

UTP QUARTERLY

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2020

ISSUE 75

ISSN 1675 - 2023

COMING OUT
STRONGER





EDITORIAL TEAM

Advisor

Professor Ts.
Dr Mohamed
Ibrahim Abdul
Mutalib

Editor-In-Chief

Shamsina
Shaharun

Photographers

Mohd Hazrin
Ismail

Editors

Mohd Zulkarnain
Zulkifli
Wan Madihah
Wan Abd
Rahman Jauhari

Contributor

Zul Asnawi
Zaiman

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: 1-300-22-8887

www.utp.edu.my



UTPofficial

COVER RATIONALE



The education sector is experiencing its fair share of challenges in this current pandemic, but at UTP, we are resilient in striving to rise above it all towards greater heights, where education is a continuous journey from good to great. Life doesn't get easier or more forgiving, but future-proofing our roadmap is a stepping stone towards sustainable excellence.

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

Weathering through Storms Together with the Spirit of Hope and Education

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh and hello everyone.

It has been a tumultuous period since our last quarterly issue, and as we all adapt to a new way of life, I would like to stress that the choices we make every day determine how resilient we can be when things go wrong. Change is inevitable, and being resilient in the face of adversity helps us not only survive change, but also learn, grow, and thrive in it. Much of what we're facing is temporary - we've overcome setbacks before and together, we can do it again.

The good news is, despite the Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO) extension, classes are still being conducted albeit online. Our infrastructure, cooperation from students and hard work from all lecturers and staff ensured that remote learning not only commenced, but also ensured continued productivity from the ground up.

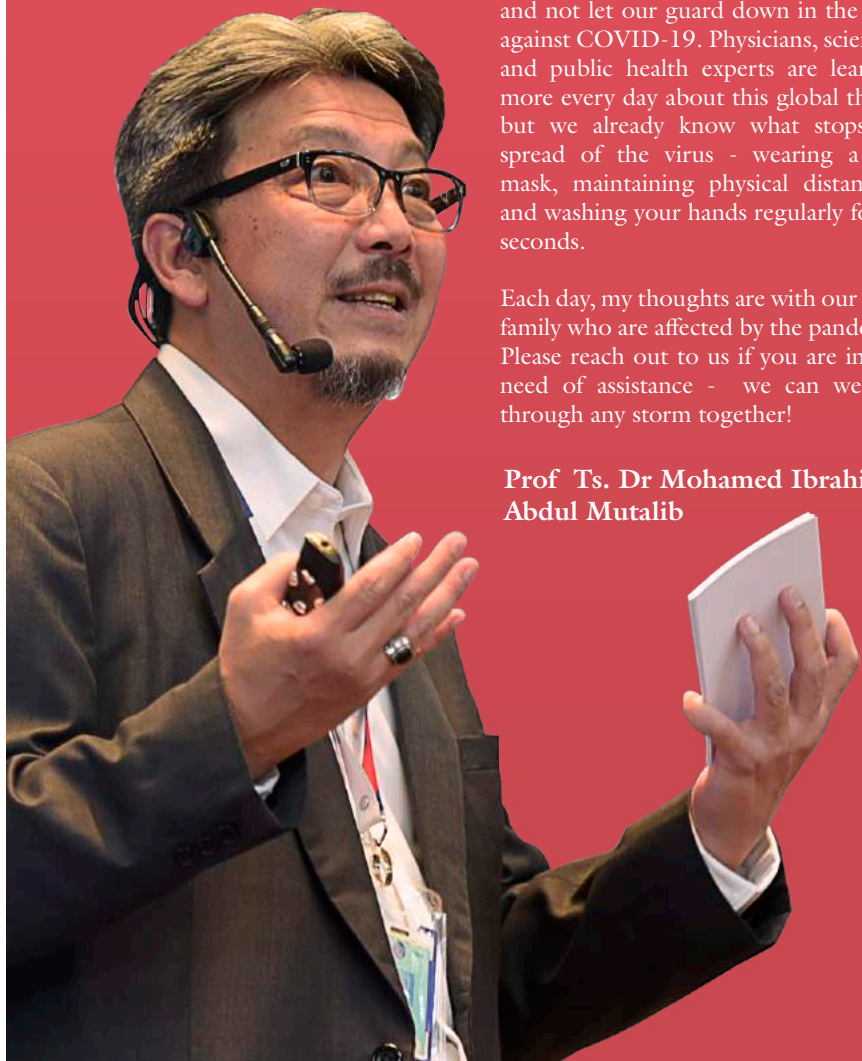
On the management front, I am proud to acknowledge everyone's efforts and initiatives in ensuring education and business continuity. Our Split Team arrangement commenced smoothly, with staff members taking turns to work from home so as to maintain recommended social distancing measures.

With vast advancements in technology, events such as webinars, engagements and meetings can now be conducted online safely and efficiently. This reminds us to stay agile and to constantly find innovative ways to drive productivity. I'd love everyone to get into the spirit of learning and turning challenges into opportunities in our journey to develop ourselves in contributing to the well-being of the University and the nation.

Lastly, I would like to call out to each one of us here to increase our vigilance and not let our guard down in the fight against COVID-19. Physicians, scientists and public health experts are learning more every day about this global threat, but we already know what stops the spread of the virus - wearing a face mask, maintaining physical distancing, and washing your hands regularly for 20 seconds.

Each day, my thoughts are with our UTP family who are affected by the pandemic. Please reach out to us if you are in dire need of assistance - we can weather through any storm together!

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



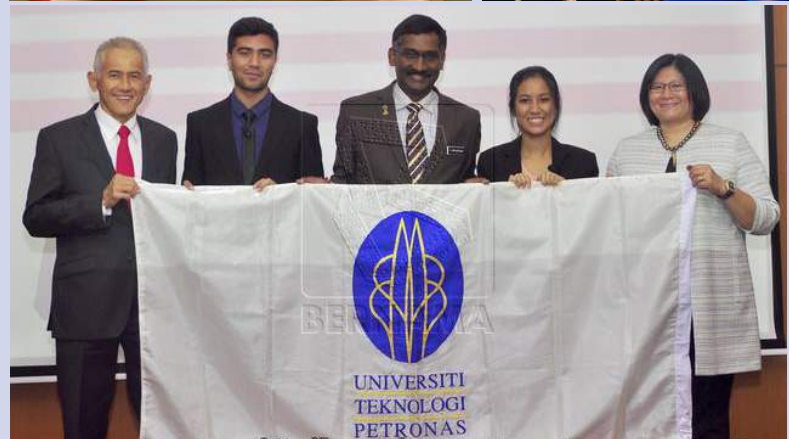
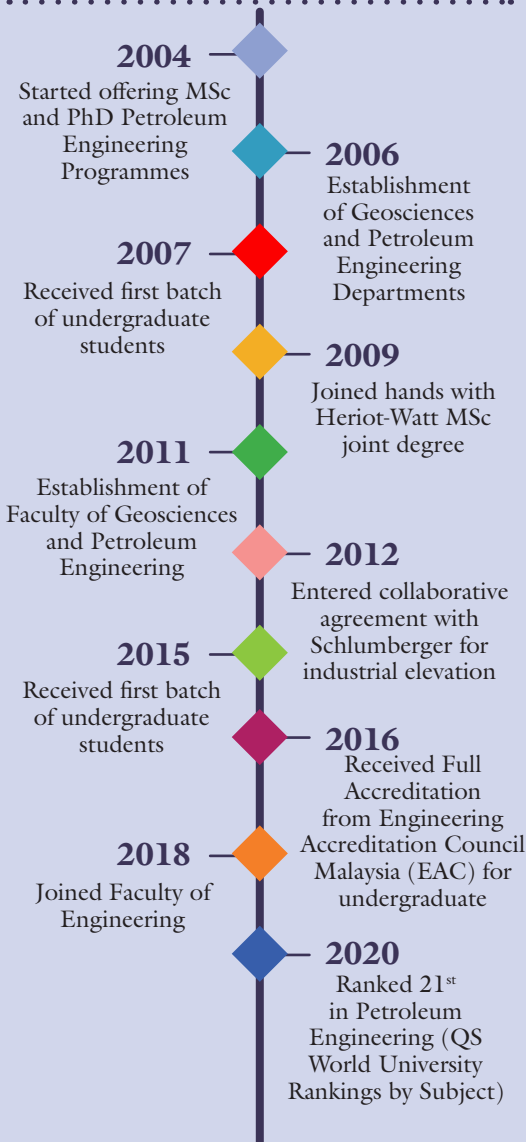
UTP PETROLEUM ENGINEERING PROGRAMME RANKS 21ST IN THE WORLD AND 1ST IN THE NATION

It is no secret that UTP is considered one of the world's best engineering and technology universities. Recently, the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject 2020 cemented this fact when two of our engineering programmes broke into the Top 50 position.

Not only did our Petroleum Engineering programme achieve its highest ever ranking at 21st place, UTP was also awarded 42nd Best University in the world for Mineral and Mining Engineering, thus making us the Best University in the Nation for this programme - thanks to our Petroleum Engineering Department.



UTP Petroleum Engineering: Momentous Milestones



RIDING THE WAVE OF TECHNOLOGY AND CONNECTIVITY AT THE INAUGURAL VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR 2020

VIS2020: The Global Pandemic: Issues, Impacts and Opportunities 2020 and Beyond

UTP's spirit of agility and passion for never-ending progress was proven recently when organisers from our Centre for Organisational and Social Research in Energy (COSRE) hosted our very first Virtual International Seminar 2020 (VIS2020) on 1 - 2 September 2020 in collaboration with University of Nizwa (Sultanate of Oman), Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) and University of Nebraska-Lincoln (USA). VIS2020's goals include:

1. Creating a platform for researchers and scientists to engage in a scholarly discourse on the global pandemic
2. Allowing researchers and practitioners across continents to convene in a common platform accessible by all

The knowledge sharing sessions hosted by the four collaborating universities was conducted via MS Teams Live Event and notable topics were shared throughout the two-day event.

VIS2020 Stats

549 registered participants
1,000+ online viewers

Next VIS event to be hosted by University of Nizwa, Sultanate of Oman

Hosted by Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP)

Prof Ir Dr Mohd Shahir Liew
 Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research and Innovation, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS
 Topic: Digitalisation In O&G Industry During Pandemic in the New Normal

Prof Jose Orlando Gomes,
 Human Factors & Ergonomics, Resilience Engineering, Industrial Engineering Department, Polytechnical School, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro
 Topic: Health & Safety Challenges in The New Normal

Ms Muna Al Darmaki
 In-Country Value Strategy Lead, Ministry of Energy and Minerals, Oman
 Topic: Impact of Covid-19 on Local Content / In-Country Value Development

Dr Mahzan Haron,
 Principal Occupational Health, Project Delivery & Technology PETRONAS
 Topic Global Pandemic: A PETRONAS PD&T Experience

DAY 1

Hosted by University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA (UNL)

Topic: International Higher Education in the Time of COVID-19: Opportunities, Challenges, and New Ways Forward
 A Panel Discussion with U.S. Higher Education Administrators

Topic: Values of Virtual Classroom Exchanges Effects of the Pandemic: Students Panel

Hosted by University of Nizwa, Sultanate of Oman (UoN)

Prof Abdulaziz Yahya AlKindi
 Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Nizwa

Dr Sutan Emir Hidayat
 Director of Education and Research, National Committee for Islamic Economy and Finance (KNEKS), Indonesia
 Topic: Effects of COVID-19 Outbreak on Islamic Finance in OIC Countries

Dr Firas A H Al-Abduwani
 CEO, HTC (Hussam Technology Company)
 Topic: Impact of COVID-19 on Small and Medium Businesses: Challenges and Opportunities, Middle East Perspective

Dr Talal Al-Aulaqi
 Senior Policy Advisor, Oman Economics Association
 Topic: Impacts on Energy Sector during Covid-19 Pandemic period

DAY 2

Prof Luis Eduardo Duque Dutra
 School of Chemistry, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro
 Topic: The Pace of the Recovery after the Pandemic and the Brazilian Energy Sector

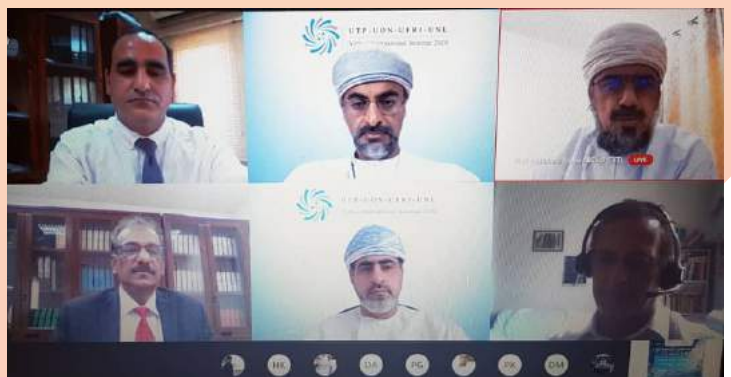
Hosted by Federal University of Rio di Janeiro, Brazil (FRDJ)

Dr Affendi Isa
 Principal Assistant Director, Health Education Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia
 Topic: Responding To COVID-19 Pandemic in Malaysia: Role of Risk Communication & Health Promotion Initiatives

Dr Hosanna Carina Rodriguez Morales
 President of National Federation of Occupational Health in Mexico
 Topic: Fighting COVID-19 And Workers Health in Mexico: A Challenge for Occupational Health

Dr Waleed Al Rajhi
 Dean, Planning and Quality Management, University of Nizwa
 Topic: Government Response on Education During COVID-19 Pandemic: Oman Perspectives

Prof Michael Rayo
 Cognitive Systems Engineering, Resilience Engineering, Integrated Systems Engineering, The Ohio State University
 Topic: Why Are We Not Changing Quickly Enough to Manage the COVID-19 Pandemic? Obstacles in The United States



UNITING GLOBAL OIL & GAS LEADERS THROUGH INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR 2020

The global oil and gas industry have undergone a big shift in terms of demand and pricing affected by the current pandemic. What lies ahead in the coming months and even years remain unseen, but organisers behind a collaborative effort by UTP, Petrosphere Inc., and Palawan State University was determined to help oil and gas companies navigate the current landscape through their International Webinar: Impact of COVID-19 on Oil and Gas Industry event recently on 21 August 2020.

With participants spanning across Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines, the fully remote International Webinar garnered well over 1000 viewers via MS Teams Event Live and Facebook live streaming.

Key speakers at the event include UTP's very own Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research & Innovation, Prof Ir Dr Mohd Shahir Liew who wowed the crowd with his topic "Digitalisation of Oil & Gas as a New Normal". Other notable topics shared during the event include "Impact of COVID-19 Leading in Oil and Gas Uncertainties" by Dr Budi W. Soetjipto (Universitas Pertamina) and "Impact of COVID-19 Amongst Migrant Workers" by Engr Harthwell Capistrano, RN, MSEM (Petrosphere Inc).



UNEARTHING ENTREPRENEURIAL TALENTS AT CRADLE FUND START-UP ROADSHOW 2020

UTP recently hosted the Cradle Fund Start-up Roadshow in Ipoh in collaboration with Cradle Fund as well as other funding agencies under Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI). Held recently on 27 August 2020, the outreach session was created to meet talented local entrepreneurs in Ipoh and share insights on various offerings and initiatives by the Government to help and support the country's growth of technology and innovation sector.

We are proud to have helped hosted the roadshow in line with MOSTI's mission of turning Malaysia into a #HighTechNation, and will continue supporting Cradle Fund in their funding programmes as well as other initiatives to encourage more collaboration and further funding opportunities for Malaysian tech companies to grow beyond their home country.



MAKING A SUCCESSFUL PIVOT TO VIRTUAL: FIRST EVER ONLINE BROWN BAG TEA FORUM SESSION HELD

The UTP Alumni Relation Office collaborated with UTP's Centre for Student Development to host this year's Brown Bag Tea Forum Session held 100% online. Hosted on 22 July, the event featured the theme: Adapt or Abort: Redefining Expectations, Skills and Values. Streamed live via MSTeams and Facebook, the event garnered over 1,200 attendees who were keen on learning how to adapt in light of the current global situation.

The panellists who helped made the event a successful one included Uzma Berhad Managing Director and CEO, Datuk Kamarul Redzuan, Deleum Berhad Group Managing Director, Encik Nan Yusri Nan Rahimy, and member of the Board of Directors PETRONAS, Encik Ainul Azhar Ainul Jamal.

A huge thank you and well done to all who were involved in the event.



FORGING UTP THAI ALUMNI CONNECTIONS AMIDST COVID-19

Seeing UTP alumni members from outside the country returning to their alma mater to reflect, reminisce and reconnect is something we greatly anticipate. This year, however, will look quite different due to the global pandemic.

And although face-to-face interactions at this time are next to impossible with so many members spread across the world, the UTP Alumni community is finding new ways to come together.

This was exactly what 30 UTP alumni from Thailand did to reconnect to their alma mater. Led by Sermphon Klaiseengern, a former UTP Petroleum Engineering student (graduated 2013), the team put their heads together and hosted an online alumni gathering via MS Team.

The Virtual Coffee Chat event was essentially a sharing session between UTP's Vice Chancellor, Professor Ts. Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Abdul Mutalib and our alumni where each related crucial updates and their success stories. Prof VC reiterated the importance of each alumni's role in UTP and the many ways they can give back to their alma mater.

At the end of the session, three Thai alumni leaders were identified and appointed as the focal person for UTP, namely Sermphon Klaiseengern (based in Malaysia), Mr Abeedin Adulphakdee (based in Bangkok) and Ms Nursahida Useng (based in Southern Thailand).

Well done everyone! We look forward to many more initiatives with our international ambassadors in the coming years.



UTP VIRTUAL MERDEKA CELEBRATION

Spirits of Patriotism and ‘Malaysia Cares’ Winning Against the Pandemic

Despite the physical distance that separates us all due to the pandemic, we thought it was (and still is) important that we find a way to come together to show our spirit of patriotism this Merdeka 2020.

And, here we are today, in the midst of a global pandemic – one of the biggest crises of our generation – we found ways to safely and easily celebrate Malaysia’s 2020 Independence Day through UTP Virtual Merdeka Celebration 2020.

While the Merdeka celebrations here at UTP have enjoyed rousing support, it is also an opportunity to remember those who have lost their lives to COVID-19 as well as reflect on our values and principles to which we aspire, as we strive together to keep our UTP family continuously safe and educated.

And now, a few words from UTP Vice Chancellor Professor Ts. Dr Mohamed Ibrahim bin Abdul Mutalib...

“2020 has been a year of unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, I am delighted that this year’s National Day celebration, even though held virtually under the new normal, has retained its undying spirit of Merdeka. I am glad to see that the Merdeka and Malaysia Day celebrations have not been dampened by the current COVID-19 situation. This year, the organising committee has organised six competitions for UTP students, staff and children of staff. From the bottom of my heart, thank you to those who have participated and shown support during UTP Merdeka competitions”.

It is great to see all UTPians embrace the spirit of ‘Malaysia Cares’ this National Day as they show love and respect towards each other regardless of race and religion. Through the UTP Virtual Merdeka Celebrations 2020, we have been inspired to commemorate our independence as a nation while remaining safe and healthy during these challenging times.

Let us remember our Malaysian legacy and let us be resilient and resolve to overcome any challenges life throws at us. Malaysia Boleh!



SPARKING INNOVATIVE LEARNING INITIATIVES IN CHALLENGING TIMES

In line with our University Social Responsibility (USR) Education Pillar’s aspiration of being a caring university in technology education, creativity and innovation for the societies, UTP recently launched E-STREAM WAVES 2020 in May this year.

Held in collaboration with Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB), Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Pertubuhan Rakan Komuniti Pendidikan Perak (PRKPP) and with the support from Ministry of Education (MOE), the event was launched as part of our University Social Responsibility (USR) Education Pillar project.

With the objective of creating awareness among students and communities through STREAM online activities involving Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics, the E-STREAM WAVES platform

garnered rousing participation throughout the months of May to its official closing on 13 August 2020. The project also aimed to synergise the efforts of university, community and government ministry partnerships to create opportunities for students to continue learning during the COVID-19 lockdown months.

We were honoured to have Perak Menteri Besar, YAB Dato’ Seri Ahmad Faizal Dato’ Azumu officiate the closing of the programme. Winners of the event competitions were announced during the closing ceremony while notable highlights of their achievements were also revealed.

Also virtually present at the closing ceremony were PRKPP Chairman, YBhg Datin Normah Hanum Dato’ Ibrahim, AELB Director General, Tuan Haji Mohd Pauzi Mohd Sobari, together with representatives from MOSTI, MOE and Perak State Education Department.



TRIPLE HELIX PARTNERSHIPS IN THE POST-COVID-19 ERA

As Malaysia looks forward to the beginnings of her re-opening in the post-COVID-19 era, major stakeholders are bracing for significant changes in facing the new normal. The world of education in particular, has been shaken to its roots. In order for the education industry to thrive in this new era, old walls must come down so that previously separated domains can forge together for new ways of learning to be experienced. Collaborative effort in triple helix partnerships involving government, universities and industries/society may need to be increased. Towards this direction, the E-STREAM Wipe-out COVID-19 online event currently organised by Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP), Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB), Pertubuhan Rakan Komuniti Pendidikan Perak (PKRPP) with the support of Ministry of Education, Malaysia, demonstrates how these separate domains can be bridged towards achieving a broader educational aim.

Wall #1

Educationists in the nation, regardless of where they serve (i.e. pre-school, primary school, secondary school or higher learning) must learn how to think seamlessly across these levels of learning. This means that a child currently in Primary 1 must be imagined as an undergraduate in the making. Equally, an undergraduate in a university must be understood to have a history that can be traced back to school. Therefore, following this logic, universities must understand that schools are not merely feeders to universities. On the contrary, schools are the future of universities. In the same way, universities are also the future of schools. Their fates are intertwined and each determines the survival and indeed, the success of the other. When the walls that divide comes down, organic partnerships can be forged across schools, universities and communities. These partnerships can translate into educational platforms for each stakeholder to optimise their strength and benefit from the other's contributions. In this new era, energies must be synergised for a sustainable way forward.

Wall #2

The traditional academic division of Science versus Arts is a residue of Western knowledge production that took shape in the 19th and 20th centuries. This wall, while necessary in some respects, has situated Science separately from Arts and vice versa. Yet, behind scientific discoveries like Einstein's theory of relativity are important stories of Einstein's imaginative life that sees Science and Arts coming together. Inversely, behind the artistic beauty of music is the mathematical understanding of rhythm and the scientific basis

of timbre and harmonics, demonstrating again the co-existence of Arts and Science. In Malaysia, there has been some national initiative towards bringing down this wall so that Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STREAM) can begin to be acknowledged and applied in schools. In the universities, this same concept has also been embraced, although "multidiscipline" is the term being used. However, it is important to bear in mind that the advocacy of STREAM and multidisciplinary should not result in a generation of generalists. In fact, more than ever, real expertise in any one discipline is needed. This is to rival the flood of information that has become a norm in our day-to-day existence. Without disciplinary knowledge, the power to discriminate fake from real news will diminish. Yet, at the same time, this new era requires us to be flexible enough to learn new skills at any age. Thus, if this wall of academic division is removed, deep and holistic knowledge can be gained in the learning experience.

Wall #3

In this new era, the wall that previously separated the virtual and the physical world has naturally broken down as more people find ways to live their lives in virtual modes. Particularly in the field of education where teaching and learning has shifted almost completely online, video and audio content have become legitimised and even formalised. Children must learn to be good content producers. This requires learners to have a deep sense of curiosity and strong initiative to acquire online-based skills that may be very contrasting to school-based skills. At the same time, with more of our lives put on display, new forms of respect for boundaries must be considered. Educators and learners alike must be aware of new conduct on this platform. As educational events go online therefore, important considerations of privacy and copyright will need to be thought through.

In the words of John Dewey, "education must be conceived as a continuing reconstruction of experience". As we confront our new world in the coming months and years, school, university and community partnerships are needed, more than ever.

The writer is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Management and Humanities, Institute of Self-Sustainable Building (ISB), University Social Responsibility (USR) Education Pillar, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP).



This article was also featured in BERNAMA:
<https://www.bernama.com/en/thoughts/news.php?id=1868564>

UTP'S BACHELOR IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT STUDENTS CLINCHES TOP SPOT IN YOUNG CEO CHALLENGE 2020

At UTP, it goes without saying that we thrive on our students' achievements. Earlier on in August this year, we are proud to witness yet another noteworthy accomplishment from our UTPians.

This time, it was our very own Bachelor of Business Management (BBM) students who battled against 30 dynamic teams to take home the champion's title in the Young CEO Challenge (YCC) 2020 event.

Congratulations Team Innomic!

- Muhammad Luqman Ariff Zulkifli (team leader)
- Vincent Hoh Wen Xuan
- Nur Alysha Balqis Rosman
- Winnie Low Yin Peng

Team Innomic braved through three stages: Millionaire Hedge Fund, Surviving CEO and Life as a Trader, as well as specific tasks to steer oil and gas, construction, manufacturing and banking companies through the designated stages.

Millionaire Hedge Fund Stage

Team Innomic breezed through this stage with their investment portfolio and risk management plan to convince fund and shareholders. It was ultimately their tenacity, anticipation of financial markets, analytical skills on trajectories and projection of how events could impact market activities that got them the ticket to the next stage.

Surviving CEO Stage

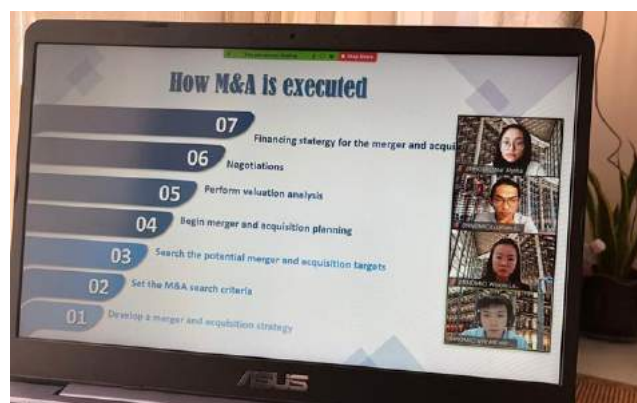
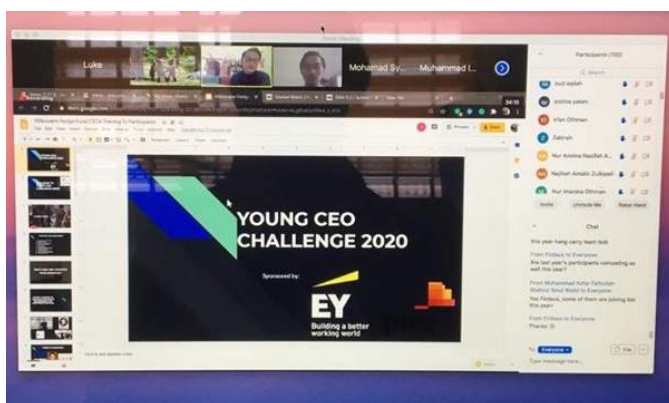
Here, Team Innomic wowed the panel of judges from EY and PwC with their financial, communication and negotiation skills, sound judgment, decision-making abilities, and team dynamism. Within a specific scenario, they successfully sold shareholders on their merger and acquisition plan to improve the company's performance and wealth creation.

Life As A Trader Stage

In this final round, Team Innomic proved their mettle with their mathematics and analytical skills, confidence, IT skills and interest in financial markets. Their sound investment recommendations and sensible ROI led them to the end of the finals with winning results.

Despite being at a critical time of the semester, Team Innomic underwent simulation sessions for each challenge as well as intensive training under the guidance of a team of Management and Humanities (MH) Department Lecturers.

The students exclaimed that they were grateful to be in YCC 2020 as it exposed them to real-life business management challenges. The competition was tough but the spirit of being a UTP BBM student gave them confidence, and ultimately emerge as winners.



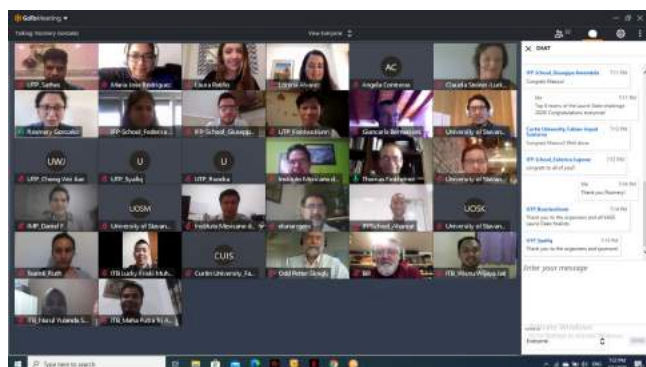
UTP'S TEAM OZIL ENERGY WON 2ND PRIZE AT EAGE LAURIE DAKE CHALLENGE 2020

UTP's Team Ozil was awarded the 2nd Prize for the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers (EAGE) Laurie Dake Challenge 2020 last August. Led by Sathes Kumar, the team took on the challenge during the first semester of their final year after submitting their application and first assignment in December 2019.

The team was part of the 13 teams out of 48 who made it to the semi-final round, and consequently joined 5 other teams as they advanced to the next round.

The Laurie Dake Challenge is a long-running project for EAGE students. The project is a fully integrated evaluation and development task that challenges students to simulate a real industry activity where the dataset was provided by the industry. This year, SHELL provided the challenge's dataset.

Depending on the pandemic situation, the final round will be held tentatively during the official Opening Ceremony of EAGE Annual Conference & Exhibition in Amsterdam on 8 December 2020, where the EAGE President will be announcing the official Laurie Dake Challenge 2020 winning team.



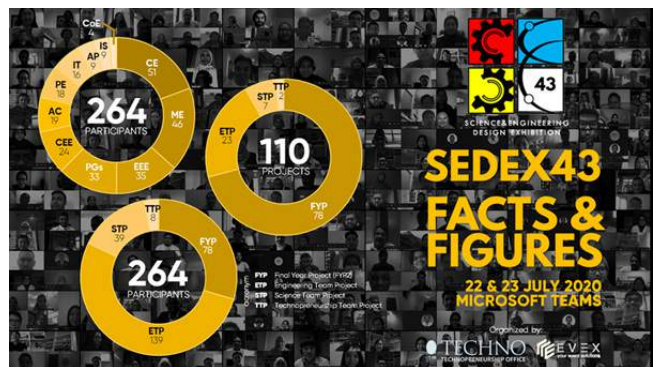
SEDEX43: MAKING HISTORY AS THE FIRST REMOTELY HOSTED SEDEX SINCE 1997

This biannual event was held on 22-23 July with the theme: “Discover. Challenge. Innovate”, and was officiated by Associate Prof Dr Nurlidia Mansor, Director of Centre for Student Development (CSD). This edition of SEDEX saw encouraging participation by 264 students who submitted a total of 110 entries in 4 different categories.

Despite challenges brought about by the MCO, we are proud to have kept the SEDEX tradition going by providing opportunities for all participants to present their projects despite being spread all across the country.

Congratulations to all award recipients, students and their respective supervisors, for displaying commitment and resilience during these unprecedented times.

The University is committed to continue making SEDEX a great platform that drives opportunities for the campus community to show their creativity and cultivate innovativeness. This is in line with our pursuit to become the Centre for Creativity and Innovation.



USR SOCIOECONOMIC PILLAR SPOTLIGHT

With Assoc Prof Dr Shahrina Md Nordin

How Our Journey Towards Sustainable Socio-Economy Began

As the University's Social Responsibility (USR) Socio-Economic Pillar Leader, the team has always believed in this old adage: "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."

We started in 2014, and this belief grew stronger as we witnessed how community members of all ages around us, especially in rural areas, were able to thrive when they were equipped with vital resources deemed crucial for their survival.

Prior to that, UTP had already embarked on a new approach for its University Social Responsibility (USR) initiatives. We sought to shift the focus from being purely philanthropic and instead, created a roadmap fuelled with capability-building initiatives to empower the people around us.

With that in mind, the team set out to make a difference to the communities who are in need of resources, education and other essential necessities. After the initial round of assessment consisting of surveys and interviews, our task force selected Kampung Aji to be our pilot village. It was also our first fully USR-structured project conceived after numerous trial-and-error socioeconomic ventures. The village was located in the poverty hotspot of Perak Tengah, and that was where we based our USR efforts for the past years as it was our pilot project. Other villages designated as the site of our USR efforts include Kampung Layang-layang Kanan. From then onwards, various programmes have been implemented such as Pusat Inovasi Desa and Digital Bazaar Rakyat in response to the new norm.

Strategic Alliances: The Crucial Key to Socio-Economic Success

Andrew Carnegie once said: "Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organisational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

During the course of our USR initiatives in Kampung Aji over the period of 2015 - 2019, we sought to build collaboration between different entities to maximise our efforts and reach. We roped in GIATMARA who graciously sent a team of trainers to guide some women from the village to help realise their earning potential in the areas of baking, sewing and financial management.

Key projects we helped several villagers set up were their own chili sauce, halal frozen food and sewing businesses. Establishing optimised business premises, developing a simple but effective production line as well as a productivity workshop were some of the structured efforts created with help from UTP and GIATMARA students who were instrumental in speeding up the tasks. SIRIM sent subject matter experts who came to audit the projects and provided vital branding and packaging advice while MARDI provided resources to help extend the shelf life of the villagers' frozen food and chili sauce.

As we move away from being purely philanthropic in our initiatives, it is worth noting that we never shy away from channelling urgent help to those who are in need. Moving forward, we aim to widen our network of partners through collaboration with partners we've worked with in the past like Sapura Energy Berhad and United Engineers Malaysia Berhad (UEM Group) as well as government agencies such as Perbadanan Kemajuan Negeri Perak (PKNP) and Pembangunan Wanita Negeri Perak.

UTP USR has also built a Pusat Inovasi Desa at Kampung Layang-layang Kanan, an initiative conceived as an amalgamated effort between UTP and various parties like Perak Tengah District office, UEM and JKR. The funding was crowdsourced from UTP staff and students and helped jumpstart various socioeconomic activities for the village's school children, youth and its womenfolk. The centre is now under the care of the District Office and Penghulu Kampung.

Our team has also gone international. Through a project called "Water-for-Life", we have built modern pump-powered wells for the rural folks



Fine Line Between Philanthropy and Community Building

Social Innovation

- To share innovative solutions for economic advancement/enhancement
- To engage the community in activities that enhance their living quality
- To design better ways to harness opportunities and create positive social changes

Economic Welfare

- To mobilise existing facilities/funds to reach the community
- To explore efficient utilisation of resource
- To share the financial and entrepreneurial literacy

SOCIOECONOMIC FOCUS AREAS

Green Governance

- To create green systems towards enhancing awareness, welfare and business opportunities
- To establish green management for operational and ecological survival
- To encourage collective accountability towards local sustainable development

Sustainable Living

- To ensure peace and dignity to the local community
- To support empowerment and appreciation of diversity
- To achieve equitable share of common goods, eg. housing, opportunities, wellbeing



These pictures are students in Kampung Haji working on the 3 projects - the chilli, kuih making and sewing.

in Cambodia to provide them with clean water. This initiative was made successful with crowdsourced funds and strategic collaboration with a non-governmental organisation (NGO).



The Challenges and Driving Greater Involvement Through Social Business Model and Circular Economy

One prevalent issue we had in the course of delivering UTP's USR initiatives was the lack of consistent funding. Understandably as we seek to move away from being purely philanthropic in nature, we realise all community building efforts need to be sustainable. There has to be give and take involved in all areas to culminate in a truly beneficial end game.

In line with UTP becoming a Caring Global University and making a difference through USR, we have plans to further study and develop a sound social business model which will help emphasise more on community empowerment and capacity building not just within the socioeconomic sphere but also across the education and environmental sectors. Under this model, community members who have been on the receiving end of our USR efforts are greatly encouraged to give back to society.

The social business model isn't a foreign concept, and is already in practice as one of the villagers in Kampung Haji was able to enjoy modest success in her sewing ventures. As a result, she now runs sewing classes for her fellow kampung folks and hires them to help run her business.

The emergence of the circular economy concept is also something we are exploring in our bid to circulate the efforts and transform output back into society while promoting job and value creation.

Ultimately, comprehensive action plans are needed to drive our USR initiatives forward. In these challenging times, we also realise the importance of being agile and possessing the capability to pivot around plans to achieve sustainable results that will lead us towards being a Caring Global University.

UTP AND YAYASAN PETRONAS: JOINING HANDS TO FIGHT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

PETRONAS, through its CSR arm Yayasan PETRONAS, has started a joint initiative with UTP to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by contributing hand sanitisers and dispensers to 104 schools in Johor, Kedah, Labuan, Melaka, Perak, Sabah, Sarawak, Pahang and Terengganu, benefiting approximately 68,000 students.

The collaboration is part of our ongoing commitment towards enriching the lives of communities around PETRONAS’ areas of operations. Yayasan PETRONAS’ CEO Lita Osman said: “We believe in the importance of ensuring good health and wellbeing for all. We hope that our contribution of hand sanitisers and dispensers can reduce the spread of COVID-19 in these areas.”

She further added, “This effort is also in line with PETRONAS’ Sustainability Agenda and the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 that focuses on ensuring healthy lives and promoting wellbeing for all,” she added.

Meanwhile in Perak, UTP Vice Chancellor Professor Ts Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Abdul Mutalib handed out hand sanitisers and dispensers to Sekolah Kebangsaan Iskandar Perdana Bandar Seri Iskandar, Sekolah Kebangsaan Tronoh, Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan (Tamil) Tronoh and Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan (Cina) Chung Sun Tronoh.



CELEBRATING OUR STRATEGIC ALLIANCE BETWEEN UTP AND KOLEJ PROFESIONAL BAITULMAL KUALA LUMPUR (KPBKL)

An MoU signing ceremony between UTP and KPBKL was recently held on 27 July to cement our strategic collaboration in the areas of academic, research and human development.

The MoU was signed by UTP Vice Chancellor Professor Ts Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Abdul Mutalib and KPBKL Rector Professor Dato’ Dr Noor Inayah Ya’akub. Witnesses for the MoU were UTP Chief Strategy Officer Ir Dr Aidid Chee Tahir and KPBKL Registrar Puan Hajah Rokiah Yunus.

Also present were representatives from Federal Territories Islamic Centre (MAIWP), KPBKL delegates and UTP Executive Management Committee members.



UTP AND ASIA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION (APU): FUELLING ACADEMIC GROWTH AND EXCELLENCE WITH TENACIOUS PARTNERSHIPS

UTP recently added APU to our growing strategic partner roster after an MoU signing ceremony was held on 17 August recently.

The significant milestone marks a more robust relationship that’s driven by academic, research and innovation, student development and technopreneurship support from both parties.



UTP AND YAYASAN TERENGGANU (YT) TEAMS UP TO AWARD B40 TERENGGANU STUDENTS WITH SCHOLARSHIPS

UTP and YT recently signed an MoU on 9 September to sponsor Terengganu-based B40 students who excelled at their studies. This partnership will allow these students to further their academic journeys at UTP through financial aid and a host of other resources.

Eight students have received scholarships to continue their studies at the foundation and bachelor’s degree levels at UTP.



UTP AND DELOITTE MALAYSIA SIGNED MOU TO CEMENT COLLABORATION ON STUDENT DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

On 17 September 2020, UTP and Deloitte Malaysia signed an MoU that will mark the start of our partnership on various student development initiatives. A key component of this collaboration will be the Deloitte-UTP Kickstarter programme which is essentially a mentorship programme that aims to empower students to drive and accelerate University Social Responsibility projects. UTP students will be matched with Deloitte consultants in a mentor-mentee relationship, paving the way towards a successful social entrepreneurship journey fueled by education, skills development, and employment opportunities.



UTP SKYROCKETS TAZU ALUMNI TOWARDS A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Timely intervention by TAZU official sealed student's fate with financial aid and resources from UTP

Qamarul Fikry, 28, a proud Tabung Amanah Zakat UTP (TAZU) alumni, recently shared his journey and struggles prior to completing his degree and kickstarting a career he has always dreamt of.

A Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Applied Physics graduate at UTP, Qamarul credits his success to a timely intervention by a TAZU official during the second semester of his degree.

“After my diploma, I worked for a short period before pursuing my degree. From what I’ve heard, UTP boasts a good track record of producing highly sought-after graduates in the oil and gas industry. There was no question that UTP is the perfect choice for me as I’ve always wanted to go into the oil and gas industry,” he said.

But things have not always been smooth sailing for this diligent young man. He had to juggle between classes, assignments and part time graphic design work to make ends meet. Not surprisingly, Qamarul’s studies and health were affected.

“Thankfully, the student advisor found out about my difficulties. He advised me to focus on my study and even helped write a letter to request assistance from TAZU,” he said.

With TAZU’s assistance, Qamarul completed his degree with flying colors. His student fees, pocket money and even duit raya have been taken care of by TAZU and YUTP.



He also praised the university’s career-connected learning approach which has greatly enriched his growth and be better prepared for the future.

“It’s good because in the industry, many focal persons in the oil and gas industry are UTP graduates. My current employer for example, hires many UTP graduates because they have become familiar with the quality of UTP graduates.”

Indeed, Qamarul is another prime example of UTP’s institutional support and profound industry collaboration. From the initiatives we spearhead to the long-term relationships we foster with our global social-impact partners, no effort is spared to prepare our students, people and researchers as global citizens.

As a leading university in engineering, science and technology, our graduates are driven to exceed their professional objectives and contribute towards overcoming capability deficit across all sectors and industries.

All meaningful contributions to help the Asnaf and underprivileged students achieve their academic dreams at UTP through TAZU are welcomed.



COVID-19 PREVENTION



LET'S ADAPT TO THE NEW NORM TOGETHER



WEAR A FACE MASK
IN PUBLIC PLACES



MAINTAIN
SOCIAL DISTANCING
OF AT LEAST 1 METRE



WASH AND SANITISE
YOUR HANDS
OFTEN



COVER YOUR MOUTH
WHEN COUGHING
OR SNEEZING



AVOID CROWDED
PLACES



USE CONTACTLESS
GREETINGS



DO NOT SHARE
PERSONAL ITEMS



DO NOT SHARE
UTENSILS



BRING YOUR OWN
PRAYER MAT AND
'TELEKUNG'



DISINFECT SURFACES
FREQUENTLY



DISPOSE FACE MASK
IN A CLOSED BIN



SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION
IF YOU HAVE A FEVER,
COUGH OR BREATHING
DIFFICULTIES