23 MAY 2025

Australian High Commission
Malaysia

MEDIA RELEASE

ASEAN RESEARCH COLLABORATION PROJECT: ROUND 1 OUTCOME

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA – 23 May 2025 – The Australian Government, through the Department of Education, is boosting Australia-Malaysia research partnerships through the ASEAN Research Collaboration Project.

As part of Round 1, the Australian Government will support four outstanding early career Malaysian researchers who have been selected to travel to Australia and undertake collaborative research with leading Australian research institutions in areas of shared priorities.

The successful projects will focus on vaccine production, drug efficacy, food preservation, and sustainable manufacturing.

Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia, H.E. Danielle Heinecke, praised the initiative:

"The ASEAN Research Collaboration Project will deepen Australia-Malaysia research collaboration and produce mutually beneficial outcomes.

"This is an opportunity for Malaysia and Australia to work together on shared challenges and drive research commercialisation.

"This initiative responds to the recommendation made in Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040 to deepen investment in the region.

"Both countries benefit from shared expertise and collaboration with industry, supporting future economic development."

Background information and biographies of the selected Malaysian recipients for Round 1 are attached to this release.

Round 2 of the ASEAN Research Collaboration Project will open in July 2025. For updates and application details, International Education Innovation Fund – ASEAN Research Collaboration Project - RMIT University.

ASEAN RESEARCH COLLABORATION PROJECT: ROUND 1 RECIPIENTS- MALAYSIA

Mohamad Hamdi Zainal Abidin
Host Organisation: RMIT University
Project Title: Sustainable Biomass Valorisation: Biological Activity of Deep Eutectic Solvent-Extracted Phenolic-Rich Compounds
Project Outline: This research proposes a green biorefinery approach using DESs as dual-purpose extractants and catalysts to efficiently recover lipids and polyphenols from microalgae. It supports sustainable manufacturing aligned with Green Chemistry, SDG 13 (Climate Action), and KEGA 12 by replacing hazardous chemicals with eco-friendly alternatives.

Nurhafiza binti Zainal
Host Organisation: The University of Adeliade
Project Title: Investigating the Protective Efficacy of Whole Inactivated Vaccines for Influenza and Newcastle Disease Virus
Project Outline: This project will develop photon-inactivated vaccines for ND and Influenza A and evaluate their immune responses and protective efficacy in poultry models.

Low Liang Ee
Host Organisation: Monash University
Project Title: Stimuli-Responsive Polymers for PolyHIPE Preparation
Project Outline: This project focuses on the development of stimuli-responsive PolyHIPE particles for biomedical applications. Particularly, factors such as the incorporation of smart polymer, pore size reduction approaches and drug loading will be investigated.

Habash binti Alwi
Host Organisation: Queensland University of Technology
Project Title: Optimising Drying Techniques for Enhancing the Shelf Life and Quality of Selected Australian Agricultural Products (Avocados)
Project Outline: This internship project focuses on the application of drying technology for the preservation of local fruits. The outcomes will contribute to sustainable post-harvest practices and potential academic collaboration.