# **INSIDEahibs**

The Official Newsletter of Azman Hashim International Business School, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia





## LEARNING

## CONTINUING A Life Ready TRADITION

#### ahibsFREE21 Marathon Month

AHIBS recently concluded its Future Ready Educator (FREE) Month (ahibsFREE21) hitting commendable figures of learning and sharing.

The program aims to upskill faculty members with teaching and learning strategies in business education to suit new technology and changing demography of learners. ahibsFREE21 took place from 15th September till 14th October 2021. Continuing from last year's theme, virtual learning remained as the central stage in this year's program.

In one month, ahibsFREE21 conducted 45 webinars involving 55 speakers, and 700 participants clocked in around 60 learning hours. Some of the featured topics were service-based learning, virtual case teaching, scenario-based learning, and project-based learning. AHIBS home-grown speakers shared techniques to use virtual collaboration tools such as Evernote, Microsoft Teams, Trello, personal websites, and Kahoot.



The program director, Dr. Grace Thoo, believes that the program has created a knowledge-sharing culture and motivated lecturers to acquire new teaching skills to make their classes more interactive. A closing ceremony for the program was held with a speech from UTM's Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic and International, Professor Sr. Dr. Hishamuddin Bin Mohd Ali. Bin Mohd Ali. Congratulations to all the committee members for successfully organising the program.



## **AHIBS FUTURE READY EDUCATORS**



Dr. Razli Ramli - Seasoned Islamic Finance Expert is AHIBS' New Kid on the Block

### PEOPLE

Welcoming our newest faculty member Dr. Razli Ramli, an expert in Islamic finance with 25 years of experience in the industry. His proficiency lies in transforming traditional banking and financial processes into Shariah-compliant operations.

He is one of the council members of Bank Simpanan Nasional's Shariah Committee and serves as an independent and nonexecutive director of the board in Wasiyyah Family Office Sdn. Bhd. As the Director of Shariah and Business Advisory Department of IBFIM (a BNM's founded institution), he has advised more than 130 Islamic funds including Islamic REITs and local and international asset management companies worth more than RM24 billion. Dr. Razli sits in the Think-Tank Group of Jabatan Wakaf, Zakat, and Haji (JAWHAR) under the Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia. He was involved in the Think-Tank Group for the amendment of the Hire Purchase Act (HP Act) 1967 into an Islamic Hire Purchase Act.

Since 2014, he has been serving as the Panel Member by the Finance Accreditation Agency (FAA), international and independent quality assurance and accreditation body for the Financial Services Industry (FSI). He is part of the panels to develop professional development programs for financial institutions in Malaysia under the Asian Institute of Finance (AIF). Dr. Razli has been invited to speak on the Islamic finance subject in the global arena such as the United Kingdom, Nigeria, Yemen, Jordan, Russia, China, Japan, and Hong Kong. He is also a regular invited lecturer for the Financial Sector Talent Enrichment Programme (FSTEP) initiated by the Asian Institute of Chartered Bankers (AICB), under the Central Bank of Malaysia.

He has co-authored practical Islamic finance books and journals. He has a weekly column called Iktisad published by Dagangnews.com, and regularly appears on the local media.

Dr. Razli obtained his Bachelor of Economics from the Flinders University of South Australia in 1990, and a Ph.D. in Management from the Universiti Utara Malaysia in 2020. After almost three decades in the financial world. Dr. Razli believes that he can contribute more through an established academic platform. For him, the knowledge of Allah's grace must be of benefit to all. At AHIBS, Dr. Razli will act as the liaison person to bridge the academic and industry through teaching, research, advisory, and consultancy in Islamic finance areas that will benefit students, staff, and partners.







# PEOPLE

#### Congratulations to AHIBS Researchers on Grant Wins







#### Talent not Technology – Mansor Harun from MTDC Speaks

Talent not technology - a statement that encapsulates the role of Mansor Harun (MBA 2015), Senior Vice President for Knowledge Management and Digitalisation Department at the Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC). MTDC has been the key player in technology commercialisation for local companies in Malaysia. In line with MTDC active participation in Industry 4.0, he now spearheads the newly-established department and has laid a digital transformation roadmap that involved people, technology and process strategies.

Mansor has been in venture capital industry for more than 20 years assisting technology-based companies from startup to growth stage businesses by providing special funding assistance and advisory services. He is a certified Business Coach and HRDF Trainer and provides sessions for MTDC personnel and entrepreneurs on technology commercialisation projects under its ecosystem. Prior his current position, he has led other portfolios in MTDC as the Head of Human Capital and Knowledge Management Department, and the Head of Business Start-Up Fund and Growth Fund Unit.

According to Mansor, "commercialising technological product could not be implemented by focusing only on funding. It requires a complete eco-system equipped with necessary facilities, technical assistance and business support. At the same time, technology is nothing if people driving it don't have the right skills, attitudes and supportive organisational culture. Digital transformation never was nor will ever be just about technology. This is something that needs to be emphasized in techies". Throughout his years in MTDC, Mansor has assisted many start-up and growth stage businesses through bringing their technology to market.

Mansor believes that passion, creative and trust are three fundamental values for his roles and responsibilities at MTDC. For him, every staff must be innovative and constantly invent new things or processes. The industry is looking for fresh ideas and uniqueness from a company. This includes adopting lean work-life management, and capitalising on emerging technology to support productivity. His crucial current projects involve creating programs and initiatives for MTDC business delivery via digital and people transformations.

Mansor enrolled in AHIBS MBA under the MTDC 's Employee Assistant Program, one of the agency's several initiatives to unleash employee's potentials. He chose AHIBS for its professional and highly-respected educators who understand industry requirements, industry-relevant teaching modules, and good local-international demography of learners.



#### Welcoming New Students for October 2021 Intake

OUTM

THE RISING STARS

HIBS MEET & MINGI

onboarding

**AHIBS AHIBS AHIB AHIB** 

EVENT

16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021 | SATURDAY Via Webex: business.utm.my/go/ahibsmm

GAMES | SHARING SESSION | ACADEMIC BRIEFING

AHIBS recently welcomed more than 300 new undergraduate and postgraduate students for the October 2021 intake in the Meet and Mingle (AHIBS M&M) session. AHIBS M&M is an onboarding program held every semester to assist new students parachuting smoothly into their journey at AHIBS by connecting them with their peers, administrators, lecturers, and alumni.

The event involved interactive activities started with a welcoming remark by the dean, followed by an ice breaking session, LiveLaughLearn sharing by alumni, and academic briefings. The Dean, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rosmini Omar, gave her warm welcome and wished the new students safety and agility in this challenging pandemic season.

Among the new intakes include practitioners from companies that have special arrangements with AHIBS. The first group consists of officers in the defence industry from the Malaysian Armed Forces together with OpenApps Sdn. Bhd. to pursue MBA (concentration in Digital Innovation). AHIBS who have a standing MoA with Gerbang Alaf Restaurants Sdn. Bhd. (i.e. McDonald's Malaysia) also receives the first cohort of managers from the global brand to enroll in its MBA (General). The School further welcomes talents from Asia Ocean Tech to undergo MSc. IT Entrepreneurship.

We are happy to be welcoming them onboard. All the best and a blessed journey to all of them.





#### **Minister Visit to Kelulut Honey Site**

AHIBS received an official visit from the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MOSTI) on 9th October 2021. YB Dato' Sri Dr. Adham Baba, Minister of MOSTI, observed the progress of the Kelulut Honey Nursery project in Simpang Renggam, Johor.

UTM's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Datuk Dr. Ahmad Fauzi Ismail received the delegation together with AHIBS' top management led by AHIBS' Dean, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rosmini Omar.

The project, led by Dr. Mohd Khairuddin bin Ramliy, is funded by MOSTI to develop the economic resilience of the B40 group. The project uses modular technology, an invention of UTM researchers, to harness bee production. A total of 100 families from Simpang Renggam have been assigned with the Bee-Modular Boxes, set up at the site. The recipients are provided with business training, coaching, and digital marketing input to nurture their entrepreneurial mindset and help them generate additional income.

The project involves strategic quadruple-helix collaborations between AHIBS UTM with MOSTI, Simpang Renggam District Council (MDSR), Koperasi Eco Usahawan Johor Berhad, and the local communities.





#### AHIBS Made Connection with Defence Industry

A Kick-Off Ceremony was held on 6th October 2021 to mark AHIBS' relationship with the defense industry. The project involves quadruple helix partners between AHIBS UTM with Open Apps Sdn. Bhd (industry), the Malaysian Armed Forces (government), and the Malaysian Armed Forces Veteran Affairs Department who is in charge of several NGOs.

For the next 2 years, AHIBS will develop fully sponsored officers from the organisations through its MBA programme with a concentration in Digital Innovation. The collaboration will also involve an inclusive entrepreneurship development initiative in which AHIBS will coach disabled armed forces veterans to set up businesses. The project is part of the Industrial Collaboration Programme under the Network Centric Operations of Malaysian Armed Forces 1B(1). The Ceremony was attended by Col. T. Azharan bin T. Putra (Director of C2, Defence Cyber and Electromagnetic Division), Dato' Abdul Hamid Shaikh bin Abdul Razak Shaikh (Managing Director of Open Apps Sdn Bhd), Brig. Gen. Dato' Mohd Rashid bin Abdul Razak (Retired) (Open Apps Sdn Bhd Advisor), Lt. Col. Mohd Zabri bin Idrus TUDM (Retired) (Open Apps Sdn Bhd Advisor), Lt. Cdr. Ts. Mohd. Zulhimi bin Jamaluddin TLDM (Retired) (Project Manager Open Apps Sdn Bhd), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rosmini Omar (AHIBS Dean), and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Siti Zaleha Abd. Rasid (Deputy Chair, School of Graduate Studies).

The project channels over RM600,000 of funds to UTM and contributes to the University's KPIs on academic, research, and community engagement.

The project is led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rossilah Jamil and her team.

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