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## Universiti Putra Malaysia and Siksha 'O' Anusandhan Strengthen Strategic Partnership in Pharmaceutical and Wound Healing Research



**By Noor Eszereen Juferi**  
**Photo by Muhammad Syuqqree Mohd Dain**

**SERDANG, 12 February** - Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), through its Centre for Foundation Studies in Science (ASPutra), has expanded its international academic network with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA), India, to strengthen strategic collaboration in pharmaceutical research and wound healing innovation.

SOA, recognised as one of India's leading higher education institutions, is renowned for its strengths in pharmaceutical sciences, biotechnology and clinical research. Its School of Pharmaceutical Sciences is widely acknowledged for excellence in pharmaceutical technology, nanomedicine and advanced drug delivery systems.

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UPM Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Prof. Dr. Zamberi Sekawi, said international collaboration plays a pivotal role in advancing high-impact research, promoting knowledge transfer, and fostering the development of innovative healthcare technologies.

“This MoU reflects our shared commitment to advancing interdisciplinary research, encompassing joint projects, scholarly publications, student and researcher mobility and the exchange of expertise and laboratory resources.,” he said.



Director of ASPutra, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Marina Mohd. Top @ Mohd. Tah, described the collaboration as a strategic initiative in strengthening UPM’s global innovation ecosystem, in line with the university’s aspiration to advance research excellence, expand scientific network and contribute significantly to the healthcare sector.

“This framework not only enhances research capabilities but also opens avenues for the development of innovative technologies and products capable of delivering tangible benefits to society,” she said.

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The partnership will be reinforced through a Joint Action Plan spanning 2026 to 2031, focusing on structured, sustainable and outcome-driven programme implementation to deliver tangible outputs in research, innovation and commercialisation.



Regional research collaboration was further strengthened through a tripartite MoU involving UPM, SOA and Mae Fah Luang University, Thailand. This three-way partnership builds on the success of securing the ASEAN-India Collaborative R&D Grant 2025, with the project ranked among only 20 approved proposals out of nearly 1,000 international submissions.

Malaysia's project lead, PAssoc. Prof. ChM. Dr. Siti Efliza Ashari, said the achievement reflects strong recognition of local research capabilities and the strength of cross-border scientific collaboration.

“This cooperation framework enables the development of innovative technologies and products, the generation of intellectual property, and the delivery of healthcare solutions with the potential for direct societal impact,” she asserted.

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The MoU was formalised in conjunction with the 1st International Closed Meeting on Wound Healing Project 2026 (iCMWP 2026), which serves as a strategic platform bringing together experts and researchers to accelerate innovation in wound healing, an essential field in contemporary medicine and healthcare.