

# UTAR EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

## Testimonials by Awards Recipients

### UTAR Teaching Excellence Awards 2016

#### 1. Dr Chew Choy Hoong Faculty of Science (FSc)



Dr Chew receiving the award and certificates from Prof Chuah (left picture) and Prof Lee (right picture)

“My passion for teaching is the most crucial attribute. Without passion, hard work and conviction, I will not be where I am today. I am greatly humbled and honoured to receive this award. I must express how grateful I am—knowing that I work every day with other staff who are equally deserving. The award is beyond recognition for my work and it will motivate me further. Needless to say, I have had and will continue to have a lot of support from my husband and my family members. I've also had wonderful support from my colleagues and my Heads of Department (HoD), present and past. I would not be here today without all of that support and encouragement they have given me.”

“I thank UTAR sincerely for giving me the opportunity to be a lecturer. Throughout the years in UTAR, it has always provided me with the platform to be a better lecturer. My main source of motivation is definitely my late father. He was a great teacher during his lifetime and I have always aimed to be as a good teacher as him. My other motivations are my students. They are the driving force behind me, constantly challenging and inspiring me to give my best to them. Just knowing that you have helped a student in his or her educational journey, or when students revisit you just to thank you for your efforts even after graduation; these are examples of the greatest reward and best motivation to a teacher.”

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#### 2. Dr Yeap Kim Ho

Faculty of Engineering and Green Technology (FEGT)



Dr Yeap receiving the award and certificates from Prof Chuah and Prof Lee

“Learning and teaching is a duplex process. While conveying knowledge to the students, with or without us realising it, we are actually learning from them as well. We can easily learn from them how receptive they are with our teaching method by scrutinizing the students’ behaviour and, sometimes, via their direct feedback. The generations are changing and, in fact, they are evolving fast. Some of these changes are subtle. Because of this reason, one has to be particularly meticulous when observing the behaviour of the students (i.e. their gestures, facial expression, cognitive skill, etc.). In order to ensure an effective process for knowledge transfer, I have constantly attempted to modify my teaching method so as to synchronize with the pace of this evolution. The award may have given certain sense of recognition to the work that I have done. But, today is just like any other day to me. I have chosen education not just as my career, but also as an opportunity for me to serve the community. Hence, the award should not be an excuse for one to feel complacent about oneself. Instead, it should be a source of motivation for us to seek for a breakthrough in our teaching career.”

“Civilization starts with a language, grows with knowledge and dies when mankind fails to appreciate. I am truly indebted to UTAR for providing me with the avenue and the opportunity to transfer knowledge for the advancement of civilization. I have always been taking my students like my friends. It certainly feels good to learn that many of my friends are doing very well with their lives. Being able to play a part in moulding a good life for them has been a source of motivation for me to stay faithful with my current career. Education is certainly a meaningful career and I have always yearned to excel in it.”

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#### 3. Dr Rehan Akbar

Faculty of Information and Communication Technology (FICT)



Dr Rehan receiving the award and certificates from Prof Chuah and Prof Lee

“In my opinion, these days teaching is not traditional as it demands better relationship between teacher and students. No communication gap, the acts of listening to the problems of the students, understanding them, encouraging and motivating them are the main contributory factors. My students have trust in me and they know that I try my best for them. Today, I am quite satisfied and contented as this is the recognition of my teaching skills and abilities, and appreciation by UTAR as well as my students. I feel like I have achieved one more milestone in life.”

“UTAR provides conducive and supportive environment for teaching and learning activities. The friendly environment and culture here allowed me to use my abilities, thought and knowledge without any hindrance. Besides that, UTAR encourages it and provides support for all academic activities. I feel accomplished to have proven my worth here and given the trust by UTAR to serve.”

#### 4. Dr Cheah Phaik Kin

Faculty of Arts and Social Science (FAS)



Dr Cheah receiving the award and certificates from Prof Chuah and Prof Lee

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“I feel happy to get confirmation that I am doing something right. I am grateful to UTAR because it has allowed me to grow and better myself personally and professionally in an environment that is supportive and enabling. We have visionary leaders and a dynamic team here. My work in UTAR has opened up a lot of opportunities for me in teaching, research, consultancy and training. UTAR is a very unique university and I am always motivated by the support that we get from the community to train and produce the future generation for our country. The community continuously invest in us to train our young to bring our nation forward. This trust is the motivation that I get to do my job well. Therefore, I look at my small and humble role in this university as a contributor to UTAR’s cause. We all work collectively towards the same cause.”

#### 5. Dr Mohammad Falahat Nejadmahani Faculty of Accountancy and Management (FAM)



Dr Falahat receiving the award and certificates from Prof Chuah and Prof Lee

“It is a great honour to receive the prestigious Teaching Excellence Award. Undoubtedly, the fundamental core of teaching excellence is what drives everyone to constantly take a step forward out of their comfort zone. This environment encourages not only to uphold the academic standards but it also gives the opportunity to implement innovative teaching methods within the classroom. I would like to dedicate this award to FAM as the faculty provides the platform to all staff to consistently better themselves for the betterment of the students.”

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#### 6. Dr Loo Joo Ling

Lee Kong Chian Faculty of Engineering and Science (LKC FES)



Dr Loo receiving the award and certificates from Prof Chuah and Prof Lee

“My passion and love for teaching have driven me to go the extra mile to fulfill my responsibility not only as a lecturer, but as a holistic educator who is aspired to inspire others’ confidence in learning and to succeed. I am honoured and grateful to receive this award. I feel happy and delighted as my hard work and dedication have gained recognition. Conducive working environment in UTAR and supportive colleagues played an important role in achieving this award. Being a sincere, caring and positive person, has also made me well-received by students. I also try to enhance students’ didactic experience by demonstrating the purpose of learning and make learning process interesting. This award will definitely boost my motivation to continuously strive for excellence. Seeing my students graduate in flying colours with a good and sound careers are the prime motivation in leading me to winning this award. I am also motivated by the desire to further witness the growth of UTAR and the well-being of its students.”

#### 7. Teoh Sok Yee

Faculty of Business and Finance (FBF)



Teoh receiving the award and certificates from Prof Chuah and Prof Lee

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“Every experience I have through my job enriches me, every interaction with my students serves as an inspiration to improve my instruction, thus I am indeed humble and grateful that my endeavour has received such recognition. I would not have been able to do my job well and achieve this award without the cooperation from my HoD, fellow colleagues and students. I always uphold the belief that “one should carry out one’s job with pleasure”, and attempt to do the same when it comes to matters related to everyday living, and that includes how I approach my job as a lecturer.”

#### 8. Mok Tuck Hau

##### Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS)



Mok receiving the award and certificates from Prof Chuah and Prof Lee

“It is an honor to accept this award, and I want to take this opportunity to thank UTAR, ICS Dean, Head of Department, Faculty General Office staff and all students for their continuous support. I’m privileged to always have a pleasant and conducive teaching environment. The opportunities to share the ancient wisdom with students, the hopes to kindle their passion for life, to illuminate their life journey, and to let them enjoy their classes and life are my constant source of motivation. I will try my best to contribute further to the future growth of our university, and keep helping students find meaning and purpose in their lives.”

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#### 9. Tan Jue Jun

##### Faculty of Creative Industries (FCI)



Jue Jun receiving the award and certificates from Prof Chuah and Prof Lee

"I am pleased, honored and humbled to accept this Teaching Excellence Award. To be honest, I do not hold up to any specific teaching philosophy, but I always work and grow together with my students. I involve my students in all kinds of extra co-curriculum activities that I participated, and from there, we learn from each other. To me, a job is different from a work. Citing American renowned speaker-cum-bestseller author, Seth Godin's quote, the job is what you do when you are told what to do. It might be difficult and might require skills, but still, it's a job anyway, anyone can always do a job a little better, faster or cheaper than you can. Work, on the other hand, is what you do when no one can tell you exactly how to do it. It is the act of always being accountable to what you have done or what you are doing, challenging the status quo when necessary and changing people."

"I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to those in the Faculty of Creative Industries, especially my former Head of Department, Ms Chew Wee Lee who has given me opportunities to learn and contribute my learning outcomes back to the University. I have been granted freedom to plan and execute efforts that would mutually benefit both the Faculty and the students. I take education as a work, not a job. It is a work with heart and soul. Cultivating children academically and mentally requires sincere commitment."

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#### 10. Kong Jee Kim

##### Centre for Foundation Studies (CFS) Sungai Long Campus



Kong receiving the award and certificates from Prof Chuah and Prof Lee

“Sincerity and dedication in teaching students have pushed me forward and eventually receiving this award. The award is a sense of pride and satisfaction. The undivided support from the management and colleagues has enabled me to be where I am at today. The appreciation and acknowledgment from my superiors and students have been a great motivation drive for me to pursue my career in UTAR.”

#### 11. Tsen Tzu Yen

##### Centre for Foundation Studies (CFS) Kampar Campus



Tsen receiving the award and certificates from Prof Chuah and Prof Lee

“I am extremely honored to be receiving such an important award. I am earnestly grateful of the recognition for my work. I will strive for continuous improvement and contribute the best for the future batches of students and the entire university community. It is an honour to teach in UTAR and UTAR has broadened my vision of teaching and learning. As a lecturer, I have the opportunity to impact the lives of students, and I take that role sincerely. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the Centre for Foundation Studies Kampar management team, my colleagues and students. Winning this award would not have been possible without the guidance and support from them. Their patience and understanding inspire me to work hard throughout the years.”

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#### UTAR E-Learning Excellence Awards 2016

##### 1. Dr Chen Kah Pin

**Lee Kong Chian Faculty of Engineering and Science (LKC FES: Category of Science, Engineering and Technology)**



Dr Chen receiving the award and certificates from Prof Chuah and Prof Lee

“Quote from John Holt: ‘Learning is not the product of teaching. Learning is the product of the activity of learners.’ UTAR has given a good platform to me to explore the opportunity of using various online tools to enhance teaching-learning activities. The main source of motivation is the passion to improve student’s learning via various activities.”

##### 2. Kok Hui Meian

**Faculty of Arts and Social Science (FAS: Category of Social Science, Arts and Humanity)**

“Keep learning and keep growing. Due to technology advancement, the learning practice has changed. The only way to keep track on the latest information or knowledge is to keep learning and keep growing. I am very much excited and thankful to my colleagues who had nominated and supported me for this award.”

# UTAR EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

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### UTAR Research Excellence Award 2016

**Dr Yap Wun She**  
**Lee Kong Chian Faculty of Engineering and Science (LKC FES)**



Dr Yap receiving the award and certificates from Prof Chuah and Prof Lee

“Firstly, I thank UTAR for the award and also my collaborators for the joint work. The hard work put in for the last few years eventually paid off. The award is just the beginning of my research path. More efforts need to be put in for coming years to achieve more research outputs with higher learning impacts. It is natural for human to be complacent, thus the main challenge is to keep yourself motivated and eventually the passion for your work will turn ordinary to extraordinary. UTAR provides a good research platform for young researchers like me. UTAR has funded a number of projects to help young researchers to manage their research projects and build their own research teams. This helps a lot in building the young researchers’ research path. Undoubtedly, I am one of the grant recipients who has benefitted from the generosity of UTAR.”

# UTAR EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

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### UTAR Service Excellence Award 2016

**Tan Xiao Zhen**

**Lee Kong Chian Faculty of Engineering and Science (LKC FES)**



Xiao Zhen receiving the award and certificates from Prof Chuah and Prof Choong

“The support from my Dean, HoD and colleagues has made this possible. And not to forget the assistance and cooperation provided from other departments had also contributed to such an honourable achievement. The team spirit encourages me to continuously strive to serve UTAR better. I am pleased, honoured and humbled to accept this prestigious Service Excellence Award 2016. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to UTAR for nominating me and supporting my nomination, especially our Dean, HoD and fellow colleagues. Without the support from all parties, it is most likely impossible to have such great achievement. UTAR has provided a lifelong learning platform for me. UTAR has encouraged me to attend numerous trainings to improve my competency. Besides that, I was also given full financial support to be trained as Safety Coordinators of LKC FES. The course had equipped me with ample knowledge in safety which helps me to understand and able to apply them at work. I am overwhelmed by the commitment of UTAR to stimulate learning and achieve the highest standards of occupational safety and health which provide a safe environment for staff and students. I have always been passionate in education which is inherited from my parents. Apart from the motivation given by them, the encouragement from lecturers made me understand that education is impossible without the contributions from all parties such as the academic and administration. This made me realise that regardless of our position, we can still play a vital role in providing a supportive environment for our next generation to explore their full potential and develop the skills and flexibility needed in a rapidly changing world.”