

**King Opens UKM Langkawi Research Centre**  
**Bernama**  
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LANGKAWI, Aug 11 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, today officially opened the Langkawi Research Centre (PPL) of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) in Pantai Kok here.

In conjunction with the opening, His Majesty also renamed the UKM Langkawi campus, where the PPL is housed, as the Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah Campus.

The PPL, which was built in 2009 and started operating in 2012, is equipped with various facilities, including science laboratories, seminar rooms, an auditorium, galleries and a hostel.

It cost about RM11 million to put up the PPL on a one-hectare site and it serves as a research centre for not only researchers from UKM but elsewhere in the country and abroad.

UKM vice-chancellor Prof Tan Sri Dr Sharifah Hapsah Syed Hasan Shahabudin, in her speech, said UKM officially set up the PPL in 2002 and it operated at a shoplot in the Oriental Village in Langkawi before the dedicated building was built in Pantai Kok.

Sharifah Hapsah said the PPL had conducted research on natural resources for tourism and had been instrumental in the development of the first geopark in Malaysia and Southeast Asia.

"The PPL has focused on research that covers the geological heritage and landscape, biology and marine heritage resources, cultural heritage and local traditions and environmental well-being," she said.

She expressed the hope that the PPL would be utilised as a means to garner knowledge on the history of the formation of the earth, biodiversity and the cultural traits of the local community.

Tuanku Abdul Halim also toured the PPL gallery which showcased various geopark exhibits.

The Yang Dipertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan, Tuanku Muhriz ibni Almarhum Tuanku Munawir, who is UKM chancellor, and the Tunku Panglima Besar of Kedah, Datuk Seri Diraja Tan Sri Tunku Puteri Intan Shafinaz, who is UKM pro-chancellor, were also present at the event.

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