

FEBRUARY 2011



## UTAR-Guangxi connection > p2

**Documents exchanged (from left):** Guangxi Teachers Education University Vice President Prof Li Yangzhi, UTAR President Ir Prof Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik, Deputy Higher Education Minister Dato' Dr Hou Kok Chung, Guangxi Education Department Inspector General Prof Lin Ning, and President of Guangxi University for Nationalities Prof Wu Jinzhao



Infineon picks UTAR graduates > p2



UTAR welcomes 'freshies' > p8 & p9



Eksplorasi pemimpin minda di Indonesia > p16



Tycoon shares experiences > p4



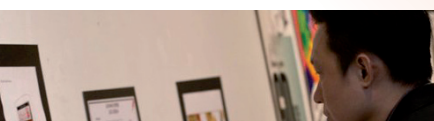
CNY gifts for 30 homes > p13



UTAR hosts Inje U, Xiehe, Tunghai U, Maejo U... > p5



新书推介礼 > p15



Heroes for hire > p10



乐见女巫 > p16

## "Broadening Horizons. Transforming Lives."

UTAR welcomes 2011 with a new tagline '**Broadening Horizons. Transforming Lives.**' that reflects its commitment to the University's community.

To go in line with the tagline, the newsletter is renamed '**Horizon**' and given a new look.

Happy reading!

Division of  
Corporate Communications and  
Institutional Research



## UTAR-Guangxi connection

UTAR exchanged documents of memorandum of understanding with Guangxi University for Nationalities and Guangxi Teachers Education University at a seminar on international cooperation in higher education held at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus on 17 January 2011.

The seminar, jointly organised by UTAR and Department of Education, Guangxi, China, was attended by about 200 participants including 52 delegates from 24 institutions of higher learning from Guangxi and participants from local universities, university colleges and schools.

"I believe Malaysia has much to offer to China students," said Deputy Higher Education Minister Dato' Dr Hou Kok Chung, who was

there to officiate the seminar.

Dato' Hou added that Malaysia's advantages included safe and study-conducive, value-for-money and quality-assured courses, good facilities, affordable cost of living, and English being widely spoken.

"UTAR has a vision to be a premier university in the region; as part of the efforts towards achieving this goal, UTAR has been actively involved in internationalisation," said UTAR President Ir Prof Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik, adding that UTAR had signed formal memoranda of understanding and agreements with 34 partner institutions, of which 31 were foreign including nine from China.

## Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman and Infineon Technologies (Kulim) Sdn. Bhd. 19 January 2011



Exchanging MoU documents (from left): Ir Chan, Prof Lee, Dr Grassmann and Tan

## Infineon picks UTAR graduates

Looking forward to employing UTAR graduates was one of the intentions of Infineon Technologies (Kulim) Sdn Bhd for signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with UTAR at Perak Campus on 19 January 2011.

"My company faces problems in recruiting competent engineers," said Infineon Kulim Senior Director and Head of Technology Dr Andreas Grassmann. He added that there was a lack of adequately trained engineering personnel in Malaysia and additional training was necessary before the new recruits could do their jobs properly. Infineon intended to collaborate with UTAR to produce graduates

that would meet the company's requirements.

Infineon Technologies, headquartered in Germany, is a world leader in offering semiconductors and system solutions for automotive and industrial electronics, chip card and security applications. Infineon Kulim was its first such facilities in Asia.

Dr Grassmann, an international collaborative partner of UTAR Global Research Network, signed the MoU on behalf of Infineon.

"With this MoU signed, UTAR and Infineon can work together to further develop our students not only to fit into the industry as a whole, but also to be tailored to the requirements of Infineon," said UTAR Vice President (R&D

and Commercialisation) Prof Dr Lee Sze Wei, who signed the MoU on behalf of UTAR. He added, "UTAR is a comprehensive university offering a full range of disciplines; our graduates should be able to fill in positions in most of the departments in Infineon."

UTAR Dean of Faculty of Engineering and Green Technology Ir Chan Cheong Loong and Infineon Kulim Director and Head of Technology Product Engineering Tan Soon Keong signed as witnesses.

After the signing of MoU, Infineon presented a mock cheque for RM5,000 symbolising the offer of Best Electronic Engineering Award to UTAR.

## Synthomer/Revertex awards UTAR alumna

Synthomer/Revertex Group presented the Best Chemistry Graduate Award to a UTAR alumna in a ceremony at Perak Campus on 21 January 2011.

Chai Hui Ping, who graduated in August 2010 with first-class honours in Bachelor of Science (Hons) Chemistry received a cash award of RM3,000 from Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Wahab, Human Resource Manager of Synthomer Sdn Bhd and Revertex (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd in a ceremony.

Present at the ceremony were Revertex Ambassador Lee Kok Hwee, UTAR President Ir Prof Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik and Vice President (R&D and Commercialisation) Prof Dr Lee Sze Wei.

"We are glad that we can participate in some ways with your esteemed university by encouraging excellence, and this Best Chemistry Award is appropriate," said Abdul Aziz, delivering a speech on behalf of Minhat Wahid, Director of Human Resource and Administration of Synthomer Sdn Bhd and Revertex (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd.



Abdul Aziz (centre) giving the award to Chai, witnessed by (from left) Prof Lee, Prof Chuah and Lee Kok Hwee





At the exhibition (from left): Prof Ewe, Ir Foong, Ooi, Dato' Lee, Ir Chan and Ar Tan

## UTAR and TAM support green technology

In support of the use of green technology in building construction, UTAR and the Technological Association of Malaysia (TAM) jointly organised Construction Management Open Day 2011 with the theme 'Build Green Today' which was held at Perak Campus on 16 February 2011.

"Green technology is definitely the way for Malaysia to go," said Deputy Minister of Home Affairs Dato' Lee Chee Leong, who was invited to officiate the open day.

"In this regard, the Prime Minister, who is also the Finance Minister, had already announced several incentives in advancing green technology in the 2011 Budget," said Dato' Lee, adding that he was glad that UTAR had been aligning to government policies and coming up with such meaningful events with TAM.

"The works exhibited by Construction Management students reflect the contemporary needs of our society to move toward greener living," said UTAR Vice President (Internationalisation and Academic Development) Prof Dr Ewe Hong Tat, delivering a speech on behalf of UTAR President and adding that UTAR had provided in all the courses the latest requirements of the society and industry through working

with industry leaders and professional bodies including TAM.

"Green technology is not new; it was started in Germany in the 1960s," said TAM President Ir Fong Tian Yong, adding that although already ten years in Malaysia, its use was not widely spread due to the lack of awareness and investors.

Ir Fong said that TAM was glad to jointly organise with UTAR the Green House Model Design Competition, whose competing entries were exhibited during the open day.

The entry titled 'Green Building in Urban Areas' won the first prize (RM1,500) of the competition. While 'Green-edge Café' and 'Green Link House' took away the second prize (RM1,000) and third prize (RM700) respectively.

TAM Advisor and Secretary General of ASEAN Academy of Engineering and Technology Ir Choo Kok Peng gave a talk to UTAR students on 'Opportunities and Challenges in Asset Management'.

Also present at the function were Dean of Faculty of Engineering and Green Technology Ir Chan Cheong Loong, Head of Construction Management Department Ar Tan Seong Yeow and TAM Perak Chairman Ooi Kah Biew.

## MISIF aspires to work with UTAR

"It has always been MISIF's aspiration to collaborate with institutions of higher learning in Malaysia to achieve synergies on a number of areas," said Chow Chong Long, President of Malaysian Iron and Steel Industry Federation (MISIF) at the signing ceremony of memorandum of understanding (MoU) between MISIF and UTAR at Petaling Jaya Campus on 28 January 2011.

Chow added that MISIF could work together with UTAR on human resource development and capacity building through conducting relevant skill-based professional courses particularly in metallurgy, as there was a shortage of competent personnel in the industry.

"The University has long been working with associations from various industries; incorporating the requirements of these associations in our course curricula would ensure that our students get the relevant qualifications and recognition and, as a result, the industry gets suitably qualified graduates as employees," said UTAR President Ir Prof Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik, adding that UTAR would work together with MISIF to uphold the high professionalism of the human capital in iron and steel industry.

Prof Chuah and Chow signed the MoU on behalf of the parties. UTAR Vice President (R&D and Commercialisation) Prof Dr Lee Sze Wei and MISIF Chairman of Human Resource Development Committee Mark Lim Sooi San signed as the witnesses.



Exchanging MoU documents (from left): Lim, Chow, Prof Chuah and Prof Lee



## Tycoon shares experiences

The President of the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia and also the Group Chairman and CEO of the Lion Group Tan Sri William Cheng Heng Jem shared his entrepreneurial experience in the inaugural talk of UTAR Entrepreneurial Talk Series held at UTAR Perak Campus on 26 January 2011.

"Trustworthiness is what dictates a good entrepreneur; you can only earn the respect from members of the society and business community with a strong sense of responsibility," said Tan Sri Cheng, adding that he insisted to pledge a RM500-million property to banks for loans, when he did not need to do so before the 1997

financial crisis, because he felt responsible to the society.

"Students should participate in extracurricular activities as it will help you develop working skills and people skills; one great benefit of involving in these activities is that you can build up relationships with others and that will be helpful to your future success in business," he said, encouraging students to start a business with fellow university-mates after graduating as it would provide opportunities for success.

To a question on chances, Tan Sri Cheng replied, "Chances are for those who are ready, only then you can seize the opportunity in time."



After the talk: UTAR President Ir Professor Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik (centre) presenting a fruit basket to Tan Sri Cheng while Vice President (R&D and Commercialisation) Prof Dr Lee Sze Wei looks on

## UTAR on autonomous vehicular technology



Symposium participants posing with students' projects

UTAR and a partner researcher presented their research works in a symposium on autonomous vehicles held at a hotel in Kuala Lumpur on 13 January 2011.

The symposium, jointly organised by UTAR

and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, served as a platform for researchers to exchange knowledge and ideas on autonomous vehicles – commonly known as 'driverless vehicles' – that are

operated through computers.

Seven papers were presented in the symposium which was attended by more than 40 academicians and students.

International collaborative partner of UTAR Global Research Network Prof Dr Edwin KP Chong presented on 'Guidance of Autonomous Vehicles with On-board Sensors Focusing on Field-programmable Gate Array based Real-time Vehicle Control System using Partially Observable Markov'.

"The symposium is a rare opportunity for UTAR students to meet the country's leading experts in the field of autonomous vehicle," said Head of Department of Mechatronics and Biomedical Engineering Dr Tan Ching Seong, adding that his department would apply for research fund from the Ministry of Higher Education for two student projects presented in the symposium.



Dr Lee presenting her talk

## Nyonya writer talks on Peranakan culture

Malaysian Woman Writer's Story' at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus on 12 January 2011.

Nyonya refers to a female member of this community and baba, a male. Loosely, peranakan means offspring.

Dr Lim, associate professor of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia School of Language Studies and Linguistics added that there were also mixed cultural hybrids with Thai, Javanese, Sumatran, Balinese, British, Portuguese, Dutch and Indian elements; and similar communities were found in other ASEAN countries such as Myanmar and Laos.

A nyonya herself, she showed photographs of her family members in traditional Peranakan attire which had both Malay and Chinese elements. She said *kasot manek*, the handmade beaded slippers worn by the nyonys that fetched hundreds of ringgit depending on the design sophistication,

could be sold at prices four to five times higher in neighbouring countries. Antique items used by Peranakan community were also much sought-after art pieces by museums in these countries.

However, Dr Lee said that the Peranakan culture was vanishing gradually and measures must be taken to preserve and revive this rich and diverse culture for the future generations. "All these priceless treasures should be conserved before it is too late," she cautioned.

Dr Lee authored nine books including three bestsellers *Malaysian Flavours: Insights into Things Malaysian* (2004), *Manglish: Malaysian English at its Wackiest* (1998), and *A Nyonya in Texas: Insights of a Straits Chinese Woman in the Lone Star State* (2007). Her most recent work is *Kebaya Tales: Of Matriarchs, Maidens, Mistresses and Matchmakers* (2011).





## Inje University, South Korea

Delegates from Inje University, South Korea were performing in full Korean traditional *hanbok* costume at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus on 25 January 2011. Led by its Dean of Public Relations and International Affairs Prof Dr Kim Chang-Yong (left), the delegates also visited Perak Campus.

## Xiehe Group, China

Five delegates from Xiehe Group, a leading manufacturer of bio-pharmaceutical products from Shenyang, China, visited UTAR Perak Campus on 27 December 2010. Picture (from fifth left): Dean Dr Lim Tuck Meng, UTAR Vice President Prof Dr Lee Sze Wei, Fellow of Chinese Academy of Engineering Prof Dr Liu Changxiao, Xiehe Group President Sir Chen Juyu, Vice President Guo Wei, Vice Chairman Sun Shufang, Managing Director Chen Yanzhu and Asso Prof Dr Lim Yang Mooi.



## Tunghai University, Taiwan

UTAR President Ir Prof Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik (second right) was briefing President of Tunghai University President Prof Dr Haydn H D Chen (right) on Phase II development of UTAR while other delegates looked on during their visit to Perak Campus on 20 December 2011. The two universities signed a memorandum of understanding at Kuala Lumpur Campus that morning (see front page of UTAR News December 2010 issue).



## Maejo University, Thailand

Led by faculty member Weerasak Srichanngam, 130 delegates (five faculty members and 125 students) from Maejo University, Thailand visited Perak Campus on 18 February 2011. Receiving the Thai visitors was Deputy Dean of Faculty of Business and Finance Dr Choong Chee Keong.



## United Chinese School Committees' Association of Malaysia (Dong Zong)

Six delegates from United Chinese School Committees' Association of Malaysia or Dong Zong visited Petaling Jaya Campus to discuss about collaboration with UTAR on 3 January 2011. The delegates were (from left in the picture) Director of Examination Board Dr Wong Yoke Nyen, Head of Technical Education Department Chong Kwe Hing, Executive of Examination Department Lai Soon Ket, Head of Examination Department Woo Keat Ni, (not in the picture) Deputy Director of Examination Board Dr Lai Hoi Chaw, Head of Unified Curriculum Department Dr Khew Khing Ling.





## UTAR promotes anaerobic treatment

"There is a misconception that an anaerobic treatment system is difficult to operate and it should be confined to the treatment of domestic wastewater sludge," says Prof Dr Show Kuan Yeow, SP Setia Professor of Environmental Engineering and Green Technology and Head of Department of Environment Engineering, UTAR, commenting on the current popularity of using aerobic treatment systems in Malaysia.

While aerobic systems may be preferred due to certain conditions such as short start-up time, diluted wastewater, low-cost electricity, and readily available disposal sites for the excess aerobic biomass produced, Prof Show says, "Most conventional aerobic wastewater treatment systems face the problems of high energy consumption, excessive sludge produced, limitations to adequate oxygen transfer, and emissions of greenhouse gases."

On the other hand, anaerobic systems consume little energy, produce little sludge, have high treatment capacity and efficiency, and enable energy recovery in the form of biogas produced. With the increasing concern on the adverse effects of greenhouse gas emissions due to burning of fossil fuels and the need for alternative fuels to replace the depleting fossil fuels, Prof Show says advanced anaerobic treatment has emerged as a most promising sustainable wastewater treatment method.

Prof Show's research is on anaerobic granulation bioreactors (AGB). AGB typically has a compact design in the form of a tall,



slender tank with a small footprint and acceptable level of odour emissions. It can withstand corrosion as it is coated and operates internally in an enclosed oxygen-free environment. AGB does not contain any media or support matrix. Wastewater flows upward through a blanket of bio-agents at the upper part of the bioreactor. It uses a unique three-phase separator which effectively separate the biogas produced from bio-agents and treated effluent.

AGB applies specially engineered granular bio-agents. The success of an AGB system depends on the formation of active and dense bio-granules through a process of microbial self-immobilisation and then formation and growth of aggregates. The granulation enhances settling of bio-solids that leads to effective bacterial retention in the bioreactor. It also improves physiological conditions that are favourable to microbes.

"My research is into using advanced anaerobic processes for wastewater purification, energy production and carbon credits; it is thus challenging but fulfilling," Prof Show concludes.

## muRata humanoids show up at UTAR

The latest robotic muRata boys and girls were performers during a road show by muRata Electronics (M) Sdn Bhd at UTAR Perak Campus on 14 February 2011.

muRata is a world leader in futuristic electronic appliances, industrial machinery, automobile communications and robotic products.

The road show aimed to introduce muRata and its local operations to engineering students in hope of enticing them to be their future employees. General Manager of Production Department

Dr Wong Yik Ming introduced muRata in general and mentioned the requirements for one to work as a production engineer in muRata. General Manager of Machine Engineering Department J Packianathan Edward and Manager of Product Engineering Department Shigeo Sasaki talked about the knowledge and skills such as working with SolidWorks and AutoCAD software which were necessary to join their departments.

What stole the show were muRata products, 50-centimetre tall five-kilogram robotic boy and six-kilogram robotic girl, with recent energy-efficiency and sensor improvements.

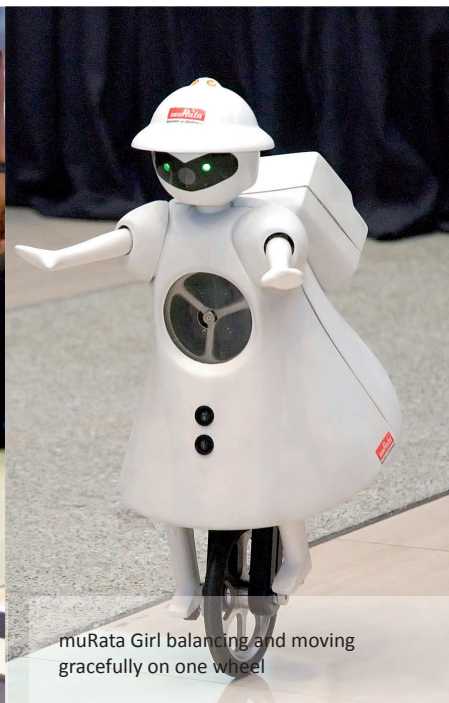
muRata Boy is a bicycle robot that can move forwards, backwards and stop on its own without falling. It uses a battery of sensors to accomplish the tasks, position detection gyro sensor for direction, tilt detection gyro sensor for slant angle, ultrasonic sensor for the distance of an obstacle ahead, and shock sensor for vibration. During the road show, muRata Boy demonstrated cycling through an 'S' curve and on a two-centimetre beam without a glitch.

The heavier muRata Girl, in a blouse, moves around on a unicycle. Using an ultrasonic sensor, she can keep a constant distance from a moving object. She can capture live moving images with a camera and transmit them using Bluetooth to a computer which she also receives operating signals, music and other information. A gyro sensor helps her control forward and backward movements on single wheel. A flywheel in her torso monitors the side tilt for her to maintain balance.

About 160 UTAR staff and students mainly from the Faculty of Engineering and Green Technology attended the road show.



muRata Boy: Only two-centimetre wide? Not a problem!



muRata Girl balancing and moving gracefully on one wheel



# R&D in UTAR impresses ICP

"I sense that UTAR faculty members have great leadership, determination and are disciplined when it comes to conducting their research," said Prof Dr Edwin KP Chong at a meeting with academic staff of the Faculty of Engineering and Science (FES) at UTAR Kuala Lumpur Campus.

Prof Chong, an international collaborative partner of UTAR Global Research Network, left Malaysia in 1982 for further studies in the University of Adelaide, Australia and Princeton University, USA. Since then he has been working abroad as an educator and researcher. He is now a professor at Colorado University, USA.

He was visiting the country from 27 December 2010 to 16 January 2011 under the Brain Gain Malaysia programme of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation Malaysia. The programme was intended to fast-track Malaysia to an innovation-led economy by leveraging the talent pool of distinguished Malaysian researchers, scientists, engineers and technopreneurs who are residing abroad through offering of incentives and mutual benefits.

"They are very enthusiastic about their work and are actively involved in research areas which have huge commercial potential," he continued, adding that he also welcomed the government's efforts in providing funds to facilitate research activities.

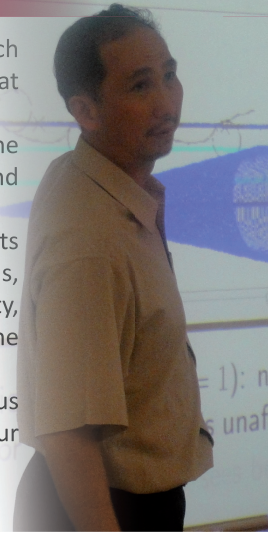
"While anyone can follow instructions, the challenge in research, however, is to create new knowledge and new ways to solve important problems; people should

bear in mind that there is a fine line between research and superficial imagination," he said, suggesting that research was not for everyone.

He added that it would be difficult to predict the outcome of any research efforts as it depended on fund and time available and many other factors.

"Increase research activities will encourage students to come up with more innovative and creative solutions, therefore although UTAR is a relatively new university, it is already heading towards the right direction," he concluded.

Prof Chong gave a talk on 'Guidance of Autonomous Vehicles with On-Board Sensors' at both Kuala Lumpur Campus and Perak Campus.



At FES: Prof Chong (left) presenting his ideas to UTAR faculty members



## Fijian ICP: Remittance industry growing

"Remittance is a growing industry and research activities must be conducted to study the pattern of cash inflow and outflow," said Asso Prof Dr TK Jayaraman from the School of Economics, University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji Islands.

"In 2009 alone, China's remittance inflow was 49 billion US dollars, while India's was 43 billion. During the recent economy crisis in 2009, this industry served as a support during the bad days," he added in his talk at UTAR Perak Campus.

Dr. Jayaraman, an international collaborative partner (ICP) of UTAR Global Research Network since October 2009, was invited by UTAR Faculty of Business and Finance (FBF) to review the Bachelor of Economics (Hons) Global Economics programme from 24 to 28 January 2011.

During his visit, he gave a talk on 'India's Economic Growth: An Empirical Study of Impact of Remittances and Financial Sector Development' and a public lecture on 'Global Financial Crisis: Challenges and Opportunities'.

“

UTAR Global Research Network serves as a platform for external academics, researchers, scientists and technologists to network with those in UTAR for research and academic development purposes.”

Institute of Postgraduate Studies  
and Research

FBF Deputy Dean (R&D and Postgraduate Programmes) Asso Prof Dr Choong Chee Keong first met Dr Jayaraman in 2004 in a conference in Sabah. Since then they have co-authored more than 20 journal articles, several international and national conference proceedings and edited chapters in book. Dr Choong plans to have joint research with Dr Jayaraman and is preparing the proposal to apply for government research funds.



Dr Jayaraman



# UTAR welcomes 'freshies'

"I like the campus life here," said Sebastian Wagener from Germany.

Wagener was one of the many new UTAR students for the January 2011 session who found the serene, picturesque Perak Campus a place conducive for learning.

The new academic session of UTAR started on 10 January 2011 with orientation to all new students.

A series of activities were lined up for the 'freshies' after their registration. Introduction session was first done to 'orientate' the newcomers to the relevant departments and faculty offices.

Through the mass call, UTAR President Ir Prof Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik welcomed the new students and introduced them to senior university staff.

There were talks on adjusting to campus life, safety, financial aids available, soft skills and career.

A special icebreaking and telematch session was provided to bring the new Utarians together in a fun way.

There were also guided tours to the library and Kampar or Kuala Lumpur, and campaigns for better safety, anti-smoking, community service, blood donation and participation in clubs and societies, before the three-week orientation session climaxed with a talent time.



## What our new students say...

“

I took up Business Admin programme in UTAR because I like to start a career in business in the future or work for the leading firms. I like to mingle with the local students though I have a little communication problem [the accents] with them, but it is not a major issue.”

**Keston Bonaya Nyanyu, Kenya**  
First-year Business Administration student  
Perak Campus

“

My ambition is to be a psychologist; therefore I will choose studying Psychology in UTAR. After graduating from UTAR, I plan to further my studies in America.”

**Elmamoun Idris Fadalmula Jabir, Sudan**  
Studying three-month English course before a degree programme at Perak Campus



Ang Hui Theng

“

It is a brand new start for me in Perak Campus. I hope to adapt to the new environment and make more friends soon. I like singing and dancing and have participated in Taekwondo matches before. So, I hope to join such clubs and societies in UTAR.”

**Ang Hui Theng, Muar**  
First-year Public Relations student  
Perak Campus

“

I have enrolled in the Psychology programme because my ambition is to be a criminal psychologist. I love criminal series such as CSI and I hope to open my own criminal psychology service centre after my studies.”

**Syaza Nur Izzati binti Dedy Dasiano, Batu Pahat**  
First-year Psychology student  
Perak Campus

“

I'm looking forward to the orientation here at UTAR. I hope to study Microbiology after doing the Foundation programme.”

**Dhachetnee Chandrasegaram, Kuala Kangsar**  
Foundation in Science student  
Perak Campus



May (left) and Shwe in traditional Burmese costume



Syaza Nur Izzati





At Perak Campus: Front row (from left), Alex Muthui Musila, Keston Bonaya Nyanyu, Sebastian Wagener and Ali GS Firwana, and back row (from left), Abdelmagid Musa Elhag Mohamed, Elmamoun Idris Fadalmula Jabir, Eisa Elsakin, Lin Qiong and Nyidumo Uget

“

There are a variety of clubs and societies in this campus and a lot of activities already planned for the semester. So, it will be really easy for me to make new friends here. I also like the environment and its green scenery. I feel relaxed studying on this campus.”

**Sebastian Wagener, Germany**

Exchange student from Harz University, Germany  
Perak Campus

“

I choose to study in UTAR because the University is well-known and its qualifications are recognised in Malaysia. Although language has been a slight barrier, all my friends in UTAR are very considerate and helpful. So, I don't feel being alienated like some of my friends who study abroad. We share everything and usually solve problems that we face together. My parents want me to expose myself to different cultures to provide me with more opportunities.”

**Ahok Uget Apoyo Uguak, Sudan**

First-year Electrical and Electronic Engineering student  
Kuala Lumpur Campus

“

The internet access in UTAR is very fast and it also provides ample online reference materials which are very beneficial to my studies. The University is conveniently located and I have easy access to the gym, public transport and other facilities. All my lecturers are also very helpful and friendly.”

**Shwe Yee Winn, Myanmar**

Master of Information Systems student  
Petaling Jaya Campus



Siti Munirah (centre) with her parents

“

I love English very much and I'm keen to do my further study specifically in English because the language is widely used in industry all over the world. I'm so happy with the beautiful campus and the activities for newcomers. I have taken part in quite a lot of them after registration.”

**Siti Munirah binti Abdul Manaf, Kulim**

First-year English student  
Perak Campus

“

The people at Perak Campus are friendly and I hope to meet more talented friends here to learn together. I like reading books on philosophy and politics. I hope to have friends who can discuss these two subjects with me.”

**Tan Kee Sau, Petaling Jaya**

First-year Business Administration student (formerly Foundation student at Petaling Jaya Campus)  
Perak Campus



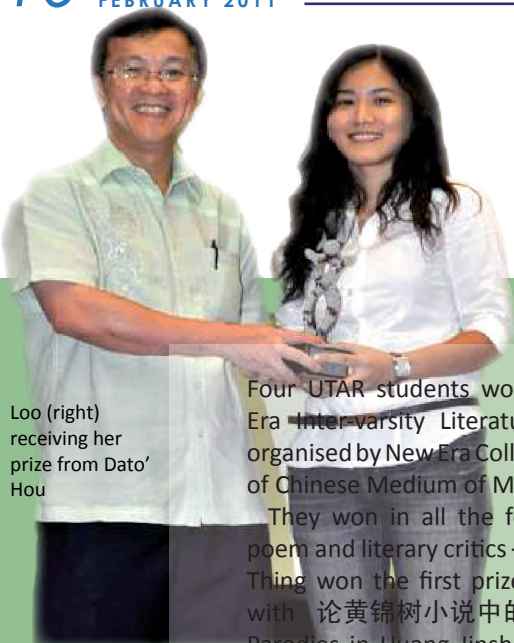
Tan Kee Sau



Dhachetnee Chandrasegaram



## UTAR sweeps five literature awards



Loo (right) receiving her prize from Dato' Hou

Four UTAR students won five prizes in the 17th New Era Inter-Varsity Literature Award, which was jointly organised by New Era College and the Writers' Association of Chinese Medium of Malaysia.

They won in all the four categories – novel, prose, poem and literary critics – of the competition. Loo Xiang Thing won the first prize in the literary critic category with 论黄锦树小说中的滑稽模仿 (Discourse on the Parodies in Huang Jinshu's Novels). Lee Kin Hoo won second prize in the prose category with 时光有梦 (Dreams) and third prize in the novel category with 潜藏 (Hiding). Lai Kiat Yeung won the excellent award in the poem category with 致阿姆斯壮 (Dear Armstrong).



Dato' Hou (front row, sixth right) with guests, judges and winners

The three winning UTAR Chinese Studies students were joined by a Chemical Engineering student Tan Wei Jer, who won the third prize in the poem category with 红树林 (Mangrove Forest).

Deputy Minister of Higher Education Dato' Dr Hou Kok Chung presented the prizes to the winners at a ceremony held at New Era College, Selangor on 12 December 2010.

## Heroes for hire

"Positivism comes from these graduating students seeing themselves as heroes, who dare to be hired into the competitive marketplace of creative industries in this globalising world," said Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Senator Dato' T Murugiah who was officiating an exhibition themed 'Heroes for Hire' in Kuala Lumpur on 19 January 2011.

The exhibition, held from 18 to 23 January 2011 at the Central Market Annexe Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, showcased the three-year hard work of 36 graduating students of UTAR Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Graphic Design and Multimedia. The works exhibited included drawings (especially comic art), illustration, photography, digital imaging, website design, packaging design, advertising, animation and post-production.

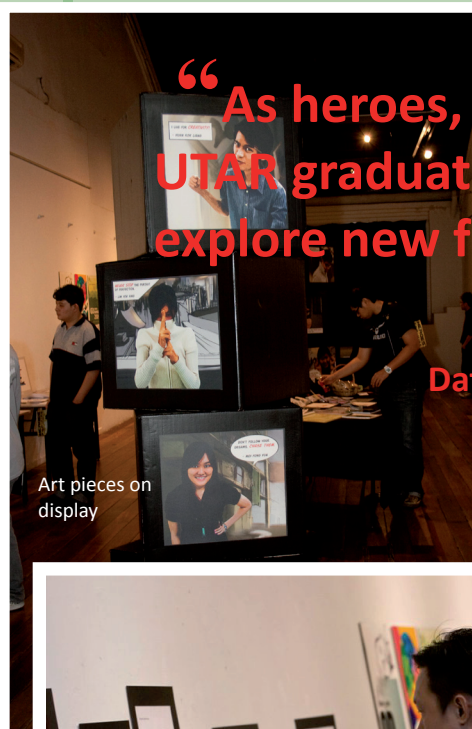
"I also believe, as heroes, these UTAR future graduates will explore new frontiers and venture into new territories," Dato' Murugiah continued, adding that it was critical for one to excel in the creative industries; and creativity was about thinking out of the box and discarding the norms.

"The faculty encouraged and helped out administratively but for the most part the students were responsible for making this exhibition a big success as they had to come up with their own sponsors, source for a strategic location and plan how to creatively display their work," said Dean of Faculty of Creative Industries Asst Prof Dr Carmen Nge Siew Mun at the exhibition, adding that the students were seeking new opportunities by unveiling their hidden potential through this exhibition.

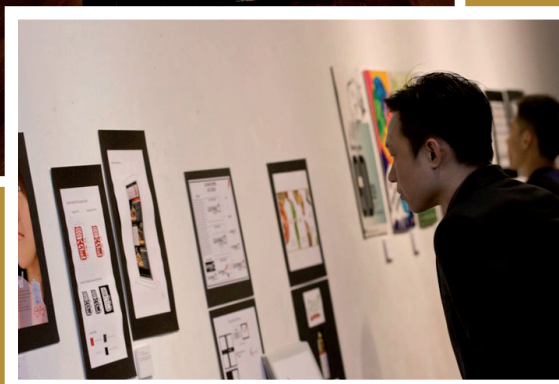
"This is a stepping stone for all of us to move forward," said the organising chairperson Eric Chang Tze How, adding that they had gain much experience in organising the exhibition. He thanked UTAR for having confidence in them and allowing them to organise

**"As heroes, these UTAR graduates will explore new frontiers."**

**Dato' T Murugiah**



Art pieces on display



the exhibition.

"It was fun organising the exhibition with all of my graduating friends; it marks the moment of pride and joy as all our hard work is finally getting its due recognition," said another student R Raafisi Ureeeya.

About 250 people including UTAR students and their parents attended the launching ceremony.



# Two UTAR basketball players represent Malaysia

When UTAR was looking for players for the University College Basketball League, Wee Khai Han immediately signed up for the team as he always had a passion for the game.

The league, which was held from June until September last year, saw 10 teams competing and UTAR emerged as the second-runner up. Wee and his team-mate, Tan Cheng Kiat, were selected for the Malaysian university basketball team to compete in the ASEAN University Games 2010 which was held in Chiangmai, Thailand from 15 to 23 December 2010. The Malaysian team won the silver medal in the games.

Wee and Tan, both Civil Engineering students, had been active in the game and representing their states in basketball competitions since their secondary school days.

"My parents always encourage me to be active in sports to maintain my vigour and stamina," said Wee, adding that sports also enabled him to make many friends.

Tan said that his parents were also supportive of his involvement in sports especially basketball and volleyball. "They urged me to be an all-rounder and excel in everything I do," said Tan, adding that sports also allowed him to 'escape' stress especially due to studies.

As they had classes during the day, they practised three hours a night, three nights a week, one month before the ASEAN competition. Besides the usual basketball practice, there was stamina training through vigorous bumping, push-ups, running and sit-up exercises.

"It is a good start for UTAR for achieving success in the sport," said UTAR Department of Student Affairs executive Li Tak Wing, who was appointed as an assistant coach of the Malaysian university basketball team, adding that the Malaysian team was well disciplined and had played hard throughout the competition.



After receiving prizes (from left):  
Wee, Li and Tan



Malaysian university basketball team

## UTAR emerges second in MASISWA Games



UTAR women's basketball team showing their silver medals



UTAR women's volleyball team (in yellow) with competing team

"Overall, the UTAR contingent had performed well in the games; all players had given their full commitment during this event," said Deneish S Easan, Manager of Sports and Recreation Unit, Department of Student Affairs, UTAR, after the MASISWA Games Central Zone II.

The games, organised by the Majlis Sukan IPTS Malaysia, was held at Multimedia University, Cyberjaya on 4 and 5 December 2010. It was open to 13 private institutions of higher learning in the Klang Valley.

The 88-strong UTAR team took part in six events – volleyball, basketball, badminton, futsal, netball and table-tennis – and won three silver prizes in men's and women's basketball, and men's volleyball events, and three bronze in badminton, netball and women's volleyball. The team scored an aggregate of 24 points and emerged as the overall first runner-up, just three points short of the champion.



## UTAR students visit children's home

The students of UTAR, a university by the people, for the people, always have the community at heart.

Forty UTAR students visited Vision Home, a children's home in Ipoh, on 29 January 2011. The visit, organised by the Community Service Society, provided an opportunity for the students to show their care and concern to the home's children.

At the home, the students were greeted by 20 children aged from five to 13. The interaction was intimate with two students to one child. Soon the small living room was filled with chatter and laughter. The students were chatting on the floor with the children and played games with them. The children were friendly though some were shy at first but soon mingled freely with the students. The students were surprised by

the children's talents when they danced and sang.

It was so much fun spending the afternoon together that a bond was established between them. The children had tears in their eyes when the students said goodbye.

"The children were smart and thoughtful. Some said that they would study hard to be a professor when they grew up so that they could help other children like them," said Foundation student Lee Yi Ching, a visitor.

The visit was rewarding to the students as they were touched by the children's positive attitude towards life and had enjoyed showing their care and love and seeing the children's happy faces in return.



Students interacting with children



Break-dancing, anyone?

## Caring for the Earth

"Every one must be concerned and care for the community and the Earth," said Vice Chairperson of UTAR Community Service Society Ng Wan Shyan.

The society organised an Eco-Friendly Campaign, which was held at UTAR Perak Campus from 10 to 21 January 2011, to promote eco-friendly Earth-caring living and the associated values of caring, loving, sharing and tolerance among UTAR staff and students.

To generate greater awareness on caring for the environment among the visiting public, booths were set up displaying information on environmental disasters, the harmful non-biodegradable materials and the applications of green technology.

The society and the Arts and Crafts Society jointly organised a workshop on

making sculptures from recycled materials. Specimens of such sculptures were displayed in the exhibition area, which attracted the attention of many students.

Two speakers were invited from Majlis Daerah Kampar to give talks. Ayako talked on Furoshiki, an eco-friendly reusable and multipurpose wrapping cloth originated from Japan. While Khairiyah talked on Takura Home Method of making compost from fresh fruits, vegetable peels, coconut wine, brown sugar, rice bran and rice, which was developed by Koji Takura from JPEC Company, Japan.

"The Eco-Friendly Campaign not only promote caring for the Earth, but also help to create a friendly, harmonious living atmosphere among us every day," Ng added.

**"The Eco-Friendly Campaign not only promote caring for the Earth, but also help to create a friendly, harmonious living atmosphere among us every day."**



Ayako talking on Furoshiki



Sculptures made from recycled materials



## A sincere heart melts down barriers

Most of us were born healthy while some were not. Let us help those with physical disabilities so that they too can lead a normal life and not yield to their unfortunate conditions.

It was for this philanthropic purpose that the Community Service Society held 'A Sincere Heart Melts down Barriers' campaign at UTAR Perak Campus. The campaign aimed to create greater awareness among UTAR staff and students, and the public about the existence and special needs of people with disabilities and to promote equal opportunities, greater concern and

better care for these people.

Among the activities under the campaign was a charity sale held at UTAR Perak Campus from 10 to 21 January 2011. On sales were handicraft items made by members of Beautiful Gate Education Centre for the Disabled in Kampar. The items were door curtain, pillow, passport cover, keychain, aluminium ornaments and also hand-sewn items such as gloves, handbag, key holder and covers for mobile phone, tissue box and toilet roll. The proceeds of the charity sale went to the centre.

Beautiful Gate provides shelter, training and education to its members who are children with disabilities. It operates mainly on donations from the public and the sales of handicraft items produced by its members.



Charity sale at Perak Campus

## CNY gifts for 30 homes

Thirty homes celebrated a happier Chinese New Year with gifts from UTAR students.

UTAR Community Service Society working together with the Kampar Chapter of Malaysian Red Crescent distributed gift parcels to 30 poor families in Kampar and a nearby village Mambang Diawan. The families were from a list provided by the Social Welfare Department. Some of them were elderly people, single parents and people with disabilities.

Organising Chairperson Ong Su Ying said that the community project involved raising fund in Perak Campus and getting sponsors for the gift items. The society obtained the support from companies including Adabi Consumer Industries Sdn Bhd, Perfect Food Manufacturing (M) Sdn Bhd, Southern Lion Sdn Bhd, Cotra Enterprises Sdn Bhd, Serba Wangi (Perak) Sdn Bhd, Thye Huat Chan

Sdn Bhd and Rosemead Sdn Bhd which sponsored their products.

The gifts included food items such as biscuits, canned food, condensed milk, salt, sugar, vermicelli, cooking oil, rice, packet drinks, beverages, mandarin oranges, soy souse, oats and brown sugar, and household products such as washing powder, dish washer, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, hand wash, and soap. There were also an angpou and a hamper from sponsors and three containers of Chinese New Year cookies baked by members of the Community Service Society.

The members were divided into four teams to distribute the gifts to the 30 homes. They also helped to decorate these houses with red angpou packets and Chinese New Year couplets (duilian) to make the celebrations more joyous.

A student posting up a couplet (duilian)



Students with one of the families

## UTAR HORIZON The Pride of Alma Mater

### First alumni committee elected

The first committee of UTAR alumni association was elected on 26 February 2011.

The establishment of UTAR Alumni Association of Malaysia was approved by the Registrar of Society Malaysia on 8 December 2010.

The association had its first annual general meeting on 26 February 2011 at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus. Chaired by its pro tem President Wong Jun Chong, the meeting was attended by 17 alumni association members and two invitees, UTAR Vice President (Student Development and Alumni Relations) and advisor to the alumni association Asso Prof Dr Teh Chee

Seng and Head of Department of Alumni Relations and Placement Sum Kwai Seong.

The main item in the meeting agenda was the election of the first committee of the alumni association. Wong, the pro tem president, an Accounting graduate of 2005, was elected as president. Other elected members were Deputy President Cheng Xiao Fei, Secretary Low Way Hong, Billy, Assistant Secretary Loh Yoke Fai, Treasurer Will Ng Yi Ming and Assistant Treasurer Eddie Lim Yong Joo. Elected auditors were Ng Jiek Huey and Nicholas Chung Sze Chen and ordinary council members were Eddy Choong Chee Yoon, Chuah Seng Guan, Daniel Lee Jiun Wen, Esther Teh Theng Yinn, Koh Fook Huat,

Lam Keng Chui, Liew Yee Choon and Wong Sook Fun.



Dr Teh and Sum (sitting third and fourth left) with the first committee members of UTAR alumni association



# Happy Chinese New Year

UTAR Sungai Long Campus was decorated with the auspicious red by the Community Service Society, Wushu Club, Art and Craft Society, Music Club, Yoga Society, Accounting Society and First Aid Society to celebrate Chinese New Year from 24 to 26 January 2011. Some 260 students turned out for the celebrations and enjoyed lion dance performances, Chinese calligraphy presentations, games, lucky draws and learning about the Chinese New Year myth, and customary practices and taboos during Chinese New Year festival.



Dancing lions greeting the campus

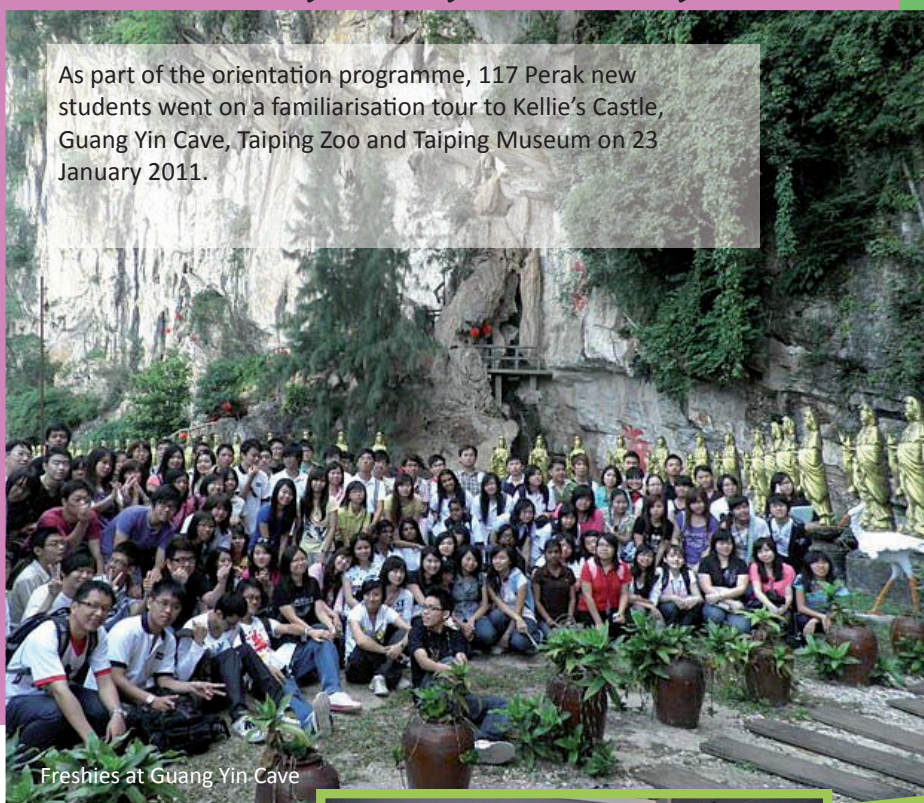


Everyone in red and smiles for the celebrations



## Freshmen go sightseeing

As part of the orientation programme, 117 Perak new students went on a familiarisation tour to Kellie's Castle, Guang Yin Cave, Taiping Zoo and Taiping Museum on 23 January 2011.



Freshies at Guang Yin Cave

## Valentine's Night

Thirty-five pairs of UTAR students dressed up to the nines to spend a romantic evening together on the eve of Valentine's Day.

The couples enjoyed performances, games and, of course, dances through the night until the clock almost struck twelve, when they counted down by putting up seven lanterns for the Valentine's Day. A lucky couple won a bicycle, the grand prize of the night.

The Valentine's Night 2011, held at Heritage Hall, Perak Campus, was organised by the Accounting Society, Financial Economic Society and International Friendship Society.





## 新书推介礼

配合我校中文系助理教授余历雄博士两本学术著作《师门问学录》及《唐宋文史论集》的出版，中华研究院于2011年1月27日在霹雳校区举办新书推介礼，新书推介人乃拉曼大学副校长（国际与学术发展）尤芳达教授，并由院长何启良教授为《师门问学录》进行评论而黄先炳博士则针对《唐宋文史论集》做讲评。

我校理学院院长林德明博士、资讯与通讯科技学院（霹雳校区）院长刘绍瑜博士、中华研究院副院长黄文斌博士、系主任许文荣博士，以及众多教授、讲师和学生亦出席见证。

尤芳达教授在新书推介时表示，拉曼大学非常注重研究工作。在大学

里，搞研究做学问是非常重要的事情，如能将自己的研究结集发表，更是非常了不起的事情。

尤教授表示，余老师在勤力教学的同时仍不忘致力于学术论文的撰写，是非常值得敬佩的。他勉励拉曼生以余老师为鉴，学习其学习方式，从这一刻起就开始努力做学问搞研究。

尤教授补充说，在做研究或读书时，有一个老师带领是非常重要的事情。他举例说，读论文时，文章内不能理解之处就有劳老师的解释。就好像爬山，虽然老师不是跟随你一起爬山，但是曾经攀登过山顶的老师能告诉你登山的技巧。



新书推介礼上（左起）：黄先炳、许文荣、尤芳达、作者余历雄及何启良。

## 广西经济管理干部学院到访

由林霁峰副院长、武刚教授、刘金黎先生、马非先生、玉文娟女士和温灵女士组成的广西经济管理干部学院拜访团于2010年12月23日拜访我校双溪龙校区。广西经济管理干部学院创办于1951年5月，以培养各类经济管理人才为主，并集成成人高校、高职高专、干部培训基地于一体。该团本次探访目的是探讨双方学校的运作基准、历史与发展、学生及管理层的基准、以及学校的设施与设备，并研讨双方的合作机会。



尤教授正在向西经济管理干部学院拜访团介绍拉曼大学



赠送纪念品仪式（左起）：赵博士，谢博士，尤博士及黄博士

大华技术学院电机系教授兼研发长谢振中博士及电机工程系兼副研发长与国际交流中心主任赵中兴博士于2010年12月31日拜访我校，由副校长尤芳达教授及理工学院院长黄展群博士接待。大华技术学院创校于1967年，原名大华农专，随着时代进步及转变，大华农专不断地提升及易名，从大华农专，大华工专，大华工商专，到今天的大华技术学院。拜访团此次到访目的是探讨双方在学术上的合作可能性。

## 儒家是宗教吗？

中国社会科学院儒教研究中心秘书长赵法生博士于2011年1月12日在八打灵再也校区分享他对“儒家与儒教”的看法。赵博士认为儒教确实不是基督教或者佛教意义上的制度化宗教，也不是杨庆堃所说的分散性宗教，而是一种层级化的制度性宗教，是宗法社会制度结构与儒教教化系统相结合的产物。

## 朱熹与徽州人士

台湾国立清华大学中国文学系助理教授，也是宋明理学研究者的史甄陶博士于2010年12月16日在八打灵再也校区为众人主讲“元代徽州人士的家学、经学与朱子学”并在隔天于霹雳校园主讲“想来辛苦梦乡——论朱熹与徽州人士的交往与论学”。



史甄陶博士摄于讲座会上。



## 多元社会中的佛教

陈秋平博士，中国南京大学哲学（宗教学）博士于2011年1月14日在八打灵再也校区主讲“多元社会中的佛教”。陈博士表示，马来西亚佛教运动在经过多项伊斯兰运动及受长期的伊斯兰文化熏陶下，受到了一定程度的影响及冲击。在这样的情况下，宗教间的对话、沟通及认识非常重要。

## 硕果仅存潮州木偶戏

俄籍学者罗子毅博士于本月19日在八打灵再也校院主讲名为“马来西亚潮州木偶戏”的讲座，内容精彩、解说生动。罗子毅博士花了许多时间和心血研究并且实地考察相关剧团，从木偶的种类、结构、操作、服装、演员、唱法等等各方面都有所概括。

罗子毅教授分享中。

## 乐见女巫

谢静国博士分别于2011年2月8日及14日在八打灵再也校区及霹雳校区主讲“乐见女巫、悦读天书——小说朱天文与黎紫书的最好的时光”。谢博士任职于台湾清华大学中文系，其分享环绕在朱天文和黎紫书这两大作家的文笔及生活习惯上及两人的可比性。



何启良院长赠送纪念品给谢静国博士。



纪念品赠送仪式（左起）：余历雄、黄文斌和钟瑜。

## 元宵节谈元宵

2011年2月17，即辛卯年的元宵节，中华研究中心（汉学研究中心）与中文系邀请到来自中国云南财经大学东南亚文化艺术研究所的钟钟瑜教授于本校霹雳校院给大家主讲《春节 元宵 艺术》。钟教授在讲座中给出席者谈了春节和元宵的来源和习俗，也分享了中国少数民族过年的各种庆祝方式。来自艺术世家的钟教授也不忘介绍以年为主题的画作、应节的年画以及分享年画各流派风格和特征。

## Eksplorasi pemimpin minda di Indonesia



Peserta-peserta program

Semestinya suatu pengalaman yang amat berharga buat pelajar tahun kedua Ijazah Sarjana Muda Keusahawanan, Ch'ng Winn Shern apabila terpilih untuk menyertai Rombongan Program Eksplorasi Pemimpin Minda Kelas Pertama di Indonesia. Program selama 8 hari ini bermula pada 6 hingga 13 Disember disertai 18 orang peserta dari 18 Universiti berlainan di Malaysia. Rombongan ini dianjurkan

oleh Jabatan Pengajian Tinggi (MOHE) dan dipimpin oleh Tuan Haji Ibrahim Ali.

Rombongan ini telah berkunjung ke Bandung, Bogor dan Jakarta. Destinasi pertama adalah Institut Pertanian Bogor yang terkenal dengan pengajian pertanian.

Di samping itu Winn Shern juga berpeluang mengunjungi Jati Nangor di Bandung dan berkesempatan menemui pelajar Malaysia yang belajar di Universiti Padjadjaran, Bandung. Rombongan ini tidak melepaskan peluang berkunjung ke Tangkupan Perahu yang terkenal dengan gunung berapi aktif.

Keseronokan mereka tidak hanya terhenti di situ apabila rombongan diteruskan pula ke destinasi seterusnya iaitu Jakarta. Antara aktiviti menarik yang disajikan ialah “Pengamatan Sosio Ekonomi Masyarakat”.

Rombongan delegasi tersebut juga melawat rumah Dato Paduka Junaidy, Pengarah Jabatan Penuntut Malaysia di Indonesia dan dijemput untuk menghadiri Pesta Malaysia ke-10 yang dianjurkan oleh Persatuan Kebangsaan Pelajar-Pelajar Malaysia di Indonesia.

“Rangkaian kerja saya telah berkembang melalui program ini dan saya lebih memahami cara hidup dan kebudayaan Indonesia. Masyarakat Indonesia amat bersopan santun dan profesional semasa memberikan perkhidmatan pelanggan. Saya juga berpendapat bahawa pelajar dari universiti lain secara globalnya turut melibatkan diri dalam peluang antarabangsa dan rangkaian,” kata Winn Shern.