

First female UTeM v-c appointed

PROF Dr Raha Abdul Rahim (*pic*) has been appointed Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM) vice-chancellor for a period of three years until June 2022, and is the first woman to do so.

She has been serving as director of the Higher Education Excellence Planning Division at the Higher Education Department. She takes over from Prof Datuk Dr Shahrin Sahibuddin whose term ended on June 15.

The Education Ministry in a statement, said her appointment is due to her expertise, knowledge, experiences and achievements while holding various posts.

Born in Johor on May 5, 1963, Prof Raha obtained a bachelor's degree in microbiology from Oklahoma State University in the United States. She also received a master's degree from the same university and a PhD from Strathclyde University in the United Kingdom.

She has previously served as the Research Management Centre director and deputy dean (Research and Postgraduate Studies) of the Faculty of Biotechnology and Molecule Science at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM).

Prof Raha has published in over 130 academic journals, conferences and seminars. She is a member of the American Society for Microbiology and is secretary-general of the Asian Federation of Societies for Lactic Acid Bacteria.

She received the UPM excellent service awards in 2002, 2004, 2005 and 2009.

The ministry also expressed its appreciation to Prof Shahrin for his dedication and leadership during his tenure.

