

MJIIT NEWSLETTER



UTM
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SIGNING CEREMONY WITH SUN ASTERISK

On 8th January 2020 , a signing ceremony on minutes of discussions (MoD) between MJIIT and Sun Asterisk Vietnam Co. LTD. was held. MJIIT was represented by Prof. Dr. Ali Selamat, Dean of MJIIT and Sun Asterisk was represented by Mr. Kazunari Fujimoto.

Sun Asterisk will collaborate to co-organise a Job Fair together with MJIIT in 2020.
- MJIIT Facebook



VISIT FROM KYOTO UNIVERSITY



MJIIT received visit from Prof. Eiichiro Matsubara, Kyoto University on 6th January 2020. He was welcomed by Prof. Dr. Ali Selamat, MJIIT Dean together with Dr. Okano Takasei, JICA Chief Advisor and other academic staff. They also discussed about possibilities for future

collaboration research and academic program. - MJIIT Facebook



Visit by Okayama Industrial Business Association on 19th February 2020

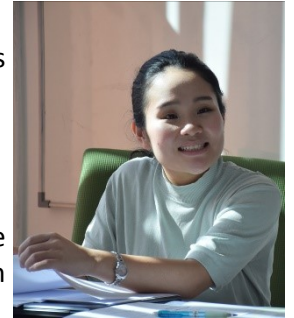
APPRECIATION: MS. YUKINO SUEOKA & MS. RIHO WATANABE



Until March 2020, two Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) ended their duty at MJIT. They are:

- 1) Ms. Yukino Sueoka - 3 January 2020
- 2) Ms. Riho Watanabe - 25 March 2020

Both of them were assigned as volunteer in teaching Japanese Language for 2 years at MJIT. Their commitment and contribution to MJIT are highly appreciated.



GLOBAL MOBILITY PROGRAM TO TOKYO UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY

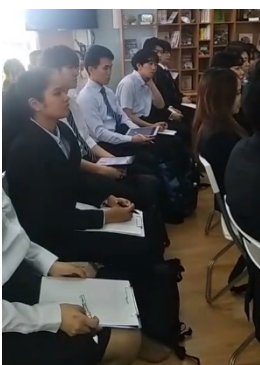
8 students from 3rd year Bachelor of Chemical Process Engineering (SMJC) were chosen to join the winter school program organised by Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology (TUAT), Tokyo for 2 weeks from 16 February until 29 February 2020.

2 weeks in TUAT was filled with competent and informative activities. Every day these students take Japanese language & culture class in the morning and afternoon lecture on Environmental & Energy Engineering. All courses are taught by experienced and qualified TUAT lecturer. Aside from this, they also undertook a laboratory visit to their TUAT research group of lecturers.



They also participated in Industrial visits to Fuji Film in Odawara, Kanagawa region, in addition to classes. They studied and saw film making and were introduced to other

items of Fuji Film. They also went to Fuchu City Forest Museum in Fuchu city to witness Fuchu history and sightseeing the beautiful plum tree (Ume) flower. - MJIT Facebook



ACADEMIC VISIT FROM SOKA UNIVERSITY

On 25th February, a group of 25 Japanese students from University of Soka visited MJIT. The visit organized by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Malaysia. They were welcomed by Mr. Fukazawa Shinsaku.

They tour the campus with MJIT students and had networking lunch. Before that, they joined Japanese Language Class for post-graduate students.



JAPANESE LANGUAGE PROGRAM FOR JOB HUNTING IN JAPAN



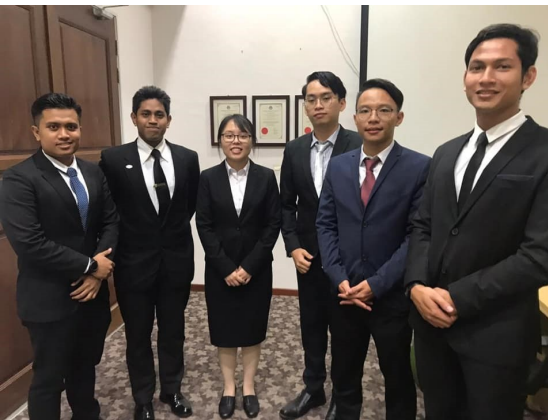
A special Japanese Language Program for Job Hunting in Japan has been introduced to MJIT 3rd and 4th year students. A briefing session was held on 10th February 2020.

The program introduction was delivered by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nor Azwadi, Deputy Dean (Academic) while further explanation by Mr. Fujimoto of Sun Asterisk Ltd. There were also Q&A session before disperse. - *MJIT Facebook*

SPECIAL JOB INTERVIEW SESSION BY AFTERFIT

29th February 2020 - After 9 hours of group and individual interview sessions, 6 out of 11 shortlisted candidates were offered job positions in AfterFIT Ltd Japan. The special job interview session with Afterfit Ltd. Japan coordinated by Sun Asterisk Japan along with MJIT and JICA.

The target was a maximum 5, but the recruitment agency (Sun Asterisk Japan) & the employer (AfterFIT Ltd Japan) were impressed with MJIT 's students' performance and decided to



offer 6 places at once. Out of 30 who made it to the 1st round, 11 struggled hard to reach the final phase and were here to finally get to be interviewed by the employer themselves (mainly in Japanese language).

Candidates who secured the 6 places are Youn Eng Teng (ESE), Aimisyahmi Harith bin Zulkifli (CPE), Tan Chai Beng (MPE), Muhammad Izzaire Bin Hassan (MPE), Tan Jiin Kuen (MPE), Ahmad Amir bin Ab Qais (CPE). They shared their experience through 2 videos at MJIT Facebook. - *MJIT Facebook*



MJIIT – UNIVERSITY OF TSUKUBA JOINT SEMINAR (JMSES)

As prerequisite for the students taking Master of Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (Joint Degree) course. The course is the Joint Degree Program (JMSES) that develops experts who contribute to solve the complicated global issues, especially in tropical Asia by sustainable and environmental sciences through the jointly supervised system that takes advantage of the strength of both universities.

The students from University of Tsukuba (UT), Japan and the students at MJIIT will met together for a seminar and grading (evaluation) in UTM Kuala Lumpur Campus. Both universities co-organized a 5 days research, visit and seminar activities started from 25 th until 29 th of February 2020.

The delegate from UT comprised of 22 students (comprises of undergraduate and postgraduate students), one (1) Professor and three (3) Associate Professors. Participants from UTM comprises of 17 undergraduate students and six (6) postgraduate students Three (3) postgraduate students from Metabolic Engineering & Molecular Biology (MEMO-Bio) iKohza assisted as MJIIT buddies throughout the whole week.

Day 1 started with a registration, touring UTM KL Campus and a few laboratories such as MEMOBio Lab, DPPC and Robotic Lab and continues with a social gathering among all participants including SDGs group discussion at Sakura Room, MJIIT.



Day 2 begun with a community engagement at Kebun Bandar, Sungai Bunus, Kuala Lumpur. Kebun Bandar is one of the projects under Center for Community & Industry Network (CCIN) UTM, where the students were tasked with planting the local fruit trees at downstream area, making a compost from organic wastes, monitoring the river water quality and plogging. The program aims to educate and increase awareness among participants about the public role in environmental sustainability. The volunteer program headed by Associate Professor Dr. Aznah Nor Anuar.

In the afternoon, the students visited another environmental site visit at Langat IWK Sewage Treatment Plant in Kajang, Selangor.



JMSES students at the back row namely from right, Mr. Kazuho Ozaki, Ms. Miho Miyazaki, Ms. Viesueida Chit (MJIIT), Ms. Mariko Saito.

Day 3 started with all participants gathered up at Seminar Hall 2, MJIIT building which they are being welcomed with a remark and introduction from Dr. Fazrena Nadia as Coordinator of JMSES, MJIIT while Dr. Shuib Rambat (Head of EGT Department) officiated the program as MJIIT Dean's representative. After that Plenary Lecture 1 was given by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ali Yuzer (Acting Director of DPPC, MJIIT) while later afternoon Datuk Seri Ir. Dr. Zaini Ujang (former Sec. Gen. of MESTEC) gave the Plenary Lecture 2 in the world SDGs issues.

One of the SDGs group presenting their finding research

Simultaneously on the same day at 2:00 pm, one of the JDP (JMSES) student



presented her first stage research defense and being graded by professors from both universities at Meeting Room 4, MJIIT. The rest of the participants were also presenting their SDG research proposal guided by MJIIT buddies.

Day 4 sees that all participants gave their best presentation in groups of SDGs themes (mixed of MJIIT UTM with UT). Later the program concluded by giving out a certificate of appreciation for each participant by Prof. Dr. Iwane Suzuki (Professor at Graduate of Science & Technology UT and Director of UT Kuala Lumpur Office) and Dr. Roshafima Rasit Ali, Head of CPE Department. The seminar concluded by a remark and comment by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kazuya Shimizu (JMSES Coordinator, UT) on the overall performances of the participants.

Day 5 was a cultural visit and free day for University of Tsukuba students before going back home early morning the next day. - Office of University of Tsukuba Kuala Lumpur

APPOINTMENT OF NEW DPPC DIRECTOR

The Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIT) proudly announces the appointment of Dr. Khamarrul Azahari Razak as the new Director of the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Center (DPPC).

A technical expert on geohazard, including sediment-related disasters, Dr. Khamarrul continues to expand his expertise in areas including, multi-hazard and socio-economical risk assessment, disaster informatics, DRR policy and community based disaster risk reduction.

Dr. Khamarrul can be contacted via khamarrul.kl@utm.my . - [DPPC Website](#)



COURTESY CALL TO YAS DATO' MOHAMAD HAMDAN BIN HJ. WAHID, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT MALAYSIA



On 3rd December 2019, members of DPPC made a courtesy call to YAS Dato' Mohamad Hamdan bin Hj. Wahid, Director General of Fire and Rescue Department (BOMBA) Malaysia. From DPPC, Dr. Khamarrul Azahari Razak, Dr. Shohei Matsuura and Dr. Abd Halim Bin Md Al and Mr. Zainuddin Bin Mat Daud, current MDRM student and BOMBA officer, were present at the meeting.

The discussion with the Director General and its management ranged from recent the collaboration with their Training Division in our MDRM program (MMJD1143 program at Akademi Bomba dan Penyelamat Malaysia Kuala Kubu Bharu) and future plans for collaborating in [DPPC's three pillars](#): Education/Training, Research and Field Activities. The BOMBA management did not only express their keen interest to take advantage of the scientific and technological knowledge of MJIT/UTM, but also engagements with JICA and [JUC partners](#) of MJIT.

While BOMBA is now in planning for their Rolling Plan 4 (2020-) and DPPC will be celebrating its [5th Year Establishment](#) in 2020, the meeting was timely for both sides to start a long-term collaboration that would benefit and compliment each of our strength and goals. It was agreed by both sides that a MoU will be exchanged in the new future and a series of certified short courses and workshops be jointly implemented in 2020.

The courtesy call ended with a visit to their central command center. - [DPPC Website](#)



DPPC OUTREACH TO BANGLADESH

From 2nd to 7th February 2020, DPPC mission members led by Prof. Dr. Masafumi Goto with Dr. Khamarrul Azahari Razak, Dr. Mohammad Ali Tareq and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Shohei Matsuura visited Dhaka, Bangladesh to promote MJIT's disaster program and to engage with key DRRM stakeholders in Bangladesh, ranging from research institutes, government agencies, NGOs and international donors.

The objectives of the outreach program are as follows:

1. MJIT's disaster program becomes known to DRRM researchers and implementing agencies/organizations in Bangladesh
2. Network is built among abovementioned stakeholders and MJIT/DPPC members
3. Student numbers increase for MDRM Program
4. Through understanding of DRR situations in Malaysia and Bangladesh, topics for possible joint research are discussed

On the first day, the mission visited BRAC University's Postgraduate Programs in Disaster Management (PPDM) and was greeted by Prof. Fuad Hassan Mallick (Dean), Prof. Zainab Faruqui Ali and Mr. Mohammad Fedaus. PPDM is one of the first comprehensive DRR post-graduate course in Bangladesh and have produced over 100 graduates since its start. PPDM expressed interest to utilize DPPC's knowledge in flood and structural modelling as well as student/faculty exchange programs.



Originally established with support from the Japanese Government, the Japan Institute of Disaster Prevention and Urban Safety, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET-JIDPUS) is headed by Dr. Raquib Ahsan (Director) and owns 3 labs (Structural Dynamics, EQ and Geotechnology and Non-destructive Testing) with the largest share table in Bangladesh. JIDPUS is planning to establish a MA course on Disaster Management Technology and interested to develop a sandwich program with MJIT.



Professor Dr. Mahbuba Nasrin, Director of the Institute of Disaster Management & Vulnerability Studies (IDMVS), University of Dhaka, is one of the key researchers that has advanced DRRM studies from a social science approach. IDMVS has a diploma course and 2 masters course (regular and professional) in DRRM in which the graduates are now active stakeholders in government, international organizations, NGOs and academia. IDMVS has been one of the key advisors to design the Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD).



On the second day, DPPC visited the Department of Disaster Science and Management, Faculty of Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of Dhaka, led by Prof. Dr. ASM Maksud Kamal (Chairman and Dean) who has been leading research in geohazard issues (e.g. earthquake, landslide), but taking both engineering and social science approach. Prof. Kamal expressed his interest to jointly work on exploring studies on EWS based on indigenous knowledge, citizen science, comparative studies on science – policy interface in DRRM.



The mission visited the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) and made a courtesy call to Senior Secretary Shah Kamal. MoDMR itself has been contributing in nurturing future DRRM leaders by providing internships to university students (about 40 annually) in which the students will do a field survey, write an academic paper that will be reviewed by parliamentary committee and if successful, they will get a certificate. DPPC offered to develop a tailor-made DRRM training course for mid-career professionals.



Later in the day, the mission visited Public Works Department, Ministry of Housing and Public Works and Center for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS), which both have specific roles in DRRM as government department looking over public buildings and on-field community development projects respectively.



On the third day, DPPC visited Center for Climate Change and Environment Research (C3er), BRAC University that has conducted various DRRM activities under UNDP's Comprehensive Disaster Management Project (CDMP), including a development of the Risk Atlas (mapping of high-risk areas in Bangladesh) as a tool for risk-informed development and model for storm resilient shelter for river dwellers. C3er also implements professional trainings for DRR agencies on climate change adaptation.

Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM), BUET has over 45 years of history as the core research institute on water-related civil engineering research in Bangladesh. Prof. Dr. Munsur



Rahman and Prof. Dr. Mohammad Rezaur Rahman explained on their flagship research on quantitative assessment (Delta Dynamic Integrated Emulator Model (ΔDIEM)) of the Integrated Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100. IWFM's post-graduate program since 2002 has produced over 150 graduates who are now top leaders in DRR agencies and organizations.

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) since establishing the DRR core group to implement several DRR projects



funded by UNDRR, UNDP, World Bank and JICA has been a model for municipal governments to take its own initiatives to build disaster resilience of their communities. The mission also visited Tejkunipara Kallayan Samity in which local leaders and residents had acquired the basic CBDRR concepts in Japan (self- and mutual- help) through implementation of JICA JPP project implemented by SEEDS-Asia.

On the last day, the DPPC mission visited Center for Disaster Research Training & Management (DRTMC) and, Department of Geography and Environment, University of Dhaka in which Prof. Dr. Hafiza Khatun (Director) and Prof. Dr. Humayun Kabir (Coordinator) share their DRRM research and educational activities.



DPPC also visited and made a courtesy call to the Director General Brig Gen Md Sazzad Hussain of the Fire and Rescue Department to discuss on possible collaboration with their Malaysian counterparts with DPPC as a platform to design a training program for firefighters of both countries.

DPPC would like to thank JICA Bangladesh Office, specifically Mr. Md. Anisuzzaman Chowdhury, Program Manager and Mr. Naoki Matsumura, JICA DRR Coordinator for their support in linking and arranging the meetings with the key DRR stakeholders in Bangladesh.

- [DPPC Website](#)



RESPONDING TO COVID-19: MJIIT TAKES ON THE VIRUS

The Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIIT)¹ is taking on the challenge of containing Malaysia's COVID-19 outbreak. JICA has supported enhancement of the Institute's research capabilities and collaborative efforts such as academia-government partnerships and industry-university cooperation since the school's 2011 establishment. At the forefront of efforts to deal with the crisis, alumni and students are working to protect Malaysia's citizens. They develop tools for preventing infection by applying knowledge acquired through JICA's cooperation.

Applying knowledge in disaster risk management

As of May 17, Malaysia has a cumulative total of 6,894 cases of COVID-19, of which 113 have resulted in fatalities (according to the website of the Ministry of Health). Thanks to the government's Movement Control Order (the so-called "MCO") promulgated on March 18, this is much lower than projected by many experts. (For example JP Morgan predicted on 23 March that infection would peak at about 6,300 cases in the middle of April). During the lockdown, graduates and students of the Master of Disaster Risk Management Program (MDRM) at MJIIT have been playing active roles in the field.

"We are using maps that are color-coded by area according to degree of risk using a zoning methodology learned from Japanese lecturers of this programme. This has significantly minimized the risk to emergency responders in the field," says Malaysia Civil Defence Force's Lt. Colonel Syukri Bin Madonau and Lt. Colonel Rohizad Bin Hadli. In addition to managing allocation of emergency personnel in red zones



Dr. Shahrul (far right), an MJIIT graduate working on the front lines to assist people infected with the novel coronavirus

(which are subject to strict mobility restrictions due to the high number of COVID-19 cases), the two officers have been giving briefings to heads of police and local government to keep them abreast of changing conditions in the field.

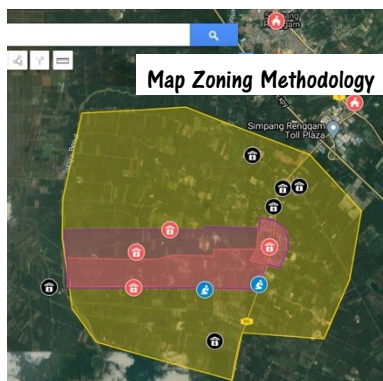
"We are applying knowledge and techniques we learned in the MDRM program, such as on-site command systems and public health," says Dr. Shahrul Nizam

Bin Ahmad Zamzari, an emergency physician at Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM). In addition to participating in launching the Civil Defence Force's Emergency Medical Operation Team, he has taken part in front-line activities, including monitoring first responders' health and distributing surgical masks. He has also appeared in radio programs to promote methods of countering the novel coronavirus to the general public.

Dr. MATSUURA Shohei, a JICA Expert / Visiting Associate Professor of MJIIT who lectures for the MDRM program at MJIIT, observes that, "together with networking efforts by graduates, analytical methodologies and disaster risk management tools acquired through the program have helped their respective agencies respond more effectively to the novel coronavirus." He adds that "knowledge and skills learned through the program have also boosted graduates' confidence in initiating and leading these operations as disaster managers." He hopes that "MDRM graduates working in various sectors will learn from this experience to make further contributions to strengthening Malaysia's disaster preparedness and prevention."



Briefing by Malaysia Civil Defence Force's Lt. Col. Syukri Bin Madonau (right)



Medical support tools for preventing infection

The academic and technical staff and students of MJIIT are developing and producing medical support tools for dealing with the novel coronavirus at the Advanced Precision Laboratory, which was established through the cooperation of Japan.

One such tool is an aerosol box that protects medical workers against infection when they perform procedures such as endotracheal intubation. Mr. Hairul Lail, a fabrication leader at Advanced Precision Laboratory,



Aerosol Box

explained that “the aerosol box has already been tested in a major medical facility, and its effectiveness has been confirmed by the hospital staff.” Twenty two aerosol boxes have already been donated to several hospitals. Production of these devices will be increased to meet requirements of hospitals.

Furthermore, more research and development have been carried out with local industries at the MJIT Sangaku Renkei (Industry-University cooperation) Center, headed by Ts. Dr. Zulhasni Abdul Rahim.



Face shields (left) and aerosol box delivered to Red Crescent Malaysia and MJIT staff who delivered them to hospitals (right)

MJIT has also begun using its CNC (computer numerical control) laser shield machine, which was installed by the ODA loan, to produce face shields designed at the laboratory. Since March 28, more than 2,400 shields have been developed and donated to hospitals caring for COVID-19 patients.

Studying the mechanism of transmission of COVID-19

This March, the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) where MJIT is established announced that it would be undertaking joint research with a Dutch research institute regarding the extent to which COVID-19 is present in wastewater².

At present, the main route of infection of the new coronavirus is thought to be droplets passed between people who are in close contact, but it has been noted that the virus also may survive in wastewater. This research aims to determine whether and to what extent the virus exists in sewage discharged by homes and hospitals and to clarify the still-unclear mechanisms by which the virus spreads and stability in tropical environment.

Dr. HARA Hirofumi, an Associate Professor at MJIT who is also a member of this research group, explained the advantages of conducting this research in Malaysia:

“While several influenza viruses are seasonal, COVID-19 outbreaks have been observed even in the tropics, and

transmission is not thought to be related to season. We believe that gathering information and knowledge about survival of the novel coronavirus in the wastewater of Malaysia, a tropical country, may help to predict conditions that will affect the northern hemisphere as it moves toward summer. Due to its range of climates and geological extent, Malaysia is an ideal place to conduct such research. The findings could also be of significance for predicting transmission in suburban and metropolitan areas with different climates.”

Dr. OKANO Takasei, an Expert who leads JICA’s cooperation project with MJIT, says, “Researchers and graduates of the Institute have reaffirmed the significance of this project through their cooperation with related institutions in the fight against the global social issue presented by COVID-19.” Looking ahead to independent operation of the Institute following completion of the project in 2023, he very much hopes to continue such cooperation in the future.

¹ Established as an academic institution at the Kuala Lumpur campus of the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) in 2011, MJIT bases engineering education on the Japanese philosophy of education. In addition to supporting equipment improvements with an ODA loan from 2011 to 2018, JICA initiated a Technical Cooperation Project in 2013 to improve education quality, enhance research capability and promote collaboration between industry and academia.

² UTM Offers Expertise to Investigate Coronavirus in Wastewater <https://news.utm.my/2020/03/utm-offers-expertise-to-investigate-coronavirus-in-wastewater/> - JICA News

CONQUERING COVID-19: MALAYSIA

A TV Documentary, *Conquering COVID-19: Malaysia* was broadcasted by NHK (Nippon Broadcasting Corporation) on 10th June 2020 featuring two MJIT’s Master of Disaster Risk Management Program (MDRM) graduated students, Lt. Col. Mohd Zubir bin Mohd Juzad (Malaysia Civil Defense Force - APM) and Dr. Shahrul Nizam bin Ahmad Zamzali, an emergency physician at Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM). They shared about using knowledge from Japanese Professors in fighting the pandemic. The documentary can be viewed at <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/ondemand/video/2037065/> until 10 June 2021. - Editorial

CONTRIBUTION FROM UTMKL

In dealing with the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, UTM Kuala Lumpur campus has made initiative to contribute for hospitals and front liners in providing material requirements of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). They produced face shields and intubation box. Among the hospitals that have received this donation are Hospital Sungai Buloh, Hospital Kuala Lumpur, UiTM Specialist Hospital, Hospital Kajang and Puchong Women Specialist Clinic. - *MJIIT Facebook*



VISIT FROM HOSPITAL SUNGAI BULOH

30 March 2020 - MJIIT was visited by Dr. Muhammad 'Abid Amir, a cardiothoracic surgeon, and Dr. Nadia Hanom Ishak, a cardiac anesthetist doctor. Both of the aforementioned specialists are from Hospital Sungai Buloh, who attended the lab to witness MJIIT's efforts in prototyping intubation protective box to be used by patients Covid-19 at Hospital Sungai Buloh, Selangor who are in need.



This noble effort has been led by Mr. Hairul Lail Ismail, Assistant Vocational Training Officer in MJIIT. The prototype fabrication is done using the expertise and the advantages of technology and equipment in MJIIT laboratories. Joining him are three of MJIIT alumni; Syafreena Ezzany, Amalin Zahra, and Puteri Nor Adilah who initiated in this effort when they are called to contribute, considering the announcement of the hospital who need such equipment. An expert at Razak School of UTM KL, Mr. Kamal Bani Hashim was also to embroil himself in mproving the design of the intubation box.



The specialists of Hospital Sungai Buloh then had attempted a trial at the exact moment and claimed to be satisfied with the results. - *MJIIT Facebook*

CONTRIBUTION FROM NATUREL KISS TO MJIIT

On 24th June 2020, Naturel Kiss, UTM spin-off company has stepped forward with 150 bottles of Naturel Kiss Refreshing hand sanitizers to MJIIT staffs. The distribution of the hand sanitizers was by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Siti Hamidah, Naturel Kiss's founder. Her contribution is highly appreciated.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Siti Hamidah Setapar is also Deputy Dean (Research and Development) at MJIIT. - *MJIIT Facebook*



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