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Yunnan-Malaya Institute Officially Launched to Advance China-Malaysia Higher Education

INSIDE

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AFFILIATION

Department of Artificial Intelligence,

Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology, UM

The delegation from Universiti Malaya, led by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr. Hasniza Zaman Huri (centre).

EDITED BY

Raja Jamilah Raja Yusof

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Yunnan University and Universiti Malaya Launch Joint Institute for International Higher Education

– By Liew Wei Shiung

On July 18, 2025, Yunnan University and Universiti Malaya officially launched the Yunnan-Malaya Institute, a landmark initiative in China-Malaysia higher education cooperation. Located in the Chenggong district in Kunming, Yunnan, the institute is set to welcome its first cohort of students in September 2025, offering undergraduate degree programs in Artificial Intelligence, Chemical Engineering and Process, and Materials Science and Engineering.

A Vision for Regional Excellence

Founded in 1922, Yunnan University (YNU) is one of China's oldest and most prestigious institutions in the southwest region. In recent years, YNU has significantly expanded its international footprint, establishing partnerships with over 50 institutions across more than 20 countries. In 2023, the university achieved major breakthroughs in international talent training, faculty exchanges, and global academic collaboration—sending 288 students and 165 faculty members abroad, hosting 310 foreign visitors, and signing 19 new cooperation agreements. YNU also actively promotes cultural exchange through Confucius Institutes in countries like Iran, Bangladesh, and Myanmar, and regularly hosts international forums and youth exchange programs, reinforcing its role as a bridge between China and the global academic community.

Universiti Malaya (UM) was established as Malaysia's national university in 1962. Located on a sprawling 922-acre campus in Kuala Lumpur, UM is Malaysia's oldest and most prestigious university. Over the decades, it has played a pivotal role in shaping the country's academic landscape and fostering regional leadership. In recent years, UM has strengthened its global presence through strategic partnerships, international research collaborations, and student exchange programs. Its International Relations Centre actively engages with institutions worldwide, positioning UM as a key player in ASEAN and global academic networks.

Strategic Planning and Institutional Support

During the five-day visit from July 16–20, a 13-member delegation from the University of Malaya, led by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Hasniza Zaman Huri, toured YNU's AI laboratories, including the robotics labs, the Huawei research facility, and the Artificial Intelligence Practice and Innovative Base.

The UM delegation presented with a demonstration of AI-based emotion recognition.

Special discussions were held to refine the AI curriculum, teaching arrangements, and quality assurance mechanisms, participated by representatives from UM's Department of Artificial Intelligence, Dr Muhammad Shahreeza and Dr Liew Wei Shiung, as well as YNU's Vice-Dean Cai Li from the School of Software and Vice-Dean Nie Rencan from the School Information Science and Engineering.

As part of the collaboration, UM is expected to send several lecturers to the Yunnan-Malaya Institute to conduct in-person lectures, further strengthening the academic exchange and instructional quality.

One of three newly-constructed buildings that make up the Yunnan-Malaya Institute.

Looking Forward

As the Yunnan-Malaya Institute prepares to welcome its first cohort of students, the partnership between Yunnan University and the Universiti Malaya stands as a model for international academic collaboration. With a strong foundation in Artificial Intelligence and a shared commitment to excellence, the college is poised to shape the next generation of global innovators. This launch not only strengthens China-Malaysia ties but also sets the stage for deeper regional cooperation, transformative research, and a future where education knows no borders.

For more information, visit the official website for the Yunnan-Malaya Institute here, or contact the author at liew.wei.shiung.phd@um.edu.my from the Department of Artificial Intelligence at Universiti Malaya.