

BLAZE

THE SUNWAY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

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 Recycle

BRUSHING UP SOFT SKILLS WITH WALK OF KOREA

The first ever Korean Fair - Walk of Korea was held at Sunway University recently. Organised by students from the Sunway University Business School (SUBS) Student Concilium with the theme 'Korean Youth Street', the fair enabled students to experience the Korean-wave on campus.

"Since Korean culture is now a trend in Malaysia, we thought of using the opportunity to organise this Walk of Korea where our students can experience and learn more about Korean culture through games and activities," said Yu Kong Sin of BSc (Hons) in Accounting and Finance (BAF) at Sunway University and the Organising Chairperson of Walk of Korea 2019.

Inspired by the famous tourist destination of Hongdae in Seoul, the event highlighted the unique and vibrant culture of Korean youths and served as a platform for students to experience and learn more about Korean culture. The Walk of Korea was officiated by His Excellency Kim Jun-Pyo, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Malaysia.

The organising team took almost a year to plan the event. Behind the scenes orchestrating the event was an organising team headed by Yu with 30 committee members and a crew of 20 students.

Yu has been actively involved in annual charity events organised by SUBS Student Concilium since 2017 which include the Run for Love 2017, Run for Education 2018 and Run for Care 2019. A recipient of the Jeffrey Cheah Continuing Scholarship, Yu is currently in his final year of the BAF programme.



His Excellency Kim Jun-Pyo, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Malaysia (centre) with Dr Elizabeth Lee, CEO of Sunway Education Group, Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University and the Senior Management team of Sunway University, and Yu Kong Sin (far right) at the launch of Walk of Korea 2019



Yu Kong Sin (front row in black blazer) with committee members of the SUBS Student Concilium

With state-of-art facilities at Sunway University, Yu is delighted to say that his study experience is a great one. "I have not only gained the fundamental knowledge in my studies but also brushed up my soft skills from experiences obtained through my participation in organising activities and events on campus."

The BSc (Hons) in Accounting and Finance at Sunway University provides students like Yu, an in-depth understanding of how accounting and finance fits into the broader context of business and management. Students in the programme will be equipped with critical thinking and problem solving skills needed to succeed in today's dynamic business world characterised by constant change and innovation.

In addition to these technical skills, the curriculum places importance on the development of soft skills such as communication, negotiation,



Yu Kong Sin, BSc (Hons) in Accounting and Finance at Sunway University

teamwork and leadership, which are essential for personal and professional development, and growth. **B**



DR DANIEL CHONG KA LEONG

A SERVANT'S HEART

by **Chua Ern Teck**

The walls on Dr Daniel Chong Ka Leong's room at Sunway University are adorned with paraphernalia collected over the past decade. Heartfelt student notes and academic calendars intersperse pictures of family and friends at various stages of life.

It is no coincidence that since Daniel joined the School of Hospitality in 2009, student enrolment has increased threefold. He is a popular teacher and an increasingly busy administrator. Daniel currently chairs the hospitality studies programme and heads a slew of academic committees.

Outside the classroom, he makes time to conduct research and fulfil speaking engagements. Last December, he delivered a workshop to faculty members at the École hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL) - regarded by many ranking agencies as the best hospitality management school in the world.

LITTLE HONG KONG

Ivory towers and Lake Geneva are a far cry from Daniel's childhood in Sandakan, a city of about 200,000 on the northeast coast of Sabah. "It used to be known as Little Hong Kong," Daniel says. "Because celebrities from Hong Kong who come to Malaysia for concerts would go to Sandakan first, not Kuala Lumpur."

His parents are vegetable farmers who worked hard to make sure their children studied and did not help at the farm. It was not a hand-to-mouth existence but neither was life easy.

"I was considered a special person in school because I don't have proper shoes or shirts," says Daniel, who had to retract his toes before putting on his only pair of school shoes because he was outgrowing them. "Thinking about that is really emotional but that's how tough it was for me and my family in those days."

Daniel studied hard to excel at school because, for him, earning a scholarship was the only realistic path to higher education. His outstanding results opened many doors, and he was duly advised by many to pursue medicine, law, engineering or accountancy in order to "make more money," as one uncle puts it.

"I get frustrated when people say money is not important because they have not gone through that kind of life before," Daniel says. And so it was to everyone's surprise that he chose to pursue hotel management.

FRENCH HOSPITALITY

"Since young, I was captivated by the tourism industry because I saw foreign visitors paying so much money just to see Orangutans," Daniel says of the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre he visited as a boy. "They were speaking languages I couldn't understand and I can't reason why at the time, but I wished I could talk to them."

Daniel graduated with a first-class honours and as valedictorian during the ceremony at the University of Toulouse. He was also awarded a very honorable pass with congratulations from the jury, the highest qualification conferred by the French government. It was an emotional day for Daniel when he addressed his cohort at the graduation ceremony.

"My parents were there but they couldn't understand a single word," Daniel says. "Everything was in English but halfway through my speech I stopped to say I'm so sorry but I have to speak in Hakka to thank my parents."

Upon graduation, Daniel worked at a hotel consultancy firm for a while before joining a resort, where he quickly rose through the ranks. It was by all means a successful career and comfortable life - everything he and his family had hoped and worked for - until he got a call from his alma mater....



BACK TO SCHOOL

Daniel's first stint in academia was short-lived, as he was soon headhunted back into the corporate world, but he never forgot how fulfilling it felt to help students graduate, and decided to switch back for good. The ensuing years were some of the most eventful as Daniel juggled work, an MBA, and life as a newly-wed.

Before he joined the School of Hospitality at Sunway University, few students were interested in its nascent degree programme. According to Daniel, hospitality studies were traditionally more vocational and graduates tend to work in hotels, restaurants or airlines. Today, at least 20 to 40 percent of incoming students have entrepreneurial intentions.

In developing the syllabus for a subject on entrepreneurship, the first thing that Daniel did was to remove exams, because "The true essence of entrepreneurship is taking risk," Daniel says. Students will have to set up legitimate businesses as part of their coursework.

He also said that a big part of what makes the experience so real is the process of raising capital. "As entrepreneurs, you take money from your family, your friends and you try to convince your uncles whether they want to invest," Daniel says.

The objective is essentially to create the most profitable business, but getting there can be so challenging that it is not uncommon for students to argue and break down during the semester. Daniel has been teaching this subject for four years and it is an emotional roller coaster for him each time.

Students respond to Daniel's approach, which Sunway University has recognised with four teaching awards in the past four years. "When I go to a class, my duty is to make weaker students ready and stronger students humble," Daniel says. "I think that's why students appreciate the way I deliver."

A GLOBAL EDUCATION

Daniel is leaving for Tokyo two days after speaking to Blaze for this article. He is an adjunct professor at Meikai University. It is an arrangement that allows students across the globe to experience Sunway teaching from afar.

His schedule leaves little time for mundanities like having regular meals. If not for his nephew, who dropped by to deliver some food mid-interview, he would have skipped lunch. "I don't even have breakfasts actually," Daniel says.

Going forward, Daniel says he would like to spend more time on research, with a focus on the tourism and hospitality industry in Asia Pacific.

"I believe everyone has a calling in life. People love to be served and pampered, but not many have a servant's heart," says Daniel, who took a 70 percent pay cut in his first teaching role. "Some people can self-identify their talent, while some might need help from others, but I always tell my students to not pick a programme for three years, because you have got a journey for 40 more years ahead."



Nurses' Day Cake Cutting Ceremony

"While surgeries can fix broken bones, and medication can ease the pain, empathy, compassion and kindness are equally crucial to a patient's quick and stable recovery."

TAN SRI DR JEFFREY CHEAH AO
CHANCELLOR OF SUNWAY UNIVERSITY
FOUNDING TRUSTEE OF
JEFFREY CHEAH FOUNDATION

Sunway University School of Health and Medical Sciences recently hosted the Nurses' Day Celebration 2019. Distinguished guests, faculty members and students gathered to mark the invaluable contribution that nurses make to the health of every individual and the nation at large.

All around the world, 12 May is the day to celebrate the contribution of nurses and to commemorate the birth of Florence Nightingale, a symbol of pioneering modern nursing. The theme for this year's International Nurses' Day is 'Nurses: A Voice to Lead, Health for All.'

Nurses, clinical instructors and lecturers were all invited to take part in the Nightingale Pledge. It is done as a reflection of the nurse's commitment to moral and ethical values and principles in the practice of nursing.

The first speaker, Professor Peh Suat Cheng, Dean of the School of Healthcare and Medical Sciences said in her welcome speech that "Nurses' Day is a very special day for all nurses here in Sunway. It is a day to celebrate in memory of a

very great person - Florence Nightingale. A nurse known for her compassion and dedication in caring for the wounded soldiers during the Crimean War."

Highlighting this year's theme, Sau Ai Leng, Senior Manager of the Nursing Education Department from Sunway Medical Centre (SunMed) shared that "Being a nursing student involves courage, hardships, and perseverance but the rewards of caring for patients and making a difference in people's lives can make it worthy."

Among the current 194 nursing students at Sunway University, SunMed sponsored 180 students to pursue their nursing dream where employment is guaranteed upon graduation as registered nurses. Sponsored students have a five-year working commitment at SunMed.

"Sunway Education Group is committed to advancing the Sustainable Development Agenda in the region. Of particular relevance to this event are the SDG 3 (Good health and well-being) and SDG 4 (Quality Education)," said Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO, at the celebration. **B**



CULINARY PASSION

Chef Chong Wei Tzeh, Teaching Fellow at the School of Hospitality, Sunway University, won Silver Medal and was second runner-up at the Semi Final of Global Pastry Chefs Challenge in the Asia Region in Bangkok, Thailand.

One of the most prestigious competitions at the world stage, the Global Chefs Challenge is widely recognised by professional chefs worldwide. It is where the world's top chefs meet to compete in three categories: the Global Chefs Challenge; the Global Pastry Chefs Challenge; and the Global Young Chefs Challenge.

The winner from each category will be representing Asia's 'Chef of the Year', 'Young Chef of the Year' and 'Pastry Chef of the Year' to compete at the World Chefs Congress and Global Chefs Challenge Final at St Petersburg, Russia in July 2020.

Representing Malaysia in the Semi Final of Global Pastry Chefs Challenge in the Asia Region, Chong shared that he is happy and proud of his achievement, and would constantly improve his skills as learning is a never ending journey.

In the competition, participants were required to prepare two plated desserts and one cake (entremets) in 90 minutes. Participants had to use the Dilmah tea as a flavour in the entremets' filling.

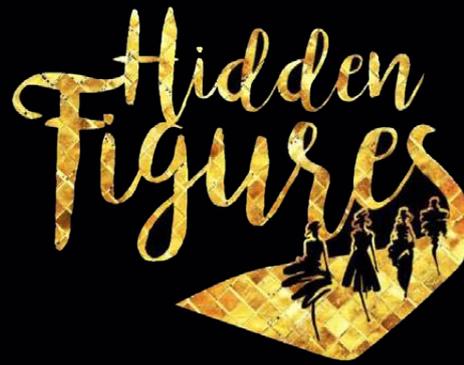
Chong's creations for the plated desserts were Cream Cheese Mousse with Balsamic Raspberry Compote, Strawberry Stews, Raspberry Sauce and Raspberry Sorbet; and the entremets; Earl Grey Tea Mousse with Pineapple Jelly, Earl Grey Ganache and Crispy Feuilletine.



With one and a half months to prepare for the competition, the challenges Chong faced included finding the flavour balance between tea and chocolate; and working within the short time frame given to prepare both plated dessert and entremets at the same time. He had to ensure the dessert was served at the right temperature to give it the best texture.

His first exposure to culinary was when he was young, where he helped his mother and grandmother to prepare food. He was curious about how a meal is prepared from scratch, from the cutting of a fish to the cooking of a fresh bowl of delicious fish stew.

Chong's determination to join the culinary field came at the age of 19. While waiting for the release of his *Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia* (STPM) results, he went on to work at a well-known hotel in Singapore. It was there that he learnt a lot of cooking skills and experience of the industry and realised his passion to work in the kitchen. **B**



FASHION WALK

A survey done by Sunway University students from the Department of Communication indicated that 71% of respondents experienced insecurities about their bodies. 60% of participants perceived that one's body image affects and limits their fashion sense. These results have shown that body image drastically affects the level of self-confidence amongst students.

The fashion event, "Hidden Figures Fashion Walk", executed by Sunway University third-year Public Relations and Project Management students, aims to showcase that fashion is not confined to a certain body shape, hence the fashion runway is provided to boost self-confidence among models of all sizes.

The event was graced by Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University. Among the guests were, the esteemed fashion enthusiasts, Iman Mohamed, Sonya Charles and six School of Art lecturers. Also in attendance were representatives of sponsors from JY Trendy, KAKICUCI, D'ARTE Academy, and Wonderbooth.

The atmosphere during the Hidden Figures Fashion Walk was lit up by the six themes of fashion designs and model walk sessions, each being 'Mums and Dads', 'Artistic', 'Marvel Bounding', 'Rocker Chic Street Style', 'Anarchy', and 'Glamorous'. All the clothing was re-designed from the clothes collected through the Fashion Drive. This Fashion Walk had also included a total of 12 bags of clothing and accessories that were donated to Shelter Home.

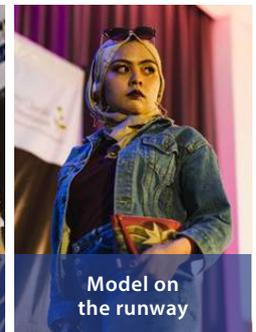
Maslisa Zainuddin, lecturer from the Department of Art and Design, shared her testimony of how she came to acceptance with her petite body size. She emphasised, "Body confidence is something everyone struggles with regardless of what you look like."

Highlighting the prominence of this social issue, Hidden Figures Fashion Walk portrayed the message that our body is something beautiful and precious, and people should not allow others to define its worth. As the event's slogan says, "Inner beauty is true fashion. Walk it, work it!"

Ezac Chong, the Event Director thanked the FI8URES crew for organising the fashion walk from scratch, the overwhelming support that the team got from the audience, the sponsors for the monetary support, as well as the models and designers for their hard work being part of the show. **B**



Maslisa, Lecturer from the Department of Art and Design



Model on the runway



Team FI8URES



Ezac Chong, Event Director



Model on the runway

SUNWAY UNIVERSITY RANKED AMONG TOP UNIVERSITIES IN THE WORLD



In the latest announcement by QS World University Rankings, an annual publication of university rankings by Quacquarelli Symonds, Sunway University is now positioned amongst the top universities in the world.

Sunway University was founded by Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO, with the belief and understanding that education is vital to the progress of the country. The institution was upgraded to University College from a College in 2004 and became a full-fledged university in 2011. Since then, Sunway University has grown into a household name in higher education in Malaysia.

"I am delighted with the news that Sunway University has now been placed in the QS World University Ranking. Considering the limited years of our existence, this is an unprecedented achievement and recognition for a fledgling university in Malaysia," said Professor Graeme

Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University.

The QS World University Ranking covers only the top 1,000 universities in the world, a small proportion of the total number of higher education institutions globally.

"Naturally, while we are delighted for all involved, we will continue to aim higher and continue to provide a level of education in Malaysia that truly is a class above," he added, explaining that the challenge is to move forward from the new milestone towards greater heights.

"I am confident that we shall do so in due course, given our strong investments in research, outstanding people, and key international partnerships."

Prior to this QS World University Ranking, Sunway University was awarded an overall Five-Star rating in the QS Stars University Ratings

(2018 - 2021) as well as Five-Star in the individual categories: teaching, facilities, employability, social responsibility and inclusiveness.

"I am truly happy that the University has taken this bold step to participate in the QS World University Ranking and immediately got placed among the top institutions in the world. I am glad we are now recognised on the world map as a young University, seriously intent on collaborating with the finest to give our best to the world," said Dr Elizabeth Lee, Chief Executive Officer of the Sunway Education Group.

With a place amongst the top universities in the world, Sunway University will continue in its focus on delivering high quality education. In its aim towards becoming the country's international education hub, Sunway University will continue in its pursuit of excellence not only in academia but also through innovative research. **B**

NEW ERA, NEW MEMORIES

Sunway University recently celebrated the achievements of 1,057 students graduating from various undergraduate and postgraduate programmes under its School of Arts, School of Healthcare and Medical Sciences, School of Science and Technology, School of Hospitality, School of Mathematical Sciences and Sunway University Business School. The graduation and award ceremony was held at the five-star Sunway Resort Hotel and Spa to honour the graduates of Class July 2019.

Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO, Chancellor of Sunway University congratulated the graduates on the successful completion of their studies. "At Sunway University, we emphasise not only on making education accessible but also focusing on providing quality education and nurturing the concept of lifelong learning to our students," he said.

With pride and joy, Tan Sri Dr Cheah said, "Despite our relative youth, Sunway University has now been ranked among the top universities in the world by QS World University Rankings. It is a proud moment for us, and it demonstrates our determination to deliver the best we can to our students and continue to strive to make Sunway University a global institution."

"As you make your way to life, I trust you would do with integrity as your guide, humility as your virtue and a pursuit of excellence as your choice."

TAN SRI DR JEFFREY CHEAH AO
CHANCELLOR OF
SUNWAY UNIVERSITY
FOUNDING TRUSTEE OF
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The valedictorian for the morning session was Sharifah Aliah binti Syed Alwi Alhabshi who graduated with first-class honours in BA (Hons) in Communication. In her speech, Sharifah Aliah used the Rubik's Cube as a metaphor to explain the stages of her university years and how she finally placed all the pieces together. "Rubik's cube is kind of like life. As soon as we step out the front door, we move on to the next stage of life. Life will continue forward, as will

the different obstacles put forth in our paths." Sharifah Aliah is currently working at M&C Saatchi Malaysia, an international advertising agency.

The first-class honours BSc (Hons) in Marketing graduate, Chan Huei Huei was the valedictorian for the afternoon session. During her speech, Chan, a Customer Insight Executive currently working at Tesco Stores (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd thanked her family members and the lecturers for their constant support during her time spent in Sunway University.

The July 2019 cohort consists of nine Master's Degree and six Doctor of Philosophy graduates.

Sunway University graduates received their scrolls from Tan Sri Dr Cheah and Professor Tan Sri Dato' Dr Lin See-Yan, Pro-Chancellor of Sunway University, for the afternoon and morning session respectively. Representing the Lancaster University to award the graduating class with scrolls was The Right Honourable Alan Milburn, Chancellor of Lancaster University. **B**



Chan Huei Huei with her father and friend



Sharifah Aliah (centre) with graduates from the School of Arts after receiving their scrolls from Sunway University and Lancaster University



Doctor of Philosophy (Business) Graduates
L-R: Dr Gan Chew Peng, Dr Steven Ng Kok Toong,
Dr Racheal Louis Vincent and Dr Ng Yew Seong

STUDYING ABROAD IN LANCASTER



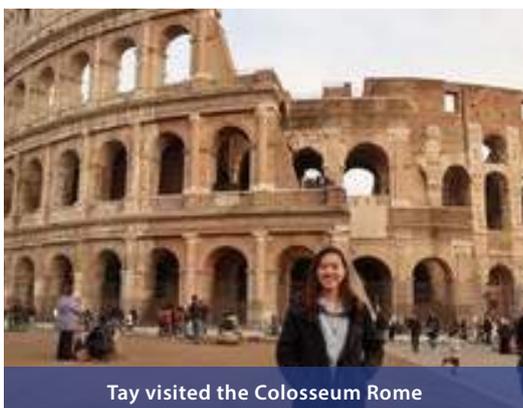
Happy times Tan spent in the United Kingdom



Tan with friends she met at Lancaster



Lum at Lancaster University



Tay visited the Colosseum Rome

Studying abroad is a game-changer for many students. Some said studying abroad is an exhilarating, scary, fun and life-changing experience. Many agree it is the best decision of their lives. It could make a huge impact in people's lives and the global perspective one may gain is invaluable. A group of three Sunway University students spent a semester at Lancaster University, United Kingdom for the Study Abroad Programme.

The team from Sunway University consisted of second-year BSc (Hons) Global Supply Chain Management student Richelle Tan Wei Leng and third-year BSc (Hons) Business Management students Stephanie Tay Jia Mei and Lum Jo Hong.

Lum said, "Meeting different people from different countries, cultures, backgrounds and lifestyles are what I find most interesting. Learning to adapt to their lifestyle is also one of the most challenging things." Study abroad is about stepping out of your comfort zone, embracing new cultures and ways of life, and coming home with unforgettable memories whilst achieving the ambition of completing a degree course here at Sunway University.

The Study Abroad Programme has taught Tan to be an independent person as it was her first experience living abroad, taking part in activities as well as preparing her own meals. She mentioned, "It really helped me embrace my individuality and gain confidence in myself

through the challenges I had to overcome during my stay." Friendships were also forged during Tan's time spent abroad with the people she came across which left an unforgettable impact on her.

Tay, spent a month understanding more about the ways of life and cultures in the Lancaster University. Gaining exposure living alone whilst experiencing the student life in a foreign country was a rare opportunity given to her. "Life is a constant journey of learning, meeting new people, travelling, having new experiences and many more."

Students on the programme had the chance to travel across the United Kingdom, visiting places with various well-preserved historical landmarks and explore the metropolitan cities of Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Northern Ireland, Paris, Budapest, Vienna, Prague and Amsterdam. There is also magnificent and dramatic countryside and coast to be discovered on the doorstep including the famous Lake District, Yorkshires Dales, Forest of Bowland, Morecambe seaside and Blackpool.

The BSc (Hons) Business Management and BSc (Hons) Global Supply Chain Management are both validated by Lancaster University and upon successful completion of the programme, graduates are awarded two certificates; one from Sunway University and another from Lancaster University. **B**

SUN-U STUDENTS EMBRACED DIFFERENT CULTURES AT LANCASTER

Freezing winter greeted two students from Sunway University as they made their way through the winding roads of the tranquil countryside to Lancaster University in the United Kingdom.

Amanda Li-Anne Gregory and Tey Jeremy recently embarked on a one semester Study Abroad Programme at Lancaster University. They were told to learn about life in Lancaster through exposure in the fields of business, government, volunteerism, academics and culture.

Gregory, who is in her final semester of BA (Hons) Communication, said her overall experience in Lancaster University was an enriching one in regards to exposure to real-life experiences. She was thankful to make new friends from all over the world, including those from her home-country.

"We would have supper every other night, have a small gathering during the weekend and spend time together. That was the most memorable time in the United Kingdom," Gregory said.

Tey, who is currently a year-two BA (Hons) Communication student, described his experience in this Study Abroad programme as fulfilling as it helped him grow as a student. He grew into a better version of himself by living independently far away from home.

The inquisitive Tey enjoyed the classes and found it interesting how lecturers engage with the students during lectures and tutorials, "In Lancaster University, they place more emphasis on critical thinking, and that they expect everyone to be responsive in classes," said Tey.

Gregory and Tey both took up different subjects during their three months stay at Lancaster University. Some of these subjects include Media and Visual Culture, Entrepreneurial Mindset, Family and Intimate Relationships, and Consumer Behaviour and Advertising.

This innovative and creative programme works closely with industry practitioners to reinforce knowledge learnt in the classroom in project-based learning. Students will have the opportunity to get up-close and personal with industry leaders, as they share their expertise and skills in seminars, workshops and classroom projects. This extends the learning beyond the classroom and students are given opportunities to plan and organise events through which they can apply their classroom knowledge.

This degree is validated by Lancaster University and upon successful completion of the programme, graduates are awarded two certificates; one from Sunway University and another from Lancaster University. **B**



Amanda Li-Anne Gregory, Tey Jeremy and their friend Shaun Wong Jian En



Sunway University students from School of Hospitality and School of Arts creatively showcased the Sungai Lima Exhibition in Sunway University Library as part of the Festival and Hallmark and Sustainable Design subjects taught by Dr Teh Pek Yen and Dr Goh Yi Sheng. The objective of Sungai Lima Exhibition was to educate the public on some of the issues faced in Sungai Lima. Before the exhibition, 20 students spent two days in Sungai Lima for a site visit and identified certain socio-cultural, environmental, economic issues and the solutions to these issues. The only way getting to Sungai Lima is by boat. This island village retains its rustic charm that stems from its fishing tradition. Although Sungai Lima is not as prosperous as Pulau Ketam, it has plenty of households that depend solely on fisheries and seafood industries. Sungai Lima is particularly known for its dried shrimp and *belacan* (shrimp paste).

During the visit, the students identified major issues that prevented the village from developing. Firstly, it is the lack of awareness on green practices. The locals and tourists' undesirable habit of littering were also observed by the students. Secondly, there is a lack of tourism support due to the unrecognisable existence of the village, therefore lesser business opportunities led to unemployment and impacted the economy negatively.

Festival theme 'Experience Sungai Lima' was an initiative proposed by the students. "The rationale behind this theme is to provide attendees an opportunity to truly experience Sungai Lima in every aspect possible," said the students from the Festival and Hallmark class. This festival aims to educate visitors on this forgotten village, the livelihood of

the locals as well as showing the beauty of its landscape. The festival highlighted three elements; culture, food and sustainability.

Students from Sustainable Design class designed a directory map using the recycled wooden plank collected from Sungai Lima. The map includes tourist spots for food and beverages, facilities, homestay and practical information for the tourists.

In order to curb the pollution on the island, a sustainability concept was highlighted to the locals to build a new image to the tourists. The aim of the proposed workshop was to educate the community on reusing and redesigning recycled items. For example, transforming plastic bottles into lotus candle holder. A recycling bin to be placed at the only primary school, SJK(C) Sin Bin to encourage people to dispose of plastic items. The students then utilise these plastics for their arts and crafts classes.

Tg Muhammad Daniel Hakim and Tan Li Wen, year-two students of BA (Hons) in Interior Architecture and BA (Hons) Design Communication respectively, said, "The best part of the exhibition is to see visitors acknowledging the prototypes that we have designed."

Through this project, the students hope to instil the need to conserve Sungai Lima's environment. John Ho Sye Kit, final-year student of BA (Hons) Conventions and Event Management, the Project Leader of Sungai Lima Exhibition said, "I felt that through this exhibition we are able to spread better exposure and awareness of this hidden village with the purpose of conserving their culture, promoting tourism industries and to enhance local lifestyle." **B**

MICROPLASTICS IN SEA SALT

The increase in news reports of marine wildlife being washing up dead on shores due to complications from ingesting plastic, brings to light the severity of plastic consumption, disposal of plastic and garbage, and pollution of our waterways and oceans. The Great Pacific garbage patch so far is the largest accumulation of ocean plastic in the world. There are smaller accumulations scattered all around the world. If marine life has been affected, are humans at risk?

This is what piqued the interests of senior lecturers, Dr Jane Gew Lai Ti and Dr Yow Yoon Yen of the Department of Biological Sciences, School of Science and Technology at Sunway University. Curious to find out if there is any form of ocean plastic contamination in the country, they opted for the easiest possible source – sea salt.

“Seawater is a natural and easily accessed source of salt. The conventional extraction process of salt from sea water is with evaporation ponds, which are typically located in warm climates with low rainfall and where evaporation is high,” explained Dr Gew.

Drs Gew and Yow tested 14 brands of locally produced salt from supermarkets in various forms ranging from coarse, fine and super fine. Microplastics (< 5 mm in size) contamination in sea salt will be an indicator of sea water pollution. Running the salt through a chemistry process; the two researchers first infused 250 grams of salt in hydrogen peroxide in a 24-hour shaker incubation at 65 degrees Celsius to digest the ocean organic matter. Double distilled water is then added to the solution and left at room temperature for another 24 hours to allow any residue to settle to the bottom of the bottle prior filtration.

According to Dr Yow, “The supernatant of salt solution is then filtered with filter paper, the weight of each filter paper before and after filtration is recorded. The harvested pollutants are then viewed under the stereomicroscope, and further characterised with Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) and Scanning Electron Microscopy with Energy Dispersive X-Ray Analysis (SEM-EDX). The procedure was replicated at least three times for all the 14 sea salt brands sold in Malaysia.”

As a result, they discovered three common types of microplastics in the salt samples, which are fiber, fragments and micro beads. Their findings showed that coarse salt contains the most impurities while super fine salt contains the least.

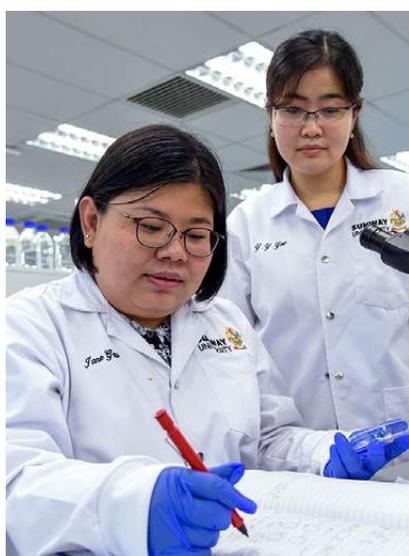
“We propose manufacturers of salt to have a better filtration process or system. Reduce the pore size of the filter cartridge in the filtration system; or increase the filtering of the salt solutions as these could help reduce the presence of microplastics in the edible salts during the manufacturing process,” said Dr Gew.

In line with Sunway University’s commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), Drs Gew and Yow hope to bring to light the severity of plastics pollution in the environment.

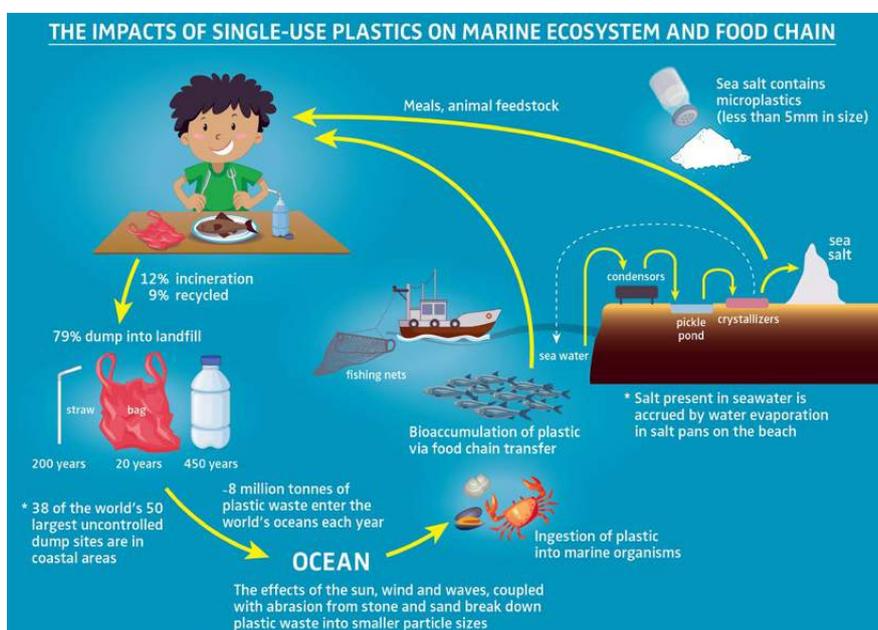
An advocate for a more sustainable future, Dr Gew advises all to refrain from practising single-use plastic. “This will help prevent further microplastics contamination,” she reiterated. **B**



Magnified fibers and plastics found in salt



Dr Jane Gew Lai Ti (left) and Dr Yow Yoon Yen



SCHOOL OF HOSPITALITY UPDATES

SCHOOL OF HOSPITALITY CO-ORGANISED AND HOSTED THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF HEALTH-ORIENTED TOURISM & HOSPITALITY (ICOHOTH)



Together with University of the Sunshine Coast and Sunway Medical Centre, the School of Hospitality Sunway University co-organised and hosted a three-day conference at Sunway University. Dr Timothy Lee, the Chief Organiser and Chair of the Organising Committee of the 2nd ICOHOTH stated that the conference intended to link individuals from academia, industry, government and non-governmental organisation

in the field of tourism and hospitality to exchange and develop research and industrial case studies. The keynote speakers included Professor Dr Ghazali Musa from University of Malaya; Dr Jia Xiao Fang from China International Health and Medical Tourism Association; and Dr Laszlo Puczko from Resources Leisure Assets, Austria. Special guests, Sherene Azli and Fabian Bigar from the Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC) and Ministry of Health (MOH) respectively, presented on medical and health-oriented tourism from the government and public sector's point of view. The conference committee were also honoured to have Dato' Dr Lee Weng Keng, Chief Executive Officer of the Education and Healthcare Division of the Sunway Group; Choy Wah Wei, Chief Executive Officer of Sunway Medical Centre; Prof Perry Hobson, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global Engagement of Sunway University; Prof Peter Heard, Provost of Sunway University; and Prof Hew Gill, Associate Provost (Student Experience) of Sunway University at the opening ceremony.



SUNWAY UNIVERSITY CHEFS COME OUT TOPS AT THE POTATOES USA – MALAYSIA JUNIOR CHEFS CHALLENGE 2019

Sunway University Young Chefs team – Captain Alicia Tay Xin Jie, Amanda Cheah Pui Mun, Tsen Jun Yan and assistant Darren Chin Hong Kai led by Chef Lee Han Ying won Champion in the Potatoes USA – Malaysia Junior Chefs Challenge 2019 by competing against nine other teams. The students are from Sunway University's Diploma in Culinary Arts and BSc (Hons) in Culinary Management programmes. The challenge was a collaboration between the Professional Culinaire Association (PCA) and Potatoes USA. Participants were required to prepare three courses: Vegetarian Appetiser, Seafood Entrée and Poultry/Meat Main course, featuring Potatoes USA products in 90 minutes. The culinary competition was judged by a panel of experienced culinary judges under the helm of Chef Federico Michieletto, President of Bocuse d'Or Academy Malaysia.



INTO THE WOODS FOR CHARITY

First year students from BSc (Hons) International Hospitality Management organised a charity dinner 'Into the Woods' and raised funds for YS Charity Foundation. The 10-week assignment was part of the requirement under the Intermediate Restaurant Operations subject with the objective to expose students to the administration, operational and management aspects of a restaurant. A group of 11 students decked the Athanor at Sunway University according to the 'Into the Woods' theme for the dinner where guests were treated to a four-course dinner prepared by Chef Khairil and his team. Special guest was Lee Kim Sin, Chairman of YS Charity Foundation who appreciated the students' effort. The students raised RM2,100 for the organisation and together with Professor Marcus Lee Stephenson, Dean of the School of Hospitality, they presented the mock cheque to Lee. **B**

ENGAGEMENTS WITH INDUSTRY PARTNERS

Sunway University Business School (SUBS) organised multiple events for students to engage with industry partners

MARKETING DAY: STUDENTS PROFESSIONAL PATHWAY

Students from the BSc (Hons) Marketing programme organised the inaugural Marketing Day: Student Professional Pathway to encourage students to develop interpersonal skills through practical applications and gain experiences beyond the traditional approach. The event included an exhibition and game stations that allowed students to interrelate what they had learnt in their marketing programme with hands-on activities. Through the games and interactive booth activities, students had the opportunity to learn more about the different sectors of marketing. The job and internship opportunities offered by several exhibitors provided the students with insights on their future career paths.



The organising committee (front row) with the VIPs and guests

VISITING THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

The students from BSc (Hons) Global Supply Chain had the opportunity to visit the Cadbury factory in Shah Alam with the theme "Supply Chain in Cadbury for Excellent Quality". Before entering the factory to observe the manufacturing processes, the students learnt the company history and the general safety rules. Cadbury emphasised on its product quality and the students witnessed the entire process of chocolate making and packaging where raw materials were transformed into finished products.



Students at the Cadbury factory at Shah Alam

STUDENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TALK SERIES

SUBS initiated a professional teaching environment through the Student Professional Development (SPD) Talk Series recently. The SPD Talk Series was a collaboration between SUBS Alumni Relations and SPD, Department of Economics and Finance and the Department of Management where speakers share skills and industrial knowledge to the students. The speakers of the talk included Cheah Kok Hoong, Group Chief Executive Officer of Hitachi Sunway Information System; Professor Zulkarnain Muhammad Sori, from International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance; and Dr Abdul Rahman Abdul Rahim, Associate Professor at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia Razak, School of Engineering and Advanced Technology. **B**



Dr Abdul Rahman presenting his talk topic on 'Toyota Production System'

FUTURE CITIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO, Chancellor of Sunway University, and the Right Honourable Alan Milburn and former UK Secretary of State of Health, recently launched the Future Cities Research Institute (FCRI) at Sunway University. The FCRI is a joint collaboration, built on existing strengths and research collaborations between Sunway University and Lancaster University. The Institute will complement the work of the Jeffrey Sachs Centre on Sustainability Development, and capitalise on Sunway's pioneering leadership in developing sustainable urban environments in Malaysia, and Lancaster's extensive track record and international reputation for research in 'cities and surrounding hinterlands'.

It is predicted that by 2050 more than 80% of the population in Europe and North America and more than 60% of the population in Africa and Asia will live in cities, totalling around 6.7 billion people. It is therefore entirely fitting for us to choose the challenges of urbanisation to be the focus for our first joint research institute.

Tan Sri Dr Cheah said, "FCRI will develop an innovative and agile portfolio of research, responding to the intractable challenges facing urban environments, and deliver critical step-changes relevant to their context. The high quality of our interdisciplinary research will



be leveraged to examine new areas of inquiry that may include; design for healthy living; people-based infrastructure; night-time urban environments and urban food security."

Sunway University has research interests in smart and healthy cities, and the development of sustainable communities. As part of its plan, FCRI researchers will utilise Sunway City Kuala Lumpur as a 'living lab'. Sunway City is the Group's 800-acre township which has been transformed from a mining wasteland and is the first sustainable township certified by the Malaysian Green Building Index.

The FCRI represents a logical 'next step' in shaping the agenda for future city development, and in deepening the relationship between Sunway and Lancaster, through its support for broad research themes of Digital Cities, Sustainable Cities and Liveable Cities. One of its core missions is to train and empower PhD students specialising in relevant disciplines.

PhD students in the FCRI will be jointly supervised between Lancaster and Sunway staff. There will be an annual summer school organised by rotation between UK and Malaysia and



Tan Sri Dr Cheah AO, and the Right Honourable Alan Milburn launching the Future Cities Research Centre

shared workshops on a wide range of development activities including research skills, publishing, public engagement, entrepreneurship, innovation, problem solving, and project management.

To optimise the impact of the collaborative work for a global benefit, a biennial "Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah World Symposium on Cities of the Future" will also be held involving leading scientists and academics from relevant disciplines, members of the business community and government agencies. **B**

THE FIRST HARPSICHORD MADE IN MALAYSIA

by *Dr Andrew Brian Filmer*

Senior Lecturer, Department of Performance and Media, School of Arts



Early construction of the harpsichord



Painting the harpsichord



Harpsichord in its (almost) finished form



Audience have an up-close look at the harpsichord

At the start of the year, three friends got together for an unusual challenge: the construction of the first harpsichord made in Malaysia, by Malaysians. It was a natural outgrowth of a developing scene in “Early Music”: music of the time of Mozart, Bach, and even earlier. In order to get closer to the sonic origins of these composers, the Wicked Music People ensemble strived to obtain replicas of the original equipment, first with baroque bows and gut strings, and then baroque violins. A crucial missing piece of the puzzle was the harpsichord, the grandfather of the modern-day piano – a keyboard instrument which really sounds more like a harp or a guitar. There are half a dozen around the country, but all in private ownership, and we wanted one not only for our own music-making, but for others to use as well, and for audiences to get a closer first-hand look at the instrument. The problem was money: it costs RM60,000 to get one in. The solution: it can cost half of that... if you’re willing to build it yourself.

We got a ‘kit’ of the rough parts from Paris, and got to work with hammers, screws, drilling, gluing, sanding, filing, carving, painting, weighing, metalwork and stringing. In the first month, chief builder U-En Ng – who has been a guest lecturer at the School of Arts – put together the larger pieces. After that he joined violinist Lee Hai Lin and myself just about every evening and all weekends for three months with saws, drills, files, and nails that were replicas of the ones used in the 17th century. Certain tasks would be deceptively simple: cutting felt for each key took a full eight hours, and there was a minimum of five layers of paint. For the 80-something strings, there are pieces of wood called jacks, with each jack holding a plectrum that plucks a string on the way up, a delicate “escape mechanism” that prevents it from plucking the string on the way down, and felt to dampen the string afterwards, and each has to be precisely measured. Some of the pins for the strings were so small that it took a special drill bit from France, and we had to deal with how the wood adjusted to the changes in humidity. And we had no idea whether it was going to be successful until close to the end when we heard the first note plucked.

Since then, it’s had quite an impact on the music scene: it’s been at the centre of recent performances of Bachfest Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur and Johor, and with visiting Singaporean group Red Dot Baroque, and the modest rental of the instrument has gone towards paying for the kit, which should be paid off by the end of the year. Sunway University music students have had an opportunity to see the instrument up close and it will have a short residency at the university later this year. Members of the public regularly crowd around the instrument after a concert, being quite fascinated at getting that close to an instrument that is rarely seen in Malaysia and never up-close till now. Apart from saving the costs of building it, constructing it has had unexpected advantages – in addition to being the first harpsichord makers in the country, we also have gained unique knowledge in how to maintain it. Not bad, for three people who don’t actually play the instrument! **B**

Jeffrey Cheah Foundation

One who is able to don the graduation robe and mortar board is definitely fortunate. However, there are those who do not have access to education. The Jeffrey Cheah Foundation has been giving back to society by providing quality education to deserving students from disadvantaged backgrounds. As of 2019, the Foundation has awarded more than RM402 million in scholarships and grants. Having had their lives changed by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation, two young alumni pledged to continue the cycle from receiving to giving.

“Life is not just
about ourselves,
but giving to
others.”

Leong Chee Keong was sent to an orphanage when he was a three-year-old toddler. His father passed away when he was young, therefore he never had an image of his father and lost contact with his mother, who stopped visiting when the orphanage moved.

Leong, together with his brother, grew up independently. He started working as a salesperson with little hopes of getting into tertiary education until he came across the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Community Scholarship through an NGO called StART Society.

After six years of hardwork from diploma to degree, Leong graduated with first-class honours in BSc (Hons) Financial Analysis and started his career as a Citibank Management Associate. Having gone through hardships and understanding the importance and value of financial support, Leong decided to contribute monthly to the Foundation as soon as he began his career.

Giving back is more than through financial means – giving of time is also important. Leong believes that being actively involved by offering motivational talks to scholarship recipients and volunteering with the foundation is also a form of contribution as well.

“Be appreciative and
remember people
who have helped us
and contribute back if
possible.”



“What I love most about being a Sunway student is in the little things – that we are all part of a community – the Sunway Community.”

Chow Shenn Kuan began her journey with Sunway under the Sunway College Special Scholarship in 2014 and subsequently the Jeffrey Cheah Continuing Scholarship in 2015. She then graduated in 2018 with a degree in BSc (Hons) Business Studies. Chow's experience growing up with Sunway has always been about the community; from the many activities happening across the institution, the vibrant campus life that never sleeps, and the people, lecturers, security guards and even the Ramly burger *mak cik* by the side gate.

Starting her career as a Management Consultant with &samhoud in June 2019, Chow still found the time to support and speak at alumni-related activities just as she did during her student days with Sunway Student Volunteers. This, to her, is one of her ways of giving back to society by propagating her knowledge to juniors. Chow also received the Sunway Extra-Curricular Activities Achievers Awards for two years for her outstanding involvement in out-of-classroom activities and development.

“If I can afford to pay RM20 for a cup of boba or poké bowl, I can always afford to donate that RM20 just once a month to a meaningful cause.”

Extending her values in supporting the next generation, Chow has also pledged a monthly donation to the Foundation. She believes that just a small amount from the many Sunway Alumni we have would make a positive difference to many lives – or even just a life of a kid who deserves an education.

“Now is the time for me, as an alumna, to pay this deed forward to the very Foundation that has granted me the opportunity.”

It is so inspiring to hear of young alumni who, despite their fresh start in the world of work, have made the pledge to give back to support their juniors who may need it more than they ever did. Contributors can donate to the Foundation in any form; big or small amount, one-time or on a monthly basis.

Find out how you can help at <https://jeffreycheah.foundation/donation/donate-now-others/>



MAGDELINE SIM

MANAGER OF CEO OFFICE, SHUI XING VENTURES

I am from Johor Bahru and my dream has always been to work in a hotel since I was in primary school. After high school, I followed through with my passion, did my research on the various universities and eventually pursued the hospitality degree at Sunway University. My knowledge has expanded from the education at Sunway especially in understanding the current market and business society. After graduation, opportunity came when I got selected for a management training programme called Voyager in the Marriott group. The programme lasted for 18 months with job rotations and upon completion, I was promoted to Duty Manager. In less than a year I became the Assistant Front Office Manager for two years. Having worked in the industry, I finally understood the reason behind what my lecturer used to say – be a great actor and smile even when under pressure. Sunway University has prepared me well in understanding theory as well as leadership skills. I am currently in the logistics industry to broaden my scope and also to learn something new. Although both industries are not interconnected directly, I believe that it is an additional advantage for my career. However, my passion towards the hotel industry is still evident. One piece of advice I would like to share is to not fret starting from the bottom and first build a strong foundation. You will then be able to handle anything on your own and achieve your dreams.



WENDY KEW

DIGITAL MARKETING MANAGER, W KUALA LUMPUR

I moved around the country a lot when I was younger due to my father's career. I was born in Kedah, had my early childhood in Kuala Lumpur and moved again when I was 11 years old to Johor Bahru. I also travelled often with my family which then piqued my interest and curiosity as to how hotels operate. This led me to choose Hospitality Management at Sunway University for both my diploma and degree programmes. Through courses like Food and Beverage, I learnt how to serve customers or run a restaurant as a manager, gained knowledge of the different uses and purposes for each cutlery and crockery and of course, how to taste and serve wines. I had to try out a few different roles in the beginning as I did not know where I wanted to be. I started off as an event coordinator, to a wedding planner, and then finally into sales and marketing. That was a brand-new role for me in the hotel industry and it gave me the opportunity to learn something new. From that moment on, I was responsible for developing strategies to increase sales for our products via digital platforms. I explored social media, websites, Online Travel Agents (OTA) and more. The role showed me the power of digital marketing in the industry and how it can generate revenue. I then worked in The Andaman, A Luxury Collection Resort for three years and in 2018 I joined the pre-opening team for W Kuala Lumpur. Currently a Digital Marketing Manager, I am always ready to explore more and gain new knowledge to drive my career further into the industry. As my mother always says, "never try, never know". I stand by her words and believe that we should venture into new experiences and one day, we will find the right pathway to create our own story.

TOO YAN BIN

STAFF NURSE, SUNWAY MEDICAL CENTRE

Nursing to me was a tough course because I came from the arts stream in secondary school. However, after I started the practical sessions, it gave me new meaning. The experiences became the best memories for me. I felt excitement, happiness and even fear when we transitioned from lectures to performing the procedures. Before I started my journey, I looked up to seniors to understand the job description better and what to expect from this career. I was able to get a glimpse of what my future would be like as a staff nurse. As soon as I began working, I had to take ownership and make decisions on issues that arise in the workplace. It was stressful but I found a way to channel it elsewhere. Over time I have learned the importance of my role.

To my juniors, instead of studying and memorising the lecture notes, my advice would be to practice more in the clinical areas. We have to work hard to manage the challenges because hard work always pays off. We also have to learn to empathise and put ourselves in the shoes of others. We will then better understand the thought processes of those we encounter.



YEW CHU XIAN

STAFF NURSE, SUNWAY MEDICAL CENTRE

My best memories and experiences with Sunway have always been the people I encountered. During the three years of Diploma in Nursing, my lecturers were all professionals. I also had my housemates who became like my sisters. We studied, prepared for exams, worked day and night and celebrated the end of exams together.

As I am now continuing my journey with Sunway Medical Centre, the same great experience follows with my colleagues. Sunway Group as a whole provides quality, professionalism and kindness. Both customers and staff are well taken care of with excellent customer service and benefits.

My advice would be to always keep in mind that you should choose what you love and love what you choose. You only live once! Do not care about what others say; just do the things that you know are right. Love yourself, love your family who have given you the things that you have now and trust in God, because He will always lead you.



Sunway University sets up Malaysia's First Dedicated 2D Materials Research Lab

The RM3.5 million Research Lab houses the developing of a novel graphene nano lubricant for automotive and industrial application as well as new 2D materials for supercapattery and low-cost thermoelectric generators. The Research Group has accrued more than RM4 millions of internal and external grants for these on-going projects. Upholding multidisciplinary research approach, the Research Group has already published at least 50 papers in top quality journals and received a gold award from the 30th International Invention, Innovation and Technology Exhibition (ITEX) competition.



The Graphene and Advanced 2D Materials Research Lab at Sunway University was launched by Professor Graeme Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor of Sunway University (3rd from left), together with Dr Rezal Khairi Ahmad, CEO of NanoMalaysia Bhd (3rd from right).

With the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Sunway University and NanoMalaysia Bhd, which is the Lead Agency to execute the National Graphene Action Plan 2020, Sunway University is able take their research work to the next level in terms of commercialisation. The partnership will help academia engage more fruitfully with high tech industries from which the whole country can benefit.

Aligned to the country's National Graphene Action Plan and Fourth Industrial Revolution aspirations, it is envisaged that the Malaysia's first Graphene Research Lab at Sunway University will provide a cost-effective platform for Malaysia's small and medium enterprises to innovate high value graphene-based products for sustainable business growth thus supporting the newly launched National Entrepreneurship Policy.

“2D materials are the wonder materials of 21st century, it is like a deck of cards that could be tailored to fit into any desired applications ranging from electronics to energy storage. These Smart materials will play a pivotal role in manufacturing the smart devices that are going to drive the industry 4.0”

- Professor Mohammed Khalid
 Head of the Graphene and Advanced 2D Materials Research Group



Attendees at the launch which included 15 industry partners.

