



*A scenic lakeview of UTAR Perak Campus Main Library*



## MoU handover and collaborative seminar with HKSYU

There was a simple ceremony to mark the UTAR-Hong Kong Shue Yan University (HKSYU) collaboration with the hand over of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) document by UTAR Division of Community and International Networking Director Dr Tan Sin Leng to HKSYU Department Head of History Prof Danny Paau at Petaling Jaya Campus on 20 May 2014.

A seminar named Traditional, Local and Globalisation: International Seminar and Historical Fieldwork on Chinese History was also jointly organised by UTAR Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS) and HKSYU Department of History to cement the partnership ties.

Featuring a total of eight

speakers with four speakers from each university, the seminar attracted both UTAR lecturers and postgraduate students.

The speakers from HKSYU Department of History were its Head Prof Danny Paau, Associate Head Associate Prof Dr Lo Wing Sang, Prof Cheung Wai Kwok and Dr Au Chi Kin and their presentation topics included China and globalisation, studies on the Sui and Ming dynasties and the Chinese migration to South-East Asia.

From UTAR ICS, the speakers were the Deputy Dean (R&D and Postgraduate Programmes) Dr Wong Wun Bin, Head of Department (Chinese Studies (Klang Valley Campus) Dr Chin Chong Foh, Assistant Professor Dr Er Lee



Prof Paau receiving MoU document from Dr Tan (right)

Siong and lecturer Tan Ai Boay. Their presentation topics were skewed to the local history of the Chinese in Malaysia and included socio-economic roles of Malaysian Chinese before World War II and Sun Yat-Sen's ethnic policy and its impact to the world.

Also present at the seminar

were ICS Dean Dr Chong Siou Wei, Deputy Dean (Academic Development & Undergraduate Programmes) Dr Tee Boon Chuan, Modern Chinese Literature Studies Unit Head Lee Soo Chee, Assistant Prof Dr Liao Ping Leng, Assistant Prof Dr Pua Shiau Chen and lecturer Ng Bung Chen.

## Inaugural symposium on Trends in Culture, Arts and Media

The Department of Media at the Faculty of Creative Industries (FCI) and the Centre of Media and Creative Communication jointly organised an inaugural symposium entitled C.A.M. DEN: Trends in Culture, Arts and Media Symposium at the UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus on 19 May 2014.

Bringing together a total of eleven presenters, comprising seven from UTAR, and one each from Universiti Sains Malaysia, University of Malaya, Monash University Malaysia and Taylor's University, the inaugural symposium aimed to be a platform to encourage research and knowledge trends in the fields of cultural studies, arts and media and to promote inter-disciplinary research and collaborations amongst academicians.

The one-day symposium

which attracted students, tutors and lecturers was conducted in two parallel sessions; one session focused on the topics of culture, gender and film genres and the other on media and art.

The session culture, gender and film genres has topics that ranged from the Malaysian cinemas, gender discrimination in film and the portrayal of femininity on travel magazines.

All the presentations in the media and art session were by UTAR FCI lecturers with the exception of one presentation on Sino Malaysian identities in the Modern Malaysian Art during the 1950s-60s by Emelia Ong lan Li from the University of Malaya. The topics presented included art criticism, effectiveness of advertisement messages, media online dependency and the documentaries of two Malaysian filmmakers.

## UTAR-OTH pact sets off new chapter



Prof Chuah (fifth from left) and Prof Baier exchanging the signed MoUs, flanked by (from left) Tan, Dr Yap, Prof Lee, Hew, Peter, Prof Rieger, Dr Schnieders and Prof Schreiner

UTAR and Ostbayerische Technische Hochschule (OTH) Regensburg, Germany signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which sets off a new chapter of the collaboration with the offer of postgraduate qualification. The signing was at the UTAR Perak Campus on 28 May 2014.

Signing on behalf of both universities were UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik and OTH Regensburg President Prof Dr Wolfgang Baier. The ceremony was witnessed by UTAR representatives who comprised Council Member Hew Fen Yee, Vice President for R&D and Commercialisation Prof Ir Dr Lee Sze Wei, Faculty of Engineering and Green Technology (FEGT) Dean Dr Yap Vooi Voon and other parties that included, German National Agency for International Academic Cooperation (DAAD) Director Dr Guido Schnieders, Infineon Technologies (Kulim) Sdn Bhd (IFKM) Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Halm Peter, IFKM Technology Director Tan Soon Keong, OTH Regensburg Faculty of General Sciences and Microsystems Engineering Dean Prof Dr Walter Rieger and academic counsellor Prof Dr Rupert Schreiner, DAAD staff, UTAR staff and students.

"This recognition at postgraduate level is the first for UTAR. The mutual recognition of credit hours for the International Master's degree in OTH Regensburg and the Master of Engineering (Electronic Systems) in UTAR, will further enhance student exchanges and promote inter-cultural learning as well," said Prof Chuah who also expressed his appreciation to FEGT and OTH Regensburg staff for laying the ground work for the MoU and to DAAD

for supporting UTAR through a substantial amount of grant for the university's academic leadership programme.

Speaking on his first visit to UTAR, Prof Baier described the UTAR-OTH project as the convergence of two different cultures that would bring success and co-operation especially with the growing number of OTH Regensburg students who are seeking internships abroad and the very good ranking that the university receives in the international student barometer.

The MoU recognises subject credits earned by students of both institutions to facilitate student exchanges for those enrolled in the UTAR Master of Engineering (Electronic Systems) and the OTH Regensburg International Master's programme. Students enrolled in the UTAR Master of Engineering (Electronic Systems) can apply to study in the OTH Regensburg International Master's programme as an exchange student, subject to fulfilling the credit and admission requirements prior to transfer. Similarly, students of the OTH Regensburg International Master's programme can seek to enrol in the UTAR Master of Engineering (Electronic Systems) programme, also subject to fulfilling the credit and admission requirements prior to transfer.

Students of the UTAR Master of Engineering (Electronic Systems) who seek to embark on this exchange must complete at least 70 percent of the total credit hours at UTAR and at least 30 credits from the curriculum of OTH Regensburg International Master's programme, not including credits obtained for the Master's thesis. Students enrolled under this MoU will

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receive recognition and benefits as regular full-time students of both institutions. Upon completion of the Master's programme and having fulfilled all the requirements of both institutions, students will be awarded a Master's degree from both UTAR and OTH Regensburg.

Later in the afternoon was the German Day which comprised a booth exhibition and a series of talks on education opportunities in Germany. Dr Schnieders started the talk series with an informative session titled 'Postgraduate Studies and Research in Germany', followed by Prof Rieger who captivated the audience with a descriptive talk titled 'Introduction to Regensburg'. The third talk titled 'Introduction to Master Programme and Student Exchange Programme' was jointly delivered by Prof Schreiner and FEGT Master of Engineering (Electronic Systems) programme head Dr Teh Peh Chiong.

The fourth and fifth session were by the IFKM representatives; Tan spoke on 'University Collaboration: Nurture Future Talent' which focused on IFKM-academia collaboration and Peter, the final speaker spoke on 'Zero Defect - Culture or Mission Impossible' which emphasised on the importance of doing it right the first time and every time, anticipating the risk and mitigating it and preventing the defect rather than correcting it.



Lim (left) and Dr Lee speaking to the audience



## R&D Colloquium 2014

In line with the Strengthening of Cross Disciplinary Research Centres under the UTAR 10-year Strategic Plan, the Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research (IPSR) organised UTAR's maiden R&D Colloquium 2014 which was held at the Perak Campus on 31 May 2014.

Touted as a key initiative in providing continuous updates of research outcomes to the twenty-seven UTAR research centres, faculties, IPSR and Vice President's office for Research, Development and Commercialisation (VP RDC), the R&D Colloquium 2014 will also foster networking among the researchers and enhancing cross research co-operation and bidding for research funding.

More than 120 participants comprising both local and foreign researchers from the UTAR research centres, lecturers, staff and postgraduate students attended the event which would be held twice annually effective



Group photo of the participants

2014.

In his opening address, UTAR Vice President for RDC Prof Ir Dr Lee Sze Wei said, "Today's R&D Colloquium will help to contribute to the dynamism of our R&D innovative ecosystem. It creates exciting opportunities for collaboration and joint growth among researchers, attract support and active engagement in the evaluation and creation of multi-disciplinary researches among our community of scholars. He also mentioned on the role of R&D in the university, the need for more quality research ideas to address the increasingly more complex socio-economic issues and the

competition for research funds.

There were a total of 25 presentations on topics that range from media, youth, disaster management, organisational support, international currency, renewable energy, online learning, linguistic identities to medicinal and technological related issues.

The R&D Colloquium 2014 ended with thunderous applause in response to Prof Ir Dr Lee's closing remarks on looking forward to the sprouting of new ideas, follow-ups and collaborative proposals.

Details of the topics are at [www.utar.edu.my/colloquium2014/](http://www.utar.edu.my/colloquium2014/)

## UTAR researchers awarded Co-PIs in international project



The Co-PIs; (from left) Dr Lee, Dr Lai, Prof Chong and King posing in front of the lobby of FES, UTAR Kuala Lumpur Campus

UTAR Faculty of Engineering and Science (FES) has another cause to celebrate after four of its academics were appointed as Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs) for the 2014 Presidents' Forum of Southeast and South Asia and Taiwan Universities (SATU) Research Scheme which is hosted annually by National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) in Taiwan.

The awarded Co-PIs comprise FES Master and PhD programme head Prof Chong Kok Keong, FES Electrical and Electronic Engineering Department head Dr Lai An Chow, Dr Lee Jer Vui and King Yeong Jin. They share the Co-PIs Award with a team of researchers from Universiti Malaya in Malaysia. The two teams will collaborate on the project titled 'Grid Connection and Hybrid Wind, PV and Ocean Energy Using Flexible AC Transmission System (FACTS)' which is spearheaded by Prof Wang Li, the Principal Investigator from the host unit, NCKU College of Engineering and Science.

"This multi-disciplinary project incorporates three components. We will first build an offshore platform that has the ability to float like an offshore oil rig," explained Dr Lai, "But the offshore platform is used in a different way as we will install a Concentrated Photovoltaics (CPV) system along with a novel solar tracking algorithm on its surface to harvest solar energy and mount a specially-designed wave generator beneath the platform to extract wave energy. The major challenges are the platform stability and the non-static sun-tracking capability as the offshore platform is subject to unpredictable wave fluctuation and change of sun orientation; hence, we will need an embedded control system to address these challenges. This is where

my role comes in." Dr Lai will lend his expertise in embedded systems and micro-controller to the project.

Playing pivotal roles in the project would be Dr Lee and King whose respective expertise on Mechatronics and offshore engineering and marine technology would support the research project.

The award will cover travel support for the Co-PIs whose institutions are outside of Taiwan. It includes a visit to NCKU between July and September 2014, a two-night stay at Zenda Suite which is approximately a five-minute walk from NCKU and a reimbursement of not more than NTD20,000 (about USD670) for a round-trip economy class airfare.

The aim of the project is to develop grid-connected, high-capacity hybrid wind, PV and ocean energy systems and available FACTS model by different partners of different universities. Both grid-connected, high-capacity hybrid system and FACTS are combined together while the associated damping controller of the proposed FACTS has to be designed using modern control theories to improve the stability of the connected power systems under various disturbance conditions.

SATU President's Forum was first held in 2003 to provide a venue for academics to share their experiences to improve the quality of higher education and international cooperation in the region. The SATU International Secretariat, established in NCKU in 2005, launched the SATU Joint Research Scheme to initiate the engagement and mutual cooperation of researchers within SATU member universities through integration of academic resources and linkage of research interest among researchers in the region.

## ITE Singapore visits UTAR

A total of 77 visitors from the Institute of Technical Education (ITE), Singapore visited the UTAR Perak Campus on 17 June 2014.

The ITE group comprising seven ITE staff and 70 Bridge Leader students were on their five-day-four-night Overseas Cultural and Educational Visit. They were cordially received by UTAR staff and students from the UTAR Peer Mentoring Programme (PMP).

The itinerary for the ITE group at the Perak Campus included the UTAR Corporate Video presentation on the university's history and progress, a briefing by PMP representative Lim Jing Wei on the purpose and activities of PMP and a campus tour.

A Q&A session ensued with the enthusiastic visitors learning more about the various bonding activities of PMP from UTAR Department of Students Affairs



Group photo of the ITE Singapore students and staff

(DSA) Perak Campus student counsellors Ng Foo Yek and Melanie Lee Yen Ying.

The campus tour left a lasting impression on the visitors who were in awe of the pristine surroundings and excellent facilities that support UTAR's approach to learning, teaching and research. ITE student Neo Yuxiu expressed her delight to visit the ex-tin mining town of Kampar and the beautiful

campus. "This campus environment is very attractive and beautiful with naturalistic values," she said.

The ITE Bridge Leaders play a pivotal role in student peer mentoring by assisting the new students to adapt to college life and at the same time, providing peer support to current students through events that spur interaction amongst students.



## UTAR aces National Microsoft Imagine Cup

Fortune favours those who never quit trying. The saying was exceptionally true for UTAR whose students finally clinched the National Microsoft Imagine Cup in the World Citizenship Category after five years of relentless pursuit and spirited attempt. The crowning moment took place at a recently-concluded grand finale at Menara Telekom in Kuala Lumpur.

Nicknamed Team A-Ware, the winning team consisted of Business Information Systems student Benson Law, Advertising student Lim Shye Er and Computer Science students Lim Chong Shen and Lim Sin Hong. They were mentored by UTAR Faculty of Information and Communication



Champion at last: (From left) Chong Shen, Sin Hong, Tan and Law posing with their mock cheque

Technology lecturer, Tan Teik Boon.

Members of the winning team pocketed a Nokia Lumia 1520 and a certificate each. They will now represent Malaysia to compete in the semi-final round with winners from other Asia Pacific countries using video submission. The winner of the Asia Pacific round shall then be shortlisted to compete in Seattle, USA for the Worldwide Finals.

Microsoft Imagine Cup is the world's

premier student technology competition focused on finding solutions to real-world issues. It is one of the premier student application development competitions held annually in Malaysia. In the category of World Citizenship, participants are required to find a problem in the world which affects many people and work towards finding a solution by building a project that could transform lives.

## AcuTest Systems IGP Award

UTAR Mechatronics Engineering graduates Chay Kwok Hong and Lim Yee Hern clinched the AcuTest Systems Innovative Group Project (IGP) Award at the presentation ceremony that was held at UTAR Kuala Lumpur Campus on 5 May 2014. The duo's winning project was called Upper Extremities Powered Exoskeleton System for Rehabilitation.

The duo received the award with a prize money of RM1,000 and a certificate each from AcuTest Systems Managing Director Teh Lam Sam. The award presentation ceremony was witnessed by AcuTest Systems Finance and Administration Manager Annie Chan, Customer Service and Logistics Manager Irmalisa binti Samsuri, Faculty of Engineering and Science Dean Prof Ir Dr Yow Ho Kwang, Deputy Dean (Student Development and Industrial Training) Dr Lai Soon Onn, Department of Mechatronics and Biomedical Engineering lecturer Chong Yu Zheng and Dr Yogeswaran a/l Mohan.

Chay quipped that the win was a big surprise and the duo winners expressed gratitude to their supervisor Chong Yu Zheng for his guidance and thanked UTAR and AcuTest Systems for the opportunity to



From left: Irmalisa, Chan, Dr Lai, Prof Yow, Lim, Chay, Teh, Chong and Dr Yogeswaran

participate in the competition.

"Thank you Mr Teh Lam Sam, Ms Annie Chan and Puan Irmalisa for visiting UTAR KL Campus. This is the first time our students are awarded the AcuTest Systems Innovative Group Project Award. I thank

AcuTest Systems, one of our Industry Advisory Panel member for supporting UTAR and its students all these years," said Prof Yow.

## MBR Outstanding Individual Award for UTAR alumna

UTAR alumna Dr Hue Seow Mun made her alma mater proud by being one of the proud recipients of the "Outstanding Individual Award - Young Achievers Category" awarded by The Malaysia Book of Records (MBR) during the MBR Night of Achievers award ceremony held at One World Hotel on 30 April 2014.

Dr Hue received the highly-acclaimed award of a certificate and trophy from Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah Mansor for being the youngest PhD holder in the country at the age of 24 years and four months. She first received her degree at UTAR and graduated at the top of her class with a First Class Honours in Biotechnology in 2009. The science prodigy subsequently pursued her PhD in Bio-Chemical and Plant Biotechnology at Universiti Malaya under the University of Malaya Fellowship Scheme and was awarded her doctorate in 2012.

Dr Hue said, "Throughout my three years in UTAR, the lecturers were helpful and inspiring, and the programme syllabus was relevant to the Biotechnology industry." According to the successful KL-ite, her prior laboratory experience while working for the final year project enabled her to be more prepared in facing research project challenges at the PhD level. "I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to UTAR and the lecturers who have guided me throughout the three years of study at UTAR. I am still in touch with some of them. They were, and most definitely, will continue to be a



From left: Founder of MBR Datuk Danny Ooi, Datin Paduka Seri Rosmah and Dr Hue

source of inspiration and support for me," Dr Hue enthused.

The brainy lass' message to UTAR alumni is that UTAR has provided the solid educational foundation, so all they need to do is to carve their future paths. "Once a UTARian, always a UTARian. Good luck comrades," quipped the humble record-holder.

UTAR congratulates its alumna Dr Hue on this exemplary achievement and hopes that her success story will inspire its plenitude of alumni, current and future students.

## Impressive win in IEM CED Competition 2013-2014

A team of three UTAR students from the Faculty of Engineering and Green Technology (FEGT) impressed the judges with their holistic approach of theory and practice to win the top third prize at the Institution of Engineering Malaysia (IEM) Chemical Engineering Design (CED) Competition 2013-2014 Design of a Palm-based Biomass Plant - Production and Utilisation at its finals held at Armada Hotel in Petaling Jaya on 26 April 2014.

Open to all third-year and final-year Chemical Engineering students of public and private universities in Malaysia, the competition required each team to design a plant by utilising palm-based biomass for production with a progressive report in three



From left: Fan, Ooi, Chan and Ir Dr Low posing after the prize giving ceremony

phases until the finals.

The UTAR team comprising final-year petrochemical engineering students Chan Jiun Haur, Fan Kar Hoe and Ooi San Nee won cash prizes worth RM750 and certificates of appreciation. "The competition was extraordinary as it inspired us to visualise the design as well as grasping the concepts of sustainability, environmental and safety in a holistic manner. We need to apply theoretical knowledge with understanding of the synergies in real life plant design situations as well as the global trend of bio-plastic market to successfully achieve the key

objective of the competition," said Chan, the leader of the winning team.

The trio winners expressed their gratitude to their mentor, FEGT lecturer Ir Dr Low Chong Yu, other lecturers and friends for the support and encouragement.

The IEM CED Competition 2013-2014 Design of a Palm-based Biomass Plant - Production and Utilisation was initiated by Chemical Engineering Technical Division of the IEM with the objective of enhancing the practicality and methodology of design competency.



## Science student shines in literary competition

UTAR Biotechnology degree student Tay Yi Lun proved his special affinity for literature when he was announced one of the winners in the 12th Religious Literary Award in February 2014. He received a cash prize of NTD8000 and a plaque.

The literary competition was jointly organised by Taiwan's United Daily News Supplement, Ling Jiou Mountain Buddhist Foundation and the Museum of World Religions. The award ceremony was held at Taipei, Taiwan on 29 March 2014. Themed "Loving Life, Listening to Serenity," the competition was opened to avid writers all over the world regardless of religious beliefs and aimed to foster a deeper understanding of life through literature.

Tay was elated to learn that he bagged the fifth prize in the "Modern Poetry" category. "Most people generally think that science students are always busy with their laboratory reports and are not literary inclined," said the year two trimester three degree student. "The demands of a science degree programme leave little time for literary writing. Therefore, this award came as a surprise and it would motivate me to continue writing as well as re-fuel my passion for Chinese literature even more. This is also a testament that a science student can be passionate about literature," the Johor lad continued.

Tay's winning poem titled *Soaring* is about youths growing up, facing problems and overcoming challenges along the way.



Tay with his award

## The power of 8

The number '8' is the symbol of infinity with a constant flow of energy in perpetual motion. Also often associated with competition, eight was the total number of medals brought home by UTAR students from the INTI International University (IU) Badminton Inter-University Challenge 2014 held from 21 to 23 March, and the MMU Invitational Taekwondo Tournament 2014 held from 28 to 30 March.

The Taekwondo tournament which was held at the Exam Hall of the MMU Campus in Malacca saw the participation of seven UTAR students from the Sungai Long Campus. They were Wong Zhi Ying, Leonard Ng Chin Liang, Tay Shan Jing, Ham Khai Mun, Yeoh Kok Hoong, Hee Zhen Khoon, and Phun Rong Zhen. There were eight categories in the tournament which were wholly individual events, and Yeoh won the Gold medal in the Heavy Weight, while Ham won the Bronze medal in the Feather Weight category.

"I had previously participated in a few other taekwondo tournaments, but this is my very first Gold medal, so I am very happy especially this being my first tournament representing UTAR," said Yeoh who is pursuing his Bachelor of Accounting.

Competing against more than two dozen other institutions of higher learning, UTAR was represented by eight of its students in the INTI IU Badminton challenge. They were Yong Jun Wei, Yong Soon Kiat, Lee Shen Jet, Kok Jia Ning, Tan Fu Tzen, Chan Ai Ying, Chow Yi Lin, and Hong Lin.



A group photo of all the winners in the badminton challenge

The UTAR delegation performed remarkably well as they brought home the most number of medals with six in total.

In the Badminton challenge, Chan and Hong won the first runner-up of the Women's Doubles, where Chan was also awarded as a semi-finalist in the Women's Singles category. Meanwhile, Lee won as a semi-finalist in the Men's Singles category while Jun Wei, and Soon Kiat won the same award in the Men's Doubles category.

"Winning in the Women's Doubles came as a surprise to me; it was rather unexpected as I felt that the competition was stiff. Hong Lin and I make a good pair as we have been training together for about two years," said Chan, a year two student in the UTAR Bachelor of Science (Hons) Architecture degree programme.

It was a well-deserved win for the UTAR MH Unilodge 1 Perak Campus Basketball as they clinched the top prize in the Kampar Open Men Basketball Championship 2014 after months of intensive training and workouts. The championship was held on 1 June 2014 at the Kampar basketball cover court.

Making the victory even sweeter was the award of the Most Valuable Player to Financial Economics student Brian Ooi Wei Shern in recognition of his outstanding

## Wins in the Kampar Open Men Basketball Championship

performance in the game. A beaming Ooi said, "I'm happy to get the award. The regular practices with my team-mates perfected my skills, built my stamina and prepared me well for the competition."

The UTAR team proved to be too strong for the defendant

team from Ipoh and won with a score of 75-60. They walked away with an overall champion trophy, cash prize worth RM1,000 and a total of 12 individual medals.

Organised by the LLCM Sports Accessories Enterprise, the championship attracted the participation of 13 teams

in different age groups including veteran players. The Kampar Open Men Basketball Championship 2014, a state-level annual tournament, aims to promote and raise the standard of basketball game among youngsters in Malaysia.



Champions of the Kampar Open Men Basketball Championship

## An amazing win!



The jubilant team holding their certificates. First row from left to right: Choi, Wee, Ayu, Soon, Li, Er, Mok and Chin. Back row from left to right: Low, Nicholas, Lee and Saw

A team of eleven UTAR students from the Department of Surveying, Faculty of Engineering and Science (FES) won first runner-up in the amazing race competition under the "Expanding QS Boundaries Seminar and QS Amazing Race 2014" which was organised by the Royal Institution of Surveyors Malaysia (RISM) Quantity Surveying Division Junior Organisation. The competition aimed to enhance the junior students' standard of professionalism, skills, integrity, leadership, teamwork and non-traditional fields as well as to promote more interaction among the students from partner universities.

The team received a trophy and certificates at the awards presentation ceremony held on 31 March 2014 at the RISM Secretariat, Bangunan Jurukur, Petaling Jaya. The eleven students in the winning team were Soon Sok Kuan, Wee Seik Fhyn, Ayu Shiee Li, Nicholas Ian Jones, Choi Huan Chean, Low Jun Sheng, Lee Wen Kai, Chin Hui Ling, Martin Saw Wei Jie, Eugene Mok Jo-Lyn and Er Chiah Shien. The team was led by Li Zi Qian, the academic staff from the Department of Surveying, FES.

The Amazing Race consisted of three tasks; namely a Bills of Quantity (BQ) preparation, community service (painting work) at the RISM Secretariat and designing a poster on the prayer for flight MH370. The team won first place in the BQ preparation and second runner-up in community service/painting work. Hence, overall, the UTAR team clinched the first overall runner-up in the competition.



# Promoting STEM through KLESF 2014

To support the reach of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education to the community at large, UTAR has jointly collaborated with the ASEAN Academy of Engineering and Technology (AAET), the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT), the Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM) and the National Science Centre (NSC) under the Ministry of Science Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), to organise the inaugural Kuala Lumpur Engineering Science Fair (KLESF) 2014.



Young learners observing an experiment at the lab

UTAR Vice President for R&D and Commercialisation Prof Ir Dr Lee Sze Wei said, "Science and technology are the fundamentals of our understanding of the universe. What can be better than nurturing our future generations to venture into science and technology for the betterment of life and the environment?" These words underlined the significant aim of the inaugural KLESF 2014 which was to ignite the interests in STEM especially among school children. KLESF 2014 was held from 25 to 27 April 2014 at the Pusat Sains Negara in Kuala Lumpur.

With free admission to the public, the fair saw the well-received displays of the engineering science projects from the participating schools under the UTAR School Engineering and Science Design Mentorship Programme (SESDMP) and

the Science Hands-on Demos and Experiments (SHDEs) led by UTAR Centre for Foundation Studies (CFS) Petaling Jaya Campus. The other activities at the Fair were the displays of the award-winning STEM projects of schools namely SMK USJ 13 (Subang Jaya, Selangor), SMK USJ 4 (Subang Jaya, Selangor), SMK Sains Hulu Selangor (Batang Kali, Selangor) and Yuk Chai team Robowis (Petaling Jaya, Selangor), the STEM projects of industry exhibitors, mental literacy talks, posters and videos. Adding to the fun and enjoyment of KLESF 2014 were the science of magic, quizzes and even lucky draws.

The science demonstrations and experiments which were held at the laboratories attracted not only students but also parents, toddlers and families like the Lim siblings; Lim Jing Ren, Lim Yue Ying and Lim Xin Ying who elbowed for a chance to do the chlorophyll experiments. Their beaming mother Madam Yau Siew Lee remarked that her children truly enjoyed the hands-on experiments. Such a case exemplified the joy of learning and discovery that resonated throughout the three-day fair.

The other popular science experiments were the mathematical "Tower of Hanoi" and binary numbers which captivated the students who came from different schools across the country including schools such as SMK Taman Sejahtera in Bukit Mertajam, SMK Jelai in Batu Kurau, Perak, SJKC Lick Hung in Subang Jaya, Sri Damesh School in Brickfields, SK (ASLI) Bukit Kemandol in Banting

and Maktab Rendah Sains Mara from Bentong, Sarawak; just to name a few.

The Minister of Education II YB Dato' Seri Idris Bin Jusoh officiated KLESF 2014 at the Atrium of PSN on 26 April 2014 with a launch gambit of releasing a giant-sized 'KLESF 2014' balloon banner followed by Robot Nao's dance. The Minister of Education II was accompanied by Prime Minister's Science Adviser YBhg Emeritus Prof Dato' Sri Dr Zakri Abdul Hamid, UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik, members of the KLESF Steering Committee comprising Chairman Datuk Ir Hong Lee Pee, the Joint Chairman Dr Mohd Yusoff Sulaiman, the past president of IEM Ir Choo Kok Beng, the Director of NSC Assoc Prof Dr Irmawati Ramli and UTAR Vice President for R&D and Commercialisation Prof Lee.

In his inspiring speech, the Education Minister acknowledged the support of KLESF 2014 Committee and added the need to drive interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) among school children is critical in building up future talent to drive national development.

Expressing confidence that KLESF will be an annual event in

the educational landscape, Datuk Hong in his welcome speech said, "KLESF 2014 was initiated with the objectives of organising activities which can enrich the experiences of students in STEM learning and complementing the school STEM curriculum." Meanwhile Dr Yusof in his speech encouraged students to pursue their interest in STEM subjects through discovery and learning. KLESF 2014 is a programme under the Government Science to Action (S2A) initiative to increase society's understanding of the importance of STEM.

The SESDMP participating schools from Kampar namely, SMJK Pei Yuan, SMK Methodist (ACS) and Pei Yuan High School showcased their winning entries from Robo Olympics 2014 such as robotic Walkie Doggies and Floor-Turtle. The SESDMP participating schools in KL namely Kuen Cheng High School and SMK Taman Melati displayed projects like bacteria culture from yoghurt, DX anti-pollutant rainmaker device, wire loop game and the electric glove for self-defence. The science teacher from Kuen Cheng High School, Chan Wooi Hou enthused that his students benefited from the UTAR - SESDMP and they viewed KLESF 2014 as the treasure trove of discoveries and knowledge.



Students at the KLESF2014



From Left to Right; Assoc Prof Dr Irmawati Ramli, Prof Chuah, Dr Mohd Yusoff Sulaiman, Ir Choo Kok Beng, YB Dato' Seri Idris, YBhg Emeritus Prof Dato' Sri Dr Zakri and Datuk Hong with the Officiating KLESF 2014 banner

Azreen Syafiah binti Roslee, Ainnursyanida binti Muhamad Nizam and Nuraaela binti Nordin who are form two science students from Maktab Rendah Sains Mara, Batu Pahat, all gushed with enthusiasm at the various hands-on activities where industry tutors facilitated their understanding on 'kriptografi' at the Silverlake booth.

Both DreamCatcher Consulting Sdn Bhd Account Manager Siti Aishah Mohd Esa and the Marketing Manager from National Instruments Erdawaty binti Suhaili praised KLESF 2014 as a landmark initiative to provide the much-needed networking between industry and academia to foster learning and career development in STEM - related areas.

KLESF 2014 attracted the support of sponsors including UEM Group Bhd, Muhibbah Engineering Sdn Bhd, Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC), Telekom Malaysia Berhad, Indocafe, Cytron Technologies Sdn Bhd, MBO Cinemas, Phisontech Electronics (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd, Corpacer Malaysia Sdn Bhd and Pizza Hut Restaurants Sdn Bhd.

The corporations which set up booths at KLESF 2014 were Cytron Technologies Sdn Bhd, Dassault Aviation, DreamCatcher/Freescale/

Toshiba, DreamEdge Sdn Bhd, EDU360, Funcel Sdn Bhd, Iwitness Sdn Bhd, Makerzone Sdn Bhd, Malaysia Invention and Design Society, Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC), National Instruments, Polis DiRaja Malaysia (PDRM), Silverlake group, Spirit Aerosystems (M) Sdn Bhd, Stevianas Corporation Sdn Bhd, The Institution of Engineers Malaysia, Young Engineers Section, The Malaysia Mensa Society, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), not forgetting UTAR.

KLESF attracted more than 30,000 visitors including students from more than 100 mostly government schools in the country. The inaugural KLESF 2014 was well received by parents, students, teachers, mentors, industry exhibitors and others in the community. The Secretary of the KLESF 2014 Steering Committee and Assistant General Manager in UTAR R&D and Commercialisation Office Yeoh Siew Wan said, "It was gratifying to see the school students and families excitedly participating in the various activities of KLESF. We are pleased to have contributed to their increased interest in STEM which was the objective of KLESF 2014."



Proud students with their award winning robots



## NPFASS returns!

The UTAR National Postgraduate Fundamental and Applied Sciences Seminar (NPFASS) made a second comeback this year from 14 to 15 June 2014 at UTAR Perak Campus.

The successful seminar was jointly organised by UTAR Centre for Biodiversity Research (CBR), Faculty of Science and Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research (IPSR). NPFASS this year saw more than 50 presenters comprising postgraduate students from local public and private institutions of higher learning converging at the award-winning campus for presentations of their R&D findings and experiences of their studies, ranging from chemical to biological sciences.

In his officiating address, Faculty of Science Deputy Dean (R&D and Postgraduate Programmes) Assoc Prof Dr Tee Chong Siang congratulated the organising committee for making the seminar possible and extended a warm welcome to the presenters and participants.

The Chairman of the NPFASS 2014 Organising Committee Ng Wen Jie also expressed his gratitude to the speakers, Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) and the many sponsors for the support to NPFASS.

The invited keynote speakers for the one-and-a-half day seminar included Assoc Prof Dr Leong Weng Kee from Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, Prof Dr Alexander Chong from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Dr Chan Kok Gan, Prof Dr Ramesh a/l T Subramaniam and Prof Dr Emeritus Yong Hoi Sen from University of Malaya (UM) who shared with the audience insights of their promising discoveries from years of dedication in R&D.

Dr Leong was the first keynote speaker who presented on "Organometallic Clusters - A Personal Journey from Chemistry to Biology and Nanoscience". He took the audience through his personal journey in organometallic clusters research, from the "classical" synthesis and structural studies, through his and other researchers' attempts at reinvigoration through its applications in the biomedical and nanometrical sciences.

"Fatty Fish, Small Fish, Big Fish" was the following keynote lecture delivered by Prof Dr Chong, who spoke on long-chained unsaturated fatty acids (LC-PUFA) and explained the challenges of sustaining a dependable source of these fatty acids through proper aquaculture. Prof Chong also discussed the potential of zebrafish,



The winners of both oral and poster presentations posing with keynote speakers and NPFASS 2014 organisers

which is a long-time model for genetics and developmental biology as a tool to understand the biosynthesis and the role of LC-PUFA.

Dr Chan delivered his lecture entitled "Unleashing The Power of Next Generation Sequencing (NGS): Solving The Mystery in Microbial & Human Genomes, Metagenomes and Microbiomes" by introducing the roles and immense benefits of NGS as a technology of sequencing in today's biological research as well as the finding on human microbiome that uncover unique microbial diversity and genes functions.

"Influence of Silicon/Silver Based Oxides Functionality on Polymer Electrolyte Properties" was presented by fourth keynote speaker Prof Ramesh on the following day. The UM professor elaborated on the studies demonstrating the effect of incorporation of two different functional amphoteric nanofillers into the triblock acrylate-based copolymer electrolytes.

The closing keynote lecture was "Genetics and Systematics of Murine Rodents" by Prof Yong, who explained that understanding the genetics and systematics of the two species of Murine rodents - *Rattus norvegicus* and *Mus musculus* which are widely used as laboratory animals for research experiments, are vital in relation to their control and management.

NPFASS 2014, mainly sponsored by RSC and Perkin Elmer Sdn Bhd, concluded with a prize giving ceremony to winners of the oral and poster presentations.

## Advocating road safety with talks and exhibition

In conjunction with the UTAR May Orientation, the Crime Prevention Society joined hands with the Department of Safety and Security (DSS) and Department of Student Affairs (DSA) to organise a road safety mini exhibition-cum-talks at the Heritage Hall, Perak Campus on 2 June 2014.

The event which attracted around 200 attendees aimed to create more awareness on road safety and to instil a sense of road safety consciousness among the students and staff in addition to providing more information on road rules and regulations.

The speakers for the talks were Puan Wan Shahbanun binti Zulkifli, Deputy Director from the Road Safety Department of Malaysia, Perak Branch (JKJR) and Dato' Ooi Win Juat, Head of Operations Liaison and Advisory of Pusat Pemeriksaan Kenderaan Berkomputer (PUSPAKOM). Puan Wan Shahbanun elaborated the

increasing numbers of road accidents, preventive measures such as wearing safety helmets and the need for society to adopt safer and more cautious driving habits in her topic "Road Safety - Pedestrian, Motorists and Motorcyclist." Dato' Ooi explained about the safety, confidence, environment and cost in vehicle inspection under the topic "Road Safety - Benefits of Vehicle Inspection"

JKJR and PUSPAKOM also set-up booths and displayed safety gears such as reflective vest at the mini exhibition to educate the UTAR community on preventive measures in the road safety paradigm.



Puan Wan and Dato' Ooi (right)

In conjunction with the global Big Data Week, UTAR Perak Campus Faculty of Information and Communication Technology (FICT) organised a one-day workshop, entitled Mining Big Data: A How-To at the FICT Building, UTAR Perak Campus on 8 May 2014.

The workshop aimed to shed light on the technical expertise of Big Data Analytics and to stimulate discussions on the new knowledge in Big Data mining, which is fast becoming an important research tool of choice in the business sectors. Hilti Asia IT Services and Fusionex were sponsors of the workshop.

In his welcome address, UTAR Vice President for Internationalisation and Academic Development Prof Dr Ewe Hong Tat said, "UTAR is indeed proud to organise such a workshop that provides insights on Big Data mining which is considered as one of the most exciting opportunities in this decade. As a progressive university that is committed to educational excellence, UTAR constantly organises academic conferences, workshops and forums to promote collaborations, networking and the advancement of knowledge and research."

The workshop which incorporated both talks and practice on the software attracted participants that included government personnel, students of National University

## Big Data mining workshop



Participants pose for a group photograph

of Singapore (NUS), educators, bank employees, UTAR staff and students.

Assoc Prof Dr Leong Hon Wai, from the Department of Computer Science of NUS was the first speaker to present on the needs of Big Data to detect communities in social networks followed by Assoc Prof Dr Ngo Chong-ah from the Department of Computer Science of the City University of Hong Kong who spoke on the hyper linking videos for large video collections.

Dr Li Shuai Cheng from the Department of Computer Science of the City University of Hong Kong conducted a workshop on Mining Data Associations and Venkat

Narayanan, the CEO of BigTapp Pte Ltd shared on multiple ways to exploit insights from data mining and how to integrate business processes in a seamless manner.

Dr Kheng Cheng Wai, a lecturer from the Department of Computer Science of FICT was the last speaker who highlighted on the machine learning for Big Data Analysis with elaborations on the theories and the applications. The audience was also given hands-on through Octave and Weka.

There was also a special session on Real-World Big Data challenges by Hilti Asia IT Services.

UTAR Faculty of Arts and Social Science (FAS) and Department of Soft Skills Competency (DSSC) jointly organised a forum titled 'Employers' dialogue session with undergraduates on employers' expectation of soft skills at the Perak Campus recently. The aim of the forum was to highlight the importance of soft skills and to encourage student participation in DSSC-organised soft skills activities.

Moderated by FAS Deputy Dean for Student Development and Training Gan Pei Lee, the forum featured three speakers; namely, Project Manager Litsa Francis from Flying Fox Airways, Event Head Shas Fung from Event Plus, and Operation Department Retail Executive Samuel Sum from Popular Book Co. (M) Sdn Bhd. Both Fung and Sum are UTAR alumnus.

Francis pointed out that communication skill is one of the important soft skills. She said, "Do not feel embarrassed to convey your opinions. Enquire and clarify on matters that you are doubtful of. Be proactive, ask for advice and help others, do not be afraid of constructive criticism and work on your weaknesses as mistakes are the best things you could ever make."

Meanwhile, Fung agreed with Litsa's point on initiative. He advised, "Employers

## Forum on importance of soft skills for career



UTAR students and staff listening at the forum

scarcely bother what you previously know so long as you learn and adapt to their culture. Your initiative to learn about the industry would bring innovation to the workplace."

"It's a realistic world out there," began Sum, adding, "Your university degree gets you through the interview stage, but soft

skills ensure your survival in a company and that includes good attitude, multitasking, teamwork and problem-solving."

The forum ended with a Q&A session and a memento presentation to Gan and the panelists by FAS Dean Dr Cheah Phaik Kin.



## BESPOKE - the process-based Architecture of Design Collective Architects



Ar. David Chan (left) and Ar. Chan

UTAR's three divisions; Centre for Extension Education, Department of Architecture & Sustainable Design under the Faculty of Engineering and Science and the Architecture Society of UTAR jointly organised a talk entitled 'BESPOKE - The Process-Based Architecture of Design Collective Architects' by two prestigious speakers, Ar. David Chan and Ar. Chan Mun Inn from Design Collective Architects (DCA). The talk was held at the Kuala Lumpur Campus on 23 April 2013.

The talk addressed issues concerning the complexity of home owner requirements today, which extend beyond the simple need of just having shelter, and also resurgence of multi functional homes.

Ar. David Chan emphasised that a good home always has something memorable in it and it is his job to create that special

relationship for his clients. According to him, as an architect he has an obligation to exceed his clients' vision and simultaneously seek simple yet comprehensive solutions that best serve them.

On the other hand, Ar. Chan Mun Inn stated that great buildings result not only from creative problem solving skills and innovative designs, but by engaging a well established teamwork and collaboration with their clients. Such engagement ensured that both parties explore and innovate together, resulting in an award winning and cost effective masterpiece.

The two speakers also captivated their audience with their creative works which were indeed fascinating. Much hard work, time and ingenuity were needed to actualise their clients' designs in a functional and realistic manner.

Invited by UTAR Department of Consultancy and Commercialisation (DCC), Executive Chairman of Dialog Bhd Dr Ngau Boon Keat delivered an inspiring talk at the Perak Campus on 18 April 2014.

Besides the students, staff and academics from different faculties, the entrepreneurial talk entitled "My Journey in Life and Entrepreneurship" was also attended by UTAR Planning and Development Committee Advisor Tan Sri Hew See Tong, Council Member Hew Fen Yee, Vice President (R&D and Commercialisation) Prof Ir Dr Lee Sze Wei, and Malaysia Mental Literacy Movement (MMLM) Committee Member Datuk Lim Si Cheng.

The China-born speaker began by first reminiscing his childhood days, from the struggle from the sharp vicissitudes of the family's fortune during the early communist period to the bold but wise decision made by his mother to migrate to Malaya to seek a brighter future for her off-springs. "My mother's expectations were very simple - to study hard, to never give up in difficult times and to be brave enough to take risks," continued Dr Ngau in fluent English, who also shared with the audience his sheer determination in learning and adaptability to a new environment back then. He went to night classes to improve himself and got to mix with the other classmates who were of

## Words of wisdom by engineer-cum-entrepreneur



From left: Hew, Prof Lee, Dr Ngau, Tan Sri Hew and Datuk Lim

different races.

Dr Ngau also impressed upon the students the importance of being receptive to new ideas, tapping on lecturers for guidance and acquiring the technical "know-how" especially on extraction of natural resources. "Our country is blessed with natural resources which we can tap for development and progress. The more knowledgeable you are, the further you could see. Your working experience will help

you to refine your knowledge and the way you perceive things," he advised.

The successful entrepreneur mentioned that he was indebted to his kind neighbours in China who gave him food during times of trouble. This inspired him to start MyKasih Foundation out of his gratitude to the kindred souls he had met throughout his life and also to commemorate such act of kindness of helping the less fortunate.

Prominent American activist, Cesar Chavez, once claimed, "Preservation of one's own culture does not require contempt or disrespect for other cultures." Such was the multiculturalism spirit that was captured during the Cultural Extravaganza held recently at Heritage Hall at UTAR Perak Campus.

The extravaganza, organised by Department of Soft Skills Competency (DSSC), was in tune with UTAR's 10-year strategic plan to promote soft-skills development and cultural competency among students. It aimed to expose students to various local and international cultures through the showcase of various dances and cultural performances.

The scintillating night opened when students garbed in motley ethnic costumes paraded an arresting Malaysia dance on stage. Following suit was the emcee description on dance culture, and a speech each by event director and the event VIP and Head for DSSC for Perak Campus, Lok Bee Lan.

Students showcased their artistic prowess into a potpourri of indigenous and urban contemporary dance, singing and

## Harmony through culture



Poetry in motion: Students performing dance symbolic of the aboriginal tribes in Malaysia

musical vaudevilles. The fusion of Korean pop, Japanese pop and mime dance added dynamism and richness to the colourful

culture show that saw the audience clapping on their feet.

## D'Elegance a first for UTAR FAS

On 12 April 2014, UTAR students inundated Grand Kampar Hotel in Kampar, Perak, for the first ever prom night organised by all departments of UTAR Faculty of Arts and Social Science (FAS). Themed D'Elegance, the night featured impeccably dressed students and a litany of riveting performances.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, organising chairperson Lim Kai Xian said, "The objective of D'Elegance Prom Night is to strengthen the bond between FAS students and students from other faculties and campuses in UTAR." He added, "This event is a golden opportunity for students to unwind, meet new friends and relish the atmosphere of an elegant ball in a formal setting." A total of 81 committee and crew members were enlisted to assist in the event.

In her welcome speech, UTAR FAS Dean Dr Cheah Phaik Kin commended the organising committee for their cohesive team work, and



Dr Cheah (left) officiating the night by leaving a message on the commemorative board.

expressed hope that Lim has trained juniors to assume his reins as event organiser. She also thanked FAS departmental heads and advisors of course-based societies for offering invaluable assistance to the organising committee. Her speech was followed by a launching ceremony where all VIPs were invited to the stage to leave their message on a commemorative

board.

The night started with a bang when English Language student Biith Siew emerged from the floor and performed a medley of infectious jazz songs. The next performance after Siew's was illusionist Edison Lim whose spellbinding acts such as fork bending offered audience a glimpse into mentalism.

Other highlights included

performances of salsa and belly dance. There was also the prom king and queen contest where winners were determined by votes from the crowd. At the end of the night, Lady Luck smiled at Psychology student Gan Tsai Wee and Public Relations student Cheang Lai Sin, who were inaugurated as the prom king and queen respectively.



## Nursing staff and students in community work

Staff and students from the Department of Nursing under the UTAR Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FMHS) volunteered their services in support of community welfare when they visited SMK Seafield on 13 March 2014 to conduct the Body Mass Index (BMI) Analysis among secondary school children and subsequently made two visits to Rumah Seri Kenangan on 25 April and 2 May 2014 to provide health guidance, screening and treatment on scabies.

In support of the Ministry of Health's goal to prevent obesity and promote healthy eating, the nursing staff conducted a BMI measurement screening at SMK Seafield, Subang Jaya. The aim of the programme was to analyse overweight patterns and educate the schoolchildren on the importance of maintaining ideal BMI through diet counselling.

Height and weight measurements were taken to determine the BMI of around 200 students. Most students were happy

to know their BMIs and participated in a lucky draw to win small prizes. They were also encouraged to maintain good habits of healthy eating and physical activities.

For students with relatively higher BMI, their blood pressure readings were taken and they were then given diet counselling by the FMHS nutritionist and diet educator. Their screening reports were then submitted to the school counsellor for follow-ups with diet educational programmes for the students.

The Department of Nursing staff and students also visited a home for the elderly at Rumah Seri Kenangan in Cheras over two different days. The aim of the visit was to educate the caregivers and residents on treatment and prevention of scabies which is a contagious skin infection that spreads rapidly in crowded conditions. The educational session focused on personal hygiene, adequate supply of clean water and other related preventive measures which prompted many questions from the participants.



UTAR staff explaining the importance of a healthy BMI to SMK Seafield students

The FMHS nursing staff together with the students gave free screenings to all the residents in Rumah Seri Kenangan and treated those who were infected. A follow-up treatment and screening was done a week later and there were improvements for those diagnosed with scabies at the home.

## Collaborative efforts to boost English

31 May 2014 and 6 June 2014 respectively.

The latter workshop had 32 standard six students who were guided in the language activities by the English Language Unit assistant lecturers from DSSC and they were Fatimah binti Abdul Halim Koh, Chan Siew Fen, and Nurulain binti Mohd Salihuddin.

"We planned the workshop

in such a way that it would provide something different from the in-door activities the students have been having in tuition and schools. We use songs, music, and games to motivate them to learn English," said Fatimah, representing her colleagues. The workshop engaged the students in activities which involved speaking, listening, vocabulary building

and grammar practice.

Guided by the instructors, the students had the whale of time with mind-drilling language games such as scrabble, charade, Station Games, Wonder Words, quizzes, and group projects.

Describing the English Motivational Workshop as "an excellent and creative way to teach English in a fun way", ECM Libra Foundation Senior Manager Cheah Sook Lian lauded the passion shown by all the instructors as well as the efforts in nurturing a bond between themselves and the students.



Joyful participants and their instructors posing for a group photo

## School visits by UTAR Council Chairman

UTAR as a not-for-profit university that was established for the people and by the people strives to provide educational opportunities for deserving students in the country. Education can transform lives of youths and broaden their horizons to build a brighter and better tomorrow.

In line with the objective to reach the students in the rural schools of Malaysia, UTAR Council Chairman Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik with senior officials from UTAR and Tunku Abdul Rahman University College (TARUC) embarked on a "meet-and-greet" visit to each of the four selected schools that are currently under Teach-For-Malaysia (TFM) scheme. UTAR is a collaborative partner of TFM which is an independent, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to help the needy to further their studies.

These selected schools were SMK Mak Mandin, Butterworth, SMK Hutchings, Penang, SMK Kuala Kurau, Perak and SMK Alor Pongsu, Perak.

The highlights in Tun Ling's speeches to the four schools were the encouragement and motivation to the students to study hard and to make full use of their education at school. He also announced the scholarships available to deserving students to apply for enrolment into UTAR Foundation studies will also come with a monthly allowance of RM500.

There were discussions with the respective TFM teachers and school principals to review the students' educational needs such as English language proficiency numeracy level, absenteeism, as well as disciplinary problems and the low sense of urgency.



Tun Dr Ling signing the guestbook for Tuan Haji Yusoff from SMK Alor Pongsu as Perak State Executive Councillor Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon looks on

To further strengthen the "meet and greet" exercise was the university collaborative efforts to rope in companies from the private sector such as the Soon Soon Group to assist the schools. The Chief Operating Officer of Soon Soon Oil Mills Sdn Bhd Heng Chee Cheng and the Group Human Resource Manager of Soon Soon Group Lee Kam Fong joined in the visits to SMK Mak Mandin on the 30 May, SMK Hutchings on 2 May, SMK Kuala Kurau on 7 May and SMK Alor Pongsu on 20 May. ECM Libra Foundation Chairman Dato'Seri

Kalimullah bin Masheerul Hassan joined in the visit to SMK Kuala Kurau.

Tun Ling said that the collaborations between the selected schools and the private sectors would help to facilitate the upgrading of the schools facilities and addressing critical needs such as functional projectors and supply of textbooks.

The students in SMK Mak Mandin, SMK Hutchings, and SMK Kuala Kurau were also given a surprise treat to an enjoyable session on memorisation techniques and study skills by Buzan Licensed Instructor S Jeyaraman.



The delegates in a group photo with students and officers of SMK Hutchings giving their "High-Fives", a TFM trademark



Students stood up to greet Tun Dr Ling at the SMK Mak Mandin Library



邱克威谈居銮华语



拉曼大学中华研究中心汉学组于2014年4月30日有幸邀得博特拉大学外文系中文组高级讲师邱克威博士前来主讲，讲题为“居銮华语——马来西亚一种特殊的华语社会变异个案分析”。邱博士于会上和大家介绍曾经盛行一时，但今已衰亡的一种华语变体——“居銮华语”的来龙去脉，及其独到的研究心得。

“居銮华语”是上世纪50年代至80年代通行于居銮市区的华语特殊社会变体。对于其产生的原因，邱博士在梳理现有的几种说法后，认为“居銮华语”是由中华学校学生模仿四川老师的口音开始，而其最初通行的“豆沙村”的客家方言为其形态确立的重要基础，两者结合之下，最终形

成了特殊的声调变异。这不同于一般受方言影响的华语变异，而是更倾向于一种社会的变异。

邱博士于会上分享了“居銮华语”的变异形态特点及其流传的阶段特性。值得一提的是，全盛时期的“居銮华语”，不仅是居銮市区的通行用语，更在外地移居者及华族英校生间被广泛使用。但可惜的是“居銮华语”于1980年代开始不再通用，时至今日，虽未完全消亡，但已萎缩成一种封闭式的社群内用语。

邱博士在总结时感叹，从“居銮华语”的个案分析来看，最叫人

担忧并不是这一社会语言变体的衰亡，而是目前居銮社区成员对这一衰亡现象的冷漠态度。对他而言，虽然语言有标准和标准不标准的问题，但语言是一种现象，必定会受到特定社区的影响，并承载这一个社会群体共同的历史记忆，所有变异形态都是语言与社会互动影响下的合理现象，因此不宜轻易用标准或不标准来否定任何一种语言现象。

讲座尾声，邱博士也于问答环节中为在座的学生解答一些关于语言现象及心理的提问，并与大家作更深入的讨论。



邱克威(左)赠送《学文》期刊予中华研究院。

程可欣谈写作的多种选择



拉曼大学中华研究中心现代华文文学研究组有幸邀得马华著名作家程可欣于2014年4月2日前来霹雳校区主讲《写作的多种选择》。

在自我介绍的环节中，程女士与学生分享了其在金宝和怡保两地中学的求学生涯、在马大中文系的日子、写作爬梯的日子、成家立业的历程以及文化创意产业过程等等的生活点滴。她不忘强调，前述的学习生涯、成家立业的奋斗历程、自我不断成长的生活历程成为了她写作的基石和源泉。

此外，程女士也提及早年加入天狼星诗社，受到诗社导师的鼓励、师兄师姐的指导下，畅游于宽广的文学天地，并在诗社接触和积极学习现代主义文学书写理念和技艺。

随后，程女士清晰地指出“写作的多种选择”，特别是从“小众”之纯文艺创作领域，迈向“大众”的亲情书写，扩大了自身写作的领域。

这些年来，程女士透过报章、部落格、面子书等管道，作为其书写个人的所想所思，且记载生活及生命里的点滴历程。程女士生动地分享她个人每段生命的进程，让中文系的学生们获益匪浅。

拉曼大学多位讲师及约60位学生参与了由华社研究中心所举办以“变迁中的马来西亚和华人社会”为主题的2014年第二届马来西亚华人研究国际双年会。此为期两天的研讨会于2014年6月20日至21日在精英大学理工与艺术学院(吉隆坡校区)进行。

第一天亮相发表论文的拉大成员包括中华研究院副院长

拉大师生参与华研国际双年会

林志敏师、郑文泉师、系主任陈中和师、余曆雄师、曾维龙师、李树枝师、杜忠全师、陈爱梅师和文学与社会科学学院的谢保全师、王淑敏师、沈嘉宝师、陈瑞美师、关志华师及陈慧萍师。第二天亮相的则有中华研究院的方美富师、理



中华研究院院长张晓威(前排右五)及陈爱梅(前排右六)和学生于研讨会正式开始前合影。



余曆雄(左)于会上发表其论文，旁为郑文泉及陈慧萍。

工学院的张运华师及日语老师叶惠师。此外，中文系博士生汤媚媚及硕士生周美芬也于会中发表论文。

余曆雄师在发表会上以拉曼大学为研究对象，发表了以

《铁树开花：拉曼大学中文系十二年论略》为题的论文，尝试从创校建系的时事背景与系史分期之视角切入，探讨拉曼大学中文系十二年的开创与发展。

拉大同侪辅导团赴台交流



学习不忘观光，以更深入地了解当地的文化和环境。

20位拉曼大学同侪辅导员于2014年5月11日至19日赴台参与拉曼大学咨商辅导处所主办为期九天的学习之旅。此行旨在让本校的同侪辅导员与当地的大学生进行与心理辅导相关的交流。

这趟台湾学习之旅让学生们有机会参访了逢甲大学(逢大)及中国文化大学(文大)。这两所大学分别为本校生安排了艺术治疗工作坊、参观咨商辅导中心及提供辅导课程的简介，让学生们对辅导有更深一层的了解。除了艺术治疗工作坊，逢大及文大也开放了其心灵舒压室及辅导辅助器材供本校生参观与体验。

另一方面，本校生也安排了一些游戏以和逢大及文大的学生进行文化交流。与此同时，本校学生代表也以演讲的方式为两校的师生介绍本校的校史以及大马的文化、地理与美食。两场的文化交流会让本校生对于台湾的上课环境、文化、历史与辅导系有更深入的了解。

除了与当地的大学交流之外，本校咨商辅导处也安排了让本校生透过自助旅行的方式，对台湾的本土文化与特色有更深一层的认识。值得一提的是，台湾人的彬彬有礼、对环保意识的重视及文明有序的社会让本校生对台留下了深刻及良好的印象。



本校生与台湾的学生于交流会上相见欢。



# UTAR anjur kursus kemahiran melakar peta minda



Para peserta khusyuk mendengar taklimat daripada pihak penganjur

Seramai 130 warga pendidik dari SMJK Nan Hwa telah menghadiri kursus bertemakan pemikiran kreatif dan kemahiran melakar peta minda bertempat di UTAR Kampus Perak pada 24 Mei 2014. Latihan Dalam Perkhidmatan (LADAP) ini merupakan usahasama antara Fakulti Teknologi Maklumat dan Komunikasi (FICT) dan Bahagian Promosi Program UTAR.

Kursus ini bertujuan untuk memerikan pengetahuan tentang kepentingan kemahiran melakar peta minda dalam proses pengajaran dan pembelajaran serta menunjukkan kaedah melakar peta minda menggunakan komputer. Latihan ini bermula dengan ucapan alu-aluan oleh Ketua Program (Program Pascasiswazah) FICT Dr Khor Siak Wang. Kemudian, para peserta dibahagikan kepada empat kumpulan dan dibawa ke makmal komputer untuk menghadiri sesi latihan bawah bimbingan Dr Khor dan pensyarah

yang lain daripada Jabatan Teknologi Maklumat FICT, iaitu, Lim Ean Heng, Soong Hoong Cheng and Chuah Min Hooi.

“Antara manfaat yang boleh dikecapi oleh para peserta melalui kursus lakaran peta minda ini termasuk memahami bahawa peta minda mampu memberi gambaran keseluruhan mengenai suatu subjek atau topik utama dengan cara yang lebih mudah dan ringkas,” kata Dr Khor. “Kemahiran peta minda merupakan satu kemahiran yang serba guna dan digunakan secara meluas. Berdasarkan sebuah laporan, lebih 250 juta orang di seluruh dunia menggunakan peta minda untuk tujuan perbincangan, mengenal pasti peluang-peluang baru, pengajaran dan pembelajaran,” tambah Dr Khor.

Salah seorang guru, Lin Geak Choo berpendapat bahawa kemahiran melakar peta minda merupakan salah satu kemahiran yang amat berguna untuk para pendidik

dalam sesi pengajaran. Seorang lagi guru, Ling Siew Lean berasa kagum terhadap pensyarah UTAR yang berdedikasi dalam penyampaian maklumat mengenai teknik peta minda. “Para pensyarah dari UTAR amat berpengetahuan. Mereka telah membuat dengan terbaik dengan perkongsian pengetahuan tentang kemahiran melakar peta minda menggunakan sistem berkomputer. Pensyarah-pensyarah UTAR membolehkan kami mempelajari kemahiran tersebut dengan mudah,” kata guru mata pelajaran Matematik Tambahan tersebut.

Selepas tamatnya latihan itu, guru-guru dibawa untuk melawat sekitar kampus UTAR Perak. “Kampus ini memang cantik dan mempunyai persekitaran yang indah. Ia juga merupakan suatu tempat yang kondusif buat para pelajar untuk melanjutkan pelajaran,” kata guru mata pelajaran Geografi Puan Kamelawati Ibrahim.



Para peserta dari SMJK Nan Hwa bergambar di UTAR



Sebahagian daripada peserta yang mengikuti kursus kemahiran melakar peta minda

## UTAR CAMPUSES

### Petaling Jaya Campus

(KPT/JPS/DFT/US/B07)

9 Jalan Bersatu 13/4  
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