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UUM AND NINGBO UNIVERSITY FORGE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP IN COASTAL AGRICULTURAL WATER RESILIENCE AND ONE HEALTH



UUM ONLINE: Georgetown - Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) and Ningbo University (NBU), China, have strengthened Malaysia–China academic and research ties through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), establishing a strategic framework for collaboration in research, academic mobility, joint publications, knowledge exchange and international science and technology cooperation.

The MoU was signed at JEN Penang Georgetown by UUM Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Ahmad Martadha Mohamed, and Ningbo University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Zhang Zhenzhu.



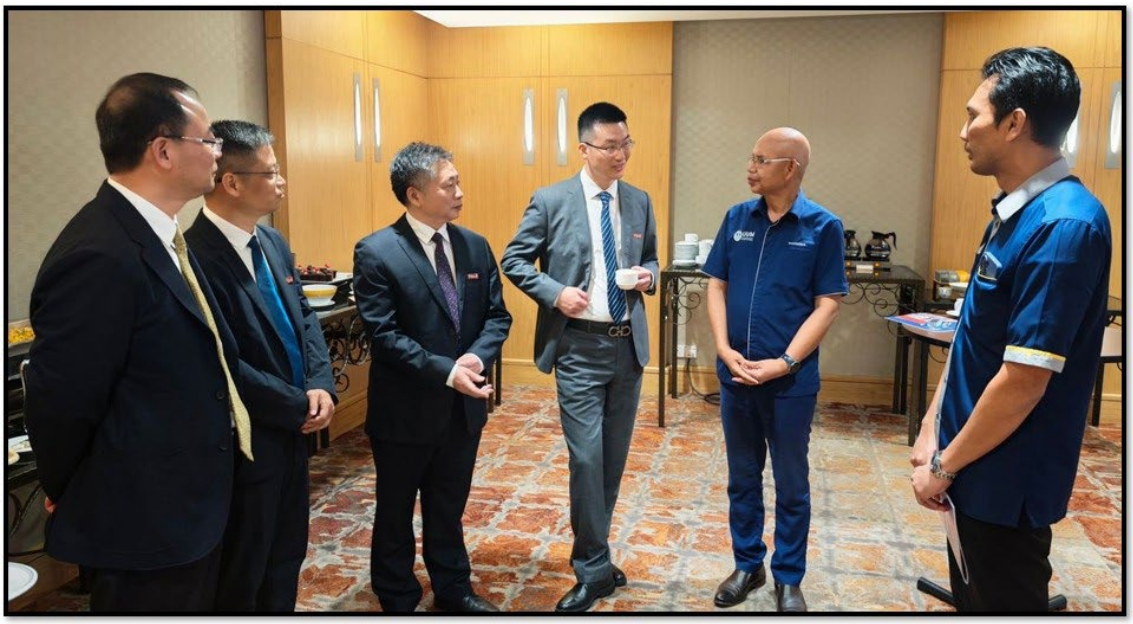
A key focus of the partnership is the proposed establishment of the International Science and Technology Cooperation Base on Coastal Agricultural Water Resilience and One Health, which will provide a dedicated platform for researchers from both institutions to collaborate in addressing interconnected challenges involving water, agriculture, environmental resilience and health.

The proposed cooperation base reflects the growing importance of interdisciplinary and cross-border research in addressing increasingly complex environmental challenges. Coastal and agricultural communities are particularly vulnerable to climate variability, water-related hazards, environmental degradation and emerging pollutants, all of which have far-reaching implications for food security, ecosystem sustainability and human health.



Adopting a One Health perspective, the collaboration recognises the interdependence of human health, environmental health and the broader ecosystem. Integrating this holistic approach with research on agricultural water resilience will enable researchers from Malaysia and China to explore integrated and sustainable solutions that transcend conventional disciplinary boundaries.

Under the MoU, UUM and Ningbo University will explore and undertake a range of collaborative initiatives, including joint research projects, student and staff mobility, academic and researcher exchanges, joint publications, knowledge-sharing programmes and other mutually beneficial academic activities.



The strategic partnership was initiated and coordinated by the Disaster Management Institute (DMI), UUM, underscoring the institute's role in expanding international research networks and connecting UUM's multidisciplinary expertise with strategic partners beyond Malaysia.

Through this collaboration, DMI aims to foster deeper engagement among researchers from both institutions while creating opportunities for high-impact research capable of generating meaningful scientific, policy and societal outcomes.



The International Science and Technology Cooperation Base is expected to serve as a key mechanism for translating the institutional partnership into tangible research activities and sustained academic engagement. Potential initiatives include collaborative research projects, researcher and student exchanges, joint scientific publications, knowledge-sharing programmes and the development of innovative approaches to enhancing the resilience of communities, agricultural systems and water resources.

The partnership is particularly timely as environmental and water-related challenges increasingly transcend national boundaries. Against this backdrop, universities have a vital role to play not only in advancing knowledge but also in bringing together expertise across countries and disciplines to develop evidence-based, innovative and sustainable solutions.

The MoU further supports UUM's aspiration to expand its international research footprint and deepen strategic engagement with leading universities and research institutions in China. It also provides a platform for both institutions to move beyond conventional academic collaboration towards sustained, action-oriented partnerships with clearly defined research and academic outcomes.



More importantly, the collaboration is envisaged as a long-term platform for translating institutional commitment into measurable outcomes, including research outputs, academic mobility, knowledge exchange, and sustained institutional cooperation.

Through this strategic partnership, UUM and Ningbo University aim to further strengthen Malaysia–China cooperation in higher education, science, technology and innovation, while advancing research that contributes to water resilience, sustainable agriculture, environmental sustainability and the One Health agenda.



The collaboration marks an important step towards cultivating a multidisciplinary research ecosystem capable of responding to emerging regional and global challenges. At the same time, it is expected to create broader opportunities for researchers and students from both universities to engage in meaningful cross-border research, knowledge exchange and innovation.

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uumtoday.com Universiti Utara Malaysia uumofficial uumnews uumtube uuminfo uumofficial
ukkuum@uum.edu.my 04-928 3039 | 3040 | 3043 | 3097 | 3056

Universiti Utara Malaysia Official Website http://www.uum.edu.my

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