

**OFFICIATING SPEECH BY
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STUDENTS EXCELLENCE APPRECIATION (SEA) AWARDS

**Wednesday, 25 September 2019
Main Hall, UTP**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Chastan Shieh Li-Zhen
Project Director
Students Excellence Appreciation Awards (SEA Awards) 2019

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Deputy Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs and Alumni

Associate Professor Dr Nurlidia Mansor
Director, Centre of Student Development

Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera and a very good evening to all of you.

Alhamdulillah, all praise to Allah the Most Gracious and Most Merciful for it is with His Grace and Blessings that we are all gathered here this evening to witness this memorable event. Tonight, we are here to celebrate you and your successes, and recognise your achievements in this annual Students Excellence Appreciation (SEA) Awards 2019. Organised by UTP students for UTP students, the awards to be given tonight are not just for acknowledging students who have performed exceptionally well in sports,

performing arts and visual arts, but also the ones who were proactive in various social events. The aim is to motivate students to shine in their respective fields other than academics.

Therefore, let me take this opportunity to congratulate the winners who are honoured today. Your determination, commitment, resolve and drive are inspirational. You challenge each of us to reflect on how we can do more to improve what we do. I hope you will motivate others to also excel and further strengthen the university's value-driven education approach.

Dear Students, Ladies and Gentlemen,

UTP is committed to ongoing efforts to distinguish ourselves from other universities by building a student-centric ecosystem. Here new ideas are fertilised and interesting approaches to learning pioneered. Our vision is to establish an unparalleled intellectual environment that is rich in content and easily applicable in industry and in the community.

We want for our students to become part of a vibrant campus. We give students a chance to put ideas into conversation with other points of view, other experiences, and different methodologies across a broad range of disciplines. We not only constantly expand student facilities, but we offer a wider spectrum of cultural and social activities. By doing so, we hope to deliver an unrivalled and enriching student experience.

One of our approach now is profiling students in which we try to find out students' strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. By doing so we hope that we can seek to build a picture of a student's overall interests and strengths, both in academic and non-academic areas. Last year, the Technopreneurship Centre conducted a study to gauge students' entrepreneurial inclination. One of the areas was on skills and talents. And they discovered Haikal Irfan, a Chemical Engineering student who has a knack in sketching. Last week, during the Siswa Berbudi An-Nur event at the An-Nur Mosque, Haikal was given the opportunity and the limelight to showcase his talented skills in freehand sketching. With this kind of story, the university hopes that we have nurtured our students' zeal not just for science, technology, engineering and mathematics but also for students' passion and enthusiasm. I hope that more of you will step out from your shell and come forward to share your skills, talents and ideas where we can fertilise all these to encompass your entire student experience here in UTP.

Dear Students, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yesterday UTP was fortunate to spend the day with YB Yeo Bee Yin, the Minister of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment & Climate Change (MESTECC). We are proud to have a UTP-borne minister with a portfolio that resonates with the university's vision and mission. She has shared that she won't be the last UTPian to be someone who contributes greatly to the country and this is something that I would like to propagate. By highlighting an alumni's successes, I believe that all of you serve as an advocate for the University's integrity. The connection between the students and its

university as well as the alumni is very strong. And it can grow in many different ways, a shared experience that can be very fruitful in creating a legacy with a sense of purpose.

With this SEA Awards, it is fitting that we have a wide range of awards to recognise the diversity of talents we have amongst our students. It is heartening that our best students have demonstrated not just academic excellence, but also values and mindsets to become responsible global citizens in facing a world of challenges.

Tonight, not only we recognise these wide-ranging talents among our students, as well as their determination and drive. But we also recognise the care and guidance of their mentors and advisors who have encouraged and inspired them in one way or another. Thank you to those who have assisted these clubs and societies in their activities, events and endeavours.

I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to all the winners. I wish all of you the best as you continue your pursuit of excellence.

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful, it now gives me great pleasure to officiate the Students Excellence Appreciation (SEA) Awards 2019.

Thank you and Wabillahitaufikwalhidayah,
wassalamualaikumwarahmatullahiwabarakatuh.