

UTP Quarterly

Welcome Home
YB Yeo!



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Message

From The VVC

Hello again everyone.

It is with great pleasure that I greet you once again in our third edition of our Quarterly newsletter, for 2019.

This newsletter is pivotal in keeping us all up-to-date with the many happenings at UTP each day, while bringing us satisfaction that our labours are producing fruit.

This time round, one of the exciting highlights was the visit from our alumni, YB Yeo Bee Yin. She has indeed done us proud with her accomplishments and her contributions as Malaysia's Minister of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change.

YB Yeo's visit to UTP was indeed a great morale booster and we are proud to call her an alumni of UTP, a role model for present and future students of UTP.

We also celebrate many inaugural wins, prestigious awards, medals in research and science as well as sports, and various tie-ups with strategic partners which will help to propel us further towards our goal.

We have excelled in debate, leadership, innovation and games - all of which bear testament to UTP's focus on nurturing well-rounded graduates who not only do well in academics, but also demonstrate well-honed soft skills and other must-have attributes for success.

These recognitions and awards not only become the icing on the cake for us, more importantly they are success stories which show us that we are on the right track.

Moving forward, we continue to excel and we continue to strive for betterment.

Prof Ts Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Abdul Mutalib

Golden Opportunity to Represent Malaysia

It was a once in a lifetime opportunity for Engineering student Yuharajan Baskaran when he represented Malaysia at the 12th International Young Leaders Assembly (IYLA) in the United States.

He had the invaluable opportunity to interact with fellow delegates the world over, learn and see leadership in action, broaden his knowledge, analyse and discuss current global issues with other thought leaders.

More excitingly, he also spoke at the US Department of State and Senate, sharing his leadership experience and passion for sustainable peace and youth development.

As icing on the already rich cake, Yuharajan was selected as the Global Peace Ambassador.

The IYLA is a partnership-driven leadership development initiative that gathers student leaders, young professionals and globally significant leaders and institutions under one roof to exchange ideas about current world issues. This interactive programme empowers young and upcoming leaders to bring their ideas to the table and positively impact their communities and society as a whole.

Held across Washington DC, Pennsylvania and New York, the programme culminated with the Global Youth Summit at the United Nations headquarters.

It was indeed a thrilling and cherished experience for Yuharajan who did us proud.



A Brand New Medal in Our Hands

Hard work, innovation and creativity paid off for 4 UTP Chemical Engineering students who clinched a brand-new process safety medal for UTP. Awarded by the Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE), the SIESO medal rewarded and recognised their compelling joint paper and poster illustrating the issues leading to the Bhopal gas leak in India.

Our four heroes were IChemE members Tze Lin Kok, Jing Han Siow, Yeuan Jer Choong and Chee Kean Loo. Their entry was titled "The Bhopal Gas Tragedy: The Scar of Process Safety" and it gave a thought-provoking overview of the Bhopal disaster, accompanied by two posters.

UTP is doubly proud of our students as they will be remembered as the first ever recipients of this medal.

The SIESO Medal will be awarded annually to an individual or a group of up to six students for the best multi-media presentation about a major accident and the process safety learning outcomes. Entries are judged by a sub-committee of IChemE's Loss Prevention Panel and, along with the Medal, the winning team will also receive a prize of £750.



UTP's STEM Exploration Centre Ready for Action

UTP is delighted and proud to announce the opening of our Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Exploration Centre on 24 September 2019. This centre is the culmination of years of planning and goes hand-in-hand with the university's continuous efforts as a premier science and technology education centre in Malaysia.

As a leading institute of higher education, one of our major objectives is to ensure the continuous development of science and technology skills in our upcoming generations, especially in light of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. This is not only to prepare our youth for the future, - with a strong foundation as digital citizens and innovators - but also to ensure that Malaysia remains competitive and relevant in the rapidly evolving global market.

Towards this end this STEM Exploration Centre is testament of UTP's unwavering commitment to support and advocate the cultivation of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics skills and knowledge in Malaysia. It is a timely introduction as we continue to strive actively to promote STEM to school students in Perak, as we work towards helping the nation achieve its goal of a becoming a scientific and innovative society.

Part of the University's social responsibility efforts, the STEM Exploration Centre was made possible also with contributions from the MESTECC Social Innovation Fund, Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) and SIRIM Measurements. We are indeed grateful for the collective contributions of RM268,000 from these three partners.

We also are indebted to our other sponsors for their continued support and various contributions and look forward to working closely with all of them to further advance the activities of the Centre as well as on other projects.

As icing to the cake, UTP was proud to welcome YB Yeo Bee Yin back to officiate the opening of the STEM Exploration Centre. Stepping back into her alma mater, YB Yeo was all smiles as she was greeted with enthusiasm and pomp. After the opening ceremony of the STEM Exploration Centre, during which YB Yeo was introduced to said facility and the various opportunities it carried, she officiated the closing ceremony and gave away prizes for the CCM Stem UP x UTP competition.

Organised by Chemical Company of Malaysia (CCM) and UTP for primary and secondary school students, Stem Up x UTP competition, which was organised for primary and secondary school students, this competition was targeted at creating STEM awareness among the children. The activities encompassed a science forum, science-based spelling bee, robotics, STEM innovation pitching and various other related activities.

Spending the day with us, YB Yeo spent some time in the company of UTP researchers upon her morning arrival. This sharing and dialogue session focussed on the advancement and way forward of UTP's academic and research endeavours to contribute positively towards nation building in line with government objectives.

YB Yeo also had a cordial engagement session with UTP students. Students had a fun time listening to her experiences as a UTP student. She spoke of how she juggled her time between studies and extracurricular activities and shared tips on how she emerged as one of our best students.

A chemical engineering student, our esteemed guest graduated from UTP in 2006. She is UTP's first alumna to have made it into Malaysia's Cabinet of Ministers. Holding a portfolio that resonates with UTP's vision and mission makes her appointment even more meaningful and UTP's pride in her accomplishments and position cannot be overstated.



Thank You to our Sponsors and Partners!

- Ministry of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (Social Innovation Fund)
- Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation Sdn Bhd
- SIRIM Measurement Sdn Bhd
- Chemical Company of Malaysia
- Department of Education Perak
- Northern Corridor Implementation Authority
- Yayasan Pendidikan Perak
- Yayasan Pendidikan Kampar
- Sustainable Business Network Association Malaysia
- Malaysian Oil & Gas Services Council (MOGSC)
- Perak 4.0 - PKNP
- Digital Perak Corporation Holdings
- Perak Human Capital Development Centre
- Majlis Guru Besar Kinta Selatan
- Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Jati
- Tanjung Tualang Tin Dredge No 5 (MB Inc.- TT5)
- NY Design (M) Sdn Bhd
- Technology Park Malaysia
- Salam Web
- Politeknik Ungku Omar

A Great Mind in Our Midst

Five exceptional young Malaysians received the Prestigious Merdeka Award Grant this time round, and one of them is our very own Feng Ying Xing. He received the award from the Sultan of Perak and Royal Patron of the Merdeka Award Trust, His Royal Highness (HRH) Sultan Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah.

This outstanding young UTP PhD candidate was recognised for his outstanding research proposal which focussed on how to predict cognitive performance at work under the influence of workload and situational stress. This, he suggested, would be done through a non-invasive neuro-imaging modality known as fNIRS, haemodynamic measurements and psychological body signals.

Feng has hopes that this will help him to develop a deep-learning model that would help to identify the nature of stress that would subsequently contribute towards early prevention methods against mental illnesses. It would also help to improve cognitive performance.

He is the second UTP recipient of this grant, after Aishah Ismail, also a PhD candidate from UTP's CISIR, who was among the recipients of 2018.





Another UTP Scientist on the World Stage

Dr Maisara Shahrom Raja Shahrom will head to Germany in November to represent Malaysia in the Falling Walls Lab Finale in Berlin. She will also attend the Falling Walls Conference, which is a platform for leaders of science, industry and policy makers.

The Falling Walls initiative, founded to commemorate the fall of the Berlin Wall, is independently organised by an international lab to provide opportunities for researchers to present projects and initiatives in just three minutes. Dr Maisara's 3 minutes entitled "Breaking the Walls of CO₂ Capture in Greenhouse Gases" at the Falling Walls Lab AIMST 2019 event won her the honour to represent Malaysia.

She spoke about her research to develop an alternative method to capture CO₂ - Amino Acid Polymerised Ionic Liquids (AAPILS) - in the bid to address the world's greenhouse gas problem.

Innovation Awards



Participating in two innovation awards in Sarawak, InTEX 2019 and Saintex 2019, proved to be a fruitful run for UTP with multiple awards crossing the seas in our hands.

InTEX 2019, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak's Innovation and Technology Exposition, saw us winning medals for all 12 inventions, seven gold and five silver.

We also took home the Best Product for Information, Communication and Technology award. Meanwhile, Associate Professor Dr Lau Kok Keong's invention clinched the InTEX 2019 Best Overall Product award for his Hollow Fibre Membrane Prediction Programme. Saintex 2019 (Sarawak Innovation and Technology Exhibition) added another two awards to the cache. Our two inventions - Curbvious by Associate Professor Dr Zahiraniza Mustaffa and Insigne by Associate Professor Dr Mohd Haris Md Khir won first and second place respectively in the Product Category.



UTP's active participation in such exhibitions and expositions allows us to showcase our creative talent for innovative ideas while also adding to our repertoire of significant steps towards international recognition as a research university.

It also opens pathways for our inventors to look for R&D collaboration opportunities, potential investors and commercialisation possibilities.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LANDSLIDES AND SLOPE STABILITY

SLOPE 2019



Playing Host for an International Conference

UTP had the honour to co-organise the International Conference on Landslide and Slope Stability (SLOPE) 2019, held in Bali, Indonesia. This honour was shared with Universitas Katolik Parahyangan, the oldest and most prestigious private university in Indonesia.

The coming together of academics, researchers and experts was to discuss and discourse the issues of the land, especially in relation to the challenges of today's world, namely climate change, resource management and sustainability.

It also strengthens the academic reputation of participants, provides for research and networking collaboration and creates pathways for exposure to new technical skills and knowledge. The collaboration of great minds from various disciplines, academic resources and synergistic industrial cooperation can create a better understanding of landslides and slope stability to mitigate the challenges we face.

Representing the Vice Chancellor, Associate Professor Dr Fakhruddin Mohd Hashim, the Dean, Faculty of Engineering gave a speech on how UTP strongly advocates this Indonesia Malaysia Industrial & Institutional Initiative (IMI3). The collaboration ensures that the research undertaken is industry relevant and is achieved through close engagement, collaboration and partnership between the university and its partners.

Our very own Assoc Prof Ir Dr Hisham Mohamad was one of the keynote speakers for this conference and he spoke on the "State of the Art Instrumentation of Slopes and Retaining Structures with Fibre Optic Sensors".

Recognised and Appreciated

UTP values and appreciates the contributions of all our staff who contribute tirelessly to help the university advance. Much work is done behind the scenes to ensure that everything works like clockwork and that we are on track to accomplishing our goals and targets. This work must rightly be recognised and awarded.

This year, Employee Recognition Day was officiated by Yang Berbahagia Datuk Ahmad Nizam Salleh, the Chairman of PETRONAS and UTP's Pro Chancellor, and recognised 40 staff both in the academic and non-academic areas for their invaluable contributions. In their own special ways, each of them has contributed towards our successes for the year. Their continued commitment and enthusiasm are reflected in the high quality of their work which is an example to all.

UTP also recognised 94 retirees and staff members for their long service, hard work, dedication and loyalty. We had 25 recipients who had served UTP for 10 years- of whom 12 were retiring -, 30 recipients recognised for 15 years and 27 recipients for 20 years.

We are indeed grateful for all their contributions. We wish our retirees well and congratulate all other recipients for a job well done!





For the Love of Malaysia

UTP's Merdeka Day celebrations this year was full of colour, patriotism and love for our beloved country.

This time round, we organised a car decoration competition and participants showed their creativity in the parade of vehicles decorated in the colours and flags of Malaysia. In this same spirit of friendly competition and patriotism, we also had a Best Merdeka costume. This certainly brought out unique fashion ideas from our staff, resulting in a fun-filled event which everyone enjoyed.

The Merdeka Fun Walk meanwhile, also saw much camaraderie among our community as they got in some exercise for the day.

Everyone had a blast and more importantly, the celebrations truly showcased the ideal harmonious community of Malaysia as a nation of many races, cultures and creeds.

Showcasing Culture

Students from the primary level right up to tertiary institutions came together in a profusion of colours, music and dance to showcase the cultures of Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand on the UTP stage.

The Festival of Colours of the World 2019 (FESCO 2019) saw the participation of 34 teams who brought to life the diversity and uniqueness of these three nations while showcasing their talent and creativity. This 12th edition of FESCO continues as a testament of UTP's commitment to produce well-rounded graduates with an appreciation for the arts. It is also a platform to encourage students to participate in arts and culture events to enrich their learning experience while creating a cordial atmosphere of esprit de corps among our students.

It also strengthens UTP's position as a provider of holistic education while serving as a good reminder that the sciences must be tempered with the arts to create a balance and to enrich life.

The winners of each of the five categories walked away with first, second and third prizes in the form of cash, trophies and certificates. There were also prizes for Best Costume and Best Choreograph.



Red Sonata Fiesta 2019 in Kedah

The Red Sonata Fiesta rolled around again and was held early in September.

In today's age of technology and computers, music is a balm to the soul and mind and the annual RSF is a good reminder of this while also helping to spark interests in Chinese traditional music amidst the younger generation.

This time round, the events were organised at various locations in Alor Star Kedah, attracting Chinese Orchestra aficionados to showcase their talent and skill.

Primary, secondary and tertiary institution students as well as members of the public brought their talent to the fore, individually and collectively as they brought music and culture to the stage. As per the norm, the three competitive categories were Dance, Chinese Orchestra Ensemble and Choir.

Participants had the opportunity to delve deep into their creativity with their compositions and performances, while audiences were exposed to the breadth and depth of Chinese cultural music, song and dance.

As a showcase of culture, it truly was a successful event, while bringing together the Malaysian peoples of various ethnicities as audience.

Organised in conjunction with the 36th Malaysia Chinese Cultural Festival the co-organisers included The Federation of Chinese Associations Malaysia (Huaazong) and Kedah Chinese Assembly Hall.



Cultivating and Nurturing Future ASEAN Leaders

The ASEAN Student Forum (ASF) was held at the end of August with this year's topics focussing on cyber security, human capital in STEM and waste management.

Officiated by YB Howard Lee Chuan How, the Perak State Executive Council for Youth and Sports & Human Capital Development, the four-day forum presented an excellent opportunity for enhancing integration and cooperation among ASEAN youth. The forum also aims at nurturing future leaders through youth empowerment. Participants had the excellent opportunity to discuss, debate and design solutions for issues and challenges faced by ASEAN countries as well.

By extension, the forum strengthened UTP's networking and collaboration with ASEAN counterparts, paving more pathways for strategic partnerships.



The Best of Nature and the Best of Exercise

The Go Nature Campaign 2.0 on 14 September had university and school students from across Malaysia, coming together for a host of nature-based activities and competitions. With the invitation extended internationally, there were also participants from other nations as well.

There was a half-marathon covering 21km and a Fun Run as well.

Officiated by YB Isnaraissah Munirah Majilis, the Deputy Minister of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change (MESTECC), the goal of this Go Nature Campaign 2.0 is to encourage healthy lifestyles among students and the general population. The organisers collaborated with the UTP Go Green Movement Club and NGO Pertubuhan Pelindung Khazanah Alam (PEKA) Malaysia. As such, it has created awareness of the need to sustain the green of our environment for the future of the world and the subsequent generations.



This Quarter's MoU's and Strategic Partnerships with....

1. CyberSecurity Malaysia Industry Partners

UTP signed on with CyberSecurity Malaysia to cooperate in academic matters and security training services. This tie-up opens up a myriad of possibilities as the two partners work together to promote knowledge and expertise of cybersecurity.

For UTP, this marks the pathway to become CyberSecurity Malaysia's training centre for the Northern region; meanwhile allowing for staff and students to attend training programmes on campus itself. Such courses would also be offered to other interested parties.

Timed well with the advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, UTP and CyberSecurity Malaysia will also look into jointly developing cyber security training programmes and work together towards creating and sustaining a safer cyberspace.



2. The Ministry of Mineral Resource & Energy Mozambique (MIREME)

This collaboration aims to strengthen ties between UTP and MIREME and pave the way for more Mozambique students to further their education at our university. MIREME has to date sponsored 91 Mozambican students to UTP and we hope to welcome more especially with the launch of our two new programmes i.e. Bachelor of Materials Engineering with Honours and Bachelor of Business Management (Honours).



3. PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Limited (PTTEP)

UTP will collaborate with PTTEP in technology development to enhance petroleum exploration and production efficiency.

This tie-up is also in support of the Malaysia Indochina Industrial & Institutional Initiative (MIII) and strengthens engagement, collaboration and partnership initiatives between industry and universities.

This Research Collaboration Agreement is anticipated to develop the knowledge and expertise of both UTP and PTTEP in the field of Engineering and Technology, with special focus on the advancement of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.



4. Six Universities in Kazakhstan

UTP signed on the dotted line with Kazakh-British Technical University (KBTU), M.Auezov South Kazakhstan State University, Academician Y.A. Buketov Karaganda State University, M. Kh. Dulaty Taraz State University, S. Seifullin Kazakh Agro Technical University and Al-Farabi Kazakh National University.

These MoUs are aimed at enhancing the collaborative academic, research and student mobility opportunities of all the 7 universities concerned.

UTP is also hopeful that the Kazakhstan universities will promote UTP as a university of choice for those who seek to further their tertiary education in the Southeast Asian region.



5. RIPHEN @ MSU

UTP signed on as a member of the Executive Steering Committee of the Research and Innovation of Private Higher Education Network (RIPHEN) led by the Management and Science University (MSU). The other six members of this steering committee are Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN), Multimedia University (MMU), Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL), Infrastructure University Kuala Lumpur (IUKL), Asia Pacific University (APU), and Nilai University.

These eight universities will work together on the mission of enabling a sustainable research culture among private providers of higher education and envisioning the commercialisation of its members' research and innovation outputs.



6. DR. N.G.P. Institute of Technology, INDIA

As another tie-up with a fellow university, this collaboration strengthens UTP's ties with ANNA, specifically in the areas of academics and research as well as student experiences and internship opportunities.

This new impetus is geared towards enhancing the quality of research and establishing a more dynamic exchange of information and educational experiences for both universities.



We are Top 3!

UTP is proud to announce that we are now recognised as one of the top three universities in Malaysia in the THE World University Rankings. What makes us doubly excited is the fact that we are also the only private university in the country on this list.

While this achievement is indeed something we can be proud of, UTP's pursuit of rankings is not merely for the recognition per se.

Such recognitions and rankings are an effective mechanism which helps us to measure performance and benchmark the university against world elites. It also keeps us on the right track as we continue efforts to enhance the various aspects of our teaching and learning, research abilities and facilities, student development and areas of operational excellence.

We are committed to maintain and improve our standards and will continue to emphasise on strategies that will take us further into the future as leaders of higher education, be good and responsible stewards of research and development and a purveyor holistic student experiences.

Our goal is and remains to be sustainable global prominent and an internationally recognised partner of choice for industry and respected scientific communities by 2025.

