

USIM

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USIM Celebrates Silver Jubilee:

25 Years of Naqli-Aqli Excellence

2025 (Rabu)



Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) recently marked a historic milestone with the grand celebration of its Silver Jubilee, commemorating 25 years of academic excellence and the integration of Naqli (revealed) and Aqli (intellectual) knowledge. Held at the Tuanku Chanceller Hall, the ceremony was graced by the royal presence of Her Royal Highness the Chanceller, Tuanku Aishah Rohani binti Almarhum Tengku Besar Mahmud, alongside dignitaries including USIM's Pro-Chancellor YAM Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin, Deputy Minister of Higher Education YB Datuk Ts. Mustapha Sakmud, and Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs), YB Senator Dr. Zulkifli Hasan.

In his speech, Vice-Chancellor Professor Dato' Ts. Dr. Sharifudin Md Shaarani expressed deep appreciation to those who have shaped USIM's journey from its early days as Kolej Universiti Islam Malaysia (KUIM) in 2000 to its current position as a distinguished national and global reference institution. He emphasized that USIM is no longer an emerging university but a key player in modern Islamic education, bridging traditional and contemporary disciplines to meet global standards.

Today, USIM is home to more than 14,000 students, including over 700 international students from 30 countries, supported by a dedicated workforce of 1,848 staff, of which 88% of academic staff hold PhDs. Its graduate employability rate reached an outstanding 97.6% in 2024, placing it among the top universities preferred by employers according to the Talentbank National Graduate Employability Index. Since its inception, USIM has produced over 37,000 graduates who have gone on to contribute across diverse sectors both locally and abroad. In research, the university has undertaken more than 2,400 projects with funding exceeding RM102 million, reinforcing its reputation as a trusted research institution.

USIM is also moving forward with two transformative projects—the development of its Teaching Hospital, announced in the 2024 National Budget with an allocation of RM938 million, and the construction of a new Student Residential College in Nilai, which will house up to 5,000 students by 2028. According to the Vice-Chancellor, these projects represent USIM's long-standing aspirations to enrich its academic and student life ecosystem.

Beyond academia, USIM continues to lead in social innovation and community engagement. Initiatives like the USIM Living Lab in Chow Kit demonstrate the

university's commitment to applying academic knowledge in real-world, underserved settings. The Ibnu Umri Maktum Research Centre (UMMI) also remains a trailblazer in disability-focused research and development, with flagship projects such as the Braille Hajj Guidebook, the Sign Language Qur'an App, and most recently, the launch of eBrelle, Malaysia's first Braille-enabled laptop for the visually impaired.

As it looks to the future, USIM is embracing the challenge of digital transformation, notably through the conceptualization of Shariah-compliant Artificial Intelligence. This initiative reflects its ongoing commitment to aligning technological advancements with ethical and Islamic principles. The Vice-Chancellor also underscored the importance of global rankings and international visibility as part of the university's strategic direction.

The Silver Jubilee celebration also witnessed the launch of two significant publications—"25 Years of USIM" and the "USIM Islamic Finance Blueprint"—which will serve as foundational documents for positioning the university as a regional leader in Islamic finance education and research. Coinciding with the birthday celebration of Her Royal Highness the Chanceller, Tuanku Aishah Rohani, the occasion added a regal touch to an already momentous chapter in USIM's journey.

USIM Artificial Intelligence Team Receives Prestigious Award

AI HACKATHONS FOR PUBLIC SECTOR

Presented by the Public Sector Center for Digital Skills



USIM achieved a remarkable milestone as the "USIM AI (Artificial Intelligence) Syariah" team received a Special Mention Award at the prestigious AI Hackathon for Public Sector 2025, organized by Microsoft Malaysia in collaboration with the Public Sector for Digital Skills.

According to Ts. Khadijah Chamili, Head of Digital Services Division, SDEC USIM, the award was in recognition of their innovative project called Islamic Family Legal Advisor (ILA), an AI agent built on the Microsoft Azure platform specifically designed to provide intelligent, accurate, and efficient guidance on Islamic family legal matters.

Ts. Khadijah further stated that the Special Mention Award was granted to teams that demonstrated unique use cases with high development potential, alongside innovative technology applications, alignment with the competition's theme, and strong commitment throughout the hackathon.

In addition to USIM, the "LabourLensAI" team from the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) also received a Special Mention Award.

The ILA project is a collaborative effort between USIM's Legal Aid Clinic (KGU) and the System Development and Engineering Center (SDEC). The team includes Dr. Norsuhaida Che Musa, Ts. Khadijah Chamili, Ts. Ussyairah Ali, Mr. Ahmad Faiz Ab Aziz, and Ts. Dr. Syarifah Bahiyah Rahayu.

Dr. Norsuhaida Che Musa, Head Coordinator of USIM's Legal Aid Clinic, emphasized that the clinic has played a vital role in handling numerous Islamic family law and divorce cases since its establishment in 2013.

"We hope to assist even more individuals and families in need of Islamic legal support and see AI as a valuable tool to achieve this objective," she said.

With the theme "Supercharging Malaysia Public Services with Microsoft AI Platform", the hackathon gathered participants from various government agencies and higher education institutions, aiming to accelerate the digital transformation of Malaysia's public sector through AI.

This achievement not only strengthens USIM's position in the national tech landscape but also highlights the university's commitment to developing digital solutions that align with Shariah principles and positively impact the country's public service system.



"Using advanced technologies such as Azure OpenAI, Azure AI Search, and Azure AI Document Intelligence, ILA is capable of autonomously navigating and structuring information from Syariah legal documents. As a result, users can receive accurate legal advice through a user-friendly chatbot interface," she explained.

USIM Advances Sustainability Agenda: Strategic Collaboration with TNB and GSPARX for

Campus Solar Project

USIM has reinforced its commitment to the national sustainability agenda by signing a Renewable Energy Supply Agreement (SARE) with Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) and GSPARX Sdn. Bhd., marking a new milestone in clean energy transition efforts within higher education institutions.

Through this collaboration, USIM will install a 5.5MWp solar system, projected to generate electricity bill savings of up to RM350,000 in the first year alone. This strategic move directly contributes to reducing the university's carbon footprint.

USIM Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dato' Ts. Dr. Sharifudin Md. Shaarani, stated that the project is not just an investment in campus infrastructure, but a long-term investment in the country's sustainable future. It also opens new opportunities for innovation, research, and learning in the field of renewable energy at USIM.

"What makes this project unique is that it will be implemented through a Zero CAPEX Solar Solution, requiring no upfront cost from the university. Around 80% of the solar system will be installed in open areas such as parking lots, while the remaining 20% will be placed on rooftops," he explained.

Kamal Arifin A. Rahman, Chief Retail Officer of TNB, explained that the solar panel installation could potentially reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 3,696 metric tonnes annually.

"TNB, through its fully owned subsidiary GSPARX, is fully committed to ensuring the smooth implementation of this project, which is expected to be completed within 12 months. This initiative is also part of TNB's energy transition roadmap in support of the National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR) to achieve 70% renewable energy capacity and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050," he added.

The ceremony also featured a launching gimmick, symbolizing the official start of the project and USIM's bold step in addressing climate change and aligning with the National Energy Policy (2022–2040) and NETR goals.

"Around 80% of the solar system will be installed in open areas such as parking lots, while the remaining 20% will be placed on rooftops"

This collaboration marks yet another strategic success for USIM, positioning the university as a leading Islamic institution championing sustainability and global competitiveness.

The ceremony was held at the Rajah Brooke Ballroom, Nilai Springs Resort Hotel, and attended by top management officials from TNB and GSPARX.



USIM-EDOTE Launch eBrelle: Malaysia's First Braille Laptop

USIM, through the Ibnu Ummi Maktum Research Centre (UMMI), made history today by launching *eBrelle*, Malaysia's first laptop specially designed for the visually impaired community. Developed in collaboration with EDOTE Sdn. Bhd, the launch was held at USIM's Executive Lounge. The innovative product has received certification and standards approval from SIRIM QAS International.

“eBrelle will enable them to understand current information, including images which were previously inaccessible – placing them on par with the general public”

The launch of *eBrelle* also marked the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between USIM and EDOTE Sdn. Bhd., solidifying a strategic collaboration in the development of AI-based Braille technology, particularly in producing Islamic digital learning content such as the Iqra' Braille module.

USIM Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Ts. Dr. Sharifudin Md Shaarani, described the launch as a symbol of the

university's commitment to upholding the principles of inclusivity and education for all.

“With the signing of this MoU, USIM will contribute to the development of learning content aligned with the needs of the visually impaired community, while EDOTE Sdn. Bhd. will develop and market this digital Braille product. This initiative reflects USIM's aspiration of *USIM Cemerlang, USIM Disayang*,” he said.

Proudly, this product has already penetrated international markets and is now being exported to Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom, proving that local innovation can compete on a global stage.

Dr. Nor Afifah Shabani, Executive Director of EDOTE Sdn. Bhd. stated that the partnership with USIM is a crucial step toward ensuring equal rights and opportunities for the visually impaired.

“*eBrelle* will enable them to understand current information, including images which were previously inaccessible – placing them on par with the general public,” she said.

As a symbolic gesture of support for visually impaired initiatives, the event also featured a *Friday Prayer led by the Visually Impaired*, fully conducted by members of the visually impaired community and led by Ustaz Abdul Majid Mohd Yusoff, Assistant Manager of the Alfitrah Foundation.



eBrelle not only allows the visually impaired to directly access ChatGPT and generative AI, but it also replaces the bulky 35-volume physical Braille dictionary. The device is equipped with image translation technology that converts visual content into Braille.

USIM Leads Inclusive Hajj Innovation for the Visually Impaired

USIM continues to make strides in empowering the community of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) by publishing the Hajj Worship Guidebook for the Visually Impaired in Braille. The Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs), YB Dato' Setia Dr. Mohd Naim Mokhtar, took the time to attend the launch event held at the Hajj Pilgrims' Accommodation Building (BPJH), Land Premium Hotel, Makkah.

but also holds potential as a reference model for other agencies in designing more inclusive worship approaches," he said.

Associate Professor Dr. Haji Norakyairee Mohd Raus, Director of UMMI, stated that the publication of this book marks a major success in realizing the agenda of inclusivity and equitable access to structured religious education for all communities.



"We hope the release of this guidebook will greatly benefit our visually impaired friends and inspire those who have yet to perform Hajj to prepare themselves when their turn comes. If they are capable and have companions, we will not hesitate to welcome them as *Duyufurrahman* (Guests of the Most Merciful) in the future, insha-Allah," he added.

The development of this guidebook began in 2023 through USIM students' final year projects. In 2024, USIM was appointed as the consultant by the Hajj Guidance Division, Lembaga Tabung Haji. The collaboration covers content development, Braille-friendly design, and joint content review to ensure appropriateness and accuracy in effectively delivering worship guidance to the visually impaired community.

This initiative is the result of a collaboration between Tabung Haji and the Ibnu Ummi Maktum Research Centre (UMMI), USIM, through a special project led by Dr. Mohd Nur Adzam Rasdi, Coordinator of the Inclusive Research Division at UMMI and Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Quranic and Sunnah Studies (FPQS), USIM. The effort is also supported by the Islamic NGO, the Malaysian Association for the Blind Muslims (PERTIS), and the USIM Publishing Centre.

The total cost for the transcription and printing project amounted to RM21,597.57—a strategic investment to ensure that individuals with special needs can also be guests of Allah SWT with confidence and understanding.

Through this effort, USIM and Tabung Haji reaffirm their commitment to inclusive research, innovation, and spiritual guidance, making the Hajj experience meaningful and accessible to all segments of society.

The Minister, Datuk Dr. Mohd Na'im Mokhtar, announced that for this year's Hajj season, a total of 11 visually impaired pilgrims present in the Holy Land and will receive proper guidance and support from Tabung Haji (TH) officers.

"This initiative aligns with the aspirations of *Malaysia MADANI* and the principle of 'No One Left Behind'. It not only benefits the visually impaired pilgrims significantly



USIM Advances Regional Collaboration Through

Japanese Language Competition

Danish Arfan Mohd Jasmi once again brought pride to USIM upon securing third place in the 2nd Japanese Language Essay and Speech Contest for Malaysian Higher Education Institutions, held on May 28, 2025.

The competition was co-organized by the USIM Centre for Japanese Language and Culture, the Japanese Language Teachers Association of Malaysia, Fukuyama Transportation Sdn. Bhd., and fully sponsored by the Komaru Transportation Foundation.

Held at Lecture Hall 1, Faculty of Major Language Studies (FPBU), USIM, the contest saw participation from 15 contestants representing eight institutions: USIM, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), Sultan Idris Education University (UPS), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK), and the Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJII).

The opening ceremony was officiated by Mr. Kitaoka Tatsuya, Director of the Japan Information Service,

Embassy of Japan in Malaysia.

In his speech, Mr. Kitaoka encouraged strengthening Malaysia–Japan ties through new approaches.

“We must maintain this momentum and elevate the *Look East Policy* to a higher level. For example, I propose a ‘*Look-at-Each Other Policy*’, where Malaysian students in Japan and Japanese students in Malaysia can mutually benefit from one another,” he said.

Meanwhile, USIM Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dato’ Ts. Dr. Sharifudin Md Shaarani remarked that although Japanese is offered as an elective course at many Malaysian universities, its use remains mostly confined to classrooms. Therefore, this competition serves as an important platform for students to actively use Japanese outside the classroom, while sharpening their communication and public speaking skills in the language.

“With the theme ‘Transportation’, each participant was given five minutes to deliver a speech and answer two questions from a panel of judges comprising representatives from the Embassy of Japan, Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur, the Japanese Language Teachers Association of Malaysia, and the Look East Policy Alumni Association,” he explained.

The event also featured the presentation of a book inventory for the



Danish Arfan Mohd Jasmi

‘Komaru Reading Corner’ by Mr. Shigehiro Komaru to Prof. Dato’ Ts. Dr. Sharifudin Md Shaarani, symbolizing the Komaru Transportation Foundation’s contribution to USIM. The donation aims to promote a reading culture and improve the quality of Japanese language teaching and learning at the university. As a gesture of appreciation, souvenirs were presented to Mr. Shigehiro Komaru and Mr. Saito, First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia.

The champion of the competition was a participant from UiTM, while the first runner-up was from UKM. A Special Jury Prize was awarded to Dorithy Sasha Anak Ubang from UPSI, while the remaining eleven participants received consolation prizes in the form of wireless earphones. The prize-giving ceremony was officiated by Mr. Shigehiro Komaru and Professor Toshiyuki Sato.

This competition reflects USIM’s commitment to strengthening academic and cultural ties between Malaysia and Japan, while nurturing students’ interest in mastering foreign languages in a practical and impactful way.

Also in attendance were Professor Toshiyuki Sato, President of Fukuyama City University; Mr. Shigehiro Komaru, President of Fukuyama Transportation Sdn. Bhd. and Chairman of the Komaru Transportation Foundation; Mr. Ijima Isao, Special Advisor to the Japanese Cabinet; Mr. Norihisa Tsukamoto, Director of the Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur; FPBU Dean Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zainur Rijal Abdul Razak; and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zoraida



USIM Empower Holistic Educational Model Through Community and Industry Collaboration

USIM continues to advance high-impact education through the ExploreSTREAM 4.0 program, held in collaboration with Petronas Dagangan Berhad. The program involved 814 students from 16 academic courses and 21 schools across Negeri Sembilan, Selangor, and the Federal Territory of Putrajaya. It was held on June 11, 2025, at the Main Hall of the Faculty of Major Language Studies (FPBU), USIM.

This program is a continuation of the SULAM (Service-Learning Malaysia – University for Society) approach, integrating academic learning with community service based on Naqli (revealed) and Aqli (intellectual) knowledge. Uniquely, this approach is holistically blended through the STREAM elements which are Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics, positioning USIM as a pioneer in integrating values-based and technological education within higher learning institutions.

USIM Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Ts. Dr. Sharifudin Md Shaarani, in his officiating speech, described the program as a manifestation of USIM's commitment to supporting a sustainable and inclusive national education agenda.

"The combination of SULAM and STREAM, through collective community engagement, cultivates teamwork, knowledge sharing, critical and creative thinking, and leadership skills – essential elements for navigating the era of the Fifth Industrial Revolution," he said.

The program received support from various entities including the Negeri Sembilan Islamic Religious Council (MAINS), USIM's Centre for Waqf and Zakat (PWZ), Yakult, SugarBomb, AEON BiG Putrajaya, and the MOSTI STEM Camp, reflecting a strong synergy between university, industry, and society.

Since its inception in 2022, ExploreSTREAM has expanded from primary school level to district, state, and now national level. USIM anticipates that over 1,000 primary and secondary school students will benefit directly from this program, which features interactive learning, STEM exploration, arts, and spiritual values through engaging hands-on activities.

The Vice-Chancellor also noted that the success of the program hinges on active participation from students across faculties such as the Faculty of Science and Technology (FST), the Faculty of Leadership and Management (FKP), the Faculty of Syariah and Law (FSU), and the Centre for the Development of Soft Skills (PPKI), which leads the development of STREAM modules for communities.

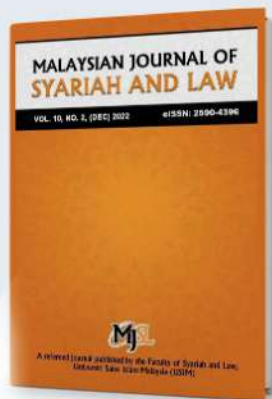
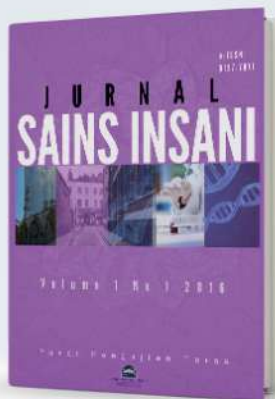
"We believe that approaches like this will continue to strengthen the university's role as an agent of holistic knowledge culture – not only producing excellent graduates but also those who are socially conscious and driven," he added.

Through ExploreSTREAM 4.0, USIM clearly demonstrates its active role in addressing contemporary education challenges through an integrative approach that significantly impacts national human capital development.

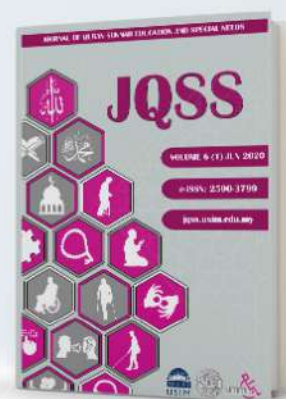
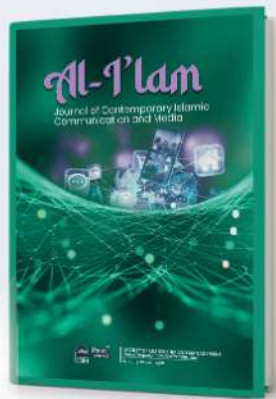
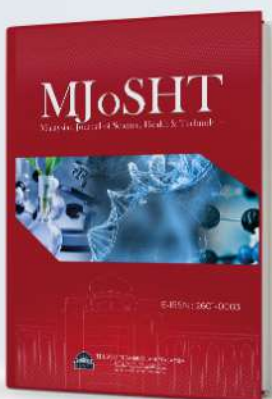


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- Date for IKLA test: **21 May 2025 (Wednesday)**

For more information about IKLA, visit <https://admission.usim.edu.my/ikla/>

For any inquiries, please email zumaiahhisam@usim.edu.my or contact **067980292** or **Whatsapp 011-1317 6773**

