

BLAZE

THE SUNWAY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



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YB Yeo Bee Yin, Minister of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change



Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO, YB Yeo Bee Yin and Professor Jeffrey Sachs officiating the launch of the Master in Sustainable Development Management programme

SUNWAY LAUNCHES MA IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The Jeffrey Sachs Center on Sustainable Development at Sunway University launched its first Masters programme - the Master in Sustainable Development Management Programme - on October 8th.

“It is our hope that this programme will produce a new generation of leaders who are equipped with the knowledge, the science and the analytical thinking to make real, positive changes for our country, our region and our world,” said Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO, Founder and Chancellor of Sunway University.

Tan Sri Dr Cheah also announced that the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation is offering a bursary of RM30,000, more than 50 percent of the RM 50,000 fee, for the entire 18-month programme for the first batch of students.

YB Yeo Bee Yin, Minister of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change, Malaysia and Member of Parliament for Bakri, Johor officiated the launch of the Master’s programme with Tan Sri Dr Cheah and Professor Jeffrey Sachs of Columbia University.

In her keynote address, the minister congratulated Tan Sri Dr Cheah and Sunway University for having the foresight to develop the country towards a sustainable future.

Professor Sachs delivered a lecture on “How to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,” where he spoke on the major transformation challenges of sustainable development, and its implications for Malaysia.

“Every country must decarbonise by mid-century, without exception. This is not a choice. This is a need,” said Professor Sachs, who is also Director of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network Association. “And the rich countries, starting with my own, have a tremendous historical responsibility.”

The Master in Sustainable Development Management at Sunway University was formulated to equip passionate, ambitious people from multidisciplinary backgrounds to become pioneers who will be adept at management and problem-solving using analytics and systems thinking guided by global concerns.

Application submission for the January 2019 intake is now open. For more information on the Master in Sustainable Development Management at Sunway University, please log on to <http://jeffreysachs.center/graduate-study> **B**

DON BOWYER

HOME IS WHERE THE TROMBONE IS

by *Chua Ern Teck*

Don Bowyer was 12 years old when he decided he wanted to play in a band. He knew how to play the piano, but didn't have an instrument in mind for his newfound interest. A trombone, which sat forgotten in the attic of his family home, availed itself to him.

"I really liked being in the jazz band, and I realised later it had more to do with being in the spotlight," said Bowyer, who grew up in West Virginia. "It was something that came fairly easy to me and I enjoyed doing so I kept doing it."

As with the remembrance of things past, the story of how a trombone ended up in Bowyer's hand is a Proustian moment. He is no longer sure who gave him the instrument and whether it was from the attic.

"I SPENT YEARS PRACTISING THE TROMBONE SEVEN HOURS A DAY"

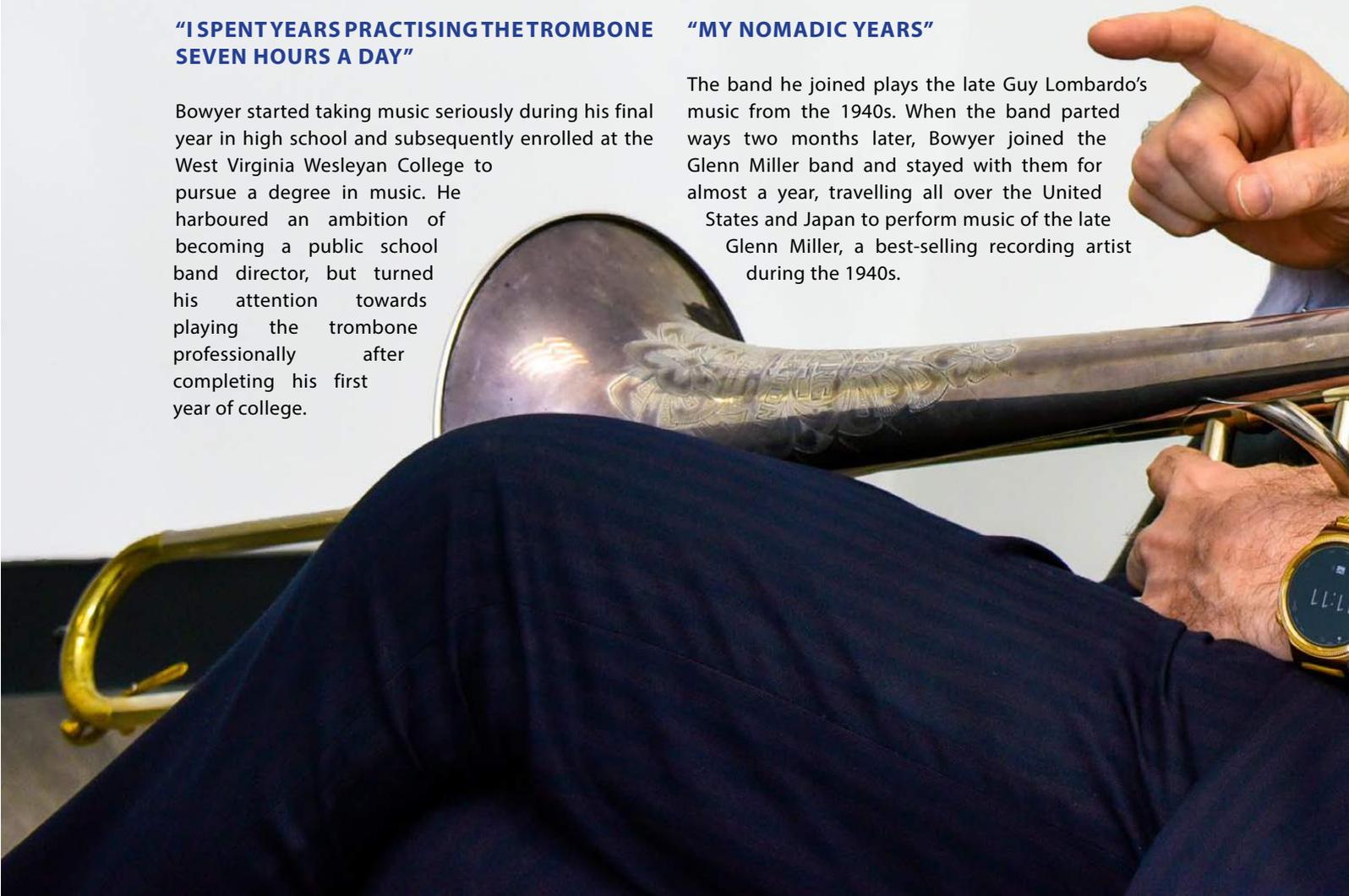
Bowyer started taking music seriously during his final year in high school and subsequently enrolled at the West Virginia Wesleyan College to pursue a degree in music. He harboured an ambition of becoming a public school band director, but turned his attention towards playing the trombone professionally after completing his first year of college.

"The focus in my mind was playing in recording studios for television and film," said Bowyer, who moved to Los Angeles upon graduation for a master's degree in music at the California State University, Northridge. This was partly because of the university's strong jazz programme, but also because Los Angeles - along with New York and Nashville - was the place to be if you wanted to forge a career in the recording industry.

"When I got to LA, I thought I would live there for the rest of my life," said Bowyer, who left Los Angeles to play in a travelling band. "Somewhere in LA, there is still furniture that I put in somebody's basement while I went on the road." Bowyer never went back. It would be 20 years before he visited California again.

"MY NOMADIC YEARS"

The band he joined plays the late Guy Lombardo's music from the 1940s. When the band parted ways two months later, Bowyer joined the Glenn Miller band and stayed with them for almost a year, travelling all over the United States and Japan to perform music of the late Glenn Miller, a best-selling recording artist during the 1940s.



During that period, in the early 80s, the thought of being a university instructor began to take hold in his head and so he went on to pursue a doctorate in trombone performance and jazz pedagogy at the University of Northern Colorado. It was the only university he was aware of that offered a PhD programme in jazz at the time.

He knew he could be a professional trombone player and live off the income he made playing music, but the constant travelling had taken a toll. "I was single until I was 41 years old, and the idea was maybe it is time to have a home; get some roots," said Bowyer.

As Bowyer tells it, his life can be divided into three periods. After the first two decades in West Virginia, Bowyer spent the next 20 years doing some teaching, but mostly performing in various parts of the world, including on a cruise ship that sank in 1998. Thereafter, he has been in continuous employment at universities.

Having spent four years as Dean of the College of Fine Arts at Arkansas State University, and 14 years before that in academic and administrative positions at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Bowyer had developed a talent for administration.



By this time, Bowyer and his wife had talked on-and-off for over a decade about going on an international adventure together. Thus, when Bowyer came across an advertisement in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* for a job opening in Malaysia, the contours of that adventure began taking shape.

“I THINK MALAYSIA IS IN A GOOD PLACE NOW TO DEVELOP THE ARTS”

In the past three years, the School of Arts at Sunway University has added arts degrees in music and film production to the array of programmes it offers, a momentum that Bowyer is keen to maintain since joining the university in 2017.

“I think before an economy is comfortably middle class, there is a real push from parents that every child must get a good job,” Bowyer said. “But as society becomes more economically secure, then we also care about quality of life.”

Bowyer strongly disagrees that students are customers of higher education. “Society is our customer, Bowyer said. “One part of what we do is educate students so that they can contribute to society; another part of what we do is research which contributes to society.”

“If students were customers then all we would do is teach, and there would be no scholarships because we would sell the degrees to any students who want it,” Bowyer said. “We don’t accept students who don’t meet certain qualifications.”

“That’s not a customer relationship.”

“WE EXPECT PEOPLE TO DO SCHOLARSHIP”

Research is a big component of the school’s DNA. There are three departments in the School of Arts: Art and Design; Performance and Media; Communication and Liberal Arts; plus a Centre for Research-Creation in Digital Media, where full-time research professors and academics focus on digital applications in the arts.

The Department of Communication and Liberal Arts does a lot of what the general public would understand as research - writing articles, book chapters and whole books in some cases - but quantifying research in the arts is an endeavour fraught with reputational and financial implications. Bowyer prefers the term scholarship.

On one hand, there are some things that universities do that are easy to measure, like the number of published articles in scientific journals. On the other hand, it is harder to measure the impact of an academic who composes music. Therefore, if a university sets higher ranking as an objective, more resources would go into areas which are measurable.

“As a composer, if I compose a new opera, and it gets performed at the La Scala Theatre in Italy, it has absolutely no value to a ranking agency,” Bowyer said. “But if I then write an article about that performance, then it has value. That’s crazy!”



However, Bowyer recognises the need for an institution to focus on metrics that are measurable and sees his role as advocacy to the upper administration and to the board to also consider the immeasurable.

“Fortunately, it is not such a hard sell here,” said Bowyer. “We do still have pressure to produce Scopus-indexed articles, but I don’t think anybody expects us to do only that.”

“TEACHING IS A GREAT PLACE TO BE FOR A PERFORMER”

“I still perform,” said Bowyer, who has two gigs lined up on the weekend after our interview. “Somewhere along the way I decided I liked teaching, and I think it is important that performers teach and give back to the community.”

He doesn’t perform as much as he used to and is happy to settle for as much as he has time for, which varies from month to month.

“If I can get 15 minutes a day I would be happy, and there are days that I don’t,” Bowyer said. “Ideally, I’d still like to play an hour or more a day, but that doesn’t happen, unless I stay here at night, but then my wife wouldn’t be very happy.”



SUBS STUDENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING

by **Arumugam Muthusamy**, Manager, Alumni Relations & Student Professional Development

Photography by **Raja Amirul Azizi**, Website Administrator & Content Manager



Sunway University Business School Alumni Relations and Student Professional Development Unit organised a Leadership Training for business school students Concilium members at Outbac Broga, Negeri Sembilan in October, 2018. In line with the objective of the school, business students today need to develop skills towards leadership development to manage associations and build Sunway University's reputation.

The purpose of this training is to equip student leaders with the skills needed to design and deliver effective leadership in the future. In addition, the leadership training has created a professional interrelationship and network with validated candidates in 2018 alumna, Leong Pui Ling, Sunway Youth for Sustainable Development (SYSD) team members, U.S. Embassy Kuala Lumpur and staff.

The training included indoor and outdoor activities involving the students' physical and mental strength, such as group discussions with alumni, presentations towards interpersonal skills case studies, dialogue with Sam Farquharson from the Fulbright Programme through the U.S. Embassy Kuala Lumpur, tower building games by the SYSD team members and outdoor activities in Outbac Broga. Through this training, the importance of "Quality Education" and "Partnership for The Goals" through the Sustainable objectives were emphasised.

Participants also gained a detailed understanding of the physical and mental safety necessary when attending outdoor activities such as flying fox, wall climbing, low ropes, obstacle course, nitro crossing, wild woosey and jungle tracking. Overall, participants learned a variety of team building and sports activities which provided a pleasant and conducive learning environment.

SUNWAY PARTNERS UC BERKELEY TO DEVELOP ENTREPRENEURS



Dr Lau Sian Lun, Matt van Leeuwen, Susan Giesecke, Dr Elizabeth Lee and Dr Ikhlaz Sidhu

Sunway University signed a partnership agreement with the Sutardja Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology (SCET) of University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) at its Silicon Valley campus on August 21st, 2018 to develop Sunway University's entrepreneurship programmes. Sunway Education Group's Senior Executive Director, Dr Elizabeth Lee signed the agreement with Founding Director of the SCET, University of California, Berkeley, Dr Ikhlaz Sidhu, which was witnessed by the Director of Sunway iLabs, Matt van Leeuwen and, Dean and Roy W. Carlson Professor of Engineering, College of Engineering, Professor Tsu-Jae King Liu.

"The partnership is an impactful milestone for Sunway University in its aim to develop world-class entrepreneurs who will bolster the sustainable economic development of Malaysia," Dr Elizabeth Lee said. "With this partnership, our students and faculty will have access to some of the world's best knowledge, on-campus resources, and unprecedented networking opportunities in the heart of Silicon Valley."

Sunway University's development of a robust entrepreneur development ecosystem – from education programmes to its incubator, Sunway iLabs, to eventual funding by Sunway Ventures and Sun SEA Capital is indeed unique, and we look forward to contributing to their ambition to develop world-class entrepreneurs," said Dr Ikhlaz Sidhu.

With the agreement, Sunway University's faculty and students will be able to collaborate and access SCET's research projects and training programmes, engage with SCET's faculty and students as well as participate in SCET events held in the UC Berkeley campus. Annually, SCET will sponsor two visiting students, scholars or professors from Sunway University to be based at the high-end collaboration space in SCET at UC Berkeley. They will be able to engage in knowledge transfer activities and attend workshops, such as the Berkeley Method of Entrepreneurship (BMoE) bootcamp and the Silicon Valley Innovation Leadership programme. **B**

SUNWAY ILABS LAUNCHES MAKERSPACE



Matt van Leeuwen, YBhg. Datin Paduka Ir Dr Siti Hamisah binti Tapsir, Dr Elizabeth Lee and Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO

Sunway's non-profit incubator and accelerator, Sunway iLabs, launched its Sunway iLabs Makerspace on October 8th with five initial industry partners: Google, NEC, Hitachi Sunway, Xperanti, and GE, which aims to equip students and entrepreneurs with a collaborative space and tools for innovation.

The event also saw Sunway iLabs announcing three new international collaborations - the European Commission-funded South East Asia Social Innovation Network (SEASIN), the University of California, Berkeley; and Silicon Valley accelerator, A3 Global Collider, which will provide students and entrepreneurs with additional sources of capital; mentorship and links to international markets. Director General of Higher Education, YBhg Datin Paduka Ir Dr Siti Hamisah binti Tapsir and Founding Trustee of Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO launched Sunway iLabs Makerspace with Director of Sunway iLabs, Matt van Leeuwen.

Datin Paduka Ir Dr Siti commended Sunway iLab's commitment to advance the higher education industry to include the development of entrepreneurship and innovation skills. Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah said that the new Sunway iLabs Makerspace is a way to equip students with the right mindsets and right tools for the rapidly changing environment.

The Sunway iLabs Makerspace is located on the Ground Floor of Sunway University and is accessible to students and entrepreneurs. For more information on the startups and their progress, please log on to <https://innovationlabs.sunway.edu.my/> or follow Sunway iLabs on Facebook. **B**



Makerspace at Sunway University campus

EXCHANGE STUDENTS TEACHING ENGLISH

by Sue-Ann Chia Yuin Quan



Every year since 2011, the Sunway Cultural Exchange (SCE) team has been running The Malaysian Experience programme with Lancaster University to provide students from United Kingdom the opportunity to learn about life in Malaysia through culture, business, governance, volunteerism and academics. As part of the programme, the SCE team has collaborated with The Reading Bus Club to provide the children of Ijok an opportunity to learn English from our international delegates through an annual English Camp.

The Reading Bus Club is an NGO that aims to make learning English fun for children who may not have much experience with the language. They set up community libraries in rural communities and bring in volunteers to read with and teach the children in those communities.

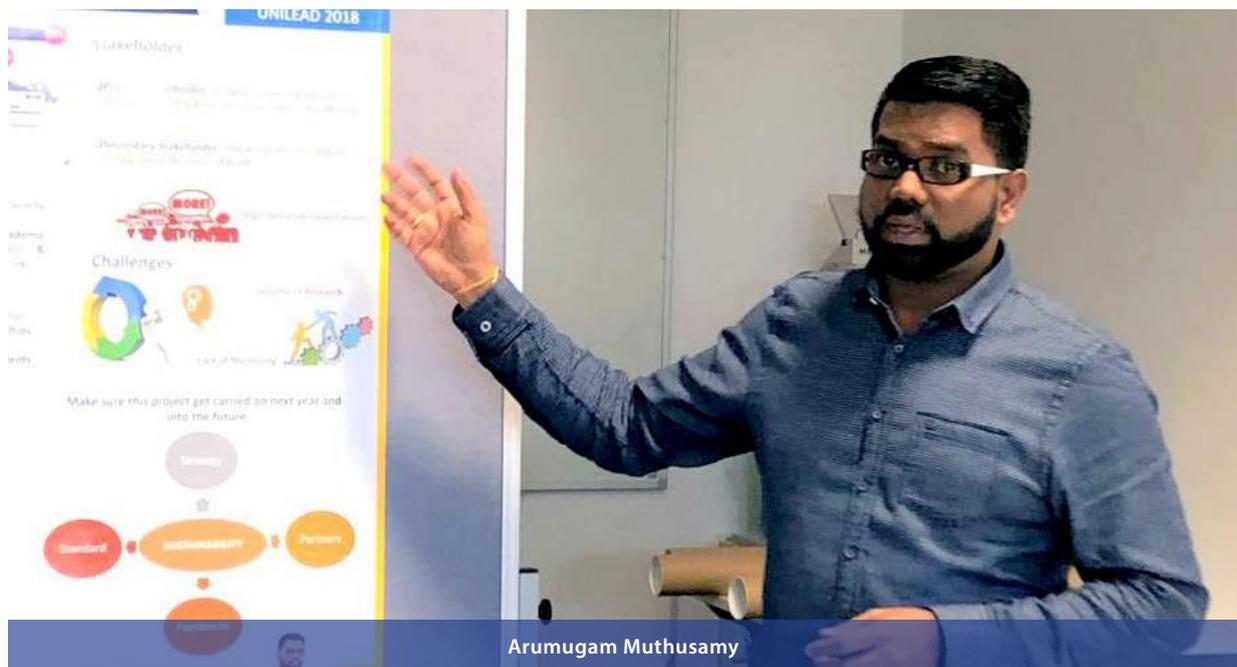
This year, to celebrate our fifth anniversary of the English Camp, the SCE team and Sunway Student Volunteers (SSV) came together to co-facilitate the camp in Ijok. This annual camp has provided a platform for the primary school-going children of Ijok to interact with our international delegates. The international delegates of the programme and the SSV led and conducted the English Camp in areas of vocabulary, grammar, reading and storytelling. Through that, the children of Ijok were able to interact with people from various countries and backgrounds and this has motivated them to participate more in English-related activities for the past 5 years. This English Camp is a highlight of their school year and the whole town of Ijok gets involved in the event and festivities. The Lancaster University students are grateful for this opportunity and the Sunway team is proud to work with a partner like the Reading Bus Club.



Sunway students teaching vocabulary



One of the students reading with children of Ijok



Arumugam Muthusamy

GERMAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE SERVICE

*by Arumugam Muthusamy, Manager,
Alumni Relations and Student Professional Development,
Sunway University Business School*

Sunway University Business School Alumni Relations and Student Professional Development Manager, Arumugam Muthusamy was one of the two candidates from Malaysia selected to attend the University Leadership and Management Training Course (UNILEAD) in Germany. This was funded by the German Federation Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The UNILEAD programme was established in 2008 as part of the Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies (DIES) programme, jointly coordinated by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and German Rectors' Conference (HRK) since 2001. The DAAD and the Department of Continuing Education and Education Management at the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany, organised the 10th DIES UNILEAD Course in Oldenburg, Germany.

DAAD is funded by various German federal ministries, such as the education

and foreign ministries as well as the office of the Chancellor. Furthermore, the DAAD also receives funding from the European Union as well as contributions from various corporations and other organisations.

The main purpose of this course is to enable young management-level professionals in the higher education institutions in developing countries to tackle successfully every-day challenges.

The UNILEAD focuses on three key areas. Project Management which includes courses such as Strategic Management in Projects, Methodology of Project Management and Risk Management. The second area is Financing and Investment with Financing Strategies, Operating with Financial Plans, Control of Solvency as well as knowledge and use of investment tools and concepts. Lastly, Human Resource Management includes courses on Instruments of Human Resource Development, Leadership, Conflict Management and Communication.

UNILEAD targets higher education managers from developing countries. The main participants' criteria are applicants who hold a university management position with managerial and personnel responsibilities for at least two years in one of the following fields and Managers of central university departments (Planning, Quality Management, Human Resources, Continuing Education, etc.), task force managers for university reform projects, managers of staff development units or programmes. Applicants are required to have an excellent English language skill (speaking and writing). Other criteria includes young university leaders aged between 30 and 40 years old, applicants hold at least a Master's degree and the provision of international experience will be an asset.

More than 190 candidates submitted their project papers and Arumugam was selected on a competitive basis by a committee of renowned university professors and professional experts of higher education management and research. The 25 participants came from Cameroon, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Palestinian Territories, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

The management of Oldenburg University arranged various activities during this course. However, Arumugam had an opportunity to meet DAAD officers in Bonn for a sharing session on Internationalisation of Higher Education Institutions. He also visited Volkswagen factory. It was a great experience to learn their management system, discipline, high technology and credibility to produce high-quality cars in Germany. Moreover, he had the opportunity to meet with the Mayor at the Oldenburg City Hall office. He also visited the University of Hannover for further discussion on Management of Internationalisation course which combined conceptual learning and practice-oriented training, management and soft skills, such as intercultural communication.

"Overall, the organiser conducted professional dynamic, training engaging with global peers from different fields of higher education institutions. Apart from that, I had a great experience with other participants in working on small team projects with group discussion sessions.

As a DAAD alumnus, I would like to highlight that there are several services that are provided to the alumni such as an exclusive email address, global alumni networking groups, online magazine, scholarships and grants. On the other hand, the involvement of the DIES programme will provide an innovative path for those who are conducting project-based programme in the institute of higher education. Finally, I would like to show my gratitude to Sunway University and DAAD for giving me the opportunity to participate in this training."

The main purpose of this course (DAAD) is to enable young management-level professionals at higher education institutions in developing countries to tackle successfully every-day challenges. In order to do so, the programme brings together the topics Project Management, Financing and Investment and Human Resource Management with individual and practice-oriented change projects of each participant.





JCF Community Scholarship recipients with YB Hannah Yeoh, Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO and JCF Board of Trustees

RECORD HIGH SCHOLARSHIPS THIS YEAR

The Jeffrey Cheah Foundation (JCF) disbursed RM72 million worth of scholarships to more than 3,000 deserving students this year, its highest scholarship disbursement amount since its inception in 2011 at the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Scholarship and Award Ceremony 2018.

This year's scholarship awards bring the total amount awarded to RM402 million to date.

The JCF was launched as the first-of-its-kind, not-for-profit foundation in 2010, with Sunway Group founder and chairman Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO gifting his equity in all of Sunway Education Group's 16 educational institutions to the Foundation.

The gift was valued at RM720 million then, and is worth over RM1 billion today. The JCF, which is governed by an independent board of trustees, is now Malaysia's largest education-focused social enterprise.

Deputy Minister of Women, Family and Community Development YB Hannah Yeoh commended Tan Sri Dr Cheah's efforts to make quality education accessible and affordable.

"Sustainability encompasses not just addressing environmental concerns. It is imperative that we help establish progressive, prosperous and vibrant communities. For ultimately, sustainability is about people – the well-being of our communities, our families, our societies."

YB HANNAH YEOH
DEPUTY MINISTER OF WOMEN, FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

"This is something that Tan Sri Dr Cheah understands very well. He has consistently affirmed his belief that education offers the optimum route out of poverty, and that an educated populace is one that can maximise its potential. Tan Sri Dr Cheah has committed to making quality education accessible and affordable. I commend the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation for its outstanding efforts in providing the right opportunity for our younger generations."



YB Hannah Yeoh and Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO with Harvard Travel Grant recipients

To the scholarship recipients she said, “My message for you today is this: I hope that you will learn not just the skills that are important to your future, but also the values that will help shape your character. They say that character is destiny, and character is shaped by the values you adopt during your time on campus.”

Tan Sri Dr Cheah exhorted the graduates to live for a higher purpose. “It is my hope that you will make full use of this opportunity. And I trust that when you graduate, you will leave campus not just with a scroll in hand but also with a commitment in heart to give back to society,” he said.

He added that education was close to his heart as it provides a route out of poverty, and it is his goal to disburse more than RM1 billion worth of scholarships in his lifetime. Some of JCF’s key initiatives this year were the establishment of

a Scholars-in-Residence programme with the University of Cambridge to allow Sunway University’s faculty to be trained at the University of Cambridge, and the establishment of the Oxford-Jeffrey Cheah Graduate Scholarship which gives opportunities for Malaysian youths to further their studies in the University of Oxford. The JCF also hosts a number of Jeffrey Cheah Distinguished Speaker Series public talks by world-renowned experts and Nobel laureates.

Since 2017, the JCF-governed Sunway University has started building a complete entrepreneurship ecosystem within Sunway City, with a non-profit incubator and accelerator Sunway iLabs as its anchor for students and entrepreneurs. These programmes have benefitted some 7,000 people and Sunway iLabs has 25 startups in incubation. Most recently, Sunway iLabs has tied-up with the University of California, Berkeley and launched a Makerspace in Sunway University. **B**



YAM Tunku Zain Al-Abidin Ibnu Tuanku Muhriz, JCF Trustee and Lee Siok Ping, Director of Student LIFE, Sunway Education Group with the Music Scholarship recipients

MALAYSIANS COME TOGETHER FOR UNSDGs

In the largest celebration ever to commemorate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), 8,165 Malaysians held hands all around Sunway City marking the 3rd UNSDG anniversary, since its launch on 25th September 2015. The number 8,165 represents the nautical miles from Sunway University to the UN's headquarters in New York.

With Sunway University being the centrestage for the event, all around Sunway City, people formed groups in the City's key locations, including Monash University, Sunway Medical Centre, Sunway Lagoon, Sunway Hotel and Sunway Pyramid, in support of the SDG goals. The event began with 17 speakers each taking the stage for a one-minute address regarding one Sustainable Development Goal.

Raja Muda of Selangor Tengku Amir Shah Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah spoke for Goal 1 – No Poverty; Malaysian singer songwriter Reshmonu for Goal 2 – Zero Hunger; Managing Director International SOS & Deputy Chairman of British Malaysia Chamber of Commerce, David Ng for Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-Being; Sunway Education Group Senior Executive Director Dr Elizabeth Lee for Goal 4 – Quality Education; CIMB Foundation CEO Dato' Hamidah Naziadin for Goal 5 – Gender Equality; Subang Jaya State Assemblywoman YB Michelle Ng spoke for Goal 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation; Netherlands Ambassador

HE Karin Mossenlechner for Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy; BDO Regional Senior Partner Dato' Gan Ah Tee for Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth; PwC partner Hilda Low for Goal 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; and Deloitte Country Managing Partner Yee Wing Peng for Goal 10 – Reduced Inequalities.

HSBC CEO Stuart Milne spoke for Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities; Godfather of Comedy Harith Iskandar for Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production; National Geographic Explorer filmmaker Rachel Quek Siew Year for Goal 13 – Climate Action; SEA Games Medal Winner, Sin Li Jane for Goal 14 – Life Below Water; Sunway Group Executive Director, Sarena Cheah for Goal 15 – Life on Land; President of JCI, Professor Datuk Woo Wing Thye for Goal 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; and Trustee of Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, Tunku Abidin Muhriz for Goal 17 – Partnerships for the Goals.

"It is our hope that this significant public display of support, sheer magnitude of the event and the thousands taking part ensures that our message echoes across the nation – that we are all in this together, and we must act now for our future," said Tan Sri Dr Cheah. **B**



PROSPECTS FOR MALAYSIA BARU

A talk by Professor Andrew Harding at the Jeffrey Cheah Distinguished Speaker Series



Professor Andrew Harding

Professor Harding is a well-known expert on comparative constitutional law, who has devoted much scholarly time in studying Malaysia as well as other Southeast Asian countries and has authored or edited more than 20 books, including *The Constitution of Malaysia; A Contextual Analysis* (2012). He was formerly Director of the Centre for Asian Legal Studies, National University of Singapore and former Head of the Law School at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

The speech was entitled “Prospects for Malaysia Baru: Constitutional Change Without Changing the Constitution”. A very apt speech considering the recent change of the Malaysian Government following the May 9, 2018, general elections. He mainly spoke about his assessment on the constitutional

changes affected by GE14 and changes in many areas that are under discussion inside and outside the Pakatan Harapan government.

He also highlighted the importance of an independent judiciary and also the ability of the government to change the constitution via legislation. The powers of statutory bodies created such as the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, the Election Commission and the Human Rights Commission can be enhanced and that the regulation of such bodies taken away from the purview of the Prime Minister’s Office.

Some of these actions have already been made by the Pakatan Harapan government. Professor Harding also commended the fact that the new Attorney General, Tommy Thomas, had recently, stated that the AG’s Chambers will not rely on ouster clauses to prevent

judicial review of administrative actions. Therefore, it is foreseeable that executive power itself can change the structure of the state.

The lecture was well received and thought-provoking as it promoted constitutional change without changes to the text of the Constitution. As Professor Harding aptly pointed out a new state can now be born from the womb of the old.

Those present during the lecture were Yang Arif Dato’ Lee Swee Seng (High Court Judge), Tiew Yen Huong (Sarawak Peace Party, SPP), Dato’ Sivaloganathan Yoganathan (Malaysian Bar) and Datuk Watson Peters (Non-Governmental Commission member, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission), among others. **B**



Tan Sri Lin See-Yan, Pro-Chancellor, Sunway University; Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO; Scott Xiao, Executive Director, Harvard Organizing Committee; Angeline Seah Zhen Yi, Executive Director, Host Country Organizing Committee; Dr Elizabeth Lee and Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Sunway University at the welcome ceremony

HPAIR ASIA CONFERENCE 2018

The Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR) at Sunway University which spanned five days hosted 600 delegates from 38 countries who immersed themselves in track-specific discussions based on the theme “Sustainable Disruption”.

Dr Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director of Sunway Education Group and Sunway University, said Sunway is proud to host the HPAIR Asia Conference 2018 this time around. The last HPAIR was held in Malaysia 10 years ago.

“With the conference theme ‘Sustainable Disruption’, it is befitting that Sunway City, recognised for its low-carbon initiative and integrated smart township, is the convergence point for our delegates from across the globe. This meeting of minds is an opportunity for all of us to learn and soak in the vast knowledge that will be shared generously by the panel of distinguished speakers for these five days. Be inspired, be motivated for it is your passion that will enable you to learn with an open mind and open heart. I have no doubt that HPAIR

will keenly support you in your efforts to advance your knowledge, ideas and thoughts on how to address the most pressing issues faced by the world today.”

The conference encompassed various panels, keynotes, workshops, and case study challenged the most pressing issues in the Asia-Pacific region. The discussions which centred on Art, Media and Culture; Energy and Environmental Sustainability; Global Markets and Economy; Governance and Geopolitics; Social Politics and Justice; Technology and Innovation featured more than 60 speakers. **B**

“Be inspired, be motivated for it is your passion that will enable you to learn with an open mind and open heart.”

DR ELIZABETH LEE
SENIOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUNWAY EDUCATION GROUP



Delegates of the HPAIR Asia Conference 2018 at Sunway University

OXFORD-JEFFREY CHEAH GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP



H.E. Vicki Treadell, Vivien Ho, Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO, and Professor Jarlath Ronayne, Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah Distinguished Professor

Twenty year-old Ipoh-born Vivien Ho Wei Wen received the inaugural scholarship from the Oxford-Jeffrey Cheah Graduate Scholarship. She was awarded funds for four years of doctoral studies in interdisciplinary bioscience.

"I'm very fortunate to receive this scholarship from the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, and I would like to thank Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah in particular for giving me this opportunity to pursue my doctorate in the University of Oxford. I look forward to making new discoveries and contributing to my fields of interest when I return to Malaysia," she said.

The scholarship was launched by British High Commissioner to Malaysia, Her Excellency Vicki Treadell CMG, MVO and Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO, Founding Trustee of the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation (JCF).

"I would like to congratulate Tan Sri Dr Cheah for the opportunity of yet another impactful initiative which will help transform the lives of young people by giving them merit-based access to quality education regardless of their socio-economic backgrounds. What you do, is not just about business success, but also to invest in the future generation. You cannot do better than invest in the young, and that is the greatest gift that anyone can give to the country they love," said Vicki Treadell.

Sunway University first partnered Brasenose College, University of Oxford in 2015 which saw a two-way flow of scholars between the universities in perpetuity. Tan Sri Dr Cheah thanked the University of Oxford for its continued partnership with the JCF in helping talented Malaysians to reach their potential.

"The Oxford-Jeffrey Cheah Graduate Scholarship came about following the decision by Oxford University in October 2017 to launch a 'Matched Funding Scheme'. Under the scheme, the University would match any funds raised by the Colleges for scholarships and other scholarly activities on a 1:2 basis," he said.

The University of Oxford and Brasenose College had together selected Vivien to be the recipient of the fund based on her exceptional academic record and other activities.

Among the many scholarships available under the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation are the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation–Sunway Group Scholarship, Jeffrey Cheah Travel Grants for Southeast Asia Studies at Harvard, Jeffrey Cheah Scholar-In-Residence at Oxford, Jeffrey Cheah Scholar at Cambridge, Sunway University Postgraduate by Research Scholarship and the Continuing Scholarships at Monash University Malaysia, Sunway University and Sunway College. The Jeffrey Cheah Foundation has disbursed in excess of RM402 million in scholarships to date, and will be disbursing another RM72 million in scholarships will be disbursed by the end of this year. **B**



HOW DO HUMANS LEARN TO RECOGNISE FACES?

Woo Pei Jun, Senior Lecturer with the Department of Psychology is currently in the last year of her PhD (in Psychology) with University of Grenoble-Alps in France and is conducting research on face perception and parenting behaviours at the Sunway Baby Lab.

“I do behavioural studies with babies, children and adults using the eye-tracker as well as behavioural visual preferential looking paradigm. This method measures the amount of time and interest a baby displays in response to the images shown during the test.”

A recent study published by Pei Jun and her colleagues from Lancaster University found that face-recognition is shaped by experience. She discovered that 4-month-old babies are more inclined towards faces of female caregivers of their own race. By nine months of age, these babies also prefer the female face of another race if they were exposed to caregivers of other race (such as maids) at home. This reveals that babies’ face processing system is driven by early experiences around them. As the infants grow older, they become more selective in recognising only faces that they have the most exposure, due to experience.

Her other area of research is into parenting behaviour. She found that Malaysian parents lean towards the traditional parenting style.

“In another recent study, we found that parents who are over-involved in their adult children’s (i.e. university students) lives are associated with more detrimental child outcomes such as lower self-efficacy and satisfaction with their families. Such parents’ over-controlling in a developmentally inappropriate way is known as helicopter parenting”, explained Pei Jun.

Through her research projects, she hopes to be able to understand more on the relation of influences of our environment and its effects on children’s development and growth.

“With the knowledge, we can be better equipped to educate the public, our students and stakeholders on ways to nurture children development and to promote better physical and mental health.”

Pei Jun has vast experience in working with families with children age three years and below on development delay in at-risk families (parents who are at risk of depression, bipolar, affective schizophrenia or drug abuse). She hopes to continue her research on how Malaysian infants are compared to British infants in terms of looking at different types of faces (gender and race) and how tone language development differs in monolingual and bilingual babies.

All studies at the Sunway Baby Lab have gone through ethics approval by the Sunway University Research Ethics Committee and Lancaster University FST Research Ethics Committee, and are deemed safe for babies. Pei Jun is currently looking for parents with infants below 1-year old to participate in her studies. Parents who are interested to know more about these studies can contact her at babylab@sunway.edu.my or via the Sunway Baby Lab Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/sunwaybabylab/>



Woo Pei Jun during her studies on face perception



Woo Pei Jun

RUN TOWARDS 17 GOALS

Sunway Student Volunteers (SSV) from Sunway University flagged off their first charity run - Run Towards 17 Goals (RT17G) - at Sunway University with more than 500 participants. RT17G was a charity event by SSV in collaboration with Sunway Property, Race for A Better Planet and Sunway AIESEC. The primary objective of the run was to raise funds for SSV's annual project - The Shoebox Christmas which aims to help underprivileged children. The run successfully raised RM10,000 for their project to help the needy.

"Our target was to raise funds for a minimum of 500 presents for the children. The funds will be used to purchase stationery and essential materials for the children. These will be packed into shoeboxes which will be distributed to orphanages, community centres, Orang Asli villages and more," said Lim Poh Meng, Project Director of RT17G.

The run was themed in conjunction with the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), with hopes to raise awareness and to educate the public about the goals. 17 flags were placed around the football field at Sunway University representing the 17 UNSDGs.

"With the run themed around the UNSDGs, participants were encouraged to bring their own utensils such as collapsible cups, food containers, cutlery sets and steel straws as these were not provided. This was to raise the public's awareness on sustainability," said Tay Zhen Rui, Deputy Project Director of RT17G.

The run finished at Sunway Geo, where there was a charity carnival. Various organisations such as WWF Malaysia, Sampah Menyampah and Malaysian Vegan Society set up their booths and participants had the opportunity to understand and be involved with their activities.

Officiating the closing and prize giving ceremony were Sarena Cheah, Managing Director of the Property Division of Sunway Berhad, Dr Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director of Sunway Education Group and Sunway University, and Lee Siok Ping, Director of Student LIFE. A mock cheque was also presented to the beneficiaries, signifying the gifts to be distributed to the children this upcoming Christmas. **B**



Morning zumba session



Charity carnival at Sunway Geo



Dr Elizabeth Lee and Sarena Cheah with the first 17 winners of the Charity Run



KO CHIA HUEY: KNOW YOUR DIRECTION

Hailing from Kajang, the city known for its Satay, Ko Chia Huey's journey with Sunway University began in 2013 when she enrolled in the Foundation in Arts (FIA). She then continued her studies with the Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Finance (BAF) and is currently pursuing the ICAEW professional certification at Sunway TES.

ANY FOND MEMORIES DURING YOUR TIME AT SUNWAY UNIVERSITY?

One of the best memories during my journey with Sunway University was definitely the three weeks spent at Lancaster University for the summer programme. It was an amazing experience because it was my first time living a hostel life with my close friends. I will never forget how the four of us slept on a single bed while pampering ourselves with facial masks and we were almost hit by a cruise boat while rowing a tiny boat down the lake. These are friendships formed at Sunway and I am really thankful to have my best friends to create all these unforgettable moments.

HOW HAS SUNWAY IMPACTED YOUR LIFE?

The four years at Sunway has changed me from a quiet person to a talkative and outgoing person. I have learnt to create value, seize opportunities, sharing it with people

around me and to grow together. I hope that more students would appreciate the value of sharing and learning together because Sunway has taught me that.

IF YOU HAD TO PICK ONE MOMENT THAT WAS THE TRUE START OF YOUR SUNWAY JOURNEY, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

It would be on 22nd September 2012. It was the first time I stepped into Sunway College for a scholarship interview. I had the opportunity to speak to Ms Suzana, the director of FIA and she inspired me to be who I am today. I am thankful to her for all the learning opportunities and recognition she gave me over the years.

TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR CAREER

I am currently working at Dell under the Accounting Development Program (ADP). It is similar to the management trainee programmes provided by other

MNCs where I get rotation opportunities, training and mentoring sessions. It is definitely an eye-opening experience under this three-year programme as we get the privilege to connect with all the leaders through conferences, boot camps and networking sessions. On a daily basis, I get to work with business partners from around the globe which in turn improves my communication skills and allows me to learn about different cultures in other parts of the world. Apart from the daily tasks, I also have the opportunity to organise team building events, participate in CSR activities and lead university recruitment events. Sometimes I do feel as though I am still in Sunway University with the various events and activities that I get to participate in. This just makes work much more interesting!

HOW DID YOU SELECT YOUR CURRENT PATH IN LIFE?

After my internship experience, I realised that I am a people-oriented person. I prefer to work in a company with a diverse and fun culture. I decided that joining a development programme would be the most suitable choice for me to develop my professional communication skills and to be an all-rounder. During my final year, I attended a career talk by Dell about their development programmes and was attracted to the development opportunities. After a quick chat with a Sunway alumnus who was also in the programme, I was assured that joining this programme will not hinder my growth as compared to the audit line of service.

SHARE WITH US SOME OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN YOUR CAREER

In the course of a year and a half at Dell, I have received four awards. The highlight will be receiving the Dell Champion Award that is given to top performing employees on an annual basis. Besides that, I have also initiated projects that included process simplification and standardisation. I extended my portfolio to support other team members and also created a process documentation for the team.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE AT WORK?

I would say that the biggest challenge I had was to understand the processes at work. It is very different from what we learn in class. In the working world, every aspect of a business is interlinked and there is rarely a manual to guide you. In this rapidly changing world, you have to learn to keep up if not faster.

WHAT SKILLS DO YOU THINK YOUNG PEOPLE NOWADAYS SHOULD DEVELOP?

The most important skills that young people nowadays should develop are determination and decision-making. I came across plenty of students who are unsure of their career choices after graduation and do nothing about it. They eventually apply for any job that comes along the way.

Unfortunately, they resign after a few months realising that it is not something they were looking for and the vicious cycle continues. This habit does not look good on your resumé at all. My piece of advice: attend more career talks, speak to alumni, lecturers, parents and friends to get a clear idea of your career path. Do not waste your time and effort going through the hassle of changing jobs just because you do not know what your passion is in the first place.

ANY MESSAGE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION?

Know your direction in life, it will make your journey much easier! And most of all, enjoy your time as a student in Sunway University! It was a very comfortable hub for me to grow and to prepare myself before I started working.

“Don't think out of the box, think like there is no box!”





“Look beyond just your coursemates and programme because you will never have such access to a diverse group of people and opportunities. Seize the opportunities! Sometimes it is as simple as joining a club, a society or in my case, sending an email.”

JAMES OOI

BA (HONS) COMMUNICATION

**DIGITAL ARCHITECT
FOREFRONT INTERNATIONAL**

If there was a single defining boundary that divides my time in Sunway as a before and after, it would be when I decided to apply to be a part of the Sunway University Student Council. That was a small step for me that turned into a giant leap for my personal development. It opened so many doors to opportunities that I never knew existed, I made lifelong friends and it battered me with experiences.

My journey with Sunway University began right after SPM in 2012. Fresh, impressionable, and slightly bald, I joined the Foundation in Arts programme before moving on to completing a BA (Hons) in Communication at Sunway University, where I graduated with First Class Honours and was also the recipient of the Jeffrey Cheah Scholastic Award.

Currently, I am a Digital Architect at FOREFRONT International, a full-fledged creative agency in Kuala Lumpur. On a day-to-day basis, I help to strategise, advise and consult in the areas of software architecture, cloud computing, user experience (UX) design and data analytics. In my current role, I am tasked to promote change within the organisation. But promoting change is incredibly difficult because change is painful. Especially as a relatively fresh graduate, it's difficult to find the right balance between humility and confidence. Knowing when's the right time to speak up is not always clear. Nonetheless, to be able to implement effective and sustainable changes within the company has become my biggest accomplishment.

I have to admit, it's a rather odd path for a communication graduate to be so heavily involved in software engineering and technology. But looking back, it made sense given that my strongest passion was to build and make things. I have always been interested in programming and design ever since I was young. Even during my university days, I was actively participating in competitions and hackathons. Sunway has given me the platform to not only develop my skill but made me employable.

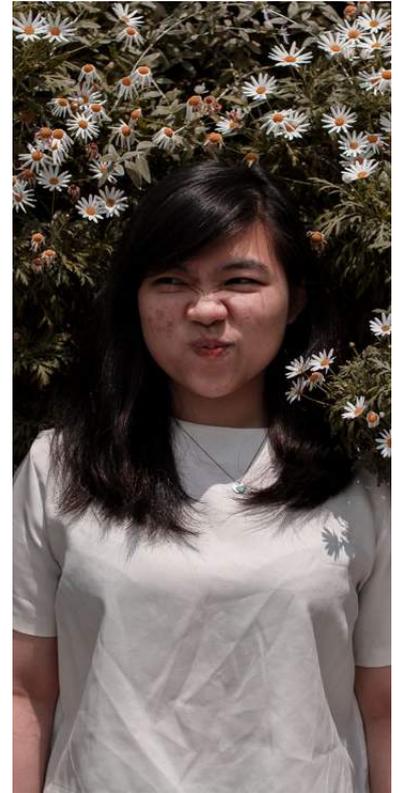
To the young graduates, computational thinking is something that I think is essential. The ability to break down a complex problem and solve it using small and discrete steps is useful not only in programming, but also in our everyday lives. Plus, at this day and age, the ability to think like computers would allow us to work better with computers.

ABIGAIL CHONG

DIPLOMA IN EVENTS MANAGEMENT

**SALES & MARKETING - EVENT MANAGER
ROSEWOOD PHNOM PENH**

I majored in events knowing that it is a gateway to bring me around the world, hence I was ecstatic to start work immediately upon my graduation. However, after pulling overnights and pushing through crazy hours for a year, I became homesick and decided to settle in events management at one of the busiest 5-star hotels in Kuala Lumpur. This 9 to 5 job made me realise that with the spare time I have on-hand, I could enrich myself. Thus I did my BSc (Hons) in International Business Management part time with the University of Bolton UK, and studied for the Board of Valuers (BOVEA) simultaneously. Looking back, being in the events industry has brought me to all the states in Malaysia, Thailand and Cambodia. Ultimately, I landed on an opportunity to settle in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, where I'm currently the youngest expatriate manager in an ultra-luxury hotel overseeing and setting the fundamentals for the events team. Working in Cambodia isn't as scary as I thought because you hang out with multinationals. You get to exchange life stories and experiences, see how the rich and the poor coexist and you get inspired daily, which is something you don't often get in Malaysia. So my advice to those who are embarking on the same journey as me is to be bold enough to make weird and unorthodox decisions; be curious and explore all possibilities and most importantly, be empathetic, because the world needs a bit of love now and then.



VINETA DASTOOR

**BSC (HONS) INTERNATIONAL
HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT**

**MANAGER, BRAND & QUALITY ASSURANCE
MÖVENPICK HOTEL, PAKISTAN**

I never thought that Hospitality Management was an area I could succeed in when I started at Sunway University. But it did come along and three years flew by with the most diverse students in the university. There was always a question mark about my career and growth in the service industry especially when I came back home to Pakistan. However the international exposure at Sunway University allowed me to start my career in Karachi at Mövenpick Hotel as a Brand & Quality Assurance Executive. The knowledge I had gained allowed me to perform my task and grow faster than I thought in the past four years. I was selected as the youngest millennial in Mövenpick Hotel & Resorts for the committee known as Excom Y allowing me to travel the world and being heard by the CEO and the management from various areas. Today, I am the youngest lady in the hotel management as the Manager, Brand and Quality Assurance. A dream does not become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work. Stay true to yourself, yet always be open to learn. Work hard and never give up on your dreams, even when nobody else believes you. These are not clichés but real tools you need no matter what you do in life to stay focused on your path.

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