

Academic Visit to University of Tsukuba and Ibaraki University

April 29th, 2014 – 20 diploma students and 3 staffs of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM Kuala Lumpur) are currently in Japan for a week academic visit. The group is headed by Associate Professor Ahmad Khalid, Director to the Undergraduates Development of Undergraduates Affairs and Alumni office UTM Kuala Lumpur. They have arrived in Narita, Tokyo on April 28th under the Global Outreach Programme (GOP) to Japan. On April 30th they will visit Ami Campus of Ibaraki University and met with Professor Munehiko Asayama from the College of Agriculture, Department of Bio-resource Science. During this trip the students will also visit the laboratory and Gene Research Centre and after that they will have a discussion and interchange of views and ideas with the professor and Japanese students in Ibaraki University. On the way back they will stop at Kasumigaura Environmental Science Centre for an environmental tour around, visit the laboratory and the exhibition centre. Later in the evening they will meet up for cordial interaction and change of ideas with the circle called TISA in University of Tsukuba. The circle is founded to promote interaction between foreign students and Japanese students in University of Tsukuba. This unofficial event will be hosted by University of Tsukuba Malaysia Students Association. Nevertheless this short session hopefully could be a valuable experience for UTM students. Thus by talking and meeting up with this group (Japanese students) should help broaden their vision for the future undertakings.

On May 1st they will visit University of Tsukuba and Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences, While touring the campus, Associate Professor Koji Iwamoto has arrange for them to join the lectures in the faculty as requested by UTM students. They will be exposed and experience real lectures on Animal Production and Ethics in Scientific Technology together with the Japanese students. Hoping that this approach will open UTM student's mind-set and understanding the subjects better.

Besides going to see the famous Mickey mouse and Minnie mouse characters by the founder Waltz Disney in Disneyland Tokyo, from May 2nd to 3rd they plan to visit a few famous iconic trademark of Japan such as the Tokyo Sky tree Tower and Mount Fujiyama before heading to Osaka and Kansai and back in Malaysia on the 5th of May, 2014. While in Tokyo the students will also visit Masjid Camii (*Tōkyō-jāmiī* (東京ジャーミイ) also known as **Tokyo Mosque** to fulfil the University's Social Responsibility by helping and reaching out and give away some donation to the Muslims community in [Ōyama-chō](#) district of [Shibuya](#) ward in [Tokyo, Japan](#).



AP Ahmad Khalid, Dr Rose Alinda, Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz and Dr. Norio Sugiura before the launching event.

Earlier the ex-cabinet minister, Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz who currently is the Chairman of AirAsia X launched the Global Outreach Programme @ Japan (Sakura'14) on April 8th 2014. A few key figure present were UTM Johor



Deputy Vice Chancellor, Dr. Rose Alinda Alip, UTM Kuala Lumpur Campus Director Dr Hamdani Saidi, and Dr Norio Sugiura, University of Tsukuba, Kuala Lumpur Office Director. In her speech, Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz advised that while grabbing this opportunity the students should try to learn how Japan balance globalization while at the same time still cling and adapt with their attitude, blended their way of life with cultural roots, and Asian heritage but yet recognized as an ultra-modern society. Students who's been given this opportunity should treasure the value added benefits and be prepared to carry the national flag of the university and Malaysia. One

suggestion that is for us to ponder by Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz is for the students to go and see not just the modern advance country but the underdevelop countries such as Zimbabwe, Bangladesh or Cambodia because there is a lot that could be learn through this dilapidated and under privileged communities that surely will opened our eyes, minds. and perspective in one's life



As symbolic of the event, a Katana (the Japanese long sword) usually used by samurai warrior was presented for demonstration and gimmick.