UTAR fosters linkages with industry

UTAR and Selangor Freight Forwarders & Logistics Association (SFFLA) joined forces for synergistic partnership following the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony that was held on 20 August 2009 at the SFFLA headquarters in Port Klang, Selangor.

Signatories to the MoU were UTAR President Ir. Professor Dato’ Dr. Chuah Hean Teik and SFFLA Acting President Alvin Chua Seng Wah.

The collaborative effort between UTAR and SFFLA will see many initiatives proposed for the advancement of the freight forwarding and logistics industry.

One of the proposed joint initiatives is to conduct joint educational and training programmes that would centre on freight forwarding and logistics.

In relation to that, both parties will embark on ambitious projects such as facilitating academic and training development exchanges, conducting joint seminars and holding talks on career opportunities in the logistics industry.

The MoU would also provide expanded opportunities for UTAR students to gain employment and internship placements through SFFLA members.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, UTAR President Ir. Professor Dato’ Dr. Chuah Hean Teik said, “This collaboration will provide UTAR staff and students with a practical learning platform to gain hands-on experience at numerous SFFLA members’ companies.”

Prof. Chuah added, “It will give them working knowledge in the science of logistics and shipping management. It provides opportunities for students to deal with real life business situations.”

UTAR and Asian Center for Media Studies Sdn. Bhd (ACMS) will continue to explore areas for cooperation in education, multimedia technology and media studies. Both parties renewed an MoU on 19 August 2009 at Menara Star, Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

Signatories to the renewal were UTAR President Ir. Professor Dato’ Dr. Chuah Hean Teik and ACMS Executive Director, Dato’ Ng Poh Tip.

The renewal further affirmed their commitment towards facilitating the exchange of ideas and information in the latest development in media studies and media related areas of study.

The renewal agreement between UTAR-ACMS included a proposal for both parties to facilitate cooperation in teaching and research. It also stressed that both parties would continue to enhance general industry-academia collaboration efforts.

UTAR and ACMS have been collaborating since 2003, following an MoU that was signed on 22 August 2003.

Since then, UTAR has sent more than 100 students to attend lectures, talks, seminars and workshops organised by ACMS. Besides that, two lecturers from UTAR Faculty of Arts and Social Science have been awarded grants to research in the area of journalism and media. UTAR and ACMS have also jointly organised seminars, forums and lectures for the public.

During the ceremony, Prof. Chuah extended his sincere appreciation to both The STAR and ACMS for not only assisting UTAR in organising events but also publicising UTAR functions. He expressed his eagerness to continue the collaboration with ACMS in various future projects.
Visit from Beijing Foreign Studies University

A group of students from Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) visited UTAR Perak Campus on 13 August 2009. They came under the student exchange programme of Malaysia-China Friendship Association.

Dr. Teh Chee Seng, Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Science (FAS), welcomed the students who were accompanied by Dr. Wu Ming Chu, Chairperson of UTAR Centre for Social Change and Trends. After an ice-breaking session, the BFSU students were led on a Campus tour. They had the opportunity to mingle with UTAR students from the Chinese Studies programme and observed a class conducted in Bahasa Malaysia (Moral Studies) during their visit to the Campus.

He Teng Teng, also known as Kamarulzaman, a name given him during his time studying the Malay Language at the local public university in China, said “Ini adalah kali pertama saya melawat universiti swasta di Malaysia. Saya amat kagum dengan Kampus yang cantik ini. Kampus yang dikelilingi oleh tasik ini mempunyai pemandangan yang menarik. Pada pendapat saya, kualiti pendidikan universiti swasta Malaysia adalah setara dengan taraf antarabangsa. (This is the first time I visit a private university in Malaysia. I am impressed with this beautiful and picturesque lake view Campus. I find the quality of education at Malaysian private universities is on par with the international standard.)”

Beijing Foreign Studies University is China’s most prestigious school for the study of Language and is one of the key universities directly affiliated with the Department of Education China.

UTAR Sports Carnival 2009

The dexterity, swiftness, accuracy and physical power of some 700 UTAR students were put to the test at the UTAR Sports Carnival 2009 on 2 August 2009. The carnivals held concurrently at Kolej Tunku Abdul Rahman (KTAR) sports facilities in Kuala Lumpur and UTAR Perak Campus in Kampar comprised different teams competing in different categories.

Tennis, table tennis and badminton demanded the students’ execution of their forehand and backhand strokes. Netball, basketball and futsal demanded the accuracy in passing and in putting the ball through or into the net, and tug-of-war demanded the physical power of the participants to literally pull their opponents over a white line.

The day long carnivals saw students challenging their rivalling peers from opposing teams from different campuses or faculties for medals and trophies.

At the end of each competition, shouts of joy or clenched fists punching the air were seen and heard from the victorious camps. However, signs of the agony of defeat were hardly visible because they were masked by the ‘carnival’ atmosphere and the sporting spirit shown by the vanquished at the event.

In Kuala Lumpur, Prof. Dr. Ewe Hong Tat, UTAR Vice President (Internationalisation and Academic Development), presented medals to some of the winners and the overall champion trophy to the teams from Kuala Lumpur Campus.

At UTAR Perak Campus, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yeoh Suan Pow, UTAR Vice President (Student Development and Alumni Relations), presented medals to the winners and the overall champion trophy to the teams from the Faculty of Business and Finance.

Pull...pull...pull... UTAR staff and students...having lots of fun.

UTAR Sports Carnival 2009

Dr. Yeoh (far left in light green sleeves) posing with the netball winners.
Student Representative Council Handover Ceremony

Chairpersons of Student Representative Committee (SRC) shared their learning experience at the SRC Handover Ceremony held on 24 July 2009 at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus.

The SRC Handover Ceremony marked the end of a service term and steadfast commitment by the student representatives as the ‘voices of the students’ when the 2008/9 SRC members officially stepped down to pass on their roles to the newly elected representatives.

Chairpersons from different Campus SRCs received a token of appreciation and every SRC member received a certificate as an acknowledgement of their contribution from UTAR President, Ir. Professor Dato’ Dr. Chuah Hean Teik.

In sharing her experience as the SRC Chairperson of UTAR Perak Campus, Lim Kah Yee said, “After serving for one year, I found that my involvement there was not about the certificate that I received. SRC was all about the experiences that I went through together with my committee members.”

SRC Chairperson of UTAR Sungai Long Campus, Leong Chi Wei admitted, “Spending time serving and helping students has been meaningful to me. Whenever students messaged me to thank the SRC for our help or good work, it was a rather emotional time for me and I loved that feeling. After all, it is my responsibility to serve the students.”

SRC Chairperson of UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus, Lai Tjun Kong enthused, “This journey has been a tough and memorable one. I made new friends and learned new things. I was also exposed to the outside world and had the opportunity to meet some very prominent people in our country. Most importantly, I learnt the traits of team building, cooperation and being a responsible person both as an individual and also in a group.”

SRC members are UTAR students elected by students through an election held annually. The three-day voting campaign leading to the SRC Election consists of dialogue sessions, public speaking presentations, distribution of flyers/brochures and self-introductions by the contesting students through class by class visitations.

The SRC Election to nominate the SRC members for the year 2009/10 was held at the Klang Valley campuses on 25 June 2009 while the election at UTAR Perak Campus was held on 25 & 26 June 2009.

Students demonstrate oratory skills with patriotic messages

Eighteen participants mixed wit with their elocution skills when they spoke on nationalism at the UTAR Public Speaking Competition 2009 held in conjunction with Merdeka celebration at the Perak Campus on 14 August 2009.

Organised by the Drama and Public Speaking Society, the competition required participants to deliver a three-minute impromptu speech on a given topic based on the theme "Nationalism: The Heart of Unity".

Participants were judged on speech construction, presentation and delivery, speech content, language, effectiveness and vocal inclination.

Gaanesh Palani, a Foundation student, bowled over the judges with his simple yet engaging speech on Advantages of Unity/Multicultural Society and walked away with the first prize of RM100 cash and a certificate. Second prize went to Sarath Bani, a Marketing student who impressed the crowd with his humour and charm when he shared on My Favourite Malaysian Hero. Ezreena Simon, a Banking and Finance student, won third prize with her inspiring message on My Role as a Malaysian Student.

Winners of the consolation prizes were Ramanapriya Jayabal (Foundation in Science), Kam Yew Ee (Bachelor of Entrepreneurship) and Lim Chei Huey (Bachelor of Commerce).

On why the event was organised, organising chairperson, Kelvin Kumar expressed, “This public speaking competition aimed at unearthing the patriotism and sense of national unity of the participants. Besides invoking the participant’s creativity, this event also served as a platform for students to polish their oratory skills and to overcome fears of expressing their opinions.”

The panel of judges comprised of Paul Gnanasekaran (Public Speaking Lecturer from the Faculty of Arts and Social Science), Balasubramaniam (Public Speaking and Sociology Senior Lecturer from the Centre for Foundation Studies (CFS)), and Nawanithan (Head of Department of Arts and Social Science, CFS).
UTAR organised the UTAR 4th National Mathematics Competition 2009 on 15 August 2009 at UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus.

The Competition, which received an overwhelming response from both public and private institutions of higher learning, was divided into two categories - Mathematics and Fast Arithmetic. Although this Competition is organised annually by UTAR, the fourth edition was the first Mathematics Competition that extended an opportunity for students to compete in Fast Arithmetic.

UTAR Council Chairman Tun Dr. Ling Liong Sik, who was present during the Competition said, “Whether one realise it or not, or even when he claims to be mathematics illiterate, unlike reading where there is a conscious effort taking place, being mathematical is something that every one of us do every day. Its application is something that we do in all situations.”

UTAR President Ir. Professor Dato’ Dr. Chuah Hean Teik expressed, “UTAR believes this is a good platform to foster interest in mathematics and enhance problem-solving skills beyond the lecture room settings. It was with this spirit that UTAR organised this annual Mathematics Competition for college and university students in our country.”

“I hope that this Mathematics Competition will serve as a platform and an annual meeting place for all mathematics enthusiasts in Malaysia to exchange ideas and share information. We believe this will lead to widening our perspective and will further reinforce our commitment to the mastery and application of mathematics.”

Emerging as winners of the Mathematics category were Champion, Loke Zhi Kin from INTI College; first runner-up, Tan Fong Shen from UTAR and second-runner up, Chew Xiao Xian from UTAR.

Winners for the Fast Arithmetic category were Champion, Chua Chun Kiat from University of Malaya; first runner-up, Ooi Choong Hern from Taylor's University College and second runner-up, Sam Kar Hong from UTAR.

On 10 July 2009, a delegate of five committee members of Institut Kimia Malaysia (IKM) Perak Branch visited UTAR Perak Campus to conduct an interactive session with the first year Chemistry students on career opportunities in the field of chemistry.

Organised by the Department of Chemical Science, the talk attracted over 80 students. The session kicked off with a brief introduction by Hwang Chin Hor, Chairman of IKM Perak.

This was followed by a talk conducted by Hoong Seng Hong, an IKM Council Member and Deputy Director General of Jabatan Kimia Malaysia.

Hoong provided an overview on ‘The Profession of Chemistry in Malaysia with reference to the Chemists Act 1975 and the Chemists (General) Rules 1977’.

Emphasising the significance and impact of chemistry professions, Hoong said, “The chemistry profession plays an important part in economic development, sustaining the environment and improving the quality of life of all. It has specialised knowledge, the privilege of self-regulation, and a responsibility to the public. As chemists, we must maintain high ethical standard as the decisions we make have a direct effect on the society and nation.”

The second part of the session was delivered by Ramlee Ibrahim from the Jabatan Kimia Malaysia, Perak Branch, who shared on career as a chemist in the public services.

Ramlee said, “Those who work with the Malaysian government can enjoy good salary plus allowance and benefits such as job security, housing loan, car loan, computer loan, scholarship to pursue further studies, long leave and pension.”

During the Q&A session, Captain Chan Weng Kwai, a committee member of IKM Perak Branch, who is also a former headmaster, shared his experience in teaching Chemistry. “To pursue teaching as a career, one would need to complete a one-year Diploma in Teaching after obtaining a UTAR degree,” he stated.

Year 1 Chemistry student Ku Jian Lin said this of the event, “Today’s event gave me a clearer picture of employment options in chemistry. I plan to be involved in sales and marketing when I graduate in three years’ time.”
Sweet victory for UTAR wushu team

UTAR Perak Campus wushu exponents secured one silver and three bronze medals in the Kejohanan Sukan Perak 2009 (SUPER) organised by Majlis Sukan Negeri Perak at Stadium Indra Mulia, Ipoh on 13 and 14 June 2009.

Four students represented UTAR in the free sparring (sanda) category in the wushu state-level competition. Sanda is one of the disciplines in competitive wushu. It is a modern fighting method and sport influenced by Chinese boxing, Chinese wrestling methods and other Chinese grappling techniques.

Eric Chew Cheng Hoong (Public Relations) won a silver medal for his feat. Three bronze medals came from Robin Ng Jia Li (Entrepreneurship), Tan Khong Yeow (Business Administration) and Lo Yew Kong (Psychology).

Towards a green UTAR campus

Fuelled with a passion for Mother Nature, two eco-warriors shared the vision of a green campus with 80 UTAR students in two sessions of interactive workshop titled ‘A Journey to the Inconvenient Truth’ conducted in UTAR Perak Campus on 4 June 2009.

The speakers, Justin Lee and Ivan Yew, both graduated from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) with degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Environmental Technology respectively, are very active in green campus activities and work closely with NGOs to foster environmental awareness among students.

Held in conjunction with World Environment Day, this event was the first to kick off a series of environment-related activities organised by UTAR Perak Green Campus Committee. This newly set-up committee aimed to gear the entire University community towards building a green campus.

Yew and Lee have been active in environmental advocacy since their university days. In fact, their ‘White Coffin’ campaign against the use of polystyrene containers took their campus by storm last year and received international recognition from Hong Kong and Japan.

“White Coffin refers to the polystyrene food containers that are so heavily used nowadays. They comprise benzene, styrene, ethylene and blowing agent. Benzene is the most toxic chemical in polystyrene containers. Hot and oily food, when stored in the containers, will react with the chemical and promote migration of these toxic chemicals into our system. Long term usage of these containers will increase the risk of cancer. These polystyrene containers not only pose health hazard but also are environmentally destructive. They are non-biodegradable and remain in the environment for more than 500 years and take up 25%-30% of our landfills,” said Yew in a very serious tone.

Various activities such as singing, quizzes, games, lucky draw and brainstorming sessions were carried out in the two-hour workshop to bring the environmental message across. The most interesting part was when the students presented the outcome of their brainstorming on what UTARians can do to protect the environment. They voiced their ideas on practical ways to reduce carbon footprint, conserve energy and enhance environmental awareness plus other green initiatives that can be implemented within the University to build a greener Campus.

When asked why he has a soft spot for UTAR, Yew said, “I am here because I love UTAR. When I was here for the first time last year, I was impressed with this beautiful Campus that is surrounded by lush greenery and lakes. I strongly believe attitude and mindset can be changed. The four Rs: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle must be practised by every student. We need to equip students with strong sense of moral and responsibility. Greater awareness will result in green revolution in this Campus.” Yew said optimistically.

The event was rounded off with a closing speech by Dr. Show Kuan Yeow, Chairman of the Green Campus Committee, followed by the presentation of unique souvenirs made of recycling items to the speakers.
Seniors and Freshies bond at Peer Mentoring Programme

128 freshmen and 24 seniors of UTAR Perak Campus participated in the month-long Peer Mentoring Programme which ended on 4 July 2009. Organised by the Counselling and Guidance Unit of the Department of Student Affairs, the Peer Mentoring Programme (PMP) is a ‘friends making friends’ programme that connects the new students to the seniors who acted as peer mentors.

Themed ‘We Love, We Care, We Share, We Guide’, this programme aimed at creating a caring community in UTAR where freshmen can always rely on their helpful and resourceful seniors for support throughout their adjustment period. Peer mentors who have received a minimum of ten hours of Basic Counselling Skills training shared their experience in adapting to Campus life with their juniors.

A barbecue was organised during the closing session at the Campus. One significant and meaningful activity carried out during the closing session was the plant adoption. Everyone planted ferns and have to look after them until the end of the semester. The plants symbolised the growing friendship among PMP members.

One of the mentees, first year Psychology student Siti Aishah binti Abdullah shared, “I was attracted by the previous PMP activity photos. The committee members encouraged me to make new friends through this programme.” Appreciating her mentor, she added, “My mentor is really kind and good in connecting every one of us together as a group. I hope our group’s relationship can continue to grow just like the fern plant. I would like to join PMP again as a mentor or committee member in the future.”

Psychology student Chai Hong Yun joined PMP as a mentor with the intention of helping new students. “I can empathise with the helplessness of being freshmen; therefore, I wish to help our freshmen in adjusting to the change of environment. I learned a lot from this programme. Besides improving my communication skill, I also learned the importance of sharing the joys and burdens with my friends to enable us to cope with our lives positively,” he shared.

UTAR Students Conquered Bukit Brinchang for A Good Cause

UTAR students Valerie Tan Shuyin and Kevin Tan Shyh Ann from Sungai Long Campus were chosen to represent UTAR in climbing Bukit Brinchang during the Yayasan Nanyang – ‘Rock the Mountain Charity’ event held from 16 - 17 August 2009 at Bukit Brinchang, Cameron Highlands, Pahang.

Yayasan Nanyang – ‘Rock the Mountain Charity’ was an event organised by Yayasan Nanyang Press to create, develop and promote opportunities for youths to participate in physical activities. The event also strived to expose participants to mountain climbing and nature while assisting colleges and NGOs to raise funds for their in-house activities.

Prior to the event, donation drives were held by participating organisations, including non-profit organisations and institutions of higher learning in Malaysia. Out of the total collection made by each participating organisation, 50% of the collection went back to the organisation, 40% of the collection went to charity organisations chosen by the organisation and 10% of the collection went to Yayasan Nanyang Press for expenses of the climb. Participating organisations of the event were allowed to send a representative to climb Bukit Brinchang for every RM5,000 collected.

To participate in the event, UTAR embarked on an ambitious donation drive by distributing 500 pieces of donation cards to students from all four of its Campuses. Out of the donation drive, close to RM13,000 was raised. Hence, UTAR were eligible to send two representatives for the climb. Valerie and Kevin were chosen to represent UTAR as they were among the top fund collectors in the University.
Themed 'Symphony of Colours', Culture Night 2009, organised by the UTAR Asian Cultural Society, was held on 4 July 2009 at the Perak Campus.

The fun night of music and dance showcased the convergence of various Asian cultural performances. The event was aimed to promote the uniqueness and richness of Malaysian culture to the students.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Lawrence Arokiasamy, Advisor for the Asian Cultural Society, said, “This event enabled students to showcase their talent in performing traditional cultural performances and to promote this culture among UTARians. Students can share and understand the various cultures in Malaysia, thus creating the desire to unite and form the 1Malaysia concept through events such as this.”

Throughout the night, the audience were treated to a variety of Malay, Indian and Chinese dances, both classical and modern, as well as renditions of popular songs by talented UTAR students.

In between performances, a comical sketch titled ‘Veera Paandiya Katta Bomman’ which was performed in three parts, kept the audience entertained. Commenting on the event, organising chairperson Marimuthu a/l Mum-murthy enthused, “The theme Symphony of Colours was chosen to signify the unity of Malaysian culture. Different types of colours show different aspects of cultures. Just as how the word symphony symbolises the artistic works, variety of cultures is also embedded in our country. I would like to thank all the members for their support and energy in putting up this show for UTAR community.”

Night of Colourful Rendezvous

Cultural performances by UTAR students.

News in Brief

UTAR Electrical & Electronic Engineering students did the University proud when they won top three exhibitors’ prizes at the National Student Conference on Innovative Technologies in Intelligent Systems and Industrial Application (CITISIA) held at Monash University, Sunway Campus from 25 to 26 July 2009.

UTAR students from Perak Campus in Kampar who represented UTAR in the MASISWA Games 2009 northern region scooped two gold and one silver medals. This inter-varsity Games was held at Universiti Teknologi Petronas in Tronoh, Perak from 3 to 4 July 2009. The gold medal for UTAR came from the female volleyball team as well as from the badminton team. The silver was contributed by the male volleyball team.

A group of UTAR Broadcasting students shone at the Astro Nextgen Contentpreneur Awards (NCA) 2009 ceremony held on 6 August 2009 at the Sime Darby Convention, Bukit Kiara, Kuala Lumpur, bagging two awards from the 11 given out at the ceremony. Their prize-winning entry was a documentary titled Tidal Tales.

UTAR Advertising student Lee Sheng Wang was chosen as one of the two Malaysians to represent the country at the ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Independent Cinema Workshop held from 15 July - 8 August 2009 in Los Banos, Philippines. It was a digital production workshop that strives to create a regional alternative cinema community as well as to unearth raw creative talents.

Dr. Stephen Leong Mun Yoon, Director of UTAR Centre for International Studies, has been conferred ‘The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette’ by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. His Excellency Masahiko Horie, Japan’s Ambassador to Malaysia, presented the award in a ceremony held at His Excellency’s residence in Kuala Lumpur on 15 July 2009.

Proceeds from the Ball Night 2009 was donated to four charity organisations in the Klang Valley on 18 July 2009. Dr. Yeoh Suan Pow, Vice President of UTAR presented the donation to representatives of the beneficiaries at a simple presentation ceremony: Dato’ Eadon Ching, Founder and President of Pertubuhan Amal Seri Sinar (P.A.S.S); Manoharan Munusamy, Vice President of Damai Disabled Association; Foong Peng Lam, Service Manager of Rumah Kasih; and Edward Lim Choon Sun, Manager of PAWS Malaysia.

UTAR jointly organised a half-day seminar on "Green Approach for Wastewater Treatment - Bio Remediation and Energy Generation" conducted at Perak Techno-Trade Centre (PTTC) on 27 July 2009 with Perak State Development Corporation (PSDC) and Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) Perak Branch.
UTAR held its 9th Convocation Ceremony from 7 - 9 August 2009 at Dewan San Choon, Wisma MCA, Kuala Lumpur.

For this Convocation, 2,895 graduands from four Master’s and 32 Bachelor’s Honours degree programmes received their scrolls presented by Dr. Hou Kok Chung, Deputy Minister of Higher Education; and Senator Dato’ Ir. Wong Foon Meng, President of the Senate, Parliament Malaysia, on the first day. The second day of the Convocation witnessed students receiving their scrolls from Dato’ Seri Kong Cho Ha, Minister of Housing and Local Government; and Dato’ Sri Liow Tiong Lai, Minister of Health. On the third day, graduands walked up the stage received their respective scrolls from Datuk Dr. Lim Khaik Leang and Datuk Steven Tan Kok Hiang, UTAR Council Members. After the last session of this 9th UTAR Convocation, members of the staff also joined in the celebration of Datuk Steven Tan’s birthday which fell on the same day.

This Convocation also marked the graduation of UTAR pioneer batch of students for one Master’s and four Bachelor’s Honours degrees. They were: Master of Commerce (Applied Accounting), Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) Electronic and Communications Engineering, Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) Materials and Manufacturing Engineering, and Bachelor of Science (Honours) Physics.

With this Convocation, UTAR has a total of 16,480 graduates. Presently, UTAR has over 18,000 students pursuing 76 programmes comprising of eight PhDs, 13 Master’s, 45 Bachelor’s and four Foundation Certificates.
Visitors thronged UTAR Perak Campus from 10 – 12 July 2009 to attend the Malaysia Festival of the Mind V at UTAR Perak Campus. Jointly organised by the Malaysia Mental Literacy Movement (MMLM), UTAR and Kolej Tunku Abdul Rahman (KTAR), the three-day Festival featured talks, demonstrations, exhibitions and workshops to enhance mental literacy and tap maximum potential of the brain power.

Officiating the event was the Deputy Prime Minister, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin. The Menteri Besar of Perak, Dato’ Seri Dr. Zambry Abdul Kadir was also present at the event.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, Tan Sri Muhyiddin said that knowledge is the propeller of productivity and growth. “In this highly competitive world, we have to fight economic battles on all fronts. It is only the collective brainpower of the people that will make us triumph.”

He applauded MMLM and its founder-chairman Tun Dr. Ling Liong Sik for the movement’s efforts in revitalising a culture of learning, innovation and creativity. “The great synergy between MMLM, UTAR and KTAR can be a springboard to more widespread interest in intelligence and brain power enhancement towards a better Malaysia.”

The Festival witnessed a series of talks conducted by leading figures in the field of brain training. Among the distinguished speakers were Terry Winchester, a hypnotherapist and psychotherapist from Johannesburg, South Africa; Anant Kasibhatla, a memory record-holder from India; Prof. Dr. Leonard Yong, a personality profiling and emotional intelligence expert; and Dr. Alex Ow, an accredited instructor of the Edward de Bono Thinking Method in Malaysia.

Visiting the Festival was a family affair for M. Nathan, wife Vasanthi and their three school-going daughters. Nathan said, “This is my first time visiting this Festival. I am interested to attend two particular talks - speed reading and hypnosis. Speed reading is an essential skill in today’s lives as we are bombarded with large volumes of information and we need to learn how to capture and understand this information within a short time. Hypnosis is something new to me and I am curious to find out more.” He added, “As for my wife and kids, they are looking for materials on improving study skills, mind games, mind mapping techniques and others. I am glad this Festival becomes a one-stop hub for mental literacy-related products, trainings, activities and information.”
A drama titled ‘Is Sex = Love?’ was among the features at the launching of Counselling and Wellness Week (CWW) at Perak Campus on 24 June 2009.

Themed ‘Love, Sex and Relationship’, the event was organised by the Counselling and Guidance Unit of the Department of Student Affairs. It aimed to enhance students’ awareness on love, sex and relationship as well as educate them on the availability and benefits of counselling and guidance services provided by the University.

Among the activities carried out were talks, exhibitions, games, book and movie reviews, and sex education workshop, all of which received encouraging participation. Students were also hugely entertained by two popular movies, Sex and the City and Love Matters, which were showcased for review. They then shared their opinions on love and friendship.

One of the counsellors, Lok Huey Chuen said, “I encourage students to participate in the psychological checklists to have a better understanding on how to enhance their interpersonal skills which are crucial to build strong relationship with others.”

Another counsellor, Angus Ng Foo Yek, delivered an attention-grabbing talk titled ‘Love Immunology’. He said, “Proper love, sex and relationship education will build a strong foundation that enhances our love immune system so that we will not be easily hurt by others.” Ng also conducted another interactive and intriguing sex education workshop titled ‘The Secret.’ This workshop not only gave exposure to youths on how sexual relationship works but also to make them aware of the risks of having sex before marriage, the importance of treating sex responsibly, and the consequences of sexual activities.

A Public Relations student, Tee Chong Zhi expressed, “Through this exhibition, I learnt that love can be expressed in many ways. I hope the University will have more of such events to enhance our knowledge on building relationship towards a successful career and life.”

On 13 June 2009, members of the public who had turned up at the Centre for Extension Education (UTAR-CEE), were privileged to listen to a talk titled ‘Avoiding Cancer through Chinese Medicine’ by Professor Zhao Tian Yong, a practising oncologist from Tung Shin Hospital, Kuala Lumpur.

The talk, the first in a series of three talks on Traditional Chinese Medicine, was organised by UTAR-CEE in collaboration with Tung Shin Hospital.

Professor Zhao shared that although cancer carries with it a grim and scary outlook for its sufferers, in truth statistics compiled by the World Health Organisation (WHO) showed that in approximately one-third of cases the disease can be avoided; in another one-third of cases it can be cured; and in the final one-third of cases the pain and suffering occasioned by the disease can be mitigated.

All the same, it pays to be careful of the disease. This is because in the cases of the ‘usual’ diseases spread by viral or bacterial agents, their symptoms make them known early. Cancer, however, is a ‘silent’ and insidious killer. In many instances, by the time it is detected it is already late.

Because of the fluid interplay of the many causative factors like hereditary, dietary and environmental - it is difficult to be dogmatic about what exactly triggers off the onset of the disease. In Professor Zhao’s opinion, the best strategy against cancer was to adopt a defensive and balanced lifestyle. The ingredients of such a lifestyle would be a balanced diet, emotional equanimity and a good degree of physical activity - a formula that finds favour with both western and traditional Chinese medicine.

During the talk, Professor Zhao drove home the point that traditional Chinese medicine seeks to boost the immune system of the human body to enable it to overcome cancer. The human body is a finely tuned mechanism and when faced with the threat of invasion of cancerous cells it sends out distress signals or symptoms. In the event of illness, it is best to consult a doctor instead of resorting to self-medication. The talk ended with a lively question-and-answer session.
On 25 July 2009 an overflowing crowd in UTAR Petaling Jaya auditorium listened attentively to an engaging speaker expounding on the Secrets of Success - Tony Christiansen. This talk was jointly organised by The STAR, Entrepreneur Organisation Malaysia and UTAR Centre for Extension Education (CEE).

Tony Christiansen is a motivational speaker par excellence. He uses stories to empower people to break the shackles of their limitations and realise their full potential. He used his own remarkable story as examples. He was just nine years old when a back-sliding goods wagon neatly amputated both his legs at a railway crossing. He left the hospital fifteen months later asking “Why me? Why me?” He then realised that “Life goes on no matter what, just find and paddle your own canoe!”, he said to himself. Christiansen has paddled his own canoe with a vengeance ever since!

According to Christiansen, one can obtain or achieve what he asks for. Life gives us the canvas, the brush and the paint box but the individual has to paint his dream on it. And choice is the key to it all.

He said, “Make sure that you always have a dream.” “And that you never stop dreaming, for everything that is in this universe is but the product of a dream. And then work tirelessly to make the dream happens,” he continued.

His own life is a manifestation of the power of dreams. Christiansen has a second degree black belt in Tae Kwan Do; he is a qualified lifeguard; he won gold at the World Games for shot putt, discus and javelin; he races cars and flies planes and has completed Rotorua’s Fletcher marathon; he bench presses more than 250 kilograms; and in 2003 he climbed Mount Kilimanjaro! He even operated his own successful sign-writing business. To top it all, he has also written two best-sellers: Race You to the Top - The Incredible Story of Tony Christiansen and Attitude Plus - Tony Christianson’s Secrets of Success.

He also advised the audience to take responsibility for themselves and not blame others for their failure. Success is merely an attitude of mind, and attitude is what decides our success or failure in the world. When the talk ended at noon, everyone felt that Tony Christiansen had somehow raised the bar on what is possible if we just dare to dream.
External Examiner for Biomedical Engineering visits UTAR

UTAR newly appointed External Examiner for Biomedical Engineering programme, Professor Dan Bader from Queen Mary University of London, UK, visited UTAR Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya Campuses from 12 - 14 August 2009.

He is the Professor of Medical Engineering at the School of Engineering and Materials Science at Queen Mary. He is also a part-time Professor in Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands.

Prof. Bader has a strong interest in researching soft tissue breakdown prevention with new technology. He elaborated, “Among some of my research interests are in solving pressure in ulcer, a condition commonly found in elderly patients as well as spinal cord injuries.”

He expressed his hopes for future joint research projects to be conducted by both Queen Mary University of London and UTAR in the Biomedical Engineering field.

In future collaborations for UTAR students to be sent to Queen Mary University of London as exchange students, he said, “We hope to construct several optional modules that would incorporate details on our research activities and latest research findings so that UTAR students can take up those modules to become more knowledgeable in research when they come here as exchange students.”

Commenting on the career options of graduates from this programme, Prof. Bader said, “Graduates from this programme can choose to work in financial organisations that invest in biotechnology. They can also become specialists in healthcare or go on to study for Medicine. Some may even choose to be involved in research on healthcare and health services or R&D.”

During his visit to the Kuala Lumpur Campus, Prof. Bader presented a technical seminar titled ‘Soft Tissue Research’ to UTAR Biomedical Engineering students and staff. The seminar featured the current state-of-the-art Cell Biomechanics Research conducted in Queen Mary University and associated applications for soft tissue research. At UTAR Petaling Jaya Campus, he visited UTAR President Ir. Professor Dato’ Dr. Chuah Hean Teik.

Students inspired at Motivation Workshop

Some 250 Perak Campus ICT students were injected with enthusiasm, confidence and excitement when they started their educational journey in UTAR with a highly inspiring workshop. Organised by the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology (FSET), the Competence.Progressive.Upskilling(CPU) motivation workshop was held on 20 June 2009.

It aimed to instil positive values, ethics and professionalism among first year ICT students from Computer Science, Information Systems Engineering, Business Information Systems, and Communications and Networking degree programmes.

The session kicked off with two speakers from Jobstreet, Teoh Wee Khang and Yeoh Chen Chow, who shared their real-world insights on ICT profession through their informative talks titled ‘IT Trends and Future Jobs in Malaysia vs Global’ and ‘Personal Traits and Skills for Successful IT Profession’. Revealing the ‘10 Commandments’ for a successful career, Teoh advised, “In order to attain great heights in your future career, you need to be strong in fundamental knowledge, possess good communication skills, empathy, business-oriented mindset, problem solving ability, learning attitude, proactive, adaptable and most importantly, you must have great passion towards your work.”

After that, UTAR lecturers, Sebastian Francis and Alex Ooi, conducted interactive sessions on team building, leadership, study skills and time management.

The workshop concluded with a series of carefully designed games to enhance the students’ understanding of the importance of communication, problem solving, creativity, observation, leadership and teamwork in the learning process.

Commenting on the workshop, Dr. Choo Wou Onn, Head of Knowledge Science Department, said, “I would like to thank all the staff who had made the event successful. During the event, students were motivated by the energy and creativity from the activities. I believe that this camp equipped students with good manners, values and ethics which are extremely important for the students in facing different and unexpected situations in the real world.”

Lecturers and students had a great time bonding.

Prof. Bader (right) chatting with Prof. Chuah during his visit.
中文系与儒家教育问题
台新学者的反思

回顾与展望：中国的华人史研究
《做事·做官·做人：黄家定的政治人生》新书推介礼

(左起)许育华、林利娥、蔡贤德、黄家定、庄国土、叶汉伦和黄文斌会后合影。

儒佛思想在中国史上的冲突与会通
拉大筹款运动助学生度过难关

交通大学造访拉大欢迎学生赴台深造

台湾政治大学访拉大