



# HIGHER ED

THE ANTHEM 'NEGARAKU':  
NATIONAL SYMBOL AND ICON

» PAGE 32

SEEKING DIGITAL  
TALENT

» PAGE 50



## Greening the campus

ROZANA SANI  
rsani@nst.com.my

**A**S centres that focus on knowledge-sharing and creation, universities are bustling hubs visited and inhabited by hundreds, if not thousands, of people daily.

In the midst of the core business of teaching and learning as well as conducting research, university campuses are congested with traffic and busy with activities such as events; daily churning out of print and paper; and the consumption of

food and utilities.

To counter these challenges, many tertiary institutions are stepping up initiatives to conserve the environment.

Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), for example, already has a green mandate in place that aligns campus activities with its sustainability efforts.

Vice-chancellor Professor Datin Paduka Datuk Dr Aini Ideris said UPM's commitment to the preservation of the environment is reflected in effective environmental management, coaching, the curriculum and quality management-based systems.

"As a research university, UPM leverages on its capabilities to measure its impact, embed green input into its teaching and plan solutions and strategies within our industry and community to advocate the need to reduce impact on the environment locally and nationwide," she added.

An alternative road for private vehicles going to and from Kuala Lumpur, Petaling Jaya and Damansara runs through Universiti Malaya (UM). It is concerned about the long-term impact of the campus carbon footprint as well as consumption behaviours regarding food, water and electricity.

UM Eco Campus Secretariat and UM Living Labs chairperson Professor Dr Sumiani Yusoff said many efforts have been made to understand and promote sustainability at the university and its surrounding areas.

"There is a need to address environmental challenges. It is a necessity for a university to embark on sustainable campus pathways and deviate from laissez-faire and business-as-usual attitudes," she added.

TURN TO PAGES 30 & 31