



Statement of Support to the Shanghai Declaration

With the current world human population of 7.9 billion as of July 2021, our home planet Earth is foreseen to be in a state of overpopulation by 2050 or sooner. The increasing population is presenting a serious challenge to food production across the world, not only in agriculture and animal husbandry but also in fisheries. Food security requires sustainable food production, access to food and ability to purchase food. Food insecurity affects the low-income groups most with increased risks of hunger and malnutrition. It is therefore vital to address the food security challenge especially in the Asia-Pacific countries where food insecurity is a serious threat to social sustainability, public health and political stability.

As an academic institution in the niche areas of marine science and aquatic resources, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) pursues the vision of “Becoming the Country's Leading and Globally Respected Marine-focused University”, with the mission of “Generating Knowledge for the Community's Affluence and Environmental Sustainability”. UMT's aspirations are indeed very much aligned with the key elements of the Shanghai Declaration in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the following aspects:

- Providing academic contribution to aquaculture science towards sustainable aquaculture production and development, nourishing nations and providing healthy, nutrient-rich and climate-friendly food to people;
- Promoting opportunities for young women and men through quality education and training;
- Promoting aquaculture-based livelihoods and employment, decent work, socially responsible and sustainable enterprises;
- Preparing aquaculture sector for global crises including (but not limited to) climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and pandemics, and impact mitigations and management;
- Promoting improvement of aquaculture performance, capacity and efficiency to respect and better use natural resources, and enhance ecosystem services in an integrated and efficient way;
- Promoting aquaculture development approaches that conserve and improve ecosystems and biodiversity, and reduce the carbon intensity of food production systems;
- Promoting integration of aquaculture into the natural environment, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, regenerative energy and other sectors within the food systems for increased crisis resilience.

In recognition of the impacts from the global crises of climate change, loss of biodiversity, pollution, the current COVID-19 pandemic and possible future pandemics on aquaculture sustainability and food security, UMT strongly supports the Shanghai Declaration on account of its importance in preparing for impact mitigations by building agility and resilience in aquaculture and agriculture systems.

As part of our effort and contribution in promoting global food security, UMT is committed to collaborate and co-operate closely with the FAO and other relevant UN agencies, as well as regional intergovernmental organisations including the NACA and CIRDAP, and other partners in this joint declaration in building the necessary agility and resilience in aquaculture for sustainable food production and development.

Signed for and on behalf of
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA TERENGGANU

By:

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PROF. DR. MAZLAN ABD. GHAFFAR
Vice Chancellor

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