

THE UCSI GAZETTE

THE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

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TOP 300

RANKED
284th
UNIVERSITY WORLDWIDE
TOP 0.9%
YEAR 2023

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60% OF HEALTHCARE STAFF EXPERIENCE POSITIVE WORK CULTURE

Following the death of a 25-year old houseman in Penang Hospital earlier this year, The Healthcare Work Culture Improvement Task Force (HWCITF) chairman and UCSI University vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir reported that there was no substantial evidence of foul play.

The report was based on a survey conducted over the past four months which involved a total of 110,411 staff members nationwide.

"HWCITF maintains this view as long as there is no new information relating to the houseman's death from the police through their investigations on the case.

"More than 60% of survey respondents stated the work culture at the Health Ministry is positive, especially in terms of patient care, community and teamwork," she said in a press conference held in Putrajaya on Aug 17, 2022.

She added that incidents of burnout, bullying and toxic work culture do exist at the Health Ministry but vary in levels, not just amongst housemen.

"Among the factors include lack of efficiency, skills and readiness to perform the tasks they are given."

"We also find the need for the ministry to optimise human resources and infrastructure facilities to ensure continuity of patient care.

"Although there are policies, guidelines and rules relating to complaint management and channels in the ministry, HWCITF feels that it needs to be improved and strengthened to ensure confidentiality is practised in the complaints process to give confidence to the complainant," she emphasised.

The task force presented 10 proposals, which include setting up a Medical Qualifying Committee, houseman candidate screening, standardisation for housemanship training, and improving the E-Houseman system.



Taskforce chairman and UCSI vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir says, there was no strong evidence of workplace bullying.

Nonetheless, these proposals must never jeopardise the quality of healthcare workers and their services.

"While the Covid-19 pandemic has had a great impact on the Health Ministry, HWCITF hopes the ministry will ensure that continuous efforts are implemented to improve existing systems, procedures, standard operating procedures and enact new regulations that are more in line with current needs and requirements," she said.

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Among the factors include lack of efficiency, skills and readiness to perform the tasks they are given.

*- Professor Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir,
Taskforce Chairman and UCSI Vice-Chancellor -*

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A TEAM OF PHARMACISTS, DOCTORS, AND NON-MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS TO THE RESCUE

Contributor: Anabelle Rose Joykin, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences



In response to the recent floods that hit several states in Malaysia, Associate Professor Dr Mogana, Dean of Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, UCSI University, Professor Dr Habibah, Dean of School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and Bharati Suresh Chand, CEO of Global Edge Pharma jointly organised a disaster relief assistance to help the victims tide over the crisis who were homeless and faced a shortage of supplies.

A collaborative team of pharmacists and doctors as well as non-medical volunteers are providing relief assistance to the flood victims. The faculties worked with a few volunteer teams to assist in various flood-stricken areas. The disaster relief materials, especially the medical items and over-the-counter items worth over RM25,000 sponsored by Global Edge Pharma, AKATI Sekurity, Hexa-Communications, and various independent individuals were distributed to different flood-hit areas in Pahang, Negeri Sembilan and Taman Sri Muda.

The volunteer camp in Sri Muda was coordinated by Manoharan and Brigadier Jeneral Dr Subash lead consultant of the team while the team that assisted Pahang consisted of over 50 volunteers which included pharmacists, doctors, nurses and social workers. The medical teams have counselled thousands of victims of flood-related diseases and treatments.



Medical volunteers comprising of doctors, pharmacist and nurses actively help the flood victims with goods and supplies in affected areas.

“

The disaster relief materials, especially the medical items and over-the-counter items worth over RM25,000.

”



Manoharan the coordinator of Sri Muda Medical Camp by Medical volunteers (left) with Associate Professor Dr. Mogana, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences (middle) Krishna Rajagopal, CEO of Akati Security (right).

Healthcare professionals including doctors and pharmacists not only play important roles during the COVID pandemic but also play a key role in the disasters. Doctors are responsible for diagnosis and medication prescribing, while pharmacists who are medication experts are responsible for medication dispensing, optimising patient care through the collaboration of the medical team. They continue to provide health services and ensure the supply of essential medicines during the disaster.

The current assistance has also seen the involvement of UCSI pharmacy alumna, Vigneswary Suthakaran for the distribution of medicines to respective volunteer medical camps and Mrs Lim, co-owner of Juzcare Pharmacy for the prompt preparation of the medicines. UCSI University has graduated over 1300 pharmacists since 2001. The faculty ensures the key graduate attributes include volunteerism and active community engagement as these are the core values of a professional pharmacist.



Relief supplies provided to victims in Negeri Sembilan through UCSI Hospital team.

POLYHEDRON PAVILION FEAT. NATIONAL ART GALLERY'S COLLECTION

Contributor: Yusra Zulkifli and Ahmad Fahmi Zainazlan, School of Architecture & Built Environment

A stunning triangulated panelled structure glowing with strip lighting has stolen everyone's attention at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) Departure Hall. The overall form complements its surroundings, blending in with the curved, slanted roofs with natural lighting piercing through the airport's roof.

This geometrical structure is the Polyhedron Pavilion, designed by Noah Iskandar Fuad, a 2nd-year architectural design student from the School of Architecture and Built Environment (SABE), UCSI University. It is on display at KLIA International Departure Hall from 25 February to 30 June 2022.



Noah's sketches of Dayak and Dusun motifs. Source: Noah Iskandar

The project stems from the 2nd year design studio brief to design an "Exhibition Display Pavilion" for the National Art Gallery (NAG) in 2021 by the SABE, UCSI University. The intention was to develop an outdoor exhibition display that reflects the local arts and culture that redefines and transforms visitors' experience and engagement.



We believe that education is not just about transferring knowledge, but it is shared through the network of multiple stakeholders.

- Ar. Chia Lin Lin, Deputy Dean, SABE -



The Polyhedron Pavilion design was inspired by the study of sacred geometries originating from East Malaysian tribal tattoos. The tattoo art uses sacred geometry, considered an ancient science in exploring and explaining energy patterns that unify all things in the universe.



Portrait of Noah Iskandar Fuad. Source: Transient Loss

"I have always been captivated and held a certain fascination towards the art of tattooing. Long has it been forgotten that body tattoos are, in fact, part and parcel of the Indigenous East Malaysia tradition and plays a significant role in their culture. Especially when it comes to the Iban, Kadazan, Kayan, Kenyah and Ulu tribes, as they are interwoven with the stories of these ethnic tribes." An excerpt from Noah's essay titled "Etching Memories onto Skin".

The Polyhedron Pavilion is the result of the manipulation of sacred geometry. In addition, it reflects our local art and cultural heritage that communicates and engages with the visitors in a different setting that fosters exchanging ideas.

The Pavilion displays posters and postcards showcasing the National Art Gallery's collection. It allows a certain level of interaction between visitors and the exhibit, allowing them to take the postcards home as souvenirs. The posters and postcards are interchangeable during the four months of the exhibition.



Poster display of National Art Gallery's collection inside Polyhedron Pavilion. Source: Yusra Zulkifli



“

I hope that this project (Pavilion) can be continued without me, if not the funding returned or be used to bring any kind of goodness into this world.

- Noah Iskandar Fuad -

”

Through the realisation of the project, SABE hopes that it will empower students with genuine issues at hand by getting them engaged with various stakeholders. “We believe that education is not just about transferring knowledge, but it is shared through the network of multiple stakeholders,” said Ar. Chia Lin Lin, Deputy Dean, SABE.



Polyhedron Pavilion's entrance at KLIA International Departure Hall.
Source: Teoh Chee Keong

Sadly, Noah Iskandar did not live to witness the installation of his Pavilion design. He passed away in August 2021 after all the challenging work of securing the grant from Tabung Bantuan Seni (TBS), working alongside the contractor, architectural consultant and lecturers for the working details and execution of the Pavilion at KLIA.

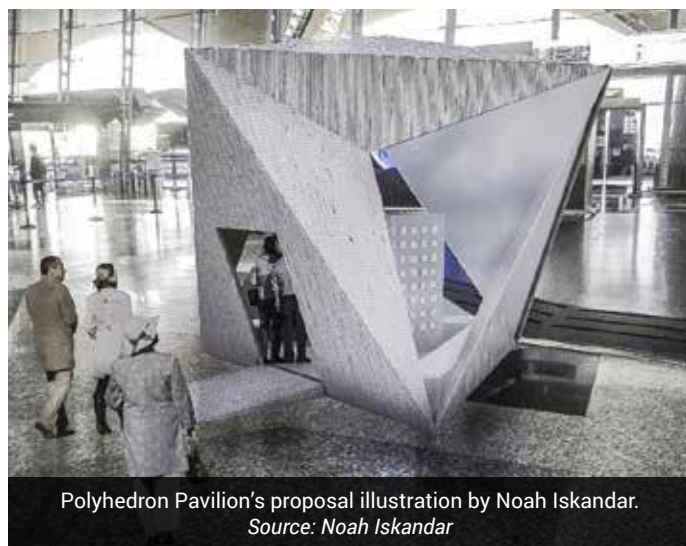


Polyhedron Pavilion's at KLIA International Departure Hall.
Source: Teoh Chee Keong

The team from SABE carried on the work on behalf of Noah. They continued and realised the work as a tribute to the talented Noah Iskandar Fuad.

Noah's father said, “Noah during his childhood loved to build Legos and assemble Bionicles, and he was very creative and talented from a very young age.”

“Noah was not just creative and talented; he was also a trustworthy and accountable person. Although the pandemic had taken a heavy toll on his mental well-being, he continued to be committed to the project,” his mother shared.



Polyhedron Pavilion's proposal illustration by Noah Iskandar.
Source: Noah Iskandar

Noah's last request was, “I hope that this project (Pavilion) can be continued without me, if not the funding returned or be used to bring any kind of goodness into this world.”

The pavilion is truly a heartfelt tribute to our talented student Noah Iskandar Fuad. SABE hopes the Pavilion will inspire younger generations and could be a catalyst that provides further networking between creative individuals and institutional bodies such as National Art Gallery.



Interior of Polyhedron Pavilion's proposal illustration by Noah Iskandar. Source: Noah Iskandar

IN AND AROUND CAMPUS



World Environment Day

A weekend campus cleanup with UCSI Group SDG Secretariat on 4 June 2022 was held in conjunction with World Environment Day. Students joined environmental workshops and tree planting exercise around the campus to encourage appreciation for the environment.



Anyam Ketupat

Residents at UCSI hostels learned to make 'Anyam Ketupat' on 14 May 2022 as part of Hostel's Festive Season Event. Nineteen participants including six international students learned to weave the popular Malay cuisine.



A Heroes Welcome

UCSI athletes received a warm welcome from UCSI top management for their hard work and success during the 31st SEA Games 2021 in Hanoi, Vietnam on 1 June 2022. Khiew Hoe Yean, Leong Wan Mei, Bryson Ting Tiew Luig, Cheng Ka Man and Khiew Tze Yean brought pride and honour to the university with their Gold and Silver medals.



Community Carnival with UCSI Students

Sixteen Interior Architecture students organised games and display exhibitions at the Salak South Carnival and UCSI Community Design Exhibition on 4 June 2022. The event aims to bring community members together by showcasing student designs and artwork to the public.

New Programme at UCSI University

DIPLOMA IN ACCOUNTING (KUCHING CAMPUS)

(N/0411/4/0007)(06/2027)(MQA/PA15583)

Diploma in Accounting addresses the basic accounting principles and practices for accounting in different types of business organisations as well as non-profit organisations. Besides specialising in financial accounting, this programme also equips students with knowledge and skills in management accounting, taxation, audit, and computerised accounting, which are necessary for a career in accounting. Essential knowledge in business is covered in core courses such as finance, management, marketing and entrepreneurship. From this programme, there are options for students in taking the next step, to pursue a bachelor's degree, or any professional qualification, or enter the work environment.

**Only offered at Kuching campus*

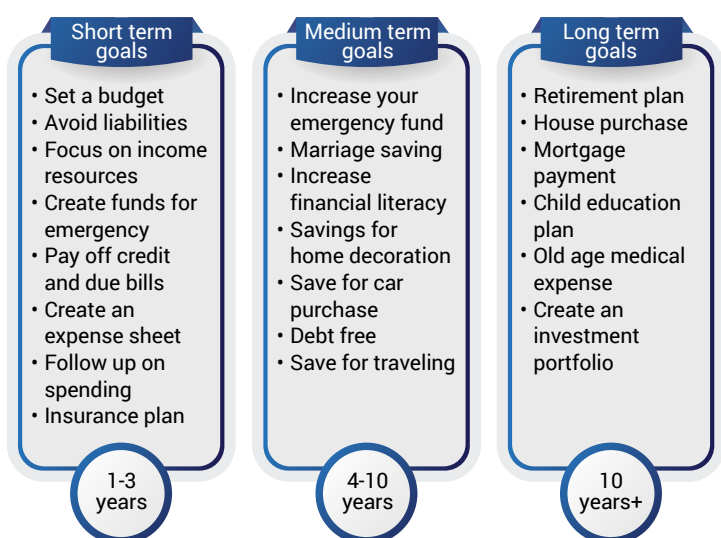
Wi-Fi (WISE FINANCE) GUIDE FOR YOUNG ADULTS



Contributor: Assistant Professor Dr Hafiz Muhammad Ali, UCSI Graduate Business School

Generally, young adults don't get the opportunity to learn finance in their high school curriculum, which leaves an inexperienced situation for youngsters in their financial planning. Due to this, young adults also face challenges related to money management, access to credit, and staying out of debt. However, some educational institutes have started personal finance or financial planning course to capture the importance of finance for young adults. This action will help the next generation utilise their financial education to plan and budget their finances. We can expect from the young segment that they have more time and life for savings and investment.

Setting Financial Goals



Consider financial knowledge as an asset

It is a big challenge for young adults to identify which assets should be considered for their investment. It also depends on the risk tolerance behaviour of an individual. So, acquiring financial knowledge is the most important aspect and should be considered an asset because it gives you information about investment products, financial markets etc. Sometimes young adults go for car loans and consider it an asset that is a liability. Instead, they can take a house loan which is viewed as an asset and have some value in the future.

Understand your risk behaviour

It is important to talk to yourself about how much risk you can bear in the investment. Some people have risk-taking behaviour, while some have risk-avoiding. So, young adults should invest their money based on their risk behaviour. Here, financial literacy and awareness play an important role in understanding the nature of investment projects such as stock, bonds, property, mutual funds, savings certificates etc. At the same time, youngsters should also know the interest rates and tax rates and should have some basic understanding of other key economic indicators. Overall, property investment should be the preferred investment avenue for young adults.

Financial Guide for Young Adults

Following are the important but essential guidelines for young adults for their savings and investment.

Do not spend more than your income

It is important to understand your cash inflows and cash outflows as a young adult. If your parents ever teach you about self-control, that would help you spend as per your income. But, on the other side, if you spend more than your income, you may face a shortage of cash or an income gap which will motivate you to take debts and create financial liabilities.

Set a saving percentage from the income

It is a common saying that "save for rainy days," meaning that young adults must take out a portion of savings from their income. This will help them to overcome the issues related to unforeseen circumstances. Therefore, setting a percentage of how much amount should be saved from income generally varies from individual to individual.

Manage your desires

The management of needs and wants helps young adults to manage their finances. It can be possible by setting the priorities and then setting a percentage from the income to apply to needs and wants. At the same time, young adults should also consider the portion of savings. Therefore, list down the needs and wants and then create a matrix to prioritise the priorities. In short, do not focus on luxury items immediately instead, go gradually.

Create multiple income sources

Given the global economic challenges, young adults should focus on multiple income sources. First, they must understand active, passive, and portfolio income types. Depending on only one income source will increase the probability of an individual's financial crisis. Thus, multiple sources of income and financial knowledge will help young adults avoid future problems related to finances.

COMMUNITY DRIVEN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DESIGN PROJECT



Contributor: Assistant Professor Dr Mohammed W. Muhieldeen Al-Gailani, Faculty of Engineering, Technology and Built Environment



Learners obtained real issues from the community and provides an alternative solution for improvement on environmental, social, and economic for everyone's benefit.

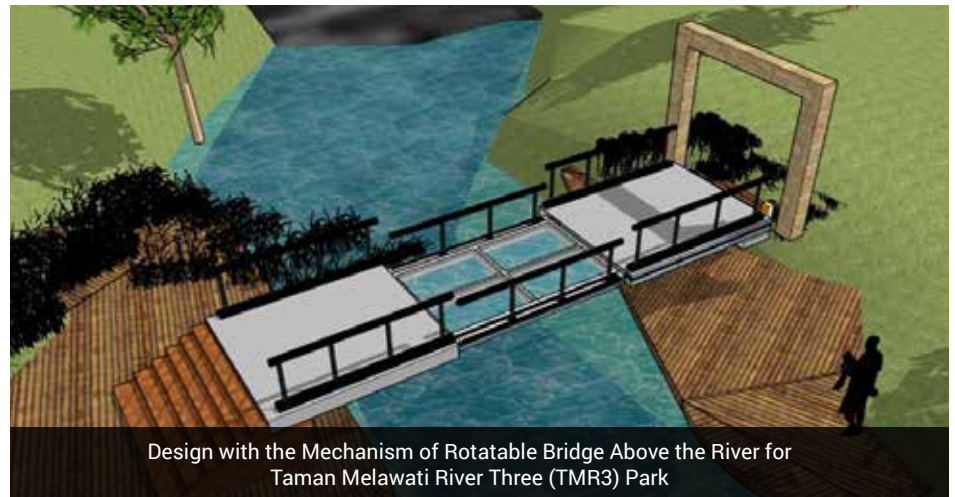
- Toh Syuen, the ART's representative -



UCSI University's Mechanical Engineering Department, through their Design Project course, allows students to be involved in the design of solutions to industrial or community problems. The Design Project aims to broaden students' knowledge and prepare them for the job market after graduation. It aids in the development of the ability to propose conceptual design and justify design selection, both of which are regarded as critical to the success of the engineering design and process. Environmental considerations, public health, safety measurements, and relevant engineering codes and standards must all be considered. Taking advantage of technological advancements, students are also required to model and analyse the proposed design and material using appropriate Computer-Aided-Engineering



Mid Valley River Three.



Design with the Mechanism of Rotatable Bridge Above the River for Taman Melawati River Three (TMR3) Park

software, with expected results on safety, durability, performance, and cost.

The course has linked students to the mission of transforming the Klang River's riverbank into a River Park as part of the community engagement project, thanks to the collaboration of the non-governmental organisation The Alliance of River Three (ART). In 2021, students worked on the design of a Dripping Irrigation System integrated with a Rainwater Harvesting System for the Mid Valley River Three Park. By 2022, students have been involved in the design of a rotating bridge for the Taman Melawati River Three Park.



Design of Integrated Dripping Irrigation System utilizing Rainwater Harvesting for Mid Valley River Three (MVR3) Site

"Capstone cooperation yields great benefits for both learners (students) and doers (community), where learners obtained real issues from the community



Taman Melawati River Three.

and provides an alternative solution for improvement on environmental, social, and economic for everyone's benefit," said Toh Syuen, the ART's representative.

The projects were carried out under the supervision of lecturers from the Mechanical Engineering Department and with the coordination of Assistant Professor Dr Mohammed W. Muhieldeen Al-Gailani and Assistant Professor Ts Dr Cik Suhana Binti Hassan, the Head of the Mechanical Engineering Department. According to Dr Suhana, "a collaboration like this provides opportunities for students to contribute to the pursuit and advancement of knowledge for the betterment of society, as well as a platform to exchange technical knowledge with relevant stakeholders and improve their communication skills."

MASTER IN ENGINEERING (SMART ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT)

Contributor: Assistant Professor Dr Jonathan Yong Chung Ee, Faculty of Engineering, Technology and Built Environment

Industry 4.0 is used interchangeably with the fourth industrial revolution and represents a new stage in the organisation and control of the industrial value chain. Cyber-physical systems form the basis of Industry 4.0 (e.g., 'smart machines'). They use modern control systems, have embedded software systems and dispose of an Internet address to connect and be addressed via IoT (the Internet of Things).

Post-covid engineers must not only be creative and critical thinkers, but they must be able to evolve and transform to fit the needs and demands of the industry trends, which are IR 4.0 driven.

With the latest generation of 3D printing, people are now able to manufacture a turbine blade or even, a building structure. Additionally, with big data, optimisation, and decentralised facilities, manufacturing can be so accessible to supply the demand at a low cost within a short cycle at a high yield. Technology is already shifting the landscape of the industry.

The Master in Engineering (Smart Engineering Management) programme is aligned with our government's "Rancangan Malaysia Ke-12", also known as Twelfth Malaysia Plan (RMK-12), to

uphold industry 4.0. The plan emphasises the implementation of IoT, establishing how IoT should be encouraged and managed, which requires the implementation of educational and training programmes, funding of grants or subsidies to industry and business, as well as other national programmes.

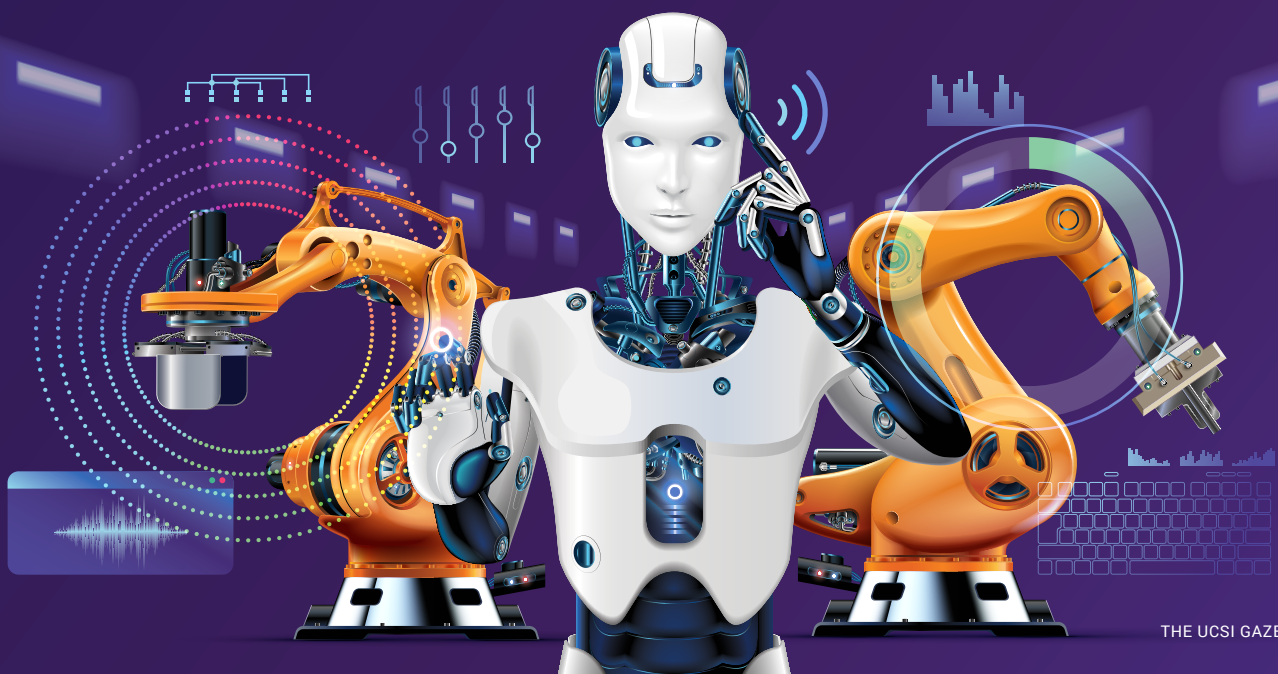
Our new master's degree programme aims at nothing less than this very key area that the Twelfth Malaysia Plan (12MP) addresses. Another crucial aspect of The National 4IR Policy is its focus on being human-centric. This means emphasising the well-being of the rakyat as the main goal. This approach enables people to envision their future lifestyle, and leverage technology to achieve one's aspirations while preserving humanistic and societal values as well as cultural heritage.

At UCSI, we also recognise that the knowledge of important theories in graduates is not enough for them to excel in their workplaces. The industry needs ultra-smart engineers, and our Faculty of Engineering is ready to partner to train the engineers in all aspects of IoT, autonomous system, cloud computing and cybersecurity, that connects machine-to-human. And not forgetting, to develop intrapersonal,

...to evolve and transform to fit the needs and demands of the industry trends.

interpersonal, as well as leadership skills, that is vital in handling any kind of project. Hence, students will learn how to leverage IR4.0 technology and make robust innovations.

Optimistically, the engineering faculty at UCSI hopes to empower practising engineers to be competent and resourceful through this new master's degree programme in smart engineering management.



FEED THE HUNGRY, NOT THE LANDFILL

Contributor: Mak Wai Hin, Bachelor of Science (Hons) Aquatic Science, Faculty of Applied Sciences



Terra • fix, founded in 2017, is one of the 14 initiatives of Youth Beyond Boundaries at UCSI University, built off a team of dedicated individuals committed to making a difference for mother nature. Derived from the Latin word 'Terra' which translates to Earth, we aspire to inspire, connect, and empower our youth to transform their communities and create a greener, better world through the practice of Zero Waste. Here at Terra • fix, we believe that it is our collective duty to halt environmental destruction and protect Earth's wildlife; and that there is the power to do so in every individual and community.

“...it is our collective duty to halt environmental destruction and protect Earth's wildlife.”

Food waste refers to unconsumed good quality edibles that are discarded. Oftentimes our everyday food is simply left in the landfill to decompose, which releases methane gas, - a major contributor to global warming (34 times more detrimental than carbon dioxide) - into the atmosphere. Not to mention, statistics show that large portions of food disposed are often still edible

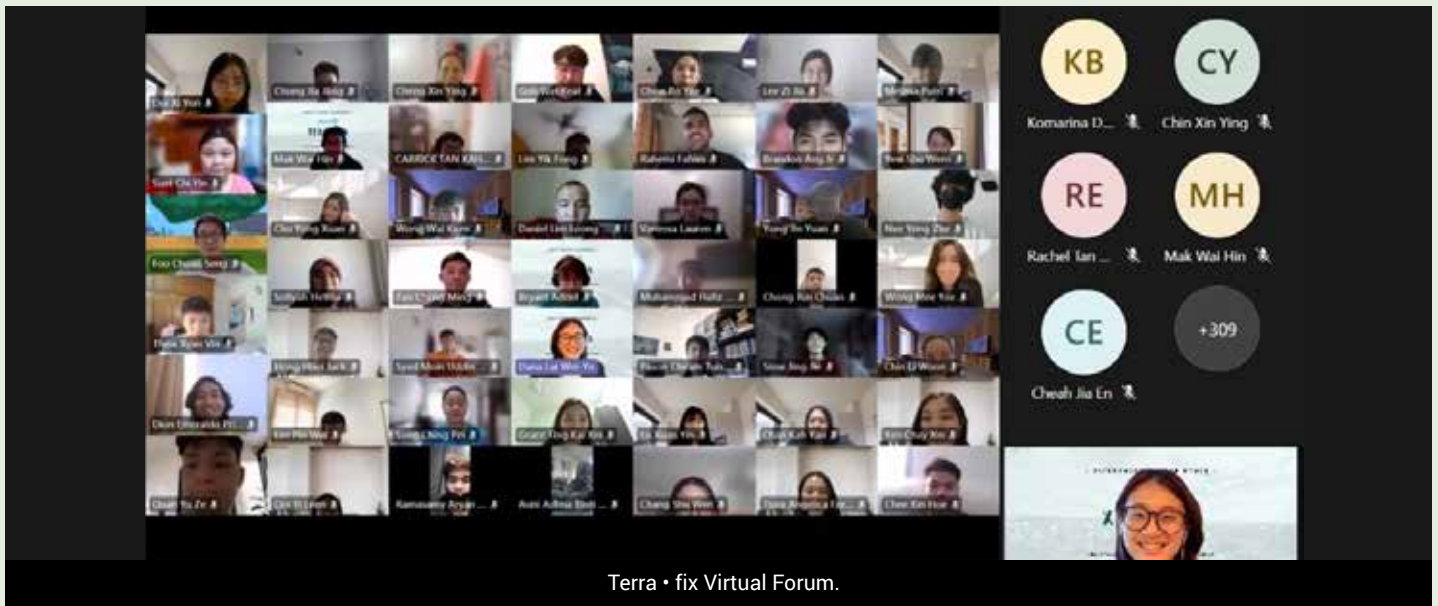
and safe to redirect to the needy. With both global warming and poverty becoming an imminent threat to all living creatures, it is apparent that one cannot turn a blind eye to food waste anymore. Thus, the birth of Terra • fix's 'Feed the Hungry, not the Landfill' forum.

Organised together with Malaysian food waste non-for-profit organisation The Lost Food Project (TLFP), 'Feed the Hungry, not the Landfill' forum was aimed to raise awareness on the global food waste issue amongst UCSI students, in hopes of increasing individual responsibility, improving food appreciation and reducing overall organic waste. The event was divided into two parts; a speaker session that focused more on educating and informing participants, followed by a forum session that allowed an exchange of questions and answers on deeper contexts to commence.

We had the honour of having Heather Wee Hui Ting and Bobby Tan from TLFP as well as Terra • fix TLFP's student ambassadors Rachel Tan Min En and Bryant Adriel to lead the sharing session. This section of the programme covered the statistics, facts and information about food waste in Malaysia. Here is one mentioned: Malaysians produce 17,000 tonnes of food waste every day, which is sufficient to fill 7 Olympic-sized swimming pools. Out of that, there is enough edible food to feed some 3 million people three meals per day! Interesting, is it not?



Moderated by members from Terra • fix's Zero Waste Team, the session chaired a discourse on any enquiries and matters that were presented in regard to the topic. More importantly, the speakers give advice and share with the students how exactly they could do their part in reducing their food waste and consequently, help build a greener and happier world. The event ended with a quiz to jog the participants' memory and re-establish whatever they have learned throughout the entire forum.



Terra • fix Virtual Forum.

Overall, 'Feed the Hungry, not the Landfill' was a success! Not only did the 340 participants enjoy and gained heaps from it, but Terra • fix also managed to raise a sum of RM137.20 for The Lost Food Project. Most of the students were all smiles, with many mentioning how "interesting", "enlightening" and "eye-opening" the forum was and how "it inspired them to be more mindful about their food habits". We believe our goals for this event have been achieved and pray that this forum leaves a lasting impact on them and our Earth. Sincerely, Terra • fix is extremely thankful to all those who organised, joined and supported us throughout the event.

There are various reasons for food waste, and some of them are avoidable if the party responsible for their food waste wishes to. Nevertheless, instead of pointing our fingers at each other, let us tackle this issue together, by handling the food we consume appropriately before they are sent to the landfill. Every effort counts; even if you do not change the world, you can change a person's day for the better. A word of encouragement: "It is more

efficient when many do it imperfectly than when one does it perfectly."

Finally, to those who were unable to make it for 'Feed the Hungry, not the Landfill' this time around, fret not as this is certainly not the last time Terra • fix and The Lost Food Project will be jointly organising an event. Our collaboration is long-term so do look forward to seeing us in the upcoming semesters. Who knows, maybe you will be able to grab a spot then!



Terra • fix Virtual Forum.

“

Malaysians produce 17,000 tonnes of food waste every day, which is sufficient to fill 7 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

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PROFESSOR DATO' DR AHMAD BIN IBRAHIM

THE PASSIONATE SCIENCE ADVOCATE

Dato' Dr Ahmad Ibrahim who graduated in chemical engineering and later specialised in wastewater engineering began his career at the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia back in 1973. He is now a Professor of Environmental Management at UCSI University and leads the Tan Sri Omar Centre for STI Policy Studies under the jurisdiction of the University's Division of Research and Postgraduate.

I envision this centre to be a think tank on policies in contributing new ideas for the government and work towards sustainability.

What was your academic journey like?

I studied in Malaysia until Form 6, then I left for Australia for my four-year bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. I pursued my research in the Rubber Research, which is now called Malaysian Rubber Board, and was sent to do my PhD at Newcastle University in the UK and eventually completed my post-doctorate studies at Cornell University, USA.

What is the prominent difference between the education setting in Malaysia and abroad?

I did not have the experience of studying in a local university, but I feel there's definitely an advantage when you study abroad because once you socialise with the foreign students and be exposed to different cultures, it really broadens your mind and enhance your adaptability skills to the next level.

What do you think of the students here in Malaysia compared to the ones abroad?

When I studied overseas, I found the students abroad were very inquisitive as they would ask questions and be very outspoken when voicing out their opinions. Here in Malaysia, unfortunately, the students are rather quiet and inclined towards rote learning.





Stay updated with the current issues and trends that will make you ahead of changes.

What made you choose chemical engineering?

During the good old days, we used to have engineers from big organisations give talks at our schools. Their careers and lives seemed interesting and I thought to myself, I want to get on that pathway too. Also, there were no chemical engineering courses in Malaysia, so it was my chance to study abroad.

What do you at UCSI University?

I lecture and actively involved in setting up new projects, particularly for Tan Sri Omar Centre for STI policy studies where I can pay the tribute to our first Science advisor, Tan Sri Omar, who is now one of our council members as well.

What is your vision for Tan Sri Omar Centre?

We want our researchers including social scientists to engage in policy discussion and research. Research in technology and journal publications are not merely enough for the country, lawmakers and common people. I envision this centre to be a think tank on policies in contributing new ideas for the government and work towards sustainability.

What is your initiative to create awareness?

In 1990, I decided to write for a local newspaper since there were no scientists actively writing about science. I knew I had to come up with a strategy to get my article published so my first article was entitled, "Mahathir's Vision for Science and Technology" which caught the associate editor's attention as it was during the general election at that time. And guess what? It got published on the election day itself and the rest was history. I began to write almost on a daily basis for the newspaper up to date.

What are your hobbies?

Apart from writing, I love music. In school, I used to play the drums in a band, and I've also taken up piano. I occasionally play at the engineering block thanks to Prof Pn'g who placed one there for me.



Have you published any books?

I've published one under UCSI Press entitled, "Unleash the Power of STI for Sustainability" as well as Tan Sri Omar's biography which I co-wrote with the man himself amongst others. Currently, I am working on the biography of our late Senior Professor Dato' Dr Khalid Yusoff.

What is your advice for the future generation?

Things are constantly changing so we have to be prepared to adapt. Acquire the right skills rather than only the right degree because businesses now look for skills. One of the reasons why many graduands are unemployed is due to the lack of skills. Hence, look at the bigger picture. Stay updated with the current issues and trends that will make you ahead of changes.



UCSI RECEIVES AWARD FOR METEORIC RISE IN THE QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS



UCSI University Pro Vice-Chancellor (Kuala Lumpur Campus) Professor Dato' Dr Toh Kian Kok receives the QS Recognition For Improvement Award from the representatives of QS World University Ranking.

Continuous improvement is part of the UCSI DNA and the award shows that we are moving in the right direction

- Prof Dr Siti Hamisah, UCSI Group CEO and UCSI University Vice-Chancellor -

UCSI was the only university in the world that received the award.

UCSI University has received the QS Recognition for Improvement for its sterling performance in the QS World University Rankings 2023.

Rising 63 spots in the competitive annual rankings, UCSI placed 284th to stand out as Malaysia's joint top private university, breaking into the world's top 0.9% in the process.

Presented at the recent QS EduData Summit in New York, the award is given to the university that improves the most ranks on average.

UCSI was the only university in the world that received the award.

Acknowledging the award, UCSI vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir said that UCSI's latest milestone was the culmination of years of hard work.

"Continuous improvement is part of the UCSI DNA and the award shows that we are moving in the right direction," said Prof Dr Siti Hamisah, who is also CEO of UCSI Group.

"Breaking into the top 300 is a testament to the good work our staff, students and alumni have done. I would like to thank everyone for contributing to the shared effort.

"Ultimately, a university's success is that of its students and we will continue to enrich the student experience, improve graduate outcomes and promote thought leadership."



UCSI University Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Kuala Lumpur Campus) Professor Dato' Dr Toh Kian Kok holds the QS Recognition for Improvement Award at the 7th Edition of the EduData Summit (EDS) in New York.

She added that UCSI's ever-improving global profile would spur the University's collaborative efforts with renowned universities, particularly in the areas of research and knowledge creation.

UCSI's meteoric climb in the rankings comes on the back of encouraging scores in the areas of academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty-student ratio, as well as ratios for international students and faculty.

The University has risen 197 spots since the 2019 edition of the rankings. Then, UCSI was the only private university in Malaysia to make the world's top 500.

The latest rankings also distinguish UCSI as the top Malaysian university in the employment outcomes criterion that assesses the accomplishments of a varsity's graduates and alumni.

To date, three UCSI alumni have made the Forbes 30 Under 30 list. An increasing number of alumni have also launched startups upon or shortly after their graduation.



UCSI University Kuala Lumpur Campus.

The University also received a 100% employability score for all its programmes...

These recent developments serve as the latest feathers in the University's cap, extending a run that goes back several years.

Other notable milestones include recognition from the United Nations University - the education and research arm of the UN - for its advocacy of the UN's sustainable development goals.

UCSI was the first private university to be recognised as a Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) and it is the only Malaysian varsity to run two RCEs.

The University is also fostering ties with renowned universities, providing unique opportunities for students and staff.

Many UCSI students have been selected for high impact research programmes at universities like Harvard, Imperial College London, Tsinghua, Chicago and Queensland.

The University also received a 100% employability score for all its programmes in the Higher Education Ministry's Graduate Employability 2021 survey.

UCSI'S ART & DESIGN IS WORLD'S TOP 230

The QS logo consists of the letters 'QS' in white, set against a solid orange square background.

TOP230
ART & DESIGN

*QS World University
Rankings by Subject 2022*

Renowned Malaysian model, Amber Chia poses while wearing evening gowns specially designed by six selected students from the BA (Hons) Fashion Design with Marketing programme to commemorate the first QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022 for De Institute of Creative Arts and Design (ICAD), UCSI University. The institute has been ranked World's Top 230 for the subject, Art & Design.





Designed by Merlin Azlian



Designed by Tan Kay Kay



Designed by Chloe Wong

**Photos taken at Colina Campsite,
Le Quadri Hotel**



Designed by Aizat Rosli



Designed by Xie Xin Mei



Designed by Alaa Wahid

LUTHFI ALIFFANDA, PRESIDENT OF ISA IN MALAYSIA



Meet **Muhammad Luthfi Aliffanda**, our fellow Indonesian student who is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Business Administration at UCSI University. Since he is also the President of the Indonesian Students Association (ISA) in Malaysia, let's dive in deeper to know him better.



Muhammad Luthfi Aliffanda is currently pursuing Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Business Administration at UCSI University.

Why did you take up the position as the President of ISA?

I have an interest in promoting my country's culture through various events and activities.

Tell us more about your role and responsibilities as the President of ISA.

In general, my role is to manage the organisation so that it can run as smoothly and effectively while helping as many Indonesian students as possible here. Some of my responsibilities include conducting monthly meetings with department leaders to ensure they are on the right track and connecting with the Indonesian embassy and other external parties to create potential collaboration opportunities to ensure Indonesian students' needs and requirements are met.

Tell us more about the ISA activities in Malaysia.

The association comprises 162 committee members that are divided into 11 departments, each specialising in its

respective fields. The ISA in Malaysia's main role is to provide a place where Indonesian students can gather and express themselves in their passions. We are also there to be as helpful as possible for our Indonesian students with their problems during their university life. The activities that we organise are centred mostly on the wants and needs of our students. We have cultural activities, sports activities as well as social activities such as gatherings.

What are the challenges faced by the association?

Since we are a non-profit organisation, raising funds would be our biggest challenge. We need to find sponsors that can support our events.

What are your plans with the association in the future?

I plan to reach as many Indonesian students as possible and provide a platform for them to express themselves. However, this is easier said than done because we have more than 10,000 Indonesian students currently studying in Malaysia.

Tell us more about your involvement in teaching for the underprivileged children project in Malaysia.

We feel that as privileged students, we need to also care for our fellow Indonesians that are less privileged. Therefore, we initiated a project that teaches children of Indonesian workers that can't afford formal education. Education is seen as a basic right that they need to have access to, and this is why we try our best to help them in securing an education.

What is your advice about studying at UCSI University?

My advice is to try and engage in purposeful activities. Education is important, but it doesn't teach us other essential skills such as people skills, managerial skills and conflict management skills. These are the skills that you can acquire through active participation in organisations which will greatly help you in the future.



Luthfi and his team initiated a project that teaches children of Indonesian workers that can't afford formal education.

LAUNCH OF IASDA & MIR CHALLENGE

Contributor: Assistant Professor Raymond Lo Eng Ping, Institute of Actuarial Science and Data Analytics



The official launch of the newly established Institute of Actuarial Science and Data Analytics (IASDA) was held early this year. It was witnessed by our distinguished guests, UCSI Group CEO and UCSI University vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Binti Tapsir, UCSI University's deputy vice-chancellor (Academic and Internationalisation) Professor Datuk Dr Rohana Binti Yusof, President of Actuarial Society of Malaysia Kelvin Hii, Actuarial Society of Malaysia's Council Member Lim Horng Cherng, among other attendees.

“Actuaries have been one of the earliest users of data and generating insights from the growing demand for data analytics,

- Professor Datuk Dr Rohana Binti Yusof, UCSI University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Internationalisation) -



UCSI University Vice Chancellor, Professor Datuk Ir Ts Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir (third from right), Dr Rohana (second from right), President of Actuarial Society of Malaysia (ASM), Kelvin Hii (third from left) and Raymond (first from right) with the invited guests during the launching ceremony of IASDA at the Kuala Lumpur campus today.

| | Name | Institution |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Champion | Jarrett Lee Min Chong | SMK Pandan Mewah |
| 1st Runner Up | Lim Yee Ching | APU |
| 2nd Runner Up | Teo Ding Sheng Bryan | UCSI University |
| Consolation | Jonathan Lee Weng Yew | Yuk Ching High School |
| Consolation | Fatima Amara Jusoh | SMK Tinggi Setapak |
| Consolation | Muhammad Izwan Bin Azwar | SMK Tinggi Setapak |
| Consolation | Ngo Ji Hang | SMK Bandar Utama Damandara (3) |
| Consolation | Ong Win Jia | UCSI University |

Simultaneously, the Institute organised the Mathematics of Interest Rates (MIR) Challenge for almost 100 students ages 16 to 19 from various schools in Klang Valley. They were given an hour to complete a total of 35 multiple choice questions and the winners were ranked according to the highest number of questions correctly answered based on eight short MIR-related videos which were uploaded on UCSI University's YouTube channel prior to the challenge.

The launch of IASDA reflects the university's continued academic investment and leadership in education history. The Institute is set up to help meet the growing needs of actuaries and data analytics education and expertise in the country.

“Actuaries have been one of the earliest users of data and generating insights from the growing demand for data analytics. As clear evidence, the Society of Actuaries (SoA) has included predictive analytics as one of the requirements in obtaining their



Congratulations to the winners of the MIR Challenge!

qualification,” said Prof Datuk Dr Rohana in her speech.

The newly appointed Director of IASDA, Raymond Lo also expressed his enthusiasm for teaching during his opening remarks.

He shared, “I always view education as an act of “Pay It Forward”. My vision about education, especially higher education, is not only about delivering the specialisation,

or related field of knowledge to the students, that's only the basic or standard package that we must deliver, but more about inspiring the students, instilling a growth mindset in them, assisting them in building confidence and building trust within themselves.”

The launch ended with a testimonial video montage made by their beloved alumni.

TikTok

FOR SCIENCE



UCSI University partnered with the Education Ministry to organise a science challenge that required contestants to devise scientific innovations to solve real-world problems.

Christened the Student Life Hacks TikTok Innovation Challenge, the competition also required secondary school students to upload a portrait-mode video of their innovations, explaining their game-changing potential.

The objective: To make STEM fun. By utilising social media, students could share their innovations with their friends.

The effort could not come fast enough. The Education Ministry's 2020 Annual Report highlighted that Malaysia's annual tertiary education enrolment in STEM courses was 47.18% - a far cry from the government's target of 60%.

While there were many interesting videos, Lee Shao Xuan and Tan Ming Qi, both 18, stood out with their innovation called "sports steward" - a device that analyses and corrects one's posture as they work out.

"We both love science and we worked on this device because our friend Cheng Xin injured her knee during gymnastics training due to postural problems," said Shao Xuan at the prize giving ceremony.

"We tested the device with some of our friends and they found it useful when they were reminded to correct their posture."

For their efforts, the duo from the Penang Chinese Girls Private High School walked away with RM3,000 in cash and a full tuition waiver to continue their studies at UCSI.

National STEM Association president and founder Prof Dato' Dr Noraini Idris said that the competition was an ideal way to generate interest in STEM-related studies.

"STEM is the engine of growth for innovation and future generations must master it to excel in critical industry sectors," said Prof Noraini who is also an honorary professor and advisor of the Universiti Malaya STEM Centre.

"By focusing on innovation, UCSI has instilled interest in STEM and I look forward to seeing more efforts like this."

She added that the National STEM Association had set up a STEM Mini Theatre project for B40 students to ensure no one would be left behind.

Also present was UCSI vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir who said that UCSI had incorporated IR4.0 technology into all its academic offerings.

"Our main objective is to provide a holistic education with cutting-edge digital technology as a means of gaining access to a high-quality education," she said.

"We have trained our lecturers and students to adapt to the new norm and be agile in an era where change is the only constant."

Organised by UCSI's Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, the competition drew participation from 55 schools. Plans are afoot to take the competition nationwide next year.



THE GENOME OF OAT: NEW EVIDENCE SUPPORTING OAT SAFETY IN GLUTEN-FREE DIETS

Contributor: Associate Professor Dr Farahnaz Amini, School of Healthy Aging, Aesthetics & Regenerative Medicine

A recent article published on 18 May 2022 in the journal *Nature*, by a group of scientists from Lund University in Sweden may provide strong evidence to support the safety of oat consumption in gluten-free diets (Kamal et al., 2022). This short commentary gives a brief overview of recent findings in regards to incorporating oat into gluten-free diets.

Aside from pharmaceutical therapies, diet-based solutions help prevent and mitigate some human diseases. However, addressing controversies in epidemiological findings concerning the safety and efficacy of a specific diet to manage multifactorial disorders is challenging. It is common to see that while some results favour an intervention, others are against it. In this view, epidemiological studies on gluten intolerance also reported disputing results on the safety of some diets; nonetheless, the advanced genomic and proteomic analysis may help clarify these debates.

“According to a large body of research, oat consumption has been linked to a reduction in the risk of cardiovascular disease, dermatologic illnesses, inflammation, and type 2 diabetes.”

Gluten-related disorders (GRDs) are becoming more common, with a global prevalence of about 5% of the population. Gluten ataxia, celiac disease, wheat allergy, non-celiac gluten sensitivity and dermatitis herpetiformis are the five main types of GRDs that display various clinical symptoms. Because the typical and atypical clinical signs of GRDs overlap, diagnosing them can be challengin

(Taraghikhah et al., 2020). Eliminating foods such as wheat, rye, and barley in gluten-free diets is recommended for GRDs patients. Nonetheless, those who have cut out a lot of grains from their diets due to gluten intolerance may have a higher risk of heart disease. A study among healthy young adults in the Malaysian population reported a prevalence of 1.25% and 5% for celiac disease and non-celiac gluten sensitivity respectively, indicating that GRDs may be a far bigger problem in Malaysia than previously recognised (Yap et al., 2015).

Oats are one of the most refined potential functional foods which can be integrated into numerous recipes. According to a large body of research, oat consumption has been linked to a reduction in the risk of cardiovascular disease, dermatologic illnesses, inflammation, and type 2 diabetes. On the other hand, a systematic review and meta-analysis found no evidence that adding oats to a gluten-free diet alters the histology, symptoms, serologic characteristics or immunity of celiac disease patients (Pinto-Sánchez et al., 2017).

In this recent study, the Swedish researchers have deciphered the complicated genome of oat, which comprises roughly 80,000 genes. The research resulted in a reference genome and new knowledge on the health advantages of oat consumption. They were particularly interested in why wheat and rye can cause greater allergies and may be more difficult for people with GRDs to tolerate than oats. The study discovered that oats have fewer gluten-like proteins than wheat, as well as fewer genes and proteins that correspond to gluten. This study shows that genes in oat producing potentially damaging gluten-like sequences are uncommon, expressed at low levels, and are less likely to cause inflammation. Oats are genetically and proteomically more akin to rice than wheat. Oats also have more genes that

generate beta-glucans, which have been shown to decrease cholesterol and improve people's health with metabolic diseases.

Oats are not only good for human health but they are also good for the environment. Oat cultivation requires fewer fungicides, fertilisers, and insecticides than other cereal crops. This research could lead to the development of even better drought-resistant and sustainable oat types. Researchers may be able to use the findings to produce new types of oats that can grow in a changing climate while still providing more nourishment and be healthy for all individuals including gluten-intolerant people.

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UCSI UNIVERSITY AND RCE KUCHING – THE WINNERS OF THE “INTERNATIONAL GREEN GOWN AWARDS” 2022

Contributor: Dorothy Dzrandimay, UCSI University Sarawak Campus | RCE Kuching

The International Green Gown Awards is endorsed by United Nations Environment Programme and supported by The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), L'Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), and the International Association of Universities (IAU), which co-hosted the International Green Gown Awards Virtual Ceremony, in association with Allianz Global Investors (GI), as part of the UN High-Level Political Forum held in July 2022.

The Green Gown Awards is administered by the EAUC, The Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education and Allianz GI which is one of the world's leading active investment managers. It also reflects the good team effort that RCE Kuching, RCE Kuching Youth Ambassadors, UCSI University, as well as partnering RCE stakeholders portray which led to global recognition.



“Creating a more sustainable future goes beyond combating climate change. It is about protecting our environment, fostering biodiversity, and ensuring that we make this important transition without leaving anyone behind,” said Matt Christensen, Global Head of Sustainable and Impact Investing at Allianz Global Investors.

The title “Youth Ambassadors “Our River, Our Life”, under the category of Student Engagement, was submitted on 31 March 2022 under the coordination, contributions of inputs, and teamwork support of the RCE Kuching team namely Mukvinder Sandhu (RCE Kuching Chairperson), Professor Dr Yeong Siew Wei (RCE Kuching Vice-Chairperson), RCE Kuching Fellows - Dorothy Dzrandimay Desson, Agnes Toner, Genevieve Ruran, Ting Nyik Eing, and from UCSI Group/RCE Greater KL - Norani Binti Abu Bakar and Nurul Fatimah.

Creating a more sustainable future goes beyond combating climate change,

- Matt Christensen, Global Head of Sustainable and Impact Investing at Allianz Global Investors -



Certificate awarded to UCSI University for 'International Green Gown Awards' under Student Engagement category.



International Green Gown Awards Virtual Ceremony, in association with Allianz GI, as part of the UN High-Level Political Forum was held on 6 July 2022 at 1300 EST / 1800 BST @ 2.00 am 7 July 2022.

The marks were allocated based on the evidence seen on the websites, a video details on the application submitted in relation to the project title, environmental benefits, leadership and engagement, significance or impact for the sector, wider societal benefits, and learner or graduate employer benefits.

The video submitted on 22 June 2022, for the award ceremony was created & managed by the video production team from RCE Working Committee Group 4 Youth Ambassadors, Mandy Chen Wei Xing, Reuben Anak Russell Entri, Andrea Le Ta Hoang Nhi & other youth ambassadors, Lily Pui, Mabel Kua, Tan Ka Yen, Alice Lim, Lois Wong, Jacky Tan, Brian Tiong, Jordan Wee, Wong Lee King, and Wang Han Yu, under the supervision of Dorothy Dzrandimay as the Video Production Advisor.



They are also instilling a sense of corporate commitment for a better future with the collaborative engagement of grassroots, especially among the students of lower to higher educational institutions, the village and urban communities as well as RCE Kuching partners. Ultimately, to educate a sustainable living, good health, and well-being, especially for those that live around the rivers.

The Youth Ambassadors' engagement, proactivity, commitment, empowerment, and leadership skills in promoting education and awareness of sustainable development, have led them to win first place in their category in the Green Gown Awards. They also became successful RCE Kuching advocates through education, social responsibility and engagement concerning the elimination of waste including plastic pollution in our rivers and oceans.



Through our RCE Youth Ambassadors, students in the Kuching urban and rural areas are becoming positive agents of change and creating an impact in leading the social change process towards the incubation of future leaders.

For highlights of messages and remarks on the Green Gown Awards, please scan the QR code:
<https://www.greengownawards.org/ucsi-university-malaysia2>



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DO NOT LET WHAT YOU EAT TODAY ROB YOU OF YOUR FUTURE HEALTH



UCSI Organic Culture was recently opened to the public on 13 May 2022 to provide healthy organic to UCSI students and residents in Taman Connaught.

"Going back to nature, consuming vegetables in their raw form is healthier," said UCSI Organic Culture Director of Operations Jason Wong.

Through his personal experience, Jason is determined to ensure that consumers embrace a healthy eating lifestyle by consuming organic produce.

He also explains that the absence of pesticides and chemical fertilisers encourages the body to develop a better immune system. He also explains that chemicals within most commercially available products would affect the vegetable's nutritional value to give it a larger and greener appearance.

"The importance of diet plays a vital role in the future," he said while explaining that the establishment of the restaurant and retail outlet aims to promote health awareness among students and members of the community that are often exposed to unhealthy fast-food culture.

He explained that Malaysian youths are more exposed to poor dietary habits which result in poor health in adulthood. A study by the National Health and Morbidity Survey (NHMS) revealed that 60 per cent of teenagers do not consume enough fruits, more than 90 per cent did not consume enough vegetables and around 70 per cent skipped breakfast.

The importance of diet plays a vital role in the future,

- Jason Wong, UCSI Organic Culture Director of Operations -

This unhealthy lifestyle leads to long-term health risks such as obesity, heart diseases, and diabetes. These medical-induced health risk also creates financial difficulties for the individual and their families.

Healthy eating can be equally delicious if the recipe was properly made according to Jason. "If students could be encouraged to adopt an organic lifestyle at an early age, they can benefit tremendously for their physical and financial well-being."



Some of the healthy food served at UCSI Organic Culture.

The restaurant and retail outlet also offers a wide range of organic products to students and residents. Additionally, students can participate in educational activities at UCSI Organic Culture for research and recreation.

The outlet utilises a fully organic urban farming system that enables students to experiment with agriculture-related within a city-like environment. This allows students to explore issues on food nutrition, food shortages, and environmental sustainability. Students specialising in nutrition, agriculture, and entrepreneurship with the opportunity to conduct analysis and experiments.



These medical-induced health risk also creates financial difficulties for the individual and their families.



Opening speech by Jason Wong, UCSI Organic Culture Director of Operations at the official launching ceremony.

About UCSI Organic Culture:

UCSI's Organic Culture outlet provides easy and affordable access to organic food for a healthier lifestyle. Furthermore, organic foods offer other environmentally friendly health and financial benefits. Consumers develop a stronger immune system by consuming chemically-free food to reduce the need for expensive medical bills. The restaurant and retail outlet offers a wide selection of organic products for the consumer while encouraging students to actively participate in an organic lifestyle.



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