

Students relaxing under the shade of the pergola located nearby UTAR Main Library

Collaboration with Takaful Ikhlas

UTAR and Takaful Ikhlas Berhad inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a mutually beneficial collaboration on the sponsorships of excellent student awards, information transfer on the concept of Takaful and entrepreneurship opportunities with the university students. The event was held on 26 November 2014 in the Sungai Long Campus.

The MoU was signed by UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik and Chief Executive Officer of Takaful Ikhlas, Tuan Haji Ab. Latiff bin Haji Abu Bakar and witnessed by Dean of Faculty of Business and Finance (FBF) Prof Dr Choong Chee Keong and Takaful Ikhlas Senior Vice President and Head of Agency Tuan Haji Wan Rosli Shaharuddin Wan Yaacob.

Prof Chuah in his speech said, "The collaboration between UTAR and Takaful Ikhlas Berhad will benefit our students particularly those from FBF, Faculty of Accountancy and Management, and Faculty of Engineering and Science. It will be the best training, distribution and consultancy resource for them to better understand Takaful through industrial training, field trips and two-way tours for research and academic purposes." He also thanked Takaful Ikhlas for collaborating with UTAR to raise the awareness about Takaful protection and enhancing entrepreneurship opportunities for the students.

Tuan Haji Ab. Latiff added, "Signing an agreement with UTAR is one of our approaches to provide students with a better



All smiles for the collaboration were (from left) Prof Dr Choong, Prof Chuah, Tuan Haji Ab. Latiff and Tuan Haji Wan Rosli

understanding of Takaful. The process of searching for knowledge and getting Takaful products should not just be limited to Muslims; in fact it is open to all races and religions." He also said that Takaful Ikhlas would be sponsoring the five excellent student awards in the field of Islamic Finance, Islamic banking and insurance. The awards aimed to recognise students who have shown excellent performance in the said subjects of study.

There was a talk on the concept of Takaful, internship opportunities and income earning potential by Tuan Haji Ab. Latiff and Senior Vice President and Head of Actuarial Services Kau Kong Hoi to lecturers, staff and students after the signing ceremony.

An impactful R&D Colloquium



Participants of PERFIK 2014 with Prof Faidz (front row, second from right)

Following the success of the first R&D Colloquium in May 2014, the Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research (IPSR) organised its second R&D Colloquium, dubbed as R&D Colloquium 2014 (2.0), at the KL campus on 18 October 2014.

This R&D Colloquium continued to reinforce the nurturing of regular interactions among researchers from the twenty-seven research centres and to provide continuous updating of research outcomes to research centres, faculties, IPSR and the Vice President's office for Research, Development and Commercialisation (VP RDC).

The Chairman of the Organising Committee Prof Dr Faidz bin Abd Rahman said that the colloquium engaged researchers

towards a cross disciplinary knowledge producing community and paved the way for the researchers with different perspectives to work together in finding common ground.

More than 126 participants comprising researchers, presenters, postgraduate students and staff attended the R&D Colloquium 2014 (2.0). The presentations were on wide-ranging topics that included the learning of the English language and the applications of technology in learning and mobile shopping.

In his closing remarks, Vice President for R&D and Commercialisation Prof Ir Dr Lee Sze Wei said, "It is vital to enhance research with more collective ideas and efforts through adopting a broader view of

- 02 Collaboration at Work
- 05 In Search of Excellence
- 10 Special Feature
- 12 From Talks to Forums
- 14 Students in Action
- 17 Community at Heart
- 18 拉大视野
- 20 Sudut Utarian

the topics and the need for trade-offs and balances. There is growing demand for cross disciplinary research to help to address socio-economic issues that are increasingly inter-linked."

MoU with Kobe University

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UTAR and Kobe University was signed on 6 December 2014 in the Plenary Theatre of the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre at Kuala Lumpur. The signing was held in conjunction with the Fifth Kobe University Global Link (KUGL) Forum held from 5 to 6 December there. Representing their respective universities during the signing were UTAR Vice President (Internationalisation and Academic Development) Prof Dr Ewe Hong Tat and Kobe University President Prof Dr Hideki Fukuda.

The MoU paved the way for both universities to have faculty and student exchanges at undergraduate and graduate levels, joint research activities and exchange of research information, publications and other academic information. "Such a partnership with Kobe University supports the internationalisation efforts of UTAR and links UTAR to the global network community of academic excellence and research advancement. Today's MoU is indeed a very relevant collaboration that will provide our students a Japanese learning experience that goes beyond textbooks and theories. It reflects well on the University's educational excellence which broadens students' horizon culturally and experientially," said Prof Ewe in his speech.



Prof Ewe (right) with Kobe University President Prof Dr Hideki Fukuda

Kobe University President Prof Dr Hideki Fukuda added, "Our goal is to tackle global issues and work towards a sustainable, green, safe and secure global society through fostering human resources based on advanced research. Hence, we need to collaborate with different sectors, disciplines and countries so that our strength as a comprehensive, multidisciplinary and

international university will be valuable towards achieving this global goal."

KUGL was organised by the Kobe University Institute of Promoting International Exchange Programmes and co-hosted by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), UTAR, and Jeff Leong, Poon and Wong Advocates and Solicitors (JLPW).

Hosting the PERFIK-ICMSFM 2014

UTAR hosted the National Physics Conference or *Persidangan Fizik Kebangsaan* (PERFIK 2014) and the International Conference on Mathematics, Statistics and Financial Mathematics (ICMSFM 2014) at the Sunway Resort Hotel and Spa, Petaling Jaya from 18 to 19 November 2014.

The keynote addresses, plenary sessions and poster displays of PERFIK-ICMSFM 2014 provided the fertile ground for discussions on the developments in the respective fields of Physics and Mathematics.

The Chairperson of the PERFIK 2014 Organising Committee and UTAR Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research (IPSR) Director Prof Dr Faidz bin Abd Rahman said that PERFIK 2014 has attracted renowned speakers from overseas such as Australia, Taiwan, the United States of America, Japan and Italy.

The Chairperson of the Organising Committee for ICMSFM 2014 and Head of Department of Mathematical and Actuarial Sciences, Lee Kong Chian Faculty of Engineering and Science Dr



Participants of PERFIK-ICMSFM with Prof Faidz (seated front row, fourth from right)

Goh Yong Kheng added that higher quality papers were submitted for presentations at the conference.

At the welcome dinner, UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik thanked the organising committees, guests and the participants for supporting PERFIK-ICMSFM 2014.

ICMSFM 2014 was jointly organised by UTAR Centre for Mathematical Sciences and The Asian Regional Section of the International Association for Statistical Computing and Centre for Photonics Research.

2nd National Biomedical Science Gathering



Participants of 2nd National Biomedical Science Gathering 2014

The Department of Biomedical Science, Faculty of Science hosted the second National Biomedical Science Gathering 2014, which was held at the UTAR Perak Campus on 18 October 2014.

Themed 'Embracing Peers, Exploring Heights,' the event aimed to update the students on curriculum development, research and career opportunities in Biomedical Science and related fields as well as to provide a platform for networking and exchange of ideas.

Head of Department of Biomedical Science Dr Phoon Lee Quen and the organising chairperson, final-year student Tong Lui Siang welcomed the participants comprising students from UTAR and other local institutions of higher learning; namely, Universiti Malaya, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Kuala Lumpur and Sunway University.

The four invited speakers at the event were Vinny Len, a Biomedical Science alumna and currently the Marketing Director of Neoscience, Dr Chan Yoke Fun from Universiti Malaya, Ipoh DSP Chek U Koi from Forensic Science Police in *Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah*, and UTAR lecturer Yuen Hawk Leong.

Len presented the challenges in setting

up her own business and emphasised the importance of self-perseverance in achieving one's career goals. Dr Chan delivered a talk on "Biomedical Sciences: A Career in Research" which focused on the details of being a researcher as well as the trends in Biomedical Science research.

DSP Chek U Koi elaborated on the responsibilities of the Royal Malaysia Police Forensic Laboratory, his experiences in crime scene investigations and the recruitment of Biomedical Science graduates as forensic

scientists and officers. In Yuen's talk on 'Career Prospects in Three Areas: Clinical, Research and Education,' he advised students to gain more working experience and contribute to future improvements in the biomedical science field.

There were also performances by students from UTAR clubs and societies and interactive activities such as ice-breaking session and station games.

Friendly meeting with Kajang Police

A police delegation of 15 personnel from the Royal Malaysia Police, Kajang district visited the UTAR Sungai Long Campus on 13 November 2014. They interacted with over 60 students, comprising the Student Representative Committee (SRC) members and student leaders of clubs and societies.

The objectives of the friendly meeting with the police force were to know them better and to foster closer co-operation with each other for better security and safety.

The police delegation were led by DSP Pung Hing Choon and included ASP Tan Eng Bock, ASP Lim Ser Chiew, ASP Elias bin Omar, and police heads of divisions. Welcoming the delegation were UTAR Vice President (Student Development and Alumni Relations) Dr Teh Chee Seng, Division of Corporate Communication and Public Relations (DCCPR) Director Ong Soo Weon and other staff. Dr Nadya Supian was the emcee for the day.

Dr Teh in his welcoming remarks said that it is crucial for the UTAR community to work hand in hand with the police to make UTAR City Campus a safe environment for students to stay and study.

ASP Tan then delivered a talk where he urged the students to be the eyes and the ears



Thumbs up to co-operation and friendship

of the police force and elaborated on Police Volunteer Reserve and Rakan Cop.

In the lively question and answer session, DSP Pung, ASP Tan, ASP Lim, and ASP Elias answered several questions from the student leaders. These questions were on topics that included the police force's procedures in checking citizens' identities, the issue of bogus policemen, thefts and house break-ins. ASP Elias also explained that commercial crimes included cheating, criminal breach

of trust, forgery, cyber fraud, copy rights as well as scams such as love scams and parcel scams.

Before ending the visit, the policemen advised the audience to come forth to lodge police reports should they encounter any car break-ins or criminal activities. This would help them to step up more patrol units in the identified 'crime-rampant' areas.

Three students from the UTAR Lee Kong Chian Faculty of Engineering and Science (LKC FES) won awards in this year's recently concluded Computer Unified Device Architecture (CUDA) Programming Challenge and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Malaysia Final Year Project (FYP) Competition 2014.

Master of Engineering and Science student Loo Zhang Bin brought home the first prize in the CUDA Programming Challenge 2014 which included USD 1,000 and a NVIDIA Quadro GPU card. The challenge was a coding competition that welcomes all types of CUDA programmes to solve a shortest path route selection problem. The goal of this year's challenge was to develop an algorithm to find the shortest path at the least amount of time.

In thanking his supervisor, Dr Chong Poh Kit for his encouragement, Loo said, "I had to study many research papers to find a good algorithm which I could implement

Undergraduate
FYP
COMPETITION
IEEE MALAYSIA SECTION

CUDA
Programming
Challenge 2014

into the programme. I faced many failures and made many errors during the challenge. However, Dr Chong guided me to realise that mistakes have value, and a significant part of engineering is to find out the cause of failures, and to learn how to fix them."

Triple awards for LKC FES students

As for the 2014 IEEE Malaysia Final Year Project Competition, Ng Wai Hau and Chen Yong Feng are pursuing their Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Electronic and Communications Engineering, and Mechatronics Engineering respectively. They both won the second place in their respective track which are Telecommunications (Track 2), and Robotics and Automation (Track 8). Ng and Chen each received RM 200, a plaque and a certificate from the IEEE of Malaysia.

First Runner-up in MIVG 2014

Students from UTAR Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FMHS) clinched the first runner-up position overall at the Medical Inter-varsity Games (MIVG) 2014 which was held on 27 September 2014. They won four silver medals in track and field (female), basketball (male), basketball (female) and badminton (female) and another two bronze medals in badminton (male) and table tennis.

MIVG 2014 is an annual sports event which aims to encourage medical students from higher institutions to participate in sports and curricular activities. It is also to create more opportunities for medical students from the various participating universities and colleges to form a closer bond through friendly competitions and camaraderie in organising the sports event.

A total of 302 participants from 11 local and private universities and colleges participated in the MIVG 2014 which was jointly organised by UTAR Medical and Health Sciences Society and the Asian Medical Students Association.

The track and field events were held at International Islamic University of Malaysia, Gombak while the other games such as basketball, badminton, futsal and table tennis were held at Tunku Abdul Rahman University College (TARUC) main campus in Setapak, KL. The UTAR Sports and Recreation Unit assisted by giving advice to



Winners of the MIVG 2014

the MIVG 2014 organising committee as well as assisting on the logistics and related arrangements.

Present at the closing ceremony held at

TARUC were FMHS Dean Emeritus Prof Dr Cheong Soon Keng, FMHS Deputy Dean Dr Alan Ong Han Kiat, Prof Dr Shelly So, Dr Tee Kian Keong and Sheela Devi.

Alumnus shines with APICTA Merit Awards

UTAR alumnus Goh Wen Bin's Final Year Project (FYP) titled 'Authentication Tool for Picture Based Passwords' has bagged two merit awards; one each from the national and international levels of the Asia Pacific ICT Alliances Awards (APICTA) competition. Goh's FYP won the Merit Award in the Tertiary Student Project (Software or Hardware) category at the Multimedia Super Corridor Malaysia APICTA which was held in Kuala Lumpur on 19 October 2014. As the winner at national level, he was chosen to represent Malaysia in the international APICTA which was held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 28 to 30 November 2014. Goh proved his mettle by winning the merit award in the same category at this international competition.

Beaming with excitement over his achievements, Goh said, "The result at the International APICTA was unpredictable

as it involved cutting-edge projects from many excellent teams. I have done my best and gained positive feedback from the judges at the competition." He also expressed his gratitude to his lecturers, family and friends for giving him the support and encouragement. He further added, "I would like to thank my FYP supervisor Sohail Safdar and UTAR Vice President (Internationalisation and Academic Development) Prof Dr Ewe Hong Tat. They have given me many good suggestions such as important areas to focus and contents to be added to boost my presentation."

Goh is a graduate of the Bachelor of Information Technology (Hons) Communications and Networking from the Faculty of Information and Communication Technology. He received an honours degree with distinction in the August 2014 Convocation and is currently working



Goh posing with his certificate from the International APICTA and MSC Malaysia APICTA (inset)

as a system engineer with an IT services company.

Best Paper Award in IET ICFCNA 2014

A team of researchers from UTAR Faculty of Information and Communication Technology (FICT) won the Best Paper Award in the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) International Conference on Frontiers of Communications, Networks and Applications (ICFCNA) held at Sunway Resort Hotel in Kuala Lumpur from 3 to 5 November 2014.

Organised by IET, the ICFCNA which was co-organised by UTAR aimed to gather academic, researchers and industry practitioners from around the world to exchange ideas on current research work, challenges and future directions in all aspects of communications, networks, ICT systems and applications.

The team comprised Master of Computer Science student Sia Yeong Kang, FICT Dean Dr Liew Soung Yue, Department of Computer and Communication Technology Head Dr Goh Hock Guan and Dr Gan Ming Lee. Their paper, titled 'Spanning Multi-Free Algorithms for Load Balancing in Multi-sink Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs) with Heterogeneous Traffic Generating Nodes', won the Best Paper Award in the Smart City Track category. Smart City aims to improve the quality of living in urban areas through smart sensors, devices and services deployed in a distributed manner to monitor and adapt to the environment in real time.

Their paper was part of Sia's Master's studies and he explained, "We wish to develop a reliable and efficient load balancing algorithm for WSNs that is able to prolong the lifetime of WSNs as well as to be compatible with all kinds of applications. In our award winning paper, we proposed three heuristic Spanning Multi-Tree with Load Balancing algorithms, namely, Largest-Traffic-First, Smallest-Extendibility-First and Smallest-Extendibility-First-Smallest-Potentiality-Second."

Sia expressed his appreciation to Dr Liew, Dr Goh and Dr



Sia (right) receiving the award on behalf of his team

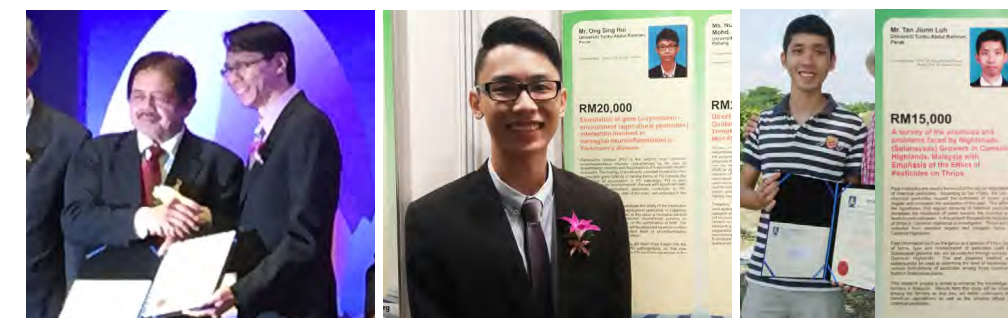
Gan for their invaluable guidance and also thanked FICT for their active bidding for new research funding, which enabled his paper to receive sponsorship from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation through the eScienceFund.

Three UTAR researchers received the Science and Technology Research Grants (STRG) from the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin at the 21st prize presentation ceremony of Malaysia Toray Science Foundation (MTSF), held at the InterContinental Hotel, Kuala Lumpur on 2 December 2014.

Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin in his message said that winning an award from MTSF is a significant achievement, given the prestigious status that the awards have attained over the past two decades. The aim of the grant is to promote science and technology through supporting deserving young Malaysian researchers and science educators.

A total of 36 scientists and researchers from various universities (including UTAR) received the awards and cash for their work in science, technology and innovation. The UTAR researchers who received the MTSF-STRG grants were Ong Sing Hui from Department of Biomedical Science, Faculty of Science (FSc), Wong Chee Yin, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FMHS) and Tan Jiunn Luh from Department of Agriculture and Food Science, FSc. The grant amount was RM20,000 for Ong and RM15,000 each for Tan and Wong.

Ong's research project on 'Elucidation of gene (a-synuclein) – environment (agricultural pesticides) interaction involved in microglial neuroinflammation



The award winning research recipients, (from left) Wong, Ong and Tan

in Parkinson's disease (PD) would help to develop more therapeutic measures for PD which is a common neurodegenerative disorder. His co-researcher is Associate Prof Dr Say Yee How.

Wong's stem cells research on 'Decoding the differentiation of mesenchymal stem cells to mesangial cells at transcriptomic level' focused on new medical treatments for renal diseases. Prof Lim Yang Mooi is his co-researcher and the Dean of FMHS Prof Emeritus Dr Cheong Soon Keng is his co-supervisor.

Tan's research project titled 'A survey of the Practice and Problems faced by

the Nightshade (Solanaceae) Growers in Cameron Highlands, Malaysia with emphasis on the effect of Pesticides in Thrips aims to solve pest problems and harvest better produce. Tan's co-researchers are Prof Dr Peter Ooi Aun Chuan and Associate Prof Dr Gideon Khoo.

The trio researchers expressed their gratitude to the University, their supervisors, and many others for the support and the encouragement in applying for MTSF-STRG 2014 and voiced their commitments to advance their research to benefit others in the society.

SEAMEO Youth Leadership Forum

UTAR Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) Electronic and Communications Engineering student Loh Hong Khai was one of the three Malaysians selected to represent the country in the first Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Youth Leadership Forum held in Bangkok, Thailand from 1 to 4 October 2014.

Organised by SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts, the forum aimed to provide a regional platform for youth representatives from SEAMEO-member countries to build their leadership skills and strengthen their capacity to contribute to the ASEAN community. The forum also emphasised on life skills such as problem-solving, and provided a space for the youths to voice their viewpoints on the current and future state of their communities and of Southeast Asia.

The forum encompassed themes on the importance of leadership, professionalism and managing sustainable development. The activities in the forum were lectures, workshops, group discussions and site visits. The forum's speakers and facilitators comprised professionals in various fields such as education, art, politics and journalism.

SEAMEO Secretariat's Deputy Director for Administration and Communication, Dr. Tinsiri Siribodhi; SEAMEO SPFA's Centre Director, Dr. MR Rujaya Abhakorn; and keynote speaker, Dr. Sumet Tantivejakul, who is the Secretary-General of the Chaipatana Foundation welcomed a total of 33 participants from the ASEAN



Loh (left) receiving a souvenir from the Director of SEAMEO Secretariat Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul

countries to the forum.

They were then given talks on concepts and facets of leadership, team leadership and learning dynamics, and leadership of twenty-first century global citizens. They also participated in two workshops on leadership which were led by officers from the Right to Play Thailand Foundation.

Champion and first runner-up in the Hotlink Campus Red Challenge

Two teams each comprising three students who named themselves Team 'Look at Me Now' and Team 'I Love Hotlink' bagged the grand prize and first runner-up respectively in the 'Hotlink Campus Red Challenge' grand finale held in NU Sentral Mall, Kuala Lumpur on 26 October 2014.

The 'Hotlink Campus Red Challenge' grand finale organised by Hotlink Campus was a series of fun and enthralling physical obstacles run embedded with games and battles which were particularly organised for institute of higher learning students.

With participants from 11 universities in Malaysia, the finalists were required to complete a total of eight fun-filled challenges as quickly as possible. The winners would be selected based on the speed the team took to complete the overall challenge.

Team 'Look at Me Now', comprising Finance student Lee Sze Yi and Construction Management students Chee Shun Han and Lim Chee Fong was announced as the grand



Proud champs: Team 'I Love Hotlink' (left) and Team 'Look at Me Now' (right) posing with their respective mock cheque

prize winner. They won three units of LTE Smartphone worth RM4,000, RM 6,000 in cash as well as RM15,000 in the form of university event sponsorships.

The other team comprising undergraduate students from UTAR Faculty of Arts and Social Science, namely, Low Jey Ming, Tan Zhong Xian and Chong Liang Wei emerged as first runner-up and walked away with prizes worth RM6,000 including three

units of LTE Smartphone.

"We feel very proud to be given the opportunity to represent UTAR in the grand finale of the 'Hotlink Campus Red Challenge'. We are so overwhelmed that we have secured the top prize and we are happy to make the University proud. We had fun in this participation and learned a lot about teamwork, cooperation and strategic planning," enthused the champion team.

Bronze at National Basketball Championship

UTAR basketball team won the third place in the Gotarade University Basketball League 2014 – National Basketball Championship, held at SJK (C) Taman Connaught, Kuala Lumpur from 27 September to 30 October 2014.

Jointly organised by the *Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia, Bahagian Sukan Sektor Pengajian Tinggi* and MVP Marketing Sdn Bhd, the championship aimed to promote and raise the standard of basketball among students at the institutions of higher learning in the country. A total of 16 teams participated in this championship. Among the participating institutions of higher learning were Taylors University, Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL), HELP University and Universiti Teknologi MARA.

One of the UTAR team members, Brian Ooi Wei Shern said, "As a team we faced various challenges throughout the competition, especially tackling the new tactics and skills of the competing teams. Although we did not win the championship for this year, I believe that our hard work in training and passion for the game will drive us towards victory in next year's championship."



UTAR bronze medallists

Another teammate, Ho Yit Yuan concurred, "Our participation in the competition reinforced the importance of self-discipline regardless of age and background. As a team, we deeply realised that winning is not everything compared to

the great teamwork, experience of support, and togetherness at the competition. We gained so much in terms of experience, skills, and mental strength."

The team bagged 15 bronze medals, one trophy and a cash prize worth RM1,000.

UTAR Perak Campus contingent achieved an excellent feat in winning a total of eight medals - three gold and five bronze in the *Majlis Sukan IPTS Malaysia* (Masiswa) Sports Championship Northern Zone 2014 (*Kejohanan Sukan Masiswa Zon Utara 2014*) that was held at the Sports Complex of Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP) sports complex, Perak from 7 to 9 November 2014.

The tournament was a collaboration between the Ministry of Education and Masiswa. Aimed at encouraging students' participation in co-curricular activities, the tournament saw the participation of more than 300 student athletes from institutions of higher learning in the northern zone. These participating institutions included UTP, Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) MSI, UniKL MIMET, Tunku Abdul Rahman University College, Kolej Universiti Islam Sultan Azlan Shah, Kolej Profesional MARA Seri Iskandar, Kolej Poly-tech MARA Alor Setar and UTAR.

UTAR Department of Students Affairs (Sports and Recreational Unit) Assistant Manager S. Theva Das led the contingent with 44 students including one international student. They participated in the events of netball, rugby, bowling, futsal, badminton, volleyball and chess.

The three golds were from the female volleyball team who won the first gold medal for UTAR and two golds from the first female single and male double pair in badminton.

Masiswa Sports Championship Northern Zone

The badminton players who contributed the two golds were Banking and Finance student, Kong Kah Yan in the first female single event and Banking and Finance student Kuey Wei Sheng and Foundation in Science student Koh Boon Chuen as the double pair players. Three challenge trophies were also awarded

to these winners who secured gold medals.

The other five bronze medals came from the four medals won by the badminton team in the single male, second single female, double pair female and mixed double pair and the fifth medal from the male category of volleyball.



A smiling UTAR contingent

UTAR Accounting student Loh Chooi Fern won the Malaysian Women's category at the recently held Standard Chartered KL Marathon (SCKLM) 2014. She received a cash prize of USD3,000 and a medal.

With competition from 30,000 runners in the gruelling marathon, Loh succeeded due to much grit, determination and intensive training. Winning the SCKLM 2014 is another feather to the cap for Loh was the star athlete in *Sukan Institusi Pengajian Tinggi 2014* with three gold medals.

Loh who is also a UTAR scholar, recalled that the toughest time in the marathon was the last lap towards the finishing line as she almost gave up the race. However, the cheers from supporters and the inspiration from her mentor and coach, Yuan Yu Fang (a Malaysian national walker) drove her on to clinch the sweet victory.

The victorious lass said, "It is possible to balance study and sports. It

Champion in Standard Chartered KL Marathon

needs self-discipline, commitment to goals and proper planning to achieve the success. Juggling between lectures, assignments and going for training and workouts can be exhausting. However, with self-determination, it is possible to achieve our goals." She also added that winning the marathon has boosted her confidence and motivated her to join higher level competitions with focus on improving her timing, endurance and performance.

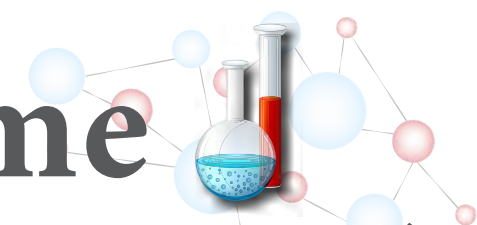
Loh thanked her coach, lecturers and supporters who provided much advice and expressed hope that her achievement would motivate more students to be active in sports.



A proud moment for Loh

UTAR Undergraduate

Research Scheme (UTAR URS)



UTAR is committed to nurturing strong research and scholastic cultures through its Research, Development and Commercialisation (RDC) agenda. One of UTAR's strategies to enhance research activities is the establishment of UTAR Undergraduate Research Scheme (UTAR URS).

The UTAR URS is a structured programme that systematically exposes undergraduates to the various aspects of research project implementation. It allows students to work in a research project undertaken by an academic (principal researcher) who can teach and guide them.

The programme is an opportunity for students to develop their technical skills and know-how of research operations in an actual research environment.

UTAR Vice President for R&D and Commercialisation Prof Ir Dr Lee Sze Wei said, "As part of our RDC's Enhancement Strategy and Plan 2013, UTAR URS fosters research culture in the community. For students with interest in research, it is important for them to be exposed in R&D work at the University so that their problem solving skills and interest in R&D can be further developed. This will help to enlarge the pool of potential manpower for R&D activities in the University and the country."

The components of UTAR URS are the Training Workshop and Research Project Attachment. The topics of the Training Workshops include research methodology, research reading and writing, research ethics, intellectual rights and protection and the collection, analysis and interpretation of data. A participant of the Scheme is required to attend eight hours of Training Workshop. To motivate the students to complete the eight-hour workshop, students can also claim points leading to the qualification for the UTAR Soft Skills Development



Wan Chien at lab work



Student researchers in group work

Certificate (USSDC).

The Research Project Attachment is the practical component of UTAR URS which offers students the opportunity to assist principal researchers in their projects. Each participating student will be attached to approved research project (s) during his or her study and achieve a minimum engagement hours of 140.

Upon completion of the above requirements and with recommendations from the principal researcher and the UTAR URS Committee, the successful candidate will be awarded the UTAR URS Certificate



Prof Lee



Prof Faidz

which will be presented at the Convocation.

UTAR Institute of Postgraduate Studies Director Prof Dr Faidz bin Abd Rahman added, "The UTAR URS is a platform that introduces the young minds to UTAR's vibrant research environment through involvement in actual research projects." These aspects stimulate students' thinking skills and interests to pursue higher education.

Among the success stories of UTAR URS are the experiences of two principal researchers; Lee Kong Chian Faculty of Engineering and Science, Department of Electric and Electronic Engineering lecturer Lin Horng Sheng and Faculty of Science, Department of Chemistry lecturer Dr Tey Lai Hock.

Cho Mong Ping who has graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Hons) Physics and Yeoh Wan Chien with a Bachelor of Science (Hons) Biotechnology were UTAR URS participating students. They have successfully completed their UTAR URS training and received their UTAR URS certificates at the



Dr Tey (left) with student researchers

August 2014 Convocation.

Lin said, "The UTAR URS is truly a beneficial scheme as it helps to advance my research findings with assistance from Mong Ping who has already been trained on basic research techniques. Mong Ping was assigned to assist in developing the arc discharge system to fabricate tapered fiber for optical fiber sensing. The mentor-mentee relationship was fostered with the transfer of knowledge and skills which enhance learning, teaching and research practices. It boosted Mong Ping's organising skills in her research work which she eventually presented at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers International Conference on CYBER Technology in

Automation, Control and Intelligent Systems (IEEE-CYBER 2014), Hong Kong, from 4 to 7 June 2014."

Dr Tey concurred with Lin and added, "Through UTAR URS, I have the opportunity to recruit students from various degree programmes to help to run my research project. With their ability and knowledge, they prove to be an asset in my research work as they are able to do research quite independently. I'm able to train and select the potential students for future postgraduate studies and research. Wan Chien was very motivated about her assigned research work on waste remediation."

Tan Sri shares secrets of success

On 30 October 2014 at UTAR Perak Campus, Tan Sri Dato' Paduka Dr Fng Ah Seng gave a talk titled 'How to achieve everything in your life through the 10 strategic goal setting process.'

Tan Sri Fng is an award-winning entrepreneur and owner of a multi-million housing development company. He is also an avid philanthropist, a newspaper columnist, an author and a public speaker. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Engineering, two Master's degrees and one PhD in Business Administration.

Tan Sri said, "Success is equivalent to 10 per cent of intelligence quotient or what you know, and 90 per cent of emotional quotient or who you know. Intelligence quotient consists of the technical knowledge that you acquire to be successful in life."

He added, "Before entering university, you should already consider your strengths, goals, required criteria to reach your goals, your desired career path, and areas that need improvements. Opportunities are available to those who are well-prepared."

Tan Sri said that to identify our goals, we must first evaluate our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. We must then set up our goal, make sure that it is specific, measurable, ambitious, realistic, and action-triggering, and look at the methods and processes to achieve our goals.



Dr Yap (left) presenting a memento to Tan Sri Fng

In order to be a more likeable person and attract the right people to help us succeed in life, Tan Sri proposed the exemplary Chinese traits of loyalty (忠), sincerity (诚), kindness (仁), helpfulness (义), politeness (礼), intelligence (智), credibility (信) and respect (孝, 敬).

Organised by the Department of Consultancy and Commercialisation as part of the UTAR Entrepreneurial Talk Series, the talk ended with a Q&A session and a souvenir presentation to Tan Sri by Faculty of Engineering and Green Technology Dean Dr Yap Vooi Voon.

UTAR Department of Consultancy and Commercialisation successfully organised an entrepreneurial talk by the former President of Genting Hong Kong Limited David Chua Ming Huat on his experiences and extensive knowledge on the management of securities, futures and derivatives trading; assets and unit trusts and corporate finance to staff and students who were mainly from the Faculty of Business and Finance. The talk was held on 15 October 2014 at UTAR Perak Campus.

The talk aimed to enlighten students on business and the

Talk by David Chua

qualities of a successful entrepreneur. Also attending the talk were UTAR Education Foundation Board of Trustees Chairman Tan Sri Dato' Dr Sak Cheng Lum, UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik, Faculty of Accountancy and Management Prof Dr Cheng Ming Yu, UTAR lecturers and staff.

In her opening remarks, Prof Cheng thanked David Chua for his great contribution to UTAR and its students by giving a talk about his valuable experiences.

Tan Sri Sak introduced the illustrious background of David Chua. Chua held top management positions in various international securities companies in Malaysia and Singapore before joining the Genting Group where he rose to become the President of Genting Hong Kong Ltd until his recent resignation. He co-founded ECM Libra, an investment banking group and has also served as Group Managing Director of Hong Leong Capital Berhad.

"To be an entrepreneur, one should have the right values and be motivated with passion and commitment. Some people may get there when they are young like Mark Zuckerberg and some will get there when they are not so young," said Chua. He added that contributing factors to successful entrepreneurship were equipping oneself with more knowledge and be ready to face challenges in the business world. He also related his past experience of having to learn, unlearn and relearn in his first job to emphasise the importance of knowledge and skills to stay ahead of potential entrepreneurs.

He further added that having a good command of English is important to progress in one's business career and elaborated on current issues such as the global economy and China and the influence of economic factors in the market.



Tan Sri Sak (left) and Prof Chuah (right) presenting a token of appreciation to Chua

UTAR Centre for Media and Creative Communication and Centre for Social Change and Trends in collaboration with *Majlis Profesor Negara* organised a roundtable on unity in Malaysia at Heritage Hall, UTAR Perak Campus on 15 November 2014. The main aim of the roundtable was to forge awareness on the importance of diversity, unity and nation-building in Malaysia.

At the opening ceremony, UTAR Vice President for R&D and Commercialisation Prof Ir Dr Lee Sze Wei congratulated the organising committee and said, "We are pleased to be part of this roundtable to discuss about national unity which is certainly most timely and relevant to educate the young generation, especially UTAR community."

Also present at the opening ceremony were Director of Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research Prof Dr Faidz bin Abd Rahman and Unity Roundtable Chairperson from Faculty of Creative Industries Dr Chong Eu Choong.

Focusing on the theme 'Unity in Diversity: Thinking Beyond Race', the keynote speaker Prof Dr Mansor Mohd Noor, Principal Research Fellow from *Institut Kajian Etnik*, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia emphasised on how to shape the thinking of all races in order to enrich

Roundtable on unity in diversity: Thinking beyond race

unity among Malaysians.

Attended by academics, community organisations and UTAR students, the roundtable discussed the challenges of unity and the way forward of all parties in realising the aim and the succession of 1Malaysia which is based on unity's practice in a multi-cultural society. Three parallel sessions were also held with three different themes, namely, 'The state of the nation: Challenges to unity in Malaysia', 'Revisiting the idea of 1Malaysia' and 'The way forward: Achieving unity in diversity'.

The closing plenary session concurred that many current issues were caused by the habit of politicising everything in Malaysia. The ordinary citizens share similar values and hope for a united Malaysia.



Prof Mansor delivering his keynote address

10th Agriculture Technology Seminar

UTAR Centre for Biodiversity Research, Faculty of Science and Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research (IPSR) jointly organised a successful Agriculture Technology Seminar titled 'Emerging Pests and Pesticide Resistance in Malaysia' at the Perak Campus on 14 November 2014.

Attracting over 160 participants comprising researchers from local and abroad, staff, students, industry consultants and sponsors, the seminar aimed to be a platform for the participants to present and discuss their research findings on topics ranging from plants to poultry.

The keynote speaker was Dr Madonna C. Casimero from the International Rice Research Institute of Myanmar Office who presented on the damage caused by *Padi Angin*, a local weed in the rice fields in her talk titled 'The Weedy Rice Saga: Battling with the Close Cousin of Rice'.

The two following speakers were former Senior Research

Fellow of Malaysian Agricultural and Research Institute Dr Chan Ying Kwok and Organising Chairman Prof Dr Ooi Aun Chuan. Dr Chan presented on 'Breeding for Resistance against Bacteria Die Back (*Erwinia papayae*) on Papaya in Malaysia' and Prof Dr Ooi on 'An Exotic Insect Pest of Papaya and Suggestion for Its Management' which reported the discovery of the papaya mealybug in Kampar.

Weed Management Consultant Chung Gait Fee presented a paper on weeds

of plantations and their management in general while co-owner-cum-consultant of Vet. Biotech Dr Chong Sung Fook explained on 'Antibiotic Resistance and Vaccination Failures in Poultry Farming'.

Veterinary Research Institute Research Officer Syamsyiah Aini Shohaimi presented on the contagious viral poultry diseases of Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease through her paper titled 'Emerging and Re-emerging of Avian Diseases in Malaysia'.

Prof Ooi summarised the presentations of the seminar and extended his gratitude to sponsor KLK Berhad and Medigene Sdn Bhd for the support.

FSc Dean Assoc Prof Dr Lim Tuck Meng in his closing remark added that the seminar should be organised regularly as it would enhance more understanding about agriculture, which is vital for the survival of the human race.



Group photo of the speakers and participants

A lively Songbird Competition

Students flexed their vocal muscles during the finale of UTAR Songbird Competition which was held at Heritage Hall, UTAR Perak Campus on 14 November 2014.

The event was attended by Faculty of Arts and Social Science (FAS) Deputy Dean for Academic Development and Undergraduate Programmes Bazlin Darina binto Tajudin, Head of Department of Languages and Linguistics (DLL) Dr Andrew Tse Yau Hau, Head of English Language Programme Christina Ong Sook Beng, organising chairperson Priyadharishiny Rajeindram, UTAR staff and students.

The three judges of the competition were Malaysian chanteuse Prema Yin, Andrew Au Soon Kay, a musically inclined tutor from FAS and Kenny Chong, a schoolteacher from SMK Methodist (ACS) Kampar and a musician.

In his speech, Dr Tse welcomed the audience and said, "One of the objectives of this competition is to showcase how the English language can be explored in a fun, creative and innovative way. This would hopefully stimulate students' interest in mastering the language. All the proceedings of this event will be used to support the upcoming inter-faculty debate." Representing FAS Dean Dr Cheah Phaik Kin to deliver her speech, Bazlin Darina said, "This event aims to promote



Posing for a group photo after the prize giving ceremony were (from left) Priyadharishiny Rajeindram, Dr Andrew Tse, Alison Yoon, Priveena Segaran, Wong, Judy Marie and Grace Anne Mak

the learning of English through listening to the music and songs that will be presented in this competition. Do enjoy yourself and I would like to thank the organising committee for a job well done."

The finale featured top-notch performances by 14 vocalists who were vying for the top five spots. They were previously selected through a competitive audition which involved students from various faculties. They belted out English songs which included classical hits, contemporary chart-toppers and soundtracks from leading



Prema Yin (on microphone) giving her feedback on the performances while Kenny Chong (to her left) looks on

movies.

Guest performers for the night included Prema Yin, who was also the winner of the coveted singing competition, Who Will Win Malaysia Top Star, beat boxer Michel Lu, five-member acoustic band Virgin Boys and a quartet of outgoing UTAR students from DLL.

The night ended spectacularly with the announcement of winners, a prize giving ceremony, a group photo-taking session and a recap

of the champion's performance. The first prize winner was Alison Yoon who displayed vocal mastery in the renditions of Celine Dion's *My heart Will Go On* and Alicia Keys' *If I Ain't Got You*. Priveena Nalina Segaran, the crowd favourite was the second prize winner and the third prize winner was Wong Hui Xin. Grace Anne Mak Zhi Hui and Judy De Rozario clinched the fourth and fifth place respectively.



Four outgoing DLL students bidding adieu through a spirited performance

Fund-raising for PR Campaign 2014/2015 Volunteerism IV



(Clockwise from bottom left) Leong giving her opening address followed by a series of performances

Year One and Year Two Public Relations students from Faculty of Arts and Social Science (FAS), Perak campus organised several fund-raising activities for their upcoming PR Campaign 2014/2015 Volunteerism IV. These 218 students were placed in five groups and each group championed a specific sub-theme, namely, Road Safety, Food Tourism, Vandalism, Environment and Charity. Funds raised will be used to sustain their activities during the campaign period, which aims to raise awareness and contribute to the community.

Group One, with the sub-theme of 'Road Safety', organised a musical drama-cum-Christmas ball titled 'Hogwarts Christmas: A Route to Magical Chamber' on 10 November 2014. "We focus on educating the people in Kampar about road safety and being responsible road users," said Group One's Director Melody Leong Wai Lok, who also thanked everyone for supporting the event.



(Clockwise from top left) Bey delivering his speech, followed by the entertaining musical drama and performances

The 'Awakening Castle' musical drama on 18 November 2014 was by Group Two, whose sub-theme was 'Food Tourism'. "Kampar might be relatively unknown as a food paradise. Therefore, our campaign aims to promote Kampar's food culture and tourism. We would like to present to everyone, a self-designed directory which indicates the locations to get delicious food in Kampar," explained Director of Group Two Bey Bun Kiat at the opening ceremony.



Dr Cheah (middle) presenting a certificate of appreciation to Tang (right) while Soon (left) looks on

Tang Kar Ming, the representatives of the sponsor Seeties. "We are thankful to Seeties for their sponsorship and also their representative, Tang, who is currently our Public Relations final-year student," said Dr Cheah in her address to the 600-strong crowd.

Group Three's blazing 'Ibiza Summer Beach Party' on 17 November 2014 aimed to create awareness on the impact of vandalism among UTARians and the Kampar community. Its Director Soon Chia Jun added that another purpose would be to change the negative behaviour of youngsters in order to maintain the order of public properties. Present at the event were FAS Dean Dr Cheah, Ng Eng Kiat and



Group photo of Group Four with the sub-theme Environment

Group Four's Environment-themed 'Go Green Food Carnival' was organised in collaboration with Restaurant Jia, Kampar on 16 November 2014. Invited guests included Deputy Minister of Ministry of International Trade and Industry Dato' Lee Chee Leong, represented by Special Officer Siew Shen Kae, Kampar District Police Chief Supt Ng Kong Soon, Dean of FAS Dr Cheah Phaik Kin, Owner of Restaurant Jia, Kampar and Vice Chairperson of Kampar Hawkers and Petty Traders Association Choi Yuet Lay and Head of Department of Public Relations Ng Eng Kiat. Group Four's Director Tharneswaran a/l Gunasegaran said, "By encouraging the use of re-usable utensils and food containers, we'll be able to reduce the amount of trash produced and the rate of deforestation."

Group Five's 'Purple Charity Flea Market' held at Learning Complex I, UTAR Perak Campus from 18 to 19 November 2014 was a cheery sight with 28 rainbow-coloured unfolded umbrellas held above the building's air well. Its Director



Joycelyn Teh said that the décor was inspired by the subtheme, Charity, and radiated the message that even the smallest act of giving could create differences in the lives of others. The flea market aimed to raise funds for the donation of basic necessities to the selected charities. Participants were encouraged to bring along one kilogramme of sundry goods to be donated to the needy.

PR Campaign 2014/2015 Volunteerism IV will kick off in January 2015. ■

Nurturing ties at Alumni Gathering

The Sunday afternoon of 2 November 2014 saw a joyous gathering of alumni members, students and staff at the PD Block, PJ Campus for the alumni homecoming titled 'Alumni-Get-Together with UTAR President'.

UTAR Department of Alumni Relations and Placement organised the alumni homecoming which aimed to nurture alumni's bond with the alma mater and to promote togetherness for a well-connected alumni community.

The student choir performance was a welcoming start to the alumni gathering, followed by a sumptuous lunch and the address by UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato' Dr Chuah Hean Teik. The choir was led by Japanese conductor Osamu Moroe with Yurie Iwaki as the pianist.

In his speech, Prof Chuah said, "The alumni is important to the University and we encourage our past students to come back to connect and support the University." Prof Chuah further added on the new Sg Long campus developments, the plans for the training hospital at Kampar, the objectives of University System of Tunku Abdul Rahman



Prof Chuah with attendees of the alumni gathering

and students' achievements. There was also a presentation of the upcoming Chinese New Year Carnival 2015 by the four-member Student Representative Council team from Sg Long Campus.

The highlights were the talk sessions by alumni members Dr Hue Seow Mun, Tarick Tan, Anthony Khoo and Oh Yean Choo and the presence of CECE alumni members who came to support the event and be acquainted

with the UTAR alumni community. There was also a presentation on the upcoming Chinese New Year Carnival 2015 by the four-member Student Representative Council (SRC) team from Sg Long campus.

Wrapping up the event was a talk on UTAR Alumni Association's activities by the Chairman of UTAR Alumni Association Ng Yi Ming.

A total of 27 members of the UTAR Askar Wataniah Club, Perak Campus attended the Territorial Army Regiment (*Rejimen Askar Wataniah*) Annual Camp 2014 at Rejimen 503 Askar Wataniah, Ipoh from 1 to 15 October 2014. The UTARians were among the 144 trainees at the two-week military camp together with students from other institutions of higher learning.

"It's really an interesting experience with so many of our members attending this camp for the first time," said Chairman of UTAR Askar Wataniah Club and Financial Economics student Sia Woon Ann, who also mentioned that the 27 members of boys and girls signed up voluntarily for the annual camp held during their semester break.

All the trainees had to undergo physical training on endurance and versatility as well as marching, combat skills and self defense including lessons on weapon usage and safety, wilderness survival skills and more.

Chinese Studies student Nur Amanina binti Yusof Zaky said that it was curiosity to explore which drove her to join the club and eventually the annual camp. "The training that we received during the camp was physically and mentally challenging but that made me more disciplined and determined," said Amanina.

Sharing the same sentiment was Commerce Accounting student Tan

Territorial Army Regiment Annual Camp

Wee Ling, who said that she enjoyed the challenging outdoor activities and that joining the annual camp was a way to get out of the comfort zone.

For Vice Chairman Liang Kien Yan, joining UTAR Askar Wataniah Club was an extension to his training as a secondary school cadet (*Kadet Remaja Sekolah*).

"Military training has always intrigued me greatly and therefore, I wouldn't miss the opportunity to join such a camp which not only put my physical and mental training to new tests, but also make friends with people who are in military training," added the second-year Construction Management student.



UTAR Askar Wataniah Club members at the Territorial Army Regiment Annual Camp 2014

Mentoring teachers and students in STEM education

UTAR organised the School Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programmes and the Kuala Lumpur Engineering Science Fair (KLESF) Mentor Development programme for students and teachers respectively. The aims of these programmes are to promote the learning and teaching of STEM education.

The above mentioned initiatives were sub-programmes of KLESF of which UTAR is a partner as well as the secretariat. The other partners of KLESF are the ASEAN Academy of Engineering and Technology, Malaysia Industry-Government Group for High Technology, the Institute of Engineers Malaysia and the National Science Centre.

The School STEM programmes were held at Chong Hwa High School, Kuala Lumpur on 31 October 2014 and Tsun Jin High School, Kuala Lumpur on 4 November 2014. These programmes aimed to enhance students' knowledge and interest in Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics and to provide educational opportunities and fun through hands-on participation in science demos, experiments and Mathematics activities.

More than 300 Chong Hwa High School students (Senior Middle One level) participated in the science hands-on experiments that included temperature sensing, and dissolved oxygen in water samples. A highlight was the display of the UTAR's own prototype electric car at the school compound which certainly piqued students' interests to know more about the battery driven car engine.

At Tsun Jin High School, over 500 Form Three students also participated in science



United in STEM education

experiments that included cyclonic vacuum cleaner and mathematics activities such as binary numbers. UTAR Vice President for R&D and Commercialisation Prof Ir Dr Lee Sze Wei, KLESF Steering Committee Chairman Datuk Hong Lee Pee and Silverlake Corp founder Goh Peng Ooi each presented a talk on STEM-related topics such as careers in STEM and historical developments of scientific inventions and technological applications.

The first KLESF Mentor Development Programme that was held at Perak Campus from 6 to 7 November 2014 saw the participation of more than 60 Science discipline teachers from 20 secondary schools around West Malaysia.

Present at the opening ceremony of the mentorship programme were Prof Lee and Datuk Hong. Prof Lee in his speech said, "This mentor



Experimenting with the vacuum apparatus

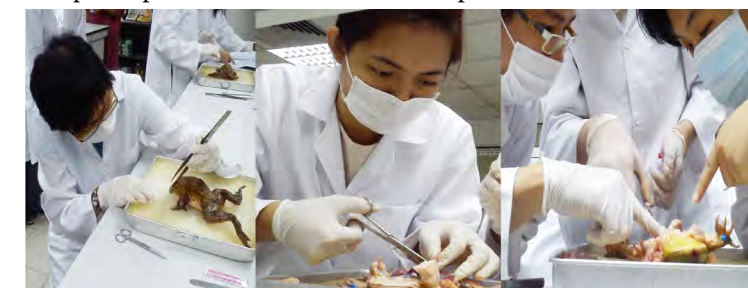
development programme was exclusively organised for school teachers for the very first time under the umbrella programme of KLESF. The objective is to help to educate the school teachers on hands-on teaching methods in STEM subjects which would enhance the students' interests on science subjects."

Throughout the two-day programme, the participants were involved in various science projects that included simple sensor projects on Physics, introduction to Arduino, an open-source physical computing platform, extraction of natural dyes in Biology, PH testing, and even introduction to Biochemical test.

Among the participating schools were Chong Hwa Independent High School, Foon Yew High School, Hin Hua High School, SMJK Pei Yuan, Maktab

Rendah Sains Mara Tun Ghazali Shafie, Shen Jai High School, SMK Methodist (ACS) Kampar, Westlake International School, SMK Taman Melati, and others.

The other mentorship workshop was a 'Dissection Workshop' for 20 Chong Hwa Independent High School Biology teachers on 13 November at the Petaling Jaya Campus. The workshop, organised by UTAR Centre for Foundation Studies and the Division of Programme Promotion, aimed to upskill the teachers' dissection competency and laboratory management which would enhance the delivery of subjects like Biology. There was a briefing and a dissection manual on the basic anatomy of bullfrog for the participants before the start of the dissection work.



Dissection at work

徐持庆和东瑞谈创作心得

由拉曼大学中华研究中心现代文学研究组于10月29日所举办的《午后，当微型小说遇见散文》新书分享会，有幸邀得本地著名古典诗词家徐持庆和香港作家东瑞前来个别推荐新著《敲梦痴言》和《雪夜翻墙说爱你》，并与学生们同台分享他们的创作心得。

除了两位作家的分享，主办单位也安排了拉曼大学中华研究院讲师李树枝、余历雄、校友蔡慧沁、研究生马峰个别分享与两位作家的相识和对其作品的探讨。其他出席者包括了徐持庆的夫人李若梅和东瑞的夫人瑞芬（获益出版社经理）、本地儿童文学作家邓长权、草风、拉曼大学日语讲师叶惠等人。

拉曼大学校友徐持庆于2002年成为中文系第一届的学生，而后获得中国广州暨南大学录取后中途离开拉曼大学。他的第五本创作散文集《敲》收录了他在《南洋商报》专栏上所刊载的逾百篇作品，都是从其所刊载在报上逾180篇散文作品中精挑细选出来集结成书。

一直热衷于创作传统古典诗词的他，曾经懊恼在本地甚少能够发表古典诗词的园地，后来他想到了在自己所撰写的散文中掺入古典诗词，让古典诗词有了一个“变相”的发表园地，而后为其创作形成了一股文白抒情的色彩。随后，他也详谈了关于他对创作的条件，让在场对文字创作倍感兴趣的学生获益不浅。他举例，人生的经历、生活的体验、学养的积累、丰富的想象力等都是创作者需具备的条件。



徐持庆（前排右二）和东瑞（前排左二）与一众嘉宾在新书分享会上合影。

都是创作者需具备的条件。

东瑞原为印尼华侨，青年时期在中国完成大学后于70年代移居香港。从1976年的出版第一本书至今，共出版了128本书，出版的地区包括中港台及新马，而出版的文体种类也相当多元，有小说、短篇小说、长篇小说、散文、散文诗、儿童文学、评论等。

写作生涯已有42年的他表示，“写作的好处，就是不受年龄的限制，只要身体健康就可以一直写下去了。”另外，他也分享了写作如何改变了他的命运和生活。七十年代，他在机缘巧合下于一家出版文艺小说的出版社工作，更

后来，他和太太创办了获益出版社，总编辑生涯就此展开，目前出版社已耸立逾二十年。“搞出版难、搞纯文学的出版更难；坚持出版物的健康、有益世道人心的出版更是难上加难。但我们一直没有放弃，这23年来，我们发掘培养了不少文学新人，不少作者的第一本书都由我们出版。”经营出版业，让他深深体会到“文学养活我们，但我们要养活文学”的使命。

分享会的尾声，主办单位也安排了小小的签书会，让学生们能够和两位作家有更进一步的交流。

赵立新教授谈汉字、书法与书法境界

拉曼大学中华研究院和贤情学堂于11月26日在位于吉隆坡市区的贤情学堂联合举办了一场由中国著名书法家赵立新教授所主讲，以《汉字、书法与书法境界》为题的书法讲座。

出席的嘉宾有拿督何国忠上议员、贤情学堂创始人潘斯理陈秋霞、拉曼大学校长拿督蔡贤德教授、新纪元学院院长莫顺宗博士、拉曼大学中华研究院院长张晓威副教授、副院长黄文斌副教授和郑文泉博士、系主任陈中和博士，以及中文系师生及书法爱好者近百余人。

讲座由郭义民律师主持，并由拿督何国忠上议员及贤情学堂创始人潘斯理陈秋霞分别致词。拿督何国忠在致词中谈到了在



左起：赵立新、何国忠、陈秋霞、蔡贤德

中国文化考察时偶遇赵教授的故事，而后更开始争取赵教授前来马来西亚举办书法展。

赵教授本为山东农业大学机电工程系主任、硕士研究生导师，虽然工科出身，但赵教授曾九次举办个人书画展，多件作品更被博物馆等收藏机构收藏。

当天的讲座主要围绕汉字与书法的关系，以及书法境界的领悟这两方面进行。赵教授更不时于讲座中谈到了有「书圣」之称的王羲之的《兰亭序》。最后的提问环节中，赵教授和与会者分享了他学习书法的心得与体会，更不忘现场挥毫。



赵立新教授现场挥毫。

万辅彬教授谈建立海上丝绸之路的意义

拉曼大学的管理与领导培训学院、中华研究院、软技能资源部及延续教育中心于11月26日在拉曼大学八打灵校区联合举办了以《建立海上丝绸之路的意义》为题的讲座，并邀得广东民族大学的万辅彬教授前来主讲。参与者除了大学学者和学生外，也来自企业和商会。

万教授先从古代丝绸之路谈起。丝绸之路包括南道、中道、北道三条路线，将中原、西域与阿拉伯、波斯湾紧密联系在一起。“经过几个世纪的不断努力，丝绸之路向西伸展到了地中海。广义上丝路的东段已经到达了朝鲜、日本。通过海路还可达意大利、埃及，成为亚洲和欧洲、非洲各国经济文化交流的友谊之路。”

万教授对海上丝绸之路的历史渊源进行解读。他说，海上丝绸之路是古代海道交通大动脉。海上丝绸之路也是中、外贸易通道。“自汉朝开始，中国与马来半岛就已有接触，尤其是唐代之后，来往更加密切”。

万教授谈到了21世纪“海上丝绸之路”的新涵义。从全球视角看，进入21世纪，“海上丝绸之路”是一个“全球贸易网”，空间和领域将会大大拓宽。海上丝绸之路的内涵随着时代的变迁而不断丰富和变化，体现了新的时代精神，具有浓厚的时代色彩。“海上丝绸之路”的新涵义是以通道建设为基础，以经贸合作制度建设为支撑，从而提升“海上丝绸之路”通道功能、贸易水准、投资及经济合作水准；积极构建中国与海上丝绸之路沿线各国互利共赢的格局。

对于中国，建立海上丝绸之路具有重大的远景战略规划的意义，它是中国向国际社会释放的一个信号，也是中国未来会逐渐投入战略资源加以实践的重要方向。中国对国际社会释放的这个信号，有助于启动海洋领域中国与世界上更多国家之间的深度合作，乃至政治合作、安全合作的突破口，使中国未来的和平发展处于更有利的战略态势。

建立海上丝绸之路将形成依托资讯技术连接起来的海上现代运输工具、国际货物运输通道和国际贸易网。“海上丝绸之路”的共建将促进沿线国家经贸合作和经济发展，互利共赢，也促进各国之间政策沟通、道路连通、贸易畅通、货币流通、民心相通。

对于如何因势力导加快建设，万教授表示坚持互利共赢理



拉曼大学管理与领导培训学院院长郑明瑜教授（右）颁发纪念品予万辅彬教授。

念，形成包容发展格局是必须的。另外就是加快海上丝绸之路框架的建构，抓住重点积极搞好航线的建设及做好有利于海上丝绸之路发展的基础工作。

马来西亚是东盟国家中与中国经济关系最密切的，也是东盟中最早与中国建交的国家，始终把中国当作好朋友、真朋友。中马两国共建的钦州关丹产业园，开创了“两国双园”的国际合作新模式。中马双方人文交流更是频繁。中国企业对马来西亚投资热情高，增长也快。

展望未来，万教授对中马双边经贸关系“更上一层楼”充满信心。这信心也是来自于中马经贸“互利共赢”的发展模式，还来自于“海上丝绸之路”战略推进。

万教授发表完毕，几位参与者提出了一些问题，万教授也予以解答，一番讨论后大家对海上丝绸之路相当看好，并期待其后续的演化。

拉大中医系团队赴广西中医药大学培训

拉曼大学医学与保健科学学院中医系的张雯君博士、黄捷慧、张群艳、叶耀斌、陈美瑜与林映霞讲师一行共六人于9月21日至30日期间赴中国广西中医药大学接受为期十天的教学及临床培训。

此次培训的内容涉及《中医基础理论》、《医古文》、《中医各家学说》、《针灸学》和《推拿学》等课程。培训期间，一众讲师被安排到戴铭教授、刘燕平教授、方显明教授、蒋筱教授以及其他名师的课堂去听课。随后，一众讲师更到广西中医药大学附属医院进行临床培训。

为期十天的培训让一众讲师获益良多。其中，教学方式多样让一众讲师有不一样的体验。例如何育凤老师以临床经验指导学生进行手法治疗，方显明教授以眩晕为例分享中医教学心得，以及安连生教授给予的手法讲座等都让讲师们获益匪浅。此外，蒋筱教授、武丽老师、连利军老师和罗纳新老师有趣且实用的上课方式，许明辉老师极具特点的授课方式让人留下了深刻的印象。

除此之外，皮肤科、推拿科的临床见习不仅让讲师们学习如何临床带教，也学习到了临床的专业知识。另外，导师精心制作的课件更让讲师们为之赞叹，为他们今后的课件制作带来很大的启发。

除了本校中医系的讲师团队到访中国进行交流培训之外，

广西中医药大学也派了两位资深的专家学者雷龙鸣教授和苏赐名副主任医师到我校为中医系的学生教授推拿治疗学课程。于此，寄望两校在未来有更多的交流与合作。



中医系一众讲师与广西中医药大学的成员合影留念。

Fakulti Sastera dan Sains Sosial (FAS) UTAR bekerjasama dengan Hospital Bahagia Ulu Kinta (HBUK) dan Carers' Connect bagi mengadakan program ceramah kesihatan mental bertempat di Kampus Perak UTAR pada 15 Oktober 2014.

Program yang merangkumi beberapa slot ceramah kesihatan ini diadakan untuk mempertingkatkan kesedaran akan pentingnya penjagaan kesihatan mental serta gaya hidup sihat dalam kalangan komuniti universiti. Di samping ceramah yang disampaikan oleh pakar-pakar kesihatan dari HBUK, sebuah pameran berkaitan dengan kesihatan mental dan pendermaan organ turut diadakan untuk memberi informasi tambahan kepada para hadirin. Antara pakar kesihatan mental yang menghadiri program berkenaan ialah Dr Cheah Yee Chuang, Timbalan Pengarah Perubatan HBUK, Dr Nurzanhuda Zamli, Dr Azlina Mohd Shah Rudin, Dr Farah Shahabudin, Dr Melissa Yoong Mei Theng dan Dr Sasitharan Moorthi.

Ketika menyampaikan ceramahnya yang bertajuk 'Kepentingan dan Implikasi Kesihatan Mental', Dr Cheah berkata, "Kesihatan mental berkait rapat dengan kesihatan fizikal. Kesihatan mental yang kurang baik boleh mempengaruhi kesihatan fizikal dan menyebabkan penyakit-penyakit seperti obesiti, penyalahgunaan dadah, penyakit jantung, penyakit kanser dan juga kencing manis."

Beliau menambah, "Kesihatan mental merupakan satu keadaan di mana seseorang individu menyedari keupayaan diri, dapat mengendalikan tekanan dengan baik, dapat bekerja secara produktif dan mampu menyumbang kepada masyarakat. Ini bermaksud bahawa kesihatan mental adalah asas kepada kesejahteraan individu dan kemampuan mereka bertindak efektif serta

Ceramah kesedaran kesihatan mental



Peserta sedang melakukan senaman untuk mengurangkan tekanan

mengurangkan perlakuan berisiko tinggi yang mempengaruhi kesihatan."

Dr Farah, seorang lagi pakar kesihatan mental dari HBUK seterusnya menjelaskan kepada para hadirin tentang cara-cara menangani masalah atau konflik secara berkesan. Beliau juga memberi penerangan tentang tekanan emosi dan pengurusannya secara khusus.

Seorang lagi penceramah, Dr Sasitharan pula bercakap mengenai latihan asertif. Dr Sasitharan berkata, "Orang yang bersifat asertif biasanya berkeyakinan tinggi dan berterus-terang dalam mempertahankan haknya manakala orang yang berpendirian tegas mampu mengemukakan pandangannya dengan jelas."

Secara keseluruhannya, program ini menekankan aspek-aspek penting mengenai kesihatan mental. Para penceramah mengingatkan semua peserta yang hadir akan



Dr Cheah Phaik Kin, Dekan FAS (kanan) menyampaikan cenderahati kepada Dr Cheah

tanggungjawab mereka terhadap diri sendiri dan kehidupan. Program tersebut berakhir dengan penyampaian cenderahati dan sijil penghargaan kepada semua penceramah diikuti oleh sesi bergambar.



Para hadirin semasa sesi bergambar

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