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UNIMAS WELCOMES NEW CHANCELLOR:

TUAN YANG TERUTAMA TUN PEHIN SRI
DR. HAJI WAN JUNAIDI TUANKU JAAFAR

UNIMAS WELCOMES OVER
3500 NEW STUDENTS FOR
2024/2025 ACADEMIC SESSION

MALAM RUMPUN BUDAYA
AT UNIMAS FEATURES SPECIAL
APPEARANCE BY AINA ABDUL

Editor's Note

It's that time of the year once again, with celebration in the air!

From 4th to 7th November 2024, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) will proudly host its 28th Convocation Ceremony, where 3,932 students will receive their degrees from the newly appointed Chancellor, Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak, Tun Pehin Sri Dr. Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar.

There will be seven sessions all together where on the first session, 612 postgraduates are expected to receive their scrolls on the first day of convocation. On the second day, students from three faculties, namely the Faculty of Cognitive Sciences and Human Development (485), the Faculty of Build Environment (67), and the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities (521) receive their degrees.

On the third day, students from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (186) and the Faculty of Engineering (343) will be receiving their degrees in the morning session, while the Faculty of Applied and Creative Arts (282) and the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology (279) will be honoured in the afternoon session.

On the final day of the convocation, students from the Faculty of Economy and Business (618) will receive their degrees in the morning session, followed by graduates from the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology (318) and the Faculty of Education, Language and Communication (221) in the afternoon session.

On this auspicious occasion, the grand Arena Gemilang will be filled with proud parents, guardians, and family members, gathered to celebrate the hard-earned achievements and dedication of our graduates. Tears of joy and happiness will flow as students and their loved ones celebrate the most unforgettable milestone and important day of their lives.

Graduation is a milestone marking the culmination of three to four years of dedication and perseverance, during which students have relentlessly pursued academic excellence, proving that their hard work has finally paid off.

For the graduates, convocation also marks the beginning of a new chapter in life. As they start to plan their career paths, they'll be knocking on doors and seeking out job opportunities. This is the time for them to spread their wings and venture into the professional world.

For the university, convocation is also a time to reflect on our unwavering commitment to academic excellence and the holistic development of our students. For this reason, UNIMAS has invested in various programs and collaboration with industry partners to equip students with the knowledge and skills required before they enter the job market.

UNIMAS has been working closely with related government agencies and private sectors in organising a yearly TRACE event to provide the opportunity for students to explore career paths, get to know about industry trends, and gain an insight into potential job opportunities.

Additionally, UNIMAS organised a series of events to highlight the talents and skills of its outstanding students. One event in particular was the 20th Mini Film Festival hosted by the Faculty of Applied and Creative Arts, in partnership with the Sarawak Arts Council (MSS) and National Film Development Corporation (FINAS). This event not only uncovered the creative talents of UNIMAS students and but also presented them with valuable exposure to the creative industry.

These examples highlight UNIMAS's continuous efforts and commitment to equipping students with essential knowledge and real-world exposure, ensuring they are well-prepared for the workplace.

As we celebrate the sweet success of our students in completing their studies, UNIMAS also opens its door and welcome new undergraduate and pre-university students who will carry forward the legacy of their alma matter in their pursuit of academic excellence.

Lastly, congratulations to all graduating students! The world is your oyster – embrace it fully as you explore, discover and create valuable experiences on your career journey. As Kerry Washington said, "Your life is your story, and the adventure ahead of you is the journey to fulfil your own purpose and potential."

Malia Taibi



Puan Malia Taibi
Director, Publication Division

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CIPTA24

UNIMAS Hosted Annual Arts Event CIPTA24

The Faculty of Applied and Creative Arts (FACA) at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) successfully hosted its annual arts event, CIPTA24, from June 18th to 28th, 2024. This vibrant event showcased the final-year projects of talented students across various art forms, including music, film, theatre, ceramics, painting, and e-arts.

CIPTA24 was a celebration of creativity and innovation, featuring a series of engaging activities. Highlights included the Pameran CIPTA24 exhibition, which started on June 24th at Galeri Seni, and the Anugerah Gala CIPTA24 on June 28th. Other notable events were the Duduk & Tonton 5 film screening on June 19th, and the Teater Silent Survivor, a collaborative project addressing child sexual abuse, held from June 21st to 23rd.

The event also included a FACA E-Sport Tournament, a Butik Pre-Love & Pop Up Art Market, and a Bazar Saji Rasa. Attendees enjoyed a Lunchtime Concert on June 24th, busking on June 26th, and a cinematic experience with Chills & Thrills from June 25th to 27th. Additionally, the Bicara Tokoh Seni Budaya 2024 seminar on June 25th explored the revolution in digital arts.

The event celebrated the artistic achievements of students and offered a series of activities designed to inspire and engage. CIPTA24 provided something for everyone, from art enthusiasts to cultural explorers.





UNIMAS HOSTS SUCCESSFUL KO-Q PROGRAM

Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) successfully hosted the Ko-Q Program at DeTAR PUTRA. The event, held on June 22, 2024, brought together students and faculty for a day of engaging activities and learning experiences.

The Ko-Q Program aimed to enhance students' co-curricular skills through various workshops, seminars, and interactive sessions. Participants had the opportunity to explore different fields, including leadership, teamwork, and creative problem-solving. The event also featured guest speakers who shared their expertise and insights, inspiring students to pursue excellence in their academic and personal lives.

The program was well-received by attendees, who appreciated the diverse range of activities and the opportunity to network with peers and professionals. The success of the Ko-Q Program highlights UNIMAS's commitment to providing holistic education and fostering a vibrant campus community.

Overall, the Ko-Q Program at DeTAR PUTRA was a memorable and enriching experience for all involved.



In a significant ceremony held at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), more than 1500 students from various ASASI programs took their oath as official students of the university. The event, which took place on July 25, 2024, marked the beginning of their academic journey at UNIMAS.

The ceremony was attended by university officials, faculty members, and the students' families, creating a supportive and celebratory atmosphere. The Vice-Chancellor of UNIMAS delivered an inspiring speech, emphasizing the importance of dedication, hard work, and the pursuit of knowledge. Professor Dr Ahmad Hata Rasit encouraged the new students to make the most of their time at the university and to contribute positively to the campus community.

The oath-taking ceremony is a cherished tradition at UNIMAS, symbolizing the students' commitment to their studies and their new roles as members of the university. The event concluded with a series of performances by current students, showcasing the vibrant and diverse talents within the UNIMAS community. This year's ceremony was particularly notable for its large turnout, reflecting the growing popularity and reputation of UNIMAS's ASASI programs. The university looks forward to supporting these new students as they embark on their educational journey.



OVER 1500 ASASI STUDENTS TAKE OATH AT UNIMAS





UNIMAS WELCOMES NEW CHANCELLOR:

**Tuan Yang Terutama Tun Pehin Sri Dr. Haji
Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar**



Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) celebrated the installation of its new Chancellor, Tuan Yang Terutama Yang di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak, Tun Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Wan Junaidi bin Tuanku Jaafar, at Astana Negeri Sarawak. This event marks a significant milestone as Tun Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Wan Junaidi becomes the fourth Chancellor of UNIMAS on 16 October 2024..



In his acceptance speech, Tun Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Wan Junaidi expressed his gratitude for the trust placed in him and humbly accepted the role. He pledged to drive the university's aspirations for academic and research excellence both nationally and internationally.

He thanked the Ministry of Higher Education for his appointment and emphasized his commitment to the progress of Sarawak and Malaysia. He highlighted the importance of developing talent in teaching and research, urging UNIMAS to produce globally competitive research.



"Commercializing research is crucial for international recognition and elevating UNIMAS's global standing," he stated. He stressed the need for collaboration between the university, industry, and government to turn research into practical solutions for society. Tun Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Wan Junaidi also aims to strengthen UNIMAS's partnerships with industry to benefit the community.

UNIMAS, with its vision of being a "Global University Leading Sustainable Future," continues to impact the global community through excellent teaching, research, and strategic engagement.





TRACE 2024

UNIMAS Hosts Successful TRACE Program
with Over 40 Exhibitors



Professor Dr Ahmad Hata Rasit, the Vice-Chancellor of UNIMAS praised the event's success, highlighting the importance of such programs in preparing students for the workforce. He emphasized the university's commitment to providing students with the resources and opportunities needed to excel in their future careers.

The TRACE program concluded with positive feedback from both exhibitors and students, marking it as a significant event in the university's calendar. The success of TRACE underscores UNIMAS's dedication to fostering strong industry connections and supporting student career development.

Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) successfully hosted the TRACE program at DeTAR PUTRA on June 26-27, 2024. The event saw participation from more than 40 organizations, each setting up informative and engaging exhibitions at their booths.

The TRACE program aimed to bridge the gap between students and industry professionals, providing a platform for networking, knowledge exchange, and career opportunities. Exhibitors included leading companies from various sectors, non-profit organizations, and government agencies, all eager to connect with the talented students of UNIMAS.

Throughout the two-day event, students had the opportunity to explore different career paths, learn about industry trends, and gain insights into potential job opportunities. Workshops and seminars were also held, featuring expert speakers who shared their experiences and advice on career development.





20th Mini Film Festival Concludes with 18 Awards

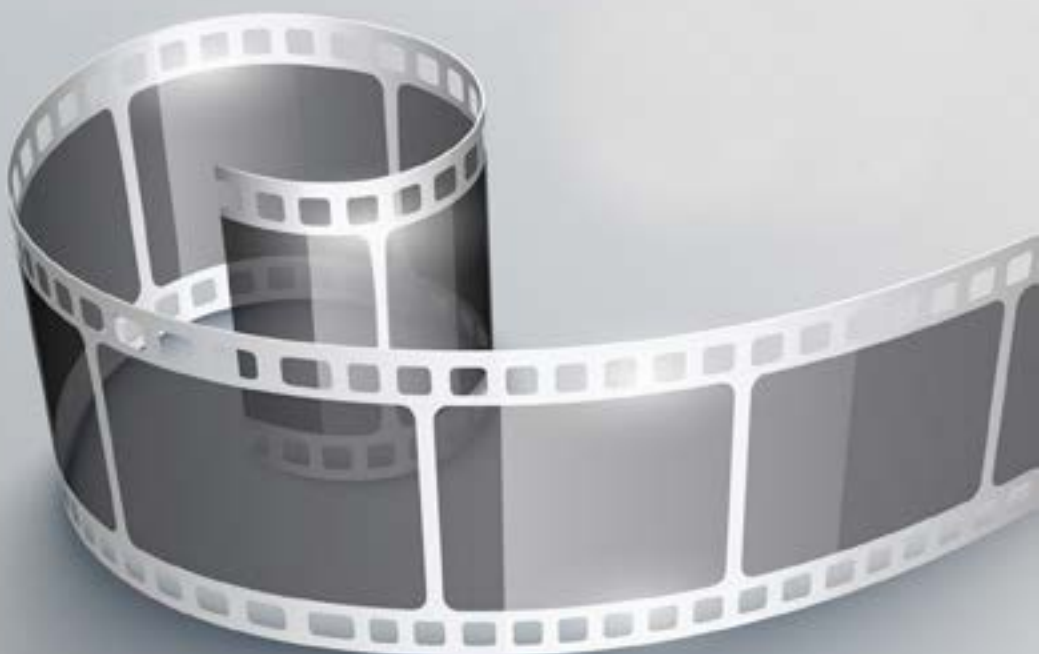
The 20th Mini Film Festival (MFF), organized by Universiti Sarawak Malaysia (UNIMAS) Faculty of Applied and Creative Arts Cinematography Programme, concluded on a high note with 18 awards presented to the winners. The event, themed 'Search', was held at La Promenade Multi-purpose Hall and attended by around 200 people.

The festival featured various award categories, including Best Script, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Production Design, Best Sound Design, Best Editing, Best Cinematography, Best Director, and several Jury's Awards. Notable winners included Miqaeel Mukhalis for Best Script (Belana), Taufiq Hidayat for Best Actor (Love on Screen), and Michelle Lungan for Best Actress (Senandika).

The event also recognized outstanding works in the student, open, and Borneo categories, with awards for Best Short Film, Best Documentary, and Special Mentions. The festival, supported by the Sarawak Arts Council (MSS) and National Film Development Corporation Malaysia (Finas), showcased the best films and arts in Sarawak.

Renowned actors and directors, including Dato' Afdlin Shauki and Emma Kawawada, participated as workshop facilitators and judges. The festival also featured musical performances by local artists, adding to the vibrant atmosphere.

The 20th MFF highlighted UNIMAS's dedication to fostering creativity and celebrating cinematic talent.



Malam Rumpun Budaya at UNIMAS Features Special Appearance by

Aina Abdul

Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) celebrated its annual *Malam Rumpun Budaya* with a special appearance by renowned singer Aina Abdul on 4 October 2024. The event, held at DeTAR PUTRA, marked the culmination of a week-long orientation program for new students registered for the 2024/2025 academic session.

Malam Rumpun Budaya is a vibrant cultural night that showcases the rich diversity of Malaysia's heritage through performances of traditional music, dance, and drama. This year, the event was particularly memorable with Aina Abdul gracing the stage, captivating the audience with her powerful vocals and engaging stage presence.

The orientation week, designed to welcome and integrate new students into the UNIMAS community, included various activities such as campus tours, academic briefings, and team-building exercises. The week concluded with *Malam Rumpun Budaya*, providing a platform for students to experience and appreciate the cultural tapestry of Malaysia.

The Vice-Chancellor of UNIMAS, Professor Dr Ahmad Hata Rasit in his opening speech, emphasized the importance of cultural understanding and unity among students. He encouraged the new students to embrace the diverse cultural experiences offered at UNIMAS.

The event was a resounding success, with students and faculty members enjoying the performances and the opportunity to bond over shared cultural experiences. *Malam Rumpun Budaya* continues to be a highlight of the UNIMAS calendar, fostering a sense of community and cultural appreciation among its students.



Minggu Aluan Pelajar UNIMAS 2024

UNIMAS Welcomes Over 3500 New Students for 2024/2025 Academic Session

Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) welcomed more than 3500 new students from across Malaysia as they embarked on their journey towards earning their bachelor's degrees. The first day of college registration marked the beginning of an exciting chapter for these students, who will join the existing 17,294 students continuing their semester.

The new students participated in *Minggu Aluan Pelajar* UNIMAS, an orientation week designed to introduce them to university life. This program included a variety of activities aimed at helping students acclimate to their new environment. Highlights of the week included visits to their respective faculties, where they met their academic advisors and gained insights into their chosen fields of study.

One of the most anticipated events of the orientation week was *Malam Rumpun Budaya*, a cultural night that celebrates Malaysia's rich heritage through traditional music, dance, and performances. This event provided a unique opportunity for new students to experience the diverse cultural landscape of UNIMAS and bond with their peers.

The Vice-Chancellor of UNIMAS, Professor Dr Ahmad Hata expressed his enthusiasm for the new academic year, emphasizing the university's commitment to providing a supportive and enriching environment for all students. He encouraged the new students to take full advantage of the opportunities available to them and to strive for excellence in their academic pursuits.

As the new students settle into their routines, UNIMAS looks forward to a vibrant and successful academic year ahead.



Cross-Border Initiative Boosts Women's Health in Mukah

A collaborative effort between UNIMAS and Indonesia's Institut Teknologi Kesehatan (ITEKES) Muhammadiyah has brought a significant women's health initiative to Mukah, Sarawak. The program, led by a nine-person delegation from ITEKES headed by Rector Bapak Haryanto, focused on raising awareness and preventing cervical cancer.

Titled "From the University to the Community: A Women's Health Awareness," the initiative aimed to directly engage the community, leveraging academic and medical expertise. Professor Dr. Asri Said, Dean of FMHS, highlighted the urgency, noting that Sarawak has the highest incidence of cervical cancer in Malaysia, with 12.1 cases per 100,000 population.

The event featured cervical cancer screenings using the advanced HPV DNA-based test, recommended by the WHO for its effectiveness over traditional Pap smears. The screenings were part of the SUARA program, funded by the Premier's Office and the Ministry of Finance, Malaysia.

Breast cancer screenings were also conducted, supported by the Sarawak Breast Cancer Support Group. The initiative included various activities for youth, such as mental health talks and cultural exchanges, aiming to foster a broader appreciation of Southeast Asian diversity.

The program's success was attributed to the collaboration of multiple stakeholders, emphasizing the importance of continued community-focused efforts for a healthier society.

Adapted from: <https://gazette.unimas.my/2024/08/21/uniting-for-womens-health-a-cross-border-initiative-in-mukah/>

In a groundbreaking move towards sustainable agriculture, a student-team named THE CATALYST from the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) is leading a research on using banana waste to cultivate oyster mushrooms.

Supported by the UNIMAS Entrepreneurship Centre (UEC) and guided by Dr. Mohamad Hasnul bin Bolhassan and Dr. Ainaa Nadiyah binti Abd Halim, this innovative project aims to convert agricultural waste into a valuable resource for mushroom farming. Preliminary results indicate that banana waste, particularly the pseudo-stem and leaves, is rich in nutrients and could serve as a cost-effective and sustainable substrate for mushroom cultivation. This approach not only addresses waste management but also provides a practical solution for commercial-scale production of *Pleurotus ostreatus*, commonly known as oyster mushrooms.

The team's dedication to innovation and sustainability is paving the way for new agricultural practices that benefit both the environment and the economy. By optimizing the substrate formulation, they hope to enhance the nutritional needs of the mushrooms, making this method a viable option for large-scale cultivation.

Adapted from: <https://gazette.unimas.my/2024/07/29/utilizing-banana-waste-for-sustainable-and-cost-effective-mushroom-cultivation/>

Sustainable Mushroom Cultivation Using Banana Waste



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