

New President for UTAR

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Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Engr. Dato' Dr. Chuah Hean Teik as the next President/CEO of the University to succeed Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Ng Lay Swee effective 1 April 2008.

Prof. Chuah brings with him over 20 years of vast technical expertise and academic experience to the University. Previously a Senior Professor from the Multimedia University (MMU), he had held various posts and was Vice-President of Research and Development and Academic Development, the Dean of Engineering, and the Director of Research at MMU. He was also the Penang State Government Professor of ICT from June 2001 to January 2008.

Prof. Chuah is a Chartered Engineer registered with the UK Engineering Council and is currently the Deputy President/President Elect of the Institution of Engineers Malaysia. He is also a Council Member and Fellow of the Academy of Sciences Malaysia.

Prof. Chuah is also a Fellow of the Remote Sensing & Photogrammetry Society, UK; a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology, UK; the Electromagnetics Academy, USA; Hon. Fellow of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations, a Founding Fellow of the ASEAN Academy of Engineering and Technology, a Senior

Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, USA; and Honorary Member of the Golden Key International Honour Society.

Prof. Chuah has received many local and international awards. Among them are the Professor Chin Fung Kee Gold Medal for Engineering Management, the Inaugural Young Engineer Award by the Institution of Engineers Malaysia, the Young Scientist Awards at the 23rd and 24th General Assemblies of the International Union of Radio Science (URSI), and the Young Scientist Award (Industrial Sector) by the Malaysian Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment.

Prof. Chuah also received the Malaysian Toray Science Foundation Science and Technology Award for his contributions in the area of microwave remote sensing, and the Sterling Award from the Sterling Group of Universities for his services in the promotion of the engineering profession.

Prof. Chuah graduated from the University of Malaya with a Bachelor of Engineering degree with First Class Honours, Master's in Engineering Science and a PhD in Electrical Engineering.

Prof. Chuah has published more than 200 papers in local and international journals and conferences. UTAR is confident that Prof. Chuah will provide dynamic leadership to UTAR to soar to still greater heights!

UTAR CONFERS PIONEER GROUP OF POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS



Five of the pioneer UTAR postgraduates ready for their ceremony

The excited faces of UTAR graduates on their big day

UTAR recently held its Sixth Convocation ceremony on 29 & 30 March 2008 at Wisma MCA, Kuala Lumpur. 1,097 graduates received their scrolls from Datuk Ong Tee Keat, Minister of Transport, and Dato' Dr. Ng Yen Yen, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, the Guests of Honour of the convocation.

In his speech, Datuk Ong emphasised that with the future calling for more knowledge-based economy, the demand on education is taken to a higher level. Thus it is important that new graduates be aggressive workers who can face the challenges at the global stage. He also advised the graduates to embrace the lifelong learning spirit and empower themselves to cope with today's challenges.

Dato' Dr Ng paid tribute to the parents and families of graduates who had supported the graduates in their academic pursuit. She advised the graduates to uphold the family values and virtues taught to them by their parents, and to work hard in becoming exemplary citizens.

Of the 1,097 graduates, six made history by becoming the first group of UTAR postgraduate students. They were given a rousing cheer by the audience.

The UTAR postgraduate programme started in 2005 with an initial offer of three programmes – namely the MBA, MBA (Corporate Governance) and MA (Chinese Studies).

UTAR has now expanded to offer more Master's programmes as well as PhD programmes in the field of science, engineering, communication and business management.

Among those in this pioneer group of Master's graduates is 52-year-old Yap Peng Choon, a general manager of a company in Kuala Lumpur, who proved that age is no barrier to studying for his master's degree.

Besides him, another graduate Yong Boon Lin also became the pride of UTAR. Yong was awarded a scholarship by the Japanese government to further his PhD studies at Kyoto University.

For the fresh graduates, receiving their scrolls marked another transition in their life. True to form as UTAR graduates, most were employed even before their graduation ceremony.

Among them was 22-year old Kan Sze Quan who graduated with a first class Accounting degree. He is currently working as an associate at BDO Binder. In addition to working, he is also pursuing his professional ACCA certification. On his 'recipe' for attaining excellent results, Kan attributed it to a mix of team work with friends and a dedication to completing his assignments on time by conducting diligent research.

Kan added, "My parents have been giving me the motivation to excel, and they imposed on me the importance of smart time management in managing my studies, so that I can balance them with my extra curricular activities."

With this UTAR's convocation ceremony, UTAR alumni now totalled over 9,000.

UTAR is slowly becoming a premier university with graduates well received by both local and international industries.

Japanese Doctorate Stint for UTAR Grad



“UTAR has been a great place to cultivate confidence, personal development and critical thinking skills which lead to a consistent will for perfection. As UTAR always emphasises research and development, it is only right that individuals from both the academic and administrative departments contribute towards a higher level of professionalism.”

- **Yong Boon Lin**

Yong Boon Lin, a UTAR staff who is among the pioneer group of Master’s degree graduates, added another feather in his academic cap when he received the Monbukagakusho Scholarship from the Japanese government to further his PhD studies in Japan. The scholarship is awarded by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Yong, who completed his MBA at UTAR, will spend one year at Kyoto University for Japanese language training and research studies before he proceeds to Doshisha University, Kyoto for his three-year PhD studies and research. He will be majoring in media, journalism and communications.

Yong first read about the scholarship during his undergraduate studies. He came to know more during his stint as a trainee journalist at a local English daily. “Then, when I was doing my Master’s, my supervisor was a Monbukagakusho scholar who encouraged me to apply. The whole process took about one year. When I was finally offered the scholarship, the stringent screening process and the long wait were simply worth it,” he said.

Yong also graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Journalism from UTAR. Having been admitted to UTAR first as a student, and then as member of the staff, Yong felt that he had learnt and matured substantially during his time at the University. “UTAR has been a great place to cultivate confidence, personal development and critical thinking skills which lead to a consistent will for perfection. As

UTAR always emphasises research and development, it is only right that individuals from both the academic and administrative departments contribute towards a higher level of professionalism. The teamwork, leadership and systematic problem solving skills that I developed here will be most beneficial in my PhD studies later.”

“I’m both nervous and excited about going. This will be a whole new experience for me as Japan has its own culture and there will definitely be a culture shock. I am also nervous as I need to learn Japanese, so I hope the adaptation process doesn’t take too long, and I will not suffer any setbacks especially those caused by the communication barrier,” continued Yong.

Despite these minor reservations, Yong maintained a positive outlook and is looking forward to pursuing his PhD in the Land of the Rising Sun. With high hopes of being an academic once he has completed his doctorate, he knows that the Japanese exposure will undoubtedly widen his perspective pertaining not only to his academic pursuit but also to his views of the general society as a whole.

The award of this scholarship marked another milestone achieved by UTAR graduates. This recognition accorded by an international university is testimony of the quality of education at the University paving the way for UTAR graduates to achieve similar accomplishments.

Alumna Shares European Adventures



Yeoh (left) posing with friends during an excursion in Strasbourg, France



During the graduation ceremony for *Euroculture* postgraduate students at the Palacky University, Czech Republic

It was a life-changing experience for Karen Yeoh Sy Chyi when she left to further her studies in Europe. Yeoh is a first class graduate from UTAR's first cohort of graduates in Public Relations.

Yeoh, a recipient of the *Erasmus Mundus Masters* scholarship, completed her 18-month Master's course in *Euroculture* at the Palacky University in Czech Republic and the Jagiellonian University in Poland.

Her Master's programme focused on the art, politics, culture and history of European countries. Upon her graduation, Yeoh returned to Malaysia for her holidays.

Although she had her share of hurdles to overcome, Yeoh described her experience as fun and thrilling. She said, "I struggled with the language barrier in Europe. Only the younger generation spoke English. German and Russian are more widely used, especially among the elderly."

The 25-year-old, who hails from Kuala Lumpur, remarked that although she encountered difficulty at the initial period, she managed to seek advice and guidance from her new found friends.

She expressed, "My friends come from different countries and cultures. Learning about their background was enjoyable as well as learning the languages used by the people in Czech Republic and Poland."

She admitted that her time in Europe had transformed her. "I have truly become more independent and confident. I am now not afraid of speaking up and being open with others."

Aside from this overseas exposure, Yeoh

valued the educational experience she gained during her undergraduate time at UTAR as it helped prepare her for her postgraduate studies.

"During my tertiary studies in UTAR, I learnt to interact properly with industry professionals especially during my practical training as well as to sharpen my skills in business writing."

"Even after my graduation, UTAR still assisted me in my scholarship application for the Master's programme. I was given a good recommendation by the former dean whom I still keep in touch with," she added.

She strongly advised those keen on becoming PR practitioners or wanting to stay abroad to read more about Malaysia. She explained, "When you meet people from different countries, they will ask about your country and culture. For instance, when I was in Europe, I had to explain to people the difference between a Malaysian Chinese and a Chinese from mainland China."

According to Yeoh, public relations graduates are highly sought after by many industries as their communication skills are valued. "It is the way in which you present yourself at the interview and your attitude that will increase your chances of getting the job," she commented.

She added, "It is advantageous to be able to converse in more than one language. I was offered a job in Europe because I could speak both English and Chinese."

Yeoh will return to Poland to start work as a consultant for a market research company. She aims to gather a few years of working experience in Europe before returning to Malaysia again.

Exploring New Frontiers in Science

UTAR hosted the 19th Intersivity Biochemistry Seminar themed 'Science Empowers Change' at its Petaling Jaya Campus on 22 March 2008.

The seminar is an annual activity and the 19th one was jointly organised by the Malaysian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (MSBMB) and UTAR. The seminar aims to provide a platform for undergraduates from public and private colleges and universities to convene and discuss the findings and research of their final year projects in biochemistry and related areas.

More than 550 students from various institutions of higher learning attended the seminar. The activities held during the seminar included presentations, poster competition and a talk by Dr. Jay Dong from BD Biosciences on 'Technical Analysis of Immune System'.

Associate Professor Dr. Lim Yang Mooi, chairman of the seminar and UTAR course coordinator said that the participants at the seminar presented their research well. "With a wide variety of topics delivered, it is my hope that every participant will benefit from the oral and poster presentations as well as learn more about the research undertaken in other universities," she expressed.

Associate Professor Dr. Sheila Nathan, Vice President of the MSBMB commented that the Seminar had been running for over two decades and received tremendous encouragement and support from various institutions of higher learning. "It is heartening to note that UTAR has shown great support by participating in the previous seminars and this year,

hosted the 19th Intersivity Biochemistry Seminar at its campus."

Lesley Leeann Estrop, a final year student from the Biotechnology programme did UTAR proud when she clinched the second place in the poster competition. She presented a study entitled, 'Kinetic Modeling on Sorption of Reactive Blue 4 by Using Red Seaweed.' Her research aims to study the efficiency of chemically modified red seaweed to remove dye from wastewater.

During her presentation, she highlighted that the absorption technique had been found to be an effective process for removing colour agent from wastewater. In her study, red seaweed was used due to its availability, high surface area and eco-friendliness. The chemically modified seaweed was found to exhibit a high percentage of dye removal efficiency.

When asked what inspired her in her chosen field of research, she said, "I was motivated to uncover the secret of seaweed. Many think that seaweed is only used for food and medical purposes; however, studies have proven that seaweed has the potential to remove dye and other metals from wastewater. Overall, seaweed can help prevent water contamination."

Estrop from Kota Kinabalu, Sabah also commented that the seminar provided an opportunity for her to share her findings on her final year project with her peers. "I really enjoyed the event as it provided a platform for us students to showcase our research and an opportunity for us to ask each other about the research we are carrying out."



Estrop (third from the left) with the organising committee, Dr. Lim and Dr. Sheila (fifth and sixth from left)

"I was motivated to uncover the secret of seaweed. Many think that seaweed is only used for food and medical purposes, however, studies have proven that seaweed has the potential to remove dye and other metals from wastewater. Overall, seaweed can help prevent water contamination."

Lesley Leeann Estrop

UTAR STUDENTS WEAVED ADVERTISING MAGIC AT ADWAVE 2008



The winning team with their mock cheque after the prize presentation ceremony

A group of UTAR's Advertising undergraduates clinched the top prize in ADWAVE 2008 Competition, an advertising competition for students held in conjunction with Award Winning Advertising Exhibition (ADWAVE) organized by the School of Communication, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang. They were announced as winners during its launching on 15 March 2008.

ADWAVE is an annual event that showcases a collection of advertising projects by students from various institutions of higher learning. In this year's competition, the students were required to produce advertising campaign materials for the 'Sloggi' range of underwear from Triumph International. Apart from the competition, the four-day event included an exhibition on the creative works and trends in the advertising industry and a forum on copywriting.

Four UTAR teams made it to the final round and the winning team was UIS (Unity Is Strength) comprising Boey Ying Shiun, Lee Jian Hua, Goh Ching Swi, Yeo Kai Sian, Gan Pei Geok and Cheow Mei Sea. The other teams won consolation prizes.

In an interview session arranged recently, the winning team disclosed that they took part in the competition upon recommendation by their lecturers. "They decided to make our participation as part of our semester assignment. We are glad of this for along the way they also lent us their guidance," said Boey, who is the Creative Director of the team.

"It was also the first time UTAR participated in this event, and to win it at the first try was indeed a pleasant surprise," he added.

The students included artistic element in their campaign creation. As it was for the Autumn 2008 campaign, their theme was Art'umn, which is coined from the words 'arts' and 'autumn'.

In their creation, wearing lingerie became an artistic element when combined with the wearer's body. Their creativity in combining these two elements resulted in works that are completely new and 'professional' to the sponsor, Triumph International.

Triumph International assigned the team to execute the Autumn campaign. The group members were honoured with the task of overseeing the whole project as the experience would definitely enhance their individual portfolios.

"We chose this theme to carry the meaning of art in autumn, as this product will be launched soon. We would like to think that this extraordinary idea and the method of execution landed us the prize. Apart from that, we are confident that the idea is suitable for the Malaysian market and it can become a platform to promote Malaysian art," explained Lee.

Winning this competition has definitely boosted these students' confidence before they step out into the real working environment soon.



MAJOR VICTORY FOR UTAR AT ASTRO AWARD

The award-winning team and their trophies

UTAR Broadcasting students won four out of 11 awards during the *Astro Nextgen Contentpreneur Awards (NCA)* ceremony held on 19 April 2008 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur.

The competition was organised by Astro, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission, and MSC Malaysia Creative Multimedia Content Initiative. It aimed to recognise and encourage young Malaysians to pursue content excellence in media forms such as short film, documentary, music video, website and animation.

Participants were judged on the originality of their content writing and storyline, the strength of the concept, technical aspects of the production and the ability to communicate its message in the chosen language to the audience.

The winning entry was initially an assignment for their *Broadcasting II* unit, but it ended up as their ticket to victory during the *NCA*.

The group comprised Year Two students: Chin Ying Yih, Chong Sze Yen, Elaine Cheng Xiao Funn, Quek Shio Chuan, Tan Jia Vern, Teoh Chin Hong, Thee Wei Chuan, Winnie Saw Shu Li, and Yeoh Seok Khim. They produced a music video under the supervision of their lecturer, Beh Chun Chee.

Their video was entitled 'Contaminated' and it featured visuals of the deteriorating Nature through a series of dance movements and human representations.

It garnered awards for *Outstanding Music Video*, *Exceptional Lyrics*, *Finest Music and Arrangement* and *Phenomenal Art Direction*. For this production, the group received RM40,000 in cash and

four trophies.

Group leader, Quek, 21, shared, "We decided to come up with a project that has a blend of both classical and contemporary styles because we felt that it would be unique. But completing the project on a tight budget was very challenging."

Tan added, "For most of us it was the first time we handled the recording with the camera on our own. My involvement in this project itself has helped me to learn new practical skills such as acting, editing, lighting techniques and working with limited equipments."

"It did not cross our minds to send this music video for the awards. But thanks to Mr Beh's encouragement, we submitted it," Tan expressed.

Beh, the broadcasting lecturer said, "UTAR students are encouraged to participate in competitions as they can gain real life exposure in the industry. For instance, by interacting with other participants and the industry practitioners they can understand different view points, production styles and useful working habits that they could adopt. Besides that, they can gauge their production level based on industry benchmarks and may also receive the recognition and appreciation for their hard work."

Apart from gaining wider exposure in broadcasting, these students also enjoyed the ceremony. It was a memorable event related to their future profession. Quek commented, "Attending the ceremony taught me one or two things about event organisation. In addition to that, I was interviewed by the press after receiving the awards. All these were a great experience!"

SECRETS OF PHOTOREADING EXPOSED AT TALK

On 1 March 2008, more than 500 eager learners braved the rain on a Saturday morning to attend a talk entitled 'Discover the Secrets of PhotoReading at 25,000 words per Minute'.

The talk, organised by the Malaysia Mental Literacy Movement (MMLM) and UTAR, was held at UTAR's Petaling Jaya Campus. It was aimed at exposing the public to PhotoReading, a learning method that enables one to read and absorb information three times faster and recall it right away when the information is needed.

The speaker, Sussanne Lee, is the co-founder of a mental enrichment training centre based in Subang Jaya. She is also the only licensed PhotoReading instructor in Malaysia, and she has trained many people in this skill.

According to Lee, the conventional way of reading can be time-consuming, especially in understanding new knowledge, as it may require learners to read the same information repeatedly. However, with PhotoReading, the whole brain will be engaged in the learning process, which is more practical for the absorption of knowledge.

Currently practising the speed reading method, Ross Stephenson, 15, expressed his interest in mastering PhotoReading. "As a student, I know that as I further my studies at higher levels, I will be doing lots of reading. I'm sure by mastering this skill, it can contribute greatly to my academic performance," said this Grade 8 student of Global Indian International School in Kuala Lumpur.



Tun Dr Ling presented Lee with a token of appreciation



Lawatan ke UTAR Beri Manfaat Kepada Pelajar

Pada 26 April 2008, sekumpulan 80 pelajar yang diiringi lapan guru dari Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Alor Akar, Kuantan, Pahang mengadakan lawatan ke UTAR. Di samping UTAR, mereka turut melawat beberapa insituti pengajian tinggi lain di Lembah Kelang.

Rombongan ini yang terdiri daripada pelajar-pelajar tingkatan empat, lima dan enam atas. Mereka yang dipilih oleh pihak sekolah bagi menyertai lawatan ini. Menurut ketua rombongan, Puan Rohani Mohammad, objektif lawatan ini antara lain adalah untuk mendedahkan kepada para pelajar kursus-kursus yang ditawarkan oleh institusi pengajian tinggi tempatan. Dengan menyertai lawatan ini, diharapkan para pelajar juga dapat menentukan pilihan bidang pengajian mereka apabila tiba masanya mereka meneruskan pengajian tertiar kelak.

Pada lawatan tersebut, para pelajar telah dibawa melawat Fakulti Teknologi maklumat dan Komunikasi (FICT) di Petaling Jaya. Mereka turut mendengar ceramah pengenalan kepada UTAR yang disampaikan oleh Dr. Toh Kian Kok, Timbalan Dekan Fakulti. Selepas sesi soal jawab, rombongan ini dibawa melawat ke seluruh fakulti dimana mereka berpeluang melihat sendiri kemudahan-kemudahan yang disediakan bagi kemudahan pengajaran dan pembelajaran.

Aktiviti seperti ini sememangnya membawa kebaikan kepada kedua-dua pihak sekolah dan UTAR. Dengan mendedahkan para pelajar tentang kursus-kursus yang ditawarkan, mereka boleh mengenalpasti bidang yang ingin diceburi. Bagi pihak universiti pula, lawatan sebegini mengeratkan silaturahim dan perhubungan dengan pihak sekolah demi kerjasama di masa depan.

Raising Entrepreneurship Spirit

It was a fun-filled night for students and lecturers who packed the South Lobby in the university's Bandar Sungai Long Campus, eager to witness the results of the UTAR Apprentice 2008 grand finale on 28 March 2008.

The event was organised by the Entrepreneurship Society to evoke entrepreneurial spirit and promote creativity and innovation among students. It also aimed to develop their confidence in handling tasks and acted as a platform to connect them with the actual business world through the involvement of industry practitioners as advisors.

The competition which lasted for five weeks brought a total of 12 teams of four members each through a series of six challenging tasks related to business strategies. The teams were required to complete a weekly assignment for the purpose of elimination, leaving only four teams as finalists.

During the grand finale, the finalists competed in a customer service role-play presentation. The two best teams were then posed with two business-related questions to test their knowledge and creativity.

The teams were judged by professionals from different industries as well as by UTAR's academic staff. In addition to the judges, members of the floor were also given the opportunity to vote for their favourite team.



At the end of the event, team *Protégé* with their motto 'Think fast, do it quick, think big' was crowned the champion, after defeating team *M 4 Men*. The champion team received a trophy and a cash prize.

Ivan Ooi Jieun Vei, 22, the leader of *Protégé* shared, "Our major challenge during the competition was time management. We overcame this by delegating the work based on individual interests. This not only enabled us to complete the task efficiently but also helped us to discover our hidden talents in different aspects."



Ribbons cutting at the launch of the FAM Social Night

A Smashing Good Time at FAM Social Night

Students from the Faculty of Accountancy and Management (FAM) let their hair down during the FAM Social Night held on 23 March 2008 at the Palace of the Golden Horses. The event attracted the participation of more than 600 students for a night of socialising and networking in a relaxed environment. UTAR President Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Ng Lay Swee was the guest of honour.

Jointly organised by the Faculty's Student Representative Committee and the Career Development Society, this event was held to ensure better synergy and mutual understanding between the two entities and among students themselves. Students had their hearty dinner while being entertained with dances and a magic show.

Many of the students who attended this event commented that they could relive the UTAR Ball Night experience which was held after their respective orientations. It was indeed a good time for the organising students to learn the success of the event they organised and to work as a team. For the participating students, it was a great opportunity to get to know new friends as well as UTAR officials.

SPORT AND TALENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR UTAR UNDERGRADS



Chan (fourth from left) and Law (sixth from left) with the UTAR senior officials after receiving their scholarship documents from Tan Sri Datuk Dr Ng (fifth from left)

UTAR recently introduced the Sport and Talent Scholarship Scheme for students who have a proven track record of excellence or talent in a field especially at the national and international levels.

Two student athletes who have represented the country in taekwondo and badminton were selected as the first recipients of this scholarship. They were Chan Suyin and Law Yew Thien, Year 1 students from the Business Information Systems and Computer Science programmes respectively. They were presented with their scholarship agreements by UTAR President Tan Sri Datuk Dr Ng Lay Swee on 26 March 2008 at the Petaling Jaya Campus.

A taekwondo exponent, Chan represented Malaysia in last year's SEA Games held in Korat, Thailand in the lightweight category. She has learnt this martial art since she was in Form One, following her brothers' footsteps.

Apart from the SEA Games, this Kuala Lumpur-born lass has also taken part in three Sukan Malaysia (Sukma) Games, and she hopes to continue representing her state. Although she still trains with her team mates, representing the country may take a back seat as she would like to concentrate on her studies, "However, I will not leave taekwondo altogether. I will continue to take part in competitions which will not take me away from my studies for too long," she said.

"I thank UTAR for this scholarship. It is a motivation and a form of recognition to students who have talents in addition to academic excellence, encouraging them to be an all-rounder," she added.

Law, meanwhile, was a back-up national badminton player at the junior level. He has also represented the country in a host of badminton tournaments since his school days. Like Chan, he has also represented Kuala Lumpur in previous Sukma Games.

Currently studying at UTAR's Perak Campus, Law said that even though it would be difficult for him to continue playing badminton at the competitive level, he planned to remain active in sports. He also did not rule out coaching badminton to younger players in the future.

"I am very happy to receive this scholarship as it will definitely lighten my mother's financial burden. For now, I will make sure that I give full commitment to my studies and maintain good results to justify this scholarship," he stated.

The UTAR Sport and Talent Scholarship is one of the various financial aid schemes available to eligible UTAR students. Students can obtain further information by contacting the Department of Student Affairs.

Photo Gallery : Visitors to UTAR



7 March 2008
(From left) UTAR President Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Ng with visitors from National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan: Prof. Dr. David Shieh Han-Ping, Prof. Dr. Edward Chang Yi, Dr. Hsu Yung-Jung and UTAR President-Designate Engr. Prof. Dato' Dr. Chuah



12 March 2008
(From left) UTAR President Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Ng with Mr. Vijay Kishnu Tirathrai and Professor Jos Hckfort-Jones from Richmond, the American University in London.



14 March 2008
(From left) UTAR President Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Ng with Dr. Liu Tao Tao from University of Oxford, UK. Dr. Liu is also the External Examiner for UTAR's BA (Hons) Chinese Studies programme



19 March 2008
UTAR Vice President Dr. Tan Chik Heok (right) with Prof. Osamu Ono from Meiji University, Japan.



21 March 2008
(From left) UTAR President Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Ng with Dr. Janet Steele from George Washington University, USA. Dr. Steele is also the External Examiner for UTAR's Bachelor of Communications (Honours) Journalism programme



21 March 2008
(From left) UTAR President Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Ng with Professor Fang Xue Jia from Jiaying University, China



Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Ng receiving her Honorary Doctorate in Education from Tun Dr. Ling.

Looking on is Engr. Prof. Dato' Dr. Chuah

FULFILLING END TO AN ILLUSTRIOUS ACADEMIC CAREER

After 35 years of an academic career that saw her appointed as the first woman president of a local university, Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Ng Lay Swee, the founding President of UTAR retired on 31 March 2008. She is succeeded by Engr. Professor Dato' Dr. Chuah Hean Teik.

A farewell dinner to honour her service was held on 19 April 2008. In the same event, Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Ng was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Education, presented by Tun Dr. Ling Liang Sik, UTAR Council Chairman.

A chemist by training, Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Ng started her tertiary education at Singapore's Nanyang University in 1963 before she proceeded to McGill University in Canada to pursue her doctorate. During this time she started to build a strong reputation in the research field by receiving the prestigious Canadian National Research Council postgraduate scholarship and winning the Canadian National Research Council Post-Doctoral Fellowship Award.

During her time at McGill University and later at Florida State University, USA, she developed a high-profile and distinguished research portfolio. She had the opportunity of working as a post-doctoral Research Associate with the late Nobel Laureate, Professor R.G.W Norish of Cambridge University, who was renowned for his work in photochemistry and reaction kinetics.

At the request of her late father, she returned home and joined Kolej Tunku Abdul Rahman (KTAR) as a lecturer in 1972. She continued teaching

and moved up the rank, and was appointed as the Principal of KTAR in 1996. She was awarded the Centennial Presidential Award from Campbell University, USA in 1989. The following year, Campbell University awarded her with an Honorary Doctorate of Science.

When UTAR was established in 2002, Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Ng was the natural choice to be the first President to lead the University.

For her numerous contributions to education, Tan Sri was conferred the Queensland University of Technology's highest award, the Honorary Doctor of the University in March 2004.

Apart from recognition bestowed by institutions of higher education, Tan Sri has also received awards from the Malaysian government.

In 1992, she was conferred Kesatria Mangku Negara (KMN) by the DYMM Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong. In 1998, she received the Darjah Mulia Seri Melaka (DMSM) from the Yang Di-Pertua Negeri Melaka. In 2003, Tan Sri became the first Malaysian Chinese woman to receive the Panglima Setia Mahkota (PSM) award which carries the title 'Tan Sri' from DYMM Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong for her 'meritorious service to the country' in the field of education.

With her retirement, Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Ng hopes to devote more time to her church activities and family. Everyone at UTAR wishes her all the best and hopes that she enjoys her retirement.