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Students cycling in the Kampar Campus
MoU with National Institute of Ayurveda

UTAR signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA) on 5 December 2016 at Jaipur, Rajasthan, India. Signing on behalf of NIA was its Director Prof Sanjeev Sharma, while UTAR was represented by Council Chairman Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik. Also present at the MoU signing were UTAR Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Deputy Dean for R&D and Postgraduate Programmes Prof Dr Yap Sook Fan and Senior Professor Prof Ngew Yun Fong.

The MoU serves to lay the foundation of the collaboration between the two parties in the aspects of education, training, research, future publications and the popularisation of Ayurvedic medicine in Malaysia. Apart from those, this MoU enables NIA to assist UTAR in founding a department of Ayurveda to teach Bachelor’s and Master Degree programmes for Ayurveda in Malaysia.

Prior to this visit, the UTAR delegation led by Tun Ling participated in the World Ayurveda Congress which was held in Kolkata on 1 December to 4 December 2016. NIA was established back in 1976 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of India.

MoU with Itali and MBSA Auto

UTAR signed two memoranda of understanding (MoUs), one with Itali Auto and the other with MBSA Auto at Sungai Long Campus on 19 December 2016. Itali Auto is a dealer of Ferrari and Maserati vehicles based in Shanghai, China, while MBSA Auto is a dealer of Mercedes-Benz based in Malaysia.

Signing the MoUs were UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato’ Dr Chuah Hean Teik and Itali Automotive (Shanghai) Co. Ltd Director and the MBSA Automotive Sdn Bhd Dealer Principal Philip Beng Kian Phee. They were witnessed by UTAR Vice President for Internationalisation and Academic Development Prof Ir Dr Ewe Hong Tat, UTAR Automotive Vice-President Chew Chee Keong and MBSA Automotive Deputy General Manager Lu Hwa Ngam.

Other guests present at the signing ceremony were MBSA Automotive After-Sales Manager R. Chandara Rajesh and Members of Board of Governor of Malaysian Association in the People’s Republic of China (MAPROC) Sally Hoong and Lai Kim Min, LKC FES Deputy Dean Dr Gulnaziya Issabayeva, LKC FES Department of Mechanical and Material Engineering Head Prof Dr D. Ragukumar and UTAR Education Foundation Corporate Secretary Ong Whee Teong.

The MoUs will lead to future joint research collaborations, exchanges of ideas and facilities, and industrial attachments and mutual visits by staff members for curricular development, seminars, conferences and workshops. Besides that, industrial study visits by UTAR undergraduate and postgraduate students will take place to enhance learning experiences and professional development.

In conjunction with the MoU signing ceremony, a mock cheque presentation from the Board of Governor Malaysian Association in the People’s Republic of China (MAPROC) Representative Sally Hoong to Prof Chuah was held to honour the sponsorship of RM$275,70. The sponsorship aims to facilitate UTAR students in exchange programmes, internships programme and study tours to China.

Contract research agreement with Biovision & Greenergy

A contract research agreement was signed between UTAR and Biovision & Greenergy Sdn Bhd on 18 January 2017 at Sungai Long Campus. The signing on behalf of the parties were Biovision & Greenergy Sdn Bhd Plant Director Feng Chee Chen and UTAR President Ir Prof Academician Dato’ Dr Chuah Hean Teik. The signing was witnessed by Biovision & Greenergy Sdn Bhd Executive Chairman Tan Sri Dato’ Lau Yin Pin and UTAR Vice President for R&D and Commercialisation Prof Ir Dr Lee See Wee. Also present at the ceremony were Biovision & Greenergy Sdn Bhd representatives Leong Kah Mun, Lau Chin Siang and Lau Chin Choon, while UTAR’s representatives were Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research Director Prof Dr Faizal Bin Abd Rahman, Lee Kong Chian Faculty of Engineering and Science (LKCS) Dean Prof Goi Bok Min, LKC FES Deputy Dean for Student Development and Industrial Training Assoc Prof Dr Lai Soon Onn, and LKC FES Lecturers Dr Sim Jia Huey, and Dr Pang Yean Ling and Dr Thiam Hui San.

The UTAR-Biovision & Greenergy Sdn Bhd collaboration represents the culmination of hard work between both parties to enhance the understanding of waste management by UTAR students and staff in order to spread the best practices in line with environmental concerns. Prof Chuah said, “We are truly grateful for Biovision & Greenergy Sdn Bhd’s initiative to establish a cooperative relationship with UTAR in efforts to prevent damage to Earth’s ecosystem and to elevate the quality of life for the planet’s inhabitants by implementing advanced waste management and waste recycling systems.”

Biovision & Greenergy Sdn Bhd is a biomass operator and producer of palm fibre, bio oil, biofuel, fertiliser and other products using Empty Fruit Bunch (EFB) and other biomass materials.
In January 2017, the Kampar Seminar 2017, organised by its namesake Alumni Relations and Placement (DARP), was held on 17 February 2017. The event included a Reunion Dinner on 12 January 2017. The seminar aimed to update the alumni on its latest developments and facilitate networking. The reunion dinner was meaningful as it brought the UTAR alumni together, allowing students to catch up with one another and allowing the university to gather the UTAR alumni to discuss potential collaborations and solve issues.

Ong Wen Huey and Pheh Kai Shuen, Prof Dr Siah Poh Chua, Loh Wan Lin, Anna a/p Nainee, William Hoi Wei Yuan, Assoc Prof Chuah, and members of the Alumni Associations gathered at the UTAR Alumni Chinese New Year Reunion Dinner on 12 January 2017 at the Kampar Campus.

Alumni Chinese New Year Reunion Dinner

The reunion dinner was very meaningful as it gathered the UTAR alumni to catch up with one another and allow the university to update the alumni on its latest developments. We send our deepest appreciation to everyone who believes in UTAR and has contributed to its development.

The reunion dinner encompassed a wide range of performances and activities such as Lao Sheng, Lion Dance, Wushu, Flag Dancing and lucky draws.

CAP Seminar 2017

Researchers had an insightful day at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FAS) Collaborative Applied Psychology (CAP) Seminar 2017, organised by its namesake centre on 12 January 2017 at the Kampar Campus.

Members of CAP who were invited to present their researches were FAS Deputy Dean for R&D and Postgraduate Programmes Dr Kok Jia Xuan, Chairperson of CAP Dr Tan Chee Seng, Head of Master of Psychology Programme and Organising Chairperson Dr Yap Chin Choo, and FAS Lecturers Deepa a/p Visvanathan, Mohd Yusof bin Zukri, Lee Ling Kiat, Sarvarunibi a/p Nainee, William Ho Wei Yuan, Assoc Prof Dr Siah Poh Chua, Loh Wan Lin, Anna Ong Wen Huey and Pheh Kai Shuen.

The seminar yielded fruitful discussions between the participants, enabled the presenters to obtain positive feedback and offered opportunities for researchers to discuss potential collaborations with each other.

Year Two Master of Psychology (Industrial & Organisational Psychology) student Lew Wei Him said, “Being a postgraduate student, the seminar provided me with much needed knowledge for my research, insights into the academic world and the requirements needed to get research published.”

FAS Lecturers Ho Kee Hoong and Cheng Siew May mentioned that the information shared by the presenters was beneficial for the Malaysian community.

Noteworthy researches presented include FAS Lecturer Mohd Fauzi bin Harun and Mohd Yusof’s “Beautifying the Beatitude: Jom Kurus (Malaysia) (JKM) Programme vs Social Media”, Dr Tan’s “Attitude towards Deafness and Deaf People among Malaysian Secondary School Students”, Sarvarunibi’s “The Role of Meaning in Life and Marital Satisfaction in Life Satisfaction of Malaysian Adults”, Dr Kok and FAS Senior Lecturer Low Sek Kim’s “Coupling Abilities and Social Support of Myanmar Teenage Refugees in Malaysia”, and Dr Siah’s “Cultural Values and Attitudes towards Older Person among Malaysian Chinese Adolescents”.

With the aim to provide training to senior-ranking police officers from the Perak State Police Contingent and District Police Headquarters of Perak, UTAR’s Centre for Extension Education (CEE) and the Faculty of Arts and Social Science (FAS) organised a workshop titled “The Future of Policing” on 27 December 2016 at Kampar Campus.

The workshop was conducted by UTAR International Collaboration Partner Prof Prabha N. Unnithan from Colorado State University, USA and Dr Cheah Phak Kin from the Department of Public Relations, FAS.

The workshop also touched on issues and challenges facing the police in the 21st Century. The discussion revolved around the processes that are being affected by the advancement of information and communication technologies. The participants also learnt about the changing roles of the police and criminal justice system in the future.

Workshop for high-ranking police]

The workshop was attended by 16 police officers from the Perak State Police Contingent and District Police Headquarters of Perak, the workshop was aimed at forging better rapport between senior-ranking officers of RMP and the UTAR community.

Meanwhile, the workshop was also appreciated by the UTAR police students who attended.

A representation of the close ties forged between UTAR and RMP.
Graduands of the August 2017 Convocation had the opportunity to receive advice and wisdom from UTAR President Ir Prof Academican Dato’ Dr Chuah Hean Teik at tea meetings held at Sungai Long Campus on 16 February 2017 and Kampar Campus on 22 February 2017. “Convocation is not only a celebration of your success, but also for your parents and families as well. Make sure to share your joy and success with them and treat them well,” advised Prof Chuah. Prof Chuah further offered tips and advice as they begin building their future careers. Citing a JobStreet survey, he said unrealistic salaries; poor character, attitude or personality; weak communication skills and command of English; as well as being picky about jobs were the top reasons why graduates are unable to gain employment. “You may have the necessary foundation, but it’s not enough to succeed in today’s globalised and competitive world. You need to continuously seek and learn new knowledge, discover new insights and differentiate yourself from your peers. Especially when you are starting a career as a professional, remember to be a good subordinate and team worker, learn to continuously develop yourself, prioritise the company’s goals, be ethical and if needed, exit the company in a graceful manner with no strained relationships with your employers,” he added.

Lastly, Prof Chuah reminded the students how contributions from people of all walks of life helped the university’s development in the past, with hopes that the graduands will do the same in future. The tea meeting not only served as an effort to sustain a strong network with the alumni community, but was equally important for the graduands to be informed on the alumni association’s role in helping students stay in touch with the university after graduation.

Tea meeting with President

The Structural Earthquake Stability (SES) 3.0 Competition is an initiative taken by Sunway Construction Group Berhad to promote the skills of engineering students. It provides an opportunity for students to showcase their creative and innovative skills in constructing their model structures. The competition aims to enhance the students’ understanding of structural engineering principles and applications, and to encourage the development of teamwork and problem-solving skills. The 140 participants who formed 28 teams hailed from 16 universities. Anything Team, the Champion-winning team from UTAR brought home prizes worth RM1,300.

Meanwhile, team WW Wh from UCSI University and team UTMat1 from UTIM won First Runner-up and Second Runner-up with prizes worth RM1,000 and RM800 respectively.

Structural Earthquake Stability 3.0 Competition

CSSR Best Paper Award

A paper titled “A study on the Performance and Risk Diversification Benefits of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)” was presented at the CSSR Best Paper Award, which was held at The Everly, Putrajaya from 6 to 7 December 2016. The international conference was organised by Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and the Institute of Research and Innovation (IRMI). The objective of the conference was to facilitate the publication of research findings in high quality journals and enhance the visibility of researchers. This conference serves as a platform that enables researchers to present their findings and share innovative ideas, knowledge and technologies, all while expanding their social network beyond their areas of expertise.

The researchers submitted to the conference their paper titled “A study on the Performance and Risk Diversification Benefits of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)” which focused on utilizing the Sharpe, Treynor and Jensen measures to investigate the risk diversification benefits of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). The findings of the paper provide a clear understanding and comprehension of REITs performance to portfolio managers and investors as a possible investment.

At the same event, Ng also won the Best Presenter Award. “CSSR 2016 provided us an ideal platform to present our Social Science research with other academics and industry personnel working in similar research fields. This was only my second experience presenting a research paper, and it was to a larger audience than the last. We were excited to be chosen for the Best Presenter and also the Best Paper Awards. This has provided us with extra motivation in continuing with our research and to present more papers at international conferences,” said Ng.
Astro Star Quest champion

Alumna crowned

"No matter what your dreams are, as long as you are willing to take the first step, put in effort and persist through hardships, it will produce results," she advised.

Best Paper in Water and Environmental Engineering

activating the carbon which has a similar function. "In a nutshell, biochar helps to create a sustainable environment by reducing waste produced from palm oil mills to reduce water contamination," Goh concluded.

A Senior Lecturer at Tunuck Abdul Rahman University College, Goh also extended his heartfelt gratitude to his supervisor, Assoc Prof Dr Sumathi a/p Sethupathi from FEGT’s Department of Environmental Engineering as well as co-supervisor-cum-FEGT Head of Department of Environmental Engineering Dr Mohammed J.K. Bashar for their guidance and encouragement.

UTAR Faculty of Engineering and Green Technology’s (FEGT) Doctor of Philosophy (Engineering) student Goh Ching Lam received the Best Paper Award in the 3rd International Conference of Chemical Engineering and Industrial Biotechnology (ICCIEB) held at Bayu Lagoon Park Resort, Malacca from 28 to 30 November 2016.

Organised by Universiti Malaysia Pahang, the international conference was themed ‘FEW: Emerging for the Sustainable Future’ and served to disseminate cutting-edge research findings and advances in the fields of chemical engineering and industrial biotechnology towards food, energy, and water.

Titled ‘Optimisation of Palm Oil Mill Sludge Biochar (POMSB) for Heavy Metal Removal Using Response Surface Methodology (RSM)’, Goh’s paper was handpicked as the Best Paper for the category of ‘Water and Environmental Engineering’. According to Goh, his research highlighted the successful conversion of POMS into biochar for wastewater treatment. This will be able to solve environmental pollution caused by palm oil mills. By producing high-value-added biochar for wastewater treatment, which is currently not yet available in the market and also not reported in the literature, palm oil mills will also see an increase in revenue in contrast with converting POMS into low-value fertilizer,” he explained. Goh also added that producing POMS is much more economical and energy-efficient than making powdered activated carbon which has a similar function.

At present, biochar helps to create a sustainable environment by reducing waste produced from palm oil mills to reduce water contamination,” Goh concluded.

A Senior Lecturer at Tunuck Abdul Rahman University College, Goh also extended his heartfelt gratitude to his supervisor, Assoc Prof Dr Sumathi a/p Sethupathi from FEGT’s Department of Environmental Engineering as well as co-supervisor-cum-FEGT Head of Department of Environmental Engineering Dr Mohammed J.K. Bashar for their guidance and encouragement.

Elaviker Most Downloaded Article

Marking another milestone of the groundbreaking research conducted in UTAR is Faculty of Business and Finance Tutor Hew Jun Jie with his ‘Telematics & Informatics Most Downloaded Article (May – July 2016)’ award that he recently received from Elsevier (USA)’s Telematics and Informatics journal.

Titled “Hall of fame for mobile commerce and its application: A bibliometric evaluation of a decade and a half (2000-2015)”, the award-winning research paper centres on many of the current development and trends of researches on mobile commerce and its application through bibliometric analysis.

“I really did not imagine my paper could be one of the most downloaded articles of this journal. It is truly an honour to have the Editor-in-Chief Prof Jan Servaes accept my paper and to have so many readers around the world reading my paper,” said Hew.

Apart from his paper being recognised as the most downloaded paper, Hew’s paper also serves as a forecaster in using bibliometric analysis in the Web of Science database. He also foresees the paper benefiting researchers by identifying potential research directions, and eventually being a guide to potential researchers and practitioners in this research field.

Currently, UTAR is ranked as the third among the most productive institutions in the research discipline of mobile commerce and its application, and adding to that success are FBF Senior Lecturers Garry Tan Wei Han and Leong Lai Ying, who have been identified by Elsevier’s Journal of Industrial Management and Data Systems in the most productive institutions in the field.

To be recognised as an Outstanding Reviewer by the world-renowned scholarly publisher was a first for Tan, and the Marketing expert enthused. “The award is a validation of the vigorous research training that we provide for our students at FBF.”

He also expressed his gratitude to the editor Assoc Prof Dr Alain Chong Yee Loong, a prominent academic in Information Systems at the Nottingham University Business School, China, for the nomination.

Tan, who hails from Ipoh, was also the recipient of the 2015 Highly Commended Award by Emerald’s Journal of Service Management. Winners of the 2016 Emerald Literati Network Awards for Excellence can also be viewed from Emerald Group Publishing’s website.

The Journal of Industrial Management and Data Systems is currently indexed in Thomson Reuters (ISI) with Impact Factor (IF) of 2.261.

Faculty of Business and Finance (FBF) Senior Lecturer Garry Tan Wei Han was named as an Outstanding Reviewer for the Journal of Industrial Management and Data Systems in the Emerald Literati Network 2016 Awards for Excellence.

Reviewers play a critical role in the scholarly publishing process as academics are dependent on critical peer reviews to assess the quality and thoroughness of their research before publication.

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UTAR launches Tun Tan Cheng Lock Centre for Social and Policy Studies

As a tribute to one of the country’s founding fathers and the first President of the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA), UTAR launched the Tun Tan Cheng Lock Centre for Social and Policy Studies (TCLC) in its Sungai Long Campus on 28 February 2017.

Speaking at the launch, Prof Chuah thanked MCA for their donation of RM1 million to the TCLC in support of further research and to meet the centre’s goals and objectives. “It is very important to rediscover the missing parts of our history and culture, as well as the legacy of Tun Tan Cheng Lock and our founding fathers. Therefore, TCLC will conduct research on Tun Tan Cheng Lock’s life, values and political contributions, and on Tun Tan Siew Sin’s contributions during his tenure as the Finance Minister of Malaysia. The centre will also expand its role to research on past Malaysian leaders, nation building and contemporary socio-political issues.”

Prof Chuah also announced that the centre currently has 80 members from various faculties in the university, and all interested academics are welcome to submit their proposals to conduct research for the centre. “We also welcome researchers from all fields to be part of the centre’s exciting initiatives and we look forward to possible collaborative efforts with our partners including MCA. All the research outcomes and knowledge will be disseminated to the general public, with hopes that they will inspire the younger generation to take up leadership roles and encourage them to contribute in nation building,” said the president.

Datin Paduka Tan enthused, “My sisters, Siek Eng and Siek Lee, and I would like to thank Dato’ Sri Liow, Tun Ling and UTAR for deciding to name this centre after our grandfather, the late Tun Tan Cheng Lock. It is an honour that Tun Tan would have appreciated tremendously.” Citing the background of Tun Tan’s legacy, she said, “While much has been written about Tun Tan’s involvement in politics, little is known about his entrepreneurial forays, first in rubber planting and later banking.”

She explained, “Due to the lack of financial resources to study law at a university, Tun Tan highly valued a university education, reflected in the fact that he sent his children to the US and UK for their tertiary education. Conversely, my grandfather was a staunch follower of Confucius. One of the most important rituals that he observed strictly was the ancestral remembrance ceremony; a rite that he instilled in his son Tun Tan Siew Sin whom in turn impressed on my sisters and I to continue the traditional Confucian ethic — the worst transgression a son or daughter could commit is to bring dishonour to the family.”

Also speaking at the launch was Dato’ Sri Liow who said, “Tun Tan was the founder and the first president of MCA and we are proud to have this centre set up in honour of Tun Tan and his immense contributions to our country. He was a prominent public figure who was committed to championing the rights and social welfare of the Chinese community in Malaysia. Most importantly, he was devoted to building a multiracial system of governance in order to raise the harmoniousness of race relations in Malaysia. It is undeniable that he was one of those leaders who believed that moderation was the only way for Malaysia to move forward.”

The quest of honour further said, “In recognition of Tun Tan’s immense efforts and to continue his incredible legacy, MCA is proud to donate RM1 million to the TCLC at UTAR. The donation will fund various activities and research in areas such as the thoughts and ideas of Tun Tan and our founding fathers, the history and contributions of Malaysian Chinese, nation building, ethnic relations, social policies and much more.”

He also advised, “I hope that our youths will be inspired by the deeds of Tun Tan and be motivated to emulate this patriotic spirit of togetherness among us all. By understanding the past, we can plan and act in the present in anticipation of future challenges and growth. If we want to know how and why our society is the way it is today, we have to look into our history for answers and that is why we need to properly document our past and seek solutions for the future. It is with great hope that the TCLC will inspire the younger generation to contribute to building a better Malaysia through Tun Tan’s vision — uniting our multiethnic society to build a greater nation.”

The TCLC’s vision is to be a centre of excellence that spearheads research for the betterment of Malaysia as a nation. Visit the TCLC’s official website for more details: http://research.utar.edu.my/TCLC/index.html.
Champion in international public speaking contest

Sivaraj answered the judges' questions. on the substance, delivery and structure and effectively. Their scores were based thoughts relating to the given topics clearly. Myanmar, Singapore and Malaysia.

Myanmar, an Online Tamil News Portal and worldwide scale?”. The paper was part of Ong's Master's studies and was inspired by the video surveillance applications using wavelet compression and parallel processing that the team is currently working on. “Our research is related to video surveillance and we are working to develop a fast event detection method for video surveillance using wavelets and parallel processing. Through this research, we introduce a new approach to identify and classify different types of images encountered in video surveillance systems. The main objective of our study is to identify specific wavelet filters for achieving a better classification for images. In addition to that, the fundamental properties of wavelet coefficients for feature selection for image classification are investigated. Haar, Daubechies, Symlet 2, and Biorthogonal 2.2 wavelets have been used in this investigation and the results show that Haar wavelets provide promising results in object retrieval compared to Daubechies 5, Symlet 2, and Biorthogonal 2.2 wavelets,” explained Ong.

He added, “This is my first experience presenting a research paper in a conference held by the IEEE Malaysia Section Control Systems Chapter and we are excited to be chosen as the best presenter.”

Best Presenter Award at ICSPC 2016

A team of researchers from UTAR Faculty of Engineering and Green Technology (FEGT) won the Best Presenter award in the 2016 IEEE Conference on Systems, Process and Control (ICSPC 2016) held at Swiss Garden Hotel in Malacca from 16 to 17 December 2016.

The team comprised Dean of FEGT Assoc Prof Dr Yap Voon Voon, Head of Master of Engineering Science programme Assoc Prof Dr Humaira Nisar, and Master of Engineering Science student Ong Yew Fai. They won the Best Presenter award after presenting their paper titled “Image Classification Using Wavelet Coefficients for Video Surveillance”. The paper was part of Ong’s Master’s studies and was inspired by the video surveillance applications using wavelet compression and parallel processing that the team is currently working on. “Our research is related to video surveillance and we are working to develop a fast event detection method for video surveillance using wavelets and parallel processing. Through this research, we introduce a new approach to identify and classify different types of images encountered in video surveillance systems. The main objective of our study is to identify specific wavelet filters for achieving a better classification for images. In addition to that, the fundamental properties of wavelet coefficients for feature selection for image classification are investigated. Haar, Daubechies, Symlet 2, and Biorthogonal 2.2 wavelets have been used in this investigation and the results show that Haar wavelets provide promising results in object retrieval compared to Daubechies 5, Symlet 2, and Biorthogonal 2.2 wavelets,” explained Ong.

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Second place in chess tournament

A shared commitment to producing novel solutions to challenges in healthcare and clinical application research earned four Faculty of Engineering and Green Technology (FEGT) researchers, namely Deputy Dean for Academic Development and Undergraduate Programmes Dr Ng Choon Aun, Deputy Dean for R&D and Postgraduate Programmes Dr Lo Po Kim, Head of Master of Engineering Science Programme Assoc Prof Dr Humaira Nisar, and PhD student Muhammad Burhan Khan, the “Best Paper Award” for their “literature review-based study on the feasibility of using single-leaf montmorillonite for the treatment of water pollution.”

The paper was part of Ong’s Master’s studies and was inspired by the video surveillance applications using wavelet compression and parallel processing that the team is currently working on. “Our research is related to video surveillance and we are working to develop a fast event detection method for video surveillance using wavelets and parallel processing. Through this research, we introduce a new approach to identify and classify different types of images encountered in video surveillance systems. The main objective of our study is to identify specific wavelet filters for achieving a better classification for images. In addition to that, the fundamental properties of wavelet coefficients for feature selection for image classification are investigated. Haar, Daubechies, Symlet 2, and Biorthogonal 2.2 wavelets have been used in this investigation and the results show that Haar wavelets provide promising results in object retrieval compared to Daubechies 5, Symlet 2, and Biorthogonal 2.2 wavelets,” explained Ong.

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Best Paper Award

UTAR Faculty of Business and Finance’s Final Year Financial Economics student Jackie Chan Sheng won Second place in the Keypiman-CIBM-CIMB-Perak Master of Engineering Science programme Assoc Prof Dr Humaira Nisar, and Master of Engineering Science student Ong Yew Fai. They won the Best Presenter award after presenting their paper titled “Image Classification Using Wavelet Coefficients for Video Surveillance”. The paper was part of Ong’s Master’s studies and was inspired by the video surveillance applications using wavelet compression and parallel processing that the team is currently working on. “Our research is related to video surveillance and we are working to develop a fast event detection method for video surveillance using wavelets and parallel processing. Through this research, we introduce a new approach to identify and classify different types of images encountered in video surveillance systems. The main objective of our study is to identify specific wavelet filters for achieving a better classification for images. In addition to that, the fundamental properties of wavelet coefficients for feature selection for image classification are investigated. Haar, Daubechies, Symlet 2, and Biorthogonal 2.2 wavelets have been used in this investigation and the results show that Haar wavelets provide promising results in object retrieval compared to Daubechies 5, Symlet 2, and Biorthogonal 2.2 wavelets,” explained Ong.

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Best Paper Award

UTAR Faculty of Business and Finance’s Final Year Financial Economics student Jackie Chan Sheng won Second place in the Keypiman-CIBM-CIMB-Perak Master of Engineering Science programme Assoc Prof Dr Humaira Nisar, and Master of Engineering Science student Ong Yew Fai. They won the Best Presenter award after presenting their paper titled “Image Classification Using Wavelet Coefficients for Video Surveillance”. The paper was part of Ong’s Master’s studies and was inspired by the video surveillance applications using wavelet compression and parallel processing that the team is currently working on. “Our research is related to video surveillance and we are working to develop a fast event detection method for video surveillance using wavelets and parallel processing. Through this research, we introduce a new approach to identify and classify different types of images encountered in video surveillance systems. The main objective of our study is to identify specific wavelet filters for achieving a better classification for images. In addition to that, the fundamental properties of wavelet coefficients for feature selection for image classification are investigated. Haar, Daubechies, Symlet 2, and Biorthogonal 2.2 wavelets have been used in this investigation and the results show that Haar wavelets provide promising results in object retrieval compared to Daubechies 5, Symlet 2, and Biorthogonal 2.2 wavelets,” explained Ong.

He added, “This is my first experience presenting a research paper in a conference held by the IEEE Malaysia Section Control Systems Chapter and we are excited to be chosen as the best presenter.”
It was an enriching 10-day study tour for 120 UTAR students when they visited Josai International University (JIU) in Japan from 28 September to 7 October 2016. Organised by UTAR Faculty of Business and Finance, the students journeyed to learn Japanese language and culture. Greeting the visitors with a warm welcoming party were JIU’s Faculty of Tourism Dean Prof Junichi Watanabe, staff and students.

Besides attending lessons on Japanese language and culture at JIU, they also learnt the practical side of the culture through soba-making and bamboo craft classes. The fun lessons did not stop there, as students had the opportunity to enjoy tea at a traditional Japanese tea ceremony lesson. Students also had the chance to wear kimonos and writing Japanese with a specially-invited tea ceremony master. A traditional Japanese tea ceremony lesson students had the opportunity to enjoy tea at the birthplace of JIU and Josai University (JIU) Founder Miko Mizuta.

Not forgetting leisurely activities, students had fun with visits to Kamogawa’s Sea World, promenade, shrine and the observatory deck. Time was also allocated to visit the birthplace of JIU and Josai University (JIU) Founder Miko Mizuta.

For the students to visit Kawagoe’s historic Little Edo, Asakusa district for shopping and Akihabara district to indulge in Japanese anime, manga, video games and figurines. Since 2011, when an agreement was initially signed with Josai University Educational Corporation (JUEC) which operates JIU and JU, the universities have collaborated closely with UTAR, for example sending their students to UTAR’s English Language and cultural programmes in the hopes of nurturing broad international outlooks.

Leadership Skills for Youth forum

To expand students’ soft skills development, the “Leadership Skills for Youth” forum, organised by the Department of Soft Skills Competency (DSSC) of Kampar Campus, was held on 26 November 2016. The invited speakers included Communication Expert, Television and Radio Producer, Founder and Managing Director of AW Communications, and Anchor of Melody FM Wong Chui Ling; Ipoh City Councillor and Director of Bae Today and Chengtiao Machinery Experts Sdn Bhd Ceylyn Tey Wei Lung; Managing Director of OAFS Advisory Sdn Bhd, Registered Financial Planner and Associate Estate Planner Practitioner Goo Kah Hui; and Managing Director of Hills and Cheryl Corporate Advisory Sdn Bhd Chong Cheong Kian.

Wong, from her expertise in the entertainment and communication industry, shared that the four skills of personal traits, social grace, people skills and communication, are collective elements found in a leader. Wong likewise highlighted the importance of constantly seeking new knowledge and applying them to areas they can be of service to.

Goh said around 900 participants from the public showed up. “According to their feedback, most of them are looking forward to next year’s fiesta.”

Cosplaying is an excellent opportunity to connect with those who share similar interests, and a chance to be the character you love. Through this fiesta, I hope more people will learn to appreciate and adopt this subculture,” ACG Fiesta 2017 Chairperson Goh Jun Kian said.

The fiesta featured special guests such as Abam/Apam, Angie, and Lea & Mikki, as well as the GG Twins as the emcees for the event. Among the fun activities were a Cosplay Cafe, solo and group cosplay competitions, a talent competition, mini concerts, various game booths, and a haunted house.

Goh said around 900 participants from the public showed up. “According to their feedback, most of them are looking forward to next year’s fiesta.”

Cosplay (コスプレ), a contraction of the words costume and play, is a performance art where a participant (known as a cosplayer), dress up in costumes and accessories to represent a specific character from manga, anime, comic books, cartoons, video games, films or television series.

Students in Action

Study Tour to Josai

TAR Centre for Environment and Green Technology (CEGT) organised the 2nd International Symposium on Green and Sustainable Technology (ISGST 2017) at Kampar Campus from 10 to 13 January 2017.

Held for the second time since 2014, the symposium has since provided a strategic platform for the dissemination of knowledge and highlighted developments in green and sustainable technology across the international academic community.

Representing UTAR President to deliver his opening remarks was Prof Ir Dr Lee Sze Wei, who mentioned, “UTAR focuses on teaching and research excellence. There have been some successful researches on renewable energy which have earned recognition at various awards. These research accomplishments are testimonies to the university’s research excellence, further motivating us to bring forth research and innovations to benefit the economy and environment.” He also added that the university highly encourages cross-disciplinary researches, synergistic development of ideas and shared use of resources.

The four-day symposium consisted of four keynote lectures. They were delivered by Universiti Sains Malaysia’s Prof Dr Ahmad Zuhairi Abdullah who spoke on biomass conversion, Kobe University’s Prof Dr Yusuke Uchiyama who spoke on environmental assessment and modeling, Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP)’s Prof Dr Nasir Shaflq who lectured on green materials, and Tamkang University’s Prof Dr Ho Chi-Dong who focused on water and waste management. Technical sessions were also held throughout the symposium, further intensifying the discussions and interaction amongst the 70 over participants.
How to be a technopreneur

Technopreneur Lilyana Abdul Latiff held a talk titled “What it takes to be a software entrepreneur”, organised by the Department of Consultancy and Commercialisation, at Sungai Long Campus on 14 February 2017. She shared some of her experiences on leveraging technology in entrepreneurship.

Speaking to students largely from the Software Engineering programme, Lilyana advised them to learn new skills besides their technical knowledge. “Building a product such as an app or a website not only depends on programming languages or codes, it also requires you to understand design aspects such as colour and aesthetics,” she said.

Lilyana credited her studies in business administration for helping her to successfully manage her first startup. “Studying business admin has been the best choice I’ve made. It helped me to manage my finances, market my products, and run my business,” she said.

However, her journey as an entrepreneur has been full of beds of roses. Lilyana shared some bad decisions she and her partners made for Jootta, a social networking site similar to Pinterest. “We exhausted our funding on R&D, an expensive office in KL, paid ourselves high salaries, and did little on marketing. Looking back, if we spent more time on marketing, and stationed ourselves in the United States, Jootta could have been a success story,” she continued.

Lastly, she advised students to develop an entrepreneurial spirit no matter where they work. “The entrepreneurial spirit is a mindset, attitude and approach that actively seeks out change. It’s a mindset that embraces critical questioning, innovation, service and continuous improvement.”

Lilyana Abdul Latiff is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Founder of Aelph One, CEO of New Entrepreneurs Foundation of Malaysia (MyNEF), Co-Founder of JooBii Commerce, and Chairperson of ASEAN Rice Boat Startup Awards.

Dialogue sessions with CELAP

UTAR successfully organised two dialogue sessions with two delegates from the Chinese Executive Leadership Academy Pudong (CELAP). The first was hosted by the Institute of Management and Leadership Development (IMLD) on 4 January 2017 at Sungai Long Campus, while the second was hosted by the Centre for Economic Studies (CES), parked under the Faculty of Business and Finance (FBF) on 9 January 2017 at Kampar Campus. The delegates were CELAP Division of Foreign Affairs Director Zhao Xuhua and CELAP Department of Economics and Business Administration Lecturer Dr Yang Zhiqiang.

Present on the first day was IMLD Director Prof Dr Cheng Ming Yu, while the second day saw the presence of FBF Dean Dr Au Yong Hui Nee, FBF Head of Postgraduate Degree Programmes Dr Abdellah Senadji, and Chairperson of CES Dr Yi Kwang Jing.

Aimed at encouraging the interaction between UTAR academics and scholars from CELAP, the dialogue sessions emphasised on the aspects of socio-economic, educational, political and cultural development in Malaysia.

Dr Yang gave a talk titled “China’s One Belt One Road (OBOR) Initiative: Globalisation”, elucidating the initiative which promotes regional and cross-continental connectivity and trade between China and Eurasia. It covers five major areas of interest, namely policy coordination, infrastructure construction, unimpeded trade, financial integration and people-to-people ties.

Zhao, however, illuminated the audiences with her talk titled “Executive Leadership Education and Training in China”. She introduced the leadership education and training system used in China, as well as its development throughout the years. At the dialogue session held in Kampar Campus, Dr Au Yong also spoke on the environmental legislation and development in Malaysia. This was followed by Dr Abdellah who delivered a talk related to the influence of modern technologies on cybercrime among Malaysian youth.

Following the successful school visits-cum-eye screening projects to a total of four schools in Perak last year, UTAR Council Chairman Tun Dr Din Ling Sik led the year’s first delegation to visit and distribute free spectacles to 98 school students from SJK (C) Thung Hon, Cenderong and SJK (C) Bemban, Batu Gajah on 5 January 2017.

Titled “The Gift of Eyesight”, the project was a collaborative effort between UTAR and the Malaysian Association of Practising Opticians (MAPO) to help young students, especially the poor and those in need of spectacles, to get free spectacles.

Tun Ling was accompanied by UTAR Vice President for Student Development and Alumni Relations Prof Dr Choong Chee Keong, UTAR Council Member Hiew Fung Yee, Head of the Department of Soft Skills Competency of Kampar Campus Hee Chwen Yee and other UTAR staff.

The delegates from UTAR were cordially received by SJK(C) Thung Hon Principal Lai Yoke Kam, SJK (C) Bemban, Batu Gajah Principal Lee Wai Meng, MAPO Vice President Douglas Lee C.K., England Optical Group Founder Prof Dato’ Dr Chin See Keat Sin, and teachers and students from both schools.

Tun Ling said, “Providing spectacles to young students help to raise young children’s grades, improving their education. Apart from that, healthy vision enables young students to improve their quality of life from childhood to adulthood and to contribute actively in society. UTAR is indeed proud to work together with MAPO to make eye care accessible to needy students. I would like to thank MAPO and England Optical Group Founder Dato’ Chin for their noble act of collaborating with UTAR to give back to the community.”

The England Optical Group also sponsored a total of 300 spectacle frames valued at RM15,000 to the needy school students.

Delivery of free spectacles continue

UTAR once again collaborated with ECM Libra Foundation to organise a series of comprehensive English and IT Tuition Programmes for selected primary schools in Kampar and Batu Gajah namely SJK(K) Layan, SJK (C) Kampung Timah, SJK (C) Lawan Kuta, SJK (C) Bemban and SJK (C) Thung Hon.

Jointly conducted since March 2016 by UTAR Department of Soft Skills Competency (DSSC), Faculty of Arts and Social Science (FAS) and Faculty of Information and Communication Technology (FICT), the tuition programmes ended with a closing ceremony at UTAR Kampar Campus on 19 November 2016. The programme was aimed to enhance the school students’ English Language and IT proficiency as well as to strengthen their understanding toward the subjects.

UTAR Vice President for Student Development and Alumni Relations Prof Dr Choong Chee Keong said, “We are glad to see that more than 140 schoolchildren have benefitted from the tuition programmes conducted by UTAR. This was a good opportunity for the students to equip themselves with the right education and essential knowledge, especially with English being the lingua franca around the world, and with IT skills becoming increasingly essential in the 21st century.”

The English Tuition programme focused primarily on the teaching of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills to the school students. Apart from indoor learning, the students also engaged in interactive activities such as storytelling, grammar lessons, English language-related games, reading aloud, and singing action songs to stimulate students’ interest in English. Meanwhile, the components of the IT Tuition programme involved indoor class training on some basic programming and animation skills.

The closing ceremony ended with ECM Libra Foundation Senior Manager Cheah Sook Lian presenting prizes to students whom performed well in the final assessment.

Tuition programme

How to be a technopreneur

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Delivery of free spectacles continue

Aid for schools to boost English and IT proficiency

Funding information

From Talks to Forums

Community at Heart

Delivery of free spectacles continue

Aid for schools to boost English and IT proficiency

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Funding information

Community at Heart

Delivery of free spectacles continue

Aid for schools to boost English and IT proficiency

Funding information
中华研究院暨孟子学院书法刻字研习坊

马华达拉旅游达人兼My Road Planner创办人卓衍豪(左眼)于2017年2月20日受邀前来拉曼大学金宝校区主讲以“回眸家乡最美的风景”为题的分享会，成功吸引了逾100位校内与校外人士的踊跃出席。这个分享会由拉曼大学中华研究院艺术研究组和摄影学会联合举办，旨在让出席者加深自己对身处的这片美丽土地的了解与情感。卓衍豪首先以自我介绍为讲座拉开序幕。他讲述了自己开始背包旅行的渊源、踏足的地方、经历和体验。他特别提到了其中一段难忘的经历，因为当初在国外的旅途中无法好好地向其他旅客推荐马来西亚，而过后决定用心去发掘这片土地的美好，同时将这最美丽的马来西亚介绍给大家，特别是我国国民。

“旅行的时候，所追求的不是拍照上载到个人社交网站打卡，甚至护照上的盖章，真正的旅行是必须亲身去深入体验及感受。”旅途中的许多收获和经验，是需要旅者亲自走入当地去感受和发掘才能获得的。

“了解自己的家乡吗?”的环节中，透过图片与影片分享，他为与会者介绍了马来西亚许多鲜为人知的景点，如柔佛嘉亨的观光稻田、沙巴淡布南的梯田、霹雳老港可贵的海豚、砂拉越姆鲁国家公园、沙巴的昆达山与珍珠岛、登嘉楼甘马仕的沙洲和直落玛那的海龟等。大部分的出席者对这些景点都很陌生，通过主讲人的简介，皆萌起了想一游的念头。

“在淡布南的梯田随处停下时，你会发现自己好像就在巴厘岛、昆达山的农场与牛群让你仿佛身处新西兰、姆鲁国家公园鹿洞的蝙蝠群出巡情景仿佛就像国家地理频道里所播映的情景一样震撼。这些景色不只是在国外才有，我们马来西亚也有。马来西亚拥有许多独特的文化和景点，地方非常值得探索。”

最后的问答环节中，主讲人和与会者交流甚欢，一同探究与旅游、梦想、人生价值、家等相关的课题。分享会后，大会也安排了签书会，让出席者和主讲人有更近距离的交流。

中医药研究中心举办步态评估与矫正课程

为了促进和带动马来西亚中医药学术界的发展，以及提升本地中医师的学术水平和技术水平，拉曼大学中医药研究中心于2016年10月29至31日假双溪龙校区多用途礼堂举办了由毕义明博士所指导的“步态评估与矫正课程”。

毕义明博士来自北京，这次是他相隔一年以后再次前来拉曼大学举办专业性的中医师操作课程。本次授课内容包括“人类步态特点、足弓与步态评估”、“步态诊断与矫正”以及“步态矫正运动处方的制定”。这次的学员除了有在临床上经常治疗骨伤的医生，还包括专业推拿师、瑜伽老师等。老师的教学给学员们很大的启发，除了使用传统的针灸、推拿的治疗方式外，经过步态评估的专业分析和诊断后，也可以配合日常步态矫正和运动康复疗法来使患者恢复原本的健康与正常体态。
Sejajar dengan kenaikan kes demam denggi, Fakulti Perubatan dan Sains Kesihatan (FMHS) UTAR bersama-sama dengan Sanofi Pasteur telah menganjurkan sebuah kempen yang bertajuk Kempen Kesedaran Demam Denggi pada 16 Januari 2017 bertempat di Kampus Sungai Long.

Kempen tersebut bertujuan mendidik orang ramai mengenai nyamuk Aedes dan wabak denggi. Ia juga bermatlamat untuk meningkatkan kesedaran para pelajar dan kaktangan-kaktangan UTAR terhadap penyakit tersebut, bersama-sama dengan risiko peribadi dan langkah berjaga-jaga yang perlu diambil untuk mengawal penularan wabak denggi.

Antara tetamu jemputan yang telah menghadirkan diri pada hari tersebut ialah Dekan FMHS Emeritus Prof Dr Cheong Soon Keng, Pensyarah merangkap penceramah dari FMHS Dr Mohammed Abdulrazaq Jabbar, Dr Gary Low Kim Kuan dan Dr Kyaw Ko Latt serta kaktangan-kaktangan FMHS. Kempen tersebut turut dihadiri oleh Pengurus Bersekutu Perakaunan Utama Sanofi Pasteur c/o Sanofi-Aventis (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd Danial Md. Yusof serta diiringi oleh beberapa kaktanganannya.


Dalam ceramah yang disampaikan oleh Dr Mohammed, beliau berkata, “Salah satu daripada penyebab demam denggi adalah keadaan cuaca hujan dan suhu yang tinggi. Suhu tersebut memungkinkan nyamuk Aedes untuk bertelur dan bertumbuh. Para penduduk juga didapati hanya bergantung kepada aktiviti fogging yang dijalankan oleh jabatan kesihatan sahaja. Para peserta juga dinasihatkan supaya meluangkan masa 10 minit setiap minggu untuk memeriksa dan memastikan tiada kawasan pembiakan nyamuk Aedes di persekitaran tempat tinggal.”

Dalam sesi perkongsian yang disampaikan oleh Dr Low pula, beliau membincangkan mengenai tanda-tanda beserta dengan rawatan yang bersesuaian untuk seseorang itu. Ia juga mencadangkan bahawa para penduduk juga harus memastikan tiada kawasan pembiakan nyamuk Aedes di persekitaran tempat tinggal. Para peserta juga dinasihatkan supaya memasukkan masa 10 minit setiap minggu untuk memeriksa dan memastikan tiada kawasan pembiakan di rumah masing-masing.

Selain daripada ceramah, pelbagai aktiviti lain turut dianjurkan oleh pihak penganjur. Antaranya ialah, stesen-stesen permainan, tapak pameran, bengkel langkah pencegahan dan sebagainya. Para peserta juga dinasihatkan supaya memasukkan masa 10 minit setiap minggu untuk memeriksa dan memastikan tiada kawasan pembiakan di rumah masing-masing.

FMHS menganjurkan kempen kesedaran demam denggi

FMHS menganjurkan kempen kesedaran demam denggi