

THE UCSI GAZETTE

THE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



HOE YEAN

UCSI'S NATIONAL SWIMMING
SUPERSTAR

VOLUME 33



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From left: Ng Chong Lin and YAM Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin ibni Tuanku Muhriz perform melodious classical pieces on the piano.

MUSIC TO THE EARS, CHARITY FROM THE HEARTS

On 8 January 2022, UCSI University held a musical concert that featured classical and contemporary pieces, which was performed by UCSI University's Pro-Chancellor YAM Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin ibni Tuanku Muhriz and several other maestros namely Bartosz Woroch, Ng Chong Lin, Poom Prommachart and Foo Mei Yi, including those from the University's renowned Institute of Music (IMus).

"This donation drive is timely and much needed. I thank every one of you this afternoon for your contribution," Tunku Zain stated at the concert.

lives of the individuals who have been stranded and afflicted by the country's recent humanitarian crisis that occurred in December 2021.

Apart from the concert, UCSI College together with a group of professional live streamers carried out a live streaming event on the same day to raise funds for the flood victims by selling items such as health products and face masks, among others. The virtual marketplace which raised a total of RM30,000 was held as part of the Certificate of Live Streaming programme that was approved and supported by KPT-PACE.

“
...raised about RM100,000...
”

Hwee Joo said, "We wanted to expose our students in a live event where influencers and professional live streamers train our students and at the same time give back to society."

In total, both the University and College, raised about RM100,000 in January through these initiatives and the funds were channelled to the Ministry of Higher Education's 'Tabung Bantuan Banjir', Lion Club KL and Malaysian Red Crescent (Selangor) to aid in their respective flood relief initiatives.



Guitarist Tan Lyn Wen from IMus serenades the audience with her euphonious voice.

The intimate live performances were not only pleasing to the audience's ears, but also to their hearts knowing their meaningful contribution totalling up to RM67,910.85 will make a difference in the

“
This donation drive is
timely and much
needed,
”

- UCSI University Pro-Chancellor,
YAM Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin ibni
Tuanku Muhriz -

UCSI College President and Chief Executive Officer Associate Professor Dr Mabel Tan



Violinist Bartosz Woroch awes the audience with his harmonious performance.

“
...train our students
and at the same time
give back to society,
”

- UCSI College President and Chief
Executive Officer, Associate Professor
Dr Mabel Tan Hwee Joo -



A memorable group photo featuring UCSI Pro-Chancellor YAM Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin ibni Tuanku Muhriz (middle in the back row), UCSI Group CEO and UCSI University Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Ir Ts Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir, (fifth from the right in the back row), performers, staff and students from UCSI Institute of Music (IMus).





The flash flood which occurred in December 2021 caught many Malaysians by surprise and was later declared by the government as the worst flooding incident since the 2014-2015 Malaysia flood at Hulu Langat, a district located in the south-eastern corner of Selangor.

It was this disaster that enabled UCSI student Chin Wen Yen to put her knowledge and experience to good use. She is a Year 2 Second Semester Student in Civil Engineering under the Faculty of Engineering, Technology and Built Environment. She is also an activist who advocates for environmentalism and community development.

"I saw victims asking for floor wipers to clean floors and clear mud on social media," Chin said. "Looking at the news of floods happening around Malaysia was alarming."

Since she was staying close to the disaster area, she came to realise that commercially available plastic floor cleaners proved to be ineffective to remove hardened mud.

It was then she managed to come up with a bamboo-derived "mud-sweepers" design that offered a cost-effective and sustainable solution to the clean-up effort. These basic bamboo tools were obtained from renewable sources and possessed greater durability than plastic.



Students from architectural, engineering and pharmacy courses participated in the bamboo workshop.



The basic bamboo tool was highly effective in the situation whereby fresh tap water became unavailable. The design came with two features, a wider bottom wiper to sweep larger areas and a shorter wiper which was better suited for removing hardened mud blocks and narrow drains.

"Bamboo has a great deal of potential and is more environmentally friendly," she said. "It is crucial to ensure that the source of the material is abundant so that the whole cycle is sustainable."

Together with 20 other students from Architectural, Engineering and Pharmacy courses, Chin and her team were able to manufacture 180 pieces of basic bamboo tools for the Hulu Langat clean-up effort.

The clean-up effort was made possible due to UCSI's Trust Scholarship and UCSI's MakeLab support by providing workshops and pieces of equipment to manufacture large quantities of basic bamboo tools within a short timeframe.

Chin was also able to rely on her previous experience as an activist to provide a greener yet durable alternative to help the clean-up effort for volunteers and residents affected by the flood.

"I realised it is important to prevent and contain the mud brought by floods that would cause blockage and are difficult to remove," she said. "It will cause blockages and cause additional flooding."

Her team was able to distribute the basic bamboo tools to volunteers and affected residents in Hulu Langat in addition to other bamboo sourced tools such as bamboo mud buckets and bamboo tongs for debris removal.

"Houses were covered in mud, and it was difficult to move around as it was very slippery, she said while adding that submerged single-storey houses suffered the most damage with most belonging unsalvageable.

"We tried to save as many things as possible but sadly some had to be thrown away."

“Bamboo has a great deal of potential and is more environmentally friendly.”

She was part of the volunteers who organised cleaning teams to clean the area. The relief effort was hard work, but the effort and contribution helped to speed the area's recovery effort.



The cleaning team using the bamboo tools to clear mud.



During the bamboo workshop.

“After taking part in the clean-up effort, I feel glad to be able to help victims as there is so much of cleaning for them to do on their own.”

She also emphasised that as a Malaysian and a student, every person should be ready to lend a hand to people in need. Furthermore, as an activist herself, she knows that each person’s small contribution could lead to a rippling effect that leads to a greater impact.

“I will continue to raise awareness among students about our environment,” she added.

She hopes to continue championing humanitarian causes such as Orang Asli Rights and Environmental protection after completing her studies. She also plans to gain more work experience before sitting for her Professional Engineers’ Examination.

At the same time, she encourages other students to participate in activities that leave a positive outcome for the people and the environment.

“**..declared by the government as the worst flooding incident..**



The basic bamboo tool was highly effective in the situation.



About Chin Wen Yen

She has a passion for environmentalism, sustainable resources and social empowerment. she pursued civil engineering to raise awareness among students on environmental issues through campaigns to mitigate climate change’s impact on Malaysia and advocate sustainable construction while empowering the Orang Asli community.

She led the “Green Up Project”, which is one of the three environmental initiatives of Youth Beyond Boundaries which upholds three pillars: Upcycling, urban farming and green lifestyle.

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND



This project does not only support their capacity and capability building, but also the growth of their well-being as well as social integration.



UCSI's "Leave No One Behind" Education project is a great initiative that allows youth from unprivileged backgrounds to develop their skills in various areas such as ICT, e-commerce, sustainable living, hospitality, peacebuilding, the English language and many more. This project does not only support their capacity and capability building, but also the growth of their well-being as well as social integration.

The Centre for Languages (CFL) has been supporting this project by conducting workshops and classes on various English modules since the programme just started in 2020. The first two batches were 7 refugee students from Ruth Education Centre, Mon Refugee Centre and El-Shaddai Learning Centre that took part in the 3-month Vocational Internship Programme (VIP). The programme was organised by UCSI Group SDG Secretariat Office and hosted by UCSI Living Lab and supported by its SDG partners. The youths received a scholarship from UCSI to join CFL's foundational Cambridge English programme for International English Language Testing System (IELTS).

In early 2021, CFL continued to provide English lessons to the new VIP batch by offering its 'Mind Your English' module. From August 2021 onwards, UCSI continued to partner with The Blue Ribbon Global, a stakeholder of the Regional Centre of Expertise Greater Kuala Lumpur, to support the implementation of this United Nations Sustainable Development Goals' project aspiration under the name 'Climate Action Incubator Programme' or CAIP. There were 12 participants from five different countries including Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Yemen. The majority were studying in Alternative Learning Centres for refugees, as well as local schools and at home. Since it was a mixed-age group of students of 14 to 21 years old, the topics that were included were favourite places, food, music and movies. They were of the interest of this age group. The participants really enjoyed themselves conversing on these topics. The programme continues this February 2022, and 11 youths including refugees from Yemen, Iraq and Myanmar are taking part this time around.

"I believe that educators and learning institutions are to support young people from disadvantaged background. This youth deserves to get access to quality education programmes that promote positive character values, relevant competencies and overall well-being as no one is to be left behind," said Daria Morozova, Director of Centre for Languages at UCSI University.



Besides CFL, UCSI University's Institute of Creative Arts and Design (ICAD) and Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management (FHTM) also contributed to this 'Leave No One Behind' project by offering some courses and workshops. The 'Garden to Table' module that FHTM offered for this 'Leave No One Behind' programme was acknowledged by the 2021 International Green Gown Awards by granting them the 'Highly Commendable' award for Benefitting Society category. This programme was also featured at Cambridge University's Zero Waste festival 2020.

Some of the 'Leave No One Behind' participants that demonstrated preparedness for on-the-job training were recruited to intern by various UCSI's subsidiaries and departments such as SDG Secretariat Office, Student Affairs and Alumni Department, Group Corporate Affairs, Group Logistic and Management Office, and Organic Farm. Moving forward, UCSI envisions that other faculties, departments and subsidiaries will take on active participation to live out the 'Leave No One Behind' corporate culture!



Last session's presentation from students about their traditional food.



...quality education programmes that promote positive character values, relevant competencies and overall well-being...

- Daria Morozova -



REFLECTIONS OF A REFUGEE



Sundus Faress Al-Saquaf, from Yemen

How did you begin your journey with UCSI?

I was interested to learn about gardening and how to live a sustainable lifestyle. Also, to meet new people and contribute to the environment and community. Since I am a refugee myself, I wanted to support this programme that helps people like me to learn new skills, especially about the Sustainable Development Goals and more.

What is your ambition?

I am currently studying Associate's Degree in Health Science and I want to become someone associated with the medical industry. Most of my family members experience some kind of sickness and in Yemen, there are not many good doctors, so it affects the quality of health. This situation made me want to become the best doctor for my country and I would love to help the people.

What does this project mean to you?

In the programme that I am doing right now, the objective is to leave no one behind, to enhance the team's resilience towards extreme climate change so regardless of where they come from or the status, we do welcome everyone to join so I am happy to be one of the coordinators for this programme and help others, which aligns to my objective as well.

What did you expect to learn from this project?

In the beginning, I hoped to learn new skills but the more I was involved with the projects, the more I learned things I never expected to learn and the more I contributed to the community. Essentially, communities that work together are stronger and can achieve things faster. Whatever we learn, we should contribute back to others. We should share our knowledge and learnings.

What is your advice for those who are interested to join the programme?

Give and take. If someone gives you an opportunity to learn, you always have to give back and contribute. We are at a young age, so we need to be open to learning new things. You will find a new passion and new interests by trying new things.



Leo volunteering to feed the less fortunate.

Htet Si thu (Leo), from Myanmar

How did you begin your journey with UCSI?

There was a virtual talk in my school and Ms Norani was one of the speakers. She interviewed me regarding community work and encouraged me to join the programme. After talking to her, the programme seemed interesting to me. Also, I wanted to meet more people and experience something more fun and beneficial than just staying at home.

What is your ambition?

I want to become a famous e-sport player, but that is just my dream and I am still chasing it. I would also like to be a chef, as my grandmother used to teach me how to cook since I was six years old. Of all the house chores, I love cooking!

What does this project mean to you?

It is not racist; it is not biased. Everyone is welcome to join. All kinds of people can come together and be part of this project.

What did you expect to learn from this project?

I also wanted to learn new skills, but I did not expect to learn something like gardening which I find cool, to be honest. They also teach us how to create and edit videos. I am happy to learn how to work as a team as I work with different types of people.

What is your advice for those who are interested to join the programme?

You need to sacrifice your time, be sincere and be willing to do this genuinely.



Sundus (fifth from left) with Dato' Peter Ng, the Founder and Executive Chairman of UCSI Group (first from left) during the Vocational Internship at Le Quadri Hotel.

IN AND ABOUT

UCSI Club Day – 19 January 2022

Students can pursue their extracurricular interests and hobbies on campus during UCSI Club Day. Returning and current students have many clubs available for new members and be absolutely spoilt for choice.

Some of the many clubs are Society of Petroleum Engineers, Japanese Cultural Society, UCSI Kendo Club, UCSI University Chinese Cultural Society (CCS), Gourmet Club UCSI, UCSI Adventure Club, UCSI UniYouth Club, UCSI Basketball Club and Bursa Young Investor Club (BYIC).



UCSI Youth Film Festival – 30 March 2022 – 1 April 2022

The 3-day film festival was organised by Mass Communication Project students of January 2022 intake, encapsulates the four main themes related to films namely, The Future of Documentary Makers Forum, Movie Night Master Class, The Screen Masters, and Film Fanatic webinar. The film festival aims to inspire audiences to raise awareness of films and appreciate the fine art of filmmaking.



Vetiver Planting Project – 12 February 2022

UCSI students took part in a Green Up Project to plant Vetiver seedlings which provide erosion control while preventing surface water runoff along the Sungai Langat river at Hulu Langat, Selangor. The project consisted of 11 students and 2 lecturers from the UCSI Department of Civil Engineering and Youth Beyond Boundaries: Green Up Project to propagate enough seedlings to help mitigate flash floods.



Hostel Festive Season Celebration: Tang Yuan Workshop – 19 February 2022

Hostel Residents staying within the UCSI University campus enjoyed a taste of Tang Yuan dumplings during a weekend event. The Tang Yuan Workshop was organised by the Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management under its Festive Season Celebration workshop. The workshop is a series of initiatives that encourages students to share their campus experience while meeting other fellow students at the hostel.



New Programme at UCSI University

MASTER IN ENGINEERING (SMART ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT)

(N/520/7/0122) (10/2026) (MQA/PA14823)

Industrial 4.0 has changed the landscape of engineers' role in utilising and integrating emerging technologies into the industrial operation whilst not neglecting the human-centric skills, which is necessary for the growth of any engineering field. The new norm engineers must keep abreast with constant modern technology developments and be empowered with skills to deploy the technological solution sustainably. This programme equips candidates beyond the mastery of work-ready skills, weaving in the 9 pillars of IR4.0, engraved in the globalisation of the world's socio-economy movement.

From robotics, AI, automation, blockchain, cloud computing, advanced materials to 3D printing, UCSI crafts the way for new learning concepts and implements solutions in issues relevant to the industries. Our master students are exposed to training and talks from interdisciplinary experts and industry leaders. Ultimately, we recognise that only knowledge and theories in graduates are not enough to excel at their workplaces, so we aim to produce pragmatic graduates in UCSI.

WHY BECOME ENERGY ENGINEERS?



The depletion of fossil fuels has been a long-term concern throughout the world as human living standards rise over the past century simultaneously increasing the reliance on these depleting resources for power generation. The shift of energy supply from conventional energy resources to sustainable resources, also known as renewable resources, is necessary to cope with this phenomenon. By taking its location advantages, Malaysia has been developing solar energy over the past decade. Particularly, Malaysia is blessed with a natural tropical climate with average daily solar radiation of 4500 kWh m⁻² and abundant sunshine for about 12 h day⁻¹. What's m⁻² and day⁻¹?

In addition to solar energy, Malaysia has also strategised its capacity in developing hydropower, as well as biofuels from biomass resources. The development of renewable energy in Malaysia is encouraging and has received tremendous support from governmental bodies and private companies. To list a few, the National Renewable Energy Policy of Malaysia has set an energy policy vision to achieve a 20% renewable energy capacity mix by 2025; meanwhile, the Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) Malaysia has also listed solar PV, biogas (organic waste, landfill, sewage sludge), biomass (agricultural waste, garbage), and small hydropower under the Feed-in Tariff (FiT)

“Malaysia is blessed with a natural tropical climate with average daily solar radiation...”

“We envisaged that energy engineers will be able to serve the future industry needs...”

scheme. Nevertheless, we are still lacking competent energy engineers to cope with such energy transition.

UCSI University, being one of the best private universities in Malaysia, has recently launched a new programme named “Bachelor of Energy Engineering with Honours”. This programme offers

4-year specialised courses in energy resources to give a wider perspective of the subject whilst covering the fundamentals of energy, generation of energy and storage of energy, up to the integration of energy in different aspects of the industry.

The main highlight would be the in-depth study on conventional sources of energy such as natural gas, coal, and crude oil and sustainable sources of energy such as biogas, biomass, wind, solar, hydro, and other emerging sources. We envisaged that energy engineers will be able to serve the future industry needs, specifically, in fuelling the energy transition nationally and internationally.

Unique Features



Learn both **conventional** and **renewable** energies



Learn **management courses** to be well-equipped with management skills



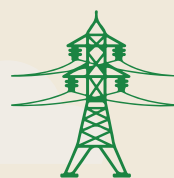
Specialisation opportunity in final year study to target different industrial needs



Course structure **reviewed** by **energy experts**

Our purpose-designed programme has the following scheme:

Year 1
Engineering
Fundamental



Year 2
Energy
Generation

Year 3
Energy
Storage



Year 4
Integration &
Application

Contributor:
Department of Chemical & Petroleum Engineering

kWh m⁻² = kilowatt-hour per meter square
h day⁻¹ = hour per day



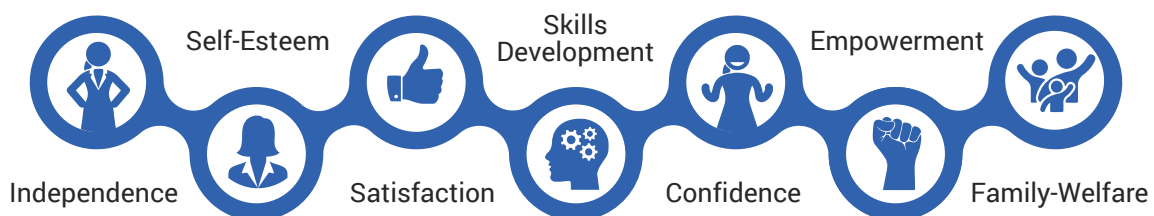
FINANCE FOR LADIES: EMPOWERING WOMEN! STRENGTHENING NATIONS!

The world has understood the importance of women's participation in economic growth. In developing countries, the role of women in various economic sectors has shown some resilience towards the economic output. The formal access to finance for women provides several benefits to companies, governments, and individuals' overall well-being. In many cases where women support household income, the families get better living standards. Many international authorities, such as the United Nations, have also understood the importance of women's participation in the economic sectors. These authorities consider financial

inclusion a key enabler for women's economic empowerment. However, in almost all countries, women face challenges and barriers to access financial services. According to the latest statistics from the Global Findex database (2017), men dominate women to access financial services in low- and middle-income countries. Additionally, these countries also face lower financial and digital literacy levels in women that create challenges for them to participate in financial and modern economic decisions. So, women's participation increased entrepreneurial intentions, and access to financial resources is a must component.



Benefits on Women



What is Needed?



About author:

Dr Muhammad Ali is associated with UCSI Graduate Business School. He is currently hosting a special issue call for papers on "Financial Inclusion and Social Development for a Sustainable Economic System" in Emerald's International Journal of Social Economics.

PREMATURE AGEING: WHY BEAUTY DOES MATTER?



While the advancement of science, medicine, and technology has increased life expectancy, this has not necessarily reflected positively on life quality. Even though the early onset of age-related diseases began attracting much attention from all parties involved, including governments, healthcare providers, researchers, the public, and insurance companies, with all parties strongly agreeing that an unhealthy lifestyle is a key player in this shift, premature skin ageing has not been featured among the alarming signs of the situation.



...medical aesthetics treatments are at an all-time high demand...

Driven by a growing sense of self-care in the general public, medical aesthetics treatments are at an all-time high demand, according to the results of a global study. In view of criticism toward countering the signs of facial ageing, sometimes practising medical aesthetics has been perceived negatively. The medical nature of aesthetic procedures is perplexing, as the line between improving someone's appearance and treating a condition is blurry. Facial wrinkle, hyperpigmentation, loss of skin elasticity, dryness and other signs of skin ageing which are likely the reasons behind an individual's desire to visit a medical aesthetician could be linked to unhealthy lifestyles such as excessive exposure to solar UV radiation, lack of enough sleep, imbalanced diet, stress and air pollution. The potential link between premature skin ageing and non-communicable diseases have not been well studied. In one of our recent epidemiological studies among women of

childbearing age, a high prevalence of unhealthy lifestyles, premature skin ageing and DNA damage was observed. In another study, skin elasticity, hydration, trans-epidermal-water loss, erythema, pH level, pigmentation, pores and wrinkles were assessed among participants (82% in the age group of 18 to 24 years old). Despite the majority being in the very young age group, it was found that skin dryness, mild skin pigmentation, thin facial wrinkles, skin laxity and poor sun protection habits were prevalent.

The holistic approach that an aesthetic practitioner may implement to improve the signs of skin ageing should be valued by taking this as a platform for creating awareness toward the importance of healthy lifestyles. Educating the public about the impact of simple life modification in preventing or reversing premature ageing is critical for reducing the burden imposed by non-communicable diseases. I firmly believe medical aesthetics has the potential to educate the public by targeting those who are willing to take action.

The potential link between premature skin ageing and non-communicable diseases have not been well studied.

*Contributor:
Associate Professor Dr Farahnaz Amini
School of Healthy Aging, Medical Aesthetics
and Regenerative Medicine*

OUR CALL OF DUTY

“**The women in the village were also trained on breast self-examination...**”

“One of the first duties of the physician is to educate the masses not to take medicine”, said William Osler, the 19th-century Canadian Physician who was also one of four professors who founded Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1889.



Entrance to Kampung Orang Asli Sunggala, Port Dickson.

On 22 January 2022, the second-year medical students of UCSI University undertook this call of duty in the annual “UCSI Medical Outreach Programme” to bring free health education and services to the aboriginals (known plainly to Malaysians as “Orang Asli”) of Kampung Orang Asli Sunggala, Port Dickson. The services included the measurement of blood pressure, blood glucose and Body Mass Index (BMI), which is a basic health screening package. The women in the village were also trained on breast self-examination while the children were taught basic and proper oral and hand hygiene.



Demonstration of proper handwashing techniques.

Planning was underway months before, and when the day finally arrived, we were geared up to set out on this mission and bring our hard work to fruition. This was made possible through the many off-session opportunities to interact and mingle with the villagers to understand their lifestyle, concerns and their

awareness of health so that the services delivered may be made more applicable in their context and according to their needs.

While not many adults from the village turned up for the programme, we were encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by the children in their active participation in the sessions. The delight and eagerness on their faces gave them away, and we certainly enjoyed reciprocating the interest they have shown by rewarding them with toys and titbits.

Nevertheless, the biggest reward remains that this outreach benefitted the villagers tremendously both educationally and materially. Before the event day, donation booths were set up in UCSI University KL Campus and UCSI Springhill Campus whereby the public could drop off food items and clothes for donation. All items collected were given to the villagers as a complement to the health education and services in hopes that the villagers may find them useful.



The children learn to brush their teeth correctly.

A total of 23 individuals came together to make this programme a success, of which 19 were second-year medical students and two were our very own professors, Assistant Professor Puvaneswaren Parmasivam and Associate Professor Dr Kyu Kyu Win who graced the event with their knowledge and guidance. We were also pleased to be joined by two seniors, Wong Jian Yao, fifth-year medical student and Su Yik Peng, UCSI MD alumnus who generously shared their experience and expertise in conducting the health screenings. The day ended with a presentation of a token of appreciation to the village head (Ketua Kampung), Tok Batin Zamri bin Harun for his amicable cooperation throughout the entire visit to the village.



Measurement of blood glucose.

“**It is the responsibility to educate the society to be in charge of their own bodies and their own health.**”



The village head has his blood pressure measured.



Fundraising at PPV, Ground Floor, UCSI Hospital Springhill.

Not to mention, the programme was entirely financed internally with Medical Student Association (MedicSA) funds, lecturer-donations as well as funds raised from selling cups, badges and reusable straws over two days in UCSI Hospital Springhill's Pusat Pemberian Vaksin (PPV). The response exceeded our expectations for the funds raised were more than enough to cover the expenses of the programme. This served as

an enormous encouragement for us to give back to the society by using the funds prudently and responsibly.

Our call of duty goes beyond the clinical setting. It is the responsibility to educate the society to be in charge of their own bodies and their own health. It is holding each other accountable as physicians to serve the community with our very best by upholding integrity, excellence, a commitment to lifelong learning and to show courage, leadership and empathy where needed. UCSI Medical Outreach Programme 3.0 has served as a platform on which we can put these into practice, and certainly in a successful manner.

Stay tuned as UCSI Medical Outreach Programme 4.0 is coming!



Assistant Professor Puvaneswaren (left) presents donations to Tok Batin (right).



Dr Kyu (left) presents a certificate to Tok Batin (right).



It's a wrap for UCSI Medical Outreach Programme 3.0 at Kampung Orang Asli Sunggala, Port Dickson.

PROFESSOR CHAN

THE DYNAMIC TEACHER AND RESEARCHER

Where are you from?

I am from Malacca but I left for Singapore to pursue my Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and History at the National University of Singapore through the Public Service Commission (PSC) Scholarship. Since it was a scholarship, I was bonded with the Singaporean government and worked at several top elite institutions such as Raffles Institution, Hwa Chong Institution as well as the Singapore Polytechnic for over 30 years.

What are your hobbies?

I love reading. People might think I am a baby boomer, but I really like to learn new things using technology-enhanced learning. Nowadays, I am always on my smartphone reading journals, articles, blogs and everything online. Also in my younger days, I used to love hiking.

Who is your role model?

I admire women leaders like Michelle Obama because she walks the talk. I especially love what she said during a speech on Donald Trump, "When they go low, we go high." As an academic leader, integrity and ethics are very important to me. People often forget and tend to take shortcuts to success which will not benefit their career and life development in the long run.

What made you choose teaching as a career?

Teaching is a vocation. You actually get to change lives. You are in contact with your students, you mould their mindsets, and they emulate you from the examples you show in your behaviour. Hence this is why I think teaching is very rewarding. Not only in teaching but also in research, we are also asking fundamental questions about what things we need to pursue and what knowledge is worth knowing: questions that lie at the heart of our existence.

If not teaching, what would you have become?

Apart from the PSC scholarship, I was offered to study law at a local university, but I don't regret not taking it as I realised, I liked teaching and the fact that I am able to make an impact and influence the lives of my students and lecturers who are under my care.

Reintroducing our Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences and Liberal Arts (FOSSLA), **Professor Dr Chan Nee Nee** who has returned to UCSI University after 6 years and who is on a mission to make FOSSLA the top social sciences faculty in Malaysia and beyond.

When they go low, we go high.



Professor Chan among the daffodils in England.



Professor Chan has a special bond with all of her students.

What does education mean to you?

There is a saying, "Pay it forward." If somebody is kind enough to teach or give you something but you are unable to repay their kindness, you repay that kindness to other people currently or in the future. It's the act of giving back without any ulterior motive. Some students come back to me many years later to show their appreciation and gratitude and for me, that is truly rewarding to know some of the things I've taught were precious to my students. I think that sums up what education is all about.

The world of the social sciences is a very exciting voyage...

What is the best thing about teaching at a tertiary level?

The difference at a tertiary level especially between undergraduate, master and PhD is the criticality, to be critical and to know how to display critical thinking. When meeting my students for the first time, I would ask them, "Why do you come to a university?" and I always tell them it is to teach you how to critically think about issues, how to take a position and justify these issues without using emotions to colour your judgements.

What is your advice to students who choose to study at FOSSLA?

The world of the social sciences is a very exciting voyage to learn about the disciplines and to find out how we can improve society and life. Whatever we search and look for, it's a mirror to society. In FOSSLA, we fight for social justice and we want to make the world a better place through great intellectual discovery and applications to society.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

I see myself doing more research and supervising more postgraduate students. Apart from that, I envision myself volunteering more at community events and organisations. When I was studying at Durham in the United Kingdom, I used to volunteer at a church's soup kitchen to feed the elderly, at a bookshop in Newcastle and a couple of other community services. I like to do these kinds of things, but I can't do it myself, I need a team so I hope to start some projects here at UCSI.



Professor Chan at the famous Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) campus.

...is truly rewarding to know some of the things I've taught were precious to my students.



UCSI'S NATIONAL SWIMMING SUPERSTAR

How did you get into swimming?

I started swimming when I was seven years old and took me about 4 months to learn all the strokes. At 8 years old, I participated in competitions and won my first Bronze medal during the Majlis Sukan Sekolah Malaysia (MSSM) Swimming Championship when I was 10 years old.

Who was your inspiration?

My elder brother, Jackson Khiew who's also studying at UCSI inspired me at first. Growing up, I always thought to myself how cool he looked while swimming and I wanted to be just like him. I honestly did not expect to be great in this sport, so I just kept learning, training and getting better at it.

Do you play any other sports?

I do play basketball as a hobby, not professionally. It is one of the sports that I play to release my stress.

What's a day in your life like?

My everyday schedule is packed. I wake up at 4.30am to attend my training before school and after school, I will have a quick lunch and rest before my next training session. So in a day, I spend a minimum of 5 hours in the swimming pool daily, except for Sundays.

KL-born Steve Khiew Hoe Yean is the second and youngest son of local Malaysian parents who swam his way to stardom by winning countless medals since the age of eight years old. The young national swimmer became the talk of the town as he broke two new national records, namely in 200 metres (m) backstroke and 800m freestyle event at the Malaysian Open held in the mid of 2021. Subsequently, he also broke another national record in Spain Swimming Championship for 400m individual medley in August 2021.

“

If you want to do anything, just remember this is your goal so just do it.

”

How do you destress from your hectic schedule?

I like my sports activities, but sometimes I like to relax by spending some time alone. I do like to watch movies just by myself. I only travel for competitions, not vacations.

What was your biggest challenge?

The hardest time in my whole career was when the state team didn't have a coach so I had to train independently and my mom became the coach for me along with my brother for more than a year. I witnessed how my parents supported me and realised their sacrifices during those challenging times and even now, they never gave up on me. They told me, "If you want to do anything, just remember this is your goal so just do it. Anything you need us to do, just tell us and we will do it for you."

How did the pandemic affect your life as a swimmer?

During the Malaysian movement control order, we weren't allowed to train in a pool so we had no choice but to do dryland physical activities to stay motivated and not lose our momentum. I had to find ways to keep fit and train without a pool.

“

...it is not only about how fast you can swim, but also what the strategies can do to win.

”



“

**There are no shortcuts in life.
There are no easy ways to pass.**

”

Do you have any pre-match rituals before a competition?

I sleep a lot. Before the race, I will try to sleep 9 hours as I really need that rest and strength to compete. I also think about my strategies and replay in my mind what I am going to do because it is not only about how fast you can swim, but also what the strategies can do to win.

Why did you choose UCSI to pursue your studies?

I know UCSI existed when I was fifteen years old and my brother applied to study at the college at that time. Also, one of my seniors from the swimming team was studying at UCSI as well so I am familiar with UCSI, and I feel it's more convenient for me to study here because it is not too far from my house. It has always been one of my top options so why not? I heard it's a good university and they offered me a scholarship to pursue a Bachelor of Computer Science (Honours).

How do you juggle sports, studies and social life?

It is very hard to balance both. Normally after my busy day, I will try to study for an hour at night before my bedtime. There is barely time for me to play with my phone and most of my friends are either from class or the swimming team, that I meet every day. Overall, this sport made me more disciplined and I am able to manage my time very well.

What is your ambition?

My ambition is to become a professional athlete or a professional coach. Other ambitions would be either a developer or a successful businessman.

Who is your role model?

Missy Franklin, who I have met once in my life. She told us why she smiles before jumping into the pool during competitions, "I need to be happy with what I am doing." Although she has retired, she still inspires me today.

What is your motto in life?

There are no shortcuts in life. There are no easy ways to pass. It is about how to train to improve yourself, it is about how hard you can train to improve yourself.

What is your advice to your athletes?

Never give up and try to balance everything. No matter how many times you fall, you still get back up and try again. That's the most important thing you need to tell yourself.

Follow Steve and his journey on  [@stevekhiew](https://www.instagram.com/stevekhiew)

Images captured by @atlas_shotz at 1st Milo Swim Championship 2022



THE SEASON 4'S FINALE & DONATION CAMPAIGN



On 5 December 2021, Dynamic Youth (DY) organised its last event of the season called "The Season 4's Finale" before they transitioned into Season 5. The event is similar to a year-end party and the purpose of this event is to create an opportunity for all DY members, refugee students, and collaborators from various organisations to gather and to look back on what they have gone through or achieved during Season 4. DY also took this time to show their gratitude towards their collaborators who have helped them throughout the year by sending a box of cookies to each of them personally a few days before the event.

Since DY engages with the underprivileged community using sports educational programs, the theme of the Finale was set to be 'football' and the dress code was 'sportswear'. As the finale was held virtually via Google Meet, DY also designed a virtual background for everyone to make it as if they were all on a football field!

The event kicked off with an icebreaker, some simple stretching, and a magic show. After that, a speech was given by the Project Leader of Season 4, Kingsly Cheah followed by a short video prepared by DY that served to recap all the events and activities carried out during Season 4. Next, a sharing session was conducted to gather feedback for Season 4 and to collect ideas for what can be done in Season 5. The participants were able to share their thoughts through verbal sharing as well as writing on a digital board, 'Padlet'. The Finale then ended with a testimonial video prepared by DY, and lastly a group photo with everyone with their jerseys on!

There was a total of 19 DY members, 25 refugee students, and 9 collaborators from 6 organisations who participated in the Finale, and DY planned to make this event a regular tradition where it would be held at the end of each season.

In conjunction with the Finale, Dynamic Youth also organised a donation drive to put a smile on the faces of local communities, aligning to the mission of Gifts of Love and Care, an initiative by UCSI-SDG Sayangi Campaign, and the refugee communities engaged with DY. They have fundraised a total of RM1502.50 of which RM925 was fundraised from the public through the fundraising platform, Sedunia, RM300 by Dynamic Youth through The Season 4's Finale, and RM277.50 is the 30% of total funds raised from the public that they promised to top up! The funds were allocated equally where 50% of the funds were contributed to the local communities and the other 50% to the refugee communities engaged with them.



The handing over of the Christmas gifts to Mr Lucas.

Beneficiaries (Local Communities)

- Persatuan Rumah Sayangan
- Bodhi Homecare Cheras
- Pertubuhan Kebajikan Kanak-Kanak Yatim Dan Miskin Wawasan Port Dickson
- Rumah Sejahtera Jimah
- MERCY Malaysia

A total of 28 gifts worth RM550.95 was bought by Dynamic Youth according to the children and old folks' wish lists. The gifts were all nicely wrapped and handed to Lucas, the person in charge of UCSI's Gifts of Love & Care Initiative before Christmas.

Beneficiaries (Refugee Communities)

- Malaysian Social Research Institute (MSRI)
- Somali Refugee Community (SRC)
- Rohingya Community School (RCS)
- Children's Training Centre (CTC)
- Malaysian Care

RM751.25 will be used for purchasing daily necessities for the refugees, supporting Dynamic Youth in organising activities for the refugees, and supporting their collaborators to sustain their operations.

“

....to put a smile on the faces of local communities.

”

MY VIRTUAL BUDDIES 2.0



The virtual event group photo of The Season 4's Finale.

Dynamic Youth (DY), founded in 2018, is a community initiative under Youth Beyond Boundaries (YBB) which connects the underprivileged communities through educational sports programmes. The community that we currently are engaged with is the refugee children through football, and we hope to expand our reach to more communities using various sports. Over the years, DY activities were planned around the key mission of instilling valuable life skills in the refugee community, which involved conducting football training sessions and seasonal tournaments across multiple communities.

“**...key mission of instilling valuable life skills in the refugee community.**”

However, as the lockdowns impeded any sort of physical plans, DY remained motivated to serve the community and had pivoted its operations by conducting Season 4 activities through online platforms. Recently, Dynamic Youth had started a 4-week programme called “Be My Virtual Buddies” involving the students of UCSI University and refugee students. The programme was carried out virtually via Google Meet.

“**...the ongoing pandemic has made interaction among peers more difficult than ever.**”

Subsequently, DY organised the programme for the second time on 10 July 2021, following its success from the previous round but this time it was called ‘Be My Virtual Buddies 2.0’. There was a total of 49 participants which consisted of 19 UCSI University students and 30 refugee students.

The main objective of this event was to encourage interaction among the students of UCSI University and the refugees. As we all know, the ongoing pandemic has made interaction among

peers more difficult than ever. This has affected the mental health of many people out there, hence, DY conducted this event for the students of UCSI University and refugees with the objectives of encouraging the participants to learn more about each other, establishing new connections, and providing a platform for them to share their thoughts with one another.

The 5-week event focused on Self-introduction (week 1), Sharing Interests (week 2), Goals and Emotions (week 3), Likes and Dislikes (week 4), and finally the Wrap-Up session (week 5). The theme of each week differed, thus creating a plethora of topics for the participants to engage on. Games and talk sessions were the main activities of each week but things were a tad different in the final week as the participants were given the opportunity to share their experiences throughout the event. A refugee expressed his heartfelt gratitude towards the organising committee for providing a platform for him to meet new people during this pandemic.

All in all, the event was a success as we had a 90% turnout, and we were able to avoid technical difficulties such as internet connection issues. Most of the participants left positive feedback at the end of the event, thus fulfilling our main objectives. Due to large demand from the participants, the organising committee is in the process of planning a reunion session allowing the participants to meet each other once again. In Christie Brinkley's words, a journey well shared is a journey well enjoyed.

“**A journey well shared is a journey well enjoyed.**”
- Christie Brinkley -

HANDS OF HOPE

Hands of Hope (HOH) is a long-term volunteering project that was established with a mission of sowing seeds of change through education for the refugee community since the year 2014. This project aims to provide quality education for the refugee communities, instil volunteerism among youth by providing a platform to reach out to the refugee communities as well as offer youth a platform for personal growth and development.

Sponsor-A-Child Project (SACP) was also kick-started by HOH that very same year. It was an initiative to reduce the number of dropouts among refugee children in Malaysia. This project was established to sponsor refugee children with financial difficulties to continue schooling and gain a better education. The funds collected by HOH will be used to sponsor the annual school fee of the selected students from several refugee learning centres. SACP is an annual project that has been receiving tremendous support from the public and corporations in Malaysia to achieve the primary goal of providing a better education for financially unstable refugee children.

Since 2015, we have successfully raised funds over RM 86,000..



“...we envision a refugee community with the ability to not only see this bigger picture but to paint one themselves...”

Campaign 2021” which lasted for a month to raise funds and create awareness of its aim. The campaign consisted of a talent contest participated by refugee students, a virtual run participated by university students and a virtual forum organised to increase public awareness and encourage public engagement in empowering the refugee community. Since 2015, we have successfully raised funds over RM 86,000 and these funds have benefitted 58 refugee students from 6 different refugee community schools.

For the year 2022, a total of 23 student candidates from 5 different schools have been chosen as the recipients of the collective reimbursement worth RM10,800. One of the younger recipients, Mary, an 11-year-old student from a school called Zomi Education Centre (ZEC) that HOH has been working closely with, displayed an average score of 77.2% in her academics, earning herself a score of 4/5 under the academics panel based on our rubric. Eager to express herself, she aspires to be a doctor should the time come, to help the sick and needy.

At first glance, our SACP focuses solely on raising funds to improve their education. Albeit true, the deeper notion we hope to help them uncover is their chance to rebuild their lives through education, teaching them not only to be educated but additionally to be self-sustainable and self-reliant. In other words, we envision a refugee community with the ability to not only see this bigger picture but to paint one themselves as well.

Moving forward, we sincerely hope our SACP continues to grow and enhance with the number of refugees benefiting from it. Additionally, we wish to expand the project's reach to inspire more people to unite for the refugee community, spread the love and hope they need for a brighter future. Ultimately, should you wish to support us, this project, our cause, or find out any other way to help the community we are serving, feel free to drop us a message at our socials by simply typing “Hands of Hope UCSI”.



Choir performance by refugee children during the Charity Musical Night 2019.

HOH has successfully organised various fundraising events and campaigns to ensure SACP achieves its primary goal and it can be sustained for the upcoming years for the benefit of refugee children. In the past years, one of the biggest events of HOH was the Charity Musical Night, organised for four years to raise funds for the SACP. Tickets were sold to watch some great music and theatre performances that were performed by the refugee children and sponsors were gathered to help fund the event and achieve its goal favourably. Besides that, despite the COVID-19 pandemic last year, the HOH team worked hard in organising a virtual campaign called ‘Sowing Seeds of Change Fundraising



Charity Musical Night 2019 team along with the refugee children who performed.

WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK 2022

Organised by UCSI GROUP (SDG SECRETARIAT OFFICE), UCSI UNIVERSITY (STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ALUMNI), UCSI COLLEGE, MALAYSIAN YOUTH COUNCIL, RCE GREATER KUALA LUMPUR



UCSI and its partners recently hosted a virtual celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) on 25 February 2022. This is an annual and global celebration initiated by the United Nations in 2010. This year, the event was also organised to recognise the effort from faith-based non-governmental organisations in giving humanitarian aid to the recent flood that happened in several states of Malaysia. We provided a platform and opportunity for NGOs from Christian, Muslim, and Buddhist communities to share what and how the aid that they offer can promote peace and harmony regardless of their religion and background.



The group photo taken during the virtual event.

“
...it took a flood to wash away race
and religious barriers separating
Malaysians.”

According to Dr Najahudin Lateh, Chairman of Anggerik Care, representing the Malaysian Muslim community, it took a flood to wash away race and religious barriers separating Malaysians. Malaysian Muslims were seen helping to clean a Hindu temple, and a Malaysian Chinese volunteer used his own boat to evacuate residents of a Malay kampung in Puchong, Selangor. Almost 150 participants participated in this virtual celebration. In conjunction with the World Interfaith Harmony Week, UCSI University and UCSI College also officially launched Sekretariat Rukun Negara in creating an effective platform to inculcate and strengthen the spirit of patriotism and unity among students. The event was launched by Mr Giri Anak Nyareng, Director of the Department of National Unity and Integration, WP Kuala Lumpur.

The highlight of the event was the announcement of recipients of the Tan Sri Omar Harmony Award. This national competition took place from September to December 2021. The award's objective is to inspire students of the tertiary institutions to rise as social change agents in fostering harmony in Malaysia's diverse community. It promotes education as a force for good and seeks to encourage, enhance societal empowerment and sustainable community development. At every stage of the competition, participants were evaluated according to certain

criteria including idea, social impact, action plan and sustainability of their proposals.

UCSI received almost 40 submissions from various higher learning institutions, and 8 strong contenders were shortlisted. For the final round, 3 projects were chosen namely, “Be My Virtual Buddies” from UCSI University, “A.L.I.A Box Project” from Methodist College Kuala Lumpur and “Hero W” from UCSI University. All recipients received cash prizes and certificates of achievement sponsored by Academician Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman and The Blue Ribbon Global.

UCSI also published an e-book, a transcript of messages by WIHW 2020 Speakers on The Importance of Love to Society. An online quiz based on these messages was running for the public and SRN members, and 50 top scorers from almost 20 high learning institutions received special gifts from the organisers. UCSI aspires to publish WIHW messages annually and to organise this activity with its SRN student committees.

“
..to inspire students of the tertiary
institutions to rise as social change
agents..”



DE LECTURER CUM SCULPTURER



If you are a sci-fi movie buff who loves movies that involve the earth, space, and the whole universe, then you must have watched "Moonfall" featuring top Hollywood stars such as Bond girl - Halle Berry, 'Insidious' Patrick Wilson, Game of Thrones' John Bradley and many more! But did you know that our very own UCSI's lecturer played a small role in this movie's premiere in Malaysia? Well, not as an actor but as an artist.

Dennis Wong Chee Dee, Assistant Professor from De Institute of Creative Arts and Design (ICAD), UCSI University was approached by a creative advertising company to do yet another art for a movie premier showcase at two of the biggest malls in Malaysia – GSC 1 Utama and GSC Mid Valley Megamall. The first involvement was back in 2015 when 12 students from his class were to create 12 figurines of monsters that were featured in the movie, "Goosebumps". The figurines



Wong worked day and night to complete the sculpture.

were then displayed at TGV, Sunway Pyramid. The very next year, Wong was approached again to have his students cum proteges create 10 head sculptures of the characters from the movie "Underworld" in 2016, which were displayed at GSC Pavillion.

Time flew by, and little did we know that

“...one of the most ancient and well-preserved art throughout history.”

was not the last until recently he received another gig but this time it was a one man's job and that specifically requested Dennis's expertise in creating two big 3D sculptures of a moon to symbolise the blockbuster movie, "Moonfall". Let's read on to find out more about 3D sculptures!



Only black, grey and white colours are used to paint the sculpture.

What is a 3D sculpture?

The 3D sculpture is one of the most ancient and well-preserved art throughout history. For instance, the Chinese Terracotta Army, a collection of terracotta sculptures depicting the armies of the First Emperor of China, is one of the oldest sculptures in the world.

What was the biggest challenge in creating this sculpture?

Since these were two moon sculptures of 4ft diameter each, I had to do my research on the moon to ensure I have the correct resources. The texture on the moon is both rough and smooth, I needed to know how to form its craters and the colour palette which consists of white, grey and black. It may seem like it was a straightforward creation but, it was very complex since I was only provided with two big sphere-shaped Styrofoam, to begin with. Plus, these styrofoams were so big that I had difficulties transporting them around the campus and to the cinemas.

How was the process?

It started with the skeleton of the sculpture before the clay is added to form the shape. Then, proceeded with the deduction of the

clay to refine and create the fine details. Hence why it is very important to pay attention to the anatomy of the moon. Overall, it took me about 8 days and nights to complete both sculptures.

How do you think 3D sculptures impacted the public?

The art impacts the artist and designers more than the general public. The shape, texture and colours are vital in designing to create the look and feel of the art. When I sculpted the moon, I had to ensure the tactile texture is reflected correctly based on my research. I needed to paint the shadows, highlights and gradients using black, grey and white to create the surface of the moon. All of these will matter to the artists.

What is the most important aspect of creative art?

An artist needs to be self-expressive through visual elements as we don't write but we create, and perfection does not exist. However, we should always aim for a higher standard.

What is your advice to your students at ICAD?

Love and be persistent in what you do.

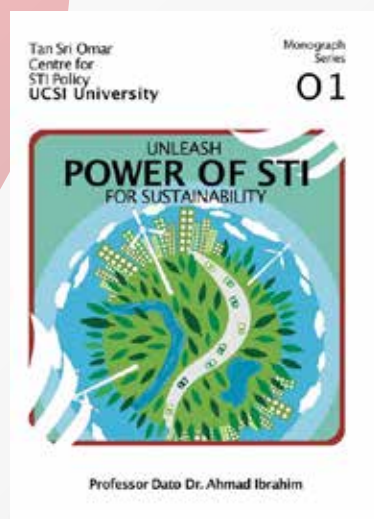
“It is essential to create your own unique and original style without replicating something common...”



One of the sculptures was displayed at GSC 1 Utama.



UCSI Press, the university's official publishing arm launches its logo and presents four prestigious books that have reached the stage of completion and publication on 24 February 2022.



Unleash the Power of STI for Sustainability by Professor Dato Dr Ahmad Ibrahim

This book deliberates on STI matters such as why invest in STI, how to strengthen STI, which economic sectors to focus on, developing talent in STI and R&D roles in STI, especially on how the power of STI can be harnessed to achieve sustainability.



Resetting Malaysia Education, Faith and Society by Professor Dr Mohamad Tajuddin Mohamad Rasdi

A series of articles predicated on the idea of how each citizenry can change this nation by changing the people's attitudes, mindsets and much-inherited perspectives, narratives and perceptions.



Mocktails 20 MUST-TRY DRINK authored and edited collectively by a group of lecturers and students from FHTM. The book editors consist of Nursyafiqah Ramli, Dr Mark Kasa, Chef Mohamad Fadzly Che Omar and Dr Sean Calvin Yong Shin Ching

The book brings a selection of wonderfully wild and flavourful mocktail concoctions made from Malaysian herbs, spices and fruits.



Bajautopia: Tales of Borneo's Sea Nomads edited by Dr Ng Keng Khoon and Ar Farah Aliza Badaruddin

A collection of essays and architectural research, produced and edited by a group of academic staff and students from SABE.



RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2021

The UCSI University Research and Teaching Excellence Awards 2021 Ceremony recognised 25 awardees who made a difference in 2021. The award recognised academics' contributions to research and teaching at UCSI as well as to the intelligentsia and society at large.



HIGHLY CITED PAPER: QR CODE AND MOBILE PAYMENT: THE DISRUPTIVE FORCES IN RETAIL

Published in *Journal of Retailing and Consumer Services* and cited 21 times.

Associate Professor
Dr Garry Tan Wei Han, GBS

TOP RESEARCH PUBLICATION CONTRIBUTORS



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FAS



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Dr Vaidehi Ulaganath
FAS

GBS = Graduate Business School, FBMS = Faculty of Business and Management, FETBE = Faculty of Engineering, Technology & Built Environment, SABE = School of Architecture & Built Environment, FAS = Faculty of Applied Sciences, FPS = Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, FHTM = Faculty of Hospitality & Tourism Management, FOSSLA = Faculty of Social Sciences and Liberal Arts, ICAD = De Institute of Creative Arts & Design, ICSDI = Institute of Computer Science & Digital Innovation, IMUS = Institute of Music, FMHS = Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

BAJAUTOPIA: TALES OF BORNEO'S SEA NOMADS

UCSI University's architecture students have recently published a book titled, "Bajautopia: Tales Of Borneo's Sea Nomads", which is co-edited by Head of Postgraduate Studies of UCSI University's School of Architecture and Built Environment, Dr Ng Keng Khoon.

The edited volume comprises of hybrid materials such as poems, comics, photographs, site drawings, imaginative sketches, artworks, and other visual materials focuses on the livelihoods of the Bajau Laut Kampung Bagau-Bagau, Semporna, Sabah.

Bajautopia, a combination of two words – 'Bajau' and 'Utopia', is an anthology of essays and architectural drawings research, published by Strategic Information and Research Development Centre. This 182-page aspires to elicit provocative ideas and debates for the betterment of the Bajau Laut.

The book is not intended to be a design exercise in and of itself, but rather an invitation to planners, politicians, scientists, engineers, environmentalists, and activists to engage in a comprehensive discourse and spark ideas for the Bajau Laut's long-term sustainability.

Chapter One: "Reimagining Nomadic Lifestyle"

An introduction to the livelihoods of the Bajau Laut as the chapter begins with an amazing photo essay showing the everyday life of sea nomads. The following three essays then illustrate basic understandings of houseboats, home spaces and the weaving crafts of the Bajau Laut.

Chapter Two: "Re-enacting the Right to the Ocean"

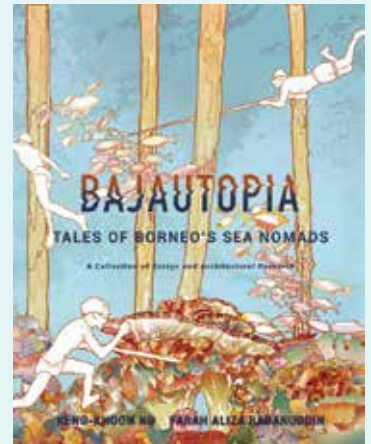
Discusses the social, political and environmental challenges faced by the sea nomads while provoking visionary and futuristic ideas for their future development.

Chapter Three: "Rethinking Sabah and Sama Bajau"

Reflects on issues of children's welfare, education, tourism, and sustainability by reclaiming or empowering the sovereignty of the Bajau Laut.



Bajautopia, a combination of two words – 'Bajau' and 'Utopia'



The students engage with utopian discourse and utilise the Bajau Laut as a critical lens to observe misconceptions about maritime community's nomadic existence as it is commonly known. This book is based on a constructive criticism of present initiatives to develop an inclusive Malaysian society using race, culture, and geography as categories.

The edited volume is a selection of fascinating writings that shed light on the Bajau Laut's culture and way of life. The book contains three chapters namely, "Reimagining Nomadic Lifestyle", "Re-enacting the Right to the Ocean" and "Rethinking Sabah and Sama Bajau".

In each chapter, three to four brief essays on distinct topics and six to seven innovative architectural designs are included by the foremost writers and scholars from the fields of architecture, history, film studies, anthropology, tourism, political science, and urban planning in Malaysia.



Dr Ng Keng Khoon (first from left) and Assistant Professor Ar. Chia Lin Lin (second from left) are Head of Postgraduate Studies and Deputy Dean of UCSI University's School of Built Environment respectively.



If you purchase the book directly from UCSI University, all proceeds will be channelled to Borneo Komrad's social projects.



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