

## UTAR Establishes Endowed Chairs

### Tan Sri Dato' Sri Dr. Teh Hong Piow Chair in Banking and Finance



The exchange of agreement (from left): Dato' Lee Kong Lam, Tan Sri Tay Ah Lek, Tan Sri Dato' Sri Dr. Teh Hong Piow, Ir. Prof. Dato' Dr. Chuah Hean Teik, and Dr. Tan Kee Kong.

UTAR established its first endowed chair, the Tan Sri Dato' Sri Dr. Teh Hong Piow Chair in Banking and Finance with Public Bank (PB). The collaboration was formalised in the signing ceremony held at Menara Public Bank Kuala Lumpur on 14 May 2009.

The agreement was signed by Ir. Professor Dato' Dr. Chuah Hean Teik, UTAR President, and Tan Sri Tay Ah Lek, PB Managing Director. Witnesses for the agreement were Dr. Tan Kee Kong, UTAR Registrar, and Dato' Lee Kong Lam, PBB Executive Director.

The Chair which will be established at the Faculty of Business and Finance in the Perak Campus will chart new directions in research and development in banking and finance.

The Chair will promote exchange of technical expertise between industry and academia; develop and achieve excellence in the research and development; education and training related to banking and financial products and services; and facilitate and organise activities in advancing banking and finance.

In his speech during the signing ceremony, Prof. Chuah said, "It is heartening to note that the strategic partnership...combines the best of both worlds - industry knowledge with cutting edge academic research."

### SP Setia Professor of Environmental Engineering and Green Technology

UTAR established its second endowed Chair, the S P Setia Professor of Environmental Engineering and Green Technology at a signing ceremony held on 5 June 2009 at S P Setia Welcome Centre in Shah Alam.

The agreement was signed by UTAR Vice President, Associate Professor Dr. Yeoh Suan Pow and S P Setia President and CEO Tan Sri Liew Kee Sin. Witnesses for the agreement were UTAR Registrar Dr. Tan Kee Kong, and S P Setia Executive Vice President Khor Chap Jen.

The Chair will be established under the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology in UTAR Perak Campus. The objectives of the Chair are to develop and excel in the research, development, education and training in environmental engineering and green technology as well as to promote exchange of technical expertise.

In addition, the Chair aims to facilitate, organise, promote and collaborate activities and projects in relation to environmental engineering and green technology industry. It also seeks to complement a stronger pool of expertise consisting of both academia and industrial representatives to provide consultancy.

During the signing ceremony, Tan Sri Liew said education had always been a strong focus for the Group.



The exchange of agreement (from left): Khor Chap Jen, Tan Sri Liew Kee Sin, Dato' Seri Ong Ka Ting, Dr. Yeoh Suan Pow, and Dr. Tan Kee Kong.

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#### UTAR CAMPUSES

##### Petaling Jaya Campus

(KPT/JPS/DFT/US/B07)

13 Jalan 13/6

46200 Petaling Jaya  
Selangor Darul Ehsan

##### Kuala Lumpur Campus

(KPT/JPS/DFT/US/W05)

Jalan Genting Kelang  
53300 Kuala Lumpur

##### Sungai Long Campus

(KPT/JPS/DFT/US/B12)

Lot PT 21144  
Jalan Sungai Long  
Bandar Sg. Long  
Cheras, 43000 Kajang

##### Perak Campus

(KPT/JPS/DFT/US/A04)

Jalan Universiti  
Bandar Barat  
31900 Kampar

## Students Learn to Unwind at Relaxation Workshop

A group of students learnt and practised relaxation and stress relief methods during the Relaxation Workshop organised by the Perak Campus Counselling and Guidance Unit on 10 April 2009.

A soothing feeling ran through them as the students stepped into a dimly-lit room. With relaxing music in the background, the participants were taught to breathe deeply and slowly into their abdomen. By focusing on the rise and fall of the abdomen, they felt at ease and calm, refreshed and energetic after the deep relaxation.

According to Liew Wai Yoon, the facilitator of the Relaxation Workshop and the counsellor at the Campus, people have the choice to run away (flight) or face (fight) the problem when they are stressed. Liew encouraged the participants to face and overcome their daily stress by learning and practising belly breathing. Correct breathing can alert the body to relax and resume essential body functions and not remain in a state of fight or flight.

“When we are under stress and angry, we tend to inhale and hold our breath, thus carrying excessive tension in the belly, chest and back. Belly breathing is a respiratory technique that helps one breathes more efficiently in order to generate soothing, relaxing and calming effect. Belly breathing has profound benefits

such as producing emotional stability and well-being, coping with stress and sleep disturbance, reducing pain response, enhancing mental concentration and establishing open and caring attitude towards life,” she added.

Liew concluded, “Through this workshop, I hope the students have learned the right breathing techniques to relax and release daily stress as well as learned to love and nurture themselves through connecting with their inner selves. The more we love ourselves, the more we see love reflected in those around us.”



Students learn belly breathing.

## Peer Helpers Adventure their Way to Personal Enhancement



UTAR peer helpers having fun at the Camp.

UTAR students from all four Campuses relished in a time of fun and physical challenges at the recent ‘Peer Helpers Team Building and Self-Development Camp 2009’ held from 13 to 15 May 2009 at Broga Adventure Camp, Negeri Sembilan.

“This event was organised for UTAR students who serve as peer helpers in the University. They are students who are trained in basic listening and counselling skills by the UTAR Counselling and Guidance Unit to help their peers in their daily challenges.” said Associate Professor Dr. Yeoh Suan Pow, UTAR Vice President of Student Development and Alumni Relations.

Themed ‘Develop Self to Build a Strong Team’, the camp was designed to boost the students’ interpersonal skills and a sense of belonging while developing their skills and knowledge in counselling. The camp also aimed to give the students the opportunity to network with other peer helpers from the different UTAR Campuses.

Participants took part in activities designed to teach them the importance and principles of team spirit, believing in others and increasing their self-confidence. Among the activities were flying fox, kayaking, obstacle course as well as high and low rope course.

Public Relations student Tee Chong Zhi admitted that the camp had provided him with an invaluable chance to learn more about teamwork, time management and interpersonal skills while boosting his self-confidence. “Before I took the plunge to slide down the flying fox, I was really nervous and afraid. However, I managed to get myself to jump by convincing myself not to be afraid,” he enthused.

Tee added, “The obstacle course was a challenging activity that tested my ability to work in a team. During the obstacle course tasks, some of us were not allowed to see, speak or move. This required us to help one another, cooperate and communicate with our fellow teammates to complete the tasks.”



## Contribute to the Nation through Askar Wataniah

On 1 April 2009, a talk was conducted by Major Samsuri and Captain Sharul from Askar Wataniah Regiment 503, Ipoh at the Perak Campus to brief the students about Askar Wataniah and the benefits of joining this reserve volunteers unit of the Malaysian Army.

Three types of Askar Wataniah uniforms and army gadgets showcased on that day captured the attention of students. Students who attended the talk also submitted their applications to join Askar Wataniah. Once they were medically certified to be fit, they could be officially registered as a member of Askar Wataniah and given a personnel number.

Teow Wei Hao, the committee chairman of UTAR Askar Wataniah, said excitedly, "I learnt so much from my friends about Askar Wataniah when I was studying my Foundation programme in Petaling Jaya Campus. This led me to be involved in the formation of such a committee in Perak Campus. We hope to get at least 30 students (one platoon) to register and to have the first batch of students undergo training."

Teow added, "Actually, I am quite surprised that female students responded positively towards this recruitment exercise as 40% of them were female. I

strongly encourage students to join Askar Wataniah as they provide proper military training conducted by experienced personnel. Moreover, uniforms are provided free and training allowance is given. The membership is valid for five years and it is renewable."

"The biggest attraction for me to join Askar Wataniah is the opportunity to undergo firearms training. I would like to have the experience of handling M-16, an opportunity that most of us missed during our National Service," Teow quipped.



Major Samsuri giving a talk on Askar Wataniah.

## Amazing Sporting Experience

Some 214 students gathered to challenge one another for an amazing sporting experience at the annual UTAR Interfaculty Sports 2009 on 12 April 2009 at the Perak Campus.

Fun and excitement filled the air when the competition between faculties started. Energetic participants in sports attire were seen warming up before the competition. Their faculty mates were running up and down the sidelines to cheer them on.

Faculty of Business and Finance swept the highest number of medals as they won the competitions for volleyball, basketball, table tennis and tug of war. Faculty of Arts and Social Science won the top prize for futsal and Centre of Foundation Studies won the badminton competition. The prize-giving ceremony was held during a separate occasion on 14 April 2009.

Emphasising the importance of sports as part of university life, Mavis Tsang Mei Lin, Head of the Perak Campus Department of Student Affairs said, "By participating in sports, students learn to be reliant on team effort. This will build their leadership skills and self esteem."



Tug of war, one of the events at UTAR Interfaculty Sports 2009.

## News in Brief

The inaugural Business Week was held from 16 to 20 February 2009 at Heritage Hall of UTAR Perak Campus. It was launched by Dr. Ooi Keng Boon, Dean of Business and Finance.

The UTAR Career Forum was held on 19 March 2009 at the Sungai Long Campus. Panellists shared information on the working requirements for fresh graduates. Q & A session was held at the end of the forum.

UTAR Idol 2009 attracted 12 students who displayed their singing talent in the grand finale held on 22 March 2009 at the Petaling Jaya Campus. Loh Yee Xin, a first year Broadcasting student emerged champion.

Some 30 UTAR staff attended the training titled 'Enhancing Interpersonal Skills' on 24 and 25 March 2009 at the Petaling Jaya Campus. The trainer was Gail Louise Thurkle, a professional trainer in the areas of travel services, customer relations and airline services.

Professor Leonard Yong, a renowned educational psychologist, presented a talk titled 'Achieving Emotional Excellence in Work and Life' at the Perak Campus on 4 April 2009. More than 400 attended this interactive talk.

## Healthy Body Healthy Mind

Eager students learnt many *asanas*, also known as yoga postures, taught by yoga instructor known by her spiritual name of Didi Anandashivani from Ananda Marga Yoga Society during her weekly Yoga Workshop at UTAR Perak Campus. The workshop was conducted every Thursday from 16 March to 14 April 2009. Some 35 participants comprising UTAR staff and students performed various postures in carefully balanced sequences, making sure that the positioning of each movement and breathing technique were integrated into one.

The Taiwan-born instructor who has over 19 years of experience in yoga practice explained, "Yoga is a holistic way of living, a system to enhance physical, mental and spiritual well-being of humanity individually and collectively. Yoga has immense benefits. Among them are to enhance flexibility in muscle and joints, rectification of hormone secretion, emotional balance, mental composure, deep relaxation and to increase memory power and concentration."

Didi added, "Yoga means unification between the mind, body and spirit. Meditation is the way to attain unification. Yoga postures are designed to remove physical or mental obstacles during meditation. With this unified approach to the whole

mind-body system, those who practise yoga and meditation learn to control their negative emotions and to withstand and reduce stress."

Reaping the benefits of yoga, chairman of Perak Campus Yoga Society Kho Lee Shan shared passionately, "I started to practise yoga when I was studying Foundation at the Petaling Jaya Campus. Initially I took yoga to keep fit. I find that it really brings a lot of benefits to me. As students, we face a lot of stress especially during exams. Yoga helps me relax my mind and reduce my stress. This really works and I feel that I can absorb knowledge better and quicker. Besides emphasising relaxation and concentration, yoga also promotes a balanced and healthy life style."



Workshop participants briefed on benefits of yoga.

## Message of Appreciation and Gratitude

Invited guest, Brother Seng Tak Pin led the lighting of a lotus candle and the little flame was passed on to light up other candles carried by members of the Buddhist Society who formed a line surrounding the Heritage Hall of Perak Campus. When the transfer of the flame reached the last candle, a slide presentation on appreciation and gratitude was shown and a heart-shaped of LED lights were lit after the presentation, marking the opening of Buddhist Night!

Held on 4 April 2009, the event attracted over 300 students. Themed 'Commence from our Hearts' or 'Cong Xin Kai Shi', the Buddhist Night aimed to convey the message of appreciation and gratitude as well as inculcating love, kindness and compassion in accordance with the teaching and practice of Buddhism to promote a caring society.

Chris Kee Jin Mu, organising chairman of the event said, "Besides strengthening fellowship among the members of the Buddhist Society, the objectives of this event are to let students understand the importance of gratitude and to live in peace and harmony with others."

Brother Seng, a music producer and director of Buddhist songs, delivered a heart-warming message that Saturday night. In his speech, Brother Seng said, "It is important to show sincere appreciation and



Conveying gratitude during Buddhist Night.

gratitude for what we have in our lives, and the sincerity must be from the bottom of our hearts. According to the Fourfold Kindness in Buddha teaching, we must be grateful to our parents, teachers, country, and other sentient beings."

All the performances were based on the teaching of Fourfold Kindness. Among the performances were pantomime, recitation, dance, group sign language presentation and group Buddhist hymns singing. For the dancing part, a Buddhist hymn titled 'World' or 'Se Jie' was presented to accompany a contemporary dance. The event ended with a prayer.



## Students Relish in Korean Culture

Almost 70 students from all UTAR Campuses were greeted by a group of Korean ladies clad in their traditional costume called the 'Hanbok' when they attended the 'Korea, Closer Than You Imagine' event on 21 May 2009 at Renaissance Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

'Korea, Closer Than You Imagine' is an event organised for all students in institutions of higher learning in Malaysia to promote the ASEAN-Korea Commemorative Summit and the Malaysia-Korea 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010.

The event featured a number of interesting Korean cultural performances such as the B-Boy Comedy 'Break Out' performance, samulnori (Korea traditional drum) performance, taekwondo demonstration as well as Korean musical and dance performances.

During the event, the students were exposed to traditional Korean games such as yunnori, jegichagi and tuhonori. To deepen their understanding on the games, they were encouraged to play the games themselves.

Apart from the games, the students enjoyed watching and participating in face painting and had fun wearing the 'hanbok'. A cooking demonstration showed the students how to prepare famous and traditional Korean cuisines such as kimbab and ddok.

Psychology student, Pathmapriya A/P Ganasan from the Perak Campus enthused, "It was interesting discovering the Korean culture during the event."

"The funny thing was the kimbab making process looked very much easier in the Korean dramas that I watched. When I tried making kimbab during the cooking demonstration, my whole kimbab crumbled and went out of shape," she laughed.

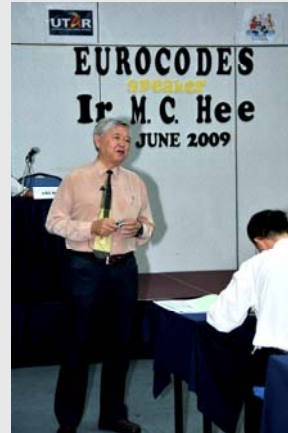


Students getting a hands-on taekwondo lesson.

## Awareness Seminar on Eurocodes

More than 100 participants were attracted to the awareness seminar on the adoption of Eurocodes as building standards in Malaysia held at the Petaling Jaya Campus of Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) on 20 June 2009.

Academicians, students, consultants and engineers were among the participants of the seminar organised jointly by the Centre for Extension Education of UTAR and the Civil & Structural Engineering Technical Division of the Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM).



Ir. M.C. Hee, a practising Structural Consulting Engineer and Chairman of IEM-SWO Technical Committee on Standards for Design of Concrete Structures at IEM, was the speaker at the seminar.

Ir. Hee spoke on the imminent withdrawal of the BS8110 and the adoption of the Eurocodes ECO, ECI and EC2 by British Standards Institution. In addition to presenting IEM position paper statement on concrete codes of practice in Malaysia after year 2010, and the advantages of adopting the Eurocodes, Ir. Hee also gave real examples in relations to the codes which can be put into practice by the participants.

Among the participants was Cindy Soon Kong Seet, a final year undergraduate student of Civil Engineering at UTAR, who came with seven of her course mates

On the relevance of the seminar to her, Soon said, "The seminar is useful because it helps to me to be aware of the advantages of using the Eurocodes".

On the importance of the Eurocodes to students and institutions of higher learning, Associate Professor Dr. Jeffrey Chiang, the Honorary Secretary of IEM and a UTAR lecturer said, "This is a timely event jointly organized by IEM and UTAR, and it benefits not only the practicing engineers but also the academics and students alike."

He said, "The adoption of Eurocode as the basis of Malaysian Standards in this country would strengthen the competitiveness of our engineering practices and services – which we can export overseas more confidently."

Dr. Chiang added, "Hence, it is very crucial to get our university academics and students to switch over from the soon-to-be obsolete British Standards, in teaching and learning of structural design subjects at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels".

## UTAR Freshmen Inspired at the Mass Call

Some 800 UTAR freshmen were inspired when they received valuable words of wisdom from UTAR President Ir. Professor Dato' Dr. Chuah Hean Teik during the mass call held on 26 May 2009 at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus in conjunction with the UTAR Orientation Week for the May 2009 intake.

In his speech, Prof. Chuah said, "It is vital for you to concentrate on your studies right from the very beginning of your university lives to obtain good results upon graduation."

"Try to come up with a time schedule that you can follow so that you would be able to allocate a reasonable amount of time daily to revise your studies," he advised, "Excelling in your studies will take a lot of work but with good time management skills, this can be made possible."

Apart from stressing the need to do well academically, Prof. Chuah urged the freshmen to be active in extra-curricular activities organised by the University. He said, "Participating in extra-curricular activities would give you the opportunity to widen your social network. While being involved in these activities, make as many friends as possible."

He also encouraged the students to participate in soft skills training programmes to increase their future employability. He explained, "Employers are looking to employ those who possess additional skills and knowledge from a big pool of job applicants. Participating in soft skill training programmes will give you a competitive edge above the rest when applying for a job. You develop into a better person when you foster useful skills and knowledge not usually covered in your lectures."

While elaborating on university life, he concurred, "University life can be very challenging. As a student, you must learn to overcome a multitude of challenges and changes in your lives. However, you will find that the faster you learn to handle these changes and challenges, the faster you will mature and grow."

Prof. Chuah urged the students to improve their command of English in order to excel in their future lives and career. He suggested, "Start by speaking to your friends in simple and proper English. I am sure that with practice, you will surely improve your command in this language."

Many freshmen who attended the mass call left inspired to start their university lives right, especially after listening to the motivational talk given by the President. Similarly inspiring talks by the President were also given to freshmen studying at the Perak Campus, Kuala Lumpur Campus and Sungai Long Campus during the Orientation Week.



Prof. Chuah addressing the students.



Freshmen taking their pledge during the mass call.

## Freshmen and Parents Share Joy and Excitement at UTAR Registration Day

The May 2009 intake saw some 2,400 new students excited with anticipation as they started their university experience at UTAR Perak Campus on 25 May 2009. Sharing the joy and excitement were the parents who provided moral support to their beloved children on their first day at University. This was what the students and parents had to say about pursuing tertiary education at UTAR.

### Top-scorer Opt for Accounting at UTAR

Too Jia Wen could not contain her excitement as she began her first day of university life at UTAR. Having scored 10A's for her Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) last year, Jia Wen was awarded the UTAR scholarship to pursue her Foundation Studies leading to a degree in Accounting at UTAR Perak Campus.

Jia Wen shared excitedly, "I love Accounting and I am inspired to follow my sister-in-law's footsteps who is an accountant in Kuala Lumpur. I am looking forward to experiencing an exciting university life at this beautiful Campus and hope to graduate with excellent results in four years' time."

Accompanying her on the first day of the Orientation Week were her parents who travelled all the way from Kuantan. Proud with their daughter's achievement, they said, "We are really happy and deeply grateful to UTAR for the scholarship. We strongly recommend UTAR to other students as its quality of education is on par with other international universities."

### A-Level Student Glad to Pursue Biomedical Science at UTAR

Hailing from Klang, soft-spoken Jayasree A/P S. Kanathasan, a Biomedical Science student, arrived early for registration with her parents and sister.

First time staying away from home, she enthused, "I have always wanted to pursue biomedical science studies and I am overjoyed to secure a place at UTAR. I am excited and happy with the new environment. Accommodation, transportation and food are all within reach. I think I should be able to fit in comfortably here."

Her father commented, "I hope she will take the opportunity to learn beyond classroom. UTAR provides a conducive environment for study and personal development. I hope my son who will be sitting for SPM this year will join her here at UTAR next year."

### Klang Student Hopes to Achieve her Ambition at UTAR

Siti Yasmin Sihat, a Foundation in Arts student, voiced her opinion on pursuing her study at UTAR. "I am eager to start my university education here. My ambition is to be a successful businesswoman. I am confident that my studies at UTAR will prepare me well towards achieving my aspiration. I know ahead of me are great challenges and I will work hard to overcome them."

Before deciding on UTAR, Siti Yasmin and her father visited a few other institutions of higher learning. "I like the Campus environment here. This Campus is really beautiful and peaceful. Moreover, I am impressed with the education system at UTAR that emphasises the development of the students' soft skills. I strongly encourage her to mix around with people from various backgrounds and participate in the many clubs and societies available here," shared Encik Sihat, Siti's father.



Three families, three wonderful stories merge into one UTAR experience. (Left) Aspiring accountant, Too with her parents, (middle) Jayasree sharing the happy day with her parents and younger sister, and (right) Siti Yasmin and her parents coming all the way from Klang to realise her academic dreams.



## Seniors casting a spell on freshies



UTAR President Ir. Prof. Dato' Dr. Chuah Hean Teik, beating the drums to mark the opening of the Welcoming Concert.

**The beats of the drums by UTAR President, Ir. Professor Dato' Dr. Chuah Hean Teik, marked the opening of the Welcoming Concert, which was the finale of the three-week orientation programme, held at Heritage Hall, UTAR Perak Campus on 13 June 2009.**

The striking hand-drawn backdrop design with the bold theme "RADIANCE" arrested the attention of the freshies as they walked into the hall. The event showcased some dazzling performances put together by over 16 groups of senior students to give a warm welcome to the freshies. First up was the energetic drum performance by Yoong Fang Yi, injecting life into the crowd with her lively beats followed by the UTAR Chinese Orchestra playing two renditions titled 'San Shi Li Pu' and 'Huan Qing Feng Shou'

Among the performers were dancers Mirawani, Stella and Elaine who wowed the crowd while twins Yoke Fuang and Yoke Foong displayed their energetic moves. Trio Zhen Yi, Yuk Hong and Mei Ling presented a mixture of hip hop, poppy and jazzy dances.

Another highlight was a magic show by Public Relations student Yick Honi and his assistant, Apple. The tricks involved volunteers from the audience, adding a real sense of spontaneity and realism. Even Prof. Chuah volunteered to lend his watch to Honi as one of the items used to display his tricks on links.

A variety of Indian, English, Chinese and Malay songs were performed as well as other talents like beat-boxing and break-dancing were showcased. UTAR Choir and other student bands sang and danced.

The audience was also entertained by the endearing and cheerful banter of the emcees Careena and Bani. Judging from the cheers and encore requests, the performances got the thumbs up from the captivated members of the audience who were glued to

their seats during the three-hour show. All the events held during the orientation week have helped to set the tone for the new arrivals as they have adjusted into a campus life that is colourful, fun and always buzzing with activity.

Organising chairperson, PR student Chia Eu Gene, was very pleased with the success of the event. He shared excitedly, "I attributed the success of this event to teamwork. I would like to thank all the committee members who have sacrificed their time and energy to make this event a successful one. I am also grateful to Ms. Esther (DSA officer) for guiding, encouraging and supporting us throughout the entire preparation. Teamwork is essential in co-ordinating 15 committee members and 60 helpers, and to entertain around 700 in the audience. One of the main challenges was to deal with a big group of performers and to arrange for auditions and rehearsals. Auditions were conducted last week and the performers were chosen based on creativity, preparedness, co-ordination of show, impact on the audiences and so on. Though there were a few obstacles but we solved them as a team."

When asked reasons for choosing the theme, he said smilingly, "The theme 'Radiance-Connecting with One Another' was chosen because the wide range of vibrant colours symbolizes the intake of freshies as a driving force of the University. We want to welcome the new students who shine radiantly and exude uniqueness. This concert serves as a platform that creates bonds between the freshies and the seniors with the aim of moulding and instilling unity, friendship, and diversity among students of various backgrounds. We hope this concert has sparked a warm beginning for the freshies and they will be surrounded with joy and brilliance in their university lives."



## Innovation and Invention as Nation Transformers

What makes Sweden an innovative and inventive country?

That was the question raised during The Lennart Roadshow 2009 organised by Malaysian Invention and Design Society (MINDS) and coordinated by UTAR Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research at the Perak Campus on 18 May 2009.

Dr. Lennart Nilsson who hails from Stockholm, Sweden, is currently the President of Stockholm Inventors Organisation. He is active in business development, technology transfers and negotiations as well as in formulating legal documents for the commercialisation of products and start-ups.



Dr. Nilsson and Dr. Lok

Based on his more than 25 years of experience in this field, he shared how Sweden has been transformed

from an agricultural-based economy to knowledge and information-based economy.

Dr. Nilsson shared, "The necessary condition for the development of a nation is that first it must have something to be created. Science and inventions are fundamental and entrepreneurs are a must. To encourage an innovative society, a national policy to support inventions from early stage right to commercialisation must be there."

Equally important is the protection of ideas or inventions through intellectual property rights. During a panel discussion after the talk, Dr. Patrick Lok, an exco member of MINDS, emphasised on the importance of Intellectual Property (IP) rights.

Dr. Lok explained, "IP represents creations of the intellect. People have a lot of ideas and creations but they do not realise the importance of protecting these ideas and creations. They could have spent so much on developing a product but failure to protect the properties enable others to produce similar products and ride on their success. Thus, inventors should file IP rights for their products or designs before they introduce them to the public."

Dr. Lok said that it cost about RM2,000 to RM10,000 to register a patent, trademark or industrial design in Malaysia. He added, "IP rights were territorial and companies had to seek similar rights in other countries. Failure to do that means others in that country can copy the products."

Both Dr. Nilsson and Dr. Lok hoped that UTAR would form a Chapter in the University to stimulate creativity and challenge the young minds towards building an innovation-driven nation.

## International Outdoor Education Conference

Assistant Professor Dr. Lee Mah Ngee from the Department of Psychology and Counselling, Faculty of Arts and Social Science, Perak Campus recently participated in the International Outdoor Education Research Conference in Beechworth, Victoria, Australia from 15 to 18 April 2009.

This was the fourth in the series of International Outdoor Education Research Conferences. Themed 'Outdoor Education Research and Theory: Critical Reflections, New Directions', this conference brought together delegations from around the world with wide-ranging notions of outdoor education and outdoor research. The focus of this conference is on understanding and critically analysing outdoor education through research.

Dr. Lee presented her paper titled 'Connecting Overseas Community Service-Learning Expedition and Developments of Personal Capabilities in Youths'. It examines the impact of successful coping during the overseas community-service experience on the personal development of youths; namely, the development of civic attitudes, competence skills, and sense of self.

According to Dr. Lee, the conference provided a forum for stimulating informative discussions through both formal and informal opportunities to share research methods and findings.

The participants were offered a range of excursion options that enabled them to explore the region and engage in collegial discussion. Dr. Lee opted to join the Mt. Buffalo bushwalk expedition. The delegates spent the day exploring the Australian alpine environment, breathing the crisp air and enjoying the majestic view from the Mt. Buffalo plateau. It was aptly an outdoor education affair for the participants of this conference.

Dr. Lee said she has gained valuable experience from the conference. She expressed her appreciation of the opportunity to meet and learn from other participants. It was indeed a productive and rewarding conference. "I hope to have my paper published in the conference proceeding as well as in the Australian Journal of Outdoor Education," she enthused.



Dr. Lee (second from left) with her excursion mates.



## Talk on Crimes and Punishments for Offenders

On 13 April 2009, members of the UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus Psychology Society were enlightened on the state of crime in Malaysia through a talk conducted by Chief Inspector Thavamany Gopal titled 'Criminal, Punishment and Treatment of Offenders' at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus.

This talk aimed to provide students with an understanding of the current state of crime in Malaysia, the punishments meted out against criminals and the conditions of Malaysian prisons. In addition, this talk exposed the audience to criminal psychology and created an awareness of the significance of sustaining a psychologically, psychically and spiritually balanced society. The talk also served as a preparatory briefing before the students' visit to Kajang prison the following month.

Chief Inspector Thavamany began the talk with an introduction to crimes in Malaysia with current statistical information, newspaper cuttings and pictures.

He explained some common crimes committed and their punishments under the laws and jurisdiction of the Malaysian Prison Department. He also talked of how crime affects the society and the outcome of the punishments.

Finally, he gave details on what a prison is and what happens within it. Throughout the talk, Chief Inspector Thavamany shared with the audience his experience in dealing with law enforcement and the cases that he had handled. He ended the talk with an interactive Q & A session.



Chief Inspector Thavamany (right) accepting a token of appreciation.

## Students Visit Kajang Prison

On 11 May 2009, members of the UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus Psychology society and three lecturers who were their advisors visited the Kajang Prison.

According to Julia Choo, secretary of the Psychology Society, the objectives of this visit were to expose the members to the field of criminal psychology, to learn more about criminal behaviour and to create awareness on the importance of building a physically and mentally healthy society.

Upon reaching Kajang Prison, they were ushered in to listen to a few talks and briefing on the Prison Department and its role in crime punishment and prevention, as well as in drugs rehabilitation. In addition, they were also shown a video on caning as supplementary punishment to jailing. After the video screening, they were given an opportunity to learn more about psycho-education technique and psycho-drama applications during individual counselling with the prisoners. They were also lucky to watch the counselling of an inmate using the psycho-drama technique. Throughout the session, they were able to actively interact with the host by asking questions and having fruitful discussion. Some of the students also enquired about the possibility of undergoing their internship at the Kajang Prison.



The visiting students in front of the Kajang Prison.

## The Global Economic Crisis and Moral Changes Lecture

A man's experience of pain, suffering and facing up to dangers is shaped by a multitude of micro-social and macro-social phenomena. With this introduction, Dr. Arthur Kleinman, a Professor of Harvard University delivered his public lecture titled, 'The Global Economic Crisis and Moral Changes' at Wisma MCA, Kuala Lumpur on 28 March 2009.

The inaugural public lecture, made possible under the Harvard Ezra F. Vogel Malaysia/Singapore Initiative, was organised by UTAR Centre for Extension Education in collaboration with the Harvard University Asia Centre and supported by the Lam Kin Chung Morning Sun Charity Fund and MCA-Lifelong Learning.



Dr. Kleinman presenting his lecture on economic crisis and moral changes.

Dr. Kleinman argued in his public lecture that the global economic crisis had, at least in part, been caused by the "modest claims of fund managers". Their short range and overtly materialistic values had led to the nosedive of international finances and unemployment worldwide. This experience presents dangers and has driven home two lessons, one practical and one moral. The practical involves the ways and means of surviving in a world beset by economic disorder. The moral involves the moral rationalisation of the dramatic turn of events by the people caught up in them. As Dr. Kleinman put it, "We are not free individuals."

Dr. Kleinman summed up by saying that we should rethink our model of success. Short-term perspectives should give way to enduring, long-term views. Social justice and respect for the existential core of our being should become our bedrock values. And, finally, whatever our cultural persuasion, we should "do good" and keep doing good!



## Defensive Driving for the Benefit of All

In view of the recent spate of road accidents, UTAR Centre for Extension Education organised a seminar on the importance of defensive driving on 11 April 2009. The speaker, Ms. Karen Goonting, heads the Human Factors and Accident Costing Unit in the Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research (MIROS) and is a risk psychologist and analyst.

Defensive driving entails more than having good driving skills, the knowledge of one's vehicle and the knowledge of the statutory requirements which



Karen Goonting (middle) receiving a token of appreciation.



Participants listening attentively.

govern driving on a public road. It actually involves an actively-engaged, risk preventive mindset that anticipates possible accident risk situations and avoids them. Needless to say, 'thinking' driving means fewer accidents and fewer casualties, especially as the number of vehicles on the road have swelled exponentially while driving schools hardly

equip learner drivers with the skills of safe driving.

A careful driver is invariably alert, anticipates every possibility that could result in an accident and maintains a safe distance from other vehicles on the road at all times. He or she 'expects the unexpected' and is therefore better prepared for the 'unexpected' if and when it does occur. Unfortunately, that is not so common in our country.

To illustrate the point, Ms Goonting conducted an experiment using a bulb and some naked wire hanging from the door leading to the seminar hall. 94% of attendees did not even notice the potential hazard. In another survey that she also conducted on that day, she found that approximately 42% of the respondents found defensive driving - as based on her guidelines - was just too difficult. It appears, therefore, that Malaysians have a long way to go before they become model drivers.

The talk which was also attended by many driving school operators and drivers of commercial vehicles ended with a lively question-and-answer session.

## DEALING WITH TEENAGERS AND SEX ISSUES

"Mum, what is sex?" When the speaker herself, Jamilah Samian, was posed this question by her 8-year old son on a Sunday morning, the silence that followed was indeed deafening. Everyone around the breakfast table gazed towards her, eager to find out how she would deal with it.

To the uninitiated majority who were in her shoes, would we have been able to deal with it? How would we have dealt with it? Or would we have just brushed it aside? The audience at the talk titled 'Teenagers and Sex' held on 16 May 2009 at UTAR Centre for Extension Education must have come to the talk with such misgivings in mind.

On issues relating to teenagers and sexual relationships, Jamilah said that parents hold a Comprehensive, Abstinent or Holistic view. The Holistic view requires proper sex education, which by itself is a controversial topic. The fact is sex education is a sensitive subject to talk about. Educators and relevant parties still cannot come to a consensus as to how to include the subject matter into the school curriculum. The consequence is that while the adults debate, the teenagers remain confused.

Jamilah also wanted to dispel the myth or misconception that parents are helpless. Teenage sex could be a result of curiosity, peer pressure, wanting to fit in or just attention-seeking. Despite all the push and pull factors, the speaker believed all was not lost.

She suggested the 'Stay-connected, Adult-supervision, Firmness-now and Engage-early (S.A.F.E.) approach' in guiding our teenagers. To be the best teacher to our teenagers, she opined that parents must themselves be clear about the aspects of



Jamilah (right) with members of the audience during a role play.



Jamilah receiving a token of appreciation.

sex, build a positive view of sex and help the teenagers to feel it is good to wait. Teenagers must be reminded that early sex may ruin their future and may damage them physiologically and psychologically. In spite of the sensitive nature of the topic, questions were fielded during the Q & A.







## 助人为快乐之本 拉大师生献爱心

2009年5月19日上午，拉曼大学副校长杨碇宝博士率领理工学院院长黄展群博士、学生事务部主任田碧霖以及两位学生会代表探访患上罕见疾病的拉大学生黄俊仁，并且移交总额为马币1万6千余的支票给他。

黄同学是理工学院土木工程系三年级的学生。他在今年初发现自己患上骨巨细胞瘤。由于父母收入有限，不足以承担他的医疗费用，为支付数额庞大的治疗费用，他在4月中旬通过报章寻求公众捐款，以便能够尽快接受切除骨瘤手术。

古语有云：“为善最乐，福有攸归”。黄同学寻求捐款的消息传开后，拉曼大学的教职员与学生秉持着“助人为乐”的精神，随即展开了筹款运动。此筹款运动在5月6日截止，最终筹获马币1万6千余的款项。

探访当天，精神看来相当不错的他说：“我在今年4月19日施手术，手术进行了约十个小时。手术后身体感觉很虚弱。还有，我在医院住19天，吊点滴就吊了18天。”

他补充道：“这不是癌症，加上医生已将骨瘤完全切除，因此

不会有细胞瘤扩散的后患。

将来完全复原后行动上也不

会有太大的影响，只是无法搬运过重的物品，以及走路的时间不可过久。”

黄同学目前在其哥哥的住处休养，母亲也特地从彭亨来吉隆坡照顾他。他的复原情况理想，但仍须每个星期到医院复诊。不过，由于医生在切除其患部后以钛金属义骨替代，因此他的右腿关节处仍须以仪器固定，无法弯曲。现在他必须在家练习走路以及活动脚板，以免腿部因久无运动而失去知觉。



杨副校长移交支票予黄同学。



(左起)：田主任、杨副校长和黄院长正在慰问

## 武术之夜

一群对武术充满热诚的拉曼大学生在我校双溪龙镇校园举行了一场气势澎湃的武术表演。这场名为“武术之夜”的表演在4月6日由武术学会主办。

“武术之夜”筹委会主席暨武术学会副主席韩紫莹表示：

“这场表演的主要目的，是提升我校学生对武术的了解。我们要表达的是，武术并不只是帮助我们强身健体的运动而已，我们也能够将武术融入日常生活中。所以，我们有烹饪武术、音乐武术、篮球武术等表演。”

参与这场武术表演的学生共有36位，他们来自拉大会计与管理学院和创意产业学院。此外，这场表演也邀请了马来亚大学9位学生参与演出。

她说：“筹委会有37个会员，另外有15位外援。为了准备这场表

演，我们从2008年4月便开始投入筹备工作，直到今年4月才完成。”

询及筹备期间面对的难题，她说：“由于70%的表演者是‘武术之夜’的筹委会成员，因此要在课业、开会和练习上迁就大家的时间是一件非常头痛的事情。除了时间安排的问题，器材问题以及人事问题（如怎么与会员、赞助者等沟通协调）也是必须面对的难题。能够完成这场演出，对我们来说意义非凡。”

她补充说：“去年我们已经举办过‘武术之夜’，这是第二次举办这样的活动。去年我们还邀请了马来西亚国家队的队员来表演呢！”

虽然这是场售票表演，却依然获得我校学生和教职员的热烈捧场。韩同学表示：“表演招式和节目程序都是自己设计和创造的，其中更有我们不太熟悉或刚学习的招式。虽然不是专业演出，但观众们都非常满意。”



拉大学生们的落地演出获得在场者的热烈掌声。



其中两位学生为观众带来精彩的武术表演。

## 湖南师范大学到访拉大

为了促进交流并商讨未来可合作的事宜，中国湖南师范大学校长刘湘溶教授于4月28日率领四人代表团访问拉曼大学。

同行者有校长办公室主任刘起军教授、物理与信息科学学院书记宋善炎教授、树达学院院长荆光辉教授及国际交流合作处副处长唐建文教授。

在抵达我校八打灵再也校区前，他们已先行参观了霹雳金宝校区。湖南师范大学与拉曼大学在2008年时签署合作协议，因此刘湘溶教授在交流会上打趣表示，此行目的是“走亲戚”。

拉大校长拿督蔡贤德教授欢迎他们的到来，并为他们略微解释了马来西亚高等教育的历史与发展情况。随后，他才扼要介绍拉曼大学的发展史，让出席者对本校有更深入的了解。

刘校长对拉大的发展表示钦佩。他知晓拉曼大学设有中文系，便表示湖南师范大学亦拥有相当好的中文系。他也邀请本校的中文系研究生到那里学习。他说，我校学生可选择到该校当几个月、一学期或一年的交换生，过后才进行转移学分。他也补充，湖南消费指数不高，而且该大学也将为学生安排住宿，因此这是一个开阔学生视野的好机会。

对于这项建议，蔡校长深表赞同。他认为，通过这样的留学体验，我校学生将有机会认识并与海外学生交流。这些对开拓人脉是很有帮助的。

此外，蔡校长亦提议开办类似海外访学，结合教育与旅游的课程，以便让该校学生在我国上课的同时，能够顺道体验本地的风土人情。

其后，双方代表就学术人员交换、学术交流等进行了讨论。

双方代表在此次的交流会中磋商了初步的合作构思，为两所大学在未来的合作计划上迈开了重要的第一步。



双方代表在交流会后合影。

## 谈“癌”不色变

拉曼大学继续教育中心于2009年6月13日，在八打灵再也校区举行了中医科普讲座系列之肿瘤系列：如何预防，治疗及康复的第一场中医讲座。这场讲座由拉大继续教育中心、同善医院、马来西亚中医师暨针灸联合总会、马来西亚华人医药总会以及马来西亚中医师公会联合举办。

此中医科普讲座系列分为三个部分：讲座一“预防篇：远离癌症”；讲座二“治疗篇：恶性肿瘤的综合治疗及中医药在综合治疗中的作用”；和讲座三“康复篇：中药，运动，饮食及癌症康复”。这三场讲座皆由中国中医科学院中西医结合主任医师赵田雍教授主讲。

赵教授表示，癌症是危害人类健康的主要杀手，每年死于癌症的病患达到700万人数。在讲述肿瘤发生的特点时，赵教授指出，除了头发和指甲外，全身任何部位都可能发生肿瘤。肿瘤是自体细胞发生的，因此早期症状并不明显。

他从环境、饮食习惯、心理因素、物理因素、化学因素和遗传等方面，为出席者解说导致癌症发生的原因。他认为，三分之一的癌症是可以避免的；三分之一的癌症是可以治愈的；还有三分之一的癌症虽无法治愈，但可改善，延长生命的期限。

他补充道，防癌最主要的方法，是平衡饮食和心理，同时进行有氧运动，方能成效。要摄取均衡的饮食，就要奉行十多十少的指标，即少食多餐、少烫多温、少硬多软、少盐多淡、少糖多蜜、少酒多茶、少陈多鲜、少肉多素、少炸多炖和少熏多炒。赵教授也表示，可诱发癌症发生的食物如啤酒、高盐和高糖食品、霉变食品、味精等，应尽量远离。

赵教授说：“心理平衡，就是中医强调的情志和畅。人有七情六欲，顺则和畅，逆则亢奋。心理平衡，即要求人们心态平和。相对于饮食平衡和有氧运动而言，心理平衡更为重要。”

中医在预防肿瘤方面的作用，除了提高机体的免疫功能，尚包括调整机体，及针对有关致癌因素进行治疗。他建议在座者，要有效地预防肿瘤发生，必须改善生活环境和不良的生活习惯。此外，亦须定期进行系统的健康检查，并且时时锻炼身体，提高免疫力和抗病能力。



## 戏曲的变革与创新

拉曼大学八打灵再也校区于2009年6月5日下午4时左右，举办了一场以表演艺术为主题的讲座。这场名为“变革与创新——当代戏曲舞台新景象的思考”讲座由拉大创意产业学院中文系主办，邀请了东南亚知名表演艺术家暨新加坡戏曲学院院长蔡曙鹏教授主讲，并由拉大中国研究组主任谢爱萍博士担任主持人。

中国古典戏曲是中华文化一个重要的部分。她结合了说唱、文学和哲学，并以其特有的表演形式俘虏了宋元以来中华民族的心。蔡教授为出席者讲解了中国传统戏曲的发展，以及现代表演者如何在古典戏曲里加入现代元素。

他指出，戏曲的形成过程相当漫长，到宋元之际才成型。中国戏曲分成民间和宫廷两类传统，其他国家如越南和印尼亦一样。然而，由于各地方文化、音乐和语言有异，因此也形成了不同的戏曲文化。

他也表示，宋元时期，一个戏班只由几个人组成。因此，他们都必须在一出戏里扮演多种角色。为了能够更好地扮演不同角色，他们身怀多种技能，且文武兼备，可谓精通十八般武艺。“这是中国戏曲表演体系的一个特点，也是中国演员的本事。”他如斯说道。

此外，中国传统戏曲在初时是属于“四面观”的表演。他说：“通常演戏的舞台都会设在空旷的地方。四面八方都有观众围绕，演员的动作必须迁就观众们观赏的角度。这样一来，不管从哪个方向看戏，都可以很好看。”这亦是中国戏曲表演体系的另一特点。然而，随着时代的发展，“四面观”表演渐渐演变成“三面观”，直到现在

我们熟悉的“一面观”表演。

他亦指出，戏子的地位向来非常卑微，戏曲也不被看重。不过，这样的传统在1949年中国共产党上台后出现了改变。中国政府在1950年时成立戏曲改进局，简称戏改局。他们不仅投资，也撰写现代剧本的戏曲。自此，戏曲抬头，中国很多地方设立戏曲学校、音乐学校等，可说赋予了中国戏曲一个新的生命。

蔡教授认为，创造与创意是戏曲的生存之道。要配合新戏，就必须创造出新的表演动作。他举例说，新加坡国立大学曾经以摇滚乐团替《西厢记》伴奏，效果也相当好。是故，顺应时代的发展，传统戏曲也能够融入现代元素，使她的表演呈现更多元的面貌。

除了解说戏曲的发展变化，蔡教授也为出席者表演了《告亲夫》的其中一段戏，并且一人分饰此戏的三个主要角色。他那出色的表演博得出席者热烈的掌声。这场讲座尚设有问答环节，并于下午5时30分左右结束。



蔡教授正在表演《告亲夫》。

## 蔓苑文学奖

拉曼大学中文系学会于2009年举办了第四届蔓苑文学奖，并在6月12日下午于八打灵再也校区举行了颁奖典礼。

拉大中文系讲师张依蕓说：“蔓苑文学奖从2003年开始举办，至今已来到第四届。蔓苑文学奖的宗旨，是鼓励学生进行创作，进而培养校园的文学风气。”

这项文学比赛吸引了我校会计与管理学院、理工学院、基础课程中心、创意产业学院的学生参加。蔓苑文学奖筹委会主席陈嘉怡同学表示，主办单位从今年年初即开始征集优秀的文学作品，直到四月下旬结束。征文种类包括新诗、散文和小说。这三组所征收到的稿件数量共有60余份。

评审方面，除了由拉大中文系的教员：张依蕓讲师、廖冰凌助理教授和金进助理教授担任，主办单位也邀请了校外人士担任评审，包括黄修捷、李宜春、林协力、曾翎龙和黄麒达。

经过约一个月的审稿期，获奖名单终于在六月初出炉。

小说组、散文组和新诗组的冠军皆被中文系学生包揽。梁浩彦同学以《倾泻一碗红豆》获得小说组冠军；龚伟健同学则分别以《找自己》和《天使》赢获散文组和新诗组冠军。除了冠亚季军外，每个组别也选出两份佳作。颁奖典礼上，评审们亦为个别得奖作品作出点评。

颁奖礼于下午约五时结束。虽然蔓苑文学奖不定期举办，但能够获得学生的热烈参与，实属难得。



廖冰凌助理教授颁发奖状给其中一位得奖者。

## 拉曼大学环球研究网络



林教授（左三）与谢教授（左四）以及同仁堂代表合影。

为了达致成为卓越研究学府的目标，拉曼大学设立了拉曼大学环球研究网络。这个世界性的研究网络将许多学术人员、研究员以及其他领域的专才联系起来。他们或已和拉曼大学合作进行教学与研究活动，或准备与拉曼大学达成合作关系。参与此研究网络的会员将成为我校的国际合作伙伴。美国密歇根大学罗斯商学院、企业策略与国际企业学教授暨东南亚研究中心主任林愿清便是我校其中一位国际合作伙伴。

林教授曾经在拉曼大学演讲。由于她和我校中国研究组主任谢爱萍副教授携手进行学术研究，因此便再度造访拉曼大学。她在受访时表示：“拉曼大学在这几年来的快速发展，以及其教职员们的热忱，都让我感到很钦佩。”

谈及成为拉曼大学国际合作伙伴的个中因缘，她说道：“我与谢副教授认识逾20年。她可说是促成我成为拉大国际合作伙伴的重要人物。我觉得这个研究网络的概念很好，所以获得邀请后我便答应了。”她认为，此研究网络可促进国际和本地的学者，以及本地学生这三造之间的交流。

她亦认为，“拉曼大学环球研究网络”是个非常好的计划，因为拉曼大学是一所相当年轻的大学，还未在国际间打响知名度，而这项计划将让外国大学认识我校。

另外，此计划也能让各地学者进行交流，提升拉曼大学的学术素质和研究技巧、开拓教职员和学生的眼界，同时让外国人认识本地社会。

林教授表示，她将积极推动拉曼大学的学术发展。除了进行研发活动，也将在国际刊物上发表论文。她和谢爱萍副教授已于今年年初开始进行第一项学术研究——探讨中国在东南亚的投资活动。她指出，泰国亚洲理工学院的Sununta Siengthai副教授也会参与这项计划，研究助理则由拉曼大学的研究生担任。她表示，这项研究计划为期两年，除了文献考察，她们也会到相关机构和公司进行访问。

拉曼大学环球研究网络的成立，可说提供了各个领域的学术人员和专才一个进行交流、合作研发、互相学习的平台。

## 拉大职员获日本政府表彰

拉曼大学国际问题研究中心处长梁文勇博士获得日本颁发旭日小绶章，以表扬他促进马来西亚和日本学术交流方面所作出的卓越贡献。

现年71岁的梁博士曾经在马来西亚战略与国际研究所服务，并担任研究所的所长助理。同时，他也是此研究所属下的日本问题研究中心（Centre for Japan Studies）的处长。

他表示，日本问题研究中心是配合我国前任首相敦马哈迪医生推行“向东学习”的政策而设立的。所谓“向东学习”，就是借鉴日本及韩国的经济发展经验来发展马来西亚。

他指出，日本问题研究中心主要的任务包括邀请日本专才前来演讲、举办研讨会、设立图书馆、进行研究活动等。当然，这些活动都是为促进马日关系，让大马人更了解日本而进行的。因此，演讲、研讨会等都以日本课题为主，图书馆内的藏书也多是日本文学作品以及其他与日本相关的文献。

谈及如何与日本结缘，他说：“我在攻读博士学位时，

必须修读日本和韩国的历史，自那时起便开始对日本产生浓厚的兴趣。由于我很喜欢日本，因此曾在1983年到日本学习日语。”

在加入日本问题研究中心之前，梁博士在马来亚大学教授历史课程，长达25年。他说：“我曾经教授过‘日本在东南亚占领时期’这门课。我的专业领域是历史，对日本的当代历史尤其感兴趣。我想，这也是当初马来西亚战略与国际问题研究所主席兼首席执行官丹斯里Noordin Sopiee博士，委任我担任日本问题研究中心处长的原因之一吧！”

他说，在马来西亚战略与国际研究所服务许多年，让他印象最深刻的要数在日本问题研究中心成立不久，便有幸接待日本天皇明仁和皇后美智子。日本天皇明仁对日本问题中心表现出高度的兴趣，并且问了他许多问题。

对于这次能够获得殊荣，他谦虚地表示，这一切并非单靠个人力量就能够得到的，只有通过团队的合作，才能达成目标，完成任务。他补充道：“能够得到日本政府的表彰，我感到很荣幸。不过，我认为我所做的其实并不多，此奖应该颁给更有贡献的人。我相信，我们所付出的努力促进了马日两国的关系。”