring contest. Beach volleyball matches were hotly contested, and smiles abounded during games such as "Catch Me If You Can" and "WOW Ship."

One of the most memorable events was the sandcastle-building competition and a Beach Clean Up, which students and community members enthusiastically embraced. These activities have become the signature WOW@UMT, reflecting our commitment to fostering creativity, environmental consciousness, and community engagement. Adding to the remarkable roster of events, we also organised the 'Create a Recycled Ship Model' project, in which participants demonstrated their artistic abilities using recycled materials.

As the celebrations progressed, it became clear that the event's purpose of strengthening the link between the institution and the local community had been met. The Carnival demonstrated the power of collective action, demonstrating that when institutions and communities work together, the potential for good change is boundless.

We want to thank everyone who helped make the WOW2023 Carnival a huge success, including the organisers, participants, volunteers, and supporters. Your dedication to ocean protection extends well beyond the coastal venue. We are reminded of the strength that develops when a community joins with a single purpose as the echoes of laughter and shared experiences from the Carnival linger.

While the event has ended, the conversations and friendships it created are still felt in our community and beyond. The WOW2023 Carnival is a poignant reminder that by connecting our hands and hearts, we can create a more sustainable and resilient future for our seas and future generations.

UMT-MMS Sea Turtle Conservation Programme

RM880

Cost including volunteer t-shirt, certificate, facilities, foods, accommodation at Chagar Hutang, and return boat transfers to Redang Island

Calling for SEA TURTLE HEROES!

"KEEPING OUR HERITAGE ALIVE"

BatiKita

REINVENTING MALAYSIAN TRADITION

In the heart of Terengganu, a hidden treasure trove of natural and cultural wonders is at risk. The lack of awareness and community involvement has pushed these treasures to the brink of extinction. However, there's hope on the horizon as experts turn their focus to preserving our marine ecosystems, with a special emphasis on our sea turtles.

'BatiKita' is an exciting initiative that's making waves, not just by modernizing our cultural heritage but also by promoting environmental conservation. It is also an inclusive effort that reaches out to the special needs community, providing them with opportunities to thrive and prosper.

Shopee

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"YOUR ACTION, THEIR PROGRESS: YOUR SUPPORT, THEIR HOPE!"