

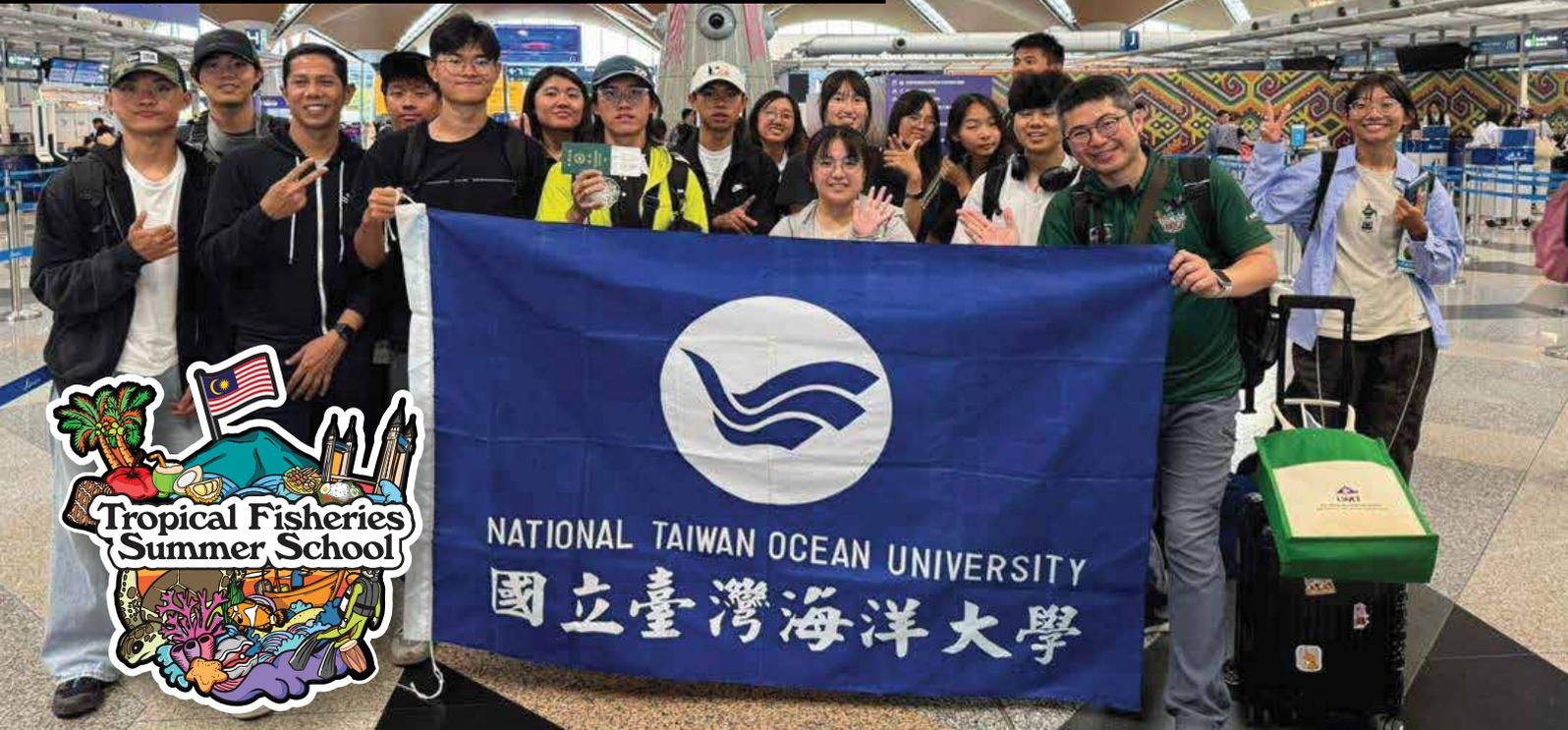
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NEWSLETTER



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Issue #1 | DECEMBER 2025



Tropical Fisheries Summer School 2025 Showcases Tropical Exploration

By Mohd Azman bin Yusoff

Kuala Nerus, August 22, 2025, The Tropical Fisheries Summer School 2025, themed "Explore the Tropical Nature," organized by the Faculty of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (FSPA), was held from 8 to 31 August 2025.

The program welcomed 14 students from Mie University, Japan, who completed their participation on 22nd August, as well as 15 students from National Taiwan Ocean University (NTOU), Taiwan, who completed their activities on 31 August.



Throughout the program, participants engaged in activities focused on fisheries, aquaculture, and marine sustainability, including aquascaping, fish breeding, scuba diving, exploring Tasik Kenyir, fishing operations, and sports and cultural exchange activities with local students. The involvement of local communities further enriched the participants' learning experience. *cont. p.5*

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Remarks from the VC of UMT



Greetings and congratulations on the launch of the Faculty of Fisheries and Aquaculture Science's first electronic newsletter. This milestone reflects the faculty's steadfast dedication to academic excellence, research innovation, and meaningful community engagement.

This issue represents more than a communication platform; it is a dynamic conduit through which ideas, discoveries, and aspirations converge. As part of UMT's vision of becoming an internationally renowned marine-focused university, and its mission to provide knowledge for society's prosperity and environmental sustainability, this initiative enhances our collective pursuit of intellectual distinction and societal relevance.

Faculty commitment and the editorial team's creative perseverance in achieving this vision to fruition are greatly appreciated. It will undoubtedly strengthen collaboration, recognizes scholarly accomplishments, inspires interdisciplinary synergy, and strengthens UMT's reputation as a beacon of marine and aquatic excellence.

Prof. Ts. Dr. Mohd Zamri Ibrahim
Vice Chancellor
Universiti Malaysia Terengganu

Remarks from the Dean of FSPA

With great pleasure and pride, I would like to extend my warmest greetings on the auspicious occasion of the launch of the Faculty of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences electronic newsletter. Through this initiative, we strive to enhance visibility, foster intellectual exchange, and celebrate the dynamic spirit of our faculty.

This e-newsletter will serve as a platform to celebrate academic excellence, research breakthroughs, community engagements, and collaborative achievements. Staff, students, alumni, and industry partners will not only be able to track our achievements, but also be inspired to innovate and bolster their sense of belonging. My congratulations go to the editorial team for their unwavering commitment, creativity, and professionalism in bringing this project to life. It is our hope that this e-newsletter will enhance communication, nurture scholarly passion, and contribute to the greater distinction and global recognition of our faculty.

Prof. Dr. Najiah Musa
Dean
Faculty of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (FSPA)
Universiti Malaysia Terengganu





Editorial Note

For generations, the seas, rivers, and lakes have sustained life and shaped our way of living- they feed us, teach us, and carry our stories. Yet as they face growing threats from climate change and pollution, our commitment to understanding and protecting them grows ever more important.

At the Faculty of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, we view education and research as ongoing journeys that extend beyond classrooms and laboratories. Each project, field trip, and collaboration reflects our collective effort to conserve and enhance the aquatic world we all depend on.

This inaugural edition of our faculty newsletter is a celebration of the spirit of curiosity, teamwork, and shared purpose. Through every story and highlight, we hope to connect our community, spark ideas, and inspire continued collaboration toward a sustainable and thriving future for fisheries and aquaculture.

Nadirah

Editor-in-chief

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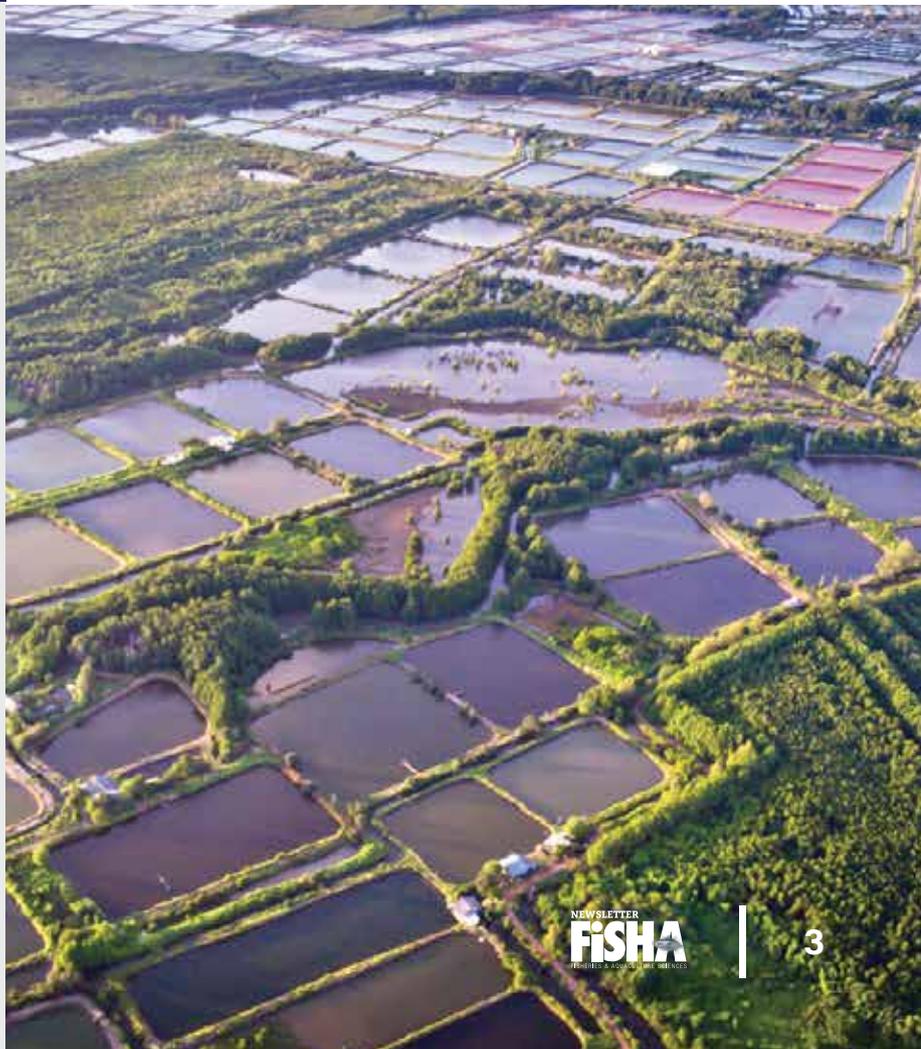
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From left: Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ikhwanuddin Abdullah, Prof. Dr. Jianguo He, Prof. Ts. Dr. Mohd. Effendy Abd. Wahid, Prof. Dr. Najiah binti Musa and Prof. Dr. Yeong Yik Sung

Expanding Partnership with Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou and Southern Marine Science and Engineering Guangdong Laboratory, Zhuhai

By Nurul Aqilah Ibrahira, Muhd Danish Daniel bin Abdullah, Nadirah Musa and Najiah Musa

On 22 September 2024, the Faculty of Fisheries and Food Sciences (FPSM), now known as the Faculty of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (FSPA) joined a focused research collaboration meeting at the Institute of Climate Adaptation and Marine Biotechnology (ICAMB). Held in conjunction with the 2nd International Conference in Marine Biotechnology (ICOMB 2024), the session gathered scientists from Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou, China, and the Southern Marine Science and Engineering Guangdong Laboratory, Zhuhai. The Chinese delegation delivered sharp insights on fish nervous necrosis virus, iridovirus vaccine development, and shrimp immunity and resistance breeding. The session closed with productive discussions on shared expertise and collaborative opportunities, paving the way for future joint research and mobility programmes.



From left: Baharim Mustapa, Muhammad Syahrudin bin Abdul Rashid, Profesor Dr. Najiah binti Musa Dean Faculty of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences, Dato' Dr. Ahmad Ramzi bin Mohamad Zubir (CEO UMT Holdings), Dr. Nik Muhamad Afiz bin Harom@Junoh, Muhammad Haniff bin Mohd Yusof

Courtesy Visit by UMT Holdings

By Nadirah Musa, Baharim Mustapa, Muhammad Syahrudin bin Abdul Rashid, Hassan Ibrahim Sheikh Mohamed, Muhammad Haniff Mohd Yusof and Najiah Musa

On 27 August 2025, Faculty of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (FSPA) was pleased to host UMT Holdings Sdn. Bhd., the commercial and strategic arm of Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), for a courtesy visit. The visit aims to strengthen collaboration, explore potential areas of partnership, and enhance mutual understanding, particularly in academic, research, and industry engagement initiatives.



This program not only provided exposure to the rich biodiversity of tropical regions but also highlighted UMT's expertise in the fields of fisheries, aquaculture, and sustainable marine resource management. It also served to strengthen international academic networks and reinforced UMT's mission as a leading institution in marine and aquatic sciences.

FSPA extends its deepest appreciation to the UMT Management, International Centre, Academic Management Centre, Asset Management Office, Research and Field Services Centre, and all UMT staff who contributed directly and indirectly to the success of this program.

It is hoped that mobility programs such as this will continue to showcase UMT's expertise both locally and globally, particularly in the field of tropical fisheries and aquaculture.

INBOUND MOBILITY PROGRAM FOR CVASU STUDENTS @ FSPA 2025



By Muhammad Haniff Mohd Yusoff and Mohd Hanafi Idris

A total of 39 students from the Faculty of Fisheries, Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU), Bangladesh, participated in the Inbound Mobility (Externship) Program hosted by the Faculty of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (FSPA), Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) from 21 August to 17 September 2025. The program, an annual initiative under the UMT-CVASU international collaboration, was also joined by Professor Dr. Isharat Zahan Anka of the Department of Aquaculture, CVASU.

The credit-bearing mobility program (PSM4972: Inbound Mobility Industrial Training) combined theory, hands-on practical sessions, and academic excursions to Kuala Terengganu, Tasik Kenyir, and Pulau Redang.

Students engaged in modules on fish health and diseases, induced breeding, live feed production, and aquaculture feed formulation, under the guidance of six FSPA lecturers.

Cultural and educational visits further enriched their experience, exposing students to Terengganu's heritage, natural ecosystems, and turtle conservation efforts at UMT's SEATRU Alami Research Station.

Now in its ninth year, the program continues to strengthen academic and research collaboration between UMT and CVASU while promoting FSPA and UMT as leading destinations for higher studies in fisheries and aquaculture. FSPA extends sincere appreciation to all UMT departments and staff for their support in ensuring the program's continued success.





From left: Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Wan Nurul Nadiah Wan Rasdi, Head of Bachelor of Aquaculture Science Program; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wan Mohd Rauhan Wan Hussin, Deputy Dean (Talent & Research); Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Muhd Danish Daniel Abdullah, Deputy Dean (Academic & Student Affairs); Ms. Sarmila, Politeknik Negeri Pontianak, Indonesia; Prof. Dr. Najiah Musa, Dean, Faculty of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences; Ms. Kristina Navalina Nainggolan, Politeknik Negeri Pontianak, Indonesia; Mr. Uray Endang Kusumajaya, Politeknik Negeri Pontianak, Indonesia and Dr. Siti Ariza Aripin

Strengthening Ties: Courtesy Visit from Indonesian Institutions

By Wan Nurzatul Farahain binti Wan Zakaria, Nureisya Saffia bin Yaakub, Siti Ariza binti Aripin and Nur Asma binti Ariffin

On 24 September 2025, the Faculty of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (FSPA), Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), had the pleasure of welcoming delegates from two Indonesian institutions; Universitas Muslim Makassar (UMI) and Politeknik Negeri Pontianak (POLNEP). The visit coincided with the FUSE 2.0 International Conference, organized by the Institute of Tropical Aquaculture and Fisheries (AKUATROP) in collaboration with FSPA and the Faculty of Food Science and Agrotechnology (FSMA). Led by Prof. Dr. Ir. Abdul Rauf from UMI and Ms. Kristina Navalina Nainggolan from POLNEP, the session concluded with a shared optimism to formalize these ties through upcoming MoU and MoA initiatives, reflecting FSPA's ongoing commitment to building strong international networks and advancing regional cooperation in fisheries and aquaculture education.

From left: Andi Hamdillah, Universitas Muslim, Makassar, Indonesia; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wan Mohd Rauhan Wan Hussin, Deputy Dean (Talent & Research); Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Muhd Danish Daniel Abdullah, Deputy Dean (Academic & Student Affairs); Prof. Dr. Ir. Abdul Rauf, Dean, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science, Universitas Muslim, Makassar, Indonesia; Prof. Dr. Najiah Musa, Dean, Faculty of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences; Dr. Siti Ariza Aripin and Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Wan Nurul Nadiah Wan Rasdi, Head of Bachelor of Aquaculture Science Program.)





From left: Amir, Karl Diffenny Anak Robert Achang, Dr Muhammad Abduh bin Yazed, Abdul Hakim Bin Razali, Assoc. Prof. Dr Wan Mohd Rauhan bin Wan Hussin Deputy Dean (Talent & Research), Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Wan Nurul Nadiah binti Wan Rasdi Head of Bachelor of Aquaculture Science Program, Angie Anak Sapis, Susie Nadya Anak David Asen, Wizilla Janti Anak Joshua, Tonny Anak Ganyai, Frankie Anak Thomas Sitam.

Sarawak Energy Benchmarking Visit

By Muhammad Abduh bin Yazed

On 28 August 2025, the Faculty of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (FSPA), Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) was pleased to welcome visitors from Sarawak Energy Berhad. The primary objective of this visit was to gain comprehensive insights and a deeper understanding of the development of research centres, with particular emphasis on hatchery management. Through this engagement, they aimed to explore best practices, evaluate management strategies, and identify areas that could be adapted or improved to strengthen their research and operational capacity.

Minggu Jalinan Mesra (MJM) 2025: Welcoming the New Addition to the Family



By Nureisya Saffia Yaakub, Amir Zaki bin Nordin, Mohd Mazlan bin Hassan and Muhammad Syahrudin bin Abdul Rashid

On 30 September 2025, the Faculty of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (FSPA), Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), warmly welcomed its new undergraduate students through Minggu Jalinan Mesra (MJM). Designed as an engaging introduction to the world of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences, MJM gives students a first glimpse into their academic journey while helping them connect with the FSPA community.



Building Strength Through Advanced Studies



When Dr. Mohd Azman bin Yusoff decided to pursue his PhD at Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, he knew the road ahead would not be easy. Still, he took the leap with genuine enthusiasm to learn, grow, and make a meaningful contribution to a field close to his heart. His research focuses on circular economy practices and waste-valorization technologies in the seafood processing industry, which supports more sustainable and environmentally friendly food systems. Taking study leave from his duties as a Fisheries Officer allowed him to focus fully on this journey. Along the way, he gained eye-opening international exposure through a research placement at the University of Saskatchewan under the Canada-ASEAN SEED scholarship, followed by an internship at Kagoshima University in Japan. These experiences expanded not only his technical knowledge but also his appreciation for diverse cultures, ideas, and approaches to sustainability.

The journey had its tough moments, late nights troubleshooting stubborn experiments, long days that stretched into evenings, and periods of uncertainty that tested both patience and determination. But Dr. Mohd Azman never walked alone. Supportive supervisors, encouraging colleagues, and his own perseverance kept him moving forward. Looking back, he feels deep gratitude for every challenge that shaped him and every achievement that reminded him why the journey mattered. Today, he hopes his experience will inspire fellow officers and colleagues to believe in their own potential, stay curious, and embrace opportunities for growth. The path may be demanding, but the confidence and fulfilment gained along the way make it truly worthwhile.



Certified Marine Technician Achievement: Celebrating Mr. Muhaimin bin Mohamad

We extend our warmest congratulations to Mr. Muhaimin bin Mohamad, who was officially certified as a Professional Technician in Marine Technology by the Malaysia Board of Technologists (MBOT) on 8 October 2025. This achievement reflects his strong commitment, technical expertise, and dedication to advancing his professional skills in the field of marine technology.

Throughout his service, Mr. Muhaimin has consistently demonstrated discipline, curiosity, and a willingness to learn, qualities that have guided him toward this important milestone. His success serves as an inspiring reminder that continuous learning and upskilling are essential in a rapidly evolving industry.



FSPA Celebrates Outstanding Students at Best Student Award and Hooding Ceremony 2025

By Muhammad Haniff Mohd Yusoff, Muhammad Syahrudin Abdul Rashid and Shahrol Idham Bin Ismail

The Faculty of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (FSPA) held its Best Student Award and Hooding Ceremony on 26 October 2025 at the Wan Sarah Seminar Room, in conjunction with UMT's 23rd Convocation Ceremony.

The event celebrated FSPA's best-performing undergraduate and postgraduate students, recognising their academic excellence and dedication. A total of 11 students received Best Student Awards, while 13 postgraduates were honoured for completing their studies.

Among the top recipients were Riyad Taguemount (Best PhD Student), Ahmad Shaqiq Alizdi Bin Ahmad Sharikin (Best Research Master's Student), and Mariam Binti Marip (Best Coursework Master's Student). Undergraduate awards went to Mohamad Izuwanshah Bin Ishak, Nadratul Naim Binti Ja'afar, and Nur Edleena Binti Mohamad Syukor for their outstanding performance in Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Diploma programs.

The ceremony was officiated by Professor Dr. Najiah binti Musa, Dean of FSPA, along with Assoc. Professor Ts. Dr. Danish Daniel Abdullah and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wan Mohd Rauhan Bin Wan Hussin. Also in attendance was Dato' Haji Adnan bin Hussain, Director-General of the Department of Fisheries Malaysia, who celebrated the success of Mdm. Mariam binti Marip, one of the award recipients.

FSPA also expressed appreciation to its award sponsors, including Professor Emeritus Dr. Faizah binti Mohd Sharoum, Professor Dato' Dr. Anuar bin Hassan, and Hunter Boat Service, for their continuous support.

Congratulations to all award recipients and graduates. May your success inspire continued excellence in Malaysia's fisheries and aquaculture fields.

