

# Sunway University e-Bulletin

March 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 teaming up with Fondation Hoffmann through a grant agreement to address the pressing planetary health challenges in Southeast Asia.

Sunway University also hosted the inaugural Malaysian-Hungarian Rector's Forum to welcome distinguished delegation of Hungarian rectors and representatives from the Hungarian Embassy.

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 and Foundation Hoffman partner to address planetary health



Sunway University and Foundation Hoffman have signed a transformative grant agreement at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, to address Southeast Asia's growing planetary health challenges. This partnership underscores the essential role of businesses, media, and governance in creating a sustainable future, with an emphasis on mitigating the region's environmental and health crisis.

[The Star](#)

**Sunway University Signs MoU with Obuda University**  
**10 February 2025**



Sunway University is excited to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Obuda University. Obuda University is an institution located in Budapest, Hungary. Originally founded as a polytechnic institute, the university has evolved into one of Hungary's leading centres of higher education, specialising in engineering, information technology, business, and applied sciences.

Sunway University looks forward to the huge potential for collaboration in this relationship.



## Sunway University Hosts Inaugural Malaysian-Hungarian Rector's Forum 12 February 2025



Sunway University hosted the inaugural Malaysian-Hungarian Rector's Forum, warmly welcoming a distinguished delegation of Hungarian rectors and representatives from the Hungarian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur. The morning began with a briefing by Sunway University's president, Prof. Sibrandes Poppema, who provided an overview of Sunway University's history and its strategic plans for the future. He also introduced Sunway Group and outlined the long-term vision of its chairman, Tan Sri Sir Dr Jeffrey Cheah. Key topics included the university's research-focused initiatives and community outreach programmes. The session concluded with an engaging Q&A, where the Hungarian delegates expressed their interest in learning more about Sunway University.



The day continued with a tour of Sunway University's campus, allowing the guests to explore new facilities, including the School of Engineering & Technology building. Following the tour, the Hungarian delegation met with Sunway University's deans, deputy deans and heads to discuss possible collaborations for business, arts, computing, and engineering. The visitors were also treated to a vibrant lion dance performance, before heading to Athanor, the university's in-house restaurant, for lunch.

After lunch, the university welcomed additional guests from various Malaysian institutions. The rector's forum, attended by representatives from 26 Malaysian and 9 Hungarian institutions, marked the day's highlight. Prof. Sibrandes Poppema and Dr. László Borhy, President of the Hungarian Rectors' Conference, offered welcoming remarks. This was followed by keynote speeches from Prof. Madya Dr Azidah binti Abu Ziden (Director, Academic Excellence Division, Department of Higher Education) and Dr. Zoltán Dubécz (Secretary General, Hungarian Rectors' Conference), who addressed the state of higher education in both Malaysia and Hungary. Both speakers emphasised the strong ties between the two nations and expressed hopes for many future educational collaborations.



The forum also featured a Special Interests Presentation, where Prof. Majid Movahedi of Széchenyi István University and Dr. Tamas Sterbenz of the Hungarian University of Sports Science shared insights into their institutions. Széchenyi István University, known for its rapid growth and focus on engineering and production, collaborates with prominent companies like Audi Hungaria Motor Ltd. Meanwhile, the Hungarian University of Sports Science highlighted Hungary's impressive sporting achievements, having produced 151 Olympic gold medalists among over 3,000 graduates.

The event concluded with a thought-provoking open discussion, where attendees explored a wide range of potential avenues for future collaboration. This exchange of ideas not only underscored the shared commitment to advancing higher education but also set the stage for a strengthened partnership between Hungary and Malaysia. With a spirit of mutual respect and enthusiasm for the future, the event marked an exciting new chapter in international educational collaboration.

## Chef Soon Pau Voon Recognised with Worldchefs Lifetime Achievement Award

18 February 2025



Chef Soon Pau Voon, a prominent figure in the global culinary community, who is also a senior teaching fellow at Sunway University's School of Hospitality and Service Management, has been awarded the Worldchefs Lifetime Achievement Award at the 40th Worldchefs Congress & Expo. The award highlights his contributions to the culinary arts, education, and sustainability, and his efforts to promote Malaysian cuisine internationally.

The Worldchefs Lifetime Achievement Award is a prestigious recognition given by the World Association of Chefs' Societies (Worldchefs) to individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to the culinary industry throughout their careers, signifying exceptional leadership and dedication to the culinary profession; it is considered the highest honour within the Worldchefs organisation.

Chef Soon, who joined the School of Hospitality and Service Management in 2009, plays a key role in developing future culinary talent. His research includes studies on the anthropology of food, exploring themes such as feasting, commensality, and the social history of Malaysian cuisine. He has also authored and co-authored works such as *The Edible Waste: A Cookbook* (Best Food Waste Book In The World, Gourmand Book Awards 2022), *Planet Saving Meals* (2024) and *Stripes of Glory: Malaysian Chefs in Action on the Global Culinary Stage* (2023).

As a certified trainer South East Asia's Pioneer for the Worldchefs Sustainability Education for Culinary Professionals curriculum, Chef Soon has been a strong advocate for environmentally friendly practices in the culinary field. His initiatives focus on reducing food waste, supporting local producers, and encouraging sustainable sourcing.

"I was surprised when my name was called to the stage to accept the award. As a proud member of Sunway University, I am grateful that my work and contributions to Worldchefs are acknowledged and recognized. May this award be an inspiration to my peers and my fellow young chefs," said Chef Soon.

The Lifetime Achievement Award acknowledges Chef Soon's extensive contributions to the culinary arts and his efforts to integrate sustainability and cultural preservation into his work.



## Sunway Business School Secures 3rd Place in the Global Dream Chasers Entrepreneurial Competition!

22 January 2025



## Sunway Business School Secures 3rd Place in the Global Dream Chasers Entrepreneurial Competition!

We are proud to announce that a team of Sunway Business School students achieved an incredible 3rd place finish in the Global Dream Chasers Entrepreneurial Competition on 15 December 2024.

Competing against 500 teams, the event was organized by XJTLU Entrepreneur College (Taicang), China, and showcased outstanding entrepreneurial talent and innovation.



**Competition Details:**

- Track: Finance and Business Innovation
- Team: Purified Catalyst (Team 51)
- Award: RMB 5000 (USD 692)

**Team Members (Bachelor of Business Analytics):**

Wong Chwen Wey, Chong Cheng leck, Alicia Low, Su Teng Wong, Jia Ying Ooi

This achievement was made possible through the mentorship and guidance of an exceptional panel of experts:

Associate Professor Ir Dr Hoo Choon Lih (School of Engineering and Technology, Sunway University), Dr Fathey Mohammed, Walliyaddin Abdul Khalik, Dr Nampuna Dolok Gultom, Dr Stella Ong Kim Yoke, Dr Jesrina Ann Xavier and Dr Tan Ser Zian (Suzanne).

A special mention goes to Dr Mikkay Wong and Joe Lo Ying Tuan (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University) for their outstanding coordination efforts.



Congratulations to the team and everyone involved in making this achievement a reality!

Your hard work, innovation, and collaborative spirit have brought pride to Sunway Business School and Sunway University. Here's to continued success and greater accomplishments in the future.



**Sunway Netball Team clinches silver at Heriot-Watt tournament**  
**10 February 2025**



Our Sunway Netball Team shone brightly, capturing the silver medal at the Heriot-Watt Games last weekend. Their incredible dedication, teamwork, and passion propelled them to this remarkable achievement. Congratulations to the team for their hard work and resilience!

**Congratulations to BSE student on achieved the Certified Tester Foundation Level (CTFL)  
Certification  
19 February 2025**



We are thrilled to announce that Phuah Chen Han, a final year student of Bachelor of Software Engineering (Hons) has successfully achieved the Certified Tester Foundation Level (CTFL) certification! This prestigious accomplishment highlights his dedication to mastering software testing principles and practices, further solidifying his expertise in the field. CTFL certification, recognized globally, underscores Phuah Chen Han's commitment to quality assurance and professional growth. Congratulations on this remarkable milestone – your hard work and passion continue to inspire!

Associate Professor Dr Jane Gew awarded for pioneering sustainability in food waste education

21 January 2025



Congratulations to Associate Professor Dr Jane Gew Lai Ti for winning the Best Presenter Award at the 8th International Conference on Environment (ICENV) 2024 and the American Chemical Society (ACS) Travel Grant Award! Her innovative work on tackling food waste through project-based learning (PBL) aligns with SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, showcasing how education can drive sustainability and real-world impact.



## Advancing Carbon-Based Energy Research on Global Stage

18 February 2025



We are proud to congratulate Associate Professor Dr Numan Arshid for his outstanding contributions to the global scientific community through his recent keynote lecture at the 2nd International Conference on Physics Horizons and Multidisciplinary Sciences (ICPHMS-2025), organized by COMSATS University Lahore, Pakistan, and his invited lecture at the 2nd International Symposium on Carbon Materials (ISCM 2025), jointly organized by the Carbon Society of Taiwan and Ming Chi University of Technology, Taiwan.

Dr Numan Arshid's insightful presentations showcased cutting-edge research in carbon matrix based energy storage devices, materials science, and carbon-based technologies, addressing critical challenges and advancements in energy storage and sustainable materials.

## Empowering Myanmar refugee children

26 February 2025

This January, a team of dedicated Sunway's Campus With A Conscience (CWAC) volunteers embarked on a mission to inspire and educate young minds at the Myanmar Refugee Children Learning Centre (MRCLC) in Kuchai Lama.

The event aimed to enrich the lives of Year 1 students and kindergarteners. Activities were thoughtfully designed to enhance literacy, mathematics, critical thinking, language skills, and self-confidence. By fostering a nurturing and enjoyable learning environment, the programme sought to empower the children to face life's challenges with renewed strength and optimism.



Volunteers were not only facilitators of education but also compassionate companions. Through interactive and engaging sessions, the children's joy and enthusiasm for learning were palpable. The volunteers, too, left with enriched perspectives, understanding the profound impact of education and connection across diverse backgrounds.

As the day concluded, both the volunteers and children departed with invaluable memories and lessons. The Myanmar Refugee Kids Tuition Project stands as a testament to the transformative power of education and community, bridging gaps and building brighter futures, one session at a time.