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From left: UTAR Registrar Dr. Tan, UTAR President Engr. Prof. Dato' Dr. Chuah, Public Bank Managing Director Dato' Sri Tay, TARC Principal Ms. Yoong, TARC Registrar Ms. Chan, and Public Bank Executive Director Dato' Lee.

UTAR Students Go Cashless with Debit Card

UTAR CAMPUSES

Petaling Jaya

13 Jalan 13/6
46200 Petaling Jaya
Selangor Darul Ehsan

Perak

Jalan Universiti
Bandar Barat
31900 Kampar

Kuala Lumpur

Jalan Genting Kelang
Setapak 53300
Kuala Lumpur

Bandar Sg. Long

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

UTAR students can now look forward to managing their expenditures without the risk of carrying huge amount of cash with the newly launched Public Bank (PB) UTAR Debit MasterCard which may be acceptable for payment at any establishment that accepts the MasterCard.

The PB UTAR Debit MasterCard is a result of a collaborative effort between the Public Bank and UTAR. The collaborative agreement was signed by Dato' Sri Tay Ah Lek, Managing Director of Public Bank and Engr. Professor Dato' Dr. Chuah Hean Teik, President of UTAR, at Menara Public Bank, Kuala Lumpur, on 14 May 2008.

Present to witness the ceremony were Dato' Lee Kong Lam, Executive

Director of Public Bank and Dr. Tan Kee Kong, Registrar of UTAR.

Also present at the ceremony were Ms. Yoong Lai Thye, Principal of Tunku Abdul Rahman College (TARC) and Ms. Chan Ng Moi, TARC Registrar.

Ezra Joel a/l Tharmapal, 18, from UTAR's Foundation in Science programme was one of the students who opted to go cashless by getting his own PB UTAR Debit MasterCard.

He enthused, "I decided to apply for this debit card because I feel that it is much more convenient and safer to use than to carry cash. I like the card's facility because I can buy products from any price range with it. I can even use it for payment when I eat at restaurants."

STRONG HEAD START FOR UTAR FRESHIES

First time at a university for many students can be very memorable. To many, being at the university may also be their first time away from home for an extended period. It can be both exciting and challenging as they learn to live away from their family and be independent.

Understanding the crucial role of the University and to assist new students in making a smooth transition into campus life, UTAR organised an orientation week from 22 May to 1 June 2008 at its Perak Campus for the University's May 2008 intake.

In welcoming the freshies during the Mass Call, UTAR President Professor Engr. Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik, exhorted, "At the University, it is important for you to practice proper time management. You should allocate sufficient time for both your studies and leisure activities in order to strike a balanced life."

The President encouraged the students to participate in co-curricular activities throughout their duration of study in UTAR. He advised, "Joining clubs and societies will expose you to valuable knowledge that you cannot get from your lecture classes, such as communication, organisation and persuasive skills."

Campus life is something new for all the freshmen. Being at the University means taking up new responsibilities. It also means living with new roommates and housemates, setting and budgeting their expenditures as well as managing their studies and social life.

Sharing her experience was Vastala Charian, 18, who hails from Ampang, Selangor. She explained, "Of course I felt sad about leaving my family and friends. However, I am now starting to adjust myself with the help of my new-found friends. It is actually quite fun learning how to be independent."

Cultivating new friendships was indeed one of the top priorities amongst these students. Yong Chee Meng, a student from UTAR's Foundation in Arts programme, elaborated on some people-skills that he had learnt so far. He shared his motto, "Always try to make the first move. You can start with a smile, make a joke, and initiate small chats."

In order to promote a close-knit University community, UTAR held a telematch for the freshies. The telematch was aimed at fostering bonding between students from different faculties and courses. Among the activities included in the telematch were games such as walking chairs, shooting matches, and blowing



Freshies gain new insights on Perak through the City Tour.



UTAR freshmen cultivating new friendships through games.

the ping pong balls.

In addition, students who registered for the city tours were taken on an adventurous outing to explore places of attractions in and around Kampar. The students visited Gua Tempurung, Kellie's Castle, Kwan Yin Tong cave temple, Gunung Lang and Perak Tong cave temple.

Other events conducted during the orientation week were campus adjustment and integrity talks. Besides these talks, UTAR's Department of Soft Skills Competency (DSSC) delivered an introduction to the various short courses offered to help the students expand their interpersonal, creativity, and leadership abilities.

Students who wish to apply for financial assistance were also briefed on how to apply for the different sources of financial aid, including the Perbadanan Tabung Pendidikan Tinggi Nasional (PTPTN) loan.

Similar orientation activities were also held at UTAR Bandar Sungai Long Campus, UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus and UTAR Kuala Lumpur Campus.

The staff and students of UTAR raised a total of RM30,000 for the victims of Sichuan Earthquake that hit Sichuan province in China on 12 May 2008, causing over 69,000 fatalities and over 4 million people homeless.

The donation was presented by UTAR Council Chairman, Tun Dr. Ling Liong Sik to His Excellency Mr. Cheng Yonghua, the Chinese Ambassador to Malaysia in a simple cheque presentation ceremony at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China on 17 June 2008.

The Sichuan earthquake, also known as Wenchuan earthquake, measured 7.9 on the Richter scale hit Sichuan Province, a mountainous region in Western China.

There are over 15 million people who live in the affected area. The earthquake was felt as far away as Beijing, Shanghai, and nearby countries. It was China's deadliest and strongest earthquake since 1976.

UTAR donates to Sichuan Earthquake Victims



Tun Dr. Ling (fourth from left) handing the cheque to His Excellency Mr. Cheng (fifth from right) at a simple cheque presentation ceremony.

Valuable Experience From Donation



First-hand exposure to medical procedure for the students

UTAR students gained first-hand medical and practical experience when they organised a blood donation drive from 26 to 29 May 2008 at UTAR's Bandar Sungai Long Campus.

Initiated by the First Aid Society and facilitated by University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC), the drive saw over 500 donors taking part in this event.

The donation drive was an edifying experience especially for those who helped in planning the event as they learnt to foster a caring nature while gaining useful skills that are not commonly taught at lectures.

In organising the drive, the committee members discovered the importance of having team spirit and the need to create a proper campaign strategy to succeed. To



Showing their compassion through their contribution

encourage more participation among students, the organiser conducted an intensive classroom-to-classroom campaign to encourage students to donate their blood.

Besides that, goody bags with attractive gifts such as drinks, food vouchers and stationery items were given out to donors. Donors could also take part in a lucky draw held during the campaign. On top of that, donors received a certificate from UMMC as a token of appreciation for their contribution.

In addition to learning ways to conduct a good campaign strategy, members of the organising committee got the opportunity to observe real life medical situations. From this exposure, they learn how medical professionals deal with different cases and utilise this knowledge in their personal lives.

许文荣博士《马华文学新华文学比照》新书推介礼



陈广才（左二）为《马华文学新华文学比照》主持推介仪式。（左起）原甸、蔡贤德、林水椽和许文荣

拉曼大学中文系新书推介礼工委于2008年6月18日下午，在八打灵再也校园为许文荣博士的《马华文学新华文学比照》举办了新书推介礼。马华公会署理总会长暨马来西亚大学中文系毕业生协会主席丹斯里陈广才受邀为新书推介人。此外，出席推介礼的嘉宾还包括拉曼大学校长拿督蔡贤德教授、中文系主任林水椽教授、新加坡青年出版社社长原甸先生等。

丹斯里陈广才主持推介礼时表示，国内越来越多大专院校都成立了中文系，而且马华文学也渐渐成为中文系教与学的研究主流。对于这样的发展，他感到非常高兴。

他认为许博士这本新书是一本划时代的学术著作。虽然离全面比照尚有一段距离，但却能让国人看到马来西亚和新加坡两国华文文学发展的差异，以及具有代表性的文学风貌的片段。

“马新两国分家之前原来就是一个整体，分家之后两国的华文文学虽然各有发展，但是却拥有共同的血脉和渊源。对两国的华文文学进行比较，肯定具有非凡的意义。”

丹斯里陈广才以“垦荒者”来形容许博士在比较马新文学这方面的研究，也赞赏许博士的努力。身为学兄的丹斯里陈广才，希望许博士能继续在学术

的殿堂里开创更美好的一片天地。丹斯里陈广才也希望今后有更多人进行这方面的研究。

拉曼大学校长拿督蔡贤德教授在致词时指出，许博士的新作具有突破性的学术研究，因为历年来研究马华文学的学者不少，研究新华文学的人也不在其下。然而，将两国华文文学进行比较的，许博士可说是第一人。

蔡校长亦说，对于许博士在忙碌的教学与行政工作中，依然不忘研究，感到很欣慰。他希望该著作能起到抛砖引玉作用，鼓励更多教学与学术人员投入研究，出版更多学术书籍。

推介仪式在两位舞蹈员的精湛表演下揭开序幕，而新书的封面则在丹斯里陈广才等人一起掀开布帘后，展现在众人眼前。接着，许博士更以多媒体的方式，呈现出他对此书研究的据点及看法。

许博士指出，在研究新加坡新生代作家表现的过程中，他发现近年来涌现了不少有潜能的新生代作家。此外，长篇与微型小说的成就更是略胜马华作家一筹。

现读中文系二年级的尹镁姗表示，论述马华文学的书在本地并不多，这本书的出版不但可以提高她对马华文学的认识，也可以作为撰写课业研究的参考文献。

台湾国立台东大学到访拉曼大学



陈泽却副校长赠送纪念品予李玉芬教授



出席者正在观赏短片

在台湾国立台东大学区域政策与发展研究所所长李玉芬教授的带领下，一行十余人——3位教授及12位该所研究生与眷属，于2008年6月30日，到访拉曼大学八打灵再也校园。他们此行的目的，是为了“空间政治经济与区域发展个案——东南亚”进行交流。在抵达拉曼大学前，该参访团也拜访了新加坡国立大学的李光耀公共政策学院。

交流会在上午10时，以“拉曼大学的历史与特色”短片揭开序幕。尔后，中文系主任林水椽教授和经济研究中心主任黄锡庆副教授分别就“本地大专的中文现况”及“东南亚华人在政治、经济与文化发展所扮演的角色”发表了演说。

林水椽教授在解说马来西亚的华文教育发展时提到，马来西亚在学习中文方面有一个相当好的环境，也有一个相当牢固的基础。这是因为大马从小学到大专都设有中文教育的缘故。他也认为，华文教育在本地的发展非常乐观。

黄锡庆副教授就华人在东南亚国家的人口比例给予详细的解释。他举例的国家包括泰国、新加坡、马来西亚和印尼等。他根据各国华人在经济、政治与文化上所扮演的角色，提出了见解，让出席者对东南亚华人有了更深一层的了解。

较后，李玉芬教授向拉曼大学教职员介绍了区域政策与发展研究所的学术理念和教学目标；靳菱菱副教授则负责说明他们这次参访的目的。靳副教授说，在台湾人眼中，新加坡和马来西亚是亚洲的黄金走廊。她还打趣地说他们此行就是要来挖“金”的。

他们之所以选择拉曼大学作为参访对象，主要是因为拉曼大学拥有庞大的华语文教育系统，也是研究东南亚华人的重镇。因此，参访本校可帮助他们了解马来西亚华人在东南亚经济上所扮演的角色。两位教授也热情地邀请拉曼大学师生，前往参观台东大学，并笑称台东大学的面积虽然不如拉曼大学位于霹雳金宝的校园大，但也是个拥有湖光山色，漂亮的地方。

在自由讨论的环节中，其中一位台东大学的学生针对马来西亚人涌往新加坡求职的现象发表了疑问。对此，林水椽教授认为，这主要是因为新币的面值较大，并且那里也提供许多就业机会，才会吸引许多大马人到那里工作。

出席这场交流会的有拉曼大学副校长陈泽却博士、文学与社会科学学院院长郑志成博士、高等学位研究院主任张义兴博士、中文系主任林水椽教授、经济研究中心主任黄锡庆副教授和国际关系部主任张秋祥先生等。此外，两所大学的教职员及硕士班学生也出席了这场交流会。

UTAR CAREER FAIR BACK WITH BIGGER BANG

UTAR 2008 Career Fair was launched on 8 May 2008 at its Petaling Jaya Campus by Tun Dr. Ling Liong Sik, UTAR Council Chairman.

Students and alumni are invited to attend this event. At this Career Fair, which has now become an annual event, more than 30 organisations took part and some of them also conducted job interview sessions. Among them were CIMB Group, Gamuda Berhad, Genting Group, Kurnia Insurans, Mardec Berhad, Panasonic Malaysia, Public Bank and Western Digital.

In his speech, Tun Dr. Ling reminded the audience that the workplace environment nowadays is changing rapidly, and that Malaysian workers are expected to keep up with the changing trends so that they remain competitive and valuable to their organisations. He also emphasised the need for the right mindset in each individual in their work, as it can determine how far they can go in their career.

Meanwhile, Professor Engr. Dato' Dr. Chuah Hean Teik, UTAR President, who was at the launching stressed to the students that having the academic skills needed to obtain their respective degrees is not enough.

"The experience students can gain whilst undergoing their industrial training proved to be another precious edge," said Prof. Chuah. He highlighted that



A staff from another participating company counselling students.



A staff from Genting Group briefing students on what it takes to join this well-known conglomerate.

UTAR has been forging mutually beneficial relationships with the industry to ensure that the academic courses are in line with the industry requirements. The University then in turn can supply high-quality graduates as demanded by the industry.

Prof. Chuah also emphasised the efforts by UTAR in imparting additional skills to its students through short courses offered by the Department of Soft Skills Competency (DSSC). "UTAR formed this department to promote the enhancement of skills such as language proficiency, interpersonal communication, negotiation skill, public speaking, and teambuilding and leadership skills among our students," he elaborated.

The DSSC also organized entrepreneurial and innovative skills programmes for UTAR students. Thus, in addition to the industry-driven academic programmes offered at UTAR, its graduates are among those that can fulfill the requirements of the employers as they are also equipped with the soft skills that are surely important in their lines of work.

Meanwhile, in a random survey conducted among the participating companies, a majority stated that although academic performance plays an initial yardstick to determine a candidate's suitability in their company, communication ability and effectiveness play an even greater role in securing a position.

UTAR Promotes Eco-Friendly Campaign

The Community Service Society at UTAR's Bandar Sungai Long Campus once again organised a recycling campaign this time with much more vigour and information to share. The 'Eco-Friendly Campaign' was held at UTAR's Bandar Sungai Long Campus from 26 to 31 May 2008.

This campaign was unique compared to the previous campaigns as it featured additional information on the environment and on personal hygiene.

Booths with information boards on the environment, recycling and cleanliness as well as personal hygiene were set up during the campaign period. Goods made from recycled materials were exhibited. Visitors also got to participate in the colouring competition.

Throughout the campaign, recycling bins were placed near the University entrance to encourage students to drop off their recyclable items. The bins were divided into three categories - paper, glass and plastics/cans. Collected items were then given to Xim Phou Moon Welfare Society.

Commenting on the reasons for the change of approach in this campaign, student Boo Chui Huang, Secretary of the organising committee said, "We decided to run the campaign differently because we wanted to

attract more people by widening its scope."

"With this strategy, we had a better response compared to the previous recycling campaigns held," she added.

Similar eco-friendly campaigns were held at UTAR's Perak, Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya campuses. The Community Service Society holds recycling campaigns twice a year to coincide with the University's intakes in January and May.



Visitors gain new insights with the information featured.

Cultivating Positive Attributes at Holiday Camp



Participants of the Community Service Holiday Camp

The Community Service Society organised a Community Service Holiday Camp which was held from 20 - 23 May 2008 in Port Dickson. The holiday camp provided new learning opportunities to 104 students from the UTAR's campuses in the Klang Valley. The participants learned to foster useful skills and positive attributes for their personal enhancement during the four days.

At the camp, students went through challenging activities that helped to build their teamwork and leadership qualities. Participants were divided into teams, and they were required to complete various tasks and compete as a team in the games organised.

Five obstacle courses and a treasure hunt were some of the interesting events they took part in during the 4-day camp. In addition, the students showed their prowess in creativity as they got to act in impromptu plays based on randomly picked topics.

Besides group activities, students attended talks on leadership and learning skills. The talks also enlightened them on the advantages of joining the Community Service Society.

There were two hampers for the participants to win based on a team's overall scores and the team with the highest marks for its teamwork.

Sensational Launch for FES^tival - The Campus Carnival



Dr. Yeoh (centre) and on her left, Dr. Wang.



One of the food stalls during the carnival. .

On 4 June 2008, UTAR's Faculty of Engineering and Science (FES) at its Kuala Lumpur Campus launched their first fiesta, *FES^tival – The Campus Carnival*.

The carnival, jointly organised by the Student Representative Committee (SRC) and 19 clubs and societies within the Faculty was held to get the students to hone their organisational skills and teamwork through participation in extra-curricular activities. The carnival was officiated by UTAR Vice President Dr. Yeoh Suan Pow and FES Dean Dr. Wang Chan Chin.

Attended by faculty and students, the event was a well-deserved break from their daily study routine. There were performances such as dances, singing, fashion shows, and martial art demonstrations by UTAR students.

It was a joyous occasion for food lovers too as they enjoyed a wide variety of food sold at the carnival. Students could also participate in various games like building blocks, electric wire game, fish catching, knocking down the cans, and chess quiz at the different booths manned and set up by different student clubs and societies.

University life is not just about receiving an academic qualification. At UTAR, students are encouraged to enrich their own lives by touching the lives of others, especially the underprivileged. In line with this aspect, proceeds from the carnival were donated to Rumah Destiny Orphanage.

In addition, children from the orphanage were invited to attend the carnival. Luke Logendran, 11, shared the delightful time he had at UTAR. He said, "I really enjoyed myself at the carnival. My favourite show was the singing performance."

Many found a smart way of turning their classroom knowledge into profitable ventures. B. Loges a/l Balan, a third year student from UTAR's Electronic Engineering programme elaborated on a game device that he created. He said, "My game is called the 'Sensor Circuit'. It was constructed based on the circuits and electronic component concepts that I learnt in my classes...which I converted into an interesting game."

For Sharmilla Devi, a first year Biomedical Science student, the festival was a good event to motivate students to approach their campus life to the fullest. She commented, "I feel that it is proactive for the University to organise this event as it encourages students to strike a balanced life. I am very happy to attend this carnival and I am already looking forward to the next one."

The event also drew students from UTAR's other campuses. Tan Cheng Yong, 20, who came all the way from the Petaling Jaya Campus enthused, "I like the carnival very much as it gives me the opportunity to make friends with students from the Kuala Lumpur Campus. I enjoyed the karate demonstration."

Marketing Students Land Awards in Military Training

Two students out of 58 from UTAR did more than just complete the one-month basic Voluntary Military Training Course from May - June 2008 at Rejimen 515 Askar Wataniah Camp in Ampang, Kuala Lumpur. They also walked away with two awards during the closing ceremony on 5 June 2008 at the camp.

Yap Ping Teng who had just completed her degree in Marketing received the 'Akademik Terbaik' Award while Gan Yong Jie, also a Marketing student, received the 'Kawad Terbaik' Award from the Commander of Regimen 515 Askar Wataniah, Kolonel Mohd Amin bin Md Din. Kolonel Mohd Amin also presented certificates to all the participants for completing the one-month regimented training stint.

Askar Wataniah, a voluntary group, was first established in UTAR Bandar Sungai Long Campus in 2005. Now students at the Faculty of Engineering and Science in UTAR Kuala Lumpur Campus also have access to this reserve military outfit.

Soon, the students at UTAR Perak Campus will get the opportunity to try their hands at military training and get a taste of the life in a military training camp. According to Deneish Easan, Manager (Sports & Recreation Unit) of the Department of Students Affairs, approval has been granted by the relevant authorities for Askar Wataniah to be set up in UTAR Perak Campus in Kampar early next year.



(From left) Yap and Gan proudly showing their medals.



A group photo of the winners with their prizes.

UTAR Students Sweep Top Prizes at Online Sudoku Competition

UTAR students won the top three prizes of the National Sudoku Competition 2008, the first online Sudoku in the country held at UTAR's Faculty of Information and Communication Technology (FICT) on 14 June 2008.

The competition, opened to university and college students, was organised by UTAR Mathematics Society with the assistance of Sudoku Event Management, the organisation that facilitates the online competition.

The competition attracted over 100 college/university students. UTAR President, Professor Engr. Dato' Dr. Chuah Hean Teik officiated at the competition. In his welcoming address, Prof. Chuah welcomed all the participants and reminded those present of the importance of their participation and involvement in co-curriculum activities such as this competition.

Emerging as champion was Lee Chen Hsieng, a first year UTAR student from the Faculty of Engineering and Science (FES). Lee took home RM1,500 and a certificate for his effort in solving three Sudoku puzzles in the final round in just 12 minutes, instead of utilizing the allocated 30 minutes given to all the contestants. The second prize went to a pair of UTAR first year Actuarial Science students, Bong Hui Chin and Yong Kuan Chen. The third prize was also won by a pair of UTAR students, Ooi Heap Guan and Lee Yoeu San, both doing Biomedical Science programme at FES.

Dr Toh Kian Kok, Deputy Dean of FICT and the advisor of UTAR Mathematics Society, presented the prizes to all the winners.



Participants with the Semai children.



Participants learning a Semai dance.

Community Service at Orang Asli Village

From 24 – 25 May 2008, five members of UTAR Perak Campus' Community Service Society were selected to participate in the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) Semai Children Environmental Awareness Camp.

The Camp at the Semai Village in Ulu Geroh, Gopeng, Perak was held to create awareness among Semai children of the beauty of their village and the values of their tradition and heritage. The UTAR students who took part in this Camp were Yew Ve Vian, Tee Hui Ying, Renuka Ramalingam, Oh Jo Vyn and Chin Jing Ru. They joined other participants selected by MNS for this community project.

During the Camp, activities such as group presentations and scavenger hunt were held. With the Semai children, the Camp participants made their presentations on the traditional costumes, musical instruments, games, stories, and arts and crafts of the Semai

people. Here they gained new insights on the values of the Semai culture.

During the scavenger hunt, the participants were taken on a jungle trekking session at the Abong trail guided by the children, and everybody had the pleasure to enjoy the beauty and diversity of the flora and fauna of the jungle.

For Yew, she had this to say about the Camp, "The activity has been very meaningful to all five of us as opportunities to visit and interact with the orang asli children are hard to come by. We were able to encourage and educate these children to appreciate their culture, and as university students, helping MNS in conserving the tradition and culture of this minority group is indeed a priceless experience."

The participants also learnt to appreciate Mother Nature and widened their interaction skills with other people.

Profit From Creativity and Innovation



Ramesh Pillai (left) and Bugs Tan (right), Founder and Vice President of MACRI, motivating the audience.

In response to the growing need for Malaysians to boost their creativity skills to produce commercial driven innovations, UTAR and the Malaysia Mental Literacy Movement (MMLM) organised a talk entitled 'Developing and Managing Innovation and Creativity' at its Petaling Jaya Campus on 10 May 2008.

The speaker was Bugs Tan, Founder and Vice President of the Malaysia Association of Creativity and Innovation (MACRI). Tan is an inventor by profession and has won numerous awards, such as the 'National Innovator Award 2007', organised by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) and a Silver medal in the Engineering Category, during the International Exhibition for Inventions at Geneva, Switzerland in 2001.

In the talk, Tan shared with his audience his experience on invention, creativity and innovation.

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MIND DEVELOPMENT TECHNIQUES TO REACH THE SKIES

Eager learners filled their Saturday morning with great empowerment when they attended the talk entitled 'Your Future Begins in Your Mind' at UTAR's Petaling Jaya Campus on 21 June 2008.

It was presented by Lily Soh, a certified trainer of the Silva Method of Mind Development and Stress Management, licensed under Silva International Inc., USA.

At the inspiring session the audience was informed on the importance of mind influence in their daily lives and techniques that could be used to bring forth a positive future. According to Soh, many people deprived themselves of achieving their ambitions because of their negative belief systems that embody assumptions, blame, guilt, fear and prejudices.

She gave a simple example to illustrate this fact. She said, "Give a new electronic gadget to a child and within minutes he would know how to use the device. But give the same thing to an adult and he may have difficulty using it. This is because many adults have been conditioned by the past belief that we do not know how to use that appliance."

The speaker informed the audience that in order to unleash their full potential, they must be aware of the paradigms that may affect them, examine and challenge those paradigms, and start to nurture paradigms that



Lily Soh (second from left) chatting with participants.

could serve them. In her presentation, she also revealed a number of touching real-life testimonies to validate the significance of having a determined mindset to secure amazing fulfillments.

Many found the talk to be of much relevance to their daily lives and useful in helping them to equip themselves for the future.

"I have always had a phobia of using the computer but the talk helped stir up my desire to actually overcome it and acquire computing skills," said Cheah Tean Hong, a school teacher in her 50s.

Her colleague, Wee Imm Neo added, "Soh's presentation taught me how to face challenges in a positive light. For instance, whenever we want to accomplish a goal we should always be open to achieve it beyond our imagination."

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He advised his audience, "In order to create something, it is important to keep a clear mind. It is advisable to pen down all your thoughts and store them in an idea box. From time to time, evaluate your concepts and choose the best of the lot to be developed into something valuable."

The audience enjoyed the informative talk. For Faridah Hanim binti Omar, who came all the way from Penang, the event was a family outing to be remembered. She was accompanied by her son, Muhammad Syahmi bin Abdul Latiff, 19, and daughter, Farhana binti Abdul Latiff, 23.

As the Head of Science Department in a local teacher's training college, she commented, "The talk was beneficial for me to acquire knowledge on the steps needed to expand a potential creation into a marketable product. This is so important to me. I can educate my trainees, who will later on become teachers themselves, to guide students in expanding their ideas into useful applications. Overall, I actually learned more than what I had expected in the talk."

Her son, Muhammad Syahmi, a student at a local of aviation technology added, "The talk made me realise the importance of creativity in innovation for speeding up the country's development. I strongly feel that with the presence of more environmental friendly devices, Malaysians will be privileged to enjoy a better quality of life in future. To contribute to the nation, I strive to be a part-time inventor that will focus on creating appliances that help protect Mother Nature, besides pursuing my career in the aviation industry."



Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Lau (fifth from left) receiving the donation cheque from Student Representative Leong Chi Wei.

UTAR STUDENTS DOING THEIR BIT TO AID DISASTER VICTIMS

At UTAR, campus life for students goes beyond achieving good academic results. Students are encouraged to do their part in helping members of a community in need and making a difference in society.

In this respect, UTAR's Student Representative Committee (SRC) organised a collection campaign on 29 May 2008 to raise funds for the victims of Cyclone Nargis, the category 4 storm that left a trail of devastation and death in Myanmar. The one-day collection drive involved students in all the four Campuses.

The donation for the Myanmar victims amounting to RM10,000 was presented in a cheque to Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Lau Ban Tin, Chairman of the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS), Klang Chapter, who accepted the contribution on behalf of the MRCS.

Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Lau said, "I would like to thank UTAR for their kind support. This donation will help the cyclone victims in Myanmar by

improving their living conditions."

When enquired about the challenges in organising the donation drive, Michelle Peris, Student Representative from UTAR' Faculty of Engineering and Science commented, "We had limited manpower as many of SRC members were busy preparing for another event at the same time. However, we managed to cope by taking turns to collect the donation."

Previously, similar efforts were also conducted by the students to help victims of other natural disasters, such as the charity event organised to assist the 2004 Tsunami victims.

Besides these donation drives, UTAR students have also actively contributed to the community in other areas, including the blood donation drives held every semester, recycling campaigns and donations to orphanages. By inculcating a caring spirit, the University hopes to nurture caring students.