



MEDIA RELEASE

UNIVERSITI MALAYA LEADS TOP ASIAN UNIVERSITIES TO ADDRESS REGIONAL & GLOBAL HIGHER EDUCATION ISSUES

KUALA LUMPUR, 14 APRIL 2021 – Universiti Malaya (UM) is the first University in Malaysia to be elected to helm the Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) Executive Presidency to address regional and global higher education issues. Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Mohd Hamdi Abd Shukor, Vice-Chancellor of UM has been appointed as the AUA Executive President for the year 2021-2022.

UM is honoured to represent Malaysia towards sharing our expertise and contribution to regional and global challenges which are specifically related to the higher education and economic, scientific and technological development and at the same time, strengthening the collaboration between AUA's member institutions, including top universities in the region - National University of Singapore, Tsinghua University, The University of Hong Kong and Seoul National University.

"It is a great honour for UM to be entrusted with this mandate and responsibility as this signifies another milestone for UM's many achievements throughout the years. Our most profound appreciation and credit goes to Tsinghua University for their exceptional leadership, and we look forward to their support along with other AUA's members for the coming year". said Professor Dato' Ir. Dr. Mohd Hamdi Abd Shukor.

"Universiti Malaya is currently embarking on a new journey towards achieving our new vision - to be a global university impacting the world. Our international counterparts remain as one of our top priorities and we welcome avenues for knowledge sharing and collaboration, as well as exploring new pathways through the creation of beneficial and innovative programmes together.

"UM has benefited a great deal from our membership in AUA with the strong support provided by the AUA Secretariat, and we view this Executive Presidency appointment as not only an invaluable opportunity but also as a responsibility to commit and demonstrate our very best effort to this alliance," he added.

The announcement was made by Professor Qiu Yong, President of Tsinghua University, which is the current AUA Presidency institution, with unanimous approval from all fifteen members during the virtual AUA Board Meeting which was held on 8 April 2021.

Since the establishment of AUA in 2017, UM has had the privilege of hosting 2 Arts and Sports Events, welcoming students from AUA member universities to campus, namely for the AUA-UM Tropical Camp in 2018 and the AUA-UM Appreciating Diverse Communities through Art programme in early 2020. UM's staff and students have also had the opportunity to participate in various activities and programmes organised by other AUA members.

Moreover, 40 academic and research staff from UM have been granted the AUA Scholars Award; whereas 4 from the Management and Professional Staff were selected to participate in the AUA Staff Exchange programme since the inception of both programmes in 2018.

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