

OCTOBER 2008

KDN NO. PP13003/3/2008

UTAR NEWS



拉曼大學

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Cultural Exchange Programme Benefits
UTAR Students and Japanese Visitors 2

UTAR Welcomes French Professors 4

UTAR Teams Up with Sheffield Hallam University, UK 6

UTAR Students at Global Student Assembly 7

Financial Planning Workshop for UTAR Students 9

UTAR Strives for Global Exposure with Lehigh University, USA 12

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 21141
Jalan Sungai Long
Bandar Sg. Long
Cheras, 43000 Kajang



Engr. Prof. Dato' Dr. Chuah chatting with the graduating students.

**UTAR
STUDENTS
GEAR
UP
FOR
FUTURE
SUCCESS**

In recognising the crucial need to guide students towards a journey for success, UTAR's Department of Alumni Relations and Placement (DARP) organised a high tea session called, 'Tea Meeting with the President' for graduating students from the Faculty of Accountancy and Management on 29 October 2008 at the Bandar Sungai Long Campus.

Making a special appearance at the high tea to give his words of advice was UTAR President Engr. Prof. Dato' Dr. Chuah Hean Teik.

In his opening speech, Prof. Chuah emphasised the importance of grooming, establishing a good first impression, and many other tips when attending job interviews. He pointed out, "When attending the interview, wear smartly; be punctual; remember you only have 10 to 15 minutes to impress your interviewer and convince him that you are the best person for the job."

Prof. Chuah added, "Graduation does not mean the end of your link with UTAR. I do hope that when you all become successful individuals one day, you will be able to contribute back to the UTAR community in your own special way."

UTAR graduates are automatically registered as members of the UTAR Alumni Association. As alumni members, graduates get to enjoy privileges such as discounted fees for the various programmes offered by UTAR and invitations to participate in interesting activities organised by the Alumni Association. They can also receive assistance in setting up their own businesses and guidance in applying for postgraduate placements. During the high tea session, the students were briefed on the activities and services offered by the UTAR Alumni Association.

As the high tea session was conducted in an informal setting, students were seen happily mingling and chatting with UTAR President himself and also with other UTAR senior officials who were present at the event.

Chai Kok Wooi, 21, from UTAR's Banking and Finance degree programme expressed, "While chatting with my friends and I, Prof. Chuah gave us many words of encouragement to help boost our confidence in building our future careers. I am now ready to strive for the best in my career."

Similar high tea sessions with UTAR President for graduating students of the coming March 2009 Convocation from the other faculties were previously held on 6 and 13 August 2008 at the Petaling Jaya and Kuala Lumpur Campuses respectively.

Meetings with the President have long become a UTAR tradition ever since UTAR's first group of students graduated in 2005. The meetings encourage students to achieve a smooth transition into the working world and also help them in answering any queries on furthering their education. Such high tea meetings are held twice a year.

Apart from meeting with the President, the students could also find out more about the programmes offered by UTAR Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research; Centre for Extension Education, and the Department of Soft Skills Competency at the booths which were set up during the high tea session.

Cultural Exchange Programme Benefits UTAR Students and Japanese Visitors



THHS students performing during the Cultural Exchange programme.



THHT students peace gesture.

UTAR and the Student Representative Committee (SRC) organised a Cultural Exchange Programme for the visiting Toyota Higashi High School (THHS), Japan on 15 October 2008 at the Petaling Jaya Campus.

This programme presented the opportunity for students from both institutions to showcase the rich cultures of both Malaysia and Japan in an educational environment. About 270 students and teachers from THHS arrived at UTAR as part of their cultural visit to Malaysia.

The visitors were given a rousing welcome to the beat of the Malaysian Chinese drums and music. As the number of visitors was big, they were divided into groups, each led by several UTAR students. They were initially taken to the Auditorium of UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus, where they were entertained by a string of cultural performances by UTAR students.

Among the performances that were presented were the Chinese, Malay and Indian dances, a *wushu* demonstration and several songs. THHS students also took to the stage and performed their school anthem and some of their own cultural dances. Several Japanese students modelled their kimono which is the national costume of Japan.

In addition to the performances, the visitors were also served with some Malaysian food during their refreshment session.

The visitors were also given a batik-making demonstration, and they were given a chance to try their hand at batik-making. At the same time, the UTAR Chinese Orchestra provided soothing background music which the visitors enjoyed tremendously.

The visitors then were given a rousing send-off after the photo-taking session and gift exchange.



THHS students with UTAR students.



Welcoming THHS students.

策略分析与政策研究所和拉曼大学合作进行华教研究

拉曼大学向来重视学术研究工作。迄今，它已获得多家政府机构、私人领域及国际企业赞助研究经费。这次，拉曼大学和马华策略分析与政策研究所（INSAP）将携手合作，进行华人教育研究计划。

为此，在8月21日（星期四）中午12时许，马华总会会长拿督斯里黄家定与策略分析与政策研究所主席丹斯里刘衍明，在拉曼大学移交20万令吉模型支票予拉曼大学校长拿督蔡贤德教授，作为华文教育研究的经费。移交仪式由高等教育部副部长何国忠博士见证。

这项研究工作由拉曼大学与马来亚大学的中文系学者负责。研究主题分别是“马来西亚华文中学改制”、“华小搬迁事件”和“拉曼大学与拉曼学院研究”。第一项计划由拉曼大学中文系主任林水榕教授、中文系助理教授张晓威和廖冰凌领导；华小搬迁研究由马大中文系高级讲师潘碧华及潘碧丝领导；第三项计划则由拉曼大学中文系助理教授黄文斌负责。这些研究计划预计费时一年，研究成果将在国际刊物上发表。

拿督蔡贤德教授说，华教问题一直都是华社非常关心的课题，而这项研究的宗旨就是以学术的角度来探讨这些问题。他希望，这只是一个开始，以后将有更多的研究合作。

拿督斯里黄家定赞赏此项研究活动的推行，并称这项大型研究计划是合时合宜的。他在致词时表示，策略分析与政策研究所虽由马华成立，但研究范围并不仅限于政治。

“在这个多元种族的国家内，要如何处在有利的地位和加强自己的竞争力，研究工作十分重要。”

何国忠博士表示，这项研究活动只是起步，接下来拉曼大学将会继续进行更多研究。他相信，拉曼大学应能成为本区域研究华人的重镇。



（左起）蔡贤德、何国忠、黄家定和刘衍明出席这项支票移交仪式

脑力开发盛会（四） 新闻发布会



敦林良实医生展示脑力开发盛会其中一款海报

脑力开发盛会（四）在拉曼学院槟城分校举行！这场由拉曼大学、拉曼学院和马来西亚脑力认知协会联合主办的盛会，于10月25日及26日举行。

为了吸引更多北马的公众出席这场首次在槟城举行的盛会，一连串的宣传活动在日前于该地区展开。

拉曼大学也在10月21日上午11时许，于八打灵再也校园举行了新闻发布会。

在发布会上，拉曼大学理事会主席暨大马脑力认知协会主席敦林良实医生表示：“我们共邀请了15所北马的高等学府和学校参与这次的盛会。”

敦林良实也说：“我们使用左脑比右脑频繁，而且一般上只用普通的方法学习。要让学习成果事半功倍，就必须使用正确的方法。音乐、颜色和图画能刺激我们的右脑，可帮助提升我们的记忆力。”

脑力开发盛会提供了一个重要的平台，让公众有机会探讨国民意识及民智资源在国家成长与发展过程中的重要。这对各阶层人士来说是相当有益的。

该盛会通过举办讲座会、思维工作坊、展览会等，不仅提升大众对人脑奥妙及其无限潜力的认知，也介绍各种开发脑力的方法，使大众在脑力训练与提高思维能力方面有所醒觉。

UTAR Welcomes French Professors from the TELECOM Lille1



From left: Engr. Prof. Dato' Dr. Chuah speaking to Prof. Hipple and Prof. Bonte during their visit.

On 15 October 2008 UTAR welcomed two special visitors from the TELECOM Lille1, Lille, France to meet with UTAR's senior officials for a one-day friendly visit.

The visitors were Prof. Bertrand Bonte, Director of TELECOM Lille1 and Prof. Dean Hipple, Head of International Relations and Professor of Intercultural Communication, TELECOM Lille1.

TELECOM Lille1 is one of the best known engineering schools in France. It is a government-funded institution of higher learning that conducts undergraduate and postgraduate engineering degree programmes. TELECOM Lille1 has a growing number of international agreements for activities such as student internship placements, student exchange, tailor-made training programmes, e-learning development and summer school programmes with other institutions of higher learning across the globe.

Since 2005, TELECOM Lille1 has been sending their second year telecommunication engineering students to Malaysia for their internship attachments.

"Many of our students like to do their internships in Malaysia," Prof. Hipple expressed. "Those who had their internships done in Malaysia fell in love with the country's beaches and were also able to focus well in conducting their research and scientific learning."

He added, "Attaching our students with internships abroad is a good move because it helps them to learn more about other races and culture, as well as discover themselves and their abilities better. This valuable experience will help to raise graduates who are able to be internationally competent to work in any country worldwide."

Prof. Bonte said, "Besides looking into the possibilities of sending our students to complete their internship attachments at UTAR's laboratories, TELECOM Lille1 also hopes to team-up with UTAR in other areas such as student and staff exchange, and research."

The visit to UTAR brought great significance to UTAR and TELECOM Lille 1 as it gave the visitors and UTAR senior officials the opportunity to discuss the potential collaborative efforts that could be explored in future. During the meeting, the visitors and UTAR senior officials also shared with one another information pertaining to their respective institutions of higher learning.

Apart from that, the visitors were taken on a tour of UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus and UTAR Kuala Lumpur Campus.

At the UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus, the visitors met with Engr. Prof. Dato' Dr. Chuah Hean Teik, UTAR President.



UTAR Signs MoU With Xiamen University

From left: Prof. Sun shaking hands with Prof. Ewe at the MoU signing ceremony. Looking on are Dr. Hou and Dato' Seri Ong.

As part of UTAR's effort in maintaining and fostering international relations with universities abroad, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was recently signed between UTAR and Xiamen University (XMU) on 24 September 2008 at a ceremony held in Xiamen, China. Three senior officials from UTAR attended the ceremony.

The MoU with Xiamen University was signed by Prof. Sun ShiGang, Vice President of XMU and Prof. Dr. Ewe Hong Tat, representative of UTAR President Engr. Prof. Dato' Dr. Chuah Hean Teik. Signing as witnesses for the MoU were Prof. Zhuang GuoTu, Head of the Institute of Malaysia Studies at XMU and Prof. Lim Chooi Kwa, Head of UTAR Chinese Studies Department.

Dato' Seri Ong Ka Ting, President of the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA) and Dr. Hou Kok Chung, Deputy Minister of Higher Education Malaysia were present to witness the signing ceremony.

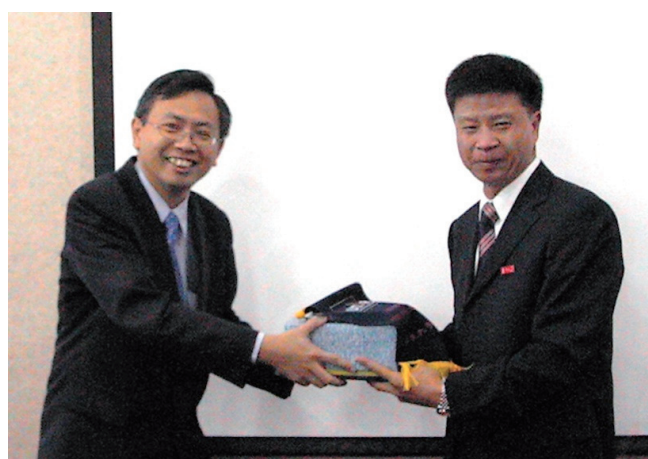
The MoU marked the start of collaborative efforts between UTAR and XMU for the advancements of both universities.

During the ceremony UTAR and XMU discussed the potential collaborative efforts that could be implemented in the near future. Among some of the significant issues discussed were the provision of scholarships or assistantships to UTAR's postgraduate students to study at XMU. UTAR and XMU also discussed on the possibilities of having student and staff exchange programmes.

In addition, XMU expressed its ambition to set up and coordinate a Confucius Institute centre at

UTAR to train school teachers in the Chinese language by using XMU teaching materials and teaching staff. Confucius Institute is a non-profit public institute, set up by the Chinese government to promote the Chinese language and culture through the support of local teachers from mainland China in tutoring at affiliated Confucius Institutes worldwide.

Xiamen University was founded in 1921 with a total enrolment of over 35,000 full-time students on campus, including 20,195 undergraduates, 12,213 Master's students, 2,023 Doctoral students, and over 1,200 international students. Xiamen University has a global perspective on education and has promoted international and regional academic exchanges and cooperation in numerous fields. Xiamen University also collaborates with over 100 institutions of higher education at home and abroad.



From left: Prof. Ewe and Prof. Sun exchanging souvenirs.

UTAR Teams Up with Sheffield Hallam University, UK



From left: Dr. Davis, Prof. Garrahan, UTAR President Engr. Prof. Dato' Dr. Chuah Hean Teik, Dr. Tan and Dr. Tioh at the MoU signing ceremony.

Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) and Sheffield Hallam University (SHU), UK signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 9 October 2008 at UTAR's Petaling Jaya Campus.

The MoU paves the way for both universities to work closely in the areas of teaching, learning and research.

Signing the MoU was Dr. Tan Hock Meng, UTAR's Vice President (Research & Development and Facility Management), and Prof. Phillip Garrahan, the Pro Vice-Chancellor of SHU. The witnesses for the MoU were Dr. Tioh Ngee Heng, Director of UTAR's Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research, and Dr. Barry Davis, SHU's Regional Lead for South East Asia.

A number of UTAR and SHU senior officials were also present during the signing ceremony. Present to welcome SHU officials was UTAR President Engr. Prof. Dato' Dr. Chuah Hean Teik.

During the MoU signing ceremony, Prof. Garrahan announced that SHU will award scholarships to UTAR staff or students.

He said, "Sheffield Hallam University will be awarding two scholarships under The Sheffield Hallam International Partnership Scholarship. Each scholarship recipient would receive £1,000 to study a postgraduate degree of his/her choice at Sheffield Hallam University."

SHU is a university well known for its teaching, learning and research efforts. The University has 17 research centres and institutes, two Yorkshire Forward Centres of Industrial Collaboration, and several specialised renowned national and international research groups.

SHU conducts European and international research projects, and is currently partnering with academic research institutes, the industry, SMEs, the public, voluntary and community sectors as well as end users.

The significant tie-up between UTAR and SHU acts as a jumpstart to encourage joint projects that will involve collaborative research and the sharing of expertise as well as joint developments in research.

With the MoU, both Universities will establish cooperation in facilitating academic development exchanges through activities such as mutual visits by faculty members to pursue areas of research and teaching, and to participate in seminars, conferences, publications and workshops.

The MoU also opens the doors for UTAR and SHU to organise study visits and student exchange programmes for their postgraduate and undergraduate students. Students from both universities will also be facilitated in their applications for postgraduate research and enrolment in courses offered.

UTAR and The Chinese University of Hong Kong inks MoU

UTAR and The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 13 October 2008.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Prudence Goh Eam Cheng, Director of UTAR's Centre for Extension Education (CEE), and Dr. Victor S. K. Lee, Director of CUHK's School of Continuing Professional Studies (SCPS). Witnesses for the MoU were Sia Ka Ngan, Senior Manager of CEE and Kenneth Chan Kin Ching, Head of Mainland Affairs and Training Services of SCPS.

CEE and SCPS are both centres committed to the provision of opportunities and resources for lifelong learning.

"CUHK is happy to have this opportunity to collaborate with UTAR and look forward to the exchange of knowledge and expertise between both CUHK and UTAR," said Dr. Lee.

The discussions prior to the MoU signing covered collaborative efforts between CEE and SCPS.



From left: Dr. Lee, Chan, UTAR President Engr. Prof. Dato' Dr. Chuah, Dr. Goh and Sia at the MoU signing ceremony.

Areas explored included credit transfer articulation for CUHK students, special short courses for CUHK students, offering CUHK's traditional Chinese medicine programmes at CEE, and staff exchange.

Dr. Goh explained, "Chinese medicine is gaining much recognition in Malaysia. With its growing popularity, many Western medical practitioners have become aware of traditional remedies and have developed keen interest in widening their knowledge in this area. CEE looks forward to partnering with SCPS to conduct traditional Chinese medicine training programmes to cater to this market."



UTAR delegates enjoying themselves at WUSA.

In conjunction with the recently held Global Peace Festival, 34 UTAR students from the Community Service Society of Bandar Sungai Long Campus participated in the World University Student Assembly (WUSA), held from the 17 – 19 October 2008 at various parts of the Klang Valley.

This gathering involved students from many countries such as Japan, Thailand, Germany, Cambodia, Hong Kong and many more. UTAR was among the institutions of higher learning that represented Malaysia. This assembly adopted 'Let's Make Malaysia the World Capital of Peace' as its slogan.

UTAR Students at Global Student Assembly

On the first day of the gathering on 17 October, all the participants met at University of Malaya for *Meet-and-Greet* sessions. The next day, they were divided into different groups for community service work at the nearby neighbourhood. The last day was the climax of this event, when all the participants gathered at Stadium Putra in Bukit Jalil for the grand celebration.

Among the events lined up during the grand celebration were trade fair and exhibition, a presentation on the charity drive called 'The Power of 10 Cents', and performances by local artistes.

UTAR students who were given the opportunity to attend this assembly were happy to be able to share their experience and learn from their peers from different countries. They were able to find some common ground that binds their ties together in the name of making peace for all a possibility in this world.

Psychology Society Visits Hospital Bahagia

On 22 September 2008, members of the Psychology Society paid a visit to Hospital Bahagia Ulu Kinta, in Tanjung Rambutan, Perak. These 22 students, accompanied by two lecturers were from the Faculty of Creative Industries, Petaling Jaya Campus.

The visit to this mental hospital was arranged to expose the students to the clinical setting of their future profession in dealing with the mentally displaced patients as well as to see for themselves firsthand how a clinical environment is managed.

Upon their arrival at the hospital, the students were introduced to the history and functions of the hospital as well as the facilities available at the hospital. They were also briefed on the activities undertaken by the hospital residents such as the



Students who participated in the visit pose for a photo before leaving.

National Day celebration, Patient Day, and National Psychiatric Sport Day.

The students also visited various wards in the hospital accompanied by the nurses. The students had the opportunity to interact with the patients, where they were able to put into practice some of the things they learnt in the classroom.



Second from left: Wong Hong Chau, Emergency Commander of the ERE, giving a short briefing to the students after the evacuation process.

UTAR Prepares for Emergency Situations

The Emergency Response and Evacuation Team (ERE) of UTAR organised a fire drill on 22 October 2008 at UTAR Bandar Sungai Long Campus for the ERE members to familiarise themselves with the emergency procedures to be carried out in the event of unforeseen emergency situations.

Besides that, the fire drill also trained students on procedures of emergency evacuation.

Although this was the first time such an evacuation procedure was conducted at the Bandar Sungai Long Campus, ERE members showed great enthusiasm and success in handling their roles and responsibilities as they only took minimal amount of time to evacuate everyone from the building.

At the end of the fire drill, the ERE members gathered for a post mortem to identify the weaknesses behind the fire drill and evacuation process. Some of the members came up with smarter solutions that could be used to improve the evacuation system even further.

Leong Chi Wei, 20, Deputy Evacuation Controller of the ERE and second year student of UTAR's Finance degree programme enthused, "Before the fire drill, all I know was just theoretical knowledge of my roles and responsibilities in the ERE."

He continued, "Only after performing my duties at the fire drill was I able to visualise the possible actual scenario and learn how to react appropriately to emergency evacuation. This hands-on experience is good as it helps me to prepare for real-case situations that may occur."

Apart from the fire drill conducted at UTAR's Bandar Sungai Long Campus, similar fire drills were also held at UTAR's Petaling Jaya and Kuala Lumpur campuses on 13 August 2008 and 29 October 2008 respectively.

Financial Planning Workshop for UTAR Students

Preparing students for life after university with skills that are essential is among the objectives of the formation of UTAR's Department of Soft Skills Competency (DSSC). With this in mind, during the recent semester break, DSSC organised a financial planning workshop from 25 – 26 September 2008.

This workshop was organised to enhance the students' financial planning literacy, as well as to provide them access to qualified financial planners who in turn can coach them and answer their queries.

The workshop was moderated by Ho Tsok Shien, a certified Financial Planner from the Malaysian Financial Planning Council. He guided the students on how to manage their future earnings as well as making smart investments. In addition, participants were also briefed on the Islamic principles of financial planning.

Participants also had the opportunity to get their doubts cleared and queries answered before the end of the workshop during the Q & A session.

For Saravanan Sivasangaran, a final year Biomedical Science student, attending the workshop has truly been an eye-opening experience for him. He enthused, "It was a good kick-start towards financial literacy for science stream students like me who know nothing about financial planning. Through this workshop, I learnt how to plan my personal finances which will be useful especially once I start working," he said.

At the end of the workshop, the participants were reminded to start applying the knowledge they had gained in helping them improve their financial management and budgeting.



Participants at the Financial Planning Workshop.

Soft Skills Supplementary Workshop



Teamwork: One of the activities during the Workshop

Despite being on semester break, UTAR students can still enrich their academic experience through courses organised by the UTAR's Department of Soft Skills Competency (DSSC). From 3 – 10 October 2008, DSSC organised the Interpersonal and Personal Development Workshop at the Petaling Jaya Campus.

Students from various faculties participated in this workshop which was facilitated by Jonathan Fong. He is a corporate trainer specialising in training customer-focus marketing, business communication, leadership skills and many more.

The one-week workshop exposed the participants to various aspects of self-development. This is crucial to the participants who are at the stage of defining their future. Among the key modules included in this workshop were effective communication and presentation, entrepreneurship and business development, customer service, office document and procedure, and leadership and team building.

Clearly, the students who participated in this programme reaped much benefit. For Chong Chin Yee, a Year 2 Psychology undergraduate, the methodology learned in this workshop enabled him to enjoy the learning experience. "I enjoyed learning from the trainer who shared his experience, knowledge and expertise. He enlightened us on how to prepare ourselves for the working environment."

Chong also has a better appreciation of the importance of soft skills. "After attending this workshop, I realise that soft skills are things we cannot learn in the classroom only. We need to put in extra efforts to develop these skills as they add value to our hard skills," he elaborated.

Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign at UTAR



From left: Mrs. Lynne Leong, representative of BCWA together with Dr. Carmen Nge, Dean, Faculty of Creative Industries, and Lai during the launching of the Campaign.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death among women, and it is estimated that one in every 19 Malaysian women has the risk of getting breast cancer in her lifetime – a grim statistic indeed.

Because of this, UTAR and the Breast Cancer Welfare Association (BCWA) recently organised the Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign at the UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus on 29 October 2008.

‘Early Detection Saves Lives’ was chosen as the Campaign slogan. This Campaign was held to heighten the UTAR’s community, especially the students, awareness on the seriousness of this disease and to promote the regular practice of self-breast examination.

Among events held during the Campaign were performances, testimonials, lucky draw, games and exhibition on breast cancer and breast health.

According to Ranjit Kaur, President of the BCWA, although Malaysians have a great understanding of breast health issues, most still believe that cancer will never happen to them. “Our knowledge gets easily clouded by traditional beliefs and myths. On doing self-breast examination, many are fearful of finding some abnormality. So now breast health educators are making great efforts in teaching women, as well as men the hands-on knowledge of breast health,” she added.

In her speech, Lai Yoke Hooi, the Campaign Director stated that although breast cancer is mainly a female affliction, men can play a major role in providing support to their loved ones’ when needed. “Generally in Asian countries, men are the breadwinner, the protector and the head of the household. Thus, it is important that they become the pillar of strength for their loved ones who are suffering from breast cancer,” she elaborated.

UTAR Students Get Healthy at MMHA Big Walk

It was a fresh and inviting morning for 35 members from UTAR’s Psychology Society who started their day early by participating in the Malaysian Mental Health Association (MMHA) Big Walk organised on 19 October 2008 at Dataran Petaling, Petaling Jaya.

Themed ‘A Good Walk, A Healthy Mind’, the fun walk was held in conjunction with the World Mental Health Day 2008 to create public awareness on mental illness and to ward off stereotypes and myths about mental illnesses. The Big Walk was also to create an opportunity for participants to exercise and to widen their social circle.

The students began their day with some light warm-up session and fun aerobic dances.

They then proceeded on to the fun walk by following the route determined by the organiser. During the walk, the students made great conversations with fellow participants who were walking beside them. Many of the students managed to make new friends while walking.

According to the students, they enjoyed the walk very much because it enabled them to watch the beautiful morning sunrise as well as to delight in the fresh morning air.

The walk was a good experience for the students as it not only helped them to remind them to keep healthy, but also gave them the opportunity to network with other university students, veteran runners as well as the public in general who shared the same interests with them.

Before their departure from the event, they were each given goody bags and free drinks in appreciation for their support for the Big Walk.



UTAR participants warming up.



Participants from UTAR.

Tips to Secure Dream Jobs at UTAR Workshop



Participants listening attentively during the Workshop.

Some 90 members from the UTAR Career Development Society gained beneficial insights that could help them in securing their dream jobs during the 'Resume Writing and Interview Workshop' held on 22 October 2008 at the Bandar Sungai Long Campus.

During the workshop, students learnt writing techniques that could help them to produce a more professional and attractive resume. The session included tips on what should and should not be included in their resumes.

The students were also enlightened on the frequently asked questions during job interviews. They were given practical examples on how to answer the questions appropriately and also on how to project a confident image for themselves during the interview.

Having the knowledge and qualification to perform a job is just one of the key factors in determining a candidate's success in securing a job. Displaying the right attitude, especially during the interview, is what counts the most. At the workshop, the students were encouraged to foster the right attitude such as by showing willingness to learn new skills and knowledge, being able to adapt to new environment, having proper stress management abilities, and building a positive mindset in handling situations.

The workshop also highlighted the importance of having soft skills, such as having good interpersonal skills, in helping them to secure their dream job.

At the end of the workshop, an interactive Q&A session was held to enable students with queries to seek clarifications. It was a fruitful day for all who attended the workshop as they departed with knowledge of job-seeking procedures which can help them in their future job applications.

Cultivating Leadership Qualities at UTAR

To encourage students to build good leadership and teambuilding attributes, UTAR's Department of Soft Skills Competency (DSSC) organised a workshop entitled the 'Leadership and Teambuilding Workshop' on 23 - 24 September 2008 at UTAR's Petaling Jaya Campus.

The workshop was facilitated by Malar Villi, a U.S. Certified Personality Trainer with extensive training experience, who stressed, "To become an effective leader, one must understand the qualities of a strong leader and compare those qualities with one's own strengths and weaknesses."

At the workshop, students were taught how to identify their personal strengths and weaknesses. They were then guided on how to utilise their strengths and how to work on their weaknesses to improve their leadership qualities. In addition, the students were required to list down their personal goals. After that, they were asked to think of ways in which they could use to achieve those goals.

Besides the leadership and teambuilding workshop held at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus, a similar workshop was also organised at UTAR Perak Campus on 22 and 23 September 2008. The workshop in Perak was facilitated by Jonathan Fong, a corporate trainer with vast experience in training staff from various levels at several public-listed and multi-national companies in Malaysia.

Many benefited from attending both the workshops. Ng Kee Ming, Chairman of UTAR's Sports Club commented, "The knowledge and experience that I have gained from the workshop will be of great use to me, especially in managing and motivating my team to improve the club further."



Students having fun in one of the activities at the Workshop at Perak Campus.

UTAR Strives for Global Exposure with Lehigh University, USA



UTAR senior officials posing with the visitors from Lehigh University.

UTAR opened its doors to five senior officials from Lehigh University, USA who visited UTAR Kuala Lumpur Campus for a one-day visit on 30 October 2008.

Delegates from Lehigh University were headed by Dr. Mohamed S. El-Aasser, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. During the visit, the guests met with UTAR senior officials to discuss potential collaborative efforts for the benefit of both Universities.

The discussion covered a wide spectrum of collaborative options such as credit transfer and internship programmes, student and staff exchanges, sabbatical leave, and joint research and funding.

Dr. El-Aasser expressed, "In preparing our students to face the challenges of globalisation and social change, it is vital for them to interact with societies at global level and also understand their different cultures. With that, Lehigh University wishes to enhance its international portfolio and is looking forward to collaborating with UTAR in order to achieve this aspiration."

Speaking at the discussion session, UTAR President Engr. Prof. Dato' Dr. Chuah Hean Teik, suggested, "Besides hosting Lehigh's students for industrial training, engineering students from UTAR

and Lehigh can team up for joint community projects in Malaysia's new villages."

Dr. El-Aasser concurred, "It would be good for students from both Universities to conduct research projects that help discover new technologies to improve the lives of the community. An interesting area that we can certainly look into is in conducting research on the Malaysian new villages."

He added, "We are also keen on connecting students from both Universities during their social sciences and humanities classes through tele-conferencing. These sessions will give students an excellent opportunity to experience cultural exchange."

Apart from supporting joint research and tele-conferencing sessions, Dr. Yeoh Suan Pow, UTAR Vice President of Student Development and Alumni Relations, extended a warm invitation to Lehigh students to come for short Chinese Studies courses at UTAR and enjoy the experience of living in Malaysia which is a culturally-rich society.

She said, "Malaysia is an ideal location for hosting study abroad programmes on Chinese Studies. Besides gaining knowledge on the Chinese language and literature, students can also gain exposure on life in a multi-cultural society."