

UTP QUARTERLY

JANUARY - MARCH 2020

ISSUE 73

ISSN 1675 - 2023



UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
PETRONAS



EDITORIAL TEAM

Advisor

Professor Ts Dr
Mohamed Ibrahim
Abdul Mutalib

Editor-In-Chief

Shamsina Shaharun

Editors

Mohd Zulkarnain
Zulkifli
Wan Madiah
Wan Abd Rahman
Jauhari

Photographers

Mohd Hazrin Ismail
Khalid Asyiril Ismail

UTP Quarterly is the quarterly newsletter of Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS. The views and opinions expressed or implied are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the University's management. No article in part or in whole should be reprinted without written permission.

Editorial correspondence and contributions can be addressed to:

The Editor-In-Chief

UTP Quarterly

Corporate Communications Division
Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS
32610 Seri Iskandar, Perak Darul Ridzuan
Malaysia
Tel: 605 368 8230

info@utp.edu.my



UTPOfficial

COVER RATIONALE



As all of us are taking drastic precautionary measures for safety and social distancing, exponential growth in the coronavirus has led to widespread change across multiple industry and talent dimensions. While it's clear that we are not going to return to where we left off before the outbreak, UTP's leading education is prepared to advance people and industries despite all the possibilities that may play out.

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

Adopting the accelerator mindset

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh and hello everyone.

Not too long ago, we ushered in a new decade. As we leave the last decade behind and roll into the next one, we will also renew our emphasis on creating a high performing university, global graduates and industry synergies that are equal to the challenges of the 2020s.

While we are facing a time of unprecedented disruption, as education and industry innovators, we will continue to stake our efforts on learning the best steps to take now and in the future. The circumstances might not be ideal, but all of us at UTP have vowed to work harder to meet the demands of multi-dimensional industry landscape.

Evidently, we were recently ranked 78th in the prestigious Times Higher Education (THE) Emerging Economies Rankings 2020. The climb makes UTP the top private university in Malaysia and places UTP second, only after Universiti Malaya among Malaysian public and private universities.

As the new decade unfolds, I am happy to share that UTP will continue to support the global mission of STEM industries and careers. To do this, we find that we need to tune up our capabilities to compete at speed. Therefore, I would like to touch briefly on some of the key areas highlighted by YBhg Tan Sri Wan Zul, PETRONAS President in his Prime Time recently.

Built on UTP's rigorous multiyear study of hundreds of industries, and insights from our extensive work with global partners, we have identified the need to harness digital transformation to fuel growth. It has become abundantly clear that, in the digital age, conventional wisdom about industry transformation no longer works.

This however, requires a collaborative culture to help us attain a focus on cost optimisation and strategic decisions that can unlock new values that can be used for the disruptive innovation that drives future prosperity.

I would like to reiterate that our shared goal is to overcome the industry's talent deficit and help industries thrive. Last quarter provides a good indication that we are ahead in the race. With your support, we can untangle the complexity of future uncertainties and prosper together.

Last but not least, in the battle to curb the Covid-19 pandemic, although we are physically distant today, we must stand together. I am convinced that we will rise above this colossal test and become stronger as a nation. Optimism and hope are related and complementary. I'm positive that we will emerge from it stronger and more resilient. This too, shall pass. InsyaAllah.

**Prof Ts. Dr Mohamed
Ibrahim Abdul Mutalib**



TAPESTRY OF COLOURS RAISED RM700,000 AT CHARITY DINNER

Crowdfunding-sponsored funds to help deserving students and hone UTP's talent machine

Infused with vibrant colours and performances, Tapestry of Colour's charity dinner garnered widespread support from UTP's stakeholders and partners. A total of RM700,000 was raised to aid students' projects that bring civic and community spaces to life.

In addition to enabling student projects such as lighting up the streets of a remote orang asli village, sustaining the development of UTP's rugby team to funding UTP's very own Gamelan musicians, the funds will also be channelled through scholarships for deserving students.

At the dinner, Yayasan UTP (YUTP) launched its "I SHARE" campaign. In the next five years, the philanthropic campaign sets goal at RM75 million to finance a role in education reform in view of churning out well-rounded global graduates and creating Malaysia's talent pool advantage in STEM industries.

An assortment of dazzling student performances entertained 300 dinner guests at EQ Hotel Kuala Lumpur's Diamond Ballroom on the 10th of January 2020. Organised by YUTP with strong support from PETRONAS and Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP), contributions came from corporate and individual sponsors. Main sponsors were Dialog Group Berhad, Seadrill, TechnipFMC, ConocoPhillips, Synerlitz Sdn Bhd, YB Yeo Bee Yin- Special Minister's Allocation, KLCC Property Holdings Berhad, Transwater API Sdn Bhd, QR Apparel Sdn Bhd, Uzma Berhad and Code of Origin Sdn Bhd.



PROFESSOR TS. DR MOHAMED IBRAHIM ABDUL MUTALIB AWARDED THE AMITY GLOBAL ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

2nd March 2020

A future maker, UTP's Vice Chancellor, Professor Ts. Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Abdul Motalib is well known for his stellar contributions leading UTP into the top 100 of QS and THE Asia University Rankings. In recognition of his contribution in creating a high performing university, Prof Ibrahim was recently awarded the Amity Global Academic Excellence Award by the Amity University, India. On the 18th of February 2020, Amity Universities Group Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr Gurinder Singh, took the liberty to hand Prof Ibrahim the award during International Business Horizon (INBUSH)'s 20th Era World Summit 2020 at Amity University India. In short, the international award honours the extraordinary contribution of leaders and academics in the fields of science, management and entrepreneurship.



Congratulations

Professor Ts. Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Abdul Motalib for another well-deserved global accolade!

A BREAKTHROUGH IN EDUCATION REFORM

UTP's substantial body of research work, knowledge transfer and global outlook boost UTP's recognition as Malaysia's top private university

2nd March 2020

Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP) is now ranked 78th in the prestigious Times Higher Education (THE) Emerging Economies Rankings 2020. The climb makes UTP the top private university in Malaysia and places UTP second, only after Universiti Malaya among Malaysian public and private universities. The THE Emerging Economies University Rankings 2020 includes only institutions in countries classified by the London Stock Exchange's FTSE Group as "advanced emerging", "secondary emerging" or "frontier". Overall, 533 universities from 47 countries or regions are included in the ranking.



QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS TOP 50: TAKING THE PROMISE OF ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO SCALE

5th March 2020

The changing nature of higher education demands a strategic development process that is proactive, inclusive, and collaborative. Against this backdrop, recently, UTP's international reputation gets a much-deserved boost after seven of its programme's subjects were ranked among the world's best in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Broad Subject of Engineering and Technology 2020.

Vice Chancellor, Professor Ts. Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Abdul Mutalib says, "The latest rankings have highlighted UTP's strengths across a broad range of subjects. This is an indication of the high standards and quality of the courses we offer. Furthermore, our performance is indicative of how our students are viewed by industry players and proves that our approach is well received by the industry."



UTP THE ONLY PRIVATE UNIVERSITY TO BE AWARDED MALAYSIA RESEARCH ASSESSMENT (MYRA) 2020'S 6-STAR RATING

Innovation leadership connects first-rate engineering, science and technology graduates to global research careers

24th March 2020

Recently, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP) was awarded a top 6-STAR rating and an outstanding award from Malaysia Research Assessment's (MyRA) Star Rating 2020. Judging was deliberated based on UTP's most recent 2018 research data. In addition, the special award was given in recognition of UTP's strong year-on-year achievement in maintaining high research standards and stretching the nation's research ambitions since 2015.



WEEKEND @ UTP



LIVING CAMPUS LIFE, PERK BY PERK

160 students catch a glimpse of what weekend life is like at UTP

At UTP, getting access to the best education tools and campus life perks are relatively routine. For this, UTP invited 160 students from Sekolah Berasrama Penuh, MRSM, Sekolah Harian and others for Weekend @ UTP, an outreach programme that provides an opportunity for tertiary level students to get a first taste of campus life.

Accompanied by parents, the two-day event walked participating families through the leading programmes offered by UTP. The event also touched on the compelling career prospects that await candidates, especially for being a part of a leading university in engineering, science and technology.

Interestingly, participating families were taken for a tour around the campus and UTP's enviable laboratories. Next, UTP's music and arts and culture groups shared first-hand experience of student lifestyle at campus as they were serenaded by UTP Virtuoso and UTP's very own Gamelan group, Sanggar Kirana.

Afterwards, the families headed to oval park for a game of frisbee and a casual training session with UTP's rugby and football teams, The Drillers and UTP Spartans. Last but not least, the programme took place across three weekends on the 1st of February, 15th February and 29th February.



UTP BAGS SPECIAL AWARDS AT MALAYSIA TECHNOLOGY EXPO 2020

Thinking in new boxes powered UTP researchers' award-winning inventions

A nice touch of innovation accurately sums up UTP's outstanding achievements at the Malaysia Technology Expo (MTE) 2020 that took place on the 20th of February at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), KL. In total, UTP bagged 2 special awards, 2 gold medals, 5 silver medals and 3 bronze medals from 10 products entries.

Kudos to Deputy Vice Chancellor of Research and Innovation, Professor Ir Dr Mohd Shahir Liew, Associate Professor Dr. Ahmad Majdi Abdul Rani and their teams for reaping top honours for their inventions, POSEIDON and PMEDM. Congratulations all WINNERS, keep it up!



UTP GIVING DAY 2020

In life's give and take, giving is better

On the 4th of March, UTP held its inaugural Giving Day at Pocket D. Decidedly, the event sought to inspire acts of kindness in UTP community. Mobilised by Yayasan UTP, the event was anchored around encouraging UTP's internal and external stakeholders to contribute to charitable causes by giving back their time, effort or money to the society and university. At the event, Professor Dr Nor Hisham Hamid, UTP's Deputy Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs & Alumni (DVCSAA) formalised the event's maiden edition. It was open to all and was participated by a number of external parties such as the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), PETRONAS Dagangan Berhad (PDB), MISI7 and Hospital Changkat Melintang that also participated for the event's exhibition, blood donation and talk.



COLOURS OF RANGGOLI NIGHT 2020

High-energy beats and whirling dance celebrate UTP Colours of Ranggoli Night 2020's cultural diversity

Indian dances electrified a crowd of over 1,000 turn up at UTP's Colours of Ranggoli (UCRN) 2020 held on the 18th of January 2020. In its ninth iteration, the event promotes Indian culture and traditions through art, music and dance performances. Themed 'Absolute India', the event aptly represents the diversity sowed at UTP and saw students from Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka, Limkokwing University and Taylors University battling it out at the event's dance competition. Also, the event successfully raised RM4,000 and the funds were contributed to Precious Home Ipoh, Vision Home Ipoh, Salvation Army Home Ipoh and students from Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Tamil Tronoh, where every beneficiary received RM1,000 each. Batu Gajah Member of Parliament, YB Tuan Sivakumar Varatharaju Naidu was also present to hand over the mock cheques as well as launching the event.



UTP BLITZ AND UTP PANTHERS RACK UP CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHIES YET AGAIN!

Congratulations to both our netball (UTP Blitz) and hockey (UTP Panthers) teams for being crowned champions recently at the tightly contested Nottingham Netball Varsity Tournament 2020 and Klang Hockey Festival 2020 tournaments respectively. Hold your heads up high and keep up the good work!



UTP 7S RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP 2020

Rugby championship playing an oversize role in UTP's rugby development

UTP 7s Rugby Championship 2020 saw host teams, UTP Drillers and UTP Drillers Alumni winning in the Cup, Bowl and Plate categories. The two-day national competition was participated by 24 teams from all over Malaysia, including participation of three national players from the 2019 SEA Games. This was the second edition of UTP 7s Rugby Championship, organised by UTP's Talent Enrichment Unit, Centre for Student Development and UTP Drillers Rugby Club.



UTP DRILLERS CHAMPIONS OF NATIONAL RUGBY COMPETITION

UTP Drillers overcame a tough tournament draw beating five SUKMA teams to emerge as worthy winners

UTP Drillers sustained their domination in local rugby circuit after emerging as champions in the Plate Category of the Get into Rugby (GIR) Arau 7s Rugby Tournament. UTP Drillers displayed superlative performance to overcome five Sukma (Sukan Malaysia) teams namely Kedah, Perlis, Terengganu, Selangor and Perak en route to winning the competition. The national level tournament brought together 54 teams from all over Malaysia to compete across four categories: Touch Rugby Under 21 (Female), Under 17 (Male), Under 19 Vocational (Male) and Under 21 (Male). Congratulations UTP Drillers. Keep up the good work!

DRIVING GROWTH THROUGH INNOVATION ENABLEMENT

UTP and the industry continue to put a spotlight on synergies



UTP, Cekap Technical Services Sdn Bhd and Somay-Q Technology Inc launch a collaboration role for the innovation of corrosion technology

Following the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), UTP, under the fold of its Centre for Corrosion Research, will work together and share research resources with Cekap Technical Services Sdn Bhd and Somay-Q Technology. The collaboration combines innovative research methods and deep industry knowledge to turn trends research into real-world solutions for the industry. Further, all parties will define a practical collaboration strategy that supports industry growth and the centre's goal towards becoming a global hub for scientific discovery and innovation by 2025.



UTP and Gambia National Petroleum Corporation to work together in scaling rapid scientific, technical, management and engineering competencies

On the 15th of January 2020, UTP and Gambia National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to identify growth opportunities in order to boost both parties' scientific, technical, management and engineering competencies. In brief, the MoU laid a foundation for potential subsequent collaborations in several other fields as well as joint organisation of seminars, conferences, short courses, training services and public lectures.



UTP and Halliburton intensify collaboration to bring deep-tech research solutions from the lab to the industry

On the 11th of February, UTP stretches its long-standing collaboration with Halliburton by signing a Collaboration Agreement and Professorial Chair Agreement with the global firm's subsidiary, Halliburton Technical Excellence Centre Sdn Bhd. The collaboration, which first started in 2005, led to the establishment of Halliburton's Technical Excellence Centre at UTP. Following the collaboration's expansion, this places UTP in a favourable position to endeavour mightily in the quest to become a leader in technology education and research.



Joining forces: UTP signs MoU with UiTM to close gap between academia and the industry

UTP and Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to undertake a joint effort to close the gap between academia and the industry. In addition, the MoU outlined a plan to deepen strategic networking ties between public and private universities.



HUMANISING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Yayasan PETRONAS and UTP brought festive cheer to 1,500 Malaysians nationwide during Chinese New Year

At UTP, we are deeply committed to using our talents and resources to address challenges that make a measurable difference in society. Therefore, in conjunction with the Chinese New Year, UTP collaborated with Yayasan PETRONAS, state agencies, NGOs and volunteers to hand out basic necessities, household items, hampers and angpows to families in need.

Mobilised via Yayasan PETRONAS' inaugural Sentuhan Kasih Tahun Baru Cina programme, the aid touched 1,500 underprivileged Malaysians nationwide during the Chinese New Year. The programme ran from the 15th of January to the 8th of February 2020. In addition, volunteers took part in 'gotong-royong' with community members where beneficiaries were also treated to lion dance performances as a symbolic gesture of ushering in the year of the rat.

Meanwhile, in Perak, UTP volunteers extended their helping hands to 100 beneficiaries from Pusat Jagaan 1 Malaysia Ipoh, Rumah Anak Yatim dan Miskin Anning Ipoh, The Salvation Army Ipoh Children's Home and Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan (C) Chung Sun Tronoh. Beneficiaries received shopping vouchers from UTP's Vice Chancellor, Professor Ts Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Abdul Mutalib.

Yayasan PETRONAS CEO, Lita Osman says, "We hope to fulfil the needs of less privileged Malaysian families and individuals and put smiles on their faces this new year through the Sentuhan Kasih Yayasan PETRONAS programme." In addition, UTP volunteer, Jaszmin Hanim Hussain says, "I believe even a small act of kindness can impact the lives of those in need and, therefore, make their celebration more meaningful."

Yayasan PETRONAS' Sentuhan Kasih programme is a part of the foundation's community well-being and development focus area. The programme was established to coincide with major festive celebrations in Malaysia. Significantly, it provides an avenue for Yayasan PETRONAS to work with local communities in order to provide for their basic needs and well-being.

IN PERSON WITH

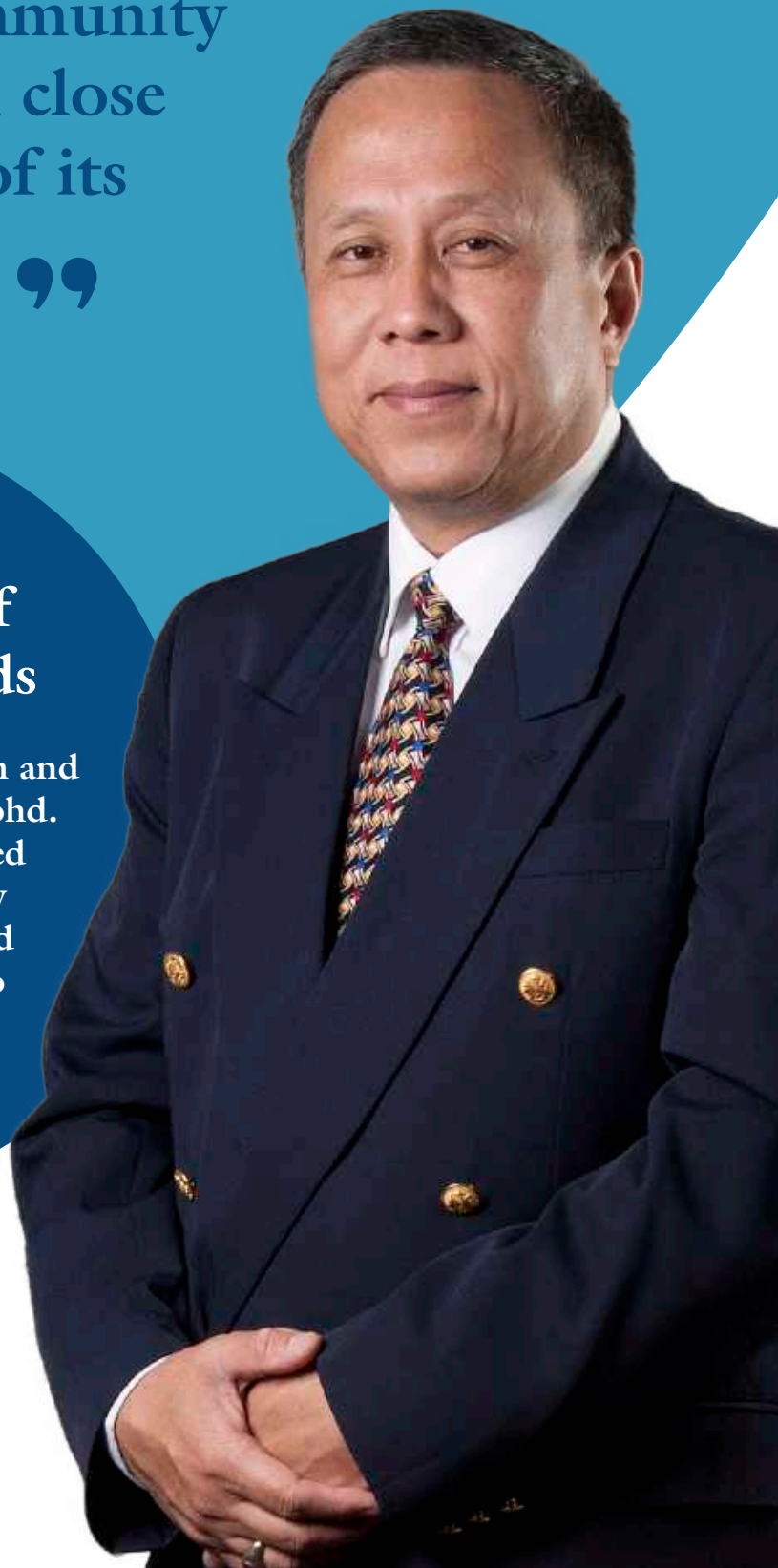
PROFESSOR IR. DR. MOHD SHAHIR LIEW

DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR & CHAIRMAN, USR STEERING COMMITTEE

“ The charter for a
compassionate community
hinges largely on close
collaborations of its
members ”

Creating a virtuous circle of empowering hands

Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Innovation, Professor Ir. Dr. Mohd. Shahir Liew discusses the shared aspiration of UTP's University Social Responsibility efforts and how all of us can join hands to make a lasting impact.





Teaching a community how to fish

In 2013, UTP revamped its University Social Responsibility (USR) framework to provide a novel, forward-looking view of assessing its surrounding communities' vitality. As education and industry innovators, UTP wanted local communities in its campus vicinity to grow and prosper.

Decidedly, the new concept was mooted to alter UTP's local communities' fortune with life-changing results. The new USR plan shifted focus from being purely philanthropic and charity-based to capacity building for empowerment. It was designed to help UTP's local communities escape the trap of poverty and low growth.

Prof Shahir says, "We hit the ground running in 2013. At the time, one of our USR team's first tasks was to conduct a needs analysis. Led by Dr Shahrina Md Nordin, (then Head of Management and Humanities' department), the team went to Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat Perak Tengah (Perak Tengah Community Welfare Department) and also the Perak Tengah district office. The visit's objective was to identify poverty hotspots and communities that could benefit from our social responsibility efforts. Later, we mapped the zones and came up with plans to help local communities in these zones climb out of poverty," elaborates Prof Shahir.

Since, UTP identified three key areas, where its collective strengths as a university and all the resources that the university has at its disposal can be put to good use to grow the communities around it. "The roots of a prosperous community are influenced by education, socioeconomic and environmental determinants. Our hope is to scale a full potential transformation across these three key areas. However, we need to make sure that all of our stakeholders: academics, management, support staff and students remain consistent in contributing to our local communities' social and economic prosperity," stresses Prof Shahir.

The time to act is now

There is a moral imperative to maintain and improve the prosperity of UTP's surrounding communities according to Prof Shahir. To fulfil the vow, everyone has a role to play. But there is a clear need to strengthen coordination across multiple stakeholders to improve the effectiveness and impact of these efforts.

Prof Shahir says, "However, we cannot do it alone, change efforts depend on having a strong sponsorship spine. We need to source financial contributions from outside in order to restore the vitality of our communities as they grow and mature. This is why we need help from all of you. Sharing the load of the cause and taking joint action are the only way to facilitate community-level change."

For more info, please visit USR website at www.utp.edu.my/usr or email to usr@utp.edu.my.

UTP'S EXCHANGE STUDENTS GET A TASTE OF LOCAL LIFE



Some have already found a foothold in Malaysia

Oftentimes, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS has been likened to a beehive for its stellar track record in producing scores of global graduates. To demonstrate why, recently, we caught up with two foreign exchange students to get their take on the university. As they fix up their short summer break, we asked them to recall what they like most about living in Perak.



Visiting Malaysia from France, Margaux Annabella Brebant, 21 gets a really good impression of how nice and outgoing Malaysians are. Margaux is a mechanical engineering student from France's Insa University, Rouen. She shares, "I find Malaysian people very friendly. There was one time I went to the market, I came across this aunty who stared at me oddly. After a few moments, she asked where I was from."

"When I told her I was from France, she then told me she had been to France before and invited me to have dinner at her house. Me and my French friends ended up staying the night at her house," she adds.

Reflecting the broad appeal of Perak, Belgian, Stef Van Deursan, a business management student from the Management Centre Innsbruck (MCI), Austria says, "UTP's campus is kind of like a mini city. I think the location here is amazing. The calmness here reminds me not to overdo things to strike that perfect balance between life and career. It's completely polarizing to other big cities like Kuala Lumpur. The people here are really warm and they seem to enjoy life so much more."

UTP'S ENTERPRISING ROCK BAND SWAPS ANGRY CHORDS FOR VERSATILE PERFORMING FLAIR



Rock band deviates from the norm to inspire more budding musicians

When it comes to music, the indie moniker is a confusing one. It has grown to include so much. In a sense, it says as much about the people who are drawn to it as it does about the people who make it.

UTP's music band, Virtuoso UTP, however, defines indie music by pairing up two qualities that are not often seen together from a band—enterprising and independent. In short, the band has great music nous and versatility to match. From the indie rock spectrum to classic Malay, the band has become a seasoned group of performing musicians.



Almost every week too, the band rounds up its best songs and winds its way through the campus' streets busking. Apart from this, the band recently launched its official Youtube channel, Virtuoso UTP. Its President, Ahmad Bukhari Mohd Shahrir shares that the channel was launched to give its members an outlet to showcase their talent. Bukhari says, he wants the band to grow as they continue to fine-tune their song-writing and playing prowess at an organic pace.

SOCIALLY DISTANCED, COLLABORATIVELY CLOSE

Despite turmoil, UTP's staff and students rally around to fight the spread of COVID-19

Four months into 2020, the world is a very different place. As the world scrambles to fight COVID-19, UTP's staff and students will continue to stand together in solidarity. As such, 1,300 students stranded around the campus's residential villages are well taken care of.

Although it's uncertain how long this deeply challenging, uncertain and worrying moment will last, these times require flexibility and new thinking. However, for change to occur and for us to be able to beat the pandemic, particularly in flattening the curve, it's essential to support our actions with the right messages and reinforcements.

To thrive on such pivotal moments, while far from easy, this process will almost certainly lead to a tremendous amount of innovation and new behaviour, which includes reimagining how we collaborate virtually.

Last but not least, for now, stay home and stay safe. Together, we can beat it!



Congratulations

Our heartiest
congratulations to

**YB Wan Ahmad Fayhsal
bin Wan Ahmad Kamal**

Class of 2010,
Chemical Engineering,
on your recent
appointment as the

**Deputy Minister of the
Ministry of Youth and
Sports**

