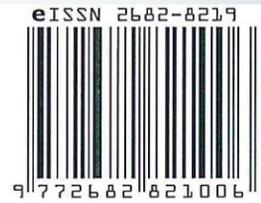


# IOES Bulletin

Institute of Ocean and Earth Sciences,  
University of Malaya



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# Directors' corner:

## Welcome on board the fourth issue of IOES bulletin



Welcome to the 4th Issue of IOES Bulletin. In this edition, we would like to share our latest research activities and achievements by IOES from the month of January to April 2020.

For the last 4 months, a number of workshop and seminar series were successfully carried out which includes jointly organized workshop on "Global Seaweed STAR Capacity Building Workshop for the Bioinformatic Analysis of Seaweed Microbiomes" and IOES Scientific Seminar Series by IOES Visited Senior Lecturer, Dr Gnanakumar on "Our Journey in the Design and Development of 3D Electrodes for High Performance Fuel Cells".

IOES is very honored to be visited by numerous visitors and collaborators from distinguished universities and institutions especially from this region such as Xiamen University, China; University of Warwick, United Kingdom; Universiti Malaysia Terengganu; Malaysian Nature Society and also outreach programme by primary and secondary schools.

As we all aware, currently we are facing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) which is global pandemic and affected more than 200 countries and territories including Malaysia. With the Movement Control Order which has been implemented from 18 March and Conditional Movement Control Order from 4 May until 9 June, we are definitely facing a new normal of work. Therefore, we must embrace new normal such as social distancing, always wash hand or using hand sanitizer, and wear face mask in public.

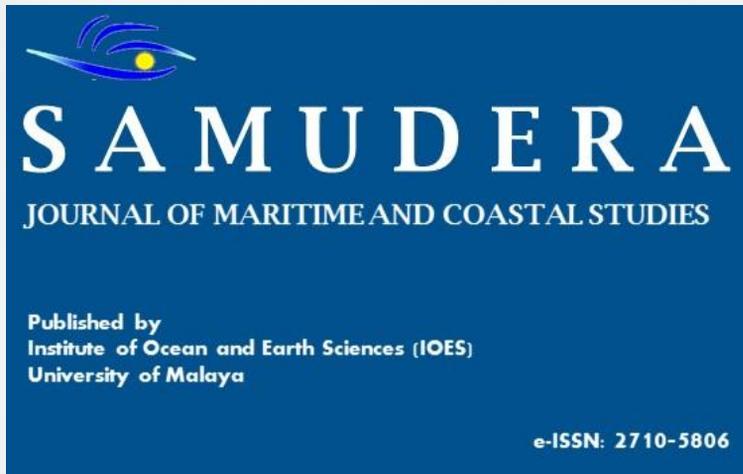
In addition, we also welcome your paper submission to our journal SAMUDERA-Journal of Maritime and Coastal Studies (SAMUDERA-JMCS). Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone especially our future collaborators to be continuously engaged and embarked on an interesting scientific journey with IOES; one of the Higher Institution Centres of Excellence (HICoE) in Malaysia.

Stay Safe and Happy Ramadhan al-Mubarak.

Professor Dr. Sumiani Yusoff

Director

## **SAMUDERA-Journal of Maritime and Coastal Studies (SAMUDERA-JMCS)**



SAMUDERA-Journal of Maritime and Coastal Studies (SAMUDERA-JMCS) is an online journal covering research activity in the broad area of maritime and coastal studies. The journal is providing authors with a more convenient and efficient process to communicate research findings and discussions to the global maritime and coastal research community. The journal aims to promote and amplify the voices and ideas of the research community, SAMUDERA-Journal of Maritime and Coastal Studies will put your work at the heart of the conversations taking place in the social science, humanities and scientific research community today.

A streamlined double-blind peer-review process, overseen by a panel of experts, ensures a fair and regular publication experience. All published article enable research results to be freely communicated between authors and readers where the copyright of the original work remains with the author.

The large Editorial Board of SAMUDERA-Journal of Maritime and Coastal Studies is interdisciplinary and multinational that the journal will serve. This journal which is a fully open access format enables the manuscripts to be easily accessed by the other researchers. The journal is free of charge, which the authors only will be responsible for managing their copy editing manuscript with the suggested professional editor(s).

We welcome your submissions via the journal's submission and peer review website at <https://samudera.um.edu.my/> . Please visit the Journal's website to learn more about this journal at <https://samudera.um.edu.my/about> .

Editor-in-chief: Assoc Prof Dr Hanafi Hussin

## Visit from Xiamen University, China and Universiti Malaysia Terengganu

Date : 6 Jan 2020

Venue: Bachok Marine Research Station, Kelantan

Assoc. Prof Dr You Weiwei from Xiamen University, China and Dr Poh Seng Chee from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu had visited Bachok Marine Research Station (BMRS) to seek and discuss for the future research collaboration project with IOES. Both of them had given opportunities to have a tour trip to expose all the BMRS facilities such as all the BMRS laboratories, hatchery, hostel and all the scientific instruments. They were so impressed with all the facilities that have in BMRS and will plan to have some research collaboration with IOES.



# IOES Scientific Seminar Series - Our Journey in the Design and Development of 3D Electrodes for High Performance Fuel Cells

Date : 16 Jan 2020

Venue: Cube Room 1, Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Malaya

This scientific seminar was delivered by Dr Gnanakumar George Peter from Department of Physical Chemistry, School of Chemistry, Madurai Kamaraj University, India. He was appointed as Visiting Senior Lecturer at IOES from 24 Dec 2019 to 24 Jan 2020. The scientific seminar is adumbrated the feasible opportunities in tackling the bottle necks of existing fuel cells and fascinate the futuristic dimension of high performance and durable fuel cells. This seminar provide many interesting input and is attended by UM researchers and postgraduate students.



## Visit from School of Ocean Engineering, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu

Date : 23 Jan 2020

Venue: Bachok Marine Research Station, Kelantan

Dr Noor Zaitun Yahaya, one of IOES Associate member from School of Ocean Engineering, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu has visited BMRS together with her postgraduate students. The main purpose of her visit are to seek the potential research collaboration project that related to atmospheric with IOES. All of them had given a chance to visit BMRS Meteorology laboratory and exposed with all the atmospheric scientific instruments in the laboratory. Dr Zaitun and her students feel satisfied with the instruments that have at BMRS and will have further discussion with Prof. Dato' Dr Azizan for a future research collaboration project.



# Waste Management Community Engagement Program

Date : 1 Feb 2020

Venue: Bachok Marine Research Station, Kelantan

A drawing competition for school children organised by Prof Dr Fatimah and Dr Nurulhuda had successfully held on 1 Feb 2020 at Bachok Marine Research Station (BMRS), IOES, Bachok. A total of 20 school children from primary school at Bachok, Kelantan had participated in this competitive activity. The aim of this activity is giving waste management awareness to the school children through their drawing creativity. The activity began with warm welcoming and briefing about waste management awareness to participants by Prof Dr Fatimah, followed by drawing competition. The organiser had invited Dr Hii from BMRS as the judge for this drawing competition. From the competition, there were five winners had been selected based on their drawing were creative and nice.



## Visit by Malaysian Nature Society, Kelantan

Date : 3 Feb 2020

Venue: Bachok Marine Research Station

A total of 4 delegates from the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) led by Mdm Wan Zubaudah Mohamed had visited BMRS to discuss awareness project and marine education activities with BMRS, IOES. From the discussion, the delegates were so impressed with all the school outreach activities such as school visit for “Perintis Saintis Muda” program and marine debris assessment/beach cleaning that had been done by BMRS before. As a result of the discussion, MNS will plan to organise several school visit trip to the BMRS for marine education and awareness activities.



## Visit by University of Warwick, United Kingdom

Date : 5 Feb 2020

Venue: IOES Meeting Room, Institute for Advanced Studies

Warwick Water group based at the University of Warwick lead by Asst. Prof. Jonathan Pearson; co-lead by Dr Soroush Abolfathi and Dr Sarah Cook visited IOES on 5 February 2020. The delegation is accompanied by Mr Simon Christopher (Mura Tech) and Ms Poorani Krishnan (British High Commission). The purpose for scoping visit to gather input for the Global Challenge Research Fund; Reducing the Impacts of Plastic Waste in Developing Countries proposal that is in development. As such, as a primary agenda for this visit, they would like to engage with leading academic experts, regulatory bodies and government leads that would able to share information and policy and regulation direction in Malaysia that would help to develop a comprehensive proposal that aims to develop integrated waste management solutions, incorporating ecosystem and socio-economic models. This has been productive opportunity to directly engage with UK experts to exchange knowledge on effective waste management in particular to plastics.



# GlobalSeaweedSTAR Capacity Building Workshop for the Bioinformatic Analysis of Seaweed Microbiomes

Date : 6-15 Feb 2020

Venue: Research Management and Innovation Complex

GCRF GlobalSeaweedSTAR is a four-year multidisciplinary programme aiming to grow the research and innovation capability of developing countries engaged in seaweed farming. Through collaboration between institutions in the United Kingdom and Malaysia, the Philippines and Tanzania, the programme endeavours to provide practical solutions to many of the problems faced in seaweed-farming communities, as well as long term capacity building to ensure sustainable economic growth of the seaweed industry.

As part of the GlobalSeaweedSTAR project, the research team of Professor Lim Phaik Eem (University of Malaya) have conducted two intensive temporal sampling campaigns, collecting cultivated *Kappaphycus malesianus* (Aring-Aring) and *K. alvarezii* (Tambalang) and associated environmental samples and metadata at 9 day intervals across a 30-45 day time period.

This workshop focused on the analysis of 16S (prokaryote) metabarcoding data generated at the Natural History Museum (London, UK) from a subset of these samples, with the intent of training Prof. Lim's team and others working on GlobalSeaweedSTAR on the analysis of high throughput metabarcoding datasets. Participants are advised on how to present the outputs of these analyses at conferences (for both specialist or general scientific audiences), as well as for scientific publication.

This workshop gathered IOES researchers with collaborators from Scottish Association for Marine Science (Janina Brakel & Paola Arce); Natural History Museum, London (Prof Juliet Brodie & Dr Georgia Ward); Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (Dr Corey Holt) and University of the Philippines Visayas (Joseph P. Faisan & Rema Sibonga).



Dr Paola Arce giving a talk on coding best practices at the start of the bioinformatics analysis workshop



Group photo

## Visit from SMK Puteri Saadong Bachok, Kelantan

Date : 26 Feb 2020

Venue: Bachok Marine Research Station

A total of 51 Form 5 students from SMK Puteri Saadong, Bachok accompanied by 5 teachers have visited BMRS. The aim of this tour study trip is to expose the students with the scientific oceanography instrument and laboratories at BMRS. All the BMRS staffs, academic staff and postgraduate students at BMRS were involved and became the facilitator for this study tour.

During the study tour, all the students from SMK Puteri Saadong have given opportunities to expose with all the scientific oceanography sampling instruments such as plankton net, van-dorn water sampler, core sampler, Ekman grab, YSI multi-parameter and scuba diving equipment. They also have the chances to understand more about scientific instruments such as Thermal cyclor, flow-cytometer, microscope, CHN Elementar Analyzer, Real-Time PCR System, TOC-TN analyzer, CO Analyzer and Optical Particle Counter, Ozone(O<sub>3</sub>) Analyzer . Besides that, the undergraduate students also have given the chance to visit all the laboratories in BMRS and know all the research activity in BMRS such as: Harmful algal blooms (HABs) research, atmospheric research and seaweed research.



## Audit visit by Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), Kelantan

Date : 3 March 2020

Venue: Bachok Marine Research Station

A total of 4 delegates from the Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), Kelantan had an audit visit at BMRS on 3 March 2020. The main objective of the audit visit was to assess BMRS occupational safety and health management system (OSHMS). Overall, BMRS received good feedback from DOSH regarding the Occupational Safety and Health Management System (OSHMS) implemented in BMRS. They were impressed with the BMRS Chemical Storage Management System. BMRS was grateful for the kind assistance of Mr Noor Azril Ramli (OSHE UM) throughout the audit session, and the dedication and effort of all the BMRS staff.



# International Collaboration Fund Project Monitoring

Date : 12 March 2020

Venue: Bachok Marine Research Station

2 panels, Tuan Haji Shahrudin Bin Haji Yusof and Mdm Anizar Zainal (SIRIM) from Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) had visited BMRS to monitor the International Collaboration Fund project led by Assoc. Prof Dr Lim Po Teen. The project monitoring visit was started by project progress discussion, followed by laboratories tour visit. Overall, both of the panels was satisfied with the project achievement, and the project will be completed by July 2020. BMRS was grateful for the kind assistance of Director of the Centre of Research Grant Management (PPGP), Prof Nor Hasnah Moin and PPGP staff, Ms Nor Hadijah Sahat throughout the project monitoring session.



# GRA Vacancies

## **VACANCY : Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) - PhD and Master Programme**

3 Projects Available:

- i) Air-ocean Interaction And Its Variability
- ii) Oceanography
- ii) Effects of Variability in Arctic and Antarctic on the Tropical Maritime Continent Weather and Climate under the Influence of Climate Change

Criteria:

- Bachelor/ Master's degree in Engineering, Physics, Mathematics or other related field.
- Good command of English (spoken and written)
- Selected candidate **MUST** register to pursue a MSc / PhD (by research) at the University of Malaya.
- Strong reporting and documentation skills
- Able to work independently and/ or in a diverse group of scientists

E-mail your cover letter including description of current research and accomplishments) and complete curriculum vitae containing academic qualifications, research experience, transcripts, etc. to Professor Dato' Dr Azizan Abu Samah ([azizans@um.edu.my](mailto:azizans@um.edu.my))



## Selamat menyambut Ramadhan al-Mubarak 1441H

"Sungguh telah datang kepadamu bulan Ramadhan, bulan yg penuh keberkatan. Allah memfardukan atas kamu berpuasa. Di dalam bulan Ramadhan dibuka segala pintu syurga dan dikunci segala pintu neraka dan dibelunggu seluruh syaitan. Padanya ada suatu malam yang lebih baik dari 1000 bulan. Barang siapa tidak diberikan kepadanya kebajikan malam itu, maka sesungguhnya dia telah dijauhkan dari kebajikan."  
(Riwayat Ahmad)

### PENGISIAN RAMADHAN

- o Menghidupkan malam dengan qiamullail
- o Meningkatkan amalan harian
- o Menunaikan solat tarawih
- o Bertadarus al-quran
- o Menunaikan zakat fitrah dan zakat yang lain
- o Beriktikaf terutama 10 malam terakhir
- o Memperbanyakkan sedekah
- o Memberi makanan kepada orang yang berpuasa
- o Bersahur
- o Bersederhana dalam berbelanja dan makan minum
- o Menjaga pancaindera dari melakukan maksiat
- o Menunaikan umrah jika mampu

# COVID-19: EMBRACING THE NEW NORMAL



The public are advised to:



1

Always adhere to the Movement Control Order (MCO)

2

Stay at home except for those working in the sectors that are allowed to operate



3

Only leave their homes for important matters (e.g. buying essential items, getting medical treatment) which is allowed during the MCO



4

Continue practising good personal hygiene habits at all times



5

Continue practising safe social distancing



Published: 29/4/2020

Bernama Infographics

Source: Ministry of Health, Malaysia