

Sunway University e-Bulletin

January 2025

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from all of us at the Branding and Corporate Communications Department.

We are pleased to be emailing you the latest e-Bulletin for Sunway University and would like to express our gratitude to all who have contributed articles to the bulletin.

Please do forward this e-Bulletin to all your local and international business associates, colleagues, friends and families.

This month's edition leads with Sunway University being recognised as the number one private university in ASEAN in the AppliedHE Private University Ranking ASEAN 2025. This achievement underscores the varsity's commitment to excellence in quality education and research.

Sunway University proudly welcomed the first cohort of students to its new Doctor of Medicine (MD) programme, marking a promising start as they embark on their journey to become the next generation of healthcare professionals.

Congratulations to all academics and students who won awards and recognitions from across the globe.

Please help to share the news of the great activities and achievements happening at our University.

The e-Bulletin runs bi-monthly and alternates between the University and the College.

Sunway University ranks no. 1 private university in ASEAN



Sunway University has once again been recognised as the number one private university in ASEAN in the AppliedHE Private University Ranking ASEAN 2025. This achievement underscores the varsity's commitment to excellence in quality education and research.

This latest achievement affirms Sunway University's ongoing commitment to excellence in education, as it continues to foster holistic learning and research initiatives that address both societal and global needs.

[Business Today](#)

Sunway University welcomes first cohort of MD students

27 December 2024



On 27 December 2024, Sunway University proudly welcomed the first cohort of students for its new Doctor of Medicine (MD) programme. This orientation marked a historic milestone for the university and set the stage for a transformative journey in medical education.

Twenty students attended the event, all eager to embark on their path to becoming future doctors. Professor Sibrandes Poppema, the President of Sunway University graced the occasion, sharing an inspiring welcome address that highlighted the university's dedication to excellence in education and healthcare. We were also delighted to have the support of Academic Clinical Lecturers from Sunway Medical Centre. Their presence underscored the programme's strong connection to clinical practice and the importance of hands-on learning.

This orientation was a promising start for our MD students, and we look forward to their future contributions to the medical field.

Sunway University co-hosts AppliedHE Xchange: recognising excellence, diversity and impact

21 November 2024



Sunway University and AppliedHE came together to host the very first edition of the AppliedHE Xchange. The theme for this year was Recognising Excellence, Diversity and Impact. The 3-day event featured the launch of the AppliedHE Public & Private University Ranking: ASEAN 2025, where Sunway University was ranked the #1 private University in ASEAN. The event also included a special briefing on the methodology for the upcoming AppliedHE Public & Private University Ranking: ALL ASIA 2026, which will include institutions from the Middle East, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey. Besides this, the Xchange held insightful panel discussions involving delegates, thought leaders and industry experts.

There was a pre-event Gala Dinner on Sunday, 17th November, where guests were welcomed with speeches from Professor Dato' Elizabeth Lee, CEO of Sunway Education and Ms Mandy Mok, CEO of AppliedHE. They were then treated to enthralling performances by both a live band and a string quartet, all comprising Sunway University students. These performances were accompanied by a delicious 3-course meal.



Monday featured the kick-off of the AppliedHE Xchange, and Professor Sibrandes Poppema, President of Sunway University, delivered the opening remarks. There were also speeches by Professor Dato' Elizabeth Lee and Ms Mandy Mok. The day continued with engaging panel sessions on topics such as the role of universities in promoting lifelong learning. A particularly exciting part of the day was the elevator pitch session, where representatives from various universities were given 3 minutes to quickly promote their institution to guests and potential collaborators. These 3 minutes were timed with a bell ringing to signify that time was up, leading to some lightning-quick pitches. Delegates also had the chance to interact during coffee breaks and lunch. The latter half of the day moved the event over to the Rooftop Terrace at Sunway University, where guests were treated to a student performance before the ranking results were revealed to all present, as they shared drinks.



The event continued on Tuesday with more panel sessions, country reports, and elevator pitch sessions. There was also a unique fireside chat session, where student representatives from Sunway University, Monash University and University Malaya were given the chance to share their thoughts and answer questions fielded by the guests in attendance. Justin Yong, president of the Sunway University Student Council represented Sunway. The event concluded with closing remarks from Professor Kevin Downing of City University Hong Kong, Professor Sibrandes Poppema, and Ms Mandy Mok.



The event was a huge success, and Sunway University is honoured to have been the ground at which the first-ever AppliedHE Xchange was held. The University was honoured further by the outcome of the rankings, as it cemented its place at the top of education institutions in ASEAN. This prestigious recognition serves as a testament to Sunway University's unwavering commitment to innovation, academic excellence, and the development of transformative educational experiences. With this momentum, the University looks ahead to even greater accomplishments, continuing to lead and inspire within the ASEAN region and on the global stage.

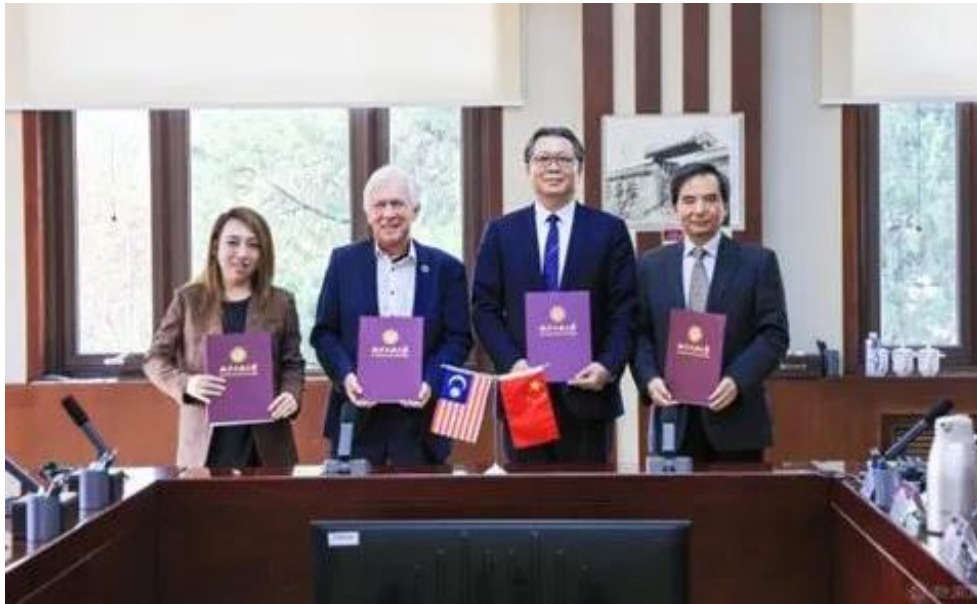






Forging global partnerships: Sunway University and North China University of Technology – launch a transformative strategic alliance
22 November 2024

In an exciting development, North China University of Technology (NCUT), one of Beijing's fastest growing institutions, recently welcomed a distinguished delegation from Sunway University. The delegation was led by Professor Sibrandes Poppema, President of Sunway University along with Professor Chai Lay Ching, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education, Employability, and Alumni) and Mr. Lester Lee from the International Office. This visit marked the continuation of a promising partnership that began with NCUT's earlier visit to Sunway University.



Highlighting their shared commitment to academic excellence and innovation. Both signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaboration. The MoU was signed by Professor Chai Lay Ching (Left), Professor Sibrandes Poppema, Vice Party Secretary and President Zhang Lifeng, and Vice President Wang Jianwen signalling a unified vision for the future.



Discussion during the visit, focused on potential collaborations in key areas such as Smart Engineering, Civil Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Business Management, and Data Modelling. Both universities expressed their enthusiasm to move from initial agreements to detailed actionable plans that would strengthen academic and research ties.



As part of the visit, Sunway delegation toured NCUT's cutting-edge engineering facilities including Smart Manufacturing pilot plant and Integrated Circuit Lab.



In a symbolic gesture of goodwill, Professor Sibrandes Poppema penned the calligraphy "马中友好" (Malaysia-China Friendship), underscoring the deep-rooted between the two nations.

This collaboration represents an important step forward for Sunway University as it continues to expand its partnerships with leading universities worldwide. By building strong, strategic relationships with institutions like NCUT, Sunway University aims to foster innovative solutions and drive academic excellence in the years to come.

SET signs MoUs with 5 major global industry partners: Daikin, Mercedes-Benz, Keysight, Hartalega and Jingxing
06 December 2024



The School of Engineering and Technology at Sunway University recently hosted a significant event to celebrate the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with five esteemed partners, marking a step forward in collaborative efforts aimed at sustainability and education. The event began with a lunch at Sunway University's Athanor restaurant, exquisitely prepared by Sunway's very own students at the School of Hospitality and Service Management.





The occasion commenced with an uplifting welcoming speech by Prof. Sibrandes Poppema, President of Sunway University. He underscored Sunway's foundational ethos, highlighting how the institution evolved from humble beginnings in a literal "hole in the ground" to a globally recognised educational hub, being recognised as the top university for graduate employability in Malaysia. Prof. Sibrandes spoke passionately about the university's core values, its sustainability initiatives, and its impressive rankings, asserting that Sunway's mission is deeply rooted in hope and human-centred engineering aimed at restoring the planet.



Sunway University's 5 New Partners



Mr Desmond Tay Yang Jiun (Daikin Malaysia Sales & Service Sdn Bhd)



Mr Yoon Siew Fei (Hartalega NGC Sdn Bhd)

This was followed by speeches from 5 of the partner representatives. Mr Desmond Tay Yang Jiun, the Head of the Department of Daikin Malaysia Sales & Service Sdn Bhd —the world’s largest air conditioning manufacturer—delivered a noteworthy address. He congratulated Sunway on its progressive initiatives and introduced Daikin’s global presence in over 170 countries. With a focus on sustainability, Daikin has been awarded the Platinum Winner for Business Leadership in Sustainability Award 2024 by the Green Building Council (GBC). Mr Desmond spoke about Daikin’s goal of achieving carbon neutrality and harnessing technologies like IoT and AI to create value and a sustainable future. Speaking of Daikin's relationship with Sunway University, he also mentioned Daikin’s innovative air conditioning solutions for Sunway xFarms, an initiative aimed at promoting indoor farming.

Mr Yoon Siew Fei, the Chief Human Resources Officer of Hartalega NGC Sdn Bhd, the world's leading nitrile gloves manufacturer, followed with an insightful speech emphasising the shared vision of sustainability between the company and Sunway. Hartalega's sustainable practices in the glove industry, which contributes significantly to the realm of healthcare, showcase the importance of sustainable practices in advancing public health.



Ms Goh Chui Lang (Jingxing Holdings (M) Sdn Bhd)



Ms Chong Yip Wee (Keysight Technologies Sdn Bhd)

Ms Goh Chui Lang, the Senior Assistant General Manager of Jingxing Holdings (M) Sdn Bhd, delivered a speech that resonated with the core values of green technology and eco-friendly manufacturing. Jingxing Holdings, one of the largest paper manufacturing conglomerates globally, recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. As a company from China, Jingxing Holdings has chosen Malaysia as a location to advance its business. Ms Goh spoke about the company's highly automated and environmentally conscious paper factory located in Banting Industrial City, Malaysia, highlighting the adoption of green technologies as a testament to their commitment to sustainability.

Ms Chong Yip Wee, the Education Business Director of Keysight Technologies Sdn Bhd, shared her company's innovative strides in providing design solutions essential for electronics and educational tools. Keysight is a leading provider of electronic design and test solutions for commercial communications, aerospace, defence and government, and electronic industrial markets. This extends to solutions which can be applied in the educational sphere. Emphasising the importance of future-proofing education, Keysight aims to support learning environments with simulation design, lab tools, and educational software—tools that can empower the next generation of engineers and innovators.



Mr Gan Ken Wei (Mercedes-Benz Malaysia)

Mr Gan Ken Wei, Head of Mercedes-Benz Tech Malaysia for Mercedes-Benz Malaysia Sdn Bhd, offered insights into the evolving automotive industry, touching on safety, efficiency, and the importance of software development. He noted the sector's challenges, including cybersecurity and software integrity, and emphasised the critical role universities play as breeding grounds for the engineers of tomorrow. Interestingly, Mr Gan shared a personal connection, revealing that Prof. Angela was his lecturer 23 years ago, further underscoring the strength of academic-industry relationships.

Once all 5 speakers had shared their thoughts, the time had come for the official signing of the MoUs. The representatives from each party were:

- Professor Sibrandes Poppema, President of Sunway University.
- Mr Lawrence Song Yew Beng, Managing Director of Daikin Malaysia Sales & Service Sdn Bhd.
- Ms Chong Yip Wee, Education Business Director of Keysight Technologies Sdn Bhd.
- Mr Yoon Siew Fei, Chief Human Resources Officer of Hartalega NGC Sdn Bhd.
- Mr Reuben Rethinalingam, Head of Human Relations for Mercedes-Benz Malaysia (MBM) & SEA II of Mercedes-Benz Malaysia Sdn
- Ms Goh Chui Lang, Senior Assistant General Manager of Jingxing Holdings (M) Sdn Bhd.

Their signings were witnessed by:

- Professor Abhimanyu Veerakumarasivam, Provost of Sunway University
- Mr Desmond Tay Yang Jiun, the Head of Department of Daikin Malaysia Sales & Service Sdn Bhd

- Mr Oh Sang Ho, South Asia Pacific Regional Sales Director of Keysight Technologies Sdn Bhd.
- Mr Daryl Ooi Keat Leong, Deputy General Manager in Human Resources Shared Services of Hartalega NGC Sdn Bhd.
- Mr Gan Ken Wei, Head of Mercedes-Benz Tech Malaysia for Mercedes-Benz Malaysia Sdn Bhd.
- Mr Herbert Devan, Senior Thermal Power Plant Operations Manager of Jingxing Holdings (M) Sdn Bhd.

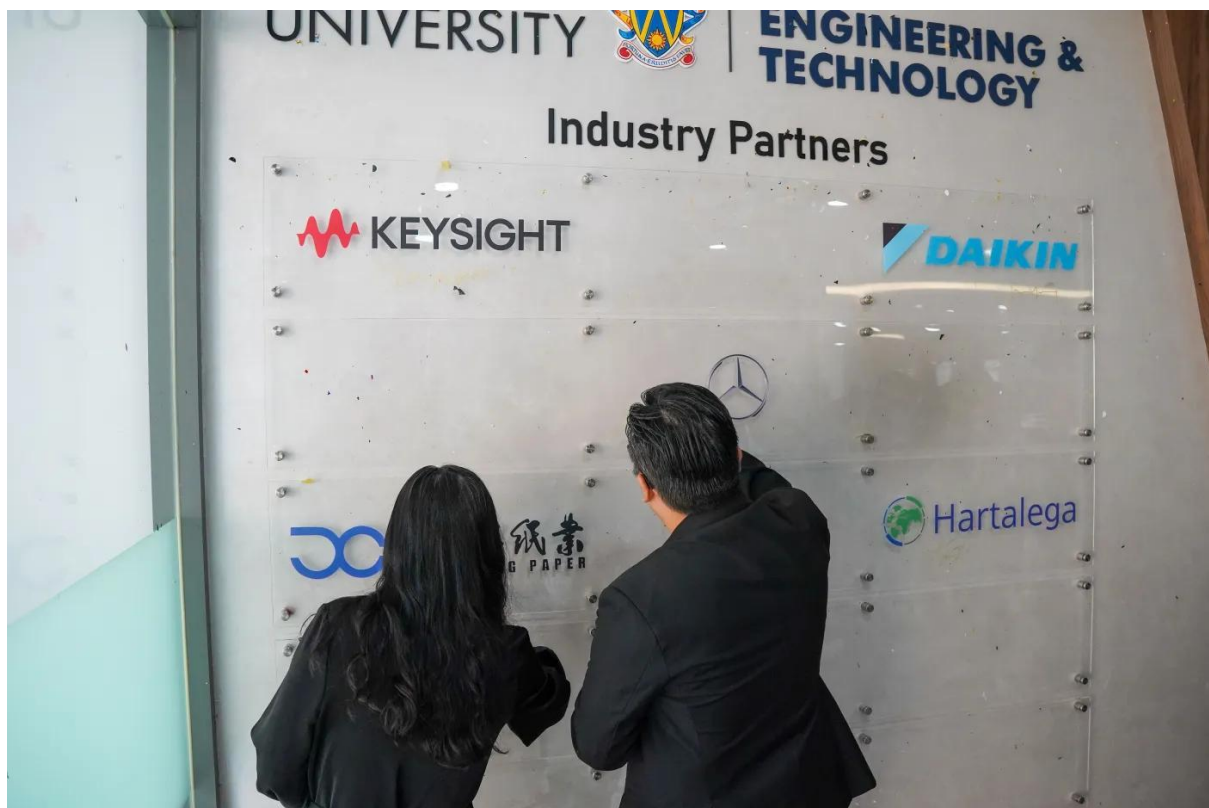
Closing Remarks



Prof. Ir Denny Ng Kok Sum (Dean of the School of Engineering and Technology)

Prof. Ir Denny Ng Kok Sum, Dean of the School of Engineering and Technology, delivered the closing remarks, reinforcing the university's dedication to its net-zero initiative and decarbonisation goals. He highlighted automated practices, such as automated air conditioning systems designed to reduce emissions, as well as sustainable solutions like solar panels, battery storage systems, and rainwater harvesting. He also shared his belief in the potential of the partnerships freshly established, hoping for them to bear fruit.

Inauguration Ceremony & Lab Tour



The formal part of the event concluded with an inauguration ceremony held upstairs to reveal a plaque featuring the logos of all 5 partners, which were signed by them. Student volunteers stood ready with confetti cannons to add a bit of fun to the occasion. The guests were then given a tour of the School of Engineering and Technology's newly-completed labs before refreshments were served.

This landmark event at Sunway University not only celebrated the signing of MoUs but also showcased the importance of collaborative efforts in building a future rooted in sustainability, education, and technological advancement. The partnerships formed will undoubtedly contribute to the realisation of a shared vision for not only a more sustainable university but also a more sustainable planet.

Maldives Ministry visits Sunway for education collaboration

27 November 2024



On 27 November 2024, the Ministry of Higher Education, Labour and Skills Development, Republic of Maldives visited Sunway Campus. During the visit arranged by the International Office, they discussed the process of obtaining recognition from the Maldives Medical Council for Sunway's new Doctor of Medicine programme. The delegation also had the opportunity to meet and interact with six current Maldivian students from both Sunway College and Sunway University. Sunway Education has been actively supporting Maldivian students who are under the Maldives student loans and government scholarship programs, by providing the necessary documents required by the Maldivian Government.

Additionally, there was a discussion on how Sunway can assist the Maldives government in strengthening the accountancy field, addressing the country's need for more local chartered accountants. This visit highlighted the efforts between Sunway Education and the Maldives government to enhance educational opportunities and professional development for Maldivian students.

Sunway University Press' Hani Hazman awarded at the 15th MAPIM-KPT Awards 2024
18 December 2024

Congratulations to Sunway University Press' Senior Editor, Hani Hazman, who was awarded at the 15th Malaysian Scholarly Publishing Council-Ministry of Higher Education (MAPIM-KPT) Awards 2024.

She was recognised under the prestigious Best Editor category, receiving the award from YB Datuk TS Mustapha Sakmud, the Deputy Minister of Higher Education, in a ceremony that was held at the Ministry of Higher Education in Putrajaya.

We are incredibly proud of Hani's achievement and grateful for the inspiration she brings to the team.



Hani Hazman receiving the honours from YB Datuk TS Mustapha Sakmud, Deputy Minister of Higher Education Malaysia

Dr Wu Yuan Seng secures MAKNA Cancer Research Award 2024

27 November 2024



The School of Medical and Life Sciences would like to again congratulate Dr Wu Yuan Seng, PhD, on his outstanding research achievement in securing a prestigious MAKNA Cancer Research Award 2024. He attended the award ceremony today (22nd November 2025). The opening remarks were given by the Vice President of Akademi Sains Malaysia, Academician Distinguished Professor Datuk Dr Lai-Meng Looi, and the MAKNA Board of Trustee, Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dato' Dzulkifli Abdul Razak. Dr Wu shared his awarded project with both science and non-science audiences, explaining how his past research experience helped him succeed in this project and how the award could benefit pancreatic cancer patients indirectly. The research presentation concluded after the closing ceremony given by the general manager of MAKNA, Puan Farahida Mohd Farid.

We hope to see Dr Wu share the research findings from this awarded project soon and take a step forward in translating them for clinical testing. We also hope that he and his team will continue to make breakthroughs and innovations in cancer therapy, with the goal of improving the poor prognosis of cancer patients.

Professor Serge Demidenko on IEEE Life Fellow: honouring a distinguished Sunway engineering academic
27 November 2024



Congratulations to Professor Serge Demidenko from Department of Computing and Information Systems who has become the first recipient in Malaysia of the Life Fellowship of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the world's largest technical professional organization dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. With over 460,000 members in more than 190 countries, IEEE fosters a global community through its numerous publications (over 6 million documents in total and counting), more than 2,000 conferences worldwide that attract around 500,000 attendees annually, more than 1100 active technology standards and over 1000 projects under development, and a wide range of extensive professional and educational activities.

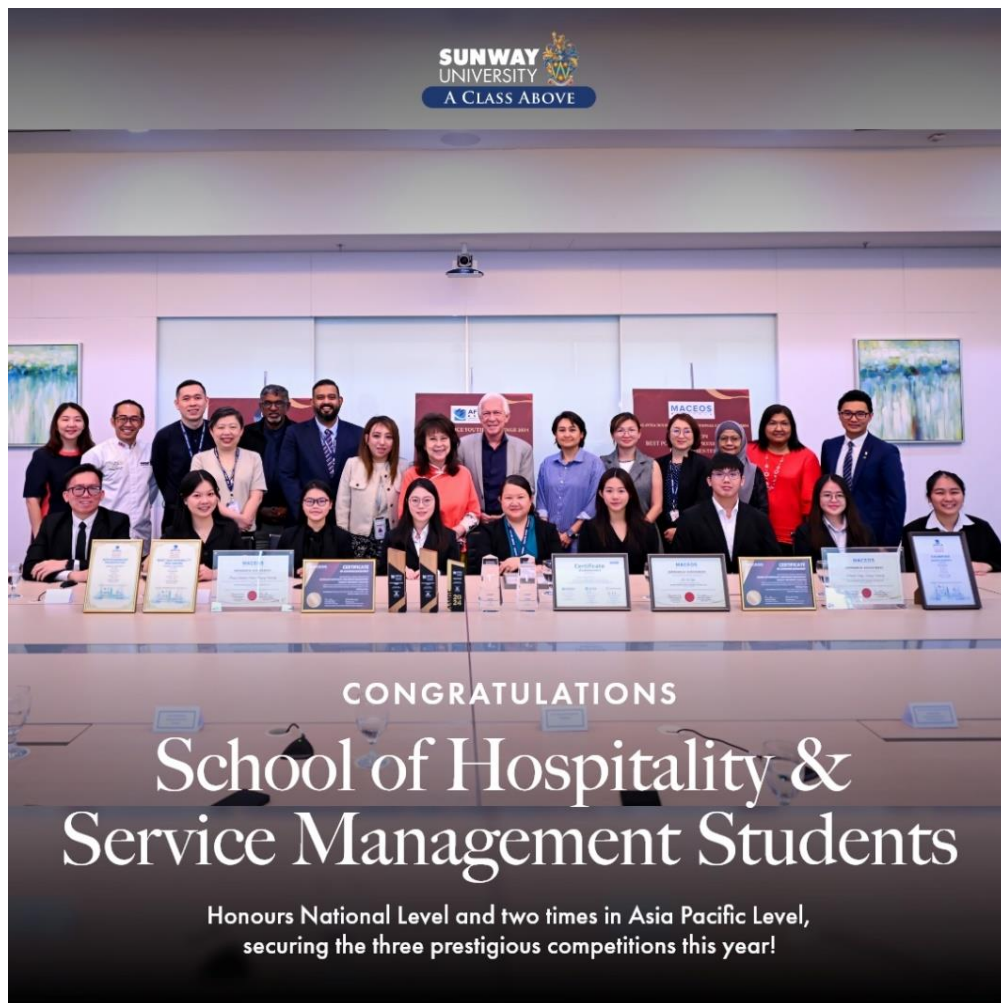
The IEEE Fellow distinction is reserved to acknowledge the extraordinary accomplishments in the fields of interest of IEEE. According to the Institute regulations, no more than 0.1% of the total corporate membership (i.e., excluding student and honorary members) can be elected Fellows in any given year. In 2004, Professor Demidenko made history by becoming the first (and so far, the only) IEEE Fellow in Malaysia in the category of Research Engineer/Scientist for his contributions to Electronic Testing in the large-scale industry setting.

His IEEE Life Fellow recognition two decades later is a special honour acknowledging many years of his loyal membership and extensive support to IEEE activities that include contribution to several key sectors of the Institute. His present prominent positions include being a Member of the IEEE Awards Board, Chair of the IEEE Technical Field Awards Council, and Member of the IEEE Fellow Committee, among others.

Our heartfelt congratulations to Professor Serge Demidenko on his distinguished professional career and we wish for his continued success in the years to come.

SHSM shines in prestigious business event challenges

4 December 2024



Celebrating Excellence in Business Events: A Hat-Trick of Triumphs

We are proud to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our School of Hospitality & Service Management students, who secured top honours in three prestigious competitions this year:

🏆 National Level: Champions of the Malaysia Business Events National Challenge 2024, winning Best PowerPoint Presentation and Lee Xin Yee named the Best Presenter.

🏆 Asia Pacific Level: Champions of the Asia Pacific Business Events Youth Challenge 2024. Khoo Ky Lee and Chow Tse Hui won the championship and a trip to the ICCA Congress in Abu Dhabi.

🏆 Asia Pacific Level: Champions of the AFECA Asia MICE Youth Challenge 2024, with awards for Best Sustainability Idea and Best PowerPoint Presentation.

This success is a testament to their talent, guided by our dedicated lecturers and coaches. A special thanks to the Malaysian Association of Convention & Exhibition Organisers & Suppliers (MACEOS) and the Asian Federation of Exhibition & Convention Associations (AFECA) for their invaluable support in empowering our students to shine.

Congratulations to our champions for making Sunway University proud!