THE UCSI GAZETTE

THE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

BREAKING NEW GROUND

#45
IN ASIA

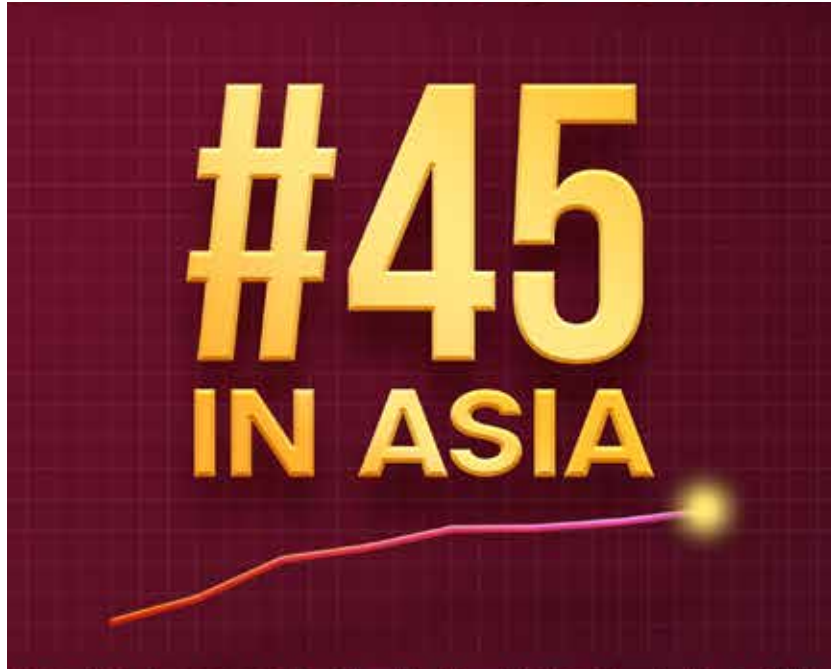## #9 IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

UCSI MAKES THE TOP 50 AFTER 8 YEARS OF PROGRESS.

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✦ UCSI University ®

CONTENTS

THE UCSI GAZETTE

GRADUATES RECOGNISE UCSI UNIVERSITY AS A TOP EMPLOYER IN MALAYSIA

UCSI University was distinguished as one of Malaysia's most sought-after employers at Talentbank's Graduates' Choice Awards.

Based 100% on votes from university students nationwide, the employer branding exercise acknowledged UCSI's preferred status in the private higher education category.

UCSI vice-chancellor Prof Emerita Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir said that the award was a fair reflection of the progress the University has made over the years.

"UCSI promotes a healthy corporate culture, and we constantly acknowledge our staff contributions in both academic and non-academic fields," she said after receiving the award.

> **Based 100% on votes from university students nationwide, the employer branding exercise acknowledged UCSI's preferred status in the private higher education category.**

"We are glad to be recognised as a top employer of choice and I would like to thank all my colleagues for making UCSI what it is today.

"I would also like to acknowledge the many parties we collaborate with - from industry partners to NGOs - for contributing to the dynamic workplace environment.

Held annually since 2018, Talentbank's Graduates' Choice Awards serves as a review outlet that helps talented professionals make the right employment choices.

Widely acknowledged as one of Malaysia's foremost private universities, UCSI is classified in the world's top 1% by virtue of its top 265 ranking in the QS World University Rankings 2025.

The University is synonymous with graduate outcomes and four UCSI alumni stand out as Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia inductees for their contributions in social entrepreneurship, refugee empowerment, gender equality and social change.

> **UCSI promotes a healthy corporate culture, and we constantly acknowledge our staff contributions in both academic and non-academic fields.**
>
> *Prof Emerita Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir,*
> *UCSI University vice-chancellor and president*

UCSI DISTINGUISHED RESEARCHER CLINCHES PRESTIGIOUS SCIENCE AWARD FOR TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

In Malaysian academia, Distinguished Prof Ts Dr Ooi Keng Boon added another feather in his cap when he received the Malaysia Scopus Research Excellence Award in the Ground-breaking Contributions Category.

Prof Ooi, the director of UCSI University's Centre for Business Informatics and Industrial Management, said that he was honoured to receive the award.

"This recognition highlights the growing significance of research in industrial management and information systems," he remarked.

"It emphasises the importance of bridging academic insights with industry practices to create impactful solutions for businesses and society."

Keen to inspire the next generation of researchers, Prof Ooi plans to advance interdisciplinary research, mentor young scholars and foster impactful collaborations at UCSI.

"My goal is to strengthen our research ecosystem through securing grants, publishing in top journals and promoting knowledge transfer with industry partners," he stated.

The renowned academic is also named in Clarivate's prestigious 2023 Highly Cited Researcher List™ that acknowledges the top 0.1% of the world's most cited scientists.

Additionally, he has also been consistently featured in Stanford University's World's Top 2% Scientists list for several consecutive years.

And earlier this year, Prof Ooi made history by becoming one of the first Malaysians to publish in the prestigious Harvard Data Science Review, as acknowledged by the Malaysian Book of Records.

With over 180 papers published in international refereed journals indexed in the Web of Science, including more than 110 in top-tier A/A*-ranked journals, Prof Ooi's work has significantly shaped his field.

His current Google Scholar H-index stands at a remarkable 95, with over 30,000 citations, while his Scopus H-index is 76 and Clarivate Analytics-Web of Science H-index is 65.

> **Keen to inspire the next generation of researchers, Prof Ooi plans to advance interdisciplinary research, mentor young scholars and foster impactful collaborations at UCSI.**

Looking ahead, Prof Ooi is enthusiastic about ongoing projects, including research on green supply chain management and digital transformation.

"We're collaborating with international academic and industry partners to address sustainability challenges and drive innovation in business operations," he explained.

Ranked in the world's top 1% in the QS World University Rankings 2025 by virtue of its top 265 ranking, UCSI University stands out as one of Asia's top private universities.

> **This recognition highlights the growing significance of research in industrial management and information systems.**
>
> *Distinguished Prof Ts Dr Ooi Keng Boon, FASc Director of UCSI University's Centre for Business Informatics and Industrial Management*

UCSI FLIES HIGH AT SUKIPT 6 2024

SUKAN INSTITUSI PENDIDIKAN TINGGI
Universiti Utara Malaysia

RANKING	TEAM	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA	39	20	39	97
2	UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA	38	19	21	78
3	POLITEKNIK MALAYSIA	27	14	13	54
4	UCSI UNIVERSITY	15	9	4	28
5	UNIVERSITI PENDIDIKAN SULTAN IDRIS	13	31	27	71
6	SUNWAY UNIVERSITY	13	7	7	27
7	TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY	12	10	9	31
8	UNIVERSITI PERTAHANAN NASIONAL MALAYSIA	10	10	13	33
9	MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY	8	5	2	15
10	UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA	8	2	12	22
11	TAYLOR'S UNIVERSITY	7	18	9	34
12	UNIVERSITI MALAYA	7	9	11	27
13	KOLEJ KOMUNITI MALAYSIA	6	9	1	16
14	UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH	5	6	4	15
15	HELP UNIVERSITY	4	0	1	5
16	UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA	3	7	6	16
17	UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA PERLIS	2	3	3	8
18	ASIA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION	2	2	9	13
19	UNIVERSITI SULTAN ZAINAL ABIDIN	2	2	4	8
20	INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA	1	9	9	19

*Only the top 20 higher education institutions are shown

UCSI University has emerged as Malaysia's best private university at the 2024 Higher Education Institution Games (Sukipt), finishing fourth in the overall standings.

Winning 15 gold, 9 silver and 4 bronze medals, UCSI recorded its best-ever placement in the biennial intervarsity event that brings together the nation's best university athletes.

Led by Khiew Hoe Yean, Malaysia's sole male swimmer at the Paris 2024 Olympics, UCSI's all-conquering swim team made a splash, contributing 13 gold, 6 silver and 3 bronze medals.

Winning all his six events, Hoe Yean set four new games records in the men's 200m freestyle, the men's 400m freestyle, the men's 4x100m medley relay and the men's 4x200m freestyle relay.

" UCSI University has emerged as Malaysia's best private university at the 2024 Higher Education Institution Games (Sukipt)... "

" Winning 15 gold, 9 silver and 4 bronze medals, UCSI recorded its best-ever placement in the biennial intervarsity event that brings together the nation's best university athletes. "

Hoe Yean's six gold medal haul adds to the 11 golds and 1 silver he won at Sukipt 2022.

UCSI's other gold medals were contributed by former national badminton player Rex Hooi Shao Herng in the men's singles and the celebrated UCSI Eagles, the varsity's men's basketball team.

UCSI University Council chairman Dato' Peter Ng said that UCSI athletes outdid themselves at Sukipt and inspired the student community with their heroics.

"All of us at UCSI could not be prouder of our athletes and the results they have achieved," he said. "We are very encouraged to see their progress and many athletes have stepped up in different sports.

"I would like to congratulate the athletes, the coaches and the volunteers for a job well done. All of them personified the spirit of excellence and perseverance."

" All of us at UCSI could not be prouder of our athletes and the results they have achieved.

Dato' Peter Ng,
UCSI University Council chairman "

UCSI COLLABORATES WITH PAVILION BUKIT JALIL FOR NATIONAL DAY

In celebration of Malaysia's 67th National Day, Pavilion Bukit Jalil, in partnership with UCSI Group and KB Colour Image, proudly presents the "Jiwa Merdeka: Wayang Kulit by Moonlight" festival exhibition.

This exhibition features 670 intricately hand-coloured and crafted paper shadow puppets, all created by students.

It is now open at the main entrance staircase of the centre court in Pavilion Bukit Jalil and will run until Malaysia Day.

The event is the result of a collaborative effort by 670 students from UCSI Child Development Centre (CDC), Sri UCSI School, UCSI International School, UCSI College and UCSI University.

Through these traditional shadow puppetry artworks, the exhibition showcases Malaysia's unique cultural heritage.

UCSI head of events, Asst Prof Ts Lim Boon Leong, highlighted that the event aims to preserve and pass down this ancient form of entertainment, deeply rooted in Malaysia's traditional society, to the younger generation.

"This exhibition is not merely an art display; it is a celebration of Malaysia's rich cultural traditions and a symbol of creativity and unity among our nation's youth.

" This exhibition is not merely an art display; it is a celebration of Malaysia's rich cultural traditions and a symbol of creativity and unity among our nation's youth.

Asst Prof Ts Lim Boon Leong,
UCSI head of events "

"It serves as a bridge between the traditional and the modern, underscoring the importance of cultural heritage in shaping a sense of national pride."

The public is invited to visit Pavilion Bukit Jalil during the National Day festivities to view the exhibition, which is open for free.

" ...a collaborative effort by 670 students from UCSI Child Development Centre (CDC), Sri UCSI School, UCSI International School, UCSI College and UCSI University. "

UCSI LAUNCHES FESTIVAL TO REVITALISE TRADITIONAL MARTIAL ARTS

UCSI IN WORLD'S TOP 10 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

UCSI University's Traditional Martial Arts For All (TMA4ALL) Malaysia 2024 kicked off its opening ceremony at Le Quadri Kuala Lumpur, celebrating and promoting the rich heritage of traditional martial arts in Malaysia and beyond.

The event attracted over 360 attendees, including renowned martial arts experts from Malaysia and around the world, such as Ireland, Croatia, Germany, Spain and Mexico.

TMA4ALL's 10-day programme will feature workshops, demonstrations and training sessions focused on traditional martial arts such as silat, wushu, taekwondo, nihon taijitsu, tai chi and karate.

Renowned silat practitioners, including Pendita Mahaguru Prof Azlan Jumat bin Abdul Ghanie and Mahaguru Mohamed Faid bin Musa, will lead silat training and demonstrations.

Sharing sessions and a panel discussion will be held to explore current trends, techniques and the future of martial arts.

"UCSI is [also] a Harmoni Mesra campus where unity, inclusivity and empathy are promoted at every opportunity," said Prof Datuk Ts Ir Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir, UCSI University vice-chancellor and president.

"We view martial arts as a common platform where everyone can come together."
"We also plan to use martial arts to engage marginalised and disadvantaged youth, as well as minority groups in society."

TMA4ALL has collaborated with Nori Abdullah, daughter of Tun Abdullah bin Ahmad Badawi, to lead a special sharing session on August 25, titled 'Seeing Through the Spectrum.'

She will openly discuss her experiences as a mother of a child with special needs and how she incorporates martial arts into their journey.

The opening ceremony also served as a platform for philanthropy, with a charity night raising RM13,500 for two local non-profit organisations: The National Autism Society of Malaysia (NASOM) and Yayasan Sunbeams Home.

The TMA4ALL project opens up a new front for UCSI's commitment to social impact in support of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, better known as the SDGs.

It directly supports SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals).

For more information on the TMA4ALL project, visit www.tma4allmalaysia2024.com

UCSI University is ranked seventh in the world for environmental sustainability in the QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025.

The latest development confirms UCSI's position as Malaysia's top private university in the ESG rankings, placing sixth out of 29 Malaysian universities in the exercise.

UCSI vice-chancellor Prof Emerita Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir acknowledged the result and said that environmental, social and governance issues could not be overlooked.

"Everyone has a part to play and I'm glad that our students and staff are at the forefront of our efforts," she said.

"I'm encouraged that they are empowering refugees, adopting rivers, working with NGOs and launching social entrepreneurships that improve lives for the underprivileged and marginalised.

"We have incorporated ESG elements in research and we will continue working with our stakeholders from the industry and society to champion a more equitable future."

She added that UCSI would continue driving change through its two Regional Centres of Expertise in Kuala Lumpur and Kuching - centres entrusted by the United Nations University to spearhead education for sustainable development at the local level.

UCSI has a long track record of ESG commitment. Four of its alumni are Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia inductees for their contributions in social entrepreneurship, the eradication of poverty and gender equality.

WORLD #7 IN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
MALAYSIA'S TOP PRIVATE UNIVERSITY
QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2025

UCSI SHINES AT CHERY CARNIVAL

UCSI University made its presence felt at the Chery Carnival as its students and staff won big at the Omoda Artwrap Awards.

Siek Hwee Ling, assistant professor from UCSI's Institute of Creative Arts and Design (ICAD), did UCSI proud by winning the first prize, receiving a cash award of RM 15,000.

> Siek drew her inspiration from Malaysia's national flower, the hibiscus, known locally as the 'Bunga Raya'.

Siek drew her inspiration from Malaysia's national flower, the hibiscus, known locally as the 'Bunga Raya'.

"The hibiscus flower symbolises our citizens' courage and vitality", said Siek in an interview.

"Just as the hibiscus is ubiquitous throughout Malaysia, I envision seeing more and more Chery cars on the road these days."

Siek explained that her inspiration also came from Malaysia's upcoming Independence Day, as well as the 50 years of bilateral ties between Malaysia and China.

Expressing her surprise and gratitude at winning, Siek remarked, "I hope to set a fine example for my younger students, encouraging them to work hard and unleash their creativity, even if it might not make sense to everyone else."

Joining Siek on the podium were Jean Heng Si Qi, who secured second place with a RM10,000 cash prize and Lee Kang Xuen, who took third place, earning RM 5,000. Both winners are students from UCSI's Institute of Creative Arts and Design.

"We are thrilled to celebrate our first anniversary in Malaysia with such an extraordinary event," said Celeste Lim, Chery's public relations manager.

"Collaborating with UCSI University's ICAD has allowed us to showcase the incredible talent and creativity of young designers, perfectly embodying the spirit of Chery and our commitment to innovation."

The event also highlighted the talents of 20 fashion design students from UCSI University, who tailored innovative outfits inspired by Chery and its tagline "Enjoy Your Life."

> I hope to set a fine example for my younger students, encouraging them to work hard and unleash their creativity, even if it might not make sense to everyone else.
>
> *Siek Hwee Ling,*
> *Assistant professor from UCSI's Institute of Creative Arts and Design (ICAD)*

From left: Lee Kang Xuen (third prize winner), Heng Si Qi Jean (second prize winner), Chery Malaysia president Leo Chen and UCSI's Institute of Creative Arts and Design assistant professor, Siek Hwee Ling (first prize winner).

KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

A Saudi mother-daughter duo stole the limelight at UCSI University's 37th convocation when they graduated at the same time, with the same credential.

> The pair completed their Master's degrees in International Hospitality Management...

Cheered on by their friends who flew in from Riyadh, Moneerah Homoud B. Alblaihed and her daughter, Jawaher Fahad M. Alshemmeri, were over the moon as they received their scrolls, adding new meaning to the proverbial saying that the apple does not fall far from the tree.

The pair completed their Master's degrees in International Hospitality Management, showcasing their shared passion for the field.

"Studying alongside my daughter has been a great experience," Moneerah said.

"We've been able to encourage each other and share this important milestone."

The family's connection to Malaysia runs deep. Dr Fahad Mohammed N. Alshemmeri, Moneerah's husband and Jawaher's father, serves as the Saudi Cultural attaché in Malaysia.

He also holds a PhD from a Malaysian public university.

UCSI University vice-chancellor and president Prof Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir praised the duo's achievement.

"This unique and encouraging account of a mother and daughter graduating together reminds us that education is not bound by age.

Mother and daughter, Moneerah Homoud B. Alblaihed and Jawaher Fahad M. Alshemmeri, walk side by side in their graduation gowns, both beaming with pride after receiving their Master's degrees in International Hospitality Management from UCSI University.

"They embody the spirit of lifelong learning that we cherish at UCSI, showing us that the pursuit of knowledge can bridge gaps across generations."

UCSI, ranked among the top 1% of universities worldwide according to the QS World University Rankings 2025, has a strong reputation for its hospitality management programme.

Jawaher Fahad M. Alshemmeri and her mother, Moneerah Homoud B. Alblaihed, share a proud moment with their father and husband, respectively, Dr Fahad Mohammed N. Alshemmeri, the Saudi Cultural attaché in Malaysia, at UCSI University's 37th graduation convocation.

Hospitality and management are ranked in the top 100 according to the QS World University Subject Rankings 2024, equipping students with skills in research methods, marketing and global leadership development for the hospitality industry.

The University celebrated the achievements of 1,136 graduates during its second convocation ceremony of 2024 over the weekend.

The procession of the convocation ceremony was held in the presence of UCSI University's pro-chancellor Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin Tuanku Muhriz and council chairman and founder Dato' Peter Ng.

> They embody the spirit of lifelong learning that we cherish at UCSI, showing us that the pursuit of knowledge can bridge gaps across generations.
>
> *Prof Emerita Datuk Ts Ir Siti Hamisah Tapsir,*
> *UCSI University vice-chancellor and president*

Hospitality and management are ranked in the top 100 according to the QS World University Subject Rankings 2024...

UCSI UNIVERSITY CLIMBS TO 45TH SPOT IN ASIA

> ## UCSI has improved its continental rank for eight straight years.
>
> *Prof Emerita Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir,*
> *UCSI University vice-chancellor and president*

UCSI University is now ranked 45th in the QS World University Rankings: Asia 2025 exercise.

Climbing 16 spots, UCSI broke into Asia's top 50 for the first time to maintain its upward trajectory in global university rankings.

UCSI vice-chancellor Prof Emerita Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir said that the new milestone showed that the University was clearly moving in the right direction.

"The new ranking is very encouraging but it's more important to note that UCSI has improved its continental rank for eight straight years," she said.

"This is the result of hard work, consistency and grit. I would like to thank UCSI students and staff for going beyond themselves year after year.

"We want our students to stand out as consequential changemakers and we will do more to make progress in the areas of research, academic reputation and employer reputation."

UCSI has nurtured four Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia inductees and an increasing number of its alumni are launching their own social enterprises.

The University is also ranked in the world's top 1% in the QS World University Rankings 2024 by virtue of its top 265 ranking.

> ## Climbing 16 spots, UCSI broke into Asia's top 50 for the first time to maintain its upward trajectory in global university rankings.

UCSI UNIVERSITY HONOURED AS MALAYSIA'S BEST UNIVERSITY IN TVET EDUCATION FOR HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM

UCSI University Sarawak Campus Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management (FHTM) has been recognised as Malaysia's leading university in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for the hospitality and tourism sector.

This esteemed accolade underscores the University's commitment to TVET excellence and reinforces its status as a frontrunner in preparing highly qualified professionals for these industries.

UCSI University Sarawak Campus FHTM dean Asst Prof Christopher Wan Sageng receiving the awards from Higher Education Deputy Minister Yang Berhormat Datuk Mustapha Sakmud.

UCSI University's Sarawak campus is renowned for its leadership in hospitality and tourism education, earning distinction through the Malaysia Education and TVET awards.

The University's innovative approach, particularly through its praxis education concept, sets it apart.

This approach prioritises pragmatic, experiential learning, ensuring that students not only grasp academic knowledge but also acquire essential skills through real-world experiences.

The effectiveness of this approach is evident in the integration of the FHTM within the UCSI Hotel Kuching facilities.

Housing the faculty within a functioning hotel provides students with an unparalleled learning environment, immersing them in the daily operations of a professional hospitality establishment.

This setup offers direct exposure to industry standards and practices, enabling students to apply classroom knowledge in real time and develop a deeper understanding of the hospitality and tourism sectors.

FHTM's commitment further extends beyond conventional education.

The faculty consistently collaborates with industry partners to offer practical learning opportunities, including collaborative projects, internships, and guest lectures by industry leaders.

These initiatives contribute to an impressive 100% employment rate for its graduates, reflecting the strong demand for professionals with both academic credentials and practical experience.

Mukvinder Kaur Sandhu, UCSI University's Sarawak Campus pro-vice-chancellor, commented, "This award is a testament to the dedication, commitment and innovation of our faculty members and students. We take pride in leading TVET in Malaysia, especially in the hospitality and tourism industries, which are crucial to the nation's economy."

Asst Prof Christopher Wan Sageng, the University's FHTM dean added, "Our mission is to nurture future leaders in hospitality and tourism. This recognition inspires us to continue enhancing our programmes, strengthening industry connections, and providing our students with the highest quality education."

FHTM's focus on TVET benefits current students and builds a network of successful alumni who have made significant contributions to the global hospitality and tourism sectors.

This award further elevates the value of an FHTM education and strengthens UCSI University's reputation as a top choice for aspiring professionals in these fields.

> ## This recognition inspires us to continue enhancing our programmes, strengthening industry connections and providing our students with the highest quality education.
>
> *Asst Prof Christopher Wan Sageng,*
> *UCSI University Faculty of Hospitality and*
> *Tourism Management dean*

IN AND OUT OF CAMPUS

UCSI UNIVERSITY HOSTS RADIOLOGY MASTERCLASS IN COLLABORATION WITH UCSI HOSPITAL

UCSI University, in partnership with UCSI Hospital, organised a comprehensive six-hour radiology masterclass at Le Quadri Kuala Lumpur. The event brought together renowned radiologists and medical professionals to share their expertise and insights.

FRIENDS OF SUSTAINABLE MALAYSIA SCORES ANOTHER MILESTONE

UCSI and the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) hosted Friends of Sustainable Malaysia: The Alternatives to COP16 and COP29 – A Way Forward for Malaysia and ASEAN. The event brought together nearly 50 participants from diverse backgrounds and aimed to discuss climate change and biodiversity challenges in Malaysia and the ASEAN region.

FROM CAMPUS TO CANOPY: A DAY OF REFORESTATION

70 enthusiastic students from UCSI's University and College embarked on a noble mission to Kuala Lipis, Pahang. Together with RCE Greater KL and The Blue Ribbons, under the sponsorship of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), they planted 400 trees, contributing to the region's ecological restoration.

UCSI RIVER WATCH 2.0: ULU KLANG

UCSI University held its second initiative of the Riverbank Cleanup Project of the year at the upstream section of the Ulu Klang river. 25 students and staff actively engaged in crucial environmental activities: removing trash and debris from the riverbank, planting bamboo and trees to restore the ecosystem, applying compost fertiliser to nourish new plantings and installing geotextiles to prevent erosion. The visit is part of a continuous effort to galvanise eco-warriors across Malaysia.

UCSI FLIES HIGH AT THE SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COMPETITION 2024

UCSI University emerged as the first runner-up at the prestigious Sydney International Business Competition 2024.

Represented by Josephine Andrea Madolen, Cheng Yi Xuan, Chey Shuan Moon and Pua Wei Fang, UCSI edged out more fancied teams in the five-day competition that was held at the University of Sydney.

And it was a double joy for UCSI as Wei Fang picked up the best speaker award.

Apart from the hosts, the University of Technology Sydney, the University of Otago, Copenhagen Business School, the University of Münster, the University of Washington-Seattle, Corvinus University of Budapest, the American University of Beirut, City University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and The Chinese University of Hong Kong participated in the competition.

From left: Panel judges representing Telstra, Josephine Andrea Madolen, Cheng Yi Xuan, Pua Wei Fang and Chey Shuan Moon.

Tasked with developing business strategies for Telstra - Australia's largest telecommunications company - team UCSI proposed Device Reporting API in the healthcare sector.

This would tackle key issues like device malfunctions, enable real-time monitoring and flag inefficiencies in interconnected systems comprising IoT medical devices.

Their ingenuity impressed the Telstra representatives on the judging panel and UCSI emerged as the overall winner in their pool, before finishing second behind Copenhagen Business School in the finals.

"This experience has been transformative and we're really happy with our effort considering this is our first competition outside Asia," said Josephine Andrea who served as the team leader.

"I felt intimidated by the calibre of students from renowned universities at first. But I chose not to focus on the skills gap and give my best. In the end, it's fine to face stronger competitors - what matters is personal growth and continuous learning.

Reflecting on her experience, Yi Xuan said that she learnt a lot about resilience during the competition from her Lebanese peers.

> "Tasked with developing business strategies for Telstra - Australia's largest telecommunications company - team UCSI proposed Device Reporting API in the healthcare sector."

"I was inspired by the team from the American University of Beirut who gave their all despite the turmoil that is going on in their country," she said. "Watching them reminded me that perseverance is key under all circumstances."

"This experience has greatly boosted my confidence, giving me a stronger belief in my ability to achieve the goals I set for myself," said Wei Fang. "I now understand that failures are just temporary setbacks; as long as I keep working hard, I can reach my goals."

Ranked in the world's top 1% in the QS World University Rankings 2025 by virtue of its top 265 ranking, UCSI University stands out as one of Asia's top private universities.

> This would tackle key issues like device malfunctions, enable real-time monitoring and flag inefficiencies in interconnected systems comprising IoT medical devices.

From left: Chey Shuan Moon, Pua Wei Fang, Cheng Yi Xuan, Josephine Andrea Madolen, and Asst Prof Foo Fang Ee, Advisor of UCSI Consulting Club

UCSI CELEBRATES 12 ACADEMICS NAMED IN STANFORD'S WORLD'S TOP 2% SCIENTISTS LIST 2024

12 UCSI University academics have been named in Stanford's World's Top 2% of Scientists list for 2024, marking a 33% increase from last year's total of nine.

> " Our researchers' consistent recognition on the world stage demonstrates the University's growing influence in various scientific disciplines.
>
> *Distinguished Prof Ts Dr Ooi Keng Boon, FASc, Distinguished chair professor and director of UCSI's Centre for Business Informatics and Industrial Management* "

The distinguished academics are: Distinguished Prof Ts Dr Ooi Keng Boon, Distinguished Prof Dr Phang Siew Moi, Assoc Prof Dr Eugene Aw Cheng Xi, Prof Dr Richard Peter Bailey, Prof Dr Cham Tat Huei, Assoc Prof Dr Mehrbakhsh Nilashi, Senior Prof Dr Garry Tan Wei Han, Assoc Prof Dr Eric Chan Wei Chiang, Asst Prof Dr Ahsan Anwar, Asst Prof Dr Irfan Hameed, Prof Dato' Dr Ng Seik Weng and Assoc Prof Dr Shayla Islam.

Breaking down the numbers, Prof Ooi is classified in the world's top 0.04% and Dr Nilashi in the top 0.15%, while ten UCSI academics made the top 1%. Five academics are also recognised as the top researchers in Malaysia based on their respective fields and subfields.

Prof Phang, UCSI deputy vice-chancellor (Research and postgraduate), maintains her position as Malaysia's top scientist in the subfields of marine biology and hydrobiology.

Prof Ooi, distinguished chair professor and director of UCSI's Centre for Business Informatics and Industrial Management, continues to be ranked as Malaysia's top researcher in the fields of economics and business, business and management, and information systems.

"This achievement reflects UCSI's commitment to research excellence and global impact," said Prof Ooi. "Our researchers' consistent recognition on the world stage demonstrates the University's growing influence in various scientific disciplines."

Distinguished Prof Dr Ooi Keng Boon

Distinguished Prof Dr Phang Siew Moi

Assoc Prof Dr Eugene Aw Cheng Xi

Prof Dr Richard Peter Bailey

Prof Dr Cham Tat Huei

Assoc Prof Dr Mehrbakhsh Nilashi

Senior Prof Dr Garry Tan Wei Han

Assoc Prof Dr Eric Chan Wei Chiang

Asst Prof Dr Ahsan Anwar

Asst Prof Dr Irfan Hameed

Prof Dato' Dr Ng Seik Weng

Assoc Prof Dr Shayla Islam

UCSI CONTINUES TO DISTINGUISH ITSELF AS ONE OF ASIA'S LEADING PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES, MAINTAINING ITS POSITION IN THE WORLD'S TOP 1% IN THE QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2025.

Name	Fields and subfields (listed in blue)	World classification	Malaysian rank
Distinguished Prof Ts Dr Ooi Keng Boon, FASc	Economics and business Business and management Information systems	Top 0.12% Top 0.13% Top 0.06%	1 1 1
Distinguished Prof Dr Phang Siew Moi, FASc	Biology Marine biology and hydrobiology Biotechnology	Top 0.68% Top 0.62% Top 0.49%	2 1 5
Assoc Prof Dr Eugene Aw Cheng Xi	Economics and business Marketing Sport, leisure and tourism	Top 0.70% Top 0.68% Top 0.48%	12 1 2
Prof Dr Richard Peter Bailey	Clinical medicine Sport sciences Education	Top 0.37% Top 0.49% Top 0.69%	12 1 4
Prof Dr Cham Tat Huei	Economics and business Strategic, defence and security studies Business and management	Top 1.85% Top 0.66% Top 1.67%	36 1 9
Assoc Prof Dr Mehrbakhsh Nilashi	Information and communication technologies AI and image processing Information systems	Top 0.14% Top 0.17% Top 0.21%	2 3 2
Senior Prof Dr Garry Tan Wei Han	Economics and business Business and management Information systems	Top 0.84% Top 0.93% Top 0.45%	16 6 3
Assoc Prof Dr Eric Chan Wei Chiang	Clinical medicine Pharmacology and pharmacy Medicinal and biomolecular chemistry	Top 0.64% Top 0.28% Top 0.44%	21 6 4
Asst Prof Dr Ahsan Anwar	Economics and business Environmental sciences Energy	Top 1.50% Top 1.32% Top 0.67%	32 16 24
Asst Prof Dr Irfan Hameed	Economics and business Energy Education	Top 1.99% Top 1.80% Top 1.72%	40 107 8
Prof Dato' Dr Ng Seik Weng	Chemistry Inorganic and nuclear chemistry Organic chemistry	Top 1.44% Top 1.13% Top 1.43%	47 3 7
Assoc Prof Dr Shayla Islam	Information and communication technologies Networking and telecommunications AI and image processing	Top 1.96% Top 1.97% Top 1.94%	60 23 33

11 OUTSTANDING UCSI PHARMACY STUDENTS RECEIVE CASH PRIZE AWARDS FROM RENOWNED PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES

11 UCSI University students from the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences have been awarded a total of RM11,000 for their exceptional achievements in academic and curricular activities.

The cash prizes were sponsored by renowned pharmaceutical companies: Big Caring Pharmacy, Medispec, EP Plus Group, Xepa-Soul Pattinson and Natural Wellness, who are also the Faculty's praxis partners.

UCSI University group founder and executive chairman Dato' Peter Ng with distinguished guests during the Faculty's World Pharmacists Day and Formulation Scientists Celebration 2024.

The University awarded eight of their Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours), one of their Bachelor of Formulation Science (Honours) and two of their Doctor of Philosophy (Pharmaceutical Sciences) students during the Faculty's annual Book Prize Awards Ceremony.

Doctor of Philosophy (Pharmaceutical Sciences) Yap Vi Lien was among the recipients, marking her fifth Book Prize Award.

"I feel very happy and I feel like my effort is appreciated," she said. This award is motivating and it pushes me to work harder and achieve more. I believe there are good prospects in the Pharmacy industry because there are several fields to work in. You can work in the retail, hospital or education industry."

Yap, who is also a scholarship holder of UCSI University Trust received RM1,000 cash prize and a certificate of excellence.

The recipients of Book Prize Awards 2024 during the World Pharmacists and Formulation Scientists Celebration organised by the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The Book Prize Awards aims to provide ongoing motivation for outstanding students to excel in their academic pursuits and address the concern regarding the number of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) students.

> "
> **The cash prizes were sponsored by renowned pharmaceutical companies: Big Caring Pharmacy, Medispec, EP Plus Group, Xepa-Soul Pattinson and Natural Wellness, who are also the Faculty's praxis partners.**
> "

President and founder of the National STEM Association Prof Dato' Dr Noraini Idris said that interest in STEM has been declining in Malaysia, which could impact the nation's development.

"Only 15.2% of students choose STEM subjects, which is concerning for us and the nation," she said. "We must do our part and it has to start from the early years of school.

"STEM is a key component to thrive in digital age and the engine of growth for innovation."

Acknowledging the importance of nurturing young talent in STEM, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences dean Prof Dr Mogana Sundari said that the Faculty has undertaken many initiatives.

"In striving for awareness on STEM, the faculty has engaged over 8,000 students, parents and school teachers in about 99 events since January 2024," she said in her speech.

"The initiaves have showcased the importance of STEM with fun and exciting workshops within UCSI and in the schools."

The Faculty has established a record of 24 years and have graduated 1,500 pharmacists. Ranked in the world's top 1% in the QS World University Rankings 2025 by virtue of its top 265 ranking, UCSI University stands out as one of Asia's top private universities.

> "
> **In striving for awareness on STEM, the faculty has engaged over 8,000 students, parents and school teachers in about 99 events since January 2024.**
>
> *Prof Dr Mogana Sundari, UCSI's Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences dean*
> "

UCSI VALEDICTORIAN EMBARKS ON AI-DRIVEN CANCER RESEARCH

The global pandemic forced Lim Zhi Min to stop working on airplanes. But she soared to new heights at UCSI University's sixth convocation ceremony of 2024 after trading the runway for the AI lab.

Addressing the Class of 2024 as valedictorian, the former aircraft maintenance technician showed how one can bounce back from career setbacks and thrive in new fields.

"All air travel was grounded, borders were closed, and my company was forced to downsize," she said. "I was 22 and I decided to use the downtime to pursue computer engineering at UCSI.

"Apart from the prospect of a pandemic-proof career, I was inspired by the ways computer engineering and AI have changed the world."

And Zhi Min is seeking to do that with her PhD studies at UCSI. Her focus: Optimising AI algorithms to improve cancer treatment using microwave-based hyperthermia treatment.

With AI, microwave beams target cancer cells with far greater precision, leaving healthy cells unharmed.

"The objective is to automate the process and negate potential errors associated with manual adjustments," she explained.

"This would improve treatment outcomes for cancer patients and spur the development of more affordable non-invasive treatment options, enhancing patient accessibility in the long run."

UCSI University vice-chancellor and president Prof Emerita Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir expressed, "At UCSI, we always encourage our students to stay ahead of technological advancements.

"The rise of AI presents our students with vast opportunities, and I'm glad to see our students, like Lim, embracing them.

"The University is proud to support such forward-thinking research."

UCSI's sixth convocation ceremony brought the total number of graduates to 3,907 for the year.

The procession of the convocation ceremony was held in the presence of UCSI University council chairman and founder Dato' Peter Ng and UCSI Healthcare Group chairman Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah.

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UCSI SETS THE SCENE FOR EMERGING TALENT

Stella Maris International School Damansara emerged victorious at UCSI University's "Drama on the Spot" competition, taking home the first-place prize.

The group of five impressed the judges with their creative and thrilling performance, outshining the other nine participating schools.

> "[UCSI] wants to cast a wider net and nurture talent in theatre, drama and dance. The University is happy to provide avenues in support of creative pursuits.
>
> *Dato' Peter Ng,*
> *UCSI Group founder and*
> *executive chairman.*

Inspired by the popular video game "Five Nights at Freddy's", their story revolved around two friends visiting a fun fair, where two robots were programmed by their owner to kill them.

However, the robots developed feelings and refused to carry out their programming, instead turning on their owner and murdering them.

"This competition was an unforgettable experience that pushed us out of our comfort zones and showed us the power of teamwork," said 14-year-old Teagan Song, the group leader.

We're so thankful to have had the opportunity to share our passion with others and can't wait to see where this journey takes us."

Future Academy secured second place, while SMK Taman Connaught took home third.

Special awards were also given to 14-year-old Suah Jake Wee from Future Academy, who was named Best Actor, and 15-year-old Wong Ji Lum from Stella Maris International School Damansara, who was awarded Best Actress.

The competition, hosted by the University's English Language Student Association, brought together over 45 participants from 10 schools across the Klang Valley.

The event featured a workshop and competition that challenged students to think on their feet and showcase their acting abilities.

The teams were given just a short time to develop and perform an original 10-minute piece, incorporating various elements such as synchronised movement, sustained moments of silence and creative use of voice.

The competition was judged by a panel of 10 experienced judges, who evaluated the teams' performances based on creativity and overall impact.

The event was supported by Theatresauce, a theatre collective based in Kuala Lumpur, which provided a workshop on using body and voice to express emotions and portray characters.

"Today's event is one of the many initiatives that we will commit to," said UCSI Group founder and executive chairman Dato' Peter Ng. "[UCSI] wants to cast a wider net and nurture talent in theatre, drama and dance.

The University is happy to provide avenues in support of creative pursuits."

UCSI is ranked 42nd in the world for performing arts in the QS World University Subject Rankings 2024.

The University is also ranked in the world's top 1% in the QS World University Rankings 2025 by virtue of its top 265 ranking, standing out as one of Asia's top private universities.

> **DID YOU KNOW?**
> "UCSI is ranked 42nd in the world for performing arts..." According to the QS World University Subject Rankings 2024

UCSI ONLINE RADIO GOES LIVE

From left: Prof Dr Rogayah binti A Razak, dean of UCSI University's Faculty of Social Sciences and Liberal Arts, Khairy Jamaluddin, UCSI adjunct professor, Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin Tuanku Muhriz, UCSI pro-chancellor, Dato' Peter Ng, UCSI founder and executive chairman and Prof Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir, UCSI vice-chancellor and president

UCSI University is now hitting the airwaves with the launch of UCSI Online Radio, a platform entirely managed by UCSI students.

Covering news, global affairs, culture, sport, music and lifestyle, the digital audio service is purposed to engage UCSI's student community and promote intellectual discourse.

UCSI vice-chancellor and president Prof Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir said that UCSI Online Radio would go far in nurturing future generations of students to excel in the media industry.

"Our students will benefit greatly from this initiative as they master both the logical and creative sides of broadcasting," she said during the launching ceremony.

"This platform can also be a catalyst for change. With it, our students have the avenue to address difficult conversations and challenging issues."

The first podcast on the new platform was done by UCSI pro-chancellor Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin Tuanku Muhriz and UCSI adjunct professor Khairy Jamaluddin.

Titled "From Broadcast to Podcast", the session focused on the evolution of media broadcasting, journalistic integrity and the power of storytelling.

Khairy said that UCSI Online Radio would go far in fostering a sense of identity and belonging within the UCSI community.

"You don't want to be a degree mill where students merely pass through without a sense of connection to the institution," he said.

"UCSI Online Radio will go a long way in building that social capital, allowing students to discuss and exchange ideas, engage in debates and experience life together outside of the lecture halls and beyond the restraints of academia."

Tunku Zain added that the platform could create a more collaborative power between students, professors and deans from various faculties.

"The content created here will serve as a valuable institutional memory for future generations," he said.

"I hope this initiative will involve activities from all faculties, enhancing collaborative efforts within the UCSI community."

UCSI Radio operates Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm, and can be accessed at https://ucsiradio.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/.

> This platform can also be a catalyst for change. With it, our students have the avenue to address difficult conversations and challenging issues.
>
> *Prof Emerita Datuk Ts Ir Siti Hamisah Tapsir,*
> *UCSI University vice-chancellor and president*

UCSI UNIVERSITY PARTNERS WITH WORLD ASSOCIATION OF MASTER CHEFS

From left: UCSI University dean of Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management Assoc Prof Dr Hanafi bin Hamzah, UCSI University deputy vice-chancellor, Academic and Internationalisation Kuala Lumpur campus, Prof Datuk Dr Rohana binti Yusof, UCSI University vice-chancellor and president Prof Emerita Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir, Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Mustapha Sakmud, UCSI University pro-chancellor Yang Amat Mulia Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin ibni Tuanku Muhriz, World Association of Master Chefs chairman Sunly Lo, UCSI Group founder and executive chairman Dato' Peter Ng and World Association of Master Chefs global president Prof Gaven Ferguson.

UCSI University is now the sole educational and corporate partner of the World Association of Master Chefs in Malaysia.

With a network of over 100,000 members including 15 Michelin-starred chefs, the international organisation stands out for its global reach in its efforts to promote the development and exchange of global hospitality culture.

This alliance paves the way for UCSI's culinary and hospitality students to participate in international competitions, undergo overseas training and secure industry placements at leading establishments worldwide.

The partnership was inaugurated by Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Mustapha Sakmud, alongside UCSI University pro-chancellor Yang Amat Mulia, Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin and World Association of Master Chefs global president, Prof Gaven Ferguson.

In his speech, Mustapha emphasised the need for more talent in the industry as Malaysia's travel and tourism sector is poised for a remarkable year, with record-breaking contributions to the economy, employment and domestic visitor spending.

"Malaysia is set to experience growth in its tourism sector for the year 2024, welcoming over 7.56 million foreign visitors in the first four months, representing a 27.5% increase compared to the same period last year.

"Employment in travel and tourism is also expected to grow significantly this year, with job numbers estimated to exceed 2.4 million, marking a 5.2% increase from last year."

He further commended UCSI's commitment to elevating Malaysia's hospitality and culinary sectors, especially through its contributions to Technical and Vocational Education and Training programmes.

This collaboration marks the latest milestone for UCSI's Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management, which is ranked among the top 100 hospitality schools in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024.

UCSI vice-chancellor and president, Prof Emerita Datuk Siti Hamisah Tapsir, expressed confidence in the partnership, emphasising that it aligns with the objectives of both the Higher Education Ministry and the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture.

> " UCSI stands ready to meet this need and we will do more to engage talented young people who may opt for non-traditional educational pathways through hands-on, vocational training initiatives.
>
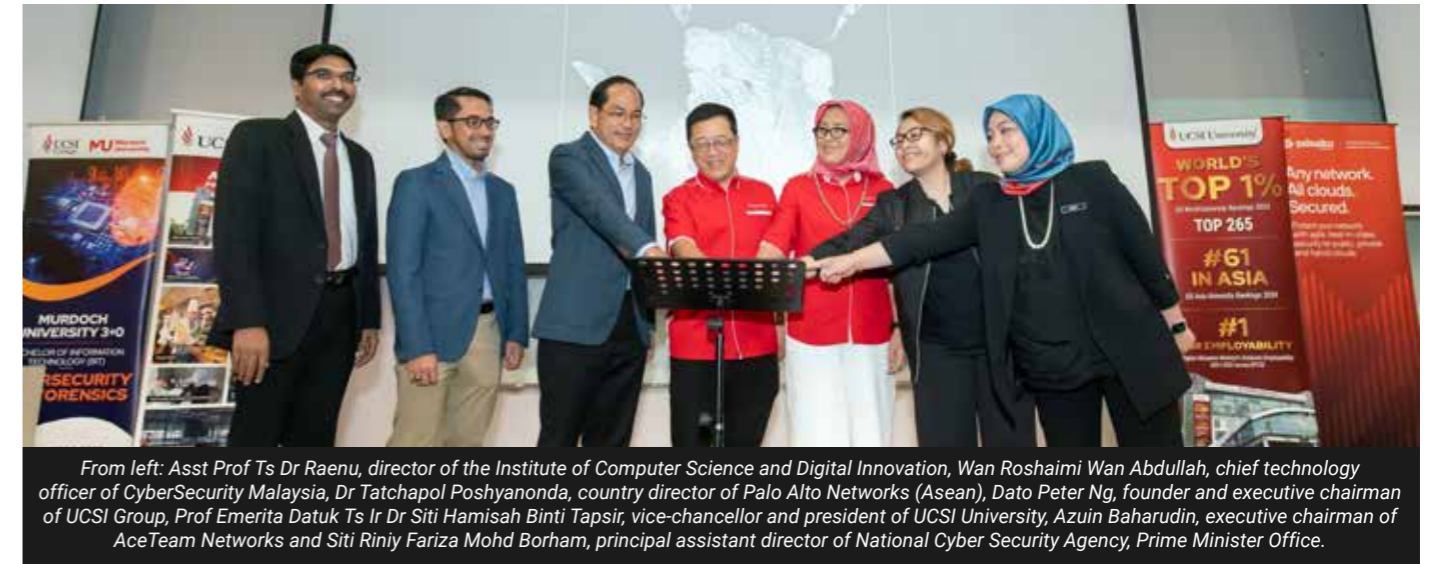> Prof Emerita Datuk Ts Ir Siti Hamisah Tapsir, UCSI University vice-chancellor and president

"Malaysia has always stood out as a global tourism hub. To sustain this momentum, we need top talents and bespoke experiences to attract more high-spending tourists", she said.

"UCSI stands ready to meet this need and we will do more to engage talented young people who may opt for non-traditional educational pathways through hands-on, vocational training initiatives."

This collaboration follows UCSI's Kuching campus being recently recognised as Malaysia's leading institution in the hospitality sector for vocational education.

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LAUNCH OF UCSI'S INAUGURAL HACKATHON

From left: Asst Prof Ts Dr Raenu, director of the Institute of Computer Science and Digital Innovation, Wan Roshaimi Wan Abdullah, chief technology officer of CyberSecurity Malaysia, Dr Tatchapol Poshyanonda, country director of Palo Alto Networks (Asean), Dato Peter Ng, founder and executive chairman of UCSI Group, Prof Emerita Datuk Ts Ir Dr Siti Hamisah Binti Tapsir, vice-chancellor and president of UCSI University, Azuin Baharudin, executive chairman of AceTeam Networks and Siti Riniy Fariza Mohd Borham, principal assistant director of National Cyber Security Agency, Prime Minister Office.

UCSI University hosted its first-ever hackathon, drawing more than 400 students from high schools, colleges and universities nationwide.

The highly anticipated event marked the official launch of UCSI's Hackathon, a year-long initiative designed to challenge participants to breach a secure cloud platform and capture as many flags as possible within a limited time.

> " By participating in this hackathon, students are testing their skills in coding, cybersecurity and critical thinking—preparing themselves to rise up and become the cybersecurity experts of tomorrow."
>
> Prof Emerita Datuk Ts Ir Siti Hamisah Tapsir, UCSI University vice-chancellor and president

UCSI's vice-chancellor and president, Prof Emerita Datuk Ts Ir Siti Hamisah Tapsir, highlighted the timeliness of this competition amidst the growing threat of cyberattacks both locally and globally.

"In Malaysia alone, Cyber999 recorded over 3,000 cyber incidents in 2024. Many of these attacks targeted critical sectors like the airline industry and telecommunications.

"Yet, it's heartening to see Malaysia making progress, with the recent passing of the Cybersecurity Act 2024, creating 12,000 jobs to meet the goal of 25,000 cyber defenders.

"By participating in this hackathon, students are testing their skills in coding, cybersecurity and critical thinking—preparing themselves to rise up and become the cybersecurity experts of tomorrow."

This hackathon represents the latest milestone for UCSI's Institute of Computer Science and Digital Innovation, held in collaboration with Palo Alto Networks and AceTeam Networks. More than 100 teams competed, with team Iconitive emerging as the overall winner, securing the RM5,000 grand prize.

Team Iconitive—consisting of Sim Hong Bing, Yuen Tze Svenn, Sean Lim Jhun Yu and Joyanne Poong Qi Yue—were surprised by their victory, especially since three of them were first-time participants.

"I joined to gain experience and learn more about ethical hacking. I never thought we'd end up as champions," said Tze Svenn.

The team encouraged students to join similar competitions, regardless of experience. "Don't be afraid to jump in—even if it's your first time, the lessons are invaluable. You learn to trust your teammates, stay calm and think quickly under pressure," said Qi Yue.

They also commended universities that host hackathon challenges, which provide unique opportunities to solve industry-relevant challenges.

Team leader Sim Hong Bing added, "There are many government initiatives to strengthen cybersecurity, and while we're on the right track, we still have a long way to go."

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THE UCSI GAZETTE

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