

Go in the Right
Direction and

Fly High!



Research is the systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions. It discovers, elucidates and evaluates new knowledge, ideas and technologies essential in driving the future of society and humanity. Also, it fosters professional excellence in the faculty, important for delivering outstanding student education and training. In other words, research is part and parcel of a higher educational institution like university. To coordinate research activities, four Centre of Excellence (CoE) were established in UniSZA consisting of the Research Institute for Islamic Products and Malay Civilization (INSPIRE), East Coast Environmental Research Institute (ESERI), Research Institute for Food Production and Innovation (AGROPOLIS), and the Institute for Community [Health] Development (i-CODE).

The office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation) has taken the initiative to hold a UniSZA CoE Direction Workshop. This workshop was held on the 29th of July at the Library Auditorium involving the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation) himself the registrar and his officer, bursar, legal advisor, all directors and deputy directors of CoE, the director and deputy directors of Research Management, Innovation and Commercialisation Centre (RMIC), deans or representatives, assistant registrar from all CoE and three secretariat.

The purpose of the workshop was to make an outline for CoE establishment, staffing, CoE-Faculty relations and to discuss the carrier path for science officers in UniSZA. The participants were divided into four groups lead by the four CoE directors. The groups held discussions on titles given including CoE key performance index (KPI), carrier path for science officers, outline for establishment and abolishment of CoE, CoE-faculty direction and relations, academic programmes in CoE, and minimum staff structure for CoE. The discussion was smooth and lively with full commitment from everybody involved. Participants put their best in both the discussion and presentations. Eventhough some issues have not clearly found solutions, efforts made were encouraging.

In the closing session, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Profesor Ir. Ts. Dr. R. Badlishah Ahmad, advised the CoE to enhance research outputs by utilising university sources wisely. "We have to carry out the responsibility put on us rightly" he added in enforcing the importance of accomplishing our duty reliably.

This workshop is expected to give clearer direction to every CoE director and staff in increasing their achievement for the sake of the university and community, both locally and globally.

