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From: Unit Komunikasi Korporat
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Subject: The UUM CoE Must Be Robust To Face International Challenges



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"UUM : UNIVERSITI PENGURUSAN TERKEMUKA"
(THE EMINENT MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY)

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THE UUM CoE MUST BE ROBUST TO FACE INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGES



UUM ONLINE: Since the establishment of UUM over 30 years ago, its Centres of Excellence (CoE) have not exhibited any consistent progress.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof Dato' Seri Dr Mohamed Mustafa Ishak, said that UUM had failed to position any of its CoE on par with national standards or that of any HICoE. In fact, he said, they did not stand out in any way.

According to him, CoE ought to be multidisciplinary in nature in order to move forward rather than being discipline-oriented, or too narrow in outlook, as it was now.

"This is one of the reasons why we have failed to produce studies which have high impact on industry, policy makers, and society.

"Thus, the approach of the CoE needs to be transformed into one that is multidisciplinary, methodical, and impactful in terms of research, publication, and consultancy," he said at the Vice-Chancellor's special meeting with Deans, Directors of CoE, and Heads of RU held at the Convention Centre recently.

He added that industry and society were afflicted with a myriad of problems and that, as such, it was the CoE that must identify the problems and carry out appropriate studies.

He further added that, if the CoE ascertained the cause of a problem afflicting industry and society, then translational research, or action research, could be carried out.

"The UUM CoE were created for the purpose of enabling researchers from various backgrounds to work together on research and produce the best solutions to the problems that exist in industry and society.

"The existing U-CoE such as the CEDI, for instance, needs to be revitalised because, at one point in time, we were hailed as the leader in the field of entrepreneurship, but now UMK has snatched that title away from us.

"Therefore, all U-CoE should be revitalised for it has been proven that universities that are successful in the field of research are universities that possess vibrant CoE," he said.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the CoE could function as back offices of agencies or companies, for example, the ARIBF could serve as a back office of the banking and financial sector while the ARIC could be the back office of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

In other words, according to him, the U-CoE such as CETMA, EPDM, CEDI, ARIBF, and ARIC must rise to be CoE of national standing, and, ultimately, of international standing.

"I hope that by 2020, all U-CoE and SCoE will become leading centres in their respective fields of specialisation.

"All studies undertaken must support the 8 niche areas of UUM. Aside from this, the progress of the studies must be reported to the U-CoE and SCoE every three months. The Directors of the U-CoE and SCoE will, then, present their progress or achievement to the university," he said.

He added that researchers with research under their belt could become research fellows at any of the U-CoE and SCoE. Those without any research, he said, should obtain research grants so as to be eligible to apply for the post of research fellow.

Apart from this, the Vice-Chancellor also expressed his hope that every U-CoE and SCoE would come up with short-term and long-term plans, in addition to a five-year strategic plan.

"Research Units (RU) are needed to generate new studies. Though a RU is outside the purview of the SCoE, it must support the eight niche areas. And its researchers can also come from a variety of disciplines and Schools.

"We can emulate the Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST), which gainfully utilised its postgraduate students as the primary drivers of the excellence achieved by its CoE," he said.

Meanwhile, commenting on the meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, the Director of the RIMC, Prof. Dr. Mohd Azizuddin Mohd Sani, said that it enabled researchers to exchange views and ideas.

Apart from that, he said, the event also doubled as a platform for the presentation of activities that had been undertaken by the various CoE in the previous year, the research grants offered by the CoE, the latest agenda, RIMC's planning, and lists of research conducted by the U-CoE and SCoE.

Also present at the meeting were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Prof Dr Noor Azizi Ismail, and senior UUM officials.



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