

### MYMEMBRANE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (2020-2021)

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### EXPERT FEATURE

**Prof. Datuk Ts. Dr. Ahmad Fauzi Ismail (UTM)**

#### First Seawater Desalination Plant in Malaysia

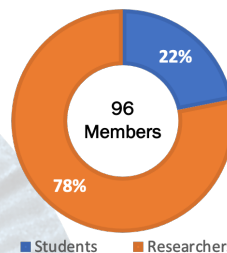
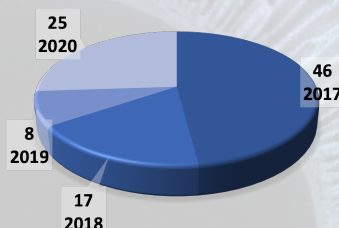
A 45-year wait is over for a village (Kampung Senok, Bachok) in Kelantan as the local people can now enjoy uninterrupted clean water supply, thanks to the implementation of Seawater Desalination (SWDS) project by the Ministry of Higher Education. The project led by **Prof. Datuk Ts. Dr. Ahmad Fauzi Bin Ismail** from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) and in collaboration with Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) would turn the seawater into drinking water and address the clean water shortage in the village.

The project was fully funded by the Ministry of Higher Education through the Translational Research Grant Scheme (TRGS) under the ministry's Sustainable Water Resources Strategic Research Action Plan. This project can benefit 3,300 people in the village by producing 500,000 litres of treated water a day. The stationary and large scale SWDS plant for drinking water production was the first one in Malaysia. This plant uses advanced membrane technology to remove any impurities including dissolved ions from the seawater to produce high quality drinking water.



### MYMEMBRANE MEMBERS

Distribution of New Members from Year 2017-2020



Distribution of Full Members and Student Members

(\*As of 2 October 2020)

### EXPERT FEATURE

**Prof. Ir. Dr. Abdul Latif Ahmad (USM)**

#### Fostering Membrane Science for the Sustainable Development of Aquaculture Industry

In line with the vision of "Fostering the Fundamental Science of Membrane Technology for the Benefits of Bottom Billions", the membrane researchers from Universiti Sains Malaysia are pioneering the next generation membrane technology in order to move Malaysia towards a greener and sustainable society.

One of the targeted area of exploration and application of emerging membrane technologies are the application of membrane distillation and forward osmosis led by **Prof. Ir. Dr. Abdul Latif Ahmad** to treat, recover and recycle the effluent of aquaculture wastewater. The recovered fresh water enable water reuse thereby reduces dependency for freshwater and simultaneous safeguard the environment. Besides that, the nutrient recovery provides additional revenue to the aquaculturist via promotion of circular economy.

This is a 5-year collaborative LRGS programme championed by established researchers from 10 local universities (USM, UKM, UTAR, UTHM, UMS, UMT, UMK, UTM, UTP, UMS), 1 government agency (Jabatan Perikanan Malaysia-Penang) and few local aquaculture farmers



### STUDENT SESSION – Mahesan A/L Naidu (UTM)

#### Developing New Techniques with Foreign Collaborators

I spent four months broadening my experience under Mevlana International Exchange Program at Selcuk University, Konya, Turkey. I was working closely with a research group led by **Prof. Dr. Mustafa Karaman**. The research focus of the group is on functional thin film coatings on surfaces using various chemical vapor deposition techniques.

Their research work was astounding as they were able to coat functional thin film layers, i.e., conductive layer, hydrophilic layer, protective layer, etc. on virtually any type of surfaces, including silicone, polymers, and even tissue papers. In collaboration with their research group, we were able to coat a highly hydrophilic thin film layer on the surface of hydrophobic membranes to enhance the membrane performance for water treatment. Other than scientific work, I was glad that I was given an opportunity to explore and immerse into the Turkish Culture.



### EDITORIAL MEMBERS



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