

## Arigato: Brunei students, officials complete Japanese programme

A virtual graduation ceremony was recently held for a group of students and working professionals who completed an international certificate programme offered by Osaka University.

The group comprised seven students from Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), 15 from Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), four from Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) and two working professionals.

The Osaka University International Certificate Programme: Halal Science, Technology and Innovation (OUICP-HaSTI) was a 10-month programme involving online lectures and a two-month placement at Osaka University.

The group comprised seven students from Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), 15 from Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), four from Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) and two working professionals.

The Osaka University International Certificate Programme: Halal Science, Technology and Innovation (OUICP-HaSTI) was a 10-month programme involving online lectures and a two-month placement at Osaka University.

The event was hosted by Osaka University (OU) Japan and co-organised by staff from the three Brunei higher education institutions.

The ceremony also welcomed the next batch of students for the programme.

Attending the event were Permanent Secretary (Higher Education) at the Ministry of Education cum guest of honour Dr Haji Azman bin Ahmad; Executive Vice President of Global Engagement, Osaka University Professor Dr Genta Kawahara; UBD Vice-Chancellor Dr Hazri bin Haji Kifle; UTB Vice Chancellor Datin Paduka Professor Dr Hajah Zohrah binti Haji Sulaiman and UNISSA Acting Rector Dr Arman bin Haji Asmad.

Dr Haji Azman noted that collaboration between OU and higher educational institutions in Brunei Darussalam has been progressing very well since it started in 2017, adding that, "upon observation, the progress is beyond expectations."

He reminded all higher educational institutions to uphold His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's titah during UNISSA's 12<sup>th</sup> convocation ceremony in August this year, during which the monarch said,

"For the agricultural sector and halal products, research is needed. The research will include physical studies of real materials, such as fresh or preserved specimens. Testing will be carried out in the laboratory involving equipment and chemicals through discipline-compliant analysis and recognised standards."

Dr Haji Azman added, "I hope to see this research collaboration translate to making contributions towards empowering as well as strengthening the agricultural and halal industry in the country."

The OUICP-HaSTI is an educational programme initiated by OU ASEAN Campus in collaboration with their counterparts in ASEAN countries.

OU issues a certificate upon successful completion of the programme in a specific field with six to eight credits. In general, OUICP-HaSTI is offered to graduate students of Joint Campus counterpart universities and working people (non-students) who have received at least a Bachelor's degree.

The programme aims to contribute to the solution of issues in the ASEAN region while focussing on the individuality of each country's society and culture, developing infrastructure to benefit those societies through international, innovative approaches such as co-creation with industries, governments, academia, and communities by nurturing advanced global human resources in the fields of bioengineering, applied physics, infectious disease, environmental engineering, halal science, biodiversity and bioresources, and Japanese language and culture.

The 28 students studied a few courses under the programme which included Halal Science, Sustainable Development Goals, Advanced Technology for Halalan-Thayyiban, Product and Service Innovation for Halalan-Thayyiban. By the end of the programme, they were required to undertake practical study abroad for eight weeks, which, for the first time, was held in-person.



The virtual graduation ceremony in session. PHOTO: UBD