



Students in the Bioprocess and Environmental Laboratory



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Perakians had the opportunity to revisit the heyday

of the tin mining industry in Kinta Valley during the inaugural Tin Mining Festival 2015 held at the Kinta Tin Mining (Gravel Pump) Museum, Bandar Baru Kampar on 25 October 2015.

A joint effort by UTAR Centre for Chinese Studies Research (CCSR) Chinese Malaysian and Cultural Studies Unit, the Perak Chinese Mining Association and the Kampar Tin Mining (Gravel Pump) Museum, the Tin Mining Festival 2015's objectives were to enhance the younger generation's knowledge of the country's rich tin mining history as well as to commemorate the contribution of forerunners of the early tin mining industry.

Invited to officiate the event was Second Minister of International Trade and Industry, Dato' Seri Ong Ka Chuan. Also present at the event were Perak Chinese Mining Association Advisor Tan Sri Hew See Tong, Perak Chinese Mining Association President Dato' Chin Lean Choong, All-Malaya Chinese Mining Association Choong Tien Chuan, Dean

Inaugural Tin Mining Festival 2015

of UTAR Institute of Chinese Studies Assoc Prof Dr Chong Siou Wei, and Chairperson of UTAR CCSR-cum-Organising Chairperson Assoc Prof Dr Wong Wun Bin.

"Tin mining industry was taxed heavily by the government when tin price was at its prime and the industry played a pivotal role in shaping the country's modernisation process. Unfortunately, the collapse of the International Tin Agreement in 1985 spelled the end of local tin mining industry,"

explained Dr Wong.

Tan Sri Hew's book titled *The Glittering History of Gravel Pump Mining Industry* (锡日辉煌砂泵采矿工业的历程终结) was launched at the festival. "Through this book, I hope the younger generation as well as generations to come, will be aware that the tin mining industry had built a solid foundation for the nation's economy. Let them not forget the toil, sweat and tears of this history," he mentioned.



Choong, Tan Sri Hew, Dato' Chin, Dr Chong, Dato' Seri Ong, and Dr Wong displaying Tan Sri Hew's book



Dulang washing demonstration

The Faculty of Science and Centre for Biodiversity Research organised the biannual Agriculture Technology Seminar Series XII at UTAR Kampar Campus on 14 November 2015.

Titled 'Advancing Oil Palm Production in Malaysia', the seminar featured discussions ranging from advances achieved in sustaining oil palm production to the challenges faced.

"This is the first time the seminar is solely dedicated to oil palm, which is a cash crop in Malaysia. It'll be interesting to look into striking a balance between increasing oil palm production, sustainable production, and the environment," said Chairperson of Centre for Biodiversity Research Assoc Prof Dr Say Yee How.

Welcoming the 170-strong crowd was Organising Chairperson Prof Dr Ooi Aun Chuan, who said, "This seminar reflects the position of Malaysia as one of the largest producers and exporters of palm oil. The need to sustain growth and production will be addressed by the speakers invited to share their experiences of this important crop."

The five talks on the one-day seminar were 'The Human Resource Challenges in Plantations' by Kuala Lumpur Kepong (KLK) Berhad Head of Human Resource (Plantations) William Yap Kok Lin, 'Advances in Sustainable Research and Development in Oil Palm' by Malaysian Palm Oil Association Director of

Agriculture Technology Seminar Series XII



Group photo of the speakers and the participants

Sustainability, Research and Development Dr Ruslan Abdullah, 'Microbes - The Unseen Heroes and Foes of Oil Palm: The Road to Their Discovery and Elucidation of Their Interactions with the Oil Palm' by Advanced Agriecological Research (AAR) Sdn Bhd Head of the Environmental Microbiology Section Dr Tasreen Nazir

Mahamooth, 'Genetic Strategies for Yield Improvement in Major Crops' by National University of Singapore Assoc Prof Dr Chew Fook Tim, and 'Could Palm kernel shell (PKS) Pyrolytic Acid Play a Role in Soil Reconditioning and Maintaining Sustainable Oil Palm Plantation?' by Director of SULPOM Group Yap Hai San.

UTAR signed an MoU with JobStreet.com aimed at providing students with greater career opportunities at UTAR Sungai Long Campus on 13 November 2015.

This MoU was signed between UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik and JobStreet.com Country Manager of Malaysia and Singapore, Chook Yuh Yng. It was witnessed by UTAR Vice President for Internationalisation and Academic Development Prof Dr Ewe Hong Tat and JobStreet.com Candidate Marketing Manager Catherine Lim.

"I am very pleased to know that this new MoU will open up many more opportunities for both parties to collaborate and promote knowledge exchange, recruitment information, networking, and job opportunity consultation for UTAR students," said Prof Chuah.

"Through this MoU, JobStreet.com will set up a career corner in both UTAR Campuses. It will provide students career information through the university career page at the corner on a monthly basis. And a Jobstreet.com consultant will be stationed at the career corner at least two times a year to assist students," said Chook.

In addition, JobStreet.com will train ten selected UTAR students as Career Assistants

MoU with JobStreet.com



From left: Dr Yong Thian Khok, Dr Lai Soon Onn, Prof Ir Dr Goi Bok Min, Prof Ewe, Prof Chuah, Chook, Lim, Dr Tan Sin Leng, Edmund Teh, and Lim Swea Jen

under the Student Ambassador Programme, tasked with helping their peers on career related matters annually. Both parties have also agreed to organise and participate in joint academic-industrial collaborative activities such as conferences, workshops, publications, and seminars.

UTAR first signed an MoU with JobStreet.com Sdn Bhd in 2010. Since 2010, JobStreet.com has been offering the JobStreet.com Best Graduate Award to the

best student selected from eight UTAR faculties; namely, Lee Kong Chian Faculty of Engineering and Science, Faculty of Creative Industries, Faculty of Accountancy and Management, Faculty of Business and Finance, Faculty of Engineering and Green Technology, Faculty of Arts and Social Science, Faculty of Science, and Faculty of Information and Communication Technology.

The Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS) and the Centre for Chinese Studies Research, Min-nan Cultural Studies Unit jointly hosted the International Conference on Min-nan Culture (拉曼大学闽南文化国际学术研讨会) at Sungai Long Campus on 6 and 7 November 2015.

Present at the opening ceremony were the patron Tan Sri Yeoh Tiong Lay, UTAR Council Member Senator Dato' Dr Hou Kok Chung, UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik, The Federation of Hokkien Associations Malaysia Dato' Khoo Chai Kaa, UTAR ICS Dean and Organising Chairperson Assoc Prof Dr Chong Siou Wei, and local and international participants hailing from China and Taiwan.

Tan Sri Yeoh said, "Though it has been centuries since the migration of our ancestors, the inheritance of Min-nan culture in Malaysia is well preserved through cultural development and education."

"Since the establishment of ICS Centre for Chinese Studies Research, Min-nan Cultural Studies Unit, various forms of effort have been invested through academia such as talks, conferences, and field trips on Min-nan culture to promote local Min-nan culture, as well as to create awareness on local Min-nan development," said Dato' Hou.

"In 2011, Tan Sri Yeoh's fund to ICS totalling RM300,000 helped to initiate

International Conference on Min-nan Culture



Front row, second from left: Prof Chuah, Dato' Hou, Tan Sri Yeoh, Dato' Khoo, and Dr Chong with some delegates from Malaysia, China, and Taiwan

a collaboration with National Quemoy University, National Cheng Kung University, and Xiamen University on a Min-nan cultural research project. Later, the Min-nan Cultural Studies Unit was established in 2012 to boost resource exchange and data collection, and to form a research hub. The outcomes of the researches are invaluable

records of cultural inheritance and serves as archives for future generations."

Topics discussed at the International Conference on Min-nan Culture include Min-nan beliefs, notable Min-nan figures, Min-nan traditions and customs, Min-nan literature and the language, and Min-nan associations.

Fourteen students joined a study tour to National Pingtung University of Science and Technology (NPUST) organised by the Faculty of Science (FSc) from 10 to 16 October 2015.

They were led by FSc Dean Assoc Prof Dr Lim Tuck Meng with the aim to intensify ties with NPUST and broaden learning opportunities for Agricultural Science and Food Science students. NPUST is one of the most reputable universities in Taiwan in this area of study.

The group was received by NPUST Vice President for Education Affairs Prof Dr Hsieh Pao-Chuan. During the reception, Prof Hsieh said that Malaysia is a country rich with natural resources for the development of the agriculture and food industry. "Food is important and synonymous with the survival of human race. Therefore, there is a bright

FSc strengthens ties with NPUST



Students learning about aquaponics



Students at the coffee bean processing laboratory

future for the agriculture and food industry."

The students attended lecture series on aquaculture, mushroom cultivation, and forestry. They also toured the aquaponics facilities, mushroom research and cultivation house, coffee bean processing laboratory, and chocolate-making in the food processing laboratory.

The students also had an unforgettable experience learning how to train dogs to work for the disabled community while visiting NPUST's Working Dog Training

Centre. Another added bonus during the study trip was the opportunity to visit the Pingtung Agricultural Biotechnology Park (PABP) which serves as a hub for various agricultural and biotechnology enterprises. Among the enterprises in PABP visited was the Asia-Pacific Operation Center for Aquaculture and Joben Bio-medical which pioneered the development of medicine derived from a ganoderma species, *Antrodia Cinnamomea*, which is native to Taiwan.

UTAR Faculty of Engineering and Green Technology (FEGT) Dean Dr Yap Vooi Voon, FEGT Deputy Dean for Academic Development and Undergraduate Programmes Dr Ng Choon Aun, and Faculty of Science lecturer Dr Lem Kong Hoong visited MoU partner Tamkang University (TKU) from 5 to 7 November 2015.

On hand to welcome them was TKU College of Engineering (TKUCE) Dean Prof Ho Chii-Dong and Department of Electrical Engineering Prof Lee Wei-Tsong. The UTAR delegates visited TKUCE at the Tamsui Campus on the first day for academic discussions and possible collaborations on dual degree systems. During the visit, they also met TKU Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr Keh Huan-Chao.

On the second day, the UTAR delegates were accompanied by Prof Ho and Prof Lee to the TKU Lanyang Campus. Welcoming them were the Provost of Lanyang Campus Dr Lin Jyh-Horng and members from the College of Global Development.

They were given an introduction of the campus, a campus tour, and a short meeting chaired by Dr Lin to discuss further collaborations. The UTAR delegates were also given the chance to participate in a teaching observation of members of TKU Lanyang Campus.

The next day, the UTAR delegates had a short meeting with TKU President Dr Flora Chang Chia-I before attending the 65th

Visit to Tamkang University



Meeting with Dr Chang (centre)

Anniversary Luncheon of TKU as TKU's honoured guests. Following that, they met with TKU Vice President for International Affairs Dr Tai Wan-Chin for a meeting on collaborations for postgraduate studies, research, internships, and intensive courses.

As a result of the visit, TKU offered scholarships for master programmes

in Electrical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Mathematics, and Physics to UTAR students. Research collaborations were initiated between Dr Yap and Prof Lee on embedded systems, and between Dr Ng and Prof Ho on membrane technology.

Ten cancer survivors showed off their catwalk at the Women in Pink 2015, Let's Pink a Difference charity fashion show held at UTAR Sungai Long Campus on 29 October 2015 in conjunction with Breast Cancer Awareness month organised by Faculty of Creative Industries (FCI) Department of Mass Communication.

"The purpose of today's show is to support those who have struggled with breast cancer. Their participation here today proves that cancer can be overcome," said Organising Chairperson Yew Jolynn.

"Today's effort by National Cancer Council Malaysia (MAKNA) and the FCI students truly represent the spirit of the Ministry of Women, Family, and Community Development, which is empowering women in all aspects including the physical, economic, social, political, and psychological," said Deputy Minister of Women, Family, and Community Development Senator Datin Paduka Chew Mei Fun.

"I'm thankful to the students and organisers for providing a platform for me to build my confidence and self-esteem after an eight-year long battle with breast cancer. The beauty of a person is not defined by physical appearance, but the confidence exuding from within," said Peggy Chin Kim Fong, one of the models.

"Statistics have shown that breast cancer affects one in 31 women in Malaysia. This shows that the disease affects a large segment of the population, and its threatening consequences must not be overlooked," said MAKNA, Cancer Awareness Department Head Nisha Sanita Binti Mohd Norha.

Women in Pink 2015

"The awareness of cancer is increasing among the public, but many are still uninformed regarding the measures to take. The MAKNA Cancer Helpline is manned by clinical staff trained in oncology handling queries on cancer and providing counselling accordingly," she continued.

This event was organised by a team of 11 UTAR Corporate Communication final-year students in partnership with MAKNA and Amber Chia Academy. The UTAR Department of Mass Communication Head Ms Chew Wee Lee and tutor Ms Lim Chai Lee were the advisers of the event.



Gathered beauties who modelled on the catwalk

A total of 32 English Language schoolteachers from 21 Chinese vernacular primary schools attended the Teacher Training Camp held at Kampar Campus from 23 to 25 November 2015.

Jointly organised by UTAR Faculty of Arts and Social Science, Division of Community and International Networking, and Kampar-Gopeng Chinese School Teachers' Association, the camp was aimed to help schoolteachers develop essential knowledge and teaching skills, as well as to educate them on planning interactive English lessons.

During the opening ceremony, Kampar-Gopeng Chinese School Teacher's Association President Foo Yuen Choy reminded the participants that teaching is a prestigious profession, and teachers are often referred to as "Engineers of the human soul". He added, "With the responsibility of educating the younger generation, it is crucial for teachers to be equipped with the necessary skills to become effective disseminators of knowledge."

UTAR Vice President for Student Development and Alumni Relations Assoc Prof Dr Teh Chee Seng concurred, saying, "Being educators, you have the responsibility to help and inspire students. I believe that behind every great student, there is always a great teacher. The practical training and

English camp for educators

sharing will help to explore new approaches and expand existing ones for them to upgrade their teaching skills and strategies."

The training camp consisted of a total of six seminars in six areas, namely 'Strategic Reading', 'Encouraging Creativity during Writing Lessons', 'Teaching English under Challenging Circumstances', 'Using Internet Resources to Teach Speaking and

Listening', 'Teaching of Grammar', and 'English Language Teaching Methodologies - Through the Year'.

"The training camp is very interesting and refreshing at the same time. It's a good platform for all of us to learn some practical tips to be applied in the classroom," said Nur Amelia binti Mohd Nazrin, from SJK (C) Chuang Hua, Kampar.



Participants with the organising committee

Malaysia PR Awards (MPRA) 2014/2015

UTAR Public Relations (PR) Campaign 2014/2015: Volunteerism IV clinched the Bronze Award in the Malaysia PR Awards (MPRA) 2014/2015 held at Nexus 1 Ballroom, Bangsar South City, Kuala Lumpur on 5 November 2015.

Representing the organisers to receive the award was Campaign Main Director Chia Yi Jing, who was accompanied by lecturer-cum-campaign advisor Diong Fong Wei. Both received the award from Andy See Teong Leng, Honorary Secretary of PRCA Malaysia EXCO 2014-2015.

Other finalists included renowned PR agencies such as Essence Burson-Marsteller, Perspectives Strategies, Rantau PR, Weber Shandwick, Strategic Public Relations, Ogilvy Public Relations and others. "To be nominated along with these big names was already an honour. Hence, when we were announced as the Bronze Award winner under the Public Sector Award, it was really an indescribable moment. Furthermore, UTAR is the first institution of higher learning in Malaysia to receive such an award," enthused Diong.

Chia, who is currently in her Second Year, was elated to learn that the painstaking efforts put in by her team members throughout the campaign period from October 2014 to May 2015 paid off. "I'm deeply gratified that the efforts by PR Campaign have been well-recognised by the PR industry. This award will definitely spur me to continue striving and learning from industry experts, and with the intention to create more meaningful contributions to society," Chia said.

PR Campaign 2014/2015: Volunteerism IV is part of the UAMP2023 Event Planning and UAMP2033 Event Management



From left: Chia and Diong receiving the award from See

subject coursework. Themed 'Embracing Volunteerism, Enriching Lives', the campaign consisted of five groups with each championing a different sub-theme, namely 'Road Safety', 'Food Tourism', 'Vandalism', 'Environment', and 'Charity'.

1st runner up in Gamification Hackathon

UTAR students from the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology successfully won the first runner-up in the Gamification Hackathon by SelfDrvn Enterprise held at Menara AIA Capsquare, Kuala Lumpur from 21 to 22 November 2015.

The team Pentagon comprised three Year Three students, namely Lau Kam Chuan from Bachelor of Information Systems Engineering, Lye Guang Xing from Bachelor of Computer Science, and See Ree Na from Bachelor of Communications and Networking. They walked away with a RM2,000 cheque, a Chrome Cast 2 from the lucky draw, and a certificate of participation each.

Lau said, "The competition is about a fairly new concept of gamification, which is to engage users in exploring game-design elements and game principles in a non-game context. We have participated in three hackathons and we think it is the best platform to explore a new technology." He added that working in a team allowed them to have different ideas and points of view in completing their task.

Lau encouraged his juniors to take part in similar competitions to establish their fundamental skills and develop interest in



From left: Product Manager of SelfDrvn Enterprise Abdul Razak Hashim, See, Lau, Lye, and the emcee of the event

trying new things while studying. He also hoped to apply those skills not only in the competition, but also in scenarios in real life.

Besides UTAR, the other participating universities were Asia Pacific University and Universiti Tenaga Nasional. Gamification Hackathon is one of the initiatives by SelfDrvn Enterprise and supported by Nettium Sdn Bhd. This hackathon allowed the participants to creatively

develop applications utilising the elements of gamifications in different aspects of work domains. The 30-hour competition tested the participants in developing innovative solutions using any mainstream programming language and operating system, based on the competition themed 'Gamify Your Work Life'.

Two researchers from the Faculty of Science were among the fourteen recipients of the Science and Technology Research Grant (STRG) funded by the Malaysia Toray Science Foundation (MTSF). Both received their grants at the 22nd MTSF Prize Presentation Ceremony held at the Berjaya Times Square Hotel in Kuala Lumpur on 24 November 2015.

Dr Ong Siew Teng received a RM20,000 research grant for her proposal, titled 'Combination and optimization of sorption and photodegradation processes for various dyes removal'. Dr Ong's co-researcher is Dr Michelle Ng Yeen Tan. In this project, attention is focused on combining both sorption and photodegradation techniques to remove different types of dyes. In addition, the significant variables in affecting the removal process will also be identified and optimised using experimental design.

Dr Ong's continuous effort in research has previously won her the International Foundation for Science (IFS) research grant in 2008. For Dr Ong, receiving this STRG is double happiness as she also won the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) 2015 Travel Award for Chemists from Under-Represented Countries at the IUPAC 2015 World Chemistry Congress held at Busan, Korea recently.

Research scholar Yeoh Loo Yew also received a RM20,000 research grant for his proposal titled 'Protective Roles of Leaves' Anti-oxidative Enzymes

MTSF research grants awarded



From left: Dr Chang, Prof Faidz, Yeoh, Dr Ong and Prof Ewe

in Chloroplastic Electron Transport'. Chloroplasts are organelles involved in oxygenic photosynthesis and biosynthesis of important nutrients. Based on electrochemical principles, scientists have made use of electron transport properties of isolated chloroplasts to build biofuel cells or biosensors. Most researchers use spinach as the source of chloroplasts but since spinach is also a source of food, this study explores the

chloroplastic electron transport properties of leaves that have little commercial value.

Also present at the prize presentation ceremony were UTAR Vice President for Internationalisation and Academic Development Prof Dr Ewe Hong Tat, UTAR Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research Director Prof Dr Faidz bin Abd Rahman and Yeoh's co-researcher Dr Chang Ying Ping.

Champion in Deloitte Tax Challenge 2015

UTAR Faculty of Accountancy and Management final-year student Mah Wen Jian won the first place for the individual category in Deloitte Tax Challenge 2015 held in Maple Junior Ballroom, One World Hotel, Bandar Utama, Selangor on 12 November 2015.

Mah received a RM3,000 cash prize, books on taxation, a one-year online Malaysia Master Tax Guide subscription sponsored by Wolter Kluwer's CCH, a trophy, and an offer from Deloitte Malaysia.

Mah said, "The challenge tested tax knowledge on how to apply the principles and doctrines in the scenarios and case given. It also evaluated the participants on their writing and presentation skills." He added that he gained much knowledge on taxation during his internship and that he joined this challenge to expand his experience. Mah thanked his lecturers at UTAR who provided guidance and meaningful tips during his participation in the challenge.

He hopes that his winning will motivate his fellow classmates and juniors to explore beyond boundaries and gain new experiences and knowledge by participating in competitions. Mah will be representing Malaysia in the Deloitte Southeast Asia Region Competition to be held early next year.

Besides UTAR, the other participating universities were Tunku Abdul Rahman University College, Sunway University, and Universiti Sains Malaysia.

Organised by Deloitte, the Deloitte Tax Challenge is an annual



From left: Deloitte Tax Country Leader Yee Wing Peng, Mah, and Deloitte Country Manager Tan Then Hooi

tax-based competition aimed to encourage students from higher learning institutions to hone their tax knowledge as well as improve writing, speaking, and presentation skills.



Certificate of Appreciation

Best Employer Award by KWSP

UTAR has been awarded the Best Employer Award, under Kajang district, by *Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja* (KWSP). The university proudly received the Certificate of Appreciation from KWSP Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Operations) Dato' Mohd Naim Daruwish at the Best Employer Award Ceremony of KWSP Selangor on 27 October 2015.

UTAR was represented by Division of Human Resource Director Wong Lee Lan. "It is a great pleasure to be appreciated as one of the four best employers in Kajang as UTAR has been putting great effort in taking care of its employees' welfare, among others, by

providing an 18 percent EPF contribution as well as medical and hospitalisation benefits. The award just came so unexpectedly and we were so surprised," said Wong.

KWSP, also known as the Employees Provident Fund (EPF), stated that the criteria UTAR met for being awarded as the Best Employer are its systematic and prompt remittance of contributions, no record of late payment since its establishment, high monthly EPF contributions from the university, as well as the use of electronic payment system via e-contribution for the monthly remittance of contributions to EPF.

Vice President elected as ASM Fellow

UTAR Vice President for Internationalisation and Academic Development Prof Dr Ewe Hong Tat was elected as an Academy of Science Malaysia (ASM) Fellow for his contributions in microwave remote sensing of environment during the 20th Annual General Meeting held on 25 April 2015.

Prof Ewe is a well-known researcher in Microwave Remote Sensing in Malaysia. Among his contributions are the development of microwave remote sensing models for vegetation and the development of applications to provide predictions of paddy yield and the monitoring of oil palm growth.

"In Earth science, remote sensing refers to the ability of airborne or spaceborne sensors to detect electromagnetic radiation or scattered energy from subjects on the Earth's surface," said Prof Ewe.

He has also been involved in microwave sensing research in Antarctica with theoretical development and sea ice thickness retrieval model. Various classification algorithms based on methods such as multifractal, support vector machine, and entropy decomposition have also been developed and applied on satellite image processing and classification.

"Microwave has the ability to penetrate through cloud or fog and it is suitable to be used for remote sensing of Earth's terrain by remote sensing satellites. In addition, for active remote sensing sensor, it can operate at any time and is independent from the Sun as an illumination source," he continued.

Earth terrain, such as vegetation and sea ice, can be modelled by a multilayer physical configuration with embedded distribution of scatterers of various shapes, sizes, and orientations. Theoretical models developed study the interaction of microwave with the scattering mechanisms and media involved,



Prof Ewe

and also calculate the scattered energy received by the satellite sensors. This can be compared with the satellite images recorded, from which various applications can be developed for user communities to utilise the remote sensing data for problems such as monitoring of crops, paddy yield prediction, landuse classification, sea ice extent and thickness distribution, and vegetation biomass estimation.

Besides his research, Prof Ewe has worked with JobStreet.com for the development of intelligent job matching algorithms to serve its users in Malaysia and other countries. He has been a consultant or advisor for several listed companies and startups.

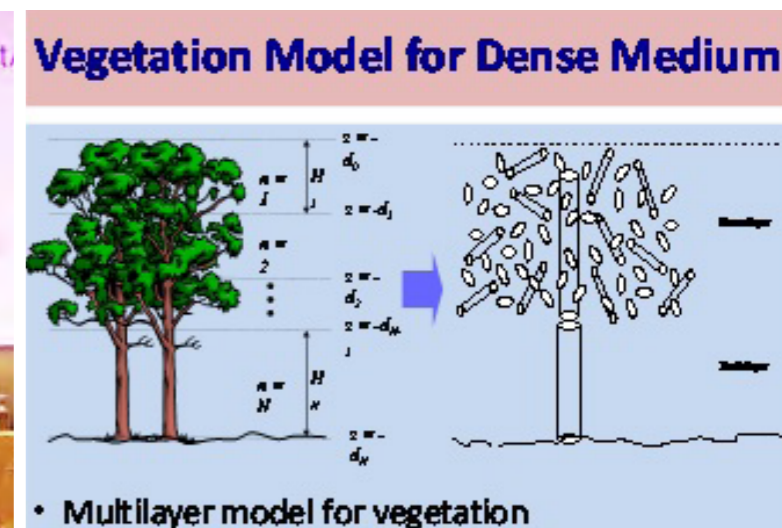
Some of his achievements include a Gold Medal at Expo Science and Technology 2003 by the Ministry of

Science, Technology and Innovation, 2004 Research Innovation Award by the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit, Young Scientist Award 1996 by International Union of Radio Science (URSI), a Gold Medal at the 32nd International Exhibition of Inventions 2004 in Geneva, The Outstanding Young Malaysian Award 2005 - Academic Leadership and Accomplishment Category by Junior Chamber International Malaysia, and The Toray Science and Technology Award by Malaysian Toray Science Foundation in 2011.

Besides serving as UTAR's Vice President for Internationalisation and Academic Development, he is also the President of MIT Club of Malaysia, an Educational Counselor of MIT, and a Malaysian Qualification Agency Council Member.



Prof Ewe receiving his award



Modelling dense vegetation with distribution of scatterers

Faculty of Engineering and Green Technology
Head of Department of Environmental

Engineering Dr Sumathi a/p Sethupathi was chosen as the Green Award Country Winner for Malaysia in the ASEAN Green Award 2015 held on 30 November 2015 at Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

In addition, she was also second runner-up in the ASEAN Green Award Grand Winner category. As a recipient of the Green Award Country Winner, Dr Sumathi received a trophy and USD1,000 cash prize, while as second runner-up in the ASEAN Green Award Grand Winner category, she received USD2,000 and another trophy. A gala dinner was held at the Shangri-La Hotel during which the awards were presented to the various winners from ASEAN nations comprising Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Singapore, Thailand, and the Philippines.

Dr Sumathi's research work focused on sustaining our Earth's resources by finding alternative resources through waste. She reutilises solid waste such as fishery waste, egg shells, and palm oil mill biomass, and converts them into value added products such as chitosan, biochar, activated carbon, and adsorbents. She is also using the value added products to solve other environmental problems such the removal of dyes, oil, and heavy metals from wastewater, and the absorption of air pollutants such as sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides.

She is also active in educating youths on environmental awareness. She runs campaigns and awareness programmes

Win at ASEAN Green Award 2015



Dr Sumathi's proud moment of recognition

to youths on Ecological Footprint, the importance of the environment, how to sustain it, and how to overcome environmental problems by applying green concepts. By reducing waste, our ecological footprint will indirectly be decreased.

"People say that sustainability is the key to the resources of the next generation but I believe that wastes are the resources to build a more sustainable future," added Dr

Sumathi.

The ASEAN Green Award was held for the fifth time since 2011 to promote the concept of green growth in ASEAN member countries. The ASEAN Academy of Engineering and Technology and the Malaysia-China Chamber of Commerce had jointly initiated the Annual ASEAN Green Award for the younger generation in ASEAN countries.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education was promoted among students through the Kuala Lumpur Engineering Science Fair (KLESF): The Fair 2015 from 30 October to 1 November at the MINES International Exhibition and Convention Centre (MIECC).

KLESF: The Fair 2015



Students from different schools sharing about their projects

The fair was launched by the Science Adviser to the Prime Minister Prof Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid. He was accompanied by the Chairman of the Steering Committee of KLESF and ASEAN Academy of Engineering and Technology (AAET) President Ir Datuk Hong Lee Pee, Co-chairman of Steering Committee on KLESF and Malaysia Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) President Datuk Dr Mohd Yusoff Sulaiman, Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) President and MIGHT Joint Chairman Tan Sri Dr Ir Ahmad Tajuddin Ali, UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik, Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCIM) President Datuk Ter Leong Yap, and Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Assistant Vice Chancellor President Prof Dato' Dr Abu Bakar Abdul Jamid.

In his speech at the launch, Prof Tan Sri Zakri emphasised, "STEM is at the heart of modern life and provides the foundations for economic prosperity. The purpose of driving STEM education is not only to create economic opportunity for individuals, but also to provide the fuel needed to power a science and technology-driven economy. Science is everyday life and we have to see it as a catalyst to the country's development. I'm glad to witness the partnership between industries and academia for the future generation of scientists and engineers."

Also present at the launch were KLESF steering committee members Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM) Immediate Past President Ir Choo Kok Beng and UTAR Vice



Launch of KLESF: The Fair 2015



Prof Tan Sri Zakri (second from left) shaking hand with a robot at the exhibition hall

President for R&D and Commercialisation Prof Ir Dr Lee Sze Wei; AAET fellows from Thailand, Cambodia, and the Philippines; representatives from industries, sponsors, and the media; teachers and students from schools and higher learning institutions; as well as members of the public.

UTAR, AAET, MIGHT, and IEM jointly organised KLESF: The Fair 2015 with the primary goal to boost school students' interest in STEM subjects. The fair also aimed to create awareness among Malaysians as well as the participation of industry players in promoting STEM education and development. It is also the aspiration of KLESF to raise awareness among students and the Malaysian community on STEM education's role in Malaysia's socio-economic well-being and sustainable development.

"There is increasing concern of the waning interest of students towards sciences in recent years. Recent studies show Malaysia needs 60 percent of school

and university students to pursue STEM for strong socio-economic development. Over the last 18 months, Prof Lee and I had visited many schools in East and West Malaysia to promote STEM education. It's sad to have learnt that merely 30 percent or less of students are in science stream in most schools we visited. I have told students, teachers, and parents on many occasions: studying STEM doesn't mean that you have to become a scientist or engineer. Studying STEM is the best way of developing your analytical capability and capacity, as well as logical thinking skills. And not just for a career in STEM as these are transferrable skills that are required in other fields," said Datuk Hong in his address.

Datuk Dr Mohd Yusoff elaborated that many students and teachers are not fully aware of the importance of STEM education corresponding to the present and future industrial demands. "Currently, there are some 50,000 engineering vacancies in

the industry. Many surveys also indicated that approximately 80 percent of jobs in the future require STEM knowledge and skills. In view of that, KLESF is one of the initiatives to encourage younger generations to love STEM subjects and be inspired by what STEM can do beyond STEM per se."

"My children have been very excited about this fair as they have the chance to see and interact with robots in real life. They love the hands-on activities such as science experiments and programming workshops too. As a parent, I'm really happy to see them learning while having fun," said Mandi, a visitor from the United States.

The fair saw over 100 schools and universities' participate. More excitingly, the fair welcomed the participation of ASEAN delegates from the Philippines, Cambodia, and Thailand to showcase their STEM projects and share their experience with Malaysians. An 11-year-old student from Cambodia, Hut Meylang said, "This is my first visit to Malaysia. Besides sharing the project outcomes of our team, I also made new friends at the fair. It's really amazing that I can learn beyond reading a textbook and build a robot on the spot!"

"Many of the booths here exhibit things that I've seen from books or the internet. It's really an eye-opening opportunity for me to explore more about Science," said Premeetha Madnavan, a Form Four student.

"An instructor taught me how to use latex to create an art craft just now. I'm very impressed by technological advancements and their application in the industries via innovation and creativity," said Mohammad



STEM-related activities at the fair: testing out virtual reality goggles, tapping a rubber tree, and walking on bamboo stilts



Farizuan, a student from SMK Tasek Utara 2, Johor Bahru.

KLESF is part of the Science To Action initiative announced by the Prime Minister in 2013 to mainstream the usage and understanding of science to society and promote innovation and technology as one of the strategic reform initiatives for national development. Under KLESF, other programmes such as the KLESF Mentorship Development Programme, Symposium on Science Education, and KLESF-Petrosains Workshop, have groomed educators to be more effective and efficient in teaching STEM to children.

"The Cambodian Government would like to emulate our Fair in Phnom Penh. The Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia has appointed our AAET Fellow Dr Meas Sokhom, who is also the Chairman of AAET

Cambodia Chapter, to organise the Phnom Penh Engineering Science Fair (PPESF)," Datuk Hong announced. Besides, KLESF will host the Asia Science Camp (ASC) in conjunction with KLESF 2017. The ASC is to enlighten science-talented youths through close interaction with top STEM scholars in the world, and to promote international friendship and cooperation among the best students of the next generation in Asia.

The fair culminated with the prize-giving ceremony to the winners of the KLESF International Challenge 2015 competition. KLESF: The Fair 2015 was supported by ASM, ACCCIM, the Ministry of Education Malaysia, *Majlis Profesor Negara*, Malaysia Communications and Multimedia Commission, and *Institut Fizik Malaysia*.



Schoolchildren conducting a science experiment



One of the popular booths at the fair



Child interacting with robots



Learning through experience



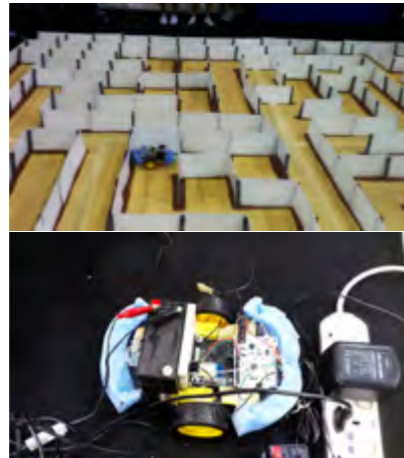
Students standing on the "floating concrete", a lightweight concrete infill buoyant system, a project of UTAR staff Ir Dr Low Kaw Sai



Making art crafts using latex



The Maze Runner creators, from left: Jun Kang, Zhi Hao, Shawn, Chia Sheng, Steven, Lit Wei, and Chun Wei



The maze and the robot car



Creations by Malaysia Origami Association

KLESF: The Fair 2015 promoted interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education among students, the industry, and the public. The Fair showcased hundreds of experiments, exhibits, and creations presented by individuals, schools, colleges, universities, corporations, NGOs, ministries, organisations, and international partners. It was a showcase of amazing creativity and innovation involving multiple skills in engagement, concentration, and execution. The Fair was a hive of activity with much enthusiasm and energetic presentations from the participants.

Among the many interesting creations at the Fair was the Maze Runner-The Robot Trials, a fun robot car race in a maze set up by UTAR students from the Lee Kong Chian Faculty of Engineering and

Creations at KLESF

Science. This group of engineering students, consisting of Jun Kang, Zhi Hao, Shawn Goh, Saw Chia Sheng, Steven Lee, Tan Lit Wei, and Chuah Chun Wei, built five robot cars in three days to showcase at the Fair. The robot cars were designed and built to utilise the mobile Android operating system, which controls the car movements using wireless Bluetooth technology. Anyone with an Android smartphone can just install the app and connect to the robot cars to run them through the maze without the need for a special remote controller.

Many other creations at the Fair showcased ingenuity and passion in the projects presented.



The Elite Water Venturer



From left: Kok Fu Jie, Naomi Ong, and Lee Zheng Xuar from Kuen Cheng High School with their aquaponics project converting fish tank waste into nutrients for plants



Gamuda showcasing their SMART tunnel system



Malay College Kuala Kangsar Form 1 students Muhammad Faris Mohd Fikri (left) and Muhammad Al-Aziz Abdul Shukor and their creation - the multi function and multi-purpose robotic bed for the aged and handicapped, under the CareJ Project



Tzu Chi Foundation Malaysia showcasing their handicrafts promoting recycling and conservation of the environment



MyMaker robot model

It was truly a proud moment for a team of five UTAR students from Kampar Campus when they were announced as champion in Mountain Dew's 'Dew Challenge - DoTA 2' tournament under the category of two-stage college/university challenge held at the Orange Esports Stadium in Setapak from 7 to 8 November 2015.

The tournament organised by Mountain Dew Malaysia had attracted a total of 16 teams from several institutions of higher learning in the country to compete in Defense of the Ancients 2 (DoTA 2).

The team's determination and enthusiasm paid off when they bested the 15 other teams and bagged RM1,500 for the grand prize. The team also received an additional cash prize worth RM250 for the internal university challenge prize.

The team comprised Entrepreneurship student Yong Say Fong, Computer Engineering student Chai Mun Hong, Accounting student Ang Boon Liang, Environmental Engineering student Tay Kok Sheng, and Foundation in Arts student Wong Meng Kit.

One of the winners, Yong enthused, "DoTA 2 is one of the most popular digital games among young people, especially university students. It is a strategic game that requires tremendously high teamwork and skill. Instead of just playing it at home,

Champion in Dew Challenge



Clockwise from top left: Chai, Tay, Yong, Ang, and Wong at the tournament

we felt that it is a great opportunity for us to join a huge tournament like this as we could improve our skills and gain more experience."

The team was also chosen to compete in the National Group Stage challenge which

was held from 4 to 5 December 2015. The team then competed against 24 other teams who qualified from regional categories from Penang, Kuantan, Johor Bahru, as well as Kuala Lumpur and Selangor.

UTAR year-three Biomedical Science student T. Siroshini bagged the second prize of the Young Scientist Network-Academy of Sciences Malaysia (YSN-ASM) 2nd Creative Science Writing Competition, organised by the Science Journalism Committee of the YSN-ASM.

Siroshini took home RM700 and a certificate for her efforts. She received her rewards from the Acting CEO of ASM Hazami Habib at a prize giving ceremony held on 2 November 2015 in Menara Matrade, Kuala Lumpur.

Siroshini emerged as winner of the national level essay competition, themed 'Climate Change', with her essay titled 'When There Is No Turning Back', drawing on the memory of floods which occurred back in 2014. Participants were required to write an 800-word discourse on environmental issues and rapid climate change dilemmas.

Her essay focused on the risk of water-borne pathogens that flow into sources of drinking water, resulting in the transmission of

diseases such as typhoid fever, cholera, leptospirosis, melioidosis, malaria, and dengue. Adding on, she emphasised that contaminated water from floods is a highly conducive environment for bacterial growth and encourages many more potential diseases.

Siroshini enthused, "My essay might stand out among the rest due to the information related to our country Malaysia, which are not widely known by the public. Apart from that, using simple English could draw the public's attention to read and understand the content better as this issue should be spread to the young and old; and to the educated and uneducated. Furthermore, the impact of my story may be greater to the many victims of floods as they identify parallels with what they are reading, and therefore find it more interesting and relevant."

She added, "Applying the knowledge gained from the university syllabus helped in the understanding and explanations of the diseases."

Second in essay competition



Siroshini (right) receiving her award from Hazami Habib

Silver and bronze in table tennis

Edward Ling Hung Hui, a member of the UTAR table tennis team who participated in the *Kejohanan Ping Pong IPT 2015*, secured the silver medal for the men's individual event of the tournament held at the Sports Complex of Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM) in Malacca from 30 September to 5 October 2015.

Ling, an Accounting student at the Faculty of Business and Finance, also took home a cash prize of RM200 and a certificate for his achievement at the tournament, which was officiated by UTeM's Head of Division of Sports Centre Dr Asiah binti Hj Mohd Pilus.

His silver-winning feat was followed by UTAR Marketing student Soong Jun Fai and Logistics

and International Shipping student Koh Wei Yong who together secured the bronze medal in the men's double event. Both the players also took home a cash award of RM150 and a certificate each for their achievement.

Organised for the sixth time by the Ministry of Education Malaysia in collaboration with UTeM, the annual national level tournament attracted the participation of 31 teams from local public and private higher learning institutions.

The other players who represented UTAR in the tournament were Foundation student Lee Kai Ni and Information Systems Engineering student Lee Saik Seong.



Winners (background, from left) Soong, Koh, and Ling posing with their medals while team manager Adrin Yeap Wai Kuan (background, far right) and other UTAR players look on

Twenty-seven students from the Department of Architecture and Sustainable Design (DASD) and Lee Kong Chian Faculty of Engineering and Science (LKC FES) won four out of the six categories they competed in at the 27th Architectural Students Workshop held at Limkokwing University of Creative Technology from 20 to 24 October 2015.

Organised by the Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM) and themed 'Future Is Now', the students proved themselves by winning first place for Portal 3D Model Expression, first runner-up for their video production 'Aftermath', as well as two honorary mentions for stage performance and photography.

The students invested two weeks of their semester break on intensive preparations. They were guided by DASD staff, acclaimed stage actress Pearly Chua (*Emily of Emerald Hill*), and dancer Tan Bee Hung.

The students demonstrated great enthusiasm and admirable team work. Throughout the process, they also enjoyed the spirit of camaraderie and interactions with participants from other universities. This being UTAR's third year participating, the participants faced off against other institutions including Taylor's University, Universiti Sains Malaysia, International Islamic University Malaysia, University Putra Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, and more.

The workshop was initiated by Limkokwing University Vice President Emeritus Professor Datuk Parid Wardi Sudin in 1987, serving to gather and share knowledge between public and private institutions for more sustainable and efficient architectural designs.

Win at Architectural Students Workshop



The students with their prizes

Ten medals in wushu tournament

UTAR Wushu team reached new heights of excellence in winning a total of 10 medals in the Intersarsity Wushu Championship 2015 held at the Health Campus of Universiti Sains Malaysia in Kelantan (USMCK) from 14 to 15 November 2015.

A 10-member team of UTAR Wushu virtuosos from Kampus did the university proud by winning four gold, three silver, and three bronze medals. The team also won the overall second place award as well as a cash prize worth RM500 at the competition organised by the Wushu Club of Health Campus of Universiti Sains Malaysia.

The four gold medals were raked in by Marketing student Liou Yik Wei, Entrepreneurship student Ng Keng Yit and Statistical Computing and Operations Research student Hoo Jia Ming. Liou clinched two gold medals in the men's individual events, namely, southern broadsword and southern fist. His golden feat was followed by Ng who garnered a gold medal in the men's traditional long weapon event. Meanwhile, Hoo secured a gold medal in the women's traditional fist event.

The silver medallists were again Ng, Advertising student Lau Min Jian, and again Liou for the men's traditional fist, changquan, and southern staff events respectively. The bronze medallists were Construction Management student Chong Kah Wai and Lau again in the women's individual traditional fist and men's individual broadsword events respectively. Another bronze medal was awarded to UTAR for the overall group's event.

Hoo said, "I am very happy that I won a gold medal for the



UTAR representative Chong (second from left) as the first-runner up posing for a photo with USMCK officials and other winners

university. Hard work was essential for us to produce an outstanding performance in this championship." Hoo added that the team had spent a lot of time training together and worked hard for the championship.

The two-day annual intersarsity championship which was organised to promote wushu sports among university and college students had attracted participation from a total of 10 institutions of higher learning.

UTAR Master of Psychology (Industrial and Organisational Psychology) student K. Sanggari won the Bronze Idea Category Award under the category of best ideas presented in the 8th International Student Based Conference (ISBC) held at INTI International College in Penang on 17 October 2015.

Sanggari, who is also a tutor in UTAR's Department of Psychology and Counselling, submitted her paper titled 'Relationship between Different Types of Employee Recognition and Turnover among Employees in Hospitality Industry' to ISBC, which went along with her idea on 'Employee Recognition Programme', and resulted in a bronze award.

She received a certificate of achievement and took home a cash prize of RM300. Her research was aimed to design and implement effective measures to overcome the high turnover problem in the hospitality industry, as well as to reduce costs associated with employees' turnover.

"It was my first ever external paper presentation and I'm glad to say that I won an award for it. I would like to convey a heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor Wirawahida binti Kamarul Zaman who has guided me and provided me with the best support throughout. Moreover, I also would like to thank my friends Hema Mathavan and Shattiakumar Krisnan for standing by my side even in the worst situations just for me to complete this research," said Sanggari.

Themed 'Sustainable Future' and organised by INTI International College Penang, the conference was aimed to encourage participants, especially academics, to present ideas for achieving sustainability and constant development in research, as well as to create a platform for academics from around the world to network and share their research findings.

The conference saw the participation of several international academics from countries as far afield as India, Taiwan, and the Philippines.

Bronze in 8th ISBC



Sanggari (right) receiving the award from INTI International College Penang Chief Executive and Principal Dr Michael Yap

Forty-three UEC-UTAR Scholarship and UTAR Scholarship for Royal Military College (RMC) recipients met with UTAR Council Chairman Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik over tea at UTAR Sungai Long Campus on 6 November 2015.

"Today is a celebration of your achievements in school. You understand that education is the way forward in today's highly globalised world. UTAR is proud to reward you for your tireless efforts with hopes that you will contribute to society with the knowledge you gain here," said Tun Ling.

The recipients are entitled to full waiver of tuition fees and a RM500 monthly allowance for living expenses throughout

the tenure of the scholarship.

Bachelor of Accounting student Chua Yee Ling said the scholarship, introduced by her teacher at Kuen Cheng High School, Kuala Lumpur, helped to reduce her family's financial burden and brought her dream of becoming an accountant one-step closer.

"I'm glad UTAR recognised my Unified Examination Certificate certificate; I felt appreciated by the university," she said with a smile.

RMC graduate Sathya Nagendran, said the scholarship given by UTAR

Scholarships awarded

is a recognition and celebration of his achievements at RMC. Sathya, who is also pursuing his Bachelor of Accounting, added that UTAR's accounting programme is comprehensive and its recognition by various international professional bodies affirmed his decision to join the programme.

This tea meeting was organised by the Office of Council Chairman and Division of Examinations, Awards, and Scholarships annually.



Front row, from left: UTAR Vice President for Internationalisation and Academic Development Prof Dr Ewe Hong Tat, UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik, Tun Ling, Toh Puan Ena Ling, and UTAR Vice President for Student Development and Alumni Relations Assoc Prof Dr Teh Chee Seng posing with the recipients

Lee Kong Chian Faculty of Engineering and Science (LKC FES) students organised the Cut for Hope fundraising event, under the Social Entrepreneurship Project as part of their curriculum, at the Multipurpose Hall of Sungai Long Campus from 18 to 19 November 2015.

The goals of the event were to increase the awareness of the public towards cancer patients and to raise funds for poverty-stricken cancer patients from the Children's Home of Hope.

The engineering students collaborated with EDY's Place Hair Studio to provide the haircut services. To widen the range of services, a make-up artist and a manicurist were also invited to provide eyebrow shaping services and express manicures. RM10 was collected for each haircut and manicure, whereas RM5 was charged for eyebrow shaping.

The reason for the low prices was to encourage larger crowds of people to participate in the campaign as 50 percent of the earnings would be donated to Children's Home of Hope.

In addition, a wide variety of snacks and stationeries were sold at very low prices to attract people to this charity event. The total profit earned from the two-day event would be donated in support of the cancer patients.

Other students from LKC FES and Faculty of Accountancy and Management also put in their efforts for the Social Entrepreneurship Project by selling plants, handmade ring charms and other activities.

Another fund-raising event 'Locks of Hope' was held concurrently by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences students whereby donors were sought to donate their hair to be turned into wigs for cancer patients going through chemotherapy. This time, the students collaborated with hairstylists from Hair Atelier to put their efforts together. A donation of at least 15cm long hair was the requirement for all donors.

Cut for Hope



Hairstylists doing their bit for charity

English and IT tuition for students

In an effort to make meaningful contributions and bring education to the less fortunate, UTAR collaborated with ECM Libra to organise an eight-month comprehensive English and IT Tuition Programme for primary school students from SJK (C) Thung Hon and SJK (C) Jeram in Kampar. The two schools were identified from the UTAR New Village Community Project.

Conducted since March 2015 by UTAR Department of Soft Skills Competency (DSSC), and ending with a closing ceremony at UTAR Kampar Campus on 22 November 2015, the programme was aimed to boost the school students' English Language and IT proficiency and intensify their understanding in the subjects.

Invited to grace the closing ceremony were UTAR Vice President for Student Development and Alumni Relations Assoc Prof Dr Teh Chee Seng, UTAR Faculty of Information and Communication Technology lecturer Dr Lau Phooi Yee, DSSC Head Hee Chwen Yee, SJK (C) Thung Hon Headmaster Sam Chee Chong, representative of SJK (C) Jeram Hoi Jung Yhee, UTAR



Participants from SJK (C) Thung Hon with UTAR staff and student volunteers

student volunteers, staff, school students, and parents.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr Teh said, "On behalf of UTAR, I would like to thank ECM Libra for its generous contribution towards promoting education and mastery of languages, especially amongst the young. This is a good opportunity for schools and young students from new villages to learn and equip themselves with the right education and essential knowledge to ensure continual growth in future."

The English Tuition programme focused primarily on the teaching of listening,

speaking, reading, and writing skills to the school students. Apart from indoor learning, the students also engaged in interactive activities such as storytelling, grammar lessons, English language-related games, reading aloud, and singing action songs to motivate students' interest in English. Meanwhile, the components of the IT Tuition programme were the indoor class training on some basic programming and animation skills. Both English and IT classes were conceptualised as an educational yet enjoyable platform to encourage students' to be dynamic, creative, and innovative.

Raising funds for needy families

A team of five final-year Journalism students from the Faculty of Arts and Social Science (FAS) raised funds to help the poor celebrate Deepavali recently.

The team comprising K. Yuevitra, Sean Chandrakumar, Shobina Brapakaran, Rufina Merry Ambrose, and Kwan Lee Wam handed over a donation of RM3,000 in cash and goods to three needy families in Kampung Labu Kuchi, Kampar.

The students aimed to provide long-term support as well as hope to assist the families by paying their children's school fees through the project, titled '#UTARJRDeepavaliCharity2015'.

The charity project was supported by UTAR Journalism



UTAR students, lecturers, and sponsors with one of the needy families



Dr Samuel (right) handing over some cash and groceries to one of the recipients

Department Head Dr Ihediwa Samuel, and two Journalism lecturers, Dr Tan Huey Pyng and Teh Boon Teck.

The students also helped the families with basic necessities including groceries, clothing, and some cash.

Dr Samuel said, "I am very proud and indeed it was really exciting to see the Journalism students apply the knowledge they learned in the classroom to help the poor." He added, "I hope the Journalism lecturers will work together to encourage Journalism students to organise and participate in more benevolent activities in future."

The students successfully raised the funds in just three days through social media, mainly Facebook, and by collecting donations from the UTAR and Kampar community.

中华大讲堂 系列讲座

为了回馈社区与校友，拉曼大学中华研究院从2015年7月29日起，举办“中华大讲堂”系列讲座会。活动于每两周的周三举办一次，并由拉曼大学的讲师以及各界中文学者以学术性和平易性，雅俗共赏的讲座方式，分享各自的研究成果。

中华大讲堂系列讲座（五）：生命意识与挽歌书写

主讲人：中华研究院中文系助理教授潘筱蓓博士
日期：2015年10月28日



主讲人为与会者简介了挽歌的定义、挽歌起源以为讲座揭开序幕。挽歌是哀悼死者之歌，它也体现诗人对人生的体悟，而其起源有三种说法：（一）先秦说。《诗经·秦风·黄鸟》哀悼秦穆公以“三良”殉葬；（二）春秋战国说。据《左传·哀公十一年》，公孙夏在激战前让士卒高唱送葬挽歌《虞殡》；（三）汉代说。田横自杀，其门人以挽歌《薤露》、《蒿里》哀悼他。

尔后，主讲人讲解了各个时期的挽歌书写。汉代挽歌以“薤露”喻生命短促，“蒿里”则象征黄泉。《薤露》、《蒿里》说明魂魄是相区分的，人死精魄归于泰山、梁甫、蒿里。建安时期，文人挽歌以拟古题写新内容。曹操《薤露》以时代变乱为契机，将个人对生命的感伤融入到大生命的关怀中；曹植的《薤露》则抒发对建功立业的渴望。魏晋南北朝时期，陆机的《挽歌》三首对生命的态度是严肃与执著，有浓厚的哀死倾向；陶渊明的《拟挽歌辞》三首体现道家超脱的生死观。明朝时期，张岱《和挽歌辞三首》之一则表达对儒家三不朽的追求，具深沉的生命意识。

挽词、挽诗、挽联都是在挽歌的基础上发展而来的，而差别在于挽歌主声，而挽词、挽诗、挽联主文。马来西亚古典诗人所作的挽词之生命意识则倾向于儒家思想，仰望功德伟业。

问答环节中，主讲人和与会者针对挽歌形式及其所反映的生命观进行交流。挽歌无固定形式，古典诗人创作的挽诗多会承古代挽歌的模式，而历代挽歌所表现的不同生命观，对大家则有一定的启发。

中华大讲堂系列讲座（六）：出版环境与马来西亚少年小说

主讲人：中华研究院中文系助理教授廖冰凌博士
日期：2015年11月11日

首先，主讲人带领与会者回顾马华儿童文学的发展史，始于20年代的五四新文化运动期间所提倡的“救救孩子”、“以幼者为本位”等文学思潮，再到抗日时期的南来文人阶段，战后的反黄运动期间，以及独立前后的儿童文学发展概况。

主讲人特别厘清了“儿童文学”和“少年小说”两者的界定，从心智、语言能力、审美能力、文学题材、文学形式、作者身份、读者对象等各层面予以辨识两者的内涵属性与特色。随后，她从政治与政策、全球性影视文化、奖项设置、出版与流通等四大面相切入主题来讨论我国的出版环境与生态，并深入浅出地揭示出我国教育政策3M制度与华资出版社的相互关系、《哈利波特》效应带动阅读风气、因创作比赛而产生作者与读者的出版配套、书局网购的竞争与合作等所形成的出版生态对我国少年小说发展所造成的影响。

随后，她也简介了马来西亚少年小说的现状，并以精彩图片介绍了红蜻蜓、嘉阳一阅读天地、马来亚文化一大树系列、彩虹七彩书屋、合力、大将等书局所出版的一些少年小说。

在互动环节中，与会者分别从少年小说是否含括一般定义的文学作品、出版环境与少年小说发展二者间的互动影响等各方面与主讲人进行进一步的讨论。



中医系到访古晋义诊及健康讲座

本着走入基层，向民众开展中医中药义诊服务，传播中医文化、普及健康知识，并宣传拉曼大学中医课程的理念，拉曼大学医学与保健科学中医系的王兴华教授、吴南民副教授与课程宣导处职员萧俊杰及谭涌学于2015年10月27日到访砂拉越古晋开展了为期两天的中医义诊及健康讲座之旅。

他们到访了古晋中华第三中学和古晋中华第四中学，并针对学校师生的健康问题给予指导，以及拟定个性化防治方案。另外，王兴华教授还为民众主讲了以“‘三高’的预防和治疗”为题的健康讲座，藉此提升民众对三高（高血压、高血糖与高血脂）的危机意识。

在讲座中，王教授提及三高的形成，除了遗传之外，生活方式与饮食习惯也是促成三高的元凶。据他的观察，不少人早餐吃得少，晚餐吃得好，这恰与中医养生背道而驰。他认为早餐应该吃得好，如肉类比较适宜在早上进食；晚餐吃得少，如以蔬菜、水果等为主要食材。另外，他鼓励大家多吃粗粮，少吃加工食品，同时注重饮食的均衡。

两天的义诊活动里，两位教授为出席的民众把脉义诊，提供健康咨询，更受到了民众的好评。



拉大团队于古晋中华第四中学；左起：萧俊杰、王兴华、官晨阳、吴南民及谭涌学。



古晋中华第三中学校长李志鹏（右）赠送纪念品给拉曼大学中医系王兴华（中）和吴南民（左）。



王兴华为民众主讲以“‘三高’的预防和治疗”为题的健康讲座。



黄兴华（坐者右五）在健康讲座后与民众合影；坐者右起官晨阳、吴南民。

Program khidmat masyarakat

Jabatan Kompetensi Kemahiran Insaniah (DSSC) UTAR bersama-sama dengan *Frog Asia Sdn Bhd* telah menganjurkan dua buah program khidmat masyarakat bertempat di *Creative Learning and IT Centre (CLiC)*, UTC Sentul pada 13 September 2015.

Program pertama yang bertajuk '*Fun and Maths Science*' telah dikendalikan oleh sekumpulan pelajar UTAR dari Unit Kemahiran Kokurikulum DSSC. Program tersebut disertai oleh seramai 40 orang pelajar sekolah rendah terdiri daripada berbilang kaum dari sekitar kawasan Sentul. Sepanjang program tersebut, para peserta telah mengambil bahagian dalam pelbagai aktiviti dan permainan interaktif berkaitan dengan mata pelajaran Matematik dan Sains yang dianjurkan oleh pelajar-pelajar UTAR.

Di samping itu, satu lagi kumpulan yang terdiri daripada sepuluh orang pelajar UTAR turut mengadakan sebuah bengkel bertajuk '*Creative Mask Arts*' pada hari dan



Para peserta sedang menjalankan salah satu eksperimen sains yang mudah



Para peserta sedang menjalankan eksperimen mengkaji ketegangan permukaan air



Gambar berkumpulan

tempat yang sama buat pelajar-pelajar sekolah. Mereka menunjukkan cara menghasilkan topeng muka yang bertemakan haiwan dan watak animasi.

Penyelaras pasukan dari *Frog Asia Sdn Bhd* Puan Rahiza Dalik mengucapkan terima kasih kepada UTAR kerana telah menjayakan aktiviti khidmat masyarakat tersebut secara sukarela. Beliau juga berkata, "Ia bukan satu perkara yang mudah untuk menggalak dan mendidik generasi muda pada masa kini untuk melibatkan diri dalam kerja kemasyarakatan. Justeru itu, program sebegini merupakan satu peluang yang baik bagi para belia untuk menyertai kerja-kerja amal dan pada masa yang sama mereka dapat menyedari kepentingan nilai-nilai murni dalam diri setiap manusia. Untuk melahirkan sebuah generasi yang stabil, kita tidak seharusnya hanya mementingkan pendidikan sahaja tetapi kita juga seharusnya memupuk semangat amal dan kemasyarakatan dalam kalangan generasi muda kita." Beliau juga berharap untuk mendapatkan sokongan yang berterusan daripada pihak UTAR untuk menganjurkan lebih banyak program khidmat masyarakat pada masa akan datang.

DSSC UTAR sentiasa menyokong penglibatan para pelajarinya dalam aktiviti sedemikian kerana ia memberi peluang untuk berkomunikasi dan berinteraksi dan secara tidak langsung ia juga membantu mempertingkatkan kemahiran komunikasi mereka. Selain daripada program tersebut, lebih banyak program baru yang berdasarkan mata pelajaran Matematik, Sains, Bahasa Inggeris dan Teknologi sedang dalam perancangan dan akan dilaksanakan oleh DSSC dalam masa terdekat. Pelajar-pelajar dari Fakulti Perubatan dan Sains Kesihatan dan Pusat Pengajian Asasi UTAR akan mengambil bahagian dalam aktiviti-aktiviti amal yang akan diadakan pada masa akan datang.

UTAR CAMPUSES

Sungai Long Campus

DU012-02(B)

Jalan Sungai Long
Bandar Sg. Long
Cheras, 43000 Kajang

Kampar Campus

DU012-03(A)

Jalan Universiti
Bandar Barat
31900 Kampar