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Mock cheque presentation (from left): From UTAR, Registrar Dr Tan Kee Kong, Dean of the Faculty of Science Dr Lim Tuck Meng and President Ir Prof Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik; Deputy Minister of Higher Education Dato' Dr Hou Kok Chung; from Kouk Foundation, Trustee and Deputy Chairman Kay Kuok Oon Kwong, Trustee Dato' Oh Bak Kim and General Manager Lynette Ng



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UNIVERSITI TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN
拉曼大學

Convocation
2011

19 & 20 March
Dewan San Choon, Wisma MCA

UTAR 12th Convo > p10&p11



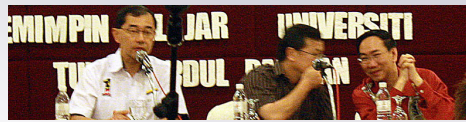
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UTAR and Kuok Foundation establish professorial chair

UTAR and the Kuok Foundation Berhad signed an agreement to establish the Tan Sri Dato' Philip Kuok Professorial Chair in Agricultural Science at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus on 16 March 2011.

Signing the agreement were UTAR President Ir Prof Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik and Trustee and Deputy Chairman of the Kuok Foundation Kay Kuok Oon Kwong. UTAR Registrar Dr Tan Kee Kong and General Manager of Kuok Foundation Lynette Ng signed as the witnesses.

Deputy Minister of Higher Education Malaysia YB Dato' Dr Hou Kok Chung graced the ceremony as the guest of honour. Also present were Trustee of the Kuok Foundation Dato' Oh Bak Kim and Dean of UTAR Faculty of Science Associate Professor Dr Lim Tuck Meng.

Under the agreement, UTAR would receive RM3 million from Kuok Foundation to establish the chair and appoint a professor for advancing research and development (R&D) and promoting academic activities for the field of Agricultural Science.

"The establishment of the Chair is timely as the University intends to offer on a new programme, Bachelor of Science (Hons) Agricultural Science, under the Faculty of Science; UTAR has just recently submitted to the Ministry of Higher Education for approval to conduct this programme," said Prof Chuah, after thanking Kuok Foundation for their generous contribution. He added that the establishment of the chair would enable UTAR to further support the agricultural sector by providing knowledge workforce and to embark in new R&D projects.

"UTAR and Kuok Foundation share a common vision of advancing education and research as well as in bringing quality education to financially disadvantaged young Malaysians," said Kuok, adding that she could think of no better university than UTAR to set up the chair in memory of her late father, in view of the university's good reputation and record achievements attained within nine years since its establishment.

UTAR and Ken Holdings to develop green technology



Ken Holdings Berhad announced in a ceremony after its 27th annual general meeting on 18 April 2011 the signing of a memorandum of understanding with UTAR to jointly develop green technology.

"Ken Holdings Berhad's collaboration with UTAR will bring forth value-added contributions in research, shared expertise and joint development of research in green technology for the Malaysian construction industry", said Tan Chek Siong, executive director of Ken Holdings Berhad, an award-winning green construction company.

"UTAR is pleased to work with Ken Holdings Berhad because input from the industry will ensure the currency and relevancy of UTAR programmes and R&D activities," said UTAR Vice President (R&D and Commercialisation) Prof Dr Lee Sze Wei, who represented UTAR President at the ceremony. He added that the academia-industry collaboration was in line with the Government Transformation Programme that emphasise national human capital development.

Also present at the ceremony were Chairman Tan Boon Kang and Director Tang Kam Chee of Ken Holdings Berhad and UTAR Director of Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research Prof Dr Faiz Abdul Rahman.

Exchanging of documents (from left): Prof Faiz, Prof Lee, Tan Boon Kang, Tan Chek Siong and Tang

UTAR-GXU connection

At a ceremony held in Kuala Lumpur, UTAR signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Guangxi University (GXU), China on 5 April 2011.

Signing the MoU were UTAR Vice President (R&D and Commercialisation) Prof Dr Lee Sze Wei and his counterpart GXU Vice President Prof Liang Ying. Four other Malaysian institutions of higher learning also signed MoUs with their partners from Guangxi at the ceremony which was held in conjunction with China Guangxi Education Fair.

Present at the function were Deputy Minister of Higher Education Malaysia Dato' Dr Hou Kok Chung, Director General of Guangxi Education Department Dr Gao Feng, Chinese Embassy Director of Culture Gao Wei and Malaysia-China Friendship Association Secretary General Tan Kai Hee.



Prof Lee (right) receiving a souvenir from Prof Liang at GXU's booth

UTAR-JACTIM career fair

UTAR and Japanese Chamber of Trade and Industry Malaysia (JACTIM) jointly held a one-day career fair at UTAR Kuala Lumpur Campus on 2 March 2011.

The career fair aimed to provide opportunities for leading Japanese companies to recruit UTAR students on campus before they graduate. Fourteen JACTIM members participated in the fair. They included world-class electronics manufacturers such as Canon, Hitachi, Panasonic, Sharp, Sony, and Toshiba, and Toray Malaysia Group.

“Through collaboration with external corporations, the University serves to bridge the students with these corporations for internship and employment through career fairs and career days organised by UTAR Department of Alumni Relations and Placement,” said UTAR President Ir Prof Dato’ Dr Chuah Hean Teik, after thanking the participating organisations and JACTIM for jointly organising the fair.

“The career fair acts as a [quality] checkpoint for students as they complete their studies; because we provide opportunities to only deserving bright individuals by taking them under our wings and flying with them to success,” said Managing Director of Sharp Electronics (M) Sdn Bhd Takashi Mikami, also a member of Board of Directors of JACTIM, adding that JACTIM members were more than happy to meet UTAR students.

“Having the right attitude towards work, pleasant personality and good communication skills are values the prospective employees



Tun Dr Ling (centre), Prof Chuah Hean Teik (left) and Mikami launching the UTAR-JACTIM career fair

should possess,” said Noor Afifa Kamarudin, a human resource officer.

“The career fair has served as a guide for me to be better prepared for the competitive working world,” said second-year Chemical Engineering student Ngoo Cheong Hing, adding that the fair was an eye-opener for him on what the employers required of employees.

Also present at the opening ceremony was UTAR Council Chairman Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik.

UTAR receives **RM100,000** computer lab from OSK



Dato’ Lim (sitting) trying out a computer in the lab with Prof Chuah (right), U (behind Lim) and the prize-winning students

Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) officially received a computer lab worth RM100,000 from OSK Investment Bank Berhad (OSKIB) at a ceremony at UTAR Kuala Lumpur Campus on 24 March 2011.

The computer lab was a prize won by 20 students from the campus in the inaugural OSK Investment Challenge in October 2010, a seven-week-long online stock trading competition which more than 29,000 students from 592 institutions of higher learning participated. The 20 students used the investment skills they learned online and secured the first place in the campus category

with the highest combined portfolio value of RM5,323,278.25 and won a computer lab and equipment worth RM100,000 (UTAR News October 2010 issue page 8).

“Our students are encouraged to participate in healthy competition to expand their potentials and talents beyond the classrooms and to put what they had learnt from lecture into practice,” said UTAR President Ir Professor Dato’ Dr Chuah Hean Teik, adding that apart from the versatile, broad-based and industry-aligned curriculum, UTAR students were introduced to a variety of leadership and soft skills development programmes that prepared them to meet the demands of the competitive world and to thrive in it.

Applauding the 20 UTAR students who had contributed to the win, OSKIB Chief Executive Officer U Chen Hock said, “It is your strong gumption and business acumen, your passion, confidence, competitive spirit and your drive for entrepreneurship that have helped you to succeed in your endeavours.” He added that he was pleased with the success of the inaugural OSK Investment Challenge and the enthusiasm shown by UTAR.

“We have identified the domestic financial industry as one of the primary contributors to the growth of our new service economy; in this regard, we already possess a proud body of work, especially in our Islamic capital market,” said Deputy Minister of Finance Malaysia Dato’ Ir Donald Lim Siang Chai, who was speaking as the guest of honour for the ceremony.

“However, Malaysia needs to continue to develop its other capital market segments in order to stay competitive in this global market,” Dato’ Lim continued, adding that he was glad that OSKIB and UTAR had worked together to contribute constructively in meeting the country’s agenda.

Mydin's boss shares experiences



"You decide what you want to do; you must [then] like what you do and do it with a passion," said Mydin Mohamed Holdings Berhad Managing Director Dato' Haji Ameer Ali Mydin, sharing his experiences with an audience of more than 200 at UTAR Perak Campus on 23 March 2011.

Dato' Ameer Ali was invited by UTAR Department of Consultancy and Commercialisation to speak in UTAR Entrepreneurial Talk Series. He was the second entrepreneur to speak in the series; the first was the president of Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia and the Group Chairman and Chief Executive Office of the Lion Group Tan Sri William Cheng Heng Jem in January 2011 (UTAR Horizon February 2011, page 4).

Mydin, a household name, operates 79

retail outlets of hypermarkets, emporiums, bazaars, mini-markets, convenient stores and franchise outlets throughout the country.

Enlivening his talk with occasional humorous remarks that triggered laughter from the audience, Dato' Ameer Ali highlighted that hardworking, determined, being ambitious, honest, punctual and having good communication skills were the common traits possessed by a successful entrepreneur.

"Never underestimate your competitors, learn from your competitors and do better than them," he added, advising students to stay competitive and not to be afraid of positioning themselves next to competitors.

Responding to a question, he advised students to secure their qualifications and work after graduation to accumulate experience before venturing into business, and aptly invoked a Malay saying, "Naik tangga jangan berlari, kerana jika berlari, kita mungkin akan terjatuh satu hari nanti (Do not run up the stairs, if we do so, we may fall one day)."

Dato' Ameer Ali presenting

Agricultural Science lecture series launched

UTAR constantly support the development of fields of study of emerging importance to national economy such as Agricultural Science. For that reason, the University launched the lecture series at Petaling Jaya Campus on 25 March 2011.

Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry Malaysia Chua Tee Yong, who was officiating the launch, said that agriculture sector remained as an important sector for the economy of the country and added, "The holding of the Agricultural Science lecture series by UTAR is therefore timely and will contribute constructively and in line with the ministry's efforts to promote the agriculture and agro-based industry."

UTAR President Ir Prof Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik said that Agricultural Science was essential to food production of not only Malaysia but also the world and agro-based industry was thus very important to the country's economy. He added, "Therefore, it is very important for UTAR to support the development of agro-based industry."

The inaugural lecture entitled 'Food, fibre and fuel never go out of style' was presented by Fellow of Academy of Sciences Malaysia Dr Tan Swee Lian. She started on the impact agriculture had on human history and civilisation and ended with what were to come in the future. She said today's challenges in agriculture were climate change, shrinking accessibility of land, diminishing water resources, and world's population exceeding food supply around 2020, and added that ways must be found to overcome these challenges. New fields of specialisation emerged today were biotechnology, nanotechnology, food safety and sustainability and impact on the environment.

Through Genetic Engineering, commonly known as GM, a form of Biotechnology, we now have pest- and herbicide-resistant soybean, cotton and corn; increased shelf life tomato, ringspot virus-resistant



Chua (left) receiving a basket of fruits from Prof Chuah



Dr Tan (left) with Dr Wong during the Q&A session

papaya, and nutrient-improved 'golden' rice.

"In the future, we even have chewing gum that you can chew, and chew, and chew, and the taste is still there," said Dr Tan, previewing the future nanotechnology 'Willy Wonka' gum.

Moderating the lecture session was Associate Professor Dr Wong Hann Ling from the Faculty of Science, UTAR.

Forum on *commercialisation*

“For the nation, the more innovations produced, the more robust the economy will become in the face of global competition,” said Dr Mohamed Majid Konting, the moderator of forum on ‘Commercialising Research and Development Findings’ held at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus on 29 March 2011. Dr Majid, an associate professor from Universiti Putra Malaysia, added that the forum was to address the various issues pertaining to commercialising research findings of academicians.

The forum was one the many activities organised by UTAR and Malaysian Association for Education. Earlier that day, the two parties signed a memorandum of understanding which was witnessed by Deputy Minister of Higher Education Malaysia Dato’ Saifuddin Abdullah (see page 20).

“There are a lot of research done in universities, a lot of articles in the shelves, a lot of findings, but no expertise to commercialise them,” said forum panellist Prof Dr Barjoyai Bardai, adjunct professor and director of Global MBA Program, Universiti Tun Abdul Razak. He spoke of his sabbatical leave in Silicon Valley during the digital boom in the 1990s. While the venture capital setup in Malaysia was not as developed as that in USA, Prof Barjoyai advised start-ups to exploit whatever resources available to them.

“The National Biotechnology Policy was launched by Pak Lah [former Prime Minister of Malaysia Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi]

in 2005,” said panellist Dr Kodi Isparan Kandasamy, Vice President (Agriculture) of Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation. He added that the policy had three phases of implementation. First phase was for capacity building, the second phase from 2011 to 2015 was to nurture existing biotechnology companies to ensure extensive commercialisation, and the final phase from 2016 to 2020 was to raise the standards of these local companies to compete globally.

The third panellist was Ong Chui Koon, senior general manager and senior principal consultant of SIRIM Berhad, and intellectual property (IP) consultant to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. He said that laws protecting IP, research findings, inventions and innovations were available. Ong added that there would be a central depository for research findings ready for commercialisation to promote to potential investors.



Dr Yap (right) presenting a souvenir to Prof Yeap

On ‘perceptual mapping’

“How humans integrate successive views to form a perceptual map is a paradox,” said Director of the Centre for Artificial Intelligence Research, Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand, Prof Albert Yeap Wai. He was invited to talk on ‘A Theory of Perceptual Mapping: How Humans Integrate Successive Views’ at UTAR Perak Campus on 4 March 2011.

He added that humans need to integrate successive views with a certain transformation process. And recent studies on the long-term perceptual map indicated that we do not remember much of what we have seen due to a phenomenon known as ‘change blindness’.

Prof Yeap’s research interest is on how the mind works. He has developed computational theories explaining how humans perceive large-scale spaces and understand a language. He said the theory presented in the talk, which explained how the process probably worked, had been proven through tests on a mobile robot.

After the talk, he met with Head of the Department of Electronic Engineering Dr Yap Vooi Voon and other UTAR staff to discuss on collaboration.

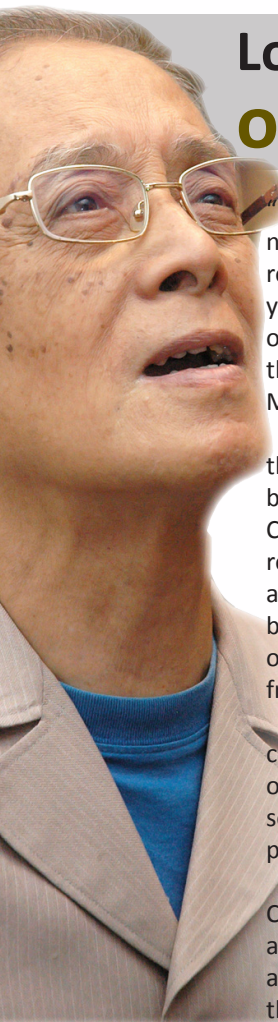
Can this photo be trusted?

Prof Dr Alex Kot Chichung from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore gave a talk on ‘Can this photo be trusted?’ at UTAR Perak Campus on 13 April 2011. He was serving as the external examiner for the Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) Electronic Engineering programme of UTAR.

Prof Kot said because digital cameras were so common nowadays that photos from the public were readily available for journalistic reports. But there was the challenge of how to authenticate these photos. His talk introduced several techniques used to detect common image forgeries. These forensic techniques generally used statistical detection of image tampering anomalies.



Local historian talks on WWII



"During the Japanese occupation, we were not permitted to speak in English and were required to learn Japanese in school," said 82-year-old historian Chye Kooi Loong in his talk on 'Dark Days: the Malayan Campaign and the Emergency' at UTAR Perak Campus on 23 March 2011.

Chye was a young boy in Kampar when the Japanese invaded Malaya. He wrote a book entitled 'The British Battalion – Malayan Campaign 1941-1942' after seven years of research on the Battle of Kampar. His book and unflinching efforts to preserve the battlegrounds in Kampar had led to his award of the Member of the British Empire (MBE) from Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in 2007.

Chye recalled, "Students who went to school could bring back some rice, a little sugar and other foodstuffs. We did not have enough food so we only had tapioca in the morning and porridge and salted fish for dinner."

The Battle of Kampar was part of the Malayan Campaign during World War II where British and Indian troops fought against the Japanese and suffered heavy casualty. Chye attributed the British defeat to the lack of preparedness, weapons and training for jungle warfare of the British forces. The Japanese were patriotic to their country and emperor and well trained to



Deputy Dean of Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS) Dr Wong Wun Bin (second from right) handing over a souvenir to Chye, while Mrs Chye (third from left) and other ICS staff look on

endure hardships and fighting in the jungle, and had an established spy network in Malaya since early 1900s.

After the war, the Malaysian Communist Party, which fought in the war, demanded independence from the British but failed. Discontented, they caused tension forcing the British government to declare a state of emergency. During the Emergency, the communists, mainly Chinese, fought with arms they obtained from the British and Japanese. Many Chinese rubber smallholders and tappers were coerced into paying 'protection money', buying supplies, giving information and keeping silence. To prevent Chinese peasants from aiding the communist guerrillas, the British resettled them away from the jungle in guarded fenced compounds called 'new villages'.

The British eventually defeated the communists. Chye attributed the British victory to the counter-insurgency tactics of the British High Commissioner of Malaya Sir Gerald Templer, which included an *Orang Asli* (aborigine) reconnaissance taskforce that could effectively locate enemy camps in the jungle. The communists did not gain the support of both the Chinese, whom they had ill treated, and the Malays, who, unlike the atheist communists, had strong religious faith.

Chye during the talk

Sudoku Godfather arrives at UTAR

"Is Sudoku a puzzle or a quiz?" Maki Kaji, who first coined the word 'Sudoku', began his lecture with a question.

Kaji was invited by Malaysian Sudoku Society and UTAR to give a special lecture entitled 'Behind and Beyond the Borderless Grid' at the National Sudoku Seminar held at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus on 19 March 2011. Fondly referred to as the 'Godfather of Sudoku' by the puzzle fans, Kaji was instrumental in a chain of events that made Sudoku a worldwide phenomenon. Currently he is the president of Nikoli Co, Ltd, Japan, a leading publisher of popular puzzle magazines and books, which was founded 25 years ago.

"A puzzle can be solved in a logical way, and there is always a solution; so Sudoku is a puzzle," Kaji answered his own question, suggesting that unlike a puzzle, a quiz needed no logical deduction.

He had been travelling around the world since 2005 and found that Sudoku was widely accepted as a popular pastime across all age groups and socio-economical backgrounds.

More than 150 participants, ranging from the youngest six-year-old Sudoku fan to students, educators, and members of senior citizen associations, attended the seminar. Also present were Toh Puan Ena Ling (wife of UTAR Council Chairman Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik), UTAR Council Member Dr Milton Lum and Director of the Centre for Extension Education Dr Prudence Goh.

During the seminar, there was a Sudoku contest. Kaji had also autographed on Nikoli's books of those donated to the relief fund for Japan. According to Nikoli, 88,000-yen donation was received.



The youngest and one of the oldest participants with Mr Kaji.



Mr Kaji is signing his autograph on the booklets. All proceeds collected were to be used for disaster relief for the recent Japanese Tsunami victims.

UTAR staff learned to be effective leaders through a training programme entitled "The Effective Leader through Dynamic Power of Thoughts" held at Perak Campus on 7 and 8 April 2011. Organised by UTAR Centre for Extension Education, the programme was facilitated by Ng Thian Whatt, an experienced trainer in the area of human development.

Participants were briefed on desirable characteristics of an effective leader, how power of thoughts affecting leadership and the practice of effective communication skills in workplace. They were kept busy with activities such as interactive group game and discussion, experience sharing and case study throughout the training session.

"The training programme was great, very interesting and interactive based," said Chew Chai Guat from Department of General Services. Like most of the participants, she learned how to become a good and respectable leader.

"The programme has equipped me with the essential skills to be an effective leader which are applicable in my area of work," said Nursyafinaz Mohd Noh from the Library, adding that she was looking forward to attend more leadership training programme in the future.

Leaders in the making



Ng (fourth from left) with participants

Students learn to **take charge**



Rizal (centre) giving instructions to participants

"The programme has taught me how to be in control of myself and to work on things that matters most instead of just depending on luck in life," said UTAR Foundation student Nishalani Devi, a participant of the training programme called 'Take Charge' held at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus on 26 February 2011.

The Department of Soft Skills Competency engaged experienced professional trainer Mohd Rizal Hassan to conduct the one-day personal development programme, which guided participants to be responsible and accountable to their own actions and lives. It covered aspects such as own ability to take charge, teambuilding and communication. Eighty UTAR students benefited from the programme.

"Encik Rizal has proven that his methods actually work," said Devi, after viewing a video supporting the methods. She added that she would use the methods in her everyday life.

"The training involved two-way communication and required active participation from the participants," said another participant second-year Accounting student Cheah Shu Phing, adding that she also learned how taking responsibility could change things and make things work.

Throughout the programme, Rizal gave out 'stars' to motivate participants to speak up and ask questions.

What is Hinduism?

"Hinduism believes that God is within yourself and that the entire universe is filled with His presence," said Dr Jaganathan Marimuthu from UTAR Faculty of Creative Industries in a talk entitled 'South East Asia: A Spiritual Journey' at Petaling Jaya Campus on 30 March 2011.

Dr Jaganathan added that there was only a formless God called Brahman, who later incarnated into three forms Brahma (the Creator), Vishnu (the Preserver) and Shiva (the Destroyer). God also incarnated as humans to lead mankind to righteousness and attaining moksha (godliness) through acquiring good karma or consequences of one's deeds. Though not known to many, the white powder applied on Hindus' foreheads, which resembled the ashes of a cremated body, was a constant reminder for one to do good deeds before they died and reincarnated.

Dr Jaganathan said that Hinduism, which was started in south India, had long ago spread to Southeast Asian countries including Vietnam, Cambodia, and Indonesia, particularly in Java and Bali.

Dr Jaganathan on 'What is Hinduism?'





Guangxi Teachers and Education University, China

On 4 April 2011 three delegates from Guangxi Teachers and Education University (GXTEU), China, Secretary of the Party Committee Prof Liu Li (third from left), Director of International Exchange Prof Huang Dou (second from right) and Head of International Exchange Office Hu Hongyun met with UTAR President Ir Prof Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik (centre), Vice President (Internationalisation and Academic Development) Prof Dr Ewe Hong Tat (third from right), and Dean Prof Dr Ho Khai Leong (right) and Dr Chong Siou Wei (left) of Institute of Chinese Studies at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus. GXTEU is a formal partner of UTAR (see UTAR Horizon February 2011 issue page 2).



Tamkang University, Taiwan

Delegates from Tamkang University (TKU), Taiwan visited UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus on 25 February 2011. At the meeting (front row, from left) were Deputy Dean of UTAR Faculty of Accountancy and Management Dr Kevin Low Lock Teng, TKU Director of Office of Alumni Services and Resource Development Dr Perng Chun-Young, TKU Director of Office of International Exchanges and international Education Dr Lee Pei-Wha, Prof Ewe, Prof Chuah, TKU Vice President for International Affairs Prof Tai Wan-Chin, and Chairman Pang King-Hoe and Advisor Lee Ser-Chong of TKU Alumni Association.



Kasetsart University, Thailand

Dr Kongkiti Phusawat (sitting left) and Dr Pornthep Anussornnitisarn (sitting right) from Kasetsart University, Thailand visited UTAR Perak Campus on 25 February 2011. They shared their experience in university management with faculty members of Faculty of Business and Finance led by its Dean Dr Ooi Keng Boon (sitting centre). Kasetsart University, one of the nine research universities in Thailand, was founded in 1943. It currently has 45,000 students including 12,000 postgraduates.



Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan

(From left) UTAR Director of Programme Promotion Tan Yan Soon, Head of Department of Chinese Studies Dr Chong Siou Wei, Dean of the Institute of Chinese Studies Prof Dr Ho Khai Leong met with three delegates from Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan Director of Academic Exchange Center and Associate Professor of Department of Nursing Dr Huang Yu-Chu, Advisor to FJCU Alumni Association Chang Ho Fong and Academic Exchange Center Coordinator Joyce Chu at Petaling Jaya Campus on 14 April 2011 to discuss on collaboration on staff and student exchanges, summer camp, cultural visits and joint development of nursing and mass communication courses.

muRata Electronics, Malaysia

(From left) Managing Director Yoshihiro Tanaka, General Manager Dr Wong Yik Ming, and Human Resource Advisor Keiichi Miyazawa from muRata Electronics (M) Sdn Bhd visited UTAR Perak Campus on 7 March 2011. They met with UTAR Vice President (R&D and Commercialisation) Prof Dr Lee Sze Wei and other UTAR staff to discuss on internship, scholarships, short-term projects, muRata serving as industrial advisors and employing UTAR graduates. Delegates from muRata visited UTAR in February (UTAR Horizon February 2011, page 6), invited UTAR to visit them in May.



Plymouth State University, USA

Chair for Department of Social Science Prof Chong Peng Khuan (fourth from right) and Associate Director for Global Education Office Jessica S Morel (third from left) of Plymouth State University, USA visited Perak Campus for the first time on 20 April 2011. They were received by UTAR Council Chairman Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik (fourth from left) and three UTAR vice presidents Prof Lee (second from left), Prof Ewe (second from right) and Dr Teh Chee Seng (right); Advisor to UTAR Tan Sri Hew See Tong (third from right) and his son Hew Fen Yee (left). Prof Chong gave a talk at Petaling Jaya Campus on 22 April 2011.



UTAR to offer *Journalism in Chinese Media*

Deputy Minister of Higher Education Dato' Hou Kok Chung handed over the approval letter from the Ministry of Higher Education for UTAR to offer its Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Journalism in Chinese Media at a ceremony held at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus on 4 April 2011.

"In deciding to launch a new programme, we conduct market surveys to ensure our graduates are absorbed into employment market to continue our trend of 97 percent of our graduates being employed six months after their final exam," said UTAR President Ir Prof Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik. Prof Chuah added that UTAR had decided to offer the Journalism in Chinese Media programme in view of the growing number of users of Chinese language, the mushrooming of Chinese media in the country and also the emergence of China as a global economic power.

"While it is trivial for an institution to receive approval letters, what not trivial is that Chinese has been approved as a medium of instruction," said Dato' Hou when commenting on the approval for the programme to be conducted in bilingual – English and Chinese. "For the Master of Arts (Chinese Studies) programme [currently conducted in UTAR], it was approved that its thesis could be written in any of the three languages



Dato' Hou (centre) presenting the letter of approval to Prof Chuah while Dr Nge looks on

– English, Bahasa Malaysia or Chinese," continued Dato' Hou, adding that his ministry had taken on the liberal stand on the use of more than one medium of instruction with the view of achieving greater academic excellence.

UTAR anticipated that there would be ample employment opportunities for graduates of the programme not only in Malaysia but also in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and other countries with growing Chinese readership.

Also present at the ceremony was UTAR Dean of Faculty of Creative Industries Dr Carmen Nge Siew Mun.

UTAR best social entrepreneur



Starting from fifth left: Prof Chuah, Yeoh, Dr Teh and Dr Nge with the contestants

The best 'social entrepreneur' in UTAR emerged when the Little Rain Children Trust Social Entrepreneurship Business Plan Competition 2010-11 concluded at UTAR Perak Campus on 9 March 2011.

The Little Rain Children Trust, which sponsored the competition, was established by Mark Chang Mun Kee, chief executive officer and founder of JobStreet.com, with the objective to provide opportunities for the development of young adults and children for the betterment of mankind.

The Best Social Entrepreneur Award of the competition was given to the UTAR student with the best project plan to solve social problems faced by the poor with innovative application of entrepreneurial principles. The contesting students were judged for the sustainability and impact on the community that their project plans provided.

"Today's competition is very special because it is not just a competition about entrepreneurship business plans, but [the aspect of] the word 'social' is emphasised in this competition," said UTAR President Ir Prof Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik, adding that as members of society, every one of us, rich or poor, should contribute to the society and students could do so by giving

ideas to help the community.

Three contesting project plans, 'AV-1 Win', 'Going Green' and 'Straight Workshop', were shortlisted for the final and were presented to the three judges, Yeoh Liew Se (representing Chang), UTAR Vice President (Student Development & Alumni Relations) Dr Teh Chee Seng, and Dean of the Faculty of Creative Industries Dr Carmen Nge Siew Mun.

"My visit to a mushroom farm when I was in form six had given me a better understanding of the business and prompted me to propose a plan to start a mushroom farming business," said second-year Computer Engineering student Athel She Tu Chun Ket, after winning the best social entrepreneur award and cash prize of RM1, 000 with his entry 'AV-1 Win'.

She Tu, from Sabah, proposed to the rural community in Sabah to work together to grow Oyster mushroom and sell the produce to complement their other incomes. The extra incomes could also help improve the healthcare quality of the community.

"Mr Mark Chang has decided to give a further RM10, 000 to the winner to implement his project to test its feasibility," said Yeoh, who announced the winners on behalf of Chang.

“ Today's competition is very special because it is not just a competition about entrepreneurship business plans, but [the aspect of] the word 'social' is emphasised in this competition.”

Ir Prof Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik

UTAR celebrates 12

First 1,195 Perak Graduates

UTAR 12th Convocation, which was held at Dewan San Choon, Wisma MCA, Jalan Ampang, Kuala Lumpur on 19 and 20 March 2011, saw UTAR's first PhD graduate, inaugural batch of 1,195 graduates of 22 honours bachelor's programmes from Perak Campus, and 17 pioneer Mechatronics Engineering graduates. At the convocation, 1,626 students graduated from one PhD, six master's and 38 honours bachelor's programmes. Among the bachelor's graduates, 91 received first-class honours.

Deputy Education Minister graces ceremony

The three sessions of the convocation ceremony spanned over the weekend. The guests of honour were Deputy Minister of Education and National Chairman of MCA Youth Datuk Ir Dr Wee Ka Siong (left) for the first session, member of UTAR Council Dato' Dr Mohd Aminuddin Mohd Rouse, second session, and member of the Board of Trustees of UTAR Education Foundation and UTAR Council Datuk Leong Tang Chong, third session.



Part-timers make it

Ho Chan Wai, an IT engineer working in Seremban and Bachelor of Computer Science (Hons) (part-time programme), said, "It was hard to juggle both work and study but I was determined to finish what I started. This ceremony [convocation] is an unforgettable day for me."

R Jeevan Raj, an assistant manager working in Kuala Lumpur and Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons) (part-time programme), said, "UTAR has offered me a good foundation which will help me to climb the corporate ladder in the future."

Graduates share...



Pathmapriya (left), Dr Seng (centre) and Tan (right)

Ang

Cheong

Ong

Siti Shahidah

From Petaling Jaya

Ang Swee Yoke, production assistant, Prima Media and Bachelor of Communication (Hons) Broadcasting who was also in the Dean's List in May 2008 and October 2009, said, "I thank UTAR especially for the support and help given us to win the best short video awards in Astro Nexgen and MAVIC in 2010. I was an assistant producer for both competitions. I had a lot unforgettable moments of wearing costumes of the 1950s, travelling around the country for shooting, and attending the award presentation ceremonies."

Cheong Kar Kiet, Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) Biomedical Engineering who was also in the President's List in January 2008, said, "We gained a lot of valuable experiences through university activities. In the IEEE student conference, I met students from other countries and learned about the latest technologies. My internship at Radiacare allowed me to learn technical skills and about administrative work systematically. UTAR had prepared me well for my future career."

Ng Tong Lip, process engineer, Lipotech Engineering Sdn Bhd, Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) Chemical Engineering with first-class honours and a book-prize winner, said, "UTAR Chemical Engineering Department has trained me to apply relevant knowledge in Chemical Engineering calculations, analysis and design. I was very

fortunate to have been an intern in Titan Chemicals Corp Bhd as it has taught me how to deal with people at all levels professionally, allowing me to expand my networks in future."

From Perak

Tan Jiunn Han, a UTAR Master of Philosophy (Social Science) student, Bachelor of Social Science (Honours) Psychology with first-class honours and a book-prize winner, said, "The quality of UTAR is contributed by the qualified lecturers who are patient and enthusiastic in bringing up [the standards of] the students. The first-class honour and book prize will drive me forward for greater things in the future."

Pathmapriya Ganasan, customer service engineer, Scope International, Standard Chartered Bank, Bachelor of Social Science (Honours) Psychology with first-class honours and a book-prize winner, said, "UTAR has taught me that nothing is impossible as long as I'm willing to work hard. Studying in UTAR had moulded my positive character and improved my interpersonal skills."

Aster Kyle Gunasekera, music director, Icepeak Solutions and Bachelor of Communication (Hons) Public Relations, said, "My internship in Institute of Public Relation Malaysia has given me valuable hands-on working experience which will benefit my future

First UTAR PhD graduate

"I'm honoured to be UTAR's first doctorate graduate and owe it all to my lecturers, family and friends," said Dr Seng Hoi Ling (left), UTAR's first PhD graduate who worked as a lecturer in a private university.

Dr Seng started with a Master's programme at UTAR, which was later upgraded to PhD level, and her research thesis was on "Duplex and G-quadruplex DNA Binding, Nucleolytic Property and Topoisomerase I Inhibition of Different Series of Metal (II) Complexes." She, who was working to finance her studies, had worked hard and persisted to complete her studies within three-and-a-half years.

International graduates praise UTAR

Toni, Indonesia, Bachelor of Information Technology (Hons) Communications and Networking, said, "UTAR was where I had many experiences. First, city life at Petaling Jaya Campus during my foundation programme and then country life at Perak Campus for my degree programme. Life in Kampar is not as boring as many may think, because of the scenic campus, close friendship and interesting studies. I have really enjoyed my life in UTAR." He planned to continue to study Master of Computer Science in UTAR.

Sandy Christian, Indonesia, Bachelor of Information Technology (Hons) Communications and Networking, said, "I have enjoyed the diversity of cultures in UTAR very much and learned many cultures, languages, and experiences from friends around me. UTAR have offered me good education through a learning environment of a great campus, complete facilities, and qualified lecturers. Life was great when I was in UTAR."

Shieh, Pey-Jie, Taiwan, Bachelor of Communication (Hons) Broadcasting, said, "Studying in UTAR was the right choice for me because my proficiency in English improved during my three year studies in UTAR."

(Left: Dato' Mohd Aminudin giving out scrolls to Toni (top) and Sandy)



Yap (second left)



Ng with parents and brother



Chang with parents and sister

career. UTAR also gave me knowledge on management and communication that had helped me do my part-time job in an event agency better."

Jolyn Ong Chooi Leng, English teacher, Hin Hua High School and Bachelor of Arts (Hons) English Language, said, "I have fond memories of studying hard during my three years in UTAR. I listened attentively during lessons and if I did not understand the lessons well, I would look for the lecturers and discussed with them. They had been very helpful."

Soon Jiunn Yann, project coordinator, Mutiara (FE) Pte Ltd, Singapore, Bachelor of Science (Honours) Construction Management with first-class honours and a book-prize winner, said, "UTAR curriculum is quite sufficient for us to start work. The lecturers assigned us additional activities such as site surveying, 3D modelling, defects checklist, and risk assessment; these really help much in the industry, especially in Singapore, where lots of paperwork are required to be approved before starting work."

Kow Kwan Yee, reporter, The Star, Penang and Bachelor of Communication (Honours) Journalism with first-class honours and a book-prize winner, said, "What I learned in UTAR definitely help me a lot in my current job, since my major was Journalism. I'm very happy to be a first-class student; all my previous efforts

let me harvest such a wonderful fruit."

Yap Wei Wen, an Intern in Financial Sector Talent Enrichment Programme and Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons) Banking and Finance with first-class honours and a book-prize winner, said "My degree is a stepping stone for me to enter the banking and finance field, which has a lot of future potentials. Studying in UTAR has enabled me to be independent, to cope with stress and work with others. The soft skills programmes have been useful to me, especially on interview skills, thinking out of the box and taking charge."

Siti Shahidah Mohd Hassim, Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) Accounting, said, "I decided to study in UTAR because of the University's reputation. I also found all my fellow university mates very helpful."

Chang Kok Yung, project coordinator, Liew Yin Yin Construction Sdn Bhd, Ipoh, Bachelor of Science (Honours) Construction Management with first-class honours and a book-prize winner, said, "Studying in UTAR allows me to understand easier the real environment of construction and the practical aspects of work. I am planning to continue with a Master's degree in near future."

Tapioca biofuel

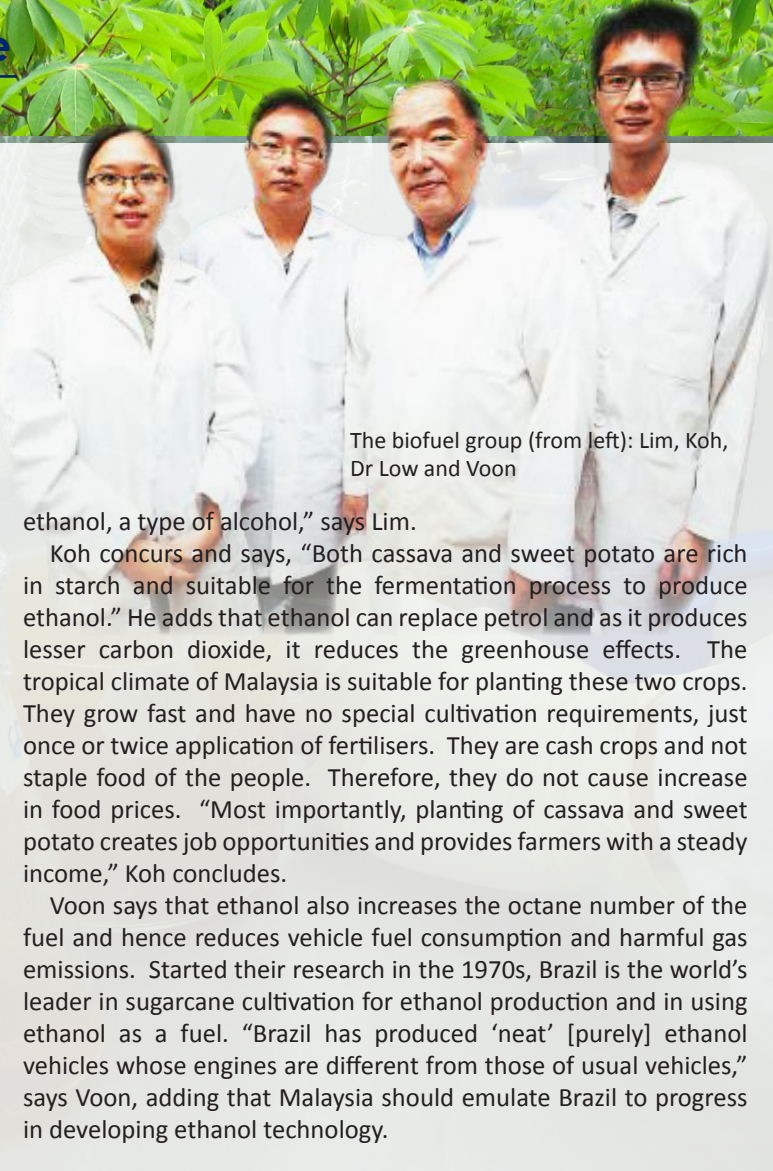
“Rising global crude oil prices has prompted the search for alternative energy sources to reduce the reliance on crude oil, and this has opened up a lot of opportunities worldwide,” says Dr Low Chong Yu from UTAR Faculty of Engineering and Science.

An alternative energy source is biofuels, which are derived from organic materials or biomass. Dr Low says unlike fossil fuels which are depleting, biofuels are renewable energy sources, which not only can reduce air pollution and greenhouse effects caused by burning of fossil fuels, but also enable sustainable development that provides employment and improves economy.

Dr Low adds that the development of biofuels in other countries is quite advanced. For instance, ethanol (an alcohol) as a biofuel is widely used in gasohol – a mixture of gasoline (petrol) and alcohol – in Brazil, USA and Thailand. Although the development and use of biofuels is critical, it is unpopular in Malaysia. Therefore, UTAR has urged its Chemical Engineering students to study the development of biofuels.

Led by Dr Low, a research group on biofuels was set up. It comprises three students Lim Syly, Koh Cin Cong and Voon Meng Seap. While most UTAR Chemical Engineering students study the production of alcohol using crops such as cassava (commonly known as tapioca locally) and sweet potato, and biowastes such as banana peels and weeds, the group focuses its attention on the use of cassava and sweet potato, because studies on their use are more extensive and they give high ethanol yield.

“Our studies involve using cassava and sweet potato as raw materials to produce biofuels; through fermentation they produce



The biofuel group (from left): Lim, Koh, Dr Low and Voon

ethanol, a type of alcohol,” says Lim.

Koh concurs and says, “Both cassava and sweet potato are rich in starch and suitable for the fermentation process to produce ethanol.” He adds that ethanol can replace petrol and as it produces lesser carbon dioxide, it reduces the greenhouse effects. The tropical climate of Malaysia is suitable for planting these two crops. They grow fast and have no special cultivation requirements, just once or twice application of fertilisers. They are cash crops and not staple food of the people. Therefore, they do not cause increase in food prices. “Most importantly, planting of cassava and sweet potato creates job opportunities and provides farmers with a steady income,” Koh concludes.

Voon says that ethanol also increases the octane number of the fuel and hence reduces vehicle fuel consumption and harmful gas emissions. Started their research in the 1970s, Brazil is the world’s leader in sugarcane cultivation for ethanol production and in using ethanol as a fuel. “Brazil has produced ‘neat’ [purely] ethanol vehicles whose engines are different from those of usual vehicles,” says Voon, adding that Malaysia should emulate Brazil to progress in developing ethanol technology.

UTAR staff receives ACU fellowship

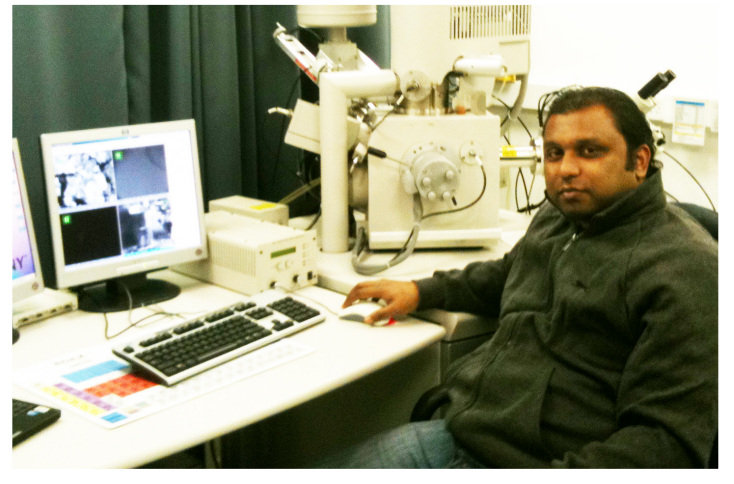
“It has been an honour working with Professor Samjid Mannan of King’s College, London,” says Deputy Dean (Student Development and Industrial Training) of UTAR Faculty of Engineering and Science Dr Rajkumar Durairaj.

Dr Rajkumar was awarded the Wishton Titular Fellowship of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) to work together with Prof Samjid Mannan from the Department of Physics, King’s College, London, the United Kingdom from October to December last year.

He adds that Prof Samjid, who has more than 15 years’ experience in electronics manufacturing, is one of the foremost researchers in the UK. Prof Samjid receives more than £1.5 million from bodies including Engineering and Physical Science Council of the UK for his research and consultancy activities.

Dr Rajkumar has gained much knowledge from his trip to London and is kept abreast with the latest developments of his field in Europe.

“The research culture in King’s College is very different from that in Malaysia; theoretical and planning stages of publication receive more emphasis there,” he says, adding that quality of research work in Malaysia will be improved tremendously if the same approach is adopted here.



Dr Rajkumar with an FEI Quanta FEG scanning electronic microscope at King’s College

Likewise, UTAR can also benefit by emulating the research culture of King’s College as it works towards achieving the research university status. For that reason, UTAR is planning to have more active collaboration with King’s College.

“The postgraduate students in King’s College are very thorough, independent and have good communication skills; my experience working with them is guiding me on how to nurture and guide UTAR postgraduate students in that direction,” says Dr Rajkumar.

UTAR wins prizes in public speaking

UTAR first-year English Education student Victoria Anak Akiew won second prize, while UTAR second-year Biotechnology student Lovinia Sugunasilan was in the fifth place in the Inter-Varsity Public Speaking Competition held at Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Perak on 8 March 2011.

Organised by UiTM, the competition aimed to promote public speaking skills in English. Ten contestants from six universities and colleges participated in the competition. The competition was divided into two sessions. In the first session, students presented a seven-minute prepared speech, while in the second, an impromptu speech.

"The competition was challenging as the contestants had to give an impromptu speech immediately they received their topic," said Victoria, adding that she felt confident after seeing judges

nodding their heads when she was speaking.

Though Victoria had been participating in public speaking competitions and debates since her secondary school days, she was still nervous but the judges did not notice that because she was able to compose herself throughout the competition.

"I always want to win in every competition but I don't feel bad for not winning the first prize in this competition because the [first prize] winner was really strong," said Victoria, adding that she had learnt much from this competition.

The guest of honour, who gave out the prizes, was Dato' Mohammad Zahir bin Dato' Abdul Khalid, Perak state executive council member for education, higher education, ICT, human resources, science and technology.



Victoria delivering her speech at UiTM Perak

UTAR hauls six medals in Sukan Perak

Competing against 15 other contingents, 10 from Perak districts and five from other institutions of higher learning, UTAR won six medals in this year's Sukan Perak, the first of such meet that it had ever participated in.

Three female foundation students won four medals. Chan Wai Man won a gold medal in taekwondo women's poomsae event. Cheong Wei Ying won gold in women's kumite (65-kilogram) event and bronze in women's kata event in karate-do. Foo Lih Yie won a bronze medal in women's kumite (65-kilogram) event. UTAR men's and women's basketball teams each won a silver medal.



UTAR taekwando team wins big

UTAR taekwando team won five medals in the first circuit of Perak Taekwando Junior Development League Championships, which was held at Dewan SMK Air Kuning, Kampar on 26 February 2011.

The competition, organised by Kelab Taekwondo Imperial BG, Persekutuan Taekwondo Negeri Perak, and Majlis Sukan Negeri Perak, aimed at preparing student participants for the upcoming Sukan Perak. The winners (top picture from left): Ooi Pei Wan (Biochemistry) and Gan Xiang Yan (Accounting) won gold medals in women's poomsae events; Low Seng Hwa (Chemistry), silver in poomsae; and (bottom picture from left) Chee Chung Yean (Psychology), gold and Yap Thai Ming (Foundation in Science), silver in sparring.



UTAR goes dark for Earth Hour

All lights were switched off and candles were lit at Sports Complex, UTAR Perak Campus, at 8.30pm on 25 March 2011, 24 hours before the official Earth Hour. Some 320 UTAR students and staff supported the initiative which was organised by Community Service Society and Kampar District Council. The event started with a speech by Chai Wai Kit, the organising committee chairman, and a performance by the 1/3 Band (bottom left) from Perak Campus, before the purposeful blackout. In darkness, the participants were entertained by performances by UTAR students and Chinese festive drum band of Pei Yuan High School, Kampar. The night climaxed when the participants formed the figure '60' (top right) for the 60 minutes of Earth Hour with their candles and observed a moment of silence (top left) for the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. A flying lantern 'kongmingdeng', with a string attached for security, was released sending the people's wishes to heaven before the one-hour darkness ended.



Month-long voluntary work in Tronoh

UTAR Public Relations students engaged in voluntary work to improve the education, health and environment aspects of Tronoh Mines New Village from 14 March to 10 April 2011. Deputy Home Minister Dato' Lee Chee Leong was invited to officiate the campaign on 9 April and present were (top left picture, from left) Keranji State Assembly Coordinator Chang Gwo Chyang, Village Head Cheah Ah Low, Dato' Lee, Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Science Dr Sebastian Francis, UTAR Vice President Dr Teh Chee Seng, and Kampar District Council Representative Khairiyah Abdul Halil. Projects undertaken included blood donation, free medical examinations, pap-smear test and advice from traditional Chinese medical practitioners; cleaning up and beautifying of community hall and the old market; and charity run for building a mini-library.



Concert for a good cause

Charity Concert 2011 filled the night of 23 February 2011 with music and dance performances for a good cause. The proceeds from the concert totalling RM4,000 went to the welfare home Ruman Angels Kanak-Kanak, Kuala Lumpur, which housed 14 children. UTAR Community Service Society and Music Club, who took two months to prepare the concert, was also collecting clothes, books and money donated by the public for the home's children for a few weeks before the concert. "The concert and donations is a way we give back to the community," said How Kha Tiam, the organising committee chairman.

Committee members with the home's children



A night with Chemistry

Once again, UTAR Chemistry Society cooked up a night of music, songs, dances, food and lucky draws at Perak Campus on 27 February 2011. Chemistry Night 2011, themed 'Sapphire & Moonlight', started with a dance to the 2010 FIFA World Cup official song Waka Waka followed by two songs by Kevinder Singh, jazz by flautist Siah Yi Lyn and saxophonist Tan Jing Cong (bottom) and a sensual dance (top).



A karaoke star is born

After two months and three rounds of selection, the UTAR karaoke star was finally born. From 200 participants who came for the five-day audition from 24 to 28 January 2011, 20 semi-finalists were selected and after the semi-final on 19 February, 10 finalists emerged. At the final on 26 March, Chew Shernhui (bottom) emerged as champion while first and second runners-up were Cheong Hui Ting and Noel Tan Xin Ngoh. The chief judge Christopher Lay (top) performed in the final.

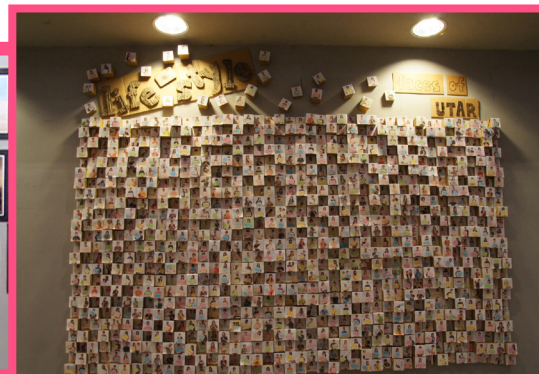
The UTAR's Idol 2011

U.Star Singing Competition, which emulated the famous US reality show, was held at Petaling Jaya Campus on 12 March 2011. The contest open to students of Klang Valley campuses saw eight finalists competing in three rounds. In the first round, contestants selected their songs from a given list; second round, a duet, and third, a song of their choice. Chew Poh Hua emerged as this year UTAR's idol and she received her prize from Vice President Dr Teh Chee Seng (picture).



Lifestyle photo expo

The Photography Society showcased photos on lifestyles from UTAR students and staff in a photo exhibition at Heritage Hall, Perak Campus from 7 to 9 March 2011. There was a board presenting 1,240 photos of 'Faces of UTAR' students and staff (right), exhibition booth called 'The House' (left top) made of recycled materials and a shooting studio (left bottom) which charged RM2.00 for a 4R photo.





Heritage Hall-full of graduating students during Prof Chuah's address

Tea meeting with the President

"There are advantages and disadvantages working in big or small companies; the early you realise your own strengths, the early you can find a suitable job for yourself," said UTAR President Ir Prof Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik, addressing graduating students who filled up the Heritage Hall of Perak Campus on 23 February 2011.

It was during the Tea Meeting with the President, an annual event organised by the Department of Alumni Relations and Placement for UTAR President and the University to give advice to graduating

students before the convocation.

"Attending an interview is an art; thus, students should prepare well and do a survey before attending an interview," said Prof Chuah, urging students to be good employees who would abide to company rules, conform to corporate culture and able to work in a team. He also encouraged students to continue to learn to update themselves for the changes ahead.

55 companies seek UTAR graduates



Career talk at FICT



Students visiting booths at the career fair

"Our past experience has given us confidence to recruit more UTAR graduates this time," said Recruitment Manager of S P Setia Group Carmen Lim May Yuen, adding that her company had recruited a few UTAR graduates last year and some UTAR students were doing internship, and they were all performing well.

S P Setia Group was among the 55 companies that participated in career fair held at Perak Campus on 30 and 31 March 2011 to grab UTAR graduating students as their employees.

The other companies included manufacturers Carsem (M) Sdn Bhd, Flextronics Technology (Penang) Sdn Bhd, J.K. Wire Harness Sdn Bhd, LB Aluminium Berhad, Pacific Food Products Sdn Bhd, Plexus Manufacturing Sdn Bhd, Top Glove Sdn Bhd and Unisem (M) Sdn Bhd; banking groups CIMB, Hong Leong Bank Berhad, Maybank, OCBC Bank and Public Bank; insurance groups Prudential Assurance and Great Eastern; and accounting firm and professional body Deloitte Malaysia and Chartered Institute of Management

Accountants. Those participated for the first time were AEON Co. (M) Berhad, Amcorp Properties Berhad, Famosa Resort Hotel Sdn Bhd, Hai-O Raya Bhd, Popular Book Co. (M) Sdn Bhd and Sushi Kin Sdn Bhd.

A total of 1,722 students registered for the career fair where 11 career talks were held by companies and a professional body.

Earlier, on 8 March 2011 the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology (FICT) in Perak Campus also held its career day. Twelve companies and organisations participated in the career day and they were software developers Centric128, Datamicron, eBworx, and Silverlake; system integrators Comintel and Recogline Technology; banking groups HSBC and OCBC; government agency CyberSecurity; non-governmental organisation CyberCare; and recruitment agencies JobStreet and JobMarket Malaysia. The prospective employers conducted career talks and interviews at the faculty.

Teambuilding on Broga Hill

UTAR Career Development Club took some 40 students to a teambuilding camp on the weekend of 9 and 10 April 2011 around Broga Hill, Semenyih, Negeri Sembilan.

Obstacle course activities with fancy names such as Crocodile's Pit, Giant's Finger and Whale Watch were already waiting for the students when they arrived at the campsite near Broga Hill. Of particular interest was the Flying Fox activity which challenged the participants' physical and mental endurance. After the obstacle course, it was free for the students to explore the campsite surrounding, go mountain-biking and kayaking, and play basketball and volleyball. In the evening, the students gathered around a campfire to have barbeque and fun.

Sunday, before dawn, the campers hiked up Broga Hill for a breathtaking view of sunrise – a priceless moment for those who reached the hilltop on time. Soon after they descended the hill and had breakfast, another round of obstacle course awaited them. Every one was drenched with sweat after the grand finale.



Students descending Broga Hill

Psychology Week



Improve your memory at...

UTAR Psychology Society held an exhibition, workshops, video presentations, games and treasure hunt during the Psychology Week from 14 to 19 March 2011 at Perak Campus.

Information on symptoms and prevention of insomnia, phobias,

obsessive compulsive disorder, stress and eating disorders was displayed at the exhibition. There were also three booths for mental games such as crossword, and psychological and memory tests. In a lecture hall, a video on cognitive psychology was shown and workshops were held.

Low See Kim conducted a workshop on active imagination technique devised by analytical psychologist Carl Jung, where a person could probe his unconscious and subconscious mind and hence gaining a degree of control over the mind through relaxing themselves by listening to soft music and following specific instructions.

In the narrative therapy workshop, participants drew their life story as 'tree of life' and painted different parts of the tree with colours they preferred. Developed by David Attenborough from Dulwich Centre Foundation and Ncazelo Ncube from REPSSI, the method enables participants to understand themselves better and improve their cognitive, affective and behavioural aspects.

Participants also learned in the relaxation workshop the proper breathing techniques to de-stress their body and mind to have a healthier lifestyle.

On 9 April 2011 UTAR Vice President (Student Development and Alumni Relations) Dr Teh Chee Seng flagged off the first treasure hunt ever organised by the Traveller's Den – a UTAR student club.

The treasure hunt from Perak Campus, Kampar to Virgo Batik Resort, Lumut attracted eight competing four-in-a-car teams. Before the flag-off mechanics had a safety check on all the cars. Along the way, contestants were required to answer 50 questions and find five treasures items within the stipulated times with the aid of clues and maps provided.

At dinner, the winners were announced. Being the first to arrive at the finish line with the most correct answers, the team comprising Liew Sung Han, Ng Tze Khei, Hong Lin Kern and Ronald Siaw Soon Loong, three UTAR students and one Kolej Tunku Abdul Rahman student, emerged as champion. First runner-up went to a team of four Biomedical Science students - Yeap Hong Kheng, Lim Pooi Gaik, Kang Chin Hooi and Lee Kah Leng, while second runner-up went to Ong Aik Cheng, Eng Jia Ming, Wong Kit Lee and Yong Jia Hui - Accounting, Banking and Finance, and Environmental Engineering students.

First UTAR treasure hunt



Safety check before the start

Dr Teh flagging off the hunt



At the launch (from left): Dr Teh, Lee, Dato' Mah and Prof Chuah

Four-season wushu

UTAR students demonstrated the 'four-season' wushu to Perak Executive Councillor Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon and an audience of about 450 in Wushu Night on 9 April 2011.

Held at Kompleks Rakan Muda, Kampar, it was the first Wushu Night organised by UTAR Wushu Club. Dato' Mah officially opened the event with UTAR President Ir Prof Dato' Dr Chuah Hein Teik, Vice President (Student Development and Alumni Relations) Dr Teh Chee Seng, and Advisor to Wushu Club Mr Lee How Chih.

The performers welcomed the audience with an auspicious lion dance, a must-have for the Spring Festival or Chinese New Year celebration. It was followed by the spring's 24 festive drum performance; summer's Hong Quan (洪拳); autumn's Nanquan (南拳), Changquan (长拳), and spear performance; and Taiji (太极) when all martial artistes clothed in winter white. The night climaxed with the comical sketch entitled 'Fighting for the Bride' as the finale. Blending martial arts with humorous dialogues, the sketch won the audience's laughter and applause.



Lion dance in action



Winter's Taiji

A trip to Nirvana

Forty UTAR students visited Nirvana Memorial Park, Shah Alam, Selangor on 9 April 2011. It was one of the 'corporate trips' organised by the Business Administration Society to expose students to actual corporate environment. The students were given a guided tour of the memorial park and briefing on the services the park offered. The party later visited Sin Chew Daily head office in Petaling Jaya, Selangor, where they learned about the history and operations of the Chinese daily.



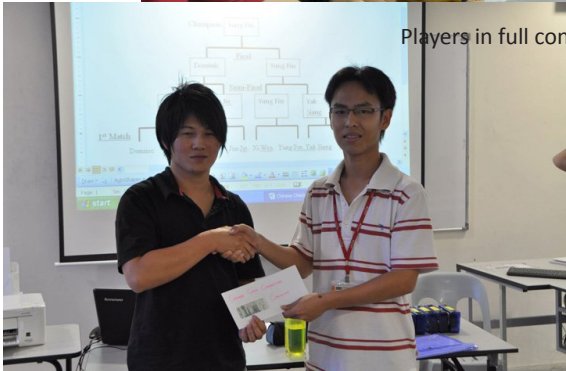
Presentation at Nirvana

Mooi is Chinese Chess champ again

Mooi Yung Pin defended his champion title in the UTAR Chinese Chess Championship 2011 organised by Board Games Club at Perak Campus. He took home a trophy, a certificate and a cash prize. Dominic Tan Haw Chuang, Heng Yak Siang and Sem Jun Jie won the second, third and fourth prizes respectively. The championship was conducted according to the rules and regulations of the Asian Chess Association. It was held over two days on 19 and 20 February 2011. The Swiss system was used on the first day to determine the eight top players based on the points they scored. On the second day, the eight top players went through the elimination or knockout method to determine the four winners in the finals.



Players in full concentration



Mooi receiving his prize from Department of Student Affairs Officer Khor Chien Yen



(左起) 马汉顺、何国忠与蔡德贤在交流会上。

副高教部长与拉大学生领袖交流

高等教育部副部长拿督何国忠博士于2月19日，于金宝大酒店会见拉曼大学76位学生领袖。出席交流会的包括霹靂州行政议员拿督马汉顺、拉曼大学校长拿督蔡贤德教授、副校长李仕伟教授（研究与商品化）及副校长（学生进展与校友联系事务）郑志成博士。

“大学生活是人生最珍贵的体验。念大学不只是为了为了一纸文凭，也是学习如何生活的一个过程。”

然而他提醒学生说，当所作的选择不是那么美好的时候，这些挫折却能让生命更有痕迹。

此外，他也提及高等教育部正积极的推广高等教育国际化及多元化，包括外国学生到本地就读，本地大学和台湾大学合办双联课程，中国在马来西亚设立孔子学院，以及拉曼大学的媒体与中医药学士课程以中文为媒介语，让学生在国际化及多元化的冲击下，能够有更多面向的思维。

心理系一年级学生罗伟志在问及高等教育学府以英语或国语作为媒介语的利与弊时，何国忠博士说，“我们必须学习多种语言，好与不好都是相对的，但我们往往都能在学习语言的困境与压力中熬过来。这样的环境虽然不是那么顺遂，可是培养出我们可以更从容的面对不同困境的个性。”

文学戏剧相结合



孙春美老师分享中。

中华研究院现代华文文学研究组、中文系及中研会联办的马华戏剧工作坊，于3月26日及27日在霹靂总校成功举行。戏剧工作坊邀请本地著名戏剧工作者孙春美老师担任课程导师，吸引了约100位同学参加。

戏剧工作坊的主要目的是将文学以及戏剧相结合。除了让学员感受文本的动感，也希望学员们能够从中学习戏剧的演绎技巧以及发挥本身的演艺潜能。

文学修行之路

拉曼大学中文系、拉曼大学中华研究中心现代华文文学组、拉曼大学中研会于3月23日在霹靂总校联合主办《因为阅读，所以书写：文字的修行之路》讲座，邀请到马华文坛传奇作家黎紫书讲述她这十多年来的创作道路及其在文字修行之路上的成长过程。黎紫书在讲座上分享了她在马来西亚、旅中、旅英的生活道路，以及她的所思所感。



文学天后黎紫书风姿

沟通与成长

中华研究中心当代中国研究组和中文系联合主办，在霹靂校区举行的“沟通与成长”讲座会邀得新加坡宝路集团董事长张露教授主讲。

张露教授主张沟通是一种新能源。这一种人类成长过程中不可或缺的能力并非与生俱来，而是需要在社会网络中通过学习及体会来造就的。



张露（右）赠送其著作给图书馆，由许文荣代接收。

快乐地享受文学



郑明俐风趣地带带领大家畅读文学。

3月16日下午，访问教授郑明俐老师在霹靂校园举行的讲座中，为出席者带了满堂欢笑和丰富的文学知识。

郑教授为台湾师范大学国文研究所博士，她与出席者分享了文学作为人类精神食粮的重要性及特殊性。她说，写作是抒发情感的一种方法，更是心理转化的一种程序，能给作者的心里带来巨大满足感。同样的，通过阅读文学，读者有共鸣之余，也有疏解情绪的作用。



Sinergi strategik UTAR-PERPEMA

Dari kiri: Prof Lee, Prof Chuah, Dato' Saifuddin, Prof Ibrahim dan Dr Raja Mohamed Fauzi

Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) dan Persatuan Pendidikan Malaysia (PERPEMA) telah menandatangani memorandum persefahaman (MoU) serta mengadakan forum bertajuk 'Pengkomersialan Hasil Kajian Penyelidikan' di Kampus UTAR Petaling Jaya pada 29 Mac 2011.

Majlis ini disaksikan oleh tetamu kehormat Timbalan Menteri Pengajian Tinggi Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah. Memorandum tersebut telah ditandatangani oleh Presiden UTAR Ir Prof Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik dan Presiden PERPEMA Prof Dato' Dr Ibrahim Ahmad Bajunid. Timbalan Presiden UTAR (R&D dan Pengkomersialan) Prof Dr Lee Sze Wei dan Ketua Setiausaha, Profesor Madya Dr Raja Mohamed Fauzi Raja Musa yang menandatangani sebagai saksi.

Seperti yang termaktub dalam memorandum tersebut, UTAR akan bekerjasama dengan PERPEMA dalam menjalankan penyelidikan, pembangunan akademik, pertukaran pelajar, lawatan bersama, pembangunan inovasi dan menganjurkan program-program akademik seperti persidangan, bengkel, penerbitan dan seminar.

"UTAR amat berbangga kerana dapat bekerjasama dengan sebuah organisasi yang bergerak aktif seperti PERPEMA; kami menghargai kerjasama ini," kata Prof Chuah. Beliau turut menambah, UTAR

bergerak maju ke hadapan dan akan terus berusaha untuk mempertingkatkan kecemerlangan dalam bidang pengajaran dan penyelidikan.

Prof Ibrahim berharap sinergi strategik antara UTAR dan PERPEMA akan membawa manfaat kepada Malaysia. "Justeru kerana tujuan perjanjian ini menuju ke arah landasan yang betul, maka sudah tiba masanya untuk kepimpinan UTAR dan PERPEMA mengambil langkah seterusnya yang membawa kebanggaan kepada Malaysia,"katanya.

"Saya ingin mengucapkan tahniah kepada UTAR dan PERPEMA di atas semua aktiviti-aktiviti yang dijalankan dan percaya usaha-usaha ini akan diteruskan pada masa hadapan," kata Timbalan Menteri Pengajian Tinggi Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah.

Selepas majlis menandatangani MoU selesai, forum bertajuk 'Pengkomersialan Hasil Kajian Penyelidikan' yang dianjurkan bersama oleh UTAR dan PERPEMA telah diadakan. Ahli-ahli panelnya terdiri daripada Dr Barjoyai Bardai dari Universiti Tun Abdul Razak, Ong Chui Koon, SIRIM dan Dr Kodi Isparan Kandasamy, Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation; pengerusi forum ialah Prof Madya Dr Mohd Majid Konting, Akademi Kepimpinan Pengajian Tinggi.



Ratu Sari dan Malam Prom India

Pemenang-pemenang Ratu Sari: Renukha (tengah), Yow Chin Hwa (kiri), dan Darsyini Rani (kanan)

Pertandingan Ratu Sari dan Malam Prom India yang dianjurkan oleh 'Indian Cultural and Language Society' (ICLS) dan 'One Malaysia Society' telah diadakan di Kampus Perak Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) pada 27 Mac 2011.

Pertandingan Ratu Sari dan Malam Prom India tersebut bertujuan untuk membantu masyarakat yang memerlukan pertolongan dan sokongan. Pihak penganjur akan mendermakan 50% daripada jumlah keuntungan iaitu sebanyak RM400 dalam bentuk barangan harian kepada rumah kanak-kanak Hope Mission Home di Teluk Intan, Perak.

Ratu Sari dimenangi oleh Renukha a/p Ramachandran, pelajar jurusan kejuruteraan kimia tahun empat dari Kampus Kuala Lumpur. Naib Johan dimenangi oleh Yow Chin Hwa, pelajar perhubungan awam tahun tiga dari Kampus Perak, dan tempat ketiga jatuh kepada Darsyini Rani a/p Raja Mohan, pelajar kejuruteraan kimia tahun satu dari Kampus Kuala Lumpur. Pertandingan Ratu Sari terdiri daripada tiga bahagian iaitu persembahan peragaan (catwalk), sesi soal jawab oleh panel juri, dan persembahan individu.

Pertandingan Ratu Sari diadakan pada waktu petang dan keputusannya diumumkan pada Malam Prom India. Juri-juri Pertandingan Ratu Sari terdiri daripada Baskaran dan isterinya yang merupakan penganjur Ratu Sari Perak Tahun 2010, Subasminee, naib johan Ratu Sari Perak 2010, dan Ma Hooi Shie juara Model UTAR 2010.

Turut hadir dalam Malam Prom India ialah Dr. Sebastian K. Francis, Dekan Fakulti Sastera dan Sains Sosial dan Geetha Veerappan, penolong penasihat ICLS.

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