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Engineering • Technology • Creativity

## UMP CONTRIBUTES ITS EXPERTISE IN A HUMANITARIAN MISSION TO ACHEH

The team has so far raised **RM300,000** in funds to build and upgrade facilities at the hostel, to better accommodate the occupants whose numbers are growing.

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a move to 'humanise technology', Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) strategically mobilises its available talents and technology experts to deploy their technological knowhow and expertise for the benefits of the community at the grass root level. This is in line with the mission and vision of APUCEN where UMP has been a member since year 2010. With this in mind, innovations and research works carried out by the university have always encompasses human, academic and social factors. A simple, yet big impact innovation that could transform the life and socio-economy of the people would be far more meaningful.

UMP recently carried out a programme entitling 'Acheh Social Innovation Humanitarian Mission Project' to provide basic necessities, in the forms of water filters and solar lights to some 230 residents and orphans at the Dayah Nurul Huda Charity Home in Banda Aceh. Specifically, the programme was organised by UMP Women Association (Matahari), together with the Technology Engineering Faculty Student Association (Protech) and the undergraduates from Kuala Syiah University (Unsyiah).

Supported by 36 volunteers, the project helped to clean water ponds, paint and spruce up homes at its surrounding as well as conducting awareness and academic programmes. The project not only served as a mobility programme for the undergraduates but was also seen as an initiative that supported volunteerism agenda implemented by UMP, under its initiative called 'Community University'. It is an internationally-recognised social service work.

The project was spearheaded by Chief of Deputy Registrar (Research and Innovation) and Matahari Advisor Datin Fazia Ali. Also present was Matahari President Prof. Datin Dr. Mimi Sakinah Abdul Munaim. Matahari had received good cooperation from the Teuku Umar University Women Association or Darma wanita UTU.

The team has so far raised RM300,000 in funds to build and upgrade facilities at the hostel, to better accommodate the occupants whose numbers are growing. Currently, the facilities could only cater to 60 people. The charity home also received contributions

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from Malaysia Islamic Economy Development Foundation (YaPEIM) for the construction of a residential unit for the teachers.

This project gave the participants, especially UMP undergraduates, the rare opportunity of sharing ideas with the UTU undergraduates, besides experiencing the perspectives of doing humanitarian work with an Aceh community. The university look forward to holding more meaningful programmes, including improving the water supply system for cooking and other facilities to cater to the increasing occupants.

UMP hopes that the university's research findings and technology-based innovations would serve as a good platform for sustainable development and to further enhance the socio-economic standing of the targeted communities.

Similarly, the same applies to the university's social innovation effort; a community charity drive involving the transfer of technology. It is being carried out through its Community-University programme, where the university moves closer to the local communities while the people stays more open to the university. ■

