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Fifty UTAR students will be trained to assist in monitoring the water quality and biodiversity of three Kinta River tributaries, Senam River, Buntong River and Kledang River and in training workshops and community outreach programmes to protect the rivers.

The involvement of the students is under the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed among UTAR, GAB Foundation and Global Environment Centre (GEC) on 1 April 2013. It was announced on 4 June 2013 at a ceremony at UTAR Perak Campus where the three parties exchanged the MoU documents.

"UTAR is pleased to work with GAB Foundation and GEC to actively raise awareness and change mindsets on the importance of protecting our rivers," said UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik, adding that UTAR has always promoted the conservation of the environment and has been educating its students on the importance of protecting natural resources and doing more to ensure long-term sustainability.

"GAB Foundation will spend

## Fifty in million-ringgit Kinta River project



The batch of river rangers with (standing, third from left) Parish, Prof Chuah, Dato' Saw, Tun Ling, and Dato' Ir Abdul Razak

RM1 million over three years for community engagement and education programmes along the three chosen tributaries of Sungai Kinta under the W.A.T.E.R [Working Actively through Education and Rehabilitation] Project," said GAB Foundation Chairman Dato' Saw Choo Boon. The

W.A.T.E.R Project, spearheaded by GAB Foundation and GEC, is an ongoing initiative in support of the Department of Irrigation and Drainage of Perak state to rehabilitate Kinta River.

During the ceremony, Perak Department of Irrigation and Drainage Director Dato' Ir Abdul Razak bin Dahalan presented

certificates to 20 UTAR students, who were the first batch of trained river rangers.

Also present at the ceremony were GEC Director Faizal Parish and UTAR Council Chairman Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik.

## MAICSA graduate status for MBA students

UTAR and the Malaysian Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (MAICSA) signed an agreement and supplementary letter at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus on 15 May 2013 to award UTAR MBA (Corporate Governance) students MAICSA graduate status.

Signing the documents were UTAR President Prof Chuah and his counterpart MAICSA President Peter Lim Thiam Kee. UTAR Council Chairman Tun Dr Ling was present to witness the signing.

Through the current agreement, graduates of the MAICSA-UTAR MBA programme will be awarded the graduate status of MAICSA. The collaborative programme is optional and open to all UTAR MBA (Corporate Governance) students. The MBA students not holding a relevant bachelor's degree of Accounting, Business Administration, Law or Finance, may enrol into the collaborative programme after fulfilling the minimum requirements of MAICSA Professional Programme Part One.

"We, at UTAR, indeed feel privileged and proud to be able to associate and work together with MAICSA which is an affiliated body to the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators or ICSA, the leading recognised professional body for Chartered Secretaries and Administrators in the United Kingdom and throughout the world," said



Tun Ling (centre) witnessing the exchange of agreement documents between Prof Chuah (left) and Lim

Prof Chuah.

Lim thanked UTAR for the efforts in organising the ceremony, stressed the importance of this collaboration and said, "Globalisation is taking place at a very fast pace and in a developing country like Malaysia, we need excellent corporate governance practices for sustainable economic growth."

"At UTAR, we aim to globalise the university so that our graduates can eventually work anywhere in the world. With this MAICSA recognition, our graduates are globally recognised," said Tun Dr Ling, answering a question from one of the reporters at the press conference after the signing ceremony.

## MTC donates specialist publications

The Malaysian Timber Council (MTC) donated its nine specialist publications to UTAR at a ceremony held at UTAR Kuala Lumpur Campus on 29 April 2013.

Since its establishment in January 1992, MTC has published several publications to educate architects, engineers, designers, lecturers and students on the properties, applications, eco-friendly credentials and sustainability of Malaysian timbers.

The nine publications, each donated in two copies, were Architectural Use of Timber in Malaysia, Durability of Selected Malaysian Timbers Tested Under Temperate Conditions, On-Site

Identification of Some Common Timbers Used in Malaysia, Guidebook on Flooring in Malaysia, Design Data for Timber Engineering in Malaysia, ReThink: A New Paradigm for Malaysian Timber, Malaysian Wood: Timeless Living,

Incentives for the Wood-based Sector, The Wood Wizard, and Equivalent Names of Malaysian Timbers in Other Countries. The last two were in CD-Rom and the rest in print.

"These publications are donated to support the learning,

teaching and research needs of the lecturers and students on Malaysian timber as a building material," said MTC Chief Executive Officer Datuk Yeo Heng Hau, adding that MTC had organised and collated previously scattered research and technical data of Malaysian timbers for users.

"I was pleasantly surprised to learn that MTC also organises study programmes for lecturers to expose them to new woodworking technology and innovative ways in which timber is used in more developed countries," said UTAR Faculty of Engineering and Science Deputy Dean Prof Dr Goi Bok Min after thanking MTC for the donation.



Datuk Yeo (centre) handing over the publications to Prof Dr Goi, while other MTC delegates look on

## Five delegates from Shanghai Jiao Tong

Five delegates from the School of Medicine of Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU), one of the leading universities in China, visited UTAR Faculty of Medicine and Health Science (FMHS) at UTAR Sungai Long Campus on 30 April 2013.

The delegates were SJTU School of Medicine Vice-Chancellor (Education and Affiliated Hospitals' Administration) Dr Huang Gang, Dr Mei Wenhan, Dr Shao Li, Dr Zhang Chengkang, and Dr Chooi Yuo Hao.

On hand to welcome them from UTAR were FMHS Dean Emeritus Prof Dr Cheong Soon Keng, Centre for Stem Cell Research Chairperson Prof Dr Choo Kong Bung, Centre for Cancer Research

Chairperson Dr Lim Yang Mooi and Community and International Networking Director Dr Tan Sin Leng.

"Our faculty was established three years ago and we are exploring the opportunities of working with other universities," said Prof Dr Cheong, introducing his faculty to the delegates.

"We would like to build a good relationship with UTAR, for it is a young and dynamic university," said Dr Huang, in response to Prof Dr Cheong's request.

After the meeting, Prof Dr Cheong led the delegation to tour his faculty and the



Prof Dr Cheong (in blue shirt) leading Dr Huang and other delegates on a tour

campus and a visit to Hospital Sungai Long nearby.

The delegation was on a five-day visit in Malaysia. They also visited the Ministry of Health.

Established in 1896, SJTU is a prestigious university in China whose student population is about 40,000.

## Six visitors from Wuhan University

Six delegates from Wuhan University, China visited UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus on 10 May 2013.

Accompanying Wuhan University Foreign Student Education College Dean Prof Lu Jiangbin, who led the delegation, were from his college's Administrative Office Director Sun Bin, Student Affairs Deputy Director Huang Wei and Admission and Foreign Affairs Deputy Director Yan Xu, Undergraduate Admission and Career Guidance Director Yan Jinzhu, and Graduate School Admission and Career Guidance Officer Song Shilei.

On hand to receive them were UTAR Vice President (Academic Development and Internationalisation) Prof Dr Ewe Hong Tat, Community and International Networking Director Dr Tan Sin Leng, Corporate Communication and Public Relations Director Ong Soo Weon, Centre for Extension Education Director Lim Guat Yen, Lok Bee Lan and Fook Oi Yee, heads of Department of Soft Skills Competency Perak Campus and Klang Valley campuses respectively, and soft skills trainer Erika Chua from Perak Campus.

During the meeting, both universities



Group photo (front-back, left-right): Chua, Fook, Lok, Lim, Huang, Ong, Yan Xu, Song, Dr Tan, Prof Ewe, Prof Lu, Yan Jinzhu and Sun

exchanged information on programmes offered. "Wuhan University can send its students to study Accounting in UTAR as a means to improve the level of professionalism of accountants in China," said Dr Tan.

"The Electronic Commerce, Journalism and International Hanyu courses of Wuhan University enjoy good reputation in China,"

said Prof Lu. He added, "In addition, Wuhan University is currently upgrading its infrastructure, including building a new block for international students."

The two universities look towards signing a memorandum of understanding to work closer together in the future.

## Chinese orchestra from Hong Kong visits UTAR



Hosts and visitors posing in front of Dewan Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik

Thirty-four delegates of the Chinese Orchestra, Hong Kong Baptist Church stopped over on 14 May 2013 at UTAR Perak Campus during their performance tour to Malaysia.

They were welcomed by Assoc Prof Dr Goh Teik Kiang from the Department of Agricultural and Food Science, Faculty of Science, and from the Division of Corporate Communication and Public Relations, Deputy Director Lim Yew Choy, Assistant Managers Tan Yong Ling and Wong Sai Kuan and Administrative Assistant Choy Kar Yan.

With a video presentation, the visitors were given insights into the history, milestones and aspirations of UTAR. It was followed by a Q&A session. They were taken on a campus tour before their visit concluded with refreshments, in which they were treated to authentic, mouth-watering local delicacies.

## A night to remember

The French words *-il est magnifique* -literally meaning 'it is magnificent' in English, best describe the spellbinding ambience that infused UTAR Ball 2013, themed 'Renaissance', which was held at the opulent Manhattan Ballroom, Berjaya Times Square Hotel in Kuala Lumpur on 2 June 2013.

Young men who graced the ball were spotted in powered suits, elegant bowties and coiffed hairdos, and their female counterparts, in loose locks, figure-hugging bodices and flimsy frocks. Together, they painted a picture of sophistication, which was accentuated further by an apparent rehearsal of chivalry and courtesy. Their faces

beamed with youthful vigour in anticipation for the party to begin, heralded by a wave of intermittent flashy lights that pervaded every corners of the breathtakingly festooned ballroom.

A myriad of entertaining performances by both student and guest performers was lined up, such as, the recitals of contemporary chart-toppers and classical numbers as well as the staging of a musical drama titled 'Flowers of Illusions'. Set in medieval France, 'Flowers of Illusions' chronicled an unlikely love affair that blossomed between a girl of noble lineage and her commoner beau. The masterpiece, staged over four sessions to the melodious crooning of UTAR students,



Prof Chuah (in batik) officiating UTAR Ball 2013, while volunteers and performers look on.

was irrevocably the *crème de la crème* of the nights' highlights. Audience was also treated to spectacular dance moves performed to the catchy beats of phenomenal K-pop sounds by KL Dance Club.

UTAR Ball is an annual event courtesy of the earnest

collaboration between Department of Student Affairs and Student Representative Council. It is aimed at fostering ties and cooperation between the students from four UTAR Campuses, namely, Kuala Lumpur, Perak, Petaling Jaya and Sungai Long.

## New addition to brood welcomed

The clock has ticked, once again, on the time when fresh faces inundate UTAR to begin the academic year. As part of the May

2013 Intake orientation, a grand mass call was held at the entrancing Dewan Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik at UTAR Perak Campus on 22

May 2013.

On stage at the ceremony were UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik, the deans Dr Cheah Phaik Kin, Prof Dr Choong Chee Keong, Dr Yap Vooi Voon, Dr Liew Sounng Yue, Dr Lim Tuck Meng, Institute of Chinese Studies Deputy Dean Dr Wong Wun Bin, Centre for Foundation Studies Director Pek Hoo Chun, and Student Representative Council Vice Chairperson Moo Hong Yuen and Auditor Alvin Tan Meng Kai.

"The university is not merely a place for you to obtain a degree. I hope you will utilise this period to enhance your cognitive and networking skills," said Prof Chuah. In addition to advising students to study hard, he constantly reminded them to denounce activities deemed detrimental to their future and the University's reputation. At one juncture, he even quipped, "I hope I don't sound like a badgering grandpa."

There were 1,885 Foundation and 515 Bachelor's degree registered students of UTAR Perak Campus who turned up for the mass call.



Arriving at Dewan Tun Dr Ling, Prof Chuah (centre) flanked by, on his right, Tan, and left, Moo, Dr Yap, Prof Choong and Dr Cheah

**“The Chinese translate birth data – year, month, day and hour of birth – into four pairs of distinct Chinese characters called ‘bazi’ or eight characters,”** said Joey Yap in a talk titled ‘BaZi Lessons for Success’ at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus on 18 May 2013.

Yap is the founder of the Mastery Academy of Chinese Metaphysics, a global organisation devoted to the teaching of Feng Shui, BaZi, Mian Xiang and other Chinese Metaphysics subjects. He is also the Chief Consultant of Joey Yap Consulting Group, an international consulting firm specialising in feng shui and Chinese astrology services and audits.

He was invited by UTAR Centre for Extension Education which organised the public talk. Present at the talk were UTAR Council Chairman Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik and his wife Toh Puan Ena Ling.

Yap added, “By analyzing the structure, compatibility, clashes, combinations and inter-relations of these eight characters, we can learn much about

our nature and our life path.

“An individual can make use of this information to accelerate his performance in work, strengthen his or her relationships with others, improve weaknesses, maximise talents and potentials, and make informed decisions based on forecasts of his or her upcoming cycle of luck.

“Changes begin with awareness and bazi makes us aware of who we are, how we think and what our personal path to success is. Then we have the freedom to make choices to become successful and happy.”

The talk ended with a question-and-answer session before Tun Dr Ling presented a souvenir to Yap.

## Joey Yap on ‘bazi’ and success



Tun Ling (left) presenting a souvenir to Yap

**“The need for experts in the area of building management does not only exist in Malaysia, but its demand is also equally great internationally,”** said MKH Berhad Managing Director Datuk Eddy Chen (left) at a career talk at UTAR Sungai Long Campus on 26 March 2013.

The career talk titled ‘Career Opportunities in Building Management and Importance of Soft Skills’ was organised by UTAR Faculty of Accountancy and Management and UTAR Career Development Society specifically for undergraduate students of Bachelor of Building and Property Management (Hons). At the moment, UTAR is the only local education institution that offers a full-time Bachelor of Building and Property Management (Hons) programme.

Datuk Chen continued, “Some of the biggest shopping complexes in Singapore, Indonesia, and Hong Kong are managed by Malaysians.” He also said, “It is cheaper to regularly maintain a building than reconstructing it entirely, and that is precisely why the industry is desperate for well-trained building management graduates.”

“The only thing constant in life are changes,” said Richard Chan (right), director of RCMC Sdn Bhd and committee member of the Building Management Association of Malaysia (BMAM), who was also invited to speak in the career talk. Chan continued, “These changes

## Global demand for building management experts



are slowly altering building designs and the result of such adaptations is an integrated mega building, where condominiums, office suits, retail outlets are all elegantly incorporated into a single project.” He also said, “Unfortunately, while these developments are great, there is a shortage of experienced and qualified building managers to maintain these buildings.”

UTAR and BMAM signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for collaboration last year. The career talk was an activity under the MoU.

## Functional abdominal pain – commonest children’s ailment

**“Functional abdominal pain is one of the most common complaints of children and adolescents who seek medical consultation,”** said Prof Dr Quak Seng Hock (picture) from National University Hospital Singapore at a talk at UTAR Sungai Long Campus on 17 April 2013.

Prof Quak was serving as an external examiner for the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery programme at UTAR Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences in the campus. He was invited by the faculty to deliver a talk on ‘Functional Abdominal Pain in Children.’

“Abdominal pain that cannot be explained by any visible or detectable abnormality, after a thorough physical examination and appropriate further testing is known as functional abdominal pain and it can be recurrent or continuous,” said Prof Quak, defining the title of the talk.

He added that according to research by medical practitioners, functional abdominal pain happens most among

children who are five to six years old. At this age they start going to school and the high frequency of functional abdominal pain occurring to them may be due to stress and other social or conditional factors.

“Functional abdominal pain affects the quality of life of children and adolescents in the physical, emotional and social aspects therefore it should be treated,” Prof Quak advised. For clinical approach, he stressed three times that good history and physical examinations are the important investigations.

“For functional recurrent abdominal pain, cognitive behavioural therapy has been successful in reducing the frequency and severity of pain,” he concluded.

## Crime prevention tips for freshies

**“You can minimise the risk of being a crime victim if you are weary of your surrounding and take up some simple crime prevention measures,”** said Kampar OCPD Superintendent Ng Kong Soon (right) at a talk on ‘Prevent Crimes Together’ at UTAR Perak Campus on 22 May 2013.



The talk, held at Dewan Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik in the campus, was part of the UTAR May orientation programme to create greater awareness among the new students on crime prevention and drug abuse.

The simple crime prevention measures Ng mentioned were to avoid taking shortcuts through dark alleys, carrying large amounts of cash, and wearing expensive jewellery, and always keep an eye on valuable belongings. He earlier said that his

police contingent would be committed to prevent crimes in Kampar area and sought the cooperation from everyone in the audience to combat crimes. He also explained how snatch theft, home burglary, vehicle theft and violence could happen, and spoke on the hazards of drug abuse and addiction.

“Safety is everyone’s responsibility,” said Ng, adding that close rapport between students and the police would go a long way in fighting crimes.

## Math professor speaks

**P**rof Kunio Shimizo (picture) was invited by UTAR Centre of Mathematical Science to deliver two public lectures titled 'Several Methods for Generating Skew Distributions' and 'Dividends Problems in the Classical Risk Process' at UTAR Kuala Lumpur Campus on 19 March 2013.

Prof Kunio, a professor at the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science and Technology, Keio University and visiting professor at the Institute of Statistical Mathematics, Tokyo, is also an international collaborative partner of UTAR.

He explained the three systematic ways to generate a skew distribution from a symmetric distribution in his first lecture. The three methods are transformation of a random variable, inverse relationship between cumulant generating functions and skewing probability density functions. He also explained the practical applications of

these methods various industries such as finance, insurance, environmental science and ecology.

In his second lecture, Prof Kunio covered the three aspects of dividends problems in the classical continuous time risk model; a solution of integro-differential equation for the moment of discounted dividends in the case when the claim amount follows an Erlang distribution, the expectation of discounted deficit at ruin and that of distribution function of the deficit at ruin, and lastly, surplus models with injection of funds at ruin and before ruin.



**“P**assion is everything in documentary production,” said Malaysian Documentary Association (MyDocs) member Lydia Lubon (centre) at a talk at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus on 17 April 2013.

Lubon, MyDocs President Harun Rahman (right) and fellow member Ikhwan Rivai (left) were invited to deliver a talk on documentary production by UTAR Faculty of Creative Industries.

“Filming documentaries is a sustainable, viable and interesting career as filmmakers are able to avail themselves to different types of career due to the diversified background of the stories documented,” said Harun. He added, “In this new era, documentaries must be as interesting and eye-catching as other types of films. However, they must be presented without omitting the facts and realities as documentaries are produced based on actual events.”

## Passion is everything in documentary production



Lubon, who is also executive producer of Rack Focus Films, said documentary production required passion because, “To produce quality documentary, a documentary filmmaker must watch as many documentaries as possible to learn and adapt how a good documentary is produced.”

“Documentary production generally occupies shorter timeline as compared to feature films. However, since they are based on real activities, filming of documentaries

must be scheduled properly to accommodate the timing of the activities,” said Ikhwan, who specialises in factual programming. His work ‘The Seasmiths’ was featured in the series Discovery’s Eye on Malaysia.

During the talk, the trio briefed UTAR students on different genres of documentaries, such as natural history, historical or archival, crime, propaganda and advocacy, nonverbal, new media and factual entertainment.



**“W**hat is the one thing which all human beings look for?” meditation master and eminent teacher Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche started his talk on ‘Enriching Life with Common Sense, Philosophy and Realisation’ with a question. He was invited by UTAR Centre for Extension Education (CEE) to speak at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus on 13 April 2013.

## What’s the one thing you look for?

The audience responded “happiness” to his question. Rinpoche then said the world has been growing rapidly with the development of technology. As technology advances, human beings become lost or seem minute in this world. Many crave to become the richest, the most powerful or the most famous. When this is perceived as the most essential thing, happiness will never be found. Some think that wealth, power and fame bring happiness but how much should be achieved in order to be acknowledged as the richest, the most powerful or the most famous?

He then suggested five disciplines of life: common sense, common logic, common need, common ethics and common manner. We are never really

happy because we cannot get along and want to compete with others. As a result, jealousy, anger, disappointment and fear cause us to be unhappy. He urged the audience to apply the five disciplines in life and by doing so there will be peace in the world.

Rinpoche, acknowledged as the seventh incarnation of the renowned second century Indian Buddhist philosopher Nagarjuna, has been teaching audiences throughout the world for the past 35 years. He has spoken at renowned universities such as Harvard and Oxford and his famous followers and students include the actor Richard Gere, actress/singer Cher and Australian master chef Skye Craig.



CEE Director Lim Guat Yen (left) presenting souvenirs to Rinpoche

## iPad in Education

**“W**hy iPad?” asked Certified iPad trainer Nicholas Eng (left) to some 30 UTAR academic staff who were attending his talk on ‘iPad in Education’ which was organised by UTAR Centre for Extension Education and held at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus on 5 April 2013.

“iPad features up to 800,000 applications, e-books and the most recent invention, airplane mirroring,” answered Eng, adding that airplane mirroring enables iPad pages to be projected on the screen via wifi.

He said that learning with iPad can be fun for students. They can compose music using Garage Band even though they cannot play any instrument. Despite having many musically illiterates and first-time iPad users among the audience, Eng was able to lead the audience to create an orchestra piece.

iPad also features Keynote which, Eng claimed, can do what PowerPoint but with flair and style. Lecturers and students can

embed interactive hyperlinks so that viewers get the feeling of visiting an interactive website instead of viewing the conventional presentation slides. They can navigate to and for presentation pages by clicking buttons.

Another application Eng introduced was iMovie that enables users to edit their recorded clips and add text and music to customise their videos. With it, every student can be a movie director and lecturers can bring teaching to a whole new level.

“iPad can be a powerful teaching tool when its features are exploited for better teaching methodology,” Eng concluded.

Unlike other somatic cells in our body, which have specialised functions, stem cells are pluripotent cells that can develop or differentiate into diverse specialised cell types of different tissues and organs. Stem cells are, therefore, un specialised cells that can self-renew through cell division to produce more stem cells. These special capabilities of stem cells have brought about many clinical applications.



VIPs at the May seminar (from left): Prof Cheong, Prof Rasko, Prof Choo, Prof Dr Tunku Kamarul from UM and Dr Chin Sze Piaw from Cyopeutics Sdn Bhd

# Stem cell research in UTAR



**UTAR Centre for Stem Cell Research**

UTAR CSCR was established on 1 May 2011 with a mission to promote multi-disciplinary stem cell research activities leading to the advancement of knowledge on the mechanisms of cellular reprogramming and stem cell differentiation and the translation of the research findings into clinical benefits and improvement in the quality of healthcare in Malaysia.

In early 2012, UTAR and Universiti Malaya (UM) agreed to collaborate under the funding of the UM High Impact Research Grant (HIRG). Prof Choo is the principal investigator of two research projects, 'iPSCs from bone marrow-derived MSCs: epigenetic regulation of cellular reprogramming' and 'Aging of human MSCs: genomic and epigenomic analysis and applications'. Other UTAR-UM HIRG projects include 'Development and characterisation of osteosarcoma-derived iPSC for disease modelling' by UTAR FMHS Dean Prof Dr Cheong Soon Keng, and 'Profiling of microsatellite alterations

from human adult MSC sources in relation to cell senescence and cell population level variation' by Dr Alan Ong Han Kiat of FMHS.

Other research projects of CSCR under the UTAR Research Fund include 'Development and characterisation of prostate cancer cell-derived iPSC for disease modelling and cancer therapy' by Dr Ong, 'Development and characterisation of glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency-derived iPSC' by Dr Leong Pooi Pooi, 'In vitro hair follicle cloning using iPSC derived from hair follicle keratinocytes of plucked human hair' and 'In vitro cloning of hair follicles from dissociated trichogenic cells' by Dr Gan Seng Chiew, and 'A Preliminary study on the effect of edible bird nest on the neuron stem cells' by Dr Lim Yang Mooi.

"The most important clinical application of stem cells is to use the unique differentiation and regenerative capabilities of stem cells to generate tissues for cell-based therapy; the approach is also known as regenerative medicine," says UTAR Centre for Stem Cell Research (CSCR) Chairperson, Prof Dr Choo Kong Bung, from UTAR Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FMHS).

Stem cells, when successfully directed to differentiate into the desired cell types and tissues, offer a renewable source of cells and tissues for replacement treatment of a variety of diseases such as spinal cord injury, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis. More importantly, use of stem cells also offers the possibility of generating replacement tissues from the cells of the recipient patients, thus, circumventing rejection problems.

There are two main types of stem cells, embryonic stem cells (ESCs) and adult stem cells (ASCs). ESCs are more versatile than ASCs because they are pluripotent, or having the ability to differentiate into any cell types. However, the use of human ESCs, derived mainly from developing very early embryo called the blastocyst, has sparked controversial ethical issues.

In recent years, by introducing certain defined critical factors, scientists are able to 'reprogram' the unipotent adult somatic or body cells into stem-like state. The stem cells thus derived are

called induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) and represent a viable option for substituting the ESCs. The inventor of the iPSC protocol, Prof Shinya Yamanaka, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2012, signifying the importance of iPSC.

A subgroup of ASCs, known as mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs), are derived from bone marrow, or many other non-marrow sources such as the umbilical cord tissue, cord blood, adipose tissue or adult muscle. MSC is multipotent and is able to differentiate into various types of functionalised cells including bone cells, cartilage cells, fibroblasts, vascular cells, smooth muscle cells and others.

Differentiated cells may be used to repair damaged tissues, such as heart, joint and nerve tissues. As MSC may be activated and mobilised, they are being used to carry anti-cancer proteins to treat cancers, or other protein drugs for other ailments.

"I have been studying gene expression in my research career," declares Prof Choo saying that the stem cell-related field of epigenetics, the study of changes in gene expression without changes in DNA sequences, is his life pursuit. Currently, he is the principal investigator of a

pilot study on comparative epigenetic and microRNA profiling study of human iPSCs and ESCs.

## Stem cells' applications



Presenters and participants at the May seminar

## Stem cell therapies at a crossroad

To promote stem cell research in UTAR and in Malaysia, CSCR conducts regular journal club meeting amongst members. CSCR has in the past one-and-a-half years conducted a three-day iPSC workshop and two seminars on recent advances in stem cell research with invited overseas speakers. A third seminar is being planned for November 2013.

The main speaker invited for the seminar held on 25 May 2013 was Prof Dr John E Rasko, who is a clinical hematologist, pathologist and scientist, and an Australian pioneer in the

application of adult stem cell and genetic therapy. He presented on two topics 'Gene and Cell Therapy' and 'Haemopoiesis and the Stem Cell Niche' at the seminar.

"Worldwide stem cell gene therapies are at a crossroad," said Prof Rasko after the seminar. He elaborated, "It is a crossroad of promises of new treatments versus unproven therapies." He added that many of these promises have turned to be false hopes for the people affected. In his two lectures, he said repeatedly that progress in stem cell therapy had always been 'three steps forwards and two steps back'. The situation is the same in Malaysia, where he said research in stem cells has generally been progressing well. While stem cell treatments are usually costly, unproven protocols bring no benefits and may even cause harm.

"As in many other countries, strict regulations must be established by the government to assure that people seeking stem cell treatments are not being taken advantage of by commercial interests," Prof Rasko's message to Malaysia.



tAN's Ar Chow (left) receiving the award from PAM President Ar Chan

## Perak Campus wins PAM gold award



Functional campus in a scenic setting

UTAR Perak Campus is now a recognised architectural masterpiece when its architect consulting firm, The Architectural Network (tAN), received the Pertubuhan Aritek Malaysia (PAM) gold award in the education category at the PAM Awards 2013 ceremony held on 11 May 2013.

The award ceremony was held during PAM's annual dinner in a hotel in Kuala Lumpur, which was graced by Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah of Selangor. Receiving the award from PAM President Ar Chan Seong Aun, was tAN's founding principal architect Ar Chow Yeut Keong.

The PAM awards, recognised as the most prestigious in the building industry in Malaysia, honour architects, builders/contractors and building owners for their pursuit of architectural design excellence and advancement of quality built environment. The awards are bestowed on the best works recognised by peers and the public alike in the architectural industry.

tAN describes the UTAR Perak Campus project as one of the biggest private community universities built in the country utilising public donations. It exemplifies how education activities can help to revive and revitalise the social and economic health of an otherwise diminishing old tin mining town.

The citation of jury of PAM Awards 2013 says that the campus architecture epitomises a design rigor that manoeuvres fluently along the scale spectrum. It demonstrates design consistency that integrates the landscape to the building and building to its architectural details. The placement of the buildings took full command of the vistas the former mining pools have to offer. Each building has its distinct character and yet they are seamlessly connected by well-composed network of verandahs and walkways. The climate responsive strategies are expressive in the architectural



The grandeur of Dewan Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik



The main library at UTAR Perak Campus

elements.

Present to witness the momentous occasion were, among others, former UTAR Planning and Development Committee Chairman and Advisor Datuk Yong Ming Sang, UTAR Council Members Jay Yeunh and Hew Fen Yee, UTAR Vice President for Internationalisation and Academic Development Prof Dr Ewe Hong Tat, UTAR Vice President for R&D and Commercialisation Ir Prof Dr Lee Sze Wei, Registrar Dr Tan Kee Kong and Faculty of Science Dean Assoc Prof Dr Lim Tuck Meng.

Also present at the ceremony were Head of Department Dr Lim Poh Im, Head of Programme Ar Liaw Kok Chuan and Ar Lee Chor Wah from UTAR Faculty of Engineering and Science, Department of Architecture and Sustainable Design, representatives from Associated Builders & Contractors Sdn Bhd led by its Technical Director Dr Tong Ling Siew, and representatives from tAN.

## Lim awarded Pesona Metro Scholarship

"It was unexpected and I was really surprised to be chosen as the Pesona Metro Scholarship recipient," said UTAR Construction Management student Lim Chiou Jye after receiving the scholarship worth RM25,000 to pursue her undergraduate programme from Pesona Metro Holdings Berhad on 8 April 2013.

The Pesona Metro Scholarship is open to students undertaking Built Environment courses such as Construction Management, Quantity Surveying and Civil Engineering. Lim, in her third trimester, was selected from eight UTAR Faculty of Engineering and Green Technology (FEGT) students interviewed for the scholarship. She is the second UTAR student to receive the scholarship.

Contrary to the usual stereotype about Construction Management being unpopular among females, Lim admitted, "I actually checked the list of subjects taught in the programme and found them very much to my liking."

"Not yet since I am still in my first year," answered Lim, when asked whether she had faced any challenges in her studies. She added, "But I do tell myself that I need to stay positive and work twice as hard." Penangite Lim, the eldest among five siblings, said the scholarship would help lessen her parent's financial burden and added, "I used to take up part-time jobs before but now I can fully focus on my studies."



At the ceremony (from left): Chief Financial Officer Chong Kien Eng, Human Resource Manager Tracy Tan and Safety and Health Manager Subash Chander from Pesona Metro Holdings Berhad, Lim and FEGT Deputy Dean Dr Doh Shu Ing

## 'Never Give Up' is Chem-E-Car champ



Chem-E-Car champion team (from left): Low, Chan, How and Pang

UTAR four-student team NGU (for 'never give up') emerged as the champion of the Chem-E-Car Competition that was organised by the Chemical Engineering Technical Division of the Institution of Engineers of Malaysia and held on 8 and 9 April 2013.

The annual competition challenges the creativity of students of local institutions of higher learning in harnessing chemical energy to move a vehicle carrying a specific load over a specified distance.

"This time, we started to work on our power source and braking mechanism much earlier," said NGU team leader Chan Junda. This was because the team participated in the competition before but with little success. He added, "Although we started work in January, we just managed to complete the car a day before the competition because of technical complications in the alignment and engine stability."

Other members of NGU were How Kha Tiam, Pang Wei Siong and Low Chee Leong.

On behalf of the team, Chan thanked their supervisors Teoh Hui Chieh and Dr Yap Yeow Hong, head and assistant professor of the Department of Chemical Engineering of UTAR Faculty of Engineering and Science respectively, for their guidance throughout the project. He concluded, "Teamwork and team spirit had prevailed and it was our key success factor in the competition."

# UTAR wins Schneider's first prize again

Eden team, comprised two UTAR students Loh Hong Khai and Yong Yew Rong, and Yap Sin Yin from the University of Nottingham, beat five other finalists and was announced on 3 May 2013 the champion of Schneider Electric University Challenge 2012 themed 'Go Green in the City'.

This is the third consecutive year that UTAR students have won prizes in the Challenge. UTAR three-student team Synergy was the champion of Schneider Electric University Challenge 2011 and UTAR Eco-University trio was the first runner-up of the challenge in 2010.

The winning proposal of Eden Team titled 'Smart

Building Solutions' showcased an integrated system that provides clean energy generation with intelligent monitoring and controlling of multiple innovative renewable energy sources in a building.

"Although challenging, it was also a wonderful experience working with the global specialist in energy management throughout this competition. We now have a better understanding of energy efficient solutions and how important sustainability is in this day and age," said Eden team leader Loh.

"At Schneider Electric, we hope that the Go Green in the City University Challenge inspires future generations of energy consumers and managers



All smiles, (from left) Yong, Yap and Loh after receiving the Malaysia champion prize from Cave (right)

to be aware of the urgency of being energy efficient to contribute to the revolution of energy management in all economic sectors in an effort to strengthen sustainable development in Malaysia," said Schneider Electric's Malaysia country president Peter Cave. Eden Team and first

runner-up One Team from Universiti Sains Malaysia represented Malaysia to compete against other winning teams from Indonesia, South Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam in the East Asia edition of the competition in Jakarta on 15 May 2013.

# Four teams win five ITEX awards

Four UTAR research teams won the Malaysian Innovative Product Award, KASS Best Invention Award, a gold award and two bronze awards in the 24th International Invention and Industry Design and Technology Exhibition (ITEX) held in Kuala Lumpur from 9 to 11 May 2013.

The research team from UTAR Faculty of Engineering and Science comprises Dr Low Kaw Sai, Dr Tioh Ngee Heng and Dr Ng Soon Ching, won the Malaysian Innovative Product Award 2013 in the building and construction category with their innovation 'Lightweight Concrete Infill Buoyant System and Method Thereof'.

Their faculty mates Dr Karen Wong Mee Chu and Ir Dr Lim Yun Seng won the gold award in the

environment and renewable energy category and KASS Best Invention Award with their innovation 'Inclusion of PT in Bi-Facial Solar Cell for Solar Electricity Generation'.

Another trio from the faculty, Dr Chew Kuew Wai, Leong Chee Ken and Gan Yu Han won the bronze award in the automotive and transportation category with their innovation 'Contour Positioning System – Novel Distance Estimation Method for an Electric Vehicle'.

Dr Lim Yang Mooi from UTAR Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences won the bronze award in the category of biotechnology, health and science with her innovation 'Method of Extracting Borneol from the Exudates of *Dryobalanops Aromatica*'.

# Two win S-SPEC medals



Wong (centre, in blue shirt) and Lam (on Wong's left) with other winners and organisers

UTAR students, Nicole Lam Chooi Yan and Wong Chung Shung, each won a bronze medal in the Shell Inter-Varsity Student Paper Presentation Contest (S-SPEC) held at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) Skudai campus in Johor on 17 and 18 May 2013.

The contest themed 'Fueling Sustainable Green Energy' was organised by UTM's Student Chapter of the Society of Petroleum Engineers and sponsored by Shell. It was open to undergraduate and postgraduate

students of local public and private institutions of higher education. Contestants submitted abstracts, which were screened through and short-listed to 32. Then, each of the 32 finalists submitted a full paper.

Lam, an undergraduate student, won the bronze in the undergraduate category for Oral Presentation, while Wong, a postgraduate student, won the bronze in the postgraduate category for poster presentation.

"The paper took me one year to

complete," said Lam, adding that it was the paper for her final-year project under the supervision of Dr Hii Siew Ling and Dr Yong Chin Khian from UTAR Faculty of Engineering and Science.

Lam, who participated in the contest for the first time, added, "I find the contest quite a challenging one because the other contestants were very strong, but it has made me improve my presentation skills and taught me how to answer questions from the judges more tactfully."

UTAR Psychology student Shahira Mohd Afzal and Mechanical Engineering student Indran Kunisilin received their prizes from Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali at the prize-presentation ceremony of Maybank Foundation-Perdana Leadership Foundation's 'Nurturing The Minds of Future Leaders' Essay Competition 2012 in Putrajaya on 18 May 2013.

The competition is a biennial event. The 2012 competition, themed 'Responsible Citizenship', attracted 529 entries. It had two categories, essay and blogpost, each had a choice of two topics and open to two age groups, 13-17 and 18-25 years old. Shahira and Indran won the special mention prizes in the essay and blogpost categories in the 18-to-25-year-old age group.

"I knew about the competition since 2006 and I'm truly overwhelmed by winning the prize," said year-two student Shahira from Subang Jaya. She chose to write her 2,000-word limit essay on 'The Impact of the Internet Revolution on Citizen Engagement and Citizen Empowerment in Malaysia'. Her entry was one of the 15 short-listed for prizes. She added, "It is my love for languages, politics and

# Two win in national essay competition

writing that motivated me to take part in the competition."

Indran's blogpost was about a new youth-based civil society action group he would establish if funding and resources are available to champion certain cause to influence public policy on a critical issue affecting youth. He said, "This competition introduces a systematic research-based writing style that nurtures resourceful future leaders."



Shahira (left picture) holding her award and Indran (right picture) receiving his award from Tun Dr Siti Hasmah



Dr Wong (left) and Dr Lim (centre) with a KASS representative



# UTAR offers 10 scholarships

UTAR Council Chairman Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik announced at Pulau Ketam Secondary School on 11 June 2013 the offer of 10 scholarships to its students and a contribution of RM20,000 to its library.

Tun Dr Ling was accompanied by his wife Toh Puan Ena Ling, acquaintances Datuk Loo Son Yong, Dato' Heng Meng Heong, Chia Mong Choon and Khoh Siew Kim, and UTAR staff. They arrived at the island on a speedboat from Port Klang and were greeted by the school's principal Law Choon Lee and his staff members. They took a 15-minute walk to the school.

Law thanked Tun Dr Ling for making the trip there and the offer of scholarships and financial aid to the school and said, "Some of our students are very poor and they wish to continue their studies but they have no means to do so. Many of them end up neglecting their studies and work at the local market. We hope that UTAR can assist us." He added that there are 475 students in the school and 80 of them in form five this year.

"For the first year, we are targeting three students. Hopefully this will spur them to excel in their studies. But as long as they



Tun Dr Ling chatting with students while Law (behind Tun Dr Ling) looks on.

qualify, we will offer them scholarships, which means to say, we can be giving more than three this year," said Tun Dr Ling, after clarifying that the 10 scholarships worth over RM10,000 each are for studying in UTAR foundation programmes. He later pledged a contribution of RM20,000 to the school's library and said, "This will allow the library to have a better variety of books. The array of

books will encourage students to read more." On his aspiration on UTAR, he said, "I want UTAR to be globalised. In the future, students studying in UTAR will be ready to go to Africa, China [and other developing countries]. It will be easier for them to do business later on when they already have friends in such countries."

# A day with charity home children

Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile. Guided by this Albert Einstein's quote, eight Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences students who took up the Community Service co-curriculum unit in

January 2013 commenced their community service project at the Yayasan Sunbeams Home.

Chong Suet Li led fellow course-mates Bong Jing Chii, Tan Xi Yin, Goh Wan Fang,

Fanny Tan, Ashley Yii, Chong Kar Ling and Tin Yen Ru and visited the charity home in Taman Mawar, Cheras on 15 May 2013 and dedicated 14 hours on a weekday outside their usual classroom.

The students held educational activities for the children such as colouring contest and interactive games that helped build the children's confidence. The children were very eager and excited throughout the colouring contest and many produced good works. There were six winners and their prizes were each a schoolbag which were donated by an anonymous sponsor.

Before the visit, the students had a two-day fundraising campaign on campus selling homemade cookies, candles and candies. They raised enough fund to sponsor lunch and entrance fees for 10 children and a staff from the home to visit PetroSains at KLCC on the day of visit.

This project had served as a platform for the students to enhance their organising, networking and team-working skills through working with a charitable organisation.



Colouring contest in progress

# Volunteerism reaches out

After the launching on 26 March 2013 of 'Volunteerism II: Continuing the Legacy' campaign, which was a continuation of 'Volunteerism Campaign: Volunteers Work for Change', UTAR Public Relations (PR) students initiated the outreach activities for the campaign on 13 April 2013.

The first volunteerism campaign was held in 2011 where final-year UTAR PR students helped set up the 'U-Liang' library in Tronoh Mines New Village. In the second campaign, a joint project with Kampar district council, present final-year PR students followed their seniors' footsteps to improve the lives of the villagers.

"Doing good [deeds] to the society is a responsibility that each and every one of us should undertake," said the then Home Affairs Deputy Minister Dato' Lee Chee Leong, when launching the outreach activities of Volunteerism II campaign at the new village on 13 April 2012.

Earlier he congratulated the students for their unyielding efforts and contributions in making the campaign a success. He added, "Through the outreach activities such as health checks, *gotong-royong* and education workshops the students will show how much they are willing to contribute and truly care for the wellbeing of the Tronoh Mines New Village community."



At the ceremony (from left): Yee, Cheah, Dato' Lee, Tuan Haji Abdul Hakim, Dr Teh and Lim

"The campaign activities are aimed at improving the lives of the Tronoh Mines community and to instil a sense of volunteerism among the public and students," said Lim Jean Nie, director of the volunteerism campaigns UTAR PR Campaign 2013.

She added, "To achieve the maximum impact, we have carried out a series of outreach activities such as mini cinema

screening, mural painting, *gotong-royong*, recycling activities, free health checks, beautifying the new village by planting trees and flowering plants, and a café made from recycled and unwanted materials.

"We hope that more youths like us and the public of Kampar will become more proactive in community services."

The ceremony also saw Lim handed over a donation of RM20,000 to Tronoh Mines Community Club formally known as U-Liang Library.

Also present at the ceremony were Kampar District Council President Tuan Haji Abdul Hakim bin Haji Ibrahim and his secretary Nor Akmal bin Yang Ghazali, Dato' Lee's special assistant Daniel Wa Wai How, MCA Kampar Division Deputy Chairman Chang Gwo Chyang, Tronoh Mines New Village Head Cheah Ah Low, Sin Min primary school principal Yee Chun Weng, UTAR Vice President Dr Teh Chee Seng, UTAR Faculty of Arts and Social Science Dean Dr Cheah Phaik Kin and her deputy Gan Pei Lee.



Lim handing over the mock cheque to Yee while others look on



Volunteers arranging the books to be donated to Tronoh Mines Community Club



Volunteers working together during the *gotong-royong*

中华研究中心马来西亚华人文化研究组系列讲座

### 让我国文化遗产“立足本土，放眼世界”

日期：3月19日  
讲题：文化遗产：从无形到有形，从社区到世界  
主讲人：陈亚才（隆雪华堂执行长/时事评论人）  
主持人：李树枝师



陈亚才风趣及幽默的讲演方式赢得了不少笑声及掌声。



(左起)曾维龙、陈明彪、辛金顺、黄文斌、陈亚才、李树枝、方美富

主讲人在讲座上分享了有关于世界有形文化遗产、世界无形文化遗产和华人社会与文化遗产的状况。他认为历史文化遗产可作为户外教学的材料和资源，而且举办各类的文化运动如导览、演讲等，有助于提高国人对文化运动的认识。他不忘提醒国人在处理文化遗产的课题上应抱着“立足本土，放眼世界”的胸怀与视野。

交流环节上，学生们踊跃发问，与主讲人交流甚欢。于此，主讲人再次强调政府、资金及法规这三者皆是保护文化遗产上最重要的因素。除了来自政府的努力，民间也需要更主动地去保护及处理文化遗产的议题。席间嘉宾包括黄文斌副院长、陈明彪师、辛金顺师、曾维龙师和方美富师。

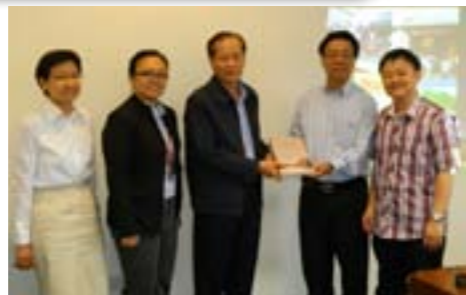
### 华人新村——马来西亚独特的活遗产

日期：4月3日  
讲题：马来西亚新村的发展（困难）  
主讲人：拿督方天养（马来西亚工艺协会主席兼房地部顾问）  
主持人：文学院石碧芬副院长

追溯新村历史，二战后马来英殖民政府甚怕华人倾向共产党，而设法把华人迁移并隔离到“临时集中营”以方便管理。这些当年的集中营并没有随着时间而消逝，反之则孕育了好几代华人居住且现存的“新村”。

现今共有450个华人新村分布马来西亚半岛各州，总人口高达120万人。一直以来，新村在马来西亚华人文化、经济、教育等领域的发展史上扮演着不可或缺的角色。许多华人文化与教育精神的传承，以至经济活动的代代相承，都从新村发扬开来。

讲座尾声，软技能资源部骆美兰主



(左起)骆美兰、石碧芬、方天养、何启良及黄文斌

任向来宾汇报关于拉曼大学在新村所进行的活动。目前，透过下乡服务，软技能资源部和学生已涉足西马近200个新

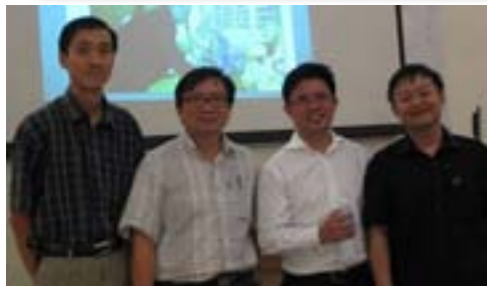


方天养通过图表方式，为来宾讲解关于新村的情况。

村，为当地居民进行了许多建设活动，并将所涉足新村的资料化作文字上载供大众参阅。骆主任也提到软技能资源部未来的计划是欲通过“新村展览”让更多人了解新村，并走进新村。

### 峇冬加里(Batang Kali)屠杀惨案有待沉冤得雪

日期：4月16日  
讲题：越洋控诉——1948年峇冬加里屠杀惨案  
主讲人：郭义民律师（追讨英军屠杀罪行工委主席郭仁德的长子/义务律师）  
主持人：黄文斌副院长



(左起)杜忠全、林志敏、郭义民、黄文斌

2007年，郭仁德偶然听闻1948年发生在峇冬加里的惨案，大为震惊，随即结合当地华团朋友与志同道合者成立“追讨英军屠杀罪行工委”，誓为罹难家属讨回公道。后来，郭仁德找来儿子郭义民帮忙提供法律服务，成功将案件推上英国法庭，让罹难者家属与英国政府对簿公堂。

郭义民表示工委仍在为这场正义之战而奋斗，直到英政府对此事件表

示道歉、赔偿罹难家属、以及在峇冬加里为罹难者立碑为止。这个事件涉及了亲情、家庭、历史和政治，给他莫大的启发。为此，他呼吁在场的学生签署支持这场平反运动的明信片，后集体寄往英国首相府，以表达年轻民众对这起事件的关注。席间嘉宾有中华研究院的林志敏副院长、陈明彪师、杜忠全师及文学院的梁家恩师、郑文德师等。

由郭氏父子执笔的《越洋控诉——峇冬加里屠杀惨案》，详述了峇冬加里屠杀事件及时后的司法审讯全过程，向世人清楚说出此案于这六十年来的曲折离奇。

### 作家对谈暨“庆金丛书”推介仪式 诗人罗罗与邢诒旺亲临中华研究院细说创作心得

由拉曼大学中华研究院与漫延书坊联合举办的对谈会及“庆金丛书”推介仪式于3月28日在拉曼大学金宝校园进行，讲题为“对谈创作经验”，并邀得本地著名诗人罗志强（罗罗）及邢诒旺前来与学生分享他们的创作旅程。对谈会的主持工作则由写作经验丰富的中华研究院讲师杜忠全担任。

同是“中文人”的二位不忘与来宾分享自己身为中文系生的创作旅程。罗罗认为念中文系最大的收获是让他掌握了文字及在思想方面的自我提升。自中学开始他就有“说故事”的欲望，从而希望带给别人感动。邢诒旺则打从踏入中文系那一刻起就不打算走研究路线，所以最终选择了创作路线。邢诒旺自认对“美”有所追求，且认为很多领域都可以创作。

此外，在作家与社会现实之间的瓜葛方面，罗罗认为创作者有义务为弱势者发声，如自己会通过诗来表达；邢诒旺也认为写作是关怀现实的一种表现，也是创作



(左起)漫延书坊负责人骆世俊、诗人罗罗及邢诒旺赠送纪念品于杜忠全师。

题材上的一个重要选项，属现实生命的一种美。

交流环节上，罗罗和邢诒旺与在座的学生们探讨了关于诗的创作。两位诗人不忘鼓励在座学生多读好的作品之余，也不

妨多参与文学创作比赛，作为一个让自己及作品成长的管道。对谈会后，主办单位为两位诗人特设了《诗在逃亡》及《副词》签书会，让读者与两位有更近距离的接触。

### 《柔佛州华人地方志：古来再也县新村》

新书推介会



何启良院长大力推荐《柔佛州华人地方志：古来再也县新村》这本地方志。

中华研究院于4月3日《柔佛州华人地方志：古来再也县新村》的新书推介会上，有幸邀得院长何启良教授讲评，并由郑文德师主持。《柔》是作者黄文斌师与张晓威师带着研究生花了三年心血所促成的结晶。此书可读性高，其中的内容概括了村内社团、人口分布、历史、宗教信仰、经济活动等，而且印刷精美，收藏价值高。

何院长不忘感谢富贵集团拿督邱汉光在经费上的资助，致使田野考察到成书的过程得以顺利进行。

何院长表示，新村是值得研究的对象，无论是从经济、政治、社会、人文、历史等方面着手，都可让研究者有个很好的发挥。之前的地方志或新村的编写作品，一般上都是由外国学者以英文书写，尚未有比较完整的本地作品。

《柔》一书是中华研究院编写地方志的“首炮”，何院长希望日后能够获得更多的资助，开展一系列的地方志编写。



《柔佛州华人地方志：古来再也县新村》

### 《当代评论》

杂志推介与读书会



(左起)黄翠妮、张康文、黄麒达

为了让学生们对公民教育有更深一层的认识，拉曼大学辩论坊于4月9日举办了《当代评论》杂志推荐与读书会，并由同是《当今大马》撰稿人的苏丹依德理斯教育大学前辩手张康文及拉曼大学辩论坊教练黄麒达主讲。主办单位特别推荐以“社区运动”为题的第三期《当代评论》。

《当》以半年刊方式推出，属林连玉基金出版的半学术杂志。《当》的宗旨：透过理论的探讨，和理性对话来传播知识、思想与文化，体现人文精神并且关注跨族群议题，期盼为社会提供思想养分和价值方向。《当》可作为一座衔接着学界和民众的桥梁，让学界走入社会，也让民众有机会以学术的眼光分析问题。

随后，黄麒达于读书会上畅谈《粮食战争》。他提出了“粮食”日益成为全球关注的重大议题，并以金宝的实际状况来联系书中的一些例子，让来宾有更具体的了解。

# Futsal untuk menjalin persahabatan

Unit Sukan dan Rekreasi, Jabatan Hal-Ehwal Pelajar UTAR dengan kerjasama Figos telah menganjurkan pertandingan Futsal Terbuka UTAR 2013 pada 31 Mac 2013 di Kompleks Sukan *Challengers*, Petaling Jaya.



Salah sebuah pasukan futsal yang diwakili oleh staf bergambar setelah selesai pertandingan

Futsal Terbuka UTAR 2013 adalah merupakan satu acara sukan yang bermatlamat untuk membuka lebih banyak peluang dan ruang bagi warga UTAR untuk bersukan dan beriadah. Acara sukan tersebut juga mempunyai matlamat untuk membolehkan para pemain futsal UTAR merapatkan tali persahabatan antara satu sama lain.

Sebanyak lapan pasukan di mana para pesertanya terdiri daripada pelajar-pelajar serta staf dari ketiga-tiga kampus UTAR di Lembah Klang, iaitu Kampus Kuala Lumpur, Kampus Petaling Jaya dan Kampus Sungai Long telah menyertai acara sukan tersebut.

Dua kumpulan yang diwakili oleh pelajar dari Kampus Kuala Lumpur yang bernama *OK Unitz* dan *Black Star* masing-masing telah muncul sebagai juara dan naib juara. Tempat ketiga dimenangi oleh pasukan yang diwakili oleh staf dari Kampus Petaling Jaya dan tempat keempat pula dimenangi oleh pasukan yang terdiri daripada pelajar dari Kampus Sungai Long.

Di samping pingat emas dan pingat perak yang dimenangi oleh juara dan naib juara, kesemua pemain yang tersenarai sebagai pemenang turut dihadiahkan sehelai kemeja-T berjenama Figos.

Profesor Madya Dr Teh



Dr Teh menyampaikan kemeja-T berjenama Figos kepada salah seorang pemenang

Chee Seng, Naib Presiden UTAR (Pembangunan Pelajar dan Hubungan Alumni) yang hadir sebagai tetamu kehormat pada pertandingan tersebut telah menyampaikan hadiah kepada semua pemenang.

## Fakulti Sains sertai Pesta Sains Antarabangsa

Fakulti Sains UTAR telah mengambil bahagian dalam Pesta Sains Antarabangsa Pulau Pinang atau juga dikenali sebagai *Penang International Science Fair* pada 13 dan 14 April 2013.

Pesta tahunan tersebut adalah merupakan sebahagian daripada misi 'Inovasi berinspirasi' Kluster Sains Pulau Pinang di mana ianya memberi tumpuan kepada pembangunan minda di kalangan golongan muda serta mendedahkan mereka terhadap pengetahuan sains dan kejuruteraan melalui

pengalaman yang unik dan berinovasi.

Dua ahli akademik UTAR iaitu Pengerusi Pusat Penyelidikan Biodiversiti, Dr Tee Chong Siang dan Profesor Madya Dr Say Yee How serta enam orang pelajar iaitu Tan Si Nan, Yeoh Ze Qing, Phuah Szu Ann, Mohd Zulfadhli, Foong Wei Hern dan Ng Yee Wen telah mewakili UTAR dalam pesta yang telah mendapat sambutan yang amat menggalakkan tersebut.

Ruang pameran UTAR

telah mempamerkan bahan sains kehidupan seperti kultur tisu tumbuhan, pengekstrakan DNA dan elektroforesis gel, dan model virus. Para pengunjung terutamanya, murid-murid sekolah juga diberi peluang untuk melaksanakan sendiri sesetengah eksperimen seperti pengkulturan tisu tumbuhan dalam persekitaran yang terkawal, pengekstrakan sampel DNA dan menyediakan agarose gel elektroforesis.

Pelajar program pengajian Bioteknologi tahun ketiga, Foong

berkata, "Pameran yang telah diadakan adalah merupakan satu platform buat warga UTAR untuk berkongsi ilmu dan pengetahuan terutamanya dengan kanak-kanak dalam bidang sains kehidupan." Foong juga berkata bahawa beliau berasa amat teruja apabila melihat murid-murid sekolah kelihatan begitu terpesona dengan bahan-bahan pameran yang dipamerkan di ruang pameran UTAR.



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