



MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY: WHEN OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

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MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY :WHEN OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!

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Organised by:



INTRODUCTION

- In 2012, a local fisherman had accidentally discovered some underwater artefacts belonged to a shipwreck nearby UMT Marine Station at Bidong Island.
- ..and they came to us.
- OUR SCENARIO:
 - Should we take this opportunity/ problem as our responsibility?
 - **If we don't, then who should?**



METHOD



1. OUR PROBLEM/OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

- UMT would like to establish a new transdisciplinary research field through maritime archaeology study, to complement the existing terrestrial archaeology programs offered by other universities
- In conjunction with that, we plan to provide an underwater archaeology training program and to promote Terengganu underwater heritage.



2. STRATEGY

Strategy: Utilize what we already have and seek assistance on those we don't

What we already have

- Experts in underwater geology, marine science, diving etc.
- Basic instruments for underwater research
- Marine station nearby the shipwreck location

What we need

- Experts in maritime history and law
- Technical equipment and storage facilities
- Financial support



4. APPLY

- Put up some information about this findings in newspapers.
- Collaboration has been made with Terengganu state, USM, UZMA, Jabatan Warisan Negara (JWN), Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, etc.
- Permission to collect the artefacts has been granted by JWN.
- Underwater training was carried out for divers and scientists for sample collection activities.
- Labs and processing space have been allocated for artefacts treatment and analysis.



3. POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

We need to:

- Promoting this new venture.
- Develop a task force group that include of researchers, administrator and potential funder.
- Create a connection with agencies at state and federal level.
- Establish a facility to support the research (Sample collection, treatment and storage)



5. RESULTS

- **368** Artefacts have been salvaged and recorded
- We have received a total of **RM759,400** amount of funds from UMT Internal Grant, UAR and Jabatan Warisan Negara
- Attended 6 national level exhibitions
- Publications:
 - Maritime Archeology in Bidong Island, Terengganu Waters, 2018, Voyage of Discovery, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu
 - Meiofauna from the Shipwrecks of Bidong Island, South China Sea, 2021, Chapter in Book Bidong Island: Natural History and Resources and
 - Discovery and Excavation of Artifacts from the Bidong Shipwreck, Malaysia, 2023, Journal Advances in Archaeological Practice
- 3 major networking through MoU and MoA - **UZMA Arkeological Research (UAR) Sdn. Bhd.**, Jabatan Warisan Negara (JWN) and Hidrokinetik Sdn. Bhd.

CONCLUSION

- We are successfully set up a new team of research within our scope of *niche* area.
- We also learn that:
When everyone sees this as a problem, but one scream opportunity, please listen to the one!
- There is no harm trying new thing as long as we plan properly and have a great TEAM.



FUTURE WORK



- We are dreaming of having a proper gallery/museum for our collections with the hope that:
 - We would be able to generate knowledge and continue to disseminate the knowledge
 - Our future generations will be benefited from this.



We want something like THIS!!!