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UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik (left) receiving a mock cheque of RM300,000 from YTL Corporation Chairman Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Yeoh Tiong Lay (right) as research fund for Minnan studies, while Deputy Minister of Higher Education Dato' Dr Hou Kok Chung looks on



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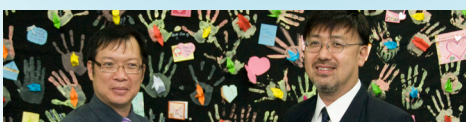
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RM300k for Minnan research

“With a solid reputation and achievements attained within a short span of nine years since its establishment, UTAR, I am confident, will be able to take the research in Minnan studies to a higher level of excellence and expand it further,” said Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Dr Yeoh Tiong Lay, founder and group executive chairman of YTL Corporation Berhad, at a ceremony to hand over RM300,000 worth of research fund to UTAR at a hotel in Kuala Lumpur on 7 June 2011.

Minnan (閩南) language is a Chinese dialect spoken in the southern (nan) part of Fujian (Min) province and Taiwan, and also by the Hokkien (Fujian) people in Southeast Asian countries such as Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. The sponsored fund was for UTAR Centre for Chinese Studies to conduct research in Minnan communities and subculture jointly with Xiamen University, China, and National Cheng Kung University and National Quemoy University of Taiwan.

“With a solid reputation and achievements attained within a short span of nine years since its establishment, UTAR, I am confident, will be able to take the research in Minnan studies to a higher level of excellence and expand it further.”

Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Dr Yeoh Tiong Lay

“The research in Minnan studies to be undertaken by UTAR can be the knowledge bank that will help enrich and foster better relationships among diverse communities through the understanding of their differences,” said Deputy Minister of Higher Education Dato’ Dr Hou Kok Chung during the ceremony, adding that his ministry continuously encouraged the private sector to fund R&D activities in universities.

To thank the benefactor, UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato’ Dr Chuah Hean Teik said, “I would like to express my deepest appreciation to Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Yeoh for the generous contribution of RM300,000, and the confidence and trust he has on us.”

UTAR and Doshin join hands in R&D

UTAR and Doshin Rubber Products (M) Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Kossan group (listed on Bursa Malaysia), signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus on 13 May 2011 to work together in areas including research into earthquake-resistant rubber base isolators for buildings, bridges and other structures.

Doshin, established in 1978, is the pioneer in manufacturing laminated bridge bearing pads and building base isolators. It has over 30 years of experience in providing rubber solutions for the civil engineering and construction industries.

Signing on behalf of the parties were UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato’ Dr Chuah Hean Teik, and Doshin’s Director Or Tan Teng. UTAR Vice President (R&D and Commercialisation) Prof Dr Lee Sze Wei and Doshin’s Executive Director Lim Siau Hing signed as witnesses.

Under the MoU, the partners would work towards jointly holding a patent of an improved rubber base isolator with greener, more sustainable and economical features. The two parties were also keen to commercialise another product called ‘energy-efficient aerated lightweight block/panel’ patented by UTAR recently.

“The strategic collaboration between Doshin and UTAR can be an important determinant that contributes towards the emergence of



Documents exchanged (from left): Prof Lee, Prof Academician Chuah, Or and Lim

a well-integrated, industry-focused and demand-driven innovative new products,” said Or.

After congratulating Doshin for being awarded the contract to supply bridge rubber bearing pads in the Penang second crossing project, Prof Academician Chuah said, “Such a megabuck project will provide a lot of areas for postgraduate research for the two partners to work together.”

Doshin had sponsored an engineer, a UTAR graduate, to pursue a Master’s degree related to the application of rubber base isolators in UTAR. More Doshin staff members, including those from the top management, were expected to pursue Master’s and PhD degrees in UTAR in the future.

Stronger ties with Taiwanese universities

UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato’ Dr Chuah Hean Teik and Vice President (R&D and Commercialisation) Prof Dr Lee Sze Wei together with Deputy Minister of Higher Education Dato’ Dr Hou Kok Chung and other Malaysian delegates visited Taiwan, where UTAR signed memoranda of understanding (MoU) with three Taiwanese universities from 7 to 9 May 2011.

First to be signed was with sister university Feng Chia University (FCU) in Taichung on 7 May 2011 to renew the MoU for the second time. Prof Academician Chuah signed the MoU with his counterpart FCU President Prof Dr Chang Pao-Long. Dato’ Hou and Housing and Local Government Minister Dato’ Chor Chee Heung were present at the signing ceremony. The two universities had been partners since 2005 and actively working together in research and development, and academic and student exchanges.

The other two MoUs were signed with Natioanal Quemoy University and I-Shou University at their campuses on 8 and 9 May 2011 respectively.



MoU signed (from left): Prof Lee, Prof Academician Chuah, Dato’ Hou, Dato’ Chor, Prof Chang and FCU Vice President Dr Lee Bing-Jean

Nine degrees exempted from ICSA exams

"MAICSA has accredited nine degree programmes from UTAR for exemptions from the MAICSA Professional Diploma in Corporate Administration and the Professional Part I programme of the ICSA International Qualifying Scheme," said Janet Ang Siew Cheng, at the signing ceremony of memorandum of understanding (MoU) between UTAR and Malaysian Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (MAICSA) at Petaling Jaya Campus on 24 May 2011.

The nine honours bachelor's degrees were Accounting, Business Administration, Commerce (Accounting), Public Relations, Computer Science, Global Economics, International Business, and Marketing.

Ang, MAICSA President and Fellow of Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA), added that the institute would accredit more UTAR programmes after the signing of MoU.

"The synergy between UTAR and MAICSA will open up additional avenues for UTAR students to develop their careers and keep abreast with the professional skills and knowledge essential in the business world," said UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik.

Prof Academician Chuah and Ang signed the MoU for the two parties, while Dean of the Faculty of Accountancy and Management Dr Ong Seng Fook and MAICSA Deputy President and Fellow of ICSA Dr Cheah Foo Seong signed as witnesses.



Documents exchanged (from left): Dr Ong, Prof Academician Chuah, Ang and Dr Cheah

IAP impressed with UTAR

"We are very impressed with the keenness and eagerness of UTAR academic staff to impart their knowledge to the students," said Chairman of the Institution of Engineers Malaysia Ir Rocky H T Wong, representing the UTAR Industrial Advisory Panel (IAP) at Perak Campus on 20 May 2011.

Ir Wong was making the comment at the end of the fifth IAP meeting organised by the Faculty of Engineering and Green Technology (FEGT) at Perak Campus. He added, "UTAR can always call upon us whenever you need help."

The IAP meeting, held twice a year, aimed to receive feedback from industry experts to update and further enhance the curriculum, teaching methodology and facilities, and to strengthen academic-industry collaboration.

The seven IAP members at the meeting, chaired by FEGT Dean Ir Chan Cheong Loong, were Ir Wong, Energy Commissioner Ir Dr

"We are very impressed with the keenness and eagerness of UTAR academic staff to impart their knowledge to the students."

Ir Rocky H T Wong

Philip Tan, General Manager of Gamuda Berhad Tung May Keen, Director of Infineon Technologies (Kulim) Sdn Bhd Tan Soon Keong, Vice President of Master Builders Association Malaysia Dato' Ir Low Keng Kok, Executive Director of IAQ Technology International Sdn Bhd Ir Den Low Han Guan and Managing Director of Acutest Systems (M) Sdn Bhd Teh Lam Sam.

Describing the meeting as useful, Tung, who was attending the meeting for the first time, said, "Programme syllabus is an area where the industry can make its contribution." She added that the meeting provided an opportunity for the industry to give back to the society.



At Perak Campus: Ir Chan (centre with lanyard) with Ir Wong (on his right), other IAP members and FEGT staff

Strike **GOLD** in plantations

'Striking Gold in Plantation Industry' was the topic Teh Sar Moh Nee used to woo future UTAR graduates to join his industry at Perak Campus on 29 April 2011.

"There are plenty of employment opportunities, especially for young graduates, in the plantations," said Teh, regional director of Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad, a Malaysian multinational company involved in plantations (as core business, especially in oil palm), manufacturing, property development and retailing.

He added that the industry was shifting from the upstream oil palm fresh fruit bunch production to downstream activities such as refining and producing oleochemicals and derivatives, which provided higher value-adding, more employment opportunities and higher economic value to the country.

Teh also addressed the intricate relationships of the palm oil industry with the people, Mother Nature and profitability. As a socially responsible corporate citizen, his company worked closely with the plantation industry and Government to ensure sustainable development.



Teh presenting at Perak Campus

“There are plenty of employment opportunities, especially for young graduates, in the plantations”.

Teh Sar Moh Nee



Dr Ooi (left) receiving a fruit basket from FSc Dean Dr Lim Tuck Meng

CSI approach to pest control

"To understand why there are pest outbreaks, we need to have a good understanding of the agro ecosystem and get back to fundamentals," said Dr Peter Ooi Aun-Chuan, explaining the reason for the need of a CSI (Crime Scene Investigation – a popular TV series) step-by-step meticulous approach to pest control.

Dr Ooi, formerly the Asian regional director of AVRDC – The World Vegetable Center based gave a lecture on 'A CSI approach to managing pest outbreaks' at UTAR Perak Campus on 17 June 2011. It was the fourth in a series of lectures on Agricultural Science organised by the Faculty of Science (FSc). He shared his expertise in pest control for crops such as oil palm, coconut, rice and vegetables.

In the past, Dr Ooi said, "Pest outbreaks had challenged the sustainability and profitability of agricultural endeavours, but if the issues were approached critically, it would not have been so." He added that Malaysia would need its own version of Agricultural Science to tackle its agricultural issues.

UMSB holds microalgae workshop

UTAR Microalgae Sdn Bhd (UMSB), a spin-off company of UTAR, held a workshop on commercialising microalgae products at Perak Campus on 20 and 21 May 2011. Over 30 participants from the industry and education institutions attended the workshop.

"The microalgae industry in Taiwan has been flourishing for the past 30 years," said UMSB chief executive officer Tian Kian Wee in his session on microalgae cultivation technology. He added that there were many commercial opportunities for large-scale microalgae farming, which UMSB had expertise in.

Other speakers in the workshop included Prof Zhou Hong Nong, director of the Institute of Fisheries Science, National Taiwan University, who talked on the algae industry in Taiwan. From UTAR Faculty of Science, Deputy Dean Dr Gideon Khoo talked on the role of microalgae as aquaculture feed, Dr Khoo Kong Soo on natural products from microalgae, and Dr Wong Hann Ling on molecular and genetic methods to improve microalgae growth.

“The microalgae industry in Taiwan has been flourishing for the past 30 years.”



Tian (right) explaining on a microalgae experiment

How to do PFGE

Field application specialist Corrinne Lee from Chemoscience (M) Sdn Bhd gave an overview on pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) to UTAR students and staff at Perak Campus on 23 May 2011.

Devised by David C Schwartz and Charles R Cantor in 1984, PFGE is a technique to separate large DNA molecules by pulsing electric fields in different directions to coax DNA through an agarose gel in a stepwise fashion.

Lee briefed the audience on the workflow of using PFGE equipment and the related factors such as DNA size, type and concentration of agarose and buffer used, and electrophoresis parameters such as voltage gradient, run time, switch time and ramping, and pulse angle. She said applications of PFGE included monitoring of programmed cell death in cancer therapies, tracking of various bacteria and fungi for food safety and public health, quality control in breweries, human genome mapping and tracking of chromosomal rearrangement.

Participants had a hands-on session with a PFGE instrument brought along by Lee.



Lee talking on PFGE



Khoo presenting in front of Dr Sun's portrait

Sun Yat-sen and Penang

The Xinhai Revolution in 1911 that toppled the Qing Dynasty in China was planned by its leader Dr Sun Yat-sen and supporters in the shop-house at 120 Armenian Street, Penang, which was later turned into a museum.

To commemorate the centennial of Xinhai Revolution, UTAR Centre for Chinese Studies Research invited Khoo Salma Nasution, the present custodian and curator of the museum to talk on Dr Sun's history in Penang.

"When I first found out the house was Dr Sun's base, I realised its historical significance and began a lot of studies on its history and heritage value," said Khoo, adding that the house belonged to her maternal grandmother.

Khoo said that Dr Sun found the British authorities in Singapore restricted the activities of his party, T'ung Meng Hui. He then shifted its headquarters to Penang, where he, second wife Chen Cuifen and family stayed for almost six months. It was there that he raised funds and prepared for the Canton Uprising of 29 March 1911. Though the Canton Uprising failed, it laid a strong foundation for the later successful Wuchang Uprising of 10 October 1911 and then Xinhai Revolution that ended the thousands of years of imperial system in China.

Kwong Wah Jit Poh, Malaysia's oldest Chinese newspaper was started by Dr Sun and his Penang supporters.

What is category theory?

"The invisible hand in economics was made known by Adam Smith as early as 1776, but until today, nobody can clearly define it or explain how it works; similarly, logic that has survived nearly 2,400 years since the days of Aristotle, is most 'illogical', as nobody can tell where it came from," said Goh Peng Ooi, starting his talk on the category theory of Mathematics with a mind-boggling statement at UTAR Perak Campus on 15 June 2011.

Goh, group executive chairman of banking software solutions provider Silverlake Axis Limited, added that for our new generation, the complexity was aggravated by today's need to deal with multiple disciplines of finance, economics, science, engineering, psychology and logic, and the exponential increase in subject matters in this globalised world. Furthermore, the use of logic was still adversely constrained by languages in their forms and structures. But Goh was able to demystify the interplay of the invisible market forces using category theory and provided his audience with a clear perspective in layman's terms. He also explained how to generate infinite from the finite through Hilbert's Program.



Goh talking on category theory



“**Make a life, not just a living.**”

Dr Terence Lee

Can ideas make **money?**

“Can we make money from ideas?” Dr Terence Lee asked the audience during his talk on ‘Creative Industries in Mass Communication’ at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus on 1 June 2011.

Dr Lee, Deputy Dean, School of Media Communication & Culture, Murdoch University, Australia, was serving as external examiner for UTAR Master of Communication programme.

Calling his presentation ‘his musings’, the humorous Dr Lee began with “Money is not everything... but everything needs money” as a reason for one to venture into creative industries. Citing Elvis Presley, who made more money posthumously than while alive, as an example, he said other than good looks and being talented, one must also be long dead, or with some exception, recently departed

as in the case of Michael Jackson.

Dr Lee then touched on the definition of and the latest developments in creative industries. He said that it was Alan Greenspan, former US Federal Reserve chairman, who coined the term ‘creative economy’ when he noticed how advanced economies were depending more and more on creativity and innovation.

On the question of making money from ideas, the new paradigms in this creative economy included creating greater value to customers, shorter product cycles and new businesses through innovation. But in conclusion, Dr Lee advised, “Make a life, not just a living.”

Innovation taught

“Innovation is the buzzword in the new economy, but have you ever wondered how to become more innovative?” asked Tan Eng Hoo while introducing the TRIZ workshop at UTAR Perak Campus on 19 May 2011.

Tan, Manager of Talent Development Department, Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC), added, “If music, arts, singing, dancing, martial arts can be taught, so can innovation.”

TRIZ, short for “teoriya resheniya izobretatelskikh zadatch” (theory of inventive problem solving), was discovered by Genrikh Altshuller in Russia about 50 years ago. He invented this analysis, forecasting and problem-solving tool after studying more than 200,000 patents worldwide that he categorised into 40,000 innovation types from which he found 40 repeated fundamental principles.

About 50 UTAR academic staff from various faculties attended the two-day workshop, which was organised by the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology in collaboration with



MyTRIZ trainer Nagappan Annamalai presenting at Perak Campus

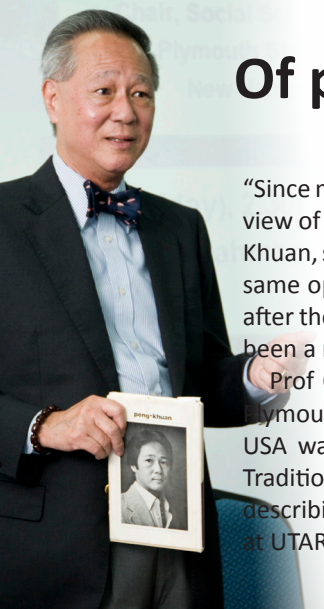
the Intel Corporation, MDeC, Ministry of Higher Education and Malaysia TRIZ Innovation Association (MyTRIZ).

Tan said that while brainstorming generated ideas in random, the 40 principles could guide us in the right direction of solving the problem.

Of poetry and politics

“Since my house burned down, I now own a better view of the rising moon,” recited Prof Chong Peng Khuan, saying that President Bush should have the same optimism expressed in this Japanese poem after the 9/11 incident then the world would have been a more peaceful place.

Prof Chong, Chair, Social Science Department, Plymouth State University, New Hampshire, USA was giving a talk on ‘Glimpse of American Traditions: Poetry and Presidential Elections’, describing how poetry could be linked to politics, at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus on 22 April 2011.



“**Since my house burned down, I now own a better view of the rising moon.**”

Japanese Poem

A devout fan of the famous American poet Robert Frost, Prof Chong got his dream job teaching poetry in the classroom Frost once taught in at Plymouth State University, and bought a house overlooking Frost’s farm in Derry, New Hampshire. The politically inclined Prof Chong linked ‘Good fences make good neighbours’ of ‘Mending Wall’, which Frost described the stone wall at his farm, to the foreign policy of USA. Like Frost, the adventurous Prof Chong also ‘took the one less travelled by’ of the ‘two roads diverged in a yellow wood’ of Frost’s ‘The Road Not Taken’. ‘And’ it was this decision ‘that has made all the difference’ in his life.



University of Strathclyde, UK

Prof Dr Kevin Ibeh (second from left), Head of the Department of Marketing, University of Strathclyde, UK receiving a souvenir from UTAR President. He visited UTAR from 20 to 23 June 2011 and served as external examiner for the Bachelor of Marketing (Hons) programme.



New Jersey Institute of Technology, USA

Prof Dr Paul Ranky from the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, New Jersey Institute of Technology visited UTAR from 3 to 6 July 2011 as external examiner for the Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) Industrial Engineering programme.



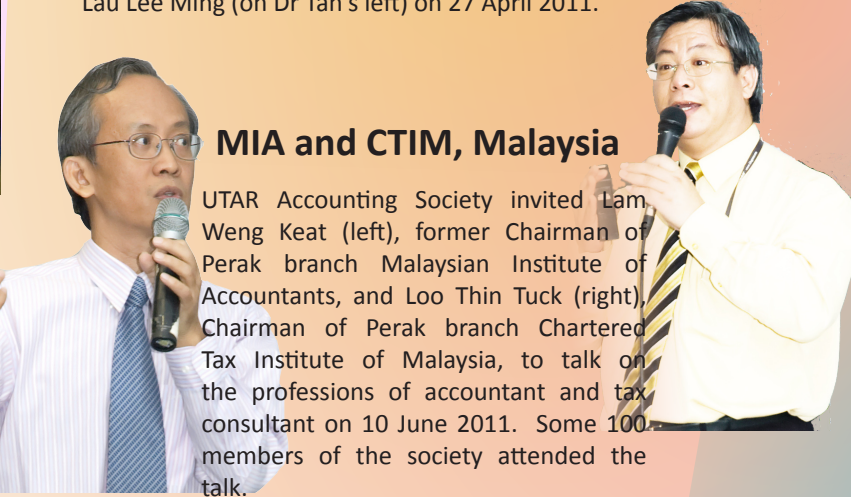
uOttawa, Canada

Prof Dr Ronald Droste, Head of International Affairs Committee, University of Ottawa (uOttawa), Canada visited UTAR from 16 to 28 May 2011. During the visit, he discussed about collaborative research with UTAR and Brunfield, gave a talk on wastewater treatment and visited an organic farm near Ipoh.



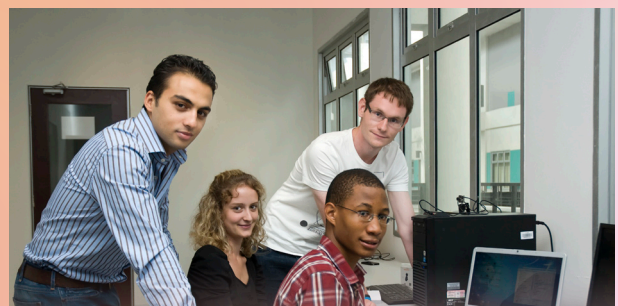
SUAPCSS, Malaysia

UTAR Community and International Networking Director Dr Tan Sin Leng (centre, in suit) and other staff hosted a delegation from Sarawak United Association of Private Chinese Secondary Schools led by Temenggong Vincent Lau Lee Ming (on Dr Tan's left) on 27 April 2011.



MIA and CTIM, Malaysia

UTAR Accounting Society invited Lam Weng Keat (left), former Chairman of Perak branch Malaysian Institute of Accountants, and Loo Thin Tuck (right), Chairman of Perak branch Chartered Tax Institute of Malaysia, to talk on the professions of accountant and tax consultant on 10 June 2011. Some 100 members of the society attended the talk.



Telecom Lille 1, France

"UTAR is a good university to do internship; the places around the campus are just wonderful," said Yoann Jeffrey Clombe (right, sitting), who was on two-month internship at Perak Campus that ended on 8 July 2011 together with (from left) Mohamed Rida Karzouz, Lea Strozio, and Valentine Prévost. They were from Telecom Lille 1, a leading Engineering school in France, and heard about UTAR from their predecessors last year.



FHPTAM, Malaysia

UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik (centre) and UTAR Planning and Development Committee Advisor Tan Sri Dato' Hew See Tong (Prof Chuah's right) posed with the 80 delegates from the Federation of Hawkers' and Petty Traders' Association Malaysia at Perak Campus on 22 June 2011.



Deakin University, Australia

Prof Dr Gerard Leonard Gannon, Chair in Finance, Faculty of Business and Law, Deakin University, Australia visited UTAR from 13 to 15 June 2011. He served as the external examiner for the Bachelor of Business Administration (Hons) Banking and Finance, and gave talks on 'students publishing their research' and 'dynamic hedging'.

UTAR professor honoured as young global leader

Prof Dr Cheng Ming Yu, UTAR Chair of Mr and Mrs Chua Chai Leng Professor of Economics, was honoured as a young global leader by the World Economic Forum on 9 March 2011.

The World Economic Forum is an independent international organisation committed to improving the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas. The organisation bestows the honour each year to recognise the most distinguished young leaders below the age of 40 from around the world. The selection committee, chaired by Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan, meticulously screens through profiles of thousands of young leaders from numerous disciplines and sectors from every region of the world.

Prof Cheng was selected based on her record of professional accomplishments, commitment to society and potential to contribute to shaping the future of the world through her inspiring leadership. She is the only Malaysian in the list of 190 young global leaders from 65 economies for 2011.

"I'm honoured to be chosen as a 2011 YGL [young global leader] and I hope to play an active role to make this world a better place to live in," said Prof Cheng, adding that she had already been invited to attend annual meetings by the World Economic Forum.

Before her appointment as the UTAR Chair of Mr and Mrs Chua

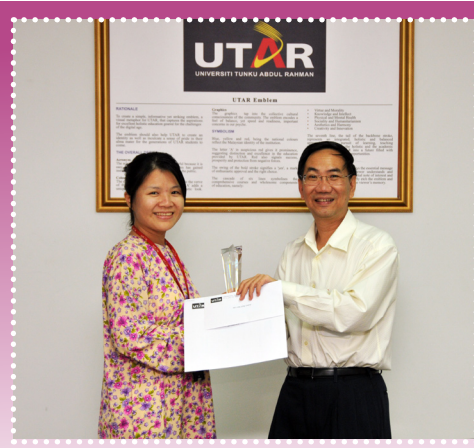


Prof Cheng at a meeting

"I'm honoured to be chosen as a 2011 YGL [young global leader] and I hope to play an active role to make this world a better place to live in."

Prof Dr Cheng Ming Yu

Chai Leng Professor of Economics, Prof Cheng was a visiting lecturer of Graduate School of Business, University of Newcastle, Australia. She was also a recipient of Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Fellowship with two months in residence at Reitaku University, Japan and a Fulbright Visiting Scholar, Washington State University, USA in 2004-05. She carried out research on competitiveness studies at Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore in 2007-08. Currently, she researches on projects related to economic development including social capital, globalisation, human capital development and competitiveness studies.



From left: Dr Chong, Davidson and Lee receiving the awards from Professor Chua

UTAR awards three staff

UTAR awarded three of its staff for their excellent performance in 2010. Dr Chong Kok Keong, lecturer Paul Davidson and librarian Lee Hui Ken each received an excellence award in their respective categories and a cash prize of RM1,000 from UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato' Dr Chuah Hein Teik at Petaling Jaya Campus on 14 June 2011.

"I see that the award as a strong encouragement for my career in UTAR," said Dr Chong, adding that he was grateful to UTAR for the award. The Head of Programme (Master of Engineering Science) received the UTAR Research Excellence Award for his active involvement in research in the areas such as concentrating solar power, high concentration photovoltaic systems, and sun-tracking and solar thermal energy.

"What a pleasant surprise to know that my simple efforts to improve in teaching for the past five years have got me rewarded."

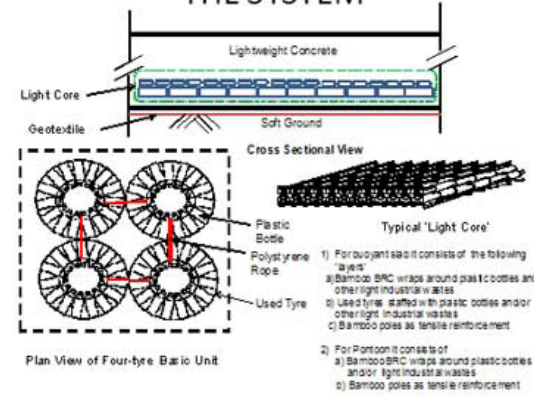
Paul Davidson

"What a pleasant surprise to know that my simple efforts to improve in teaching for the past five years have got me rewarded," said Davidson, a lecturer from the Centre for Foundation Studies, Petaling Jaya Campus. He thanked his colleagues for nominating him for the UTAR Teaching Excellence Award.

Librarian Lee, from Sungai Long Campus, said, "Ideally, an employee must have passion for their career, be keen to learn and always work towards improving together with fellow colleagues." She received the UTAR Service Excellence Award.

The three excellence awards are given out yearly by UTAR to promote outstanding performance by its staff.

THE SYSTEM



Construction method of lightweight platform

Dr Low (second from right) explaining to visitors at ITEX 2011

UTAR wins silver in ITEX 2011

Ingenious use of used tyres with lightweight concrete infill won UTAR a silver prize in the 22nd International Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition (ITEX) held in Kuala Lumpur from 20 to 22 May 2011.

ITEX 2011, organised by Malaysian Invention and Design Society and supported by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, served as a platform for universities, research institutions, corporations and individuals to showcase more than 700 inventions to prospective investors for commercialisation. The exhibition attracted participants and visitors from 14 countries, which were Brunei, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Iran, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Vietnam.

The winning UTAR team, which comprised Dr Ir Low Kaw Sai, who led the team, Dr Tioh Ngee Hing and lecturer Ng Soon Ching from

the Faculty of Engineering and Science, submitted their brainchild entitled 'Interconnected Used-Tyres with Lightweight Concrete Infill Buoyant System to Support Heavy Construction over Soft Ground', which they had patented with Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO), and won a silver prize in the exhibition.

"Besides using it as lightweight platform to support heavy embankments over soft ground, it can easily be turned into a pontoon, floating jetty and wave breaker, or a base layer to cushion sand fills of land reclamation," said Dr Low, adding that the method, if popularised, would be able to 'absorb' and reuse huge volumes of wastes, making the construction method green and sustainable.

Earlier, the same invention won the second runner-up prize in the category of postgraduate poster presentation in the Shell Inter-Varsity Student Paper Presentation Contest on 5 April 2011.

UTAR duo wins HSBC award

The UTAR 'Innov' duo won certificates of excellence in the business plan competition, the HSBC Young Entrepreneur Awards 2010-2011.

Final-year Information Systems students Tan Yeau Joe and Wong Wen Bin received the certificates and a RM2,000 cash prize at ceremony held at HSBC headquarters in Kuala Lumpur on 10 May 2011.

Their winning entry was a business plan called 'Charging Bag' that proposed to use, otherwise wasted, radio frequency signals in our surroundings as an energy source for recharging electronic devices

such as mobile phone.

"We're really happy that we made it to the finals; the competition has been a platform for us to share our innovative and creative ideas," said Wong, adding that they had learnt from other teams and improved in their writing and presentation skills.

Started in Malaysia since 2001, the HSBC Young Entrepreneur Awards is a business plan competition open to full-time tertiary students. It aims at promoting creativity in business and entrepreneurship among students and improving their business writing and presentation skills.

"We're really happy that we made it to the finals; the competition has been a platform for us to share our innovative and creative ideas."

Wong Wen Bin

Wong (front, right) and Tan (back, fourth from right) with other winners





UTAR welcomes 'freshies'

"I find my course-mates in UTAR very friendly and helpful," said Dkoli Kélechi Franklin from Nigeria. Franklin was one of the many new UTAR students for the May 2011 session. Although new to Malaysia, he already found UTAR would provide him an environment conducive for learning.

The new academic session of UTAR started on 23 May 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 Academician 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, facilities available, financial aids, soft skills and career, and also briefings by deans and heads of academic department. 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.



Franklin from Nigeria



First-year TCM students at Sungai Long Campus, (from right): Ng and Tan



Nurul Hadjar



First-year Nursing student Tu



Reena (left) from Taipei

"I find my course-mates in UTAR very friendly and helpful. I also like the weather here in Malaysia. I have chosen to further my studies in International Business in UTAR."

Dkoli Kelechi Franklin

First-year International Business student
Sungai Long Campus

"I am glad that UTAR has admitted me in the TCM [Traditional Chinese Medicine] programme. I always want to have my own clinic and to provide patients with an alternative to western medicine."

Ng Chee Yong

"Through getting a TCM degree from UTAR, I can help ensuring the benefits and knowledge of TCM are passed down to the future generations."

Tan Seng Kiin

"I was happy when I was studying the three-month English Enhancement Programme here at UTAR, and together with encouragement from my parents, I decided to continue to study Public Relations in UTAR. I like the tranquillity of the campus and the friendly and kind lecturers."

Nurul Hadjar binti Jamaludin
First-year Public Relations student
Perak Campus

"I choose to study in UTAR after seeing many relatives, who are UTAR graduates, securing jobs soon after graduation. My opinion is that career choice is up to an individual and should not be stereotyped according to gender. As there are more guys choosing this [nursing] profession, there is nothing to be ashamed of doing what I love to do."

Tu Jeck Ming

First-year Nursing student
Sungai Long Campus



First-year Accounting students at Sungai Long Campus (from left): Lee, Chen and Tan

What our new students say...

“My sister and I are both interested in Journalism. UTAR is the only university in Malaysia which provides professional training and teaching major in Journalism. We will continue with the Journalism degree after our foundation programme.”

Mohd Ariff bin Mohd Masrom, Selangor
Foundation student
Perak Campus

“I aspire to be a successful accountant in the future.”

Tan Jia Wei

“I want to realise my dream to be a qualified accountant at UTAR with my friends [Lee and Tan].”

Chen Shi Han

“I believe UTAR will transform me into a professional accountant that I always want to be.”

Lee Jia En



Reena Kaur a/p Manjit Singh with her cousin from Ipoh



Shalini (left) and Choo, first-year Physiotherapy students at Sungai Long Campus



Ugenthira from Gopeng



Yap pursuing Advertising programme

“My cousin, a UTAR student, recommends me to study in UTAR. UTAR lecturers are serious at their work and are approachable.”

Reena Kaur a/p Manjit Singh
First-year Accounting student
Perak Campus

“I always want to be in the healthcare profession. The Physiotherapy programme in UTAR allows me to fulfil that dream.”

Choo Kian Sing

“My interest is in Biology and UTAR offers the right Biomedical Science degree that I want. I like the environment in Kampar. The food is nice, traffic not heavy, and the new friendships will enrich my study life.”

Ugenthira Gunasekaran

First-year Biomedical Science student
Former Foundation student
Perak Campus

“UTAR is a well-known university with good reputation and its Advertising programme which emphasises both theoretical and practical hands-on aspects were the reasons I chose to study at UTAR.”

Benjamin Yap Sin Yee

First-year Advertising student
Perak Campus

“Opportunities in the field of Physiotherapy are endless and I am interested in this field. I choose UTAR because it is recognised and reputed for offering quality education.”

V Shalini



The champion trio holding their trophy (from left: Chiah, Guo Dong and Yu Han) with Datuk Fadillah (Yu Han's left) and organisers

UTAR students win **MOSTI** award

A UTAR team emerged as champion of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) Innovate Malaysia Award at the Innovate Malaysia Design Competition held in Penang on 11 June 2011.

The team comprising final-year Electrical and Electronic Engineering students Gan Yu Han, Vincent Chiah and Gan Guo Dong, which beat 71 other teams in the competition, also won the first prize in the Intel category. Their winning design was an electric vehicle intelligent control system using the Intel Atom processor-based desktop board platform.

Another UTAR team comprising Mechatronics students Cheng Chia Loon and Chia Kok Siang won the first prize in the Agilent category with their advanced underwater mechatronics manipulator. Electrical and Electronic Engineering student Wong Chi Liang with his implementation of a soft core processor on a FPGA, and Tan See Hui, Ong Chu En, Lien Jing Ming with their digital speed limit

monitoring system entered the finals in Altera and Intel categories respectively and received consolation prizes.

Innovate Malaysia Design Competition, a multi-discipline Engineering Design Competition open to all undergraduate Engineering and Computer Science students in Malaysia, was aimed to promote innovation culture, better knowledge and skills and greater interest in engineering design, and closer industry-academia collaboration.

USA technology giants Agilent Technologies, Altera, and Intel, the leaders in electronic instruments, programmable logic, and microprocessor respectively, sponsored the competition. Contest participants were required to design based on the technology platforms of Agilent USB modular instruments, Altera DE1/DE2 board, and Intel Atom processor-based desktop board.

Deputy Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Fadillah Yusof presented the prizes at the ceremony.

UTAR wins **'Best Robot Idea'** award

A UTAR team competed with 35 other teams and won the 'Best Idea' award in Malaysia Robot Contest (ROBOCON) 2011 hosted at Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia from 13 to 18 June 2011.

The winning UTAR team, comprising nine students from the Faculty of Engineering and Science, Yap Choon Kiat, Low Jeng Lam, Cheng Xuan Teng, Kuang Hong Yaw, Daniel Yong Yew Rong, Chew You Sheng, Khor Wei Peng, Soh Ying Wei and Puang En Yen, was led by head of the Department of Mechatronics and Biomedical Engineering Dr Tan Yong Chai and tutor Danny Ng Wee Kiat.

The robot contest, organised by the Ministry of Higher Education, Radio Television Malaysia and SIRIM Berhad, aimed to promote the creativity of undergraduates in the field of robotics. Themed '*Bunga Raya: Unity for 1 Nation*' this year, contesting teams raced, using their three robots, to assemble the Malaysian national flower *bunga raya* or hibiscus from four pieces of sepals, petals, stamens and stigmas to achieve the *mekar* or full bloom.



The 'Best Idea' award and the UTAR's robots

ROBOCON originated by Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) in 2000, has been an annual competition held in its member countries. The Asia-Pacific level contest, ABU Asia-Pacific Robot Contest 2011, will be held in August in Bangkok, Thailand.



Lim (inset) sitting third from the left and the rest of Cambridge MPhil in Computational Biology, Class of 2007

“Cambridge to me has always been a mystical place where great scientific and literary thinkers expound their world-changing views.”

Lim Weng Khong

UTAR Alumnus in Cambridge

UTAR prides itself on producing more than 22,000 graduates since the University's inception in 2002. Besides the graduate employability of exceeding 97 percent, which UTAR has been consistently achieving since the inaugural convocation in 2005, many of its alumni have achieved great heights in diverse fields. Among such outstanding alumni, who are the pride of the alma mater, is Lim Weng Khong, currently, a PhD student and researcher at the world's renowned University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

Lim had his secondary education at Penang Free School. Already showing potential to be a promising student, he received Tunku Abdul Rahman College Scholarship to pursue a diploma in Computer Science at the college. Later, he was again awarded a scholarship, the Malaysian Bourse Scholarship, to further his studies at UTAR in the Bachelor of Computer Science (Hons) programme from 2003 to 2005. He graduated with first-class honours in the inaugural convocation.

During his undergraduate years in UTAR, Lim already showed keen interest in research. His research areas included mobile autonomous robots, which he had build a number of prototypes mostly with OOPic (object oriented programmable integrated circuit) boards. For his final-year thesis, he opted for research on cryptography specialising in secret-sharing schemes. It was cryptography, Lim later found out, that eventually led him to be interested in computational biology. He was also quite involved in the field of artificial intelligence, particularly in biologically-inspired optimisation algorithms such as genetic algorithms, evolutionary algorithms, swarm optimisation and ant-colony optimisation.

After graduated from UTAR, Lim worked for about two years in Intel Corporation as a software engineer and project manager before he was awarded the Commonwealth Shared Cambridge Scholarship to pursue his postgraduate studies at the University of Cambridge in the UK.

He commenced his study for a Master's degree in computational biology at Cambridge in 2007. His postgraduate research centred on discovering the connections between aberrant microRNA expressions and diseases. It involved the computational prediction of microRNA-disease links through analysing gene-expression data and looking for enrichment

of microRNA binding sites. The objective of the research was to develop computer software to help pharmaceutical companies to identify potential drug targets in a more efficient manner. The research project included a summer internship that he undertook at GlaxoSmithKline's Medicines Research Centre.

Under the Overseas Research Student Award (2008-2011) and Special Cambridge Malaysia Scholarship (2008-2011), Lim is currently in his final-year PhD studies in Genetics under the Micklem Lab at the Department of Genetics in Cambridge. He is focusing on the computational genomics and systems biology of non-coding RNAs. His research aims to uncover the role that non-coding RNAs, particularly microRNAs, plays in pathogenesis and how the very same molecules can contribute towards the development of therapeutics. He also works on computational epigenetic, in which he analyses ChIP-chip and ChIP-seq data of chromatin modifications in cancer cells.

“Cambridge to me has always been a mystical place where great scientific and literary thinkers expound their world-changing views,” said Lim, when asked about his experience studying in Cambridge.

“There is a strong intellectual atmosphere that pervades throughout the university, no matter where you are.

“Everyone here is passionate about their respective fields and will not hesitate to talk about what they do over dinner.

“I've had many pleasant exchanges with academics working on fields as diverse as ancient Greek and theoretical Physics.”

Lim added that the 800-year history of Cambridge and its association with famous philosophers such as Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin and Stephen Hawking made his experience even more awe-inspiring. He would definitely recommend the university to anyone who would want to work on cutting-edge research and interact with apex thinkers of our times.

“If you are in doubt as to whether you will be accepted by the [Cambridge] university or not, the only way to find out is by actually applying for it,” said Lim, advising his juniors in UTAR.

“You will find that the odds are not really stacked against you as long as you can demonstrate a suitable level of academic achievement and passion for the subject that you are studying.”

Lim plans to pursue a career in research in the industry or academia in the future.

UTAR delivers hope to Japan

The devastation caused by the March-11 earthquake and tsunami in Japan drove the sympathetic community of UTAR to lend a helping hand.

Students of the Peer Helping Programme in Perak Campus initiated a fundraising campaign called 'Hope for Japan' to console the disaster victims that there was still hope after the calamity. Soon later, the Students Representative Councils and Community Service Societies of the other three campuses in Bandar Sungai Long, Setapak and Petaling Jaya joined forces.

Month-long fundraising activities in the campuses, coordinated by the Department of Student Affairs (DSA), were started on 29 March 2011. Students went door-to-door to collect donations from classes and offices. Donation boxes were placed at booths in cafeterias, DSA offices and other strategic locations. Pieces of black canvas were also put up to receive donors' palm prints in colours.

A total of RM8,737.85 was collected, which Vice President (Student Development and Alumni Relations) Dr Teh Chee Seng handed over to Osamu Moroe, the organising chairman of a charity concert for victims of the Japan earthquake organised by the Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur, in a mock-cheque presentation ceremony at Petaling Jaya Campus on 18 May 2011.

"Our people are going through a tough time; fortunately, the support and help from all walks of life, especially the students in Malaysia are very impressive and touching," said Moroe, adding that Malaysia had helped them to go through the hard time.

Through Moroe, a 'banner of hope', which was decorated with donors' palm prints, cards carrying messages such as "Gambateh Japan" (keep up the good work, Japan), "Don't worry, be happy" and "We are with you; everything will be fine" and 1,000 origami cranes, was also delivered to the disaster victims.



Dr Teh (left) presenting a mock cheque to Moroe in front the 'banner of hope'

"This campaign has taught me a lot on how to take better care of my health."

Tan Pei Pei



Charity is in the blood

"I'm glad that I could do my part by donating blood," said UTAR Foundation student Tan Pei Pei after doing her charity act at Petaling Jaya Campus.

UTAR Student Affairs Department held a Health and Hygiene Campaign at the campus from 13 to 16 June 2011 to promote greater awareness among UTAR students on health and hygiene. Posters displaying information on hygienic practices and prevention of various diseases were put up. Taking advantage of the occasion, University Malaya Medical Centre also set up a hub to seek blood donations from UTAR staff and students.

In order to educate the public on the importance of cleanliness, Health and Hygiene Campaign was held in UTAR Petaling Campus

UTAR staff and students departing their 'gift of life'

from 13-16 June 2011 by the Students Affairs Department.

Among the activities held were health display on how to be hygienic and to avoid sickness caused by bacteria and viruses. To encourage more participants, a questionnaire on hygiene was also conducted where they were entitled for lucky draw.

"Basic check-ups to determine the donor's blood type and their pulse rate were conducted to ensure they are fit to donate," said a medical officer Dr. Indira, adding that the response was good and PPUM were in need of O type blood group.

Tan added "This campaign has taught me a lot on how to take better care of my health."



Making the green campus greener

For the cause of recruiting more socially responsible UTAR students as members, the Community Service Society engaged them for a good cause of gotong royong.

Some 60 UTAR students participated in the two-day community service activity, which started with cleaning and repainting at Taman Rekreasi, Kampar on 4 June 2011. The 'spring cleaning' was a coordinated 'operation' with Kampar District Council, which provided the students with tools such as brooms, rakes, pails, gloves, brushes and paint, which they used at the recreational park to clear drains, mow lawns, trim scrubs, and repair and repaint playground equipment, arbours and embankments.

On the following day, the activity continued at Perak Campus,



Students 'bergotong-royong' at the park

A good cause for a good cause

Kampar, where the students planted 30 *Eugenia spicata* seedlings by the lake next to Block D and E of the already green campus.

"We purposely chose to carry out the activity during UTAR orientation period, so that we can recruit new students to join the Community Service Society," said the society's chairman Lim Meng Yang, adding that the society was aimed at inculcating social responsibility and moral values among its members.

Lim further said, "What better way to do this than spring-cleaning at the Taman Rekreasi, which was long due for proper maintenance, and making our campus greener."

"Tree planting is a meaningful activity," said Sam Han Ming, a member of the society. The cost-conscious third-year Accounting student added that trees would provide shade and reduce building heat loads and hence electricity bills for cooling.

Pergola adds beauty to campus

Gaze upon the reflections of luscious greenery on the glittering lake surface, while enjoying the melodies of chirping birds carried by a gentle swirling breeze... and all that in the comfort of a shady, cosy pergola. That may describe how you feel when you step into the Cheong Heng Hong Pergola by the lake near the library at Perak Campus.

The pergola, first of its kind in UTAR, was donated by Alfred Cheong Hock Yuen and was named after the donor's late father.

"This special contribution is indeed a good example that will encourage many more other donors to contribute to UTAR in diverse forms," said UTAR Vice President (R&D and Commercialisation) Prof

Dr Lee Sze Wei, after thanking the donor at the ceremony to hand over the gift on 27 May 2011.

The pergola, a steel structure entwined by vines bearing white and purple blossoms, was personally designed by Cheong, a filial-piety son. It would be a beautiful addition to the picturesque campus and a haven for relaxation and quiet study for many years to come.

Also present at the ceremony were Cheong's mother, Lim Siew Ang and sister, Wai Meng, and UTAR Global Research Network partners, Dr Francis Ng and Prof Emeritus Dr Yong Hoi Sen.



At the pergola: (front, from left) Dr Ng, Alfred, Lim, Wai Meng, Prof Lee, Prof Yong (back, fourth from right) and UTAR staff

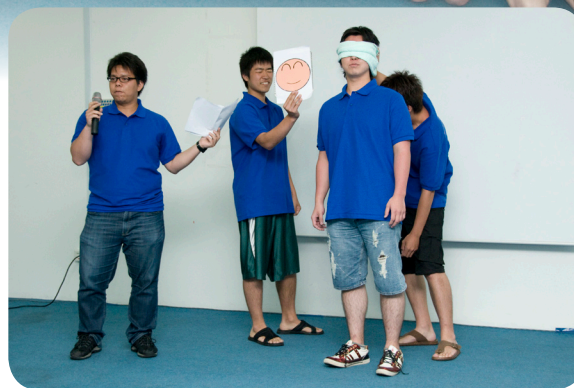


UTAR-Japan cultural exchange

Led by two teachers, 30 students from the International Technical School in Japan visited UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus for cultural exchange on 7 June 2011.

The Japanese visitors were accompanied by Osamu Moroe from the Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur (see also 'UTAR delivers hope to Japan' on page 13), who dressed in full Japanese costume of kimono, zori and traditional sandals. They were received by UTAR Vice President (Student Development and Alumni Relations) Dr Teh Chee Seng and UTAR students led by the Student Representative Committee members.

The Japanese students, in uniform blue T-shirts, demonstrated four Japanese favourite pastimes including the well-known origami. UTAR students were invited to try on origami and participate in the other games, and they were rewarded with



During Japanese traditional game demonstration

'paper balls' from their newfound friends.

To reciprocate, UTAR students introduced four favourite Malaysian traditional pastimes of carom, *batu Seremban*, glass marble and *xiangqi* (Chinese chess).



A Japanese student in action

Students visit Infineon

Led by seven UTAR academic staff, 30 students visited Infineon Technologies (Kulim) Sdn Bhd, Kedah on 15 June 2011.

The visit, organised by the Department of Electronic Engineering, Department of Industrial Engineering, and Centre for Foundation Studies and participated by their students, was aimed to provide students with a better understanding of career opportunities available in Infineon.

At the facilities, the students were briefed on various failure analyses by Infineon engineers and given a talk on wafer fabrication and renewable energy. The staff of UTAR and Infineon discussed about further collaborations on research and development.

In January 2011, UTAR and Infineon signed a memorandum of understanding to work together on research and development, and to promote mutual visits by staff members, study visits and industrial attachment. The visit had fostered closer ties between UTAR and Infineon.



Visiting UTAR staff and students with Infineon staff at the facilities in Kulim



Some of the students at PJ Live Arts

Screening unveils talents

Some 200 moviegoers and critics flocked to PJ Live Arts, a performing arts theatre in Petaling Jaya, for the premieres of 17 video productions of 108 final-year UTAR Broadcasting students on 16 April 2011.

These video productions, the compulsory four-month-long group projects of the students, were presented to critics such as local movie director Ho Yuang and actor Lim Yew Beng (supporting actor in the movie, 'Great Day'), whose comments had benefited the students greatly. The screening was intended to showcase the talents of the undergraduates to industry experts.

"Many prominent industry people were invited to the screening and it was a very good experience for all of us," said student Lim Kar Wing, an organising committee member for the screening. He added that their lecturers had been guiding them every step of the way during the production.

"The screening of our works together has provided an opportunity for the all the students from the first semester, final year to mingle and learn from each other," said another organising committee member, Hao Yin Thie, who was involved in multiple- and single-camera productions for a short film and short documentary.



Actor Lim commenting



Director Ho at the screening

Working world explored

The Career Exploration Week at UTAR Perak Campus from 13 to 17 June 2011, organised by the Career Development Club, was abuzz with career guidance activities.

It was the second time the club held such event and reputable employers such as Berjaya Group, Genting Berhad, Great Eastern, Hwang DBS Investment Bank Bhd, MAAKL Mutual, Malaysia Biotechnology Corporation Sdn Bhd, Mary Kay, Mind Wealth Asia, OCBC Bank, Prudential, and Vital Years Holding Sdn Bhd participated in it.

Many participating employers gave career talks during the week. The Credit Management and Counselling

Agency (AKPK) took the opportunity to provide advice to students on prudent personal financial management. A career guidance workshop exposed students to how to match one's personality traits to a suitable career. Former newspaper reporter Tan Lai Seong shared his entrepreneurship experience in a talk. And a hair stylist workshop ended the five-day event.

"Everything was clearly explained in the career guidance workshop," said English Language student Esther Wong, adding that the atmosphere was relaxing and speaker-participants interaction was active.



"Everything was clearly explained in the career guidance workshop."

Esther Wong

Tan sharing his entrepreneurship experience

Career talk by
Vital Years

Mary Kay beauty workshop

1Malaysia Food Carnival

Foodies were spoilt for choice at a food carnival held at UTAR Kuala Lumpur Campus on 15 June 2011.

Organised by the Asian Cultural Society (ACS), the 1Malaysia Food Carnival was launched by the Dean of Faculty of Engineering and Science Dr Wang Chang Chin, who was accompanied by ACS advisor Senior Lecturer Balamuralithara Balakrisnan.

The one-day, fun-filled event, saw some 30 students set up food stalls at the faculty campus in Setapak, Kuala Lumpur, serving local favourites such as *rendang* and *ketupat*, *sushi*, *takoyaki*, *lok-lok*, fruit *rojak*, twister tandoori, carrot *kuih*, fried chicken, satay, muffins and cup cakes, asam boi juice, soya and corn. About 100 food aficionados comprising mainly the faculty staff and students visited the stalls.

"The food carnival's main objective is to foster 1Malaysia spirit among the students in this faculty and with students of other faculties," said Norazilah, chairperson of the event organising committee. She added that it also provided an opportunity for students to practise their entrepreneurial skills.

To add to the fun, visitors were entertained with five performances by students. Two of which were traditional Indian *Bharatanatyam* dances. A few students and staff left the carnival happier after winning prizes from a lucky draw.



Dr Wang and Balamuralithara at the launching ceremony



Booth selling coupons – the carnival's currency



The French interns and other students at Kellie's Castle

Freshies on familiarisation tour

Some 150 UTAR 'freshies' of May intake at Perak Campus, including the four French interns (see also 'UTAR Plays Host', page 7) went on a familiarisation tour around Kampar on 12 June 2011.

Set off from the campus in Kampar, they headed north to Taiping, where they visited a biscuit factory and the Taiping Zoo, and had lunch. They turned south to Gunung Lang (Eager Mountain) near Ipoh, the capital of Perak state. Then south again to the popular tourist spot Kellie's Castle in Batu Gajah, before they had dinner in Lawan Kuda village, near Gopeng.

The French interns, Yoann Clombe, Mohamed Rida Karzouz, Lea Stroiazzo and Valentine Prévost, enjoyed the Chinese lunch in Taiping. Clombe and Stroiazzo took a photo with a huge snake around their necks in the Taiping Zoo. Karzouz won the lucky draw grand prize of an electric bicycle at dinner.

"It was a really nice tour for us," said Clombe, adding that they made friends with others, who, especially the committee members, were very friendly and helpful.



Students posing for a photo at Gunung Lang

中医学系喜迎第一批学生

拉曼大学于2011年5月迎来第一批中医学系的学生。中医学系以中英双语教学；中西医兼顾；中药、针灸、推拿并重及理论与实践的有机结合。相关合作机构有广州中医药大学、上海中医药大学、南京中医药大学及同善医院。在拉大与南京中医药大学的谅解备忘录下，该大学将选派教授到拉大讲授中医课程。

拉曼大学第一批中医学系的学生一共20多位，当中具有化学工程系本科、化学系本科、药剂学专业文凭等教育背景的学生。同时中医学系也得到中华研究院的鼎力支持，由该研究院的王介英助理教授与本科系老师共同完成《医古文》的授课。



王介英助理教授给中医学系学生上《医古文》课。



鲁杰先生在分享中。

普洱茶文化

拉曼大学延续教育中心及中国云南交通学院联合主办，由茶道艺术导师兼高级茶艺大师，也是云南交通职业技术学院商贸教研室主任鲁杰先生主讲的普洱茶道艺术讲座会于2011年6月8日假八打灵再也校园举行。

“柴米油盐酱醋茶”，开门七件事内，茶就在里头，证明茶与中国文化紧密相连。茶在生活和精神上，都是不可或缺的元素。乾隆皇帝就曾说：君不可一日无茶。

茶最早见于《神农本草》，战国时期、最古老的药物书。而陆羽所著的《茶经》是最早、最全、最专注于茶的著作。雌雄同株却异花授粉的茶最早是作为药，解药用。

云南种茶始于东晋时期（距今2400年），由云南最早的土著濮人所栽种。普洱在唐代被称为“步日”，宋元期间名为“步日部”，直到明朝才被称为“普洱”，而“普洱”这名称是清朝才定下来的。虽然如此，清朝之前的历史记载就有普洱茶之说。

以前的普洱茶是以马匹来运送，为了运输上的考量，多数压成饼状，每饼普洱茶的重量被设定为357克。在1973年之前，普洱茶只有生茶，是依靠长时间的运输时间让茶叶产生变化。1973年制作熟茶的技术才产生，才有人工制作的熟茶面世。

座谈会上，鲁杰介绍了云南的各古董级古树，并分享普洱茶的保存方式、外形、成分及功效。

五台山信仰及净土宗讲座

台湾东海大学历史学系兼任助理教授，也是中兴大学人文与社会科学研究中心博士后研究员林韵柔博士在2011年6月3日于八打灵再也校区分享了她对“中古佛教圣山信仰的成立：北朝至唐初的五台山信仰”的研究心得。

林博士与众人分享佛教传入五台山的发展概况，即：五台山信仰成为第一个佛教圣山信仰、五台山信仰成立的历程、五台山信仰的特色与中古佛教发展的关系以及中国中古时期出现佛教圣山信仰的意义。

6月6日于霹雳校区的《唐代的念佛结社及其社会基础》讲演中，林博士和与会者分享了她在探讨念佛专修法门出现的历程，以及逐渐形成以俗众为主体的集体念佛。她指出，人们口中常念的阿弥陀佛，就是净土宗强调的念佛信仰。念佛法门本原是僧俗信众修行之法，当转换成专修法门之后，由于简单易行，所以为一般信众所接受。

自南北朝至隋唐，净土宗的信仰方式是以造像祈愿为主，转而以念佛自修为主。念佛法门的历史发展可上溯二传统，即由昙鸾所提倡的持名念佛和由东晋慧远僧领导的共修团体。然而慧远莲社的历史发展与念佛结社形成的历程的关系却密不可分。

林博士总结，相交与其他修行法门，如持戒、禅修、造像等，念佛更为易行。净土念佛结社，除了有僧人领导俗众集体念佛外，也有士人组织的念佛结社。这也反映了社会结构中俗民阶层整体素质的提升，使净土宗在宋以下与禅宗并列为最兴盛的二大宗旨。



林韵柔博士

Minggu suaikenal atau lebih dikenali sebagai minggu orientasi sememangnya suatu agenda yang amat bermakna bagi pelajar-pelajar baru UTAR. Selain memberi pendedahan kepada mereka tentang universiti ini, ia juga mengeratkan silaturrahim antara mereka. Justeru itu, pelbagai aktiviti menarik telah UTAR sajikan di semua Kampus UTAR di Perak, Petaling Jaya, Sungai Long dan Setapak.

'Icebreaking' dan Sukaneka

Aktiviti 'icebreaking' dan sukaneka ini bertujuan mengeratkan hubungan antara pelajar baru dan lama serta membantu pelajar menyesuaikan diri dengan persekitaran kampus.

Di Kampus Petaling Jaya aktiviti ini berjalan dengan cukup meriah apabila seawal jam 9 pagi lagi seramai 280 mahasiswa telah berkumpul di blok PD. Mereka kemudian dibahagikan kepada 28 kumpulan yang terdiri daripada sepuluh orang pelajar. Lebih menarik lagi apabila semua sepuluh ahli ini dipilih daripada kursus yang berbeza. Seterusnya setiap kumpulan harus tampil dengan nama kumpulan dan gaya sorak masing-masing. Mereka kemudian bersaing untuk memenangi permainan sukaneka yang telah dikelolakan oleh Jabatan Hal Ehwal Pelajar. Aktiviti selama 6 jam ini berlangsung dalam suasana yang cukup meriah dan sambutan yang menggalakkan daripada para pelajar menjadikan objektif aktiviti ini tercapai.



Aktiviti gotong royong



Persembahan pelajar dalam Talentime

'Talent time'

'Talent time' merupakan medan bagi para pelajar baru menonjolkan bakat mereka. Di Kampus Perak, 'Talent time' diadakan selama dua hari iaitu pada 17 dan 18 Jun 2011 di Dewan Heritage. Selain daripada menonjolkan kebolehan menyanyi dan menari pihak penganjur juga telah mengadakan pameran bagi pertandingan fotografi dan rekabentuk poskad. Bersesuaian dengan tema yang ditetapkan kali ini iaitu 'Dream Avenue'.

Presiden UTAR Ir Prof Academician Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik dalam ucapannya berkata dia menggalakkan pelajar-pelajar menanam impian tetapi perkara yang lebih penting adalah melakukan sesuatu untuk mencapai impian tersebut.



Persembahan pelajar yang mencuit hati

Gotong Royong

Minggu suaikenal kali ini memberi sedikit kelainan apabila kira-kira 60 pelajar daripada Persatuan Khidmat Masyarakat (CSS) UTAR Kampus Perak telah menjalankan aktiviti gotong royong membersihkan Taman Rekreasi, Kampar dan menanam pokok di Kampus UTAR Perak.

Aktiviti ini berlangsung selama dua hari iaitu pada 4 dan 5 Jun 2011. Pada hari pertama para pelajar telah melakukan pembersihan di sekitar kawasan Taman Rekreasi dengan bantuan Majlis Daerah Kampar (MDK) yang diketuai oleh Penolong Kanan Pegawai Kesihatan Persekitaran, Goh Chee Seng. Di samping itu MDK juga telah menyediakan peralatan seperti baldi, berus, cat dan lain-lain.

Pada hari berikutnya mereka menanam pokok Eugenia Spicata di sepanjang tasik belakang blok D dan E dengan menggunakan benih dan alatan yang telah disediakan oleh Jabatan Perkhidmatan Am UTAR.

Pengerusi CSS, Lim Meng Yang berkata "Aktiviti ini dijalankan sempena dengan orientasi pelajar baru bagi menarik minat mereka terhadap Persatuan Khidmat Masyarakat serta dapat menyemai sikap tanggungjawab sosial dan cintakan alam sekitar."

Ceramah Pencegahan Jenayah

Selain itu, Ceramah Keselamatan juga merupakan salah satu aktiviti yang dijalankan di UTAR Kampus Perak pada 25 Mei 2011. Sarjan Mejar V Murugayah, Timbalan Ketua Polis, Balai Gopeng dan Kota Bharu menyampaikan ceramah bertajuk pencegahan jenayah.

Menurut Murugayah kes jenayah pada tahun 2010 di Kampar adalah rendah iaitu 13-14%. Walaupun menunjukkan peratusan yang rendah namun beliau mengingatkan para pelajar supaya berhati-hati dan menjaga harta benda kerana keselamatan adalah tanggungjawab sendiri.

Kemudian, ceramah diteruskan pula oleh Sarjan Hassan yang menyentuh tentang Rakan Cop. Beliau memberi panduan untuk pendaftaran sebagai ahli Rakan Cop dan menjelaskan kebaikan-kebaikan sebagai ahli Rakan Cop. Ceramah yang mengambil masa hampir dua jam itu memberi pendedahan yang berguna kepada para pelajar baru. Aktiviti sama juga turut dijalankan di semua kampus



V. Murugayah

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