

UTB BECOMES BRUNEI'S FIRST 5-PLUS STAR UNIVERSITY



-  TEACHING
-  EMPLOYABILITY
-  RESEARCH
-  INTERNATIONALISATION
-  FACILITIES
-  SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
-  INCLUSIVENESS
-  ENGINEERING - CIVIL AND STRUCTURAL

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله تعالى وبركاته

Welcome to the 26th issue of UTBPulse.

Praise to Allah SWT, we are proud to become the nation's first 5+ Star University. This significant achievement represents yet another continuous testament to our ability to make a difference in higher education. UTB also continues to move up to 126th in QS Asia University Ranking.

Due to the second wave of COVID-19, we closed our campus on 9th August 2021 and worked from home. All mode of Teaching and Learning in this Semester was carried out online.

However during the pandemic, we remained active through the signing of Memoranda of Understandings with; (1) Prestigious universities from Borneo, in establishing the "Konsortium Komputeran dan Informatik Borneo (KKIB);" (2) Shell Livewire; and (3) Serikandi Oilfield Services. Our staff and students were also active in joining competitions, talks, forum and workshops. Online teaching and learning include Lecture Series and Global Classroom.

UTB through the Faculty of Engineering successfully organized 8th BICET while Planning and Development Office and the China-ASEAN Research Institute of Guangxi University co-organized Forum on Review and Prospect of Building China-Brunei Strategic Cooperative Partnership- From Perspectives of Education and Industry.

We returned to campus on 20th November 2021, with SOP for COVID-19 transition phase in place.

I hope you will enjoy reading the 26th issue of UTBPulse.

Until then, take care everyone.

Wabillahi Taufik Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.



Zohrah Sulaiman

**Professor Dr Dayang Hj Zohrah
binti Hj Sulaiman**
Vice Chancellor
Universiti Teknologi Brunei

UTB BECOMES BRUNEI'S FIRST 5-PLUS STAR UNIVERSITY

11 September 2021 – For the first time in its history, UTB marks another mile-stone after being awarded the 5-Plus Star rating for excellence by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a world leader in Higher Education analysis based in the United Kingdom. This achievement has placed UTB amongst the fifteen universities in the world and the only university in Southeast Asia to receive the prestigious QS 5-Plus Star Award.

The 5-Plus Star Award recognises the University as an elite destination for the very best students and faculty worldwide, and acknowledges UTB's research excellence, quality in teaching, globalisation experience for students, and capacity for nurturing student talent.

Amongst other top global universities awarded the QS 5-Plus Star rating for excellence include Loughborough University, University of Glasgow and Newcastle University in the United Kingdom; North Carolina State University in the United States of America; Western University in Canada; Massey University and Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand; University of Otago, University of South Australia, University of Technology Sydney in Australia; City University of Hong Kong from Hong Kong and others. This shows that UTB is able to be at par with other prestigious universities around the world and clear indicators of UTB's ability to harness its strengths as an institution of global caliber.

This thirteen-year-old university has demonstrated promising growth from its first QS Stars audit in 2017 with an overall QS 4 Star rating. Ever since then UTB continued to improved its standings from an overall QS 5 Star in 2018 to a QS 5-Plus Star rating this year. Currently, UTB is ranked at 344 worldwide and at 40 for Young Global University under 50 years of age by QS. In the latest QS Asia University Rankings 2021 edition, UTB is ranked at 128 among a total of 634 institutions across

the continent.

According to a report by QS, UTB's recent result – the highest possible rating – was announced following a comprehensive audit and evaluation that took place from 15 April to 26 August 2021 across a range of areas including Teaching, Employability, Research, Internationalisation, Facilities, Social Responsibility, Inclusiveness and Program Strength category: Engineering – Civil and Structural. QS Star Rating is evaluated once every three years. To be rated 5-Plus Star, an institution must achieve the maximum five stars across all categories.

As a young and energetic University, UTB performs exceptionally well as it obtained perfect scores in four out of eight of its assessed categories – Teaching, Employability, Social Responsibility and Inclusiveness.

With the maximum point of 150 points in both Teaching and Employability categories, these reflects UTB's ever-growing reputation for delivering the highest standards of teaching and learning in providing quality education to its students to ensure all students achieve their fullest potential and maximise opportunities during their time of study at UTB. This also shows UTB's continuous commitment in preparing its graduates to be 360+ individuals and industry-ready.

For Social Responsibility and Inclusiveness categories, UTB received full marks of 50. As a global university that envisions to make positive impacts to society, this accomplishment has shown that UTB continues to encourage its staff and students to be involved in community service activities as well as fostering the culture of diversity and inclusion. This is also in line with the university's mission to nurture socially responsible talents deeply rooted in MIB values, and committed to building a global and entrepreneurial society in pursuit of innovation, industry-relevant capabilities, towards the fulfillment of Brunei Vision 2035.

Other aspects that enabled the University to achieve this prestigious score include Program Strength category: Engineering - Civil and Structural, which UTB performed particularly well according to the report by QS.

As the key provider of Engineering Higher Education in Brunei, this amazing result is yet another testimony to the strengths and quality of education at UTB through its efforts in pursuing



- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ TEACHING
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ EMPLOYABILITY
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ RESEARCH
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ INTERNATIONALISATION
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ FACILITIES
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ INCLUSIVENESS
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ENGINEERING - CIVIL AND STRUCTURAL

**ALHAMDULILLAH! THE VICE-CHANCELLOR
THANKS ALL STAFF AND STUDENTS FOR
THEIR HARD WORK, DEDICATION AND
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS SUCCESS!**

and retaining professional accreditations for its programmes.

The Civil Engineering and Civil Engineering with Structural Engineering pro-programmes are both accredited by the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), the Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE), the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT) and the Institute of Highway Engineers (IHE) on behalf of the UK Engineering Council.

Pleased with the university's impressive accomplishment, Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Haji Sulaiman, Vice-Chancellor of UTB shared her delights,

"Alhamdulillah, I would like to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to the inspiring leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Chancellor of UTB, continuous support of His Majesty's government, hard work of everyone at the University, the quality of our students, and the commitment of our strategic

partners. This great achievement presents a historic milestone for UTB by being the only university in the Sultanate and Southeast Asia to be rated 5-Plus Star. This is a testament, amongst others, of UTB's excellence, agility and resilience even in times of extraordinary change and uncertainty that helps propel UTB to achieve these global standards".

The Vice-Chancellor also said that she hopes the QS Star rating can become a deciding factor for prospective students, ultimately influencing their decision on university enrollment. This is in line with His Majesty's Titah During UTB Convocation in 2017, where His Majesty called upon for UTB to multiply its internationalisation efforts to attract more foreign students. His Majesty also welcomed UTB's efforts to benchmark through star ratings and rankings among the universities in Asia.

UTB REMAINS COMPETITIVE IN THE QS ASIA UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

Congratulations

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI BRUNEI
RANKED**

126



**QS WORLD UNIVERSITY
RANKINGS : ASIA**

10 November 2021 - UTB yet again marks another significant milestone after being ranked at 126 by a world leader in Higher Education analysis based in the United Kingdom - Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) in the Quacquarelli Symonds Asia University Rankings (QSAUR)

2022. The announcement was made at the QS Apple 2021 on 2 November 2021. This achievement has placed UTB amongst the top 8 Engineering and Technology university in Southeast Asia.

Despite these unprecedented times, this aspiring university

continue to demonstrate favorable growth as it climbs the ranking ladder by two places from last year's position at 128. Since its first debut in 2018, UTB continues to improve its standings from 165 to 126, over the five considered years.

In the latest 2022 edition, UTB performed among the top 19% in the QS Asia University Rankings 2022, an improvement from 20% last year. Over 687 institutions across the continent were competitively evaluated with 40 new entrants this year.

This achievement has placed UTB above other Asia prestigious universities which include Ritsumeikan University, Tokyo University of Science, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Chiba University, Osaka City University, and Sophia University in Japan; Universiti Malaysia Pahang, Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN), Management and Science University and Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) in Malaysia; Kasetsart University and King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi in Thailand; Chonnam National University, and University of Seoul in South Korea; University of Hyderabad in India; De La Salle University in the Philippines; Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember in Indonesia; and others. This shows that UTB is able to be at par with other well-established universities in Asia despite its very young age as a university.

Published annually since 2009, the QSAUR highlights the top universities in Asia each year. The methodology used to create the ranking is similar to that used for QS World University Rankings (QSWUR), but with some additional indicators and adapted weightings.

The participating institutions were assessed based on eleven indicators which include Academic Reputation, Employer Reputation, Faculty Student, Staff with PhD, Citations per Paper, Papers per Faculty, International Research Network, International Faculty, International Students, Inbound Exchange and Outbound Exchange.

As a young and striving university, UTB has done well in some of its assessed categories – Faculty Student Ratio, Academic Reputation, International Faculty, Inbound Exchange and Outbound Exchange Ratio.

At 12 regionally, the Faculty Student Ratio is the strongest indicator for UTB. This indicator assesses the ratio of full-time academic staff members employed per student enrolled. It aims to give an idea of how much contact time and academic support students at the institution may expect to receive. This achievement provides compelling evidence that UTB is committed in providing continuous support, high quality teaching and learning to its students where students can grow, develop and excel in their academic, personal and professional endeavors.

Rising twenty places from last year, UTB is now ranked

at 133 for Academic Reputation. With 30% weightage, this indicator serves as the biggest portion contributing to the overall total score. It is assessed using data from the large global survey of academics which according to QS, this year responses from over 130,000 academics were recorded. It aims to give an indication of which universities hold the strongest reputation within the international academic community.

For International Faculty, UTB has achieved the maximum indicator score of 100 for the fifth consecutive year. UTB shares the same indicator score with other prestigious universities which include the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU). This reflects that UTB remains one of the internationally attractive universities in Asia for academic staff worldwide.

Also achieving a maximum score of 100 was the Outbound Exchange indicator, which UTB shares with NTU, Singapore Management University (SMU), and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM).

Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Haji Sulaiman, UTB Vice-Chancellor is pleased with the achievement,

"Alhamdulillah I would like to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to the inspiring leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Chancellor of UTB, continuous support of His Majesty's government, and combined efforts and dedication of everyone at the University. The university has consistently climbed the ranking ladder again this year. This gives an indication of UTB's continuous effort in pursuing improvements in many important aspects in the university. I strongly believe that with a positive mindset, UTB will be able to achieve its vision to become a global university impacting society and fulfil its mission to nurture socially responsible talents deeply rooted in MIB (Malay Islamic Monarchy) values, and committed to building a global and entrepreneurial society in pursuit of innovation, industry-relevant capabilities, towards the fulfillment of Brunei Vision 2035".

39TH CONFERENCE OF ASEAN FEDERATION OF ENGINEERING ORGANISATIONS

30 November 2021 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzadin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam, the Chancellor of UTB has consented to receive the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (AFEO) Distinguished Honorary Patron award conferred by the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations. The Award was conferred in recognition of the achievements and remarkable social, economic and engineering development of Brunei Darussalam under His Majesty's wise leadership.

The conferment was announced at the Opening Ceremony of the 39th Conference of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (CAFEO 39) hosted by Pertubuhan Ukur, Jurutera dan Arkitek of Brunei Darussalam (PUJA) from 29th November to 3rd December 2021 with the theme 'Engineering and Climate Change'.

Present as the Guest of Honour at the event was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Ir. Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, Minister of Development.

Also at the ceremony, Professor Dr Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Hj Sulaiman, Vice-Chancellor of UTB was also conferred the AFEO Honorary Fellow for her contributions in spearheading the transformation of UTB into a world-class university and to be amongst the best 10 Universities of Engineering and Technology in Southeast Asia.

The awards were conferred to distinguished persons of exemplary character who have rendered outstanding and meritorious services to the engineering profession, the institution and/or the ASEAN Nations.

Meanwhile, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr Awang Haji Mat Suny bin Haji Md Hussein, Minister of Energy, who is also the Deputy

Chairman of UTB Council Members was conferred the Distinguished Honorary Fellow.

Also receiving the same fellowship as the Vice-Chancellor were Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof, Minister of Transport & Infocommunications; Yang Berhormat Mejar Jeneral (B) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Minister of Culture, Youth & Sports; Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Deputy Minister of Finance & Economy (Economy); Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Ar. Awang Haji Marzuke bin Haji Mohsin, Deputy Minister of Development and UTB Council Member; and Yang Mulia Awang Haji Idris bin Mohd Jaafar, Decommissioning and Restoration Manager of Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP).

The Opening Ceremony also saw three Keynote Addresses by the Minister of Development, Minister of Energy, and UTB Vice-Chancellor.

In her keynote address, Professor Dr Dayang Hajah Zohrah highlighted climate change, the looming disaster on a global scale that is jeopardising livelihood, the significance of engineering and technological innovations and the role of university in climate change research.

She also mentioned that Brunei although a small nation is also impacted by Climate Change. "According to the report from the 1st Brunei National Climate Change Policy launched last year revealed alarming data," she said. "Among others, Brunei has already experienced temperature increase of 0.25 degree Celcius per decade with further projected increase at a rate of 0.4 degree Celcius per decade."

She stressed that engineering and technological innovation plays a vital and central role in driving climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. "Mitigative technologies are needed to reduce GHG emissions through use of clean energy, effective and efficient use of resources and eliminating waste. While adaptive technologies allow society to respond appropriately and sustainably to the changing climate landscape."

The Vice-Chancellor also shared the university research and innovations activities related to climate change. Some of research projects conducted in UTB are Design and Built of an Electric Boat Model for Waterway Transport for Brunei (CfTR), Relay Station Network based on Low-power Wide Area Network (LPWAN) technologies for Disaster Management (CIE), Development of biodegradable food packaging (CrAFT),



Tidal Energy Resource Assessment and Mapping for Brunei Darussalam (PhD research), Fast co-pyrolysis of biomass solid wastes in Brunei Darussalam for bio-fuels (PhD research), and Design of a Tidal Turbine for Low Velocity Application (Undergraduate project).

Professor Dr Dayang Hajah Zohrah stated that in addition to research and project activities, UTB takes its role as an engineering university seriously by giving a platform to the public, bright young minds and innovators in Brunei to showcase their creative talents. “Introduced in 2005, CIPTA is a biannual competition aims to encourage and develop the culture of inventions and innovations in Brunei Darussalam. To inspire the public especially youth to develop creative products, processes and technologies,” said the Vice-Chancellor. She stated that the 9th CIPTA wrapped up in June this year with the highest ever number of participations and the projects competed varies and mainly include climate change mitigation and adaptation technologies such as flood protection, sustainable food smart and green technologies.

“Although we have seen the decline in climate change technologies innovations globally, here in Brunei, we hope to keep the innovative culture alive. Engineering and technological innovations has and will continue to play a significant role in tackling climate change,” the Vice-Chancellor concluded.

Over almost four decades, CAFEO has been a platform for ASEAN engineers to exchange ideas, information and knowledge in engineering, technology and best practices. It has also provided opportunities for engineers, scientists, engineering students and business enterprises to network and do business matching.

CAFEO 39 also saw various activities including AFEO Governing Board Meeting, Working Group Meetings, Technical Paper Presentations, Country Report Presentations, Energy Forum, Young Engineers Dialogue, Women Engineers Summit 2021 and ASEAN Engineering Outstanding Achievement Awards on 3 December 2021.



فرتبوهن اوکور جرورتو دن ارکیتیک
FERTBUHAN UKUR JURUTERA & ARKITEK
NO. 4, 7, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481, 483, 485, 487, 489, 491, 493, 495, 497, 499, 501, 503, 505, 507, 509, 511, 513, 515, 517, 519, 521, 523, 525, 527, 529, 531, 533, 535, 537, 539, 541, 543, 545, 547, 549, 551, 553, 555, 557, 559, 561, 563, 565, 567, 569, 571, 573, 575, 577, 579, 581, 583, 585, 587, 589, 591, 593, 595, 597, 599, 601, 603, 605, 607, 609, 611, 613, 615, 617, 619, 621, 623, 625, 627, 629, 631, 633, 635, 637, 639, 641, 643, 645, 647, 649, 651, 653, 655, 657, 659, 661, 663, 665, 667, 669, 671, 673, 675, 677, 679, 681, 683, 685, 687, 689, 691, 693, 695, 697, 699, 701, 703, 705, 707, 709, 711, 713, 715, 717, 719, 721, 723, 725, 727, 729, 731, 733, 735, 737, 739, 741, 743, 745, 747, 749, 751, 753, 755, 757, 759, 761, 763, 765, 767, 769, 771, 773, 775, 777, 779, 781, 783, 785, 787, 789, 791, 793, 795, 797, 799, 801, 803, 805, 807, 809, 811, 813, 815, 817, 819, 821, 823, 825, 827, 829, 831, 833, 835, 837, 839, 841, 843, 845, 847, 849, 851, 853, 855, 857, 859, 861, 863, 865, 867, 869, 871, 873, 875, 877, 879, 881, 883, 885, 887, 889, 891, 893, 895, 897, 899, 901, 903, 905, 907, 909, 911, 913, 915, 917, 919, 921, 923, 925, 927, 929, 931, 933, 935, 937, 939, 941, 943, 945, 947, 949, 951, 953, 955, 957, 959, 961, 963, 965, 967, 969, 971, 973, 975, 977, 979, 981, 983, 985, 987, 989, 991, 993, 995, 997, 999



AFEO



Congratulations

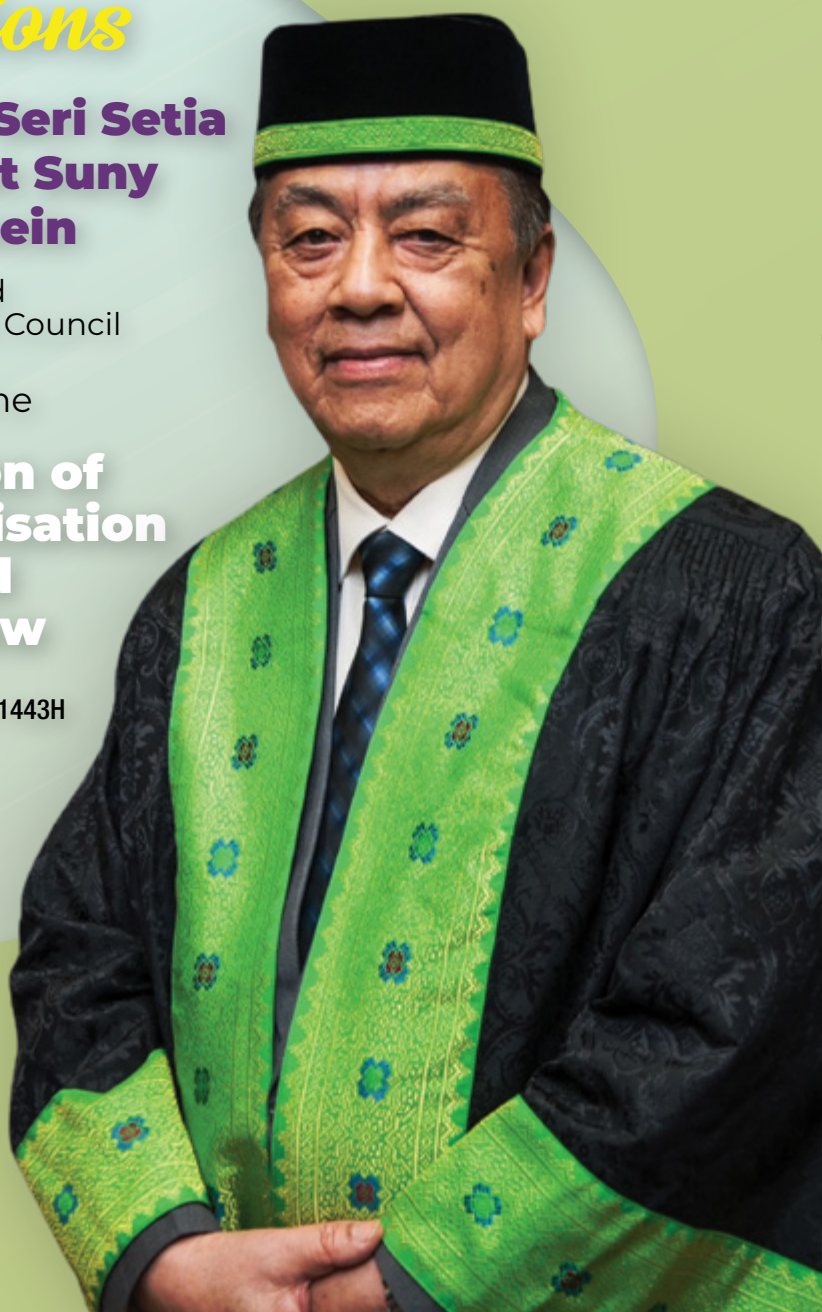
**Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia
 (Dr.) Awang Haji Mat Suny
 bin Haji Md Hussein**

Minister of Energy and
 The Deputy Chairman of UTB Council

on being conferred the

**ASEAN Federation of
 Engineering Organisation
 Distinguished
 Honorary Fellow**

30 November 2021M | 24 Rabiulakhir 1443H





فدراسیون انجینیرز اور آرکیٹیکٹس
FEDERASI ANJENIR & ARKITEK
MCAEA



AFEO



Congratulations

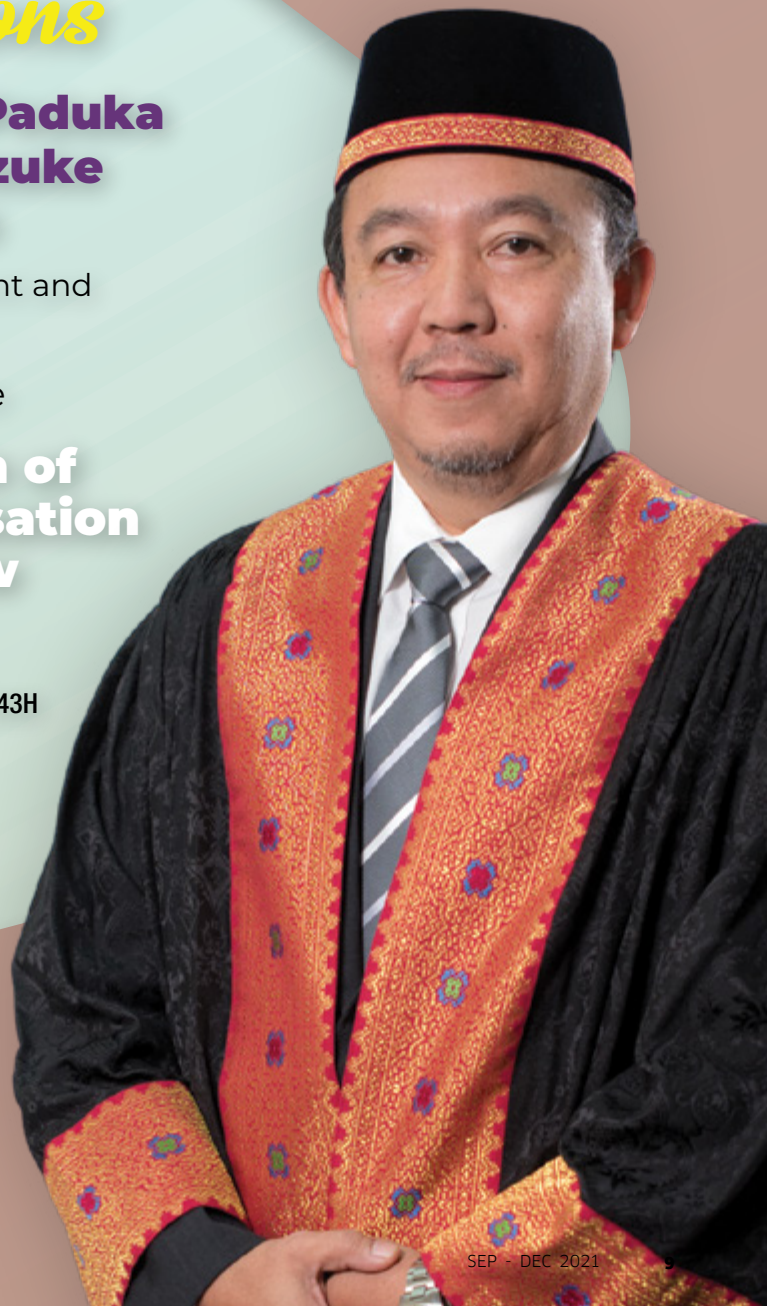
**Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka
Ar. Awang Haji Marzuke
bin Haji Mohsin**

Deputy Minister of Development and
UTB Council Member

on being conferred the

**ASEAN Federation of
Engineering Organisation
Honorary Fellow**

30 November 2021M | 24 Rabiulakhir 1443H





فرتوبھن اوکور جر ورتو دن ارکیتیک
FERTUBUHAN UKUR JURUTERA & ARKITEK
No. 47, KILIN, 11100 BHT



AFEO



Congratulations

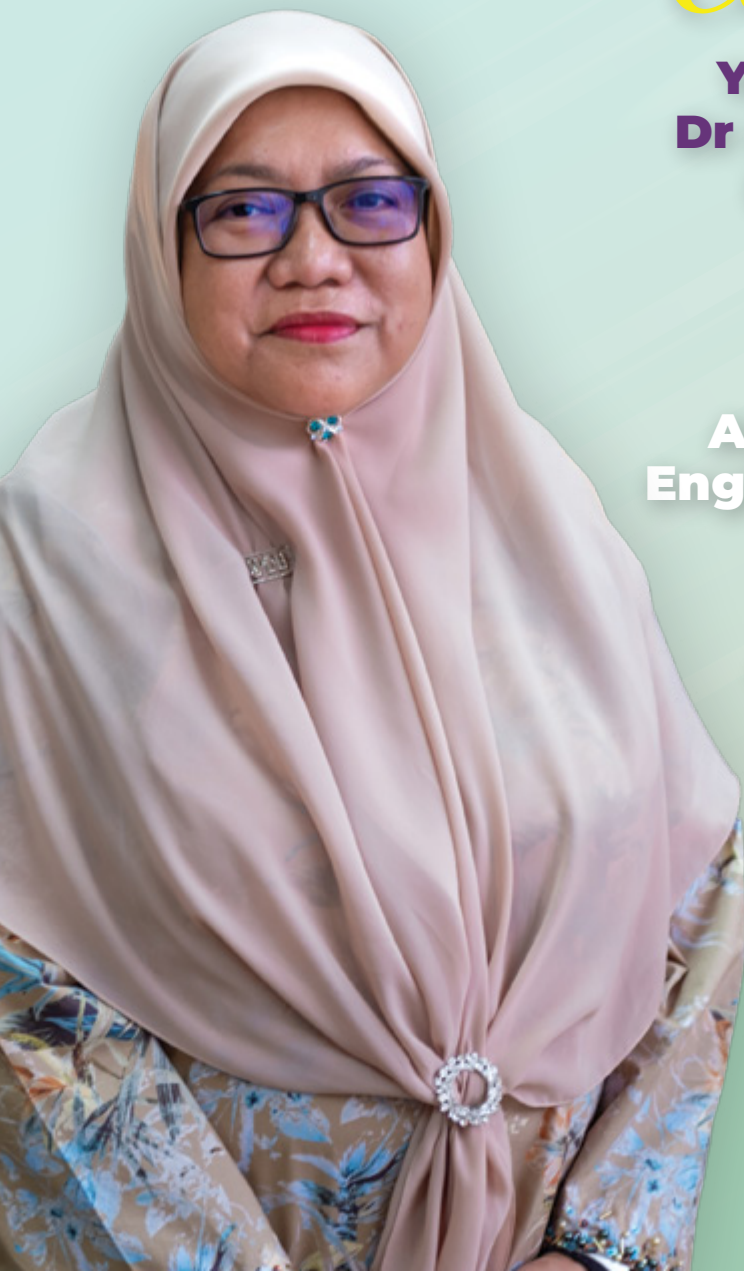
**Yang Mulia Professor
Dr Dayang Hajah Zohrah
binti Haji Sulaiman**

Vice-Chancellor,
Universiti Teknologi Brunei

on being conferred the

**ASEAN Federation of
Engineering Organisation
Honorary Fellow**

30 November 2021M | 24 Rabiulakhir 1443H



13

YEARS AS A
UNIVERSITY

“Selaras dengan perkembangan, beta telah memperkenankan bagi Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB) dinaikkan tarafnya kepada sebuah universiti dengan mengekalkan namanya ITB.”

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) at the 18th Teacher's Day Celebration on 18 October 2008.







COVID-19 DONATION DRIVE

18 November 2021 - In view of the resurgence of COVID-19 outbreak in the country, UTB managed to raise a total of BND\$6,448.40 in pandemic aid from the 'COVID-19 Donation Drive 2.0' organised by Student Affairs Office, and BND\$2,469.69 from the 'UTB Care 1.2' organised by the students from the ExCo Community Service & Project, and Community Service & Volunteering Club.

The donation drives aimed to alleviate the burdens of those impacted by COVID-19 since the onset of the second wave. The COVID-19 Donation Drive 2.0 and UTB Care 1.2 were collected amongst the university staff and students which took place from 19 to 31 August 2021 and from 13 to 18 September 2021 respectively.

Following its first installment last year, the COVID-19 Donation Drive 2.0 has expanded into three other initiatives.

First of the three initiatives was held on 14 September 2021 where seventeen local and international students residing at the University and Core Residential College received daily necessities such as food and hygiene supplies from the donation drive proceeds. The distribution hoped to provide sustenance for the students who are unable to travel back home during this partial lockdown.

Another initiative was to support the university students

with virtual learning difficulties. Ever since the second wave of the COVID-19, all education institutions and schools have resorted to online teaching and learning. Following this, UTB initiated a fund for e-learning to help students facing financial challenges with internet data usage for online learning. A total of BND\$1,500 was collected and given to fifty recipients in a monetary form through online banking.

Meanwhile the third initiative, a sum of BND\$3,500 has been allocated from the donation drive and channeled directly to the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Relief Fund through a handover ceremony held on 20 October 2021. On behalf of UTB, the contribution was handed over by Awang Lim Chui Hua, Registrar and Secretary, to Awang Kamarul Azam bin Hj Mohamad, Director of Administration and Finance, Ministry of Health.

As for UTB Care 1.2, the donation drive aimed to donate essential items to the medical front liners. Among the items that were being purchased from the proceeds were bottles of shampoos and body wash, medical face masks, and gloves. The supplies were delivered to RIPAS Sports Complex on 18 November 2021.

STAFF & STUDENTS STEP UP DURING THE PANDEMIC

30 December 2021 - As the year 2021 comes to an end, the country's second wave of COVID-19 has brought together people from all walks of life through the whole-of-nation approach. Frontliners, volunteers, and everyone involved continue to devote their time and energy to contain the pandemic.

Staff and graduate students from UTB have stepped forward to help the community in many ways, including staffing vaccination centers, preparing food rations, contacting patients, managing data entries, and assisting in maintaining hospital equipment.



*Dk Siti Ariana binti Pg Hj Yusof ↑
Assistant Registrar (Examinations and Progression)
Deployed Venue: National COVID-19 Coordination Centre
(N3C) at International Convention Centre*

“ Ever since the second wave, we have been assigned to contact positive patients for transfer into Isolation Centre as well as to man the OPS Pulih Talian Aduan, where we attend to any report by the public on SOP violation during OPS Pulih.

My experience so far provides a depth perspective of what the whole nation approach means. It enables us to network with other ministry personnel and learns how they approach crisis, workflow, and communication style. Communicating with members of the public also provides us perspective on their thinking culture during this pandemic.

”

“ At the coordination centre, we were given a list of patients to call for a specific time limit which is around 45 minutes for 80 patients. We delegate the tasks according to the group to meet the time given. At first, it was challenging to interact with those who were unwilling to cooperate; however, it was an invaluable experience to handle other similar situations.

Learning from the experience that we work as a team, we intend to make the operation smoothly. Time management is vital in all organisations as well as precision in collecting the data as it will be used for the statistics and the decision making.

After the MoH press conference regarding the Opeasi Pulih's hotline, we were assigned as coordinators to each hotline number. As my first time as an operator, I received WhatsApp text messages and phone calls for about 2 hours. It was tiring, but I managed to entertain them even though most were unrelated cases where I had to divert their calls to various hotline numbers. ”



*Mohamad Naquiddin bin Md Salleh ↑
Assistant Registrar, UTB School of Business
Deployed Venue: National COVID-19 Coordination Centre
(N3C) at International Convention Centre*



“ I was assigned as BruHealth Support member, where we dealt with BruHealth related emails, Registration Data Entry and BruHIMS Inventory Management. Throughout the volunteering period, I find it very knowledgeable and challenging at the same time when handling with users related issues. However, dealing with the users' issues had helped me boost my communication skills.

We had a day where all the volunteers and attachment students were assigned to call a list of users to ask questions. We encountered many types of users during that session which was quite memorable. ”

*↑ Name: Muhammad Fauzan Haji Salleh
Programme Area: BSc in Computer Network and Security,
School of Computing & Informatics
Year: Class of 2021
Deployed Venue: Healthcare Technology Department, Ministry of Health HQ*



Name: Muhammad Amirul Hazman Bin Md Zain ↑
 Programme Area: BEng in Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
 Year: Class of 2021
 Deployed Venue: Vaccination Centre (Indoor Stadium)

“ It is very rewarding to be given the opportunity to volunteer and contribute to the community especially during this pandemic. To ensure the smooth process in managing COVID-19 vaccines to the patients, I was assigned to work in one of the cubicles and in each cubicle, there are three duties/responsibilities: the verifier, logger, and vaccinator. Myself, as the Vaccinator responsible for administering the vaccine to the patients.

Coming from a chemical engineering background, I gained a lot of new knowledge about vaccines as it is something that I have never experienced as a student before. Although it was nerve-wrecking applying it for the first time, the advice and training we received made me feel confident and comfortable with the task.

”

“ I was under IT support, so I assembled computers, repaired computer hardware and fixed any technical issues to ensure all computers ran smoothly. Initially, it was daunting as KB was known as the “red zone” due to the high number of COVID cases at that time, but by adhering to SOP, the fear lessened, and I adjusted to the environment of the hospital.

My academic background did not necessarily match the tasks given, so I learned a lot of new things as a volunteer, such as assembling computers and tackling technical computer issues.

”



Name: Naderah Nabelah ↑
 Programme Area: BSc in Creative Multimedia,
 School of Computing & Informatics
 Year: Class of 2021
 Deployed Venue: Suri Seri Begawan Hospital, Kuala Belait



Name: Khairunadiyah binti Kiffle ↑

Programme Area: BEng in Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering

Year: Class of 2021

Deployed Venue: Estate management in PMMPMHAMB Hospital Tutong & Food distributors at Kompleks Sukan Tutong (KST)

“

I am aware that being as a volunteer has to sacrifice my time and risk throughout the pandemic, but I am dedicated to contribute and continue to devote to the benefits of others.

Having the experience to be attached at two different places have given me the opportunity to serve as frontliner. We put our best effort to assist in the maintenance of all equipment inside the buildings so that it could operate immediately and without failure. The hospital and Sukarelawan Belia take excellent care of the frontline staff and volunteers, and remind us to be extra cautious by requiring us to wear complete PPE within particular areas such as National Isolation Centre and NICE, and scrubs/apron as our uniform when on duty.

I could not imagine how my life would turn out if I don't meet people alongside with me who fight throughout this pandemic. Without them, I wouldn't be able to know how strong our people could be as a team by risking their lives to help others.

”



BORNEO PRESTIGIOUS UNIVERSITIES JOIN FORCES TO FORM COMPUTING AND INFORMATICS CONSORTIUM

18 June 2021 - The collaboration between UTB and four other prestigious universities in Borneo was officiated through a signing ceremony to pave way for the establishment of Konsortium Komputeran dan Informatik Borneo (KKIB). The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with KKIB university members was first initiated in March this year.

The KKIB University members include Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) from Malaysia, Universitas Mulia and Universitas Mulawarman from Indonesia and UTB.

Signing the MoU on behalf of UTB was Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Hj Sulaiman, Vice-Chancellor. Representing UMS was Professor Datuk ChM. Ts. Dr. Taufiq Yap Yun Hin, Vice-Chancellor and for UNIMAS was Professor Datuk Dr. Mohamad Kadim bin Suaidi, Vice-Chancellor. Meanwhile from Univesitas Mulia, the memorandum was signed by Dr. Agung Sakti Pribadi, Rector, and Professor Dr. Haji Masjaya, Rector signed on behalf of Universitas Mulawarman.

Aimed at achieving three main areas - research, academic and postgraduate, the establishment

of this consortium will provide an international platform for university members to promote and boost academic cooperation, as well as implement postgraduate exchange programmes in the field of computer science and information technology.

All five consortium members have also virtually discussed on the KKIB initiatives and deliverables during a joint university retreat held on 27 July 2020. The idea of the consortium was initiated by UMS that intended to enhance collaboration and establish academic exchanges between universities in Borneo.

Hosted by UMS, the virtual event began with remarks by the Vice-Chancellors and Rectors from the five university members followed by a video presentation of KKIB's establishment before the signing.

Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah mentioned that UTB, led by the university's School of Computing & Informatics (SCI) is grateful and honored to be selected as member of the Consortium. "Through this collaboration with KKIB, UTB and SCI would greatly benefit from the joint courses, seminars, and workshops, as well participation in conferences organised by KKIB," she added.

According to the UTB Vice-Chancellor, UTB always welcomes collaborations in areas of common interests as university collaborations have evolved tremendously where the university is not just focusing on longstanding commitment to serve the public good but also help attract the resources, relationships, and recognition necessary for these institutions to be competitive in an environment. "Collaborations and partnerships are becoming more essential for the institution to adapt and thrive amid economic volatility, demographic shifts, and technological developments," she said.



“中国—文莱战略合作伙伴关系建设——以产业与教育互动为视角”论坛 Forum on Review and Prospect of Building China-Brunei Strategic Cooperative Partnership — From Perspectives of Education and Industry



BRUNEI-CHINA RELATIONSHIP STRENGTHENS AT A FORUM

19 June 2021 - In conjunction with the 30th anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between China and Brunei, the China-ASEAN Research Institute of Guangxi University and Planning & Development Office of UTB co-organised a Forum on Review and Prospect of Building China-Brunei Strategic Cooperative Partnership — From Perspectives of Education and Industry.

Attending the forum as the guests of honour were Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy; Wang Naixue, Vice Chairman of the CPPCC of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region; and Her Excellency Yu Hong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam.

At the opening forum, notable figures in academia including Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Hj Sulaiman, Vice-Chancellor of UTB, and His Excellency Xu Bu, Dean, China Institute of International Affairs; Former Chinese Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to ASEAN delivered the keynote speeches.

Highlighting on UTB-People's Republic of China: Past, Present and Future Collaborations, Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah mentioned that UTB and the People's Republic of China had enjoyed a good relationship over the years through students and staff cultural exchange and industrial collaborations.

The Vice-Chancellor shared a titah of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam and Chancellor of UTB during the UTB Convocation Ceremony in 2014, in which His Majesty stressed the importance of UTB to form a triple helix strategic alliance among academia, industry, and government, to bring multinational corporations on campus and to work together in partnership to offer the latest in science or emerging science. "This concept has since then expanded to a Quadruple Helix Engagement, which involves innovation-driven user or user-centric innovation. On this note, UTB has established Groups of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Labs on campus with the role to provide platforms for staff, students, and stakeholders to come together to innovate, build prototypes, and discover creativity," she said.

Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah also shared information regarding UTB collaboration with industries from the People's Republic of China, such as establishing UTB-Sesame World STI Lab and Huawei ICT Academy. She added that Huawei has also been providing opportunities to UTB students through the Huawei Seeds for the Future programme, which is an excellent

platform to furnish students with skills and knowledge that could bridge communications between countries and cultures.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, with the university's effort in sustaining and developing a relationship with the industries, UTB and Hengyi Industries are currently in discussion for the provision of scholarships for the Engineering Programme in UTB. "We also have indirect involvement with Hengyi through the Centre for Transport Research on Ash and Slag Review Taskforce with the Ministry of Energy," she added.

"Touching on the topic of knowledge transfer, the Chinese Shelf was successfully launched at the UTB Library last year, where UTB had received over 400 books donated by the Chinese Embassy," said the Vice-Chancellor. She believes that the Chinese Shelf has contributed to UTB efforts in developing students into global citizens who appreciate culture and viewpoints and are sensitive to issues affecting the global community.

Other programmes and activities that UTB had benefited greatly were the attachment of Chinese volunteers at UTB during the Academic Session 2018/2019; the expertise provided by former academic staff from People's Republic of China for contributing to UTB's progress especially research paper publications, teaching and learning; and when UTB's Faculty of Engineering Senior Professor has affiliations with Northwestern University and Huanghe Jiaotong University as Consultant Professor and Distinguished Professor respectively.

Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah understands that this forum is a platform where academics, researchers, policy makers, and practitioners share and discuss their research findings and critical analysis on current issues and development on the bilateral relationship between Brunei and China from Education,

International Cooperation, and Industries perspectives. She mentioned that through regular academic exchanges among not only scholars but also various experts from the Public and Private Sectors, this human network will contribute to the consolidation of mutual cooperation and encourage future collaborations.

The Vice-Chancellor concluded her speech by hoping Brunei and China will continue to work together to further strengthen the synergy of respective national development strategies and support the sustainable development of both countries' economies and their diversification endeavors. "To enhance capacity building in UTB, we are always looking forward to strengthening our partnership with industries and institutions in China, such as the one we have now."

The signing of the Academic Cooperative Agreement between the Civil Engineering and Architecture of Guangxi University, China and UTB's Faculty of Engineering was also held at the beginning of the event. The agreement will emphasise collaborations in several fields, including joint research, academic, participation in seminars/workshops, and exchange of students, faculty members, and staff.

The one-day forum featured three panel sessions, namely Section I: Review and Prospect of the 30th Anniversary of the Establishments of Diplomatic Relations Between P.R.China and Brunei Darussalam, Section II: Prospects and Opportunities for Education Cooperation Between P.R.China and Brunei Darussalam, and Section III: Prospects and Opportunities for Industrial Cooperation Between P.R.China and Brunei Darussalam.

Among the speakers from UTB who spearheaded the session was Jennifer Voon, Director of Industry Liaison Office, and delivering the closing remarks was Dr. Lim Tiong Hoo, Director of Planning & Development Office, respectively.

The forum was held through an online platform and co-supported by the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Brunei Darussalam, Foreign Affairs Office of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Brunei Darussalam. Guangxi University of China, Universiti Teknologi Brunei, and China-ASEAN Collaborative Innovation Center for Regional Development Co-constructed by the Province and Ministry were the co-sponsors for the event.





MITSUBISHI CORPORATION GRANTS SCHOLARSHIP TO SELECTED STUDENTS

27 September 2021 – UTB signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Mitsubishi Corporation (MC) to provide financial support in the form of scholarship to selected undergraduate students who are currently studying at UTB.

Signing the MoU on behalf of UTB was the Vice-Chancellor of UTB and representing Mitsubishi Corporation was Ms. Noriko Iizuka, International CSR Team Leader, Corporate Sustainability & CSR Department. At the event, Ms. Noriko Iizuka was represented by Mr. Tadashi Hara, Country Representative, Brunei Liaison Office of Mitsubishi Corporation; who signed in the presence of the Guest of Honour.

Prior to the signing, the event began with welcoming remarks by the Vice-Chancellor of UTB followed by the Country Representative from Brunei Liaison Office of Mitsubishi Corporation. The signing then proceeded with the presentation of the mock cheque.

Delivering her remarks, Professor Dr Dayang Hajah Zohrah expressed her appreciation to Mitsubishi Corporation for selecting UTB as the recipient of the Mitsubishi International Scholarships Program. She mentioned that this

scholarship collaboration is another great example on how university and industry can collaborate for mutual benefits, Mitsubishi contributes to the development of talented workforce and the University benefits from students who are motivated to be the best they can be.

Mr. Tadashi Hara, in his remarks, said, “This International Scholarship is to foster human resources for the development of home country and the global society in the future. This could be considered as a part of our support that will contribute to Brunei Vision 2035.”

Under the MoU, Mitsubishi Corporation will fund scholarships to the selected five most deserving full-time undergraduate students at the university. The scholarship with the total amount of BND \$10,000 will be shared among the students and awarded as a tuition fee that covers one year of the 2021/2022 academic session.

The recipients consisting of first year to final year students were selected based on criteria mutually agreed by both parties which include students’ financial background, academic performance and extracurricular activities. The scholarship is also hoped to enhance the learning effectiveness of the recipients.



MAULIDUR RASUL 1443H

28 October 2021 – The Religious Unit of Student Affairs Office and ExCo Religious and Spiritual hosted a virtual religious talk to mark the Maulidur Rasul 1443H.

In honour of the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad, the event began with a recitation of Selawat followed by a religious talk entitled ‘Rasulullah Kekasih Allah, Kekasih ku Dunia Akhirat’. Highlighting that muslim are obliged to love Prophet Muhammad, the talk was delivered by Ustaz Muhammad Nasyith bin Superi, Religious Officer from the Islamic Da’wah Centre under the Ministry of Religious Affairs.



LAUNCHING OF THE PROFESSOR MARYAM MIRZAKHANI SHELF

27 March 2021 – The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Brunei Darussalam donated a collection of books to UTB, as part of its effort to further strengthen the educational exchanges between Iran and Brunei. Professor Maryam Mirzakhani Shelf was launched at the UTB Library at a virtual ceremony hosted by UTB.

The hand-over of the books was witnessed by the Guest of Honour, His Excellency Dr. Saeed Khatib Zadeh, Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Her Excellency Madam Homeira Rigi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Brunei Darussalam virtually handed the collection of books to Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Hj Sulaiman, Vice-Chancellor of UTB.

The Guest of Honour, during his speech, while emphasising the good relations between the two countries in various fields, he announced the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to start scientific and academic cooperation with Brunei Darussalam. “The beautiful country of

Brunei Darussalam, due to the ruler and good people, has always been mentioned as a good country in Persian historical books,” said His Excellency.

Her Excellency Madam Homeira Rigi, Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran said the opening of Professor Maryam Mirzakhani shelf coincides with the beginning of the book week in the Islamic Republic of Iran. “This valuable event is a step towards promoting scientific and academic cooperation between the two countries. Academic cooperation contributes to the scientific development of the countries, and I am proud to announce that valuable steps have been taken in this regard, which will achieve good operational results with the efforts of the officials of the two countries,” she added.

Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah expressed her appreciation for the generous donation and said that these books are valuable additions to UTB students and staff. “I believe that the Professor Maryam Mirzakhani Shelf can contribute in our effort to develop our students into global citizens who appreciate cultures, viewpoints and are sensitive to issues affecting the global community,” added UTB Vice-Chancellor.

The event then continued with the launching of Professor Maryam Mirzakhani Shelf through a video presentation.



Professor Maryam Mirzakhani Shelf contains over 30 publications that highlight the contributions made by prominent scholars on several branches of knowledge, especially in the fields of science and architecture. The shelf also covers diverse topics on Iran history, language, literature, arts, and heritage.

Professor Maryam Mirzakhani, after whom the publication corner was named, is known as an Iranian mathematician who became the first woman and the first Iranian to be awarded a Fields Medal, the most prestigious honour in mathematics.

The Embassy's book donation is hoped to act as distinctive additions to the library's growing Foreign Mission collection as well as foster the love for reading amongst the UTB community while strengthening bilateral ties between both countries.



SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Shell LiveWIRE (B) Sdn Bhd and Universiti Teknologi Brunei



UTB INKED WITH SHELL LIVEWIRE BRUNEI TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION IN THE AREAS OF STEM

8 December 2021 – Shell LiveWIRE Brunei and UTB signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen, promote, and develop research cooperation in all fields between the two parties on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

Signing on behalf of UTB was Dr. Mohamad Saiful bin Hj Omar, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Industry & Services), and representing Shell LiveWIRE Brunei was Dayang Hajah Rosita binti Haji Hassan, In-Country Value Manager of Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) and Chairperson of Shell LiveWIRE Brunei.

The signing was witnessed by Professor Dr. Kamariah binti Ismail, Director of Enterprise office, UTB and Awang Hj Abdul Yusrin bin DSLJ Hj Mohd Salleh, Programme Director, Shell LiveWIRE Brunei.

Awang Hj Abdul Yusrin mentioned in his remarks that Shell LiveWIRE Brunei looks forward to providing the classic offering of coaching, mentoring and entrepreneurship programmes and to also offering an avenue or platform to provide opportunities for students' innovative ideas to be showcased with access to subject matter experts for advice and developments

into prospective technopreneurships. "It is highly hoped that the MoU serves as a platform for everyone to the best practices and opportunities that are available as well as an opportunity to reinvigorate networking and expand the horizon further," he added.

Meanwhile, Professor Dr. Kamariah stated that UTB welcomes collaboration in areas of common interests to strengthen the Quadraplex Helix to attract resources, knowledge, and technology foresight to maintain UTB as a competitive institution and source of industrial innovation. "We believe that such partnerships will bring about commercialisable quality research output through strategic grants that will help build a dynamic ecosystem with tangible results for the nation," she said.

She is also delighted that Shell LiveWIRE has collaborated with UTB to run training, seminars, and hackathons, and initiated a few commercialisation activities among the students.

The newly signed MoU serves as a general framework to encourage cooperation and collaborations in various areas of mutual interest between UTB and Shell LiveWIRE. Both parties are particularly interested in providing entrepreneurship skills training and workshops and organising mini hackathons for undergraduates, postgraduates, and research students of the university in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).



UTB SIGNED WITH SERIKANDI OILFIELD SERVICES FOR INDUSTRIAL EXPOSURE

13 December 2021 – UTB and Serikandi Oilfield Services Sdn Bhd have signed an MOU as a step forward to bridge the gap between the university's curriculum and industrial needs. In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the virtual signing event was jointly organised by UTB and Serikandi Oilfield Services via video conference.

At the virtual event, signing on behalf of UTB was Professor Dr Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Hj Sulaiman, Vice-Chancellor and representing Serikandi Oilfield Services was Shaikh Khalid bin Shaikh Haji Ahmad, Chairman and Managing Director.

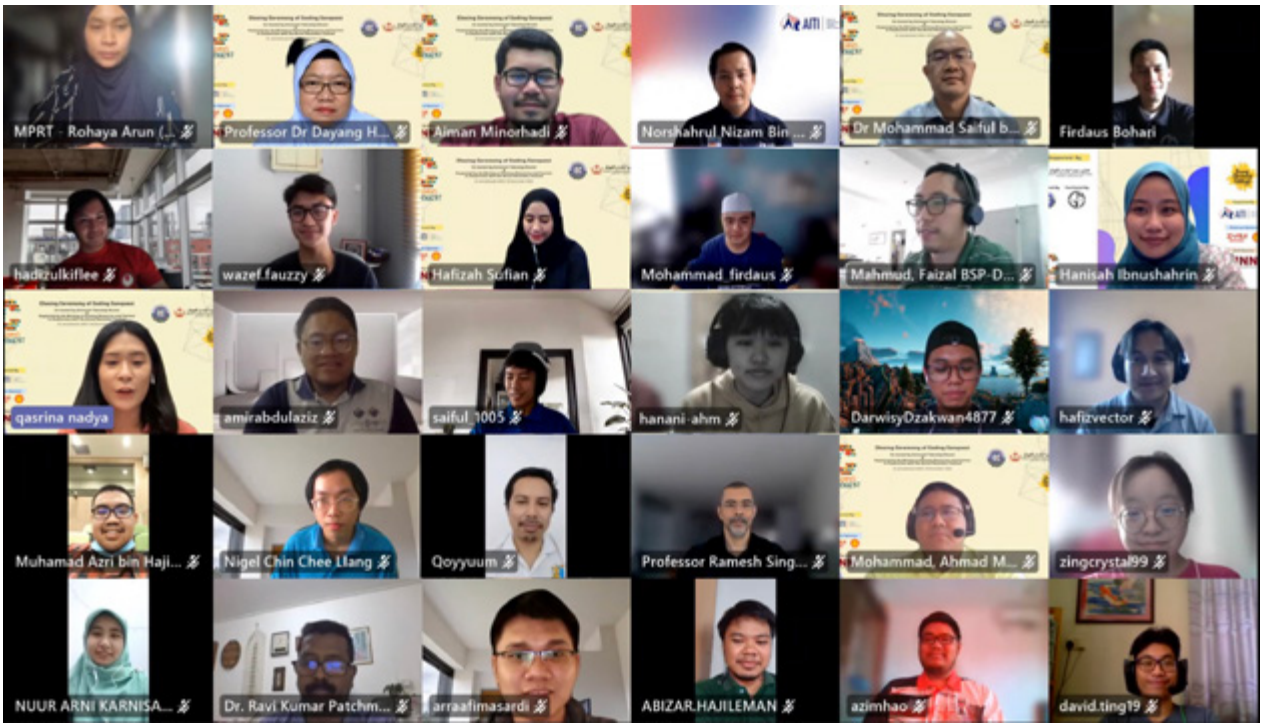
In his remarks, Shaikh Khalid iterated that Serikandi's core values are inspired by Brunei Wawasan 2035 to be a dynamic and sustainable economy, high quality of life and accomplishment of its well educated and highly skilled people. One of the company's key business strategic objectives is to develop young talents to reach to their full potential and professionalism so they can contribute to Serikandi's and the Nation as a knowledge-based economy.

Meanwhile, Professor Dr Dayang Hajah Zorah mentioned that in realising the aspiration of Wawasan Brunei 2035 and to build a Smart Nation, she is optimistic that both parties will reach to a stage by listening and responding to the world around us, adapt and progress to a new environment and positive work values needed to meet the demands of the changing industry and global environment.

The Vice-Chancellor hoped that UTB and Serikandi Oilfield Services will find ways to work together as entering the endemic phase of COVID-19. She emphasised to not limit the collaboration with the Faculty of Engineering but also to engage the Centre for Innovative Engineering, other relevant Schools and Centres of the university as well. "We hope to form strategic partnership with focus on developing win-win opportunities, aligning our strategic interests, building strong strategic and technical-level relationships," she added.

Under this MoU, UTB through the Faculty of Engineering and Serikandi Oilfield Services will focus in the areas of curriculum development for students and staff including joint activities such as talks for students and University-Industry forum, staff and student attachment, consultancy work and joint research.

This collaboration hopes to improve students' employability skills and enable the sharing of academic knowledge and research initiatives that could bring a wide range of benefits to the community, university, and the industry. So far this year, Serikandi has provided placement for 20 internship students from higher institutions including UTB.



CODING CONQUEST 2021

19 December 2021 – In conjunction with the Brunei December Festival 2021, the Coding Conquest 2021 concluded with a prize presentation ceremony which was handed by Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Haji Sulaiman, Vice-Chancellor of UTB as the Guest of Honour. The hackathon, which is a platform for youths and technology enthusiasts to solve problems through innovative solutions, was held from 6 December until 19 December 2021.

The conquest is co-hosted by UTB through its School of Computing and Informatics, supported by the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) and Authority for Info-Communications Technology Industry (AITI), and facilitated by Grominda Sdn Bhd. The event is sponsored by Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) Company Sdn Bhd and Unified National Networks (UNN) Sdn Bhd.

At the prize presentation ceremony, a remark was presented by Yang Mulia Md. Nur Aiman bin Haji Minorhadi, CEO of Grominda Sdn Bhd and facilitator of Brunei Coding Conquest 2021.

The ceremony then concluded with handing over the prize presentation to the winners. Presented by the Guest of Honour, Team 8 – Kebun Kitani emerged as the first place winner

for the Hackathon and took home \$700 cash prize. Team 6 – Kenali Makan Kitani went as first runner up with a \$500 prize and was presented by Awang Ahmad Musaddiq Mohammad, Data Scientist of BSP. Last but not least, presented by Dayang Hafizah Sufian, Data Analytics Lead of UNN, Team 3 – Farm Record Tracking System placed as second runner up with a \$300 cash prize.

The six-day competition, from 13 until 18 December 2021, saw forty-nine participants' participation divided into teams of four to five members. The hackathon was divided into three significant sprints where they were tasked to tackle current issues faced by various agencies and industries. The sprints were designed to provide solutions on the areas of Agriculture, Tourism, Food and Beverages, and Enterprise Solutions starting.

Prior to the hackathon, the participants went through a comprehensive series of workshops that involved industry experienced trainers and mentors using the approach of in-depth learning and application of skill. They also attended a one-week training on Design Thinking, Programming, Presentation, and Sprint planning as their preparation.

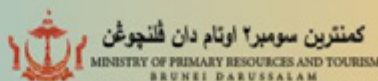
Each sprint took two days for the participants to complete followed by a presentation from the participating teams to the panel of judges. The solutions were judged on Viability in the market, Team capability, Technologies Integration/ Prototype, Presentation and Growth strategy.



Co-Hosted By



Supported By



Congratulations to Our Winners!



First Place Winner!

Team B - Kebun Kitani (Amir Abdul Aziz bin Muhammad Ali Arman, Dave Ting Jian Xue, Abdul Qoyyuum bin Haji Abdul Kadir, Muhammad Wazef Mubarak Bin Mohamad Fauzzy, Presented by Yang Mulia Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah Binti Hj Sulaiman, Vice Chancellor of UTB.

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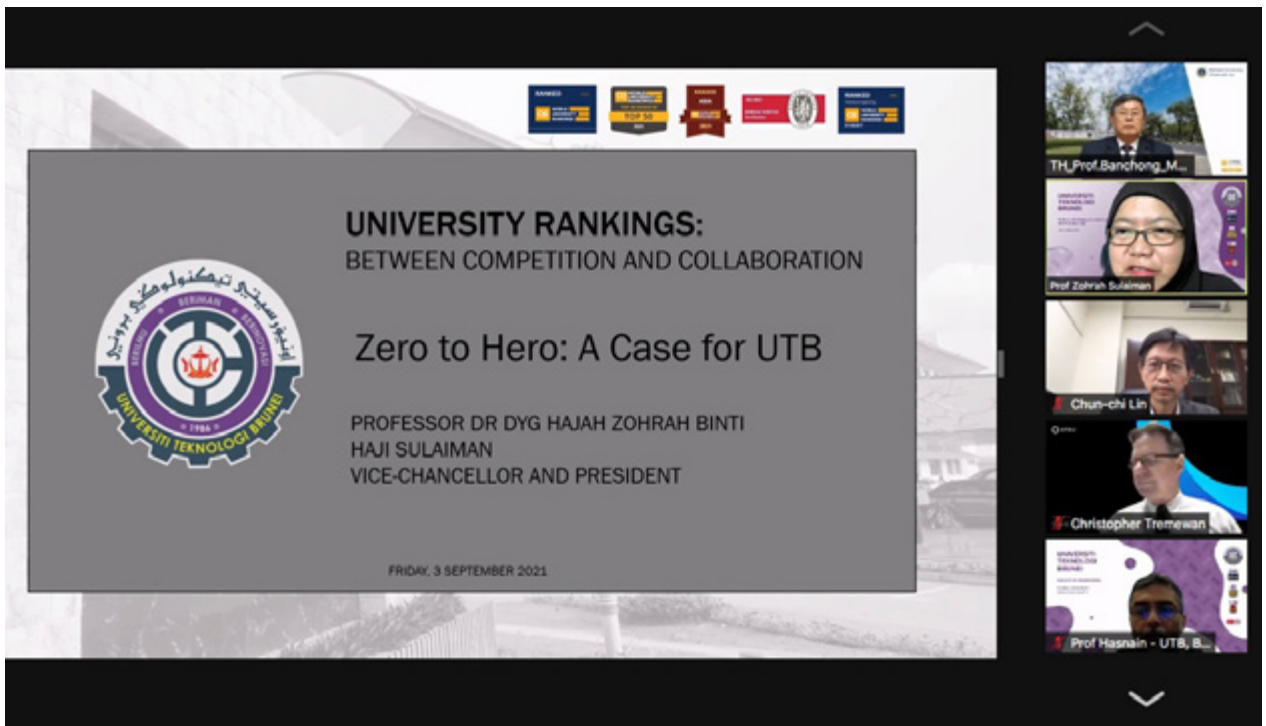


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10TH ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION CONFERENCE ON COOPERATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

3 September 2021 – With the theme Ten Years Standing Together: Global Education Foresight, eminent academic representatives from APEC country members, economies and beyond including UTB gathered at the 10th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference on Cooperation in Higher Education in Asia Pacific (APEC CCHE) to engage in a dialogue and discuss on a wide range of issues and challenges in education, science, and human capital development, as well as integrating Asia Pacific countries’ education systems. This conference also aims to offer insights into expanding and improving APEC educational partnerships.

The three-day conference was organised by the Far Eastern Federal University with the support from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation; the APEC Human Resources Development Working Group; and the APEC Education Network.

The conference focused on three tracks of

discussions - Track 1: Reaching for New Partnerships, Track 2: Addressing the Needs of the Future and Track 3: Unleashing the Potential. Each respective tracks has three session topics following its respective areas.

UTB Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Hj Sulaiman was one of the panel speakers for Track 3 along with Professor Banchong Mahaisavariya, President of Mahidol University and Professor Chun-Chi Lin, Vice-President for International Affairs, National Taiwan Normal University. These prominent speakers shared their views and insights on University Rankings: Between Competition and Collaboration (Session 2).

In the session, Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah highlighted on the importance of university rankings and how it evaluates quality and global impact of the institution through academic reputation, views of employers, teaching, research and ability to attract international talents.

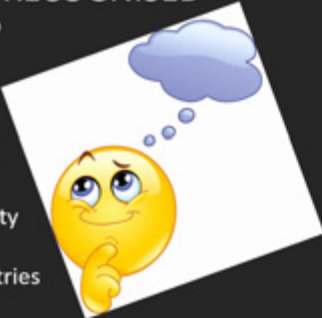
She believes that through ranking, the university is able to position itself among other universities in the world (benchmarking to best practices) and to be recognised globally. It also able to attract global talents as well as both national and international collaborations especially with industries.




IT IS IMPORTANT FOR UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI BRUNEI TO BE RECOGNISED GLOBALLY, WHY AND HOW?


Benefits to UTB:

- (1) Positioning among universities in the World (benchmarking to best practices);
- (2) Globally recognised as a prominent university
- (3) Attract global talents
- (4) Attract collaborations especially from industries





Engaging Minds . Pioneering Growth



As for UTB's way forward, the Vice-Chancellor mentioned that the university will not only depend solely on ranking as the only tool to measure its key performance indicators (KPIs), UTB also participates in QS Star Rating which is entirely based on institution's performance.

"Insyah'Allah, UTB will continue to strive to become a 'Global University Impacting Society'. As UTBians, we are true to our values - Pious, Professional, Passionate, Innovative, Engaging and Scholarly," said the Vice-Chancellor. These values cannot be measured by criteria set in World or Asian University Ranking.

The emergence of university rankings has become a manifestation of this competitive higher education environment. Thus, the centerpiece of the Session 2 was to outline how to transform university rankings from a field of a stringent rivalry between universities into a tool for fruitful engagement.



ACADEMICS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN VIRTUAL EVENTS

11 October 2021 - Over the course of partial lockdown, lecturers have been working from home and are actively involved in numerous webinars and online discussion events. These virtual events have given a safe way in bringing together speakers from around the world including UTB academics to enhance knowledge sharing and research findings.

Professor Nore Beston, Director of Centre for Research on Agri-Food Science & Technology (CrAFT) and a lecturer from School of Applied Sciences & Mathematics, shared his expertise on food science at the 'e-Brunei International Conference of Education, Social Studies and Sciences 2021' on 9 September 2021. The event was organised by Univesiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) in collaboration with Universitas Mulawarman and Universiti Sains Malaysia.

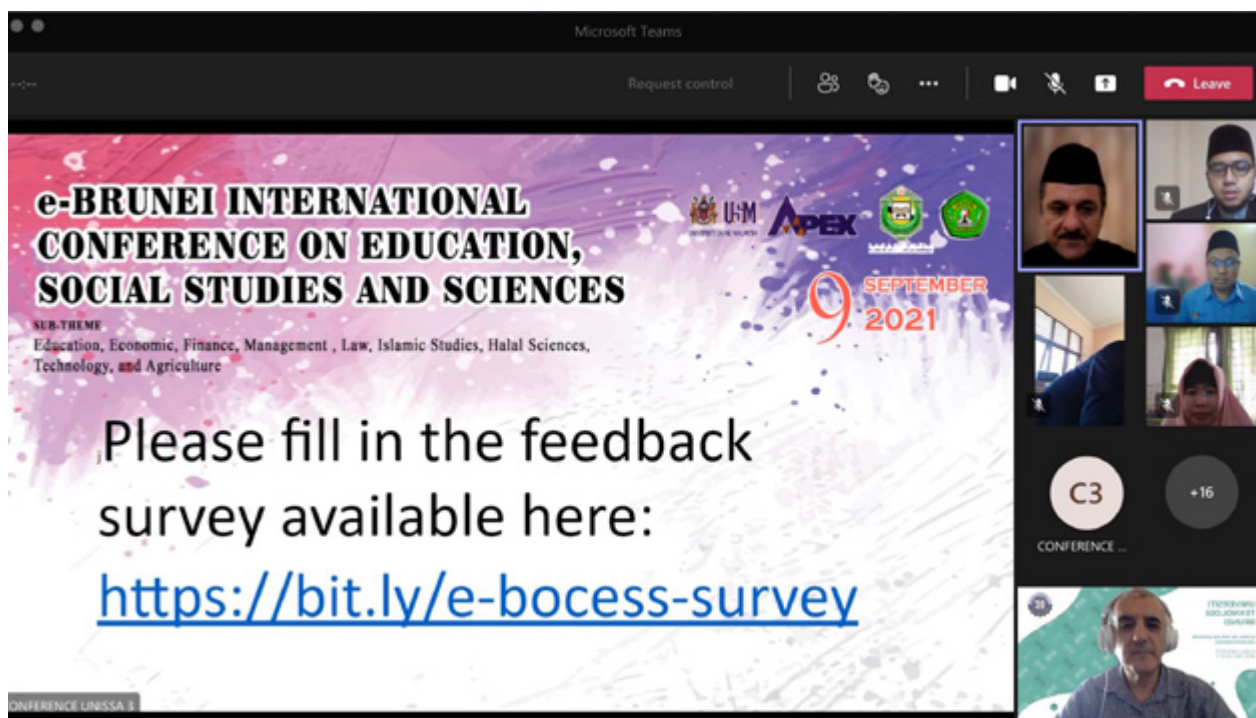
Delivering a topic on Application of Non-invasive IR-refractometer for Post-harvest Freshness and Sweetness Status of Local Fruits in Brunei Darussalam, the attendees at the conference were enlightened about its research that uses

non-destructive IR-refractometer device to measure Brix of local fruits during ripening stage and comparing it with the conventional invasive refractometer method. He shared that the findings provided accurate sweetness data useful for post-harvesting management by minimising postharvest losses of fruits.

Meanwhile, at the 'ATU-Net Hackathon 2021 Webinar' organised by Universiti Teknologi Mara, UTB was represented by Professor Kamariah Ismail, Director of Enterprise Office and a lecturer from UTB School of Business to give a talk about Winning Pitching Proposal. The event took place on 7 October 2021.

In guiding the participants towards becoming champion in the hackathon, the participants were briefed on the importance of innovation in a start-up or research project and were introduced to the proper pitching exercise using NABC (Need, Approach, Benefit and Competitor) from Stanford Research Institute.

An Assistant Professor at the Centre for Communication, Teaching and Learning, Dr. Malai Zeiti Sheikh Abdul Hamid presented a keynote session entitled Teaching Creatively and Using Innovative Digital Device as the New Norm at the 'International General Studies Conference 2021'. The event was organised by Universiti Teknologi Mara and Politeknik Kota Kinabalu held on 7 September 2021.



At the conference, she explained about the main platforms used in Brunei for online audio-visual teaching and sharing of content materials and resources. She added that the students gained independent learning experiences, and were able to work at their own pace. Files and documents can be easily obtained on their digital devices without the need for physical travel or face-to-face interaction. The Assistant

Professor was also invited to participate in an international online education forum in the same month hosted by Australia's University of Tasmania called 'Australia-ASEAN Academic Forum: Online Education COVID-19 during COVID-19 and Beyond'.

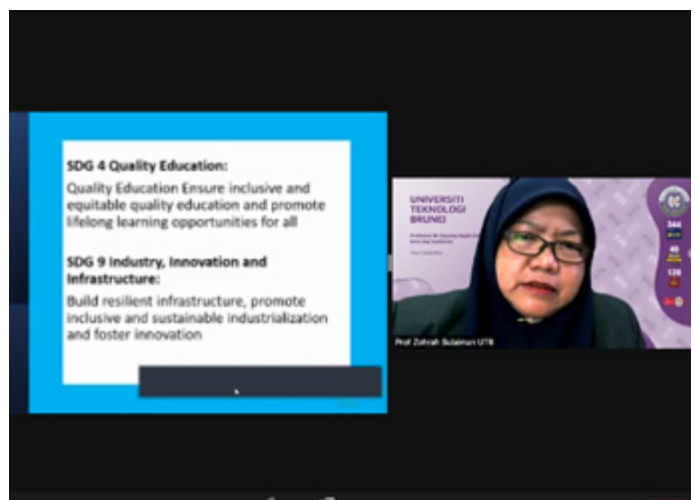




VC SHARES UTB'S ROLE IN SOCIAL INNOVATION AT GLOBAL EDUCATION SUMMIT

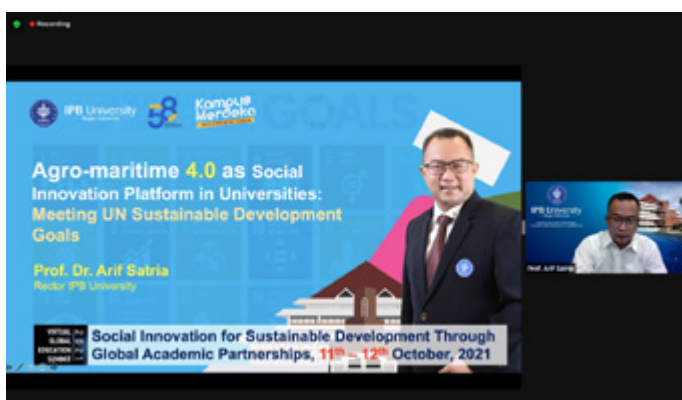
12 October 2021 – Around fifty academic leaders of fifty universities from twenty-six countries participated at the Global Education Summit 2021 organised by Chandigarh University, India. The event that commenced on 11 October 2021, brought together prominent Chancellors, Presidents and Vice-Chancellors of national and international universities including UTB to jointly deliberate upon drawing out a roadmap for new age universities on 'Social Innovation for Sustainable Development through Global Academic Partnerships'.

The two-day discussion focussed on four main topics – Topic 1: Future of Higher Education Institutions – Virtualisation V/S Campus; Topic 2: New Age Universities – Roadmap for Meeting Global Challenges; Topic 3: Meeting Student Aspiration: Crossing Boundaries Unlocking Creativity; and Topic 4: Social Innovation in Universities: Meeting UN Sustainable Development Goals.



Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Hj Sulaiman, Vice-Chancellor of UTB was one of the panel speakers for Topic 4 along with Presidents, Vice-Chancellors and Rector from Sunway University, University of Limerick, University of Mauritius, Amman Arab University, Glasgow Caledonian University, University of North Alabama and IPB University respectively.

During the panel discussion, Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah delivered a talk entitled 'In support of Vision 2035: Role of UTB in Social Innovation' and shared an excerpt about Brunei' SDGs from the Titah of His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam in which he said, "Brunei Darussalam's Social Development Goals (SDGs) journey is guided by its national vision, Wawasan Brunei 2035, where the country



The Vice-Chancellor stated that among the 17 SDGs, UTB has met goals under SDG4: Quality Education and SDG9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.

Some of the activities and plans under SDG4 were shared during the discussion which include UTB's Strategic Plan for Quality Education; Quality of Higher Education in Brunei Darussalam; UTB ExperiencePLUS programme, a platform to extend students' experience beyond the walls of academia; the concept design project collaboration between UTB and Village Council of Kg Tungku-Katok; and the university's Tri-CED that oversees lifelong learning and advanced continuing education.

For SDG9, Professor Dr. Dayang Zohrah said that the government and education institutions celebrate creativity and innovation, which in turn inculcate innovation mindsets in the country. For example, UTB holds the 'Creative, Innovative Product and Technological Advancement (CIPTA) Competition' biennially which covers all areas of Science, Technology and Engineering, and is opened to all schools, technical and tertiary academic institutions, government and private organisations and the general public. Other than that, the Vice-Chancellor also shared some of the collaborative activities between UTB and the industry.

"Our hope as a university is to achieve our Vision in 2023 - A Global University Impacting Society and also to support the Nation's Vision 2035 and United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals," she concluded.

aspires to be widely recognised for its educated, highly skilled and accomplished people, with a high quality of life and a dynamic and sustainable economy by 2035. Whilst preserving its unique social, cultural and traditional values, the Government of Brunei Darussalam aims to ensure that the country and its people will continue to thrive and prosper in the fast evolving modern world. The country has made progress in accomplishing the SDGs by building upon its early achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)".



QS APPLE 2021

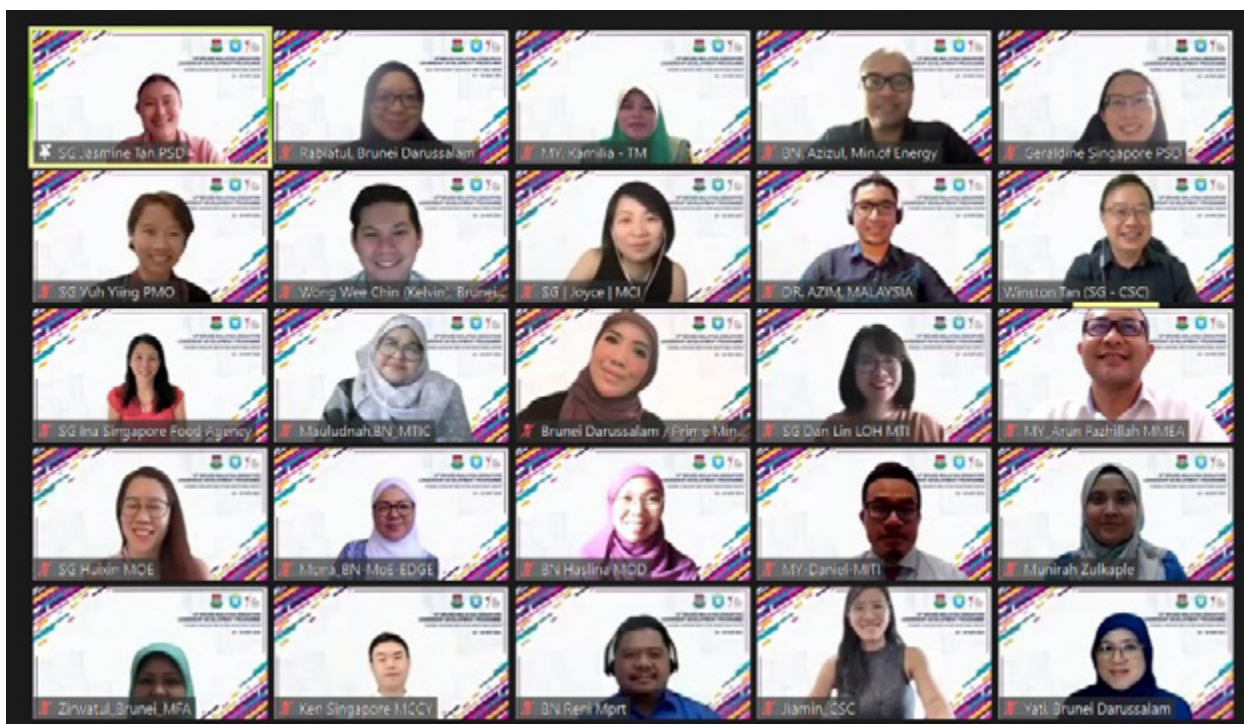
3 November 2021 – Focusing on Student Flows during a Pandemic (Student Insights) topic, Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Hj Sulaiman, UTB Vice-Chancellor, highlighted the importance of Global Mobility in Higher Education at the QS Apple 2021 panel discussion.

Speaking alongside Professor Dr. Dayang Hjh Zohrah were the Vice-President of International Affairs from Kyushu University, Co-Director of Centre for Asia Pacific Refugee Studies from the University of Auckland, and Managing Director (India and APAC) of Coursera.

UTB was congratulated at the Opening Ceremony of the QS Apple 2021 Conference & Exhibition for achieving the amazing QS 5 Stars Plus rating.

Hosted by Hong Kong Baptist University, with Prince of Songkla University as the co-host, the virtual event gathered together inspiring thought leaders and world-renowned experts to examine “Future Rebalance: Emerging trends and workforce in the Asia Pacific”.



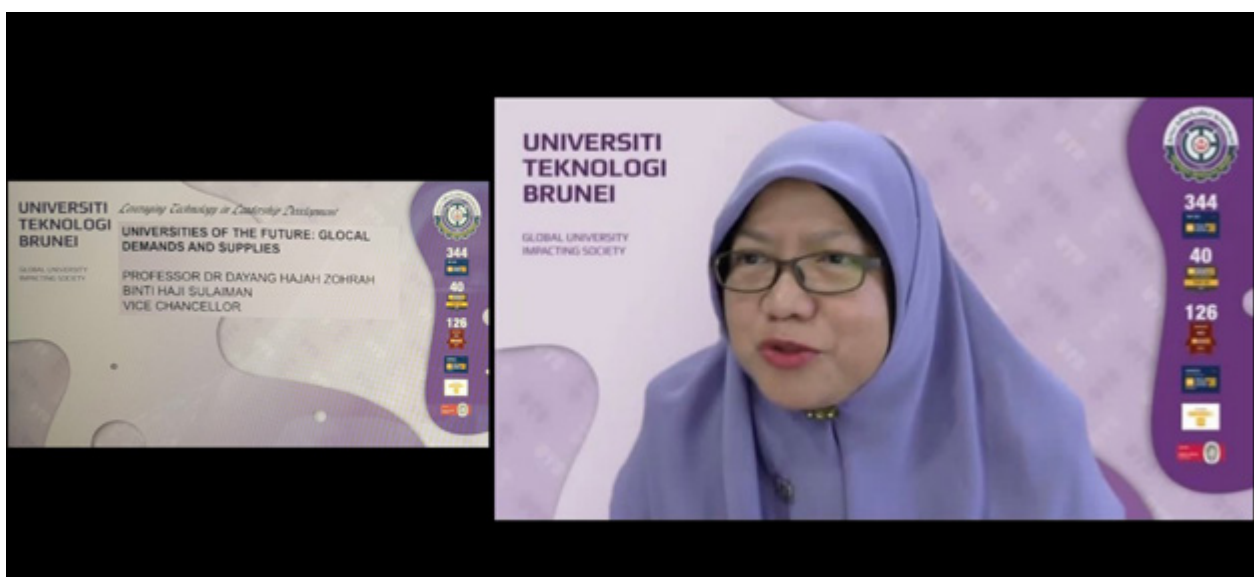


12TH BRUNEI-MALAYSIA-SINGAPORE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

25 November 2021 – UTB Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Hj Sulaiman, was invited to the 12th Brunei-Malaysia-Singapore Leadership Development Programme to deliver a talk entitled 'Universities of the Future: Glocal Demands and Supplies'.

Themed 'Leading A Resilient and Future-Ready Public Service' the programme was jointly organised by the Civil Service Institute (IPA) of Brunei Darussalam, Institut Tadbiran Awam Negara (INTAN) of Malaysia and Civil Service College of Singapore.

As a University of Engineering and Technology, it is anticipated for UTB to remain competitive and relevant, focused on delivering personalised journey for its students with the best possible education (pandemic proof) and cultural experience whilst closing the skills gap that exists between education and the increasingly competitive job-market.





FAREWELL FOR UTB'S SENIOR LIBRARIAN

25 November 2021 – The university bid a fond farewell to one of the longest serving staff members, Dayang Hajah Pusparaini binti Haji Thani, who retired as the Principal Officer and Senior Librarian after three decades at UTB.

The farewell event held at the UTB Library was attended by Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Hj Sulaiman, UTB Vice-Chancellor. At the event, the Vice-Chancellor thanked Dayang Hajah Pusparaini for her contribution throughout the thirty years and wished her a well-deserved and relaxing retirement.



CORENA21



BEST PRESENTER AWARD

TITLE: An Investigation of Digital Literacy Awareness And Rise On The Use Of Digital Devices For Work And Study In Brunei
PRESENTER: Malai Zeti (Universiti Teknologi Brunei)

TITLE: Communication Network Analysis of #VaksinMerahPutih Conversation on Twitter
PRESENTER: Yuanita Setyastuti (Universitas Lambung Mangkurat)

CORENA 2021

7 December 2021 – Centre for Communication, Teaching & Learning (CCTL) took part in the Communication Research Seminar 2021 (CORENA 2021) organised by the Communication and Research Centre (COMET), Department of Communication, Abdulhamid Abusulayman Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences International Islamic University Malaysia through an online platform.

The seminar was jointly organised by UTB through CCTL, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), Universitas Lambung Mangkurat, and Prince of Songkhla University International College.

Carrying the theme ‘Media and Communication in ASEAN: Living with COVID-19’, the two-day seminar included a keynote speech, plenary session and three parallel sessions under the topic “The Post-pandemic State of Higher Learning Education in ASEAN”.

The invited speakers for the plenary session were Dr Norihan Abu Hassan, Dean of CCTL, and academicians from Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), Prince of Songkhla University International College, and Universitas Lambung Mangkurat.

During the session, Dr Norihan presented a talk entitled The Post-Pandemic State of Higher Education in ASEAN: Experience from Universiti Teknologi Brunei. She highlighted that the COVID-19 post-pandemic has contributed to higher education in ASEAN in general and UTB in particular due to the massive shifts to online digital and distance learning

away from learning and teaching in traditional settings with face-to-face interactions. UTB’s experiences in handling the post-pandemic were also shared in the session regarding teaching and learning, assessment, and student support.

The parallel sessions saw six paper presentations from lecturers and students from CCTL as well as the School of Applied Sciences & Mathematics (SASM).

One of the presenters, Dr Malai Zeiti Sheikh Hamid, Assistant Professor, CCTL received the Best Presenter Award for her outstanding presentation entitled ‘An Investigation of Digital Literacy Awareness and Rise on the Use of Digital Devices for Work & Study in Brunei’.

CORENA 2021 aimed to showcase the lecturers and students latest findings and studies relating to current issues especially COVID-19. Besides COVID-19, other concerns were also raised by participants for further discussion, thus boosting academic interest among all participants.



OXFORD DEBATE 2021

17 December 2021 - Vice-Chancellor of UTB, Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Hj Sulaiman participated at the Oxford Debate to present the outcomes of the pandemic crisis on higher education.

Themed University of the Future, the debate saw two sessions: Session 1 - 'Point of view: The concept and aims of the University of the future' and Session 2 - 'Pandemic outcomes to take forward for higher education'. In Session 2, the Vice-Chancellor delivered a talk entitled 'A Pandemic Proof University of the Future'.

Speaking about the challenges faced during the pandemic, Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah mentioned that UTB has been facing disruption in international student mobility and the associated revenue due to the travel restrictions. "This has greatly affected the inbound and outbound student exchanges and admission and therefore, this had allowed the universities to take a step back, rethink and

find new ways of catering to the society. The Pandemic Proof University of the Future must retain an open and flexible education," she said.

"The pandemic had driven us to be digital literate, innovative and creative in using technologies effectively and broadened our perspectives and promote new ways of thinking," said the Vice-Chancellor. She stressed that the university had to quickly adapt and make necessary adjustments according to the changes during this period and strategise well to ensure that the university could continue to operate and still produce a high-quality experience for both students and staff.

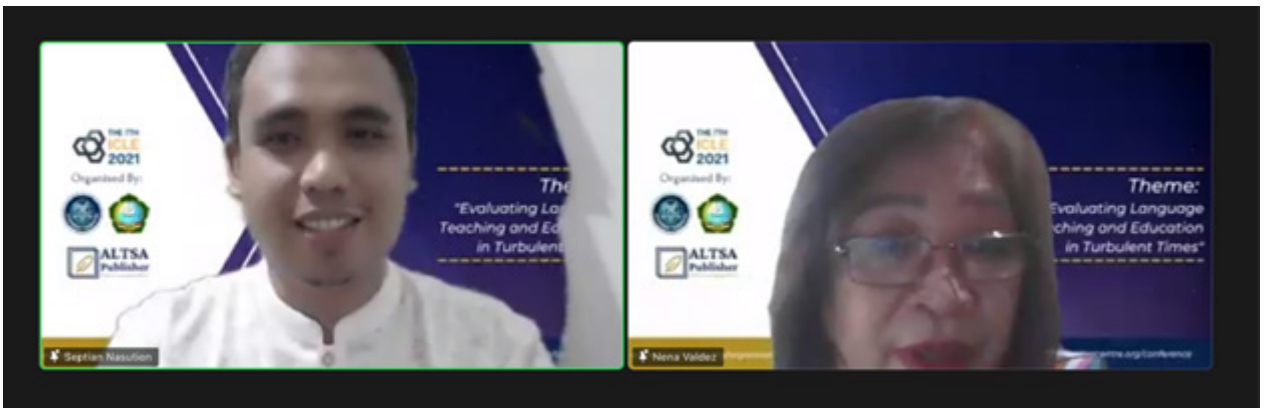
She also shared that the Brunei Digital Economy Masterplan 2025 was produced to support the objectives of Vision 2035 for a high quality of life, a highly educated and skilled workforce, and a dynamic and sustainable economy. Therefore, it emphasises for Brunei to become a Smart Nation with a digital and future-ready society, vibrant and sustainable economy, and a conducive digital ecosystem. "This digitalisation platform not only offers to nurture talent and promote innovation, but it also enabled industries to transform themselves from the physical world to a digital one, leading to the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR4.0)," said

Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah. She added that the IR4 also affects universities and institutions' roles to prepare students and produce the workforce for this new industry and the student experience to match it.

The Vice-Chancellor concluded her speech by stating that the COVID-19 outbreak had an impact on the university, but it also created rooms and opportunities for the university to grow its resilience when faced with a crisis. "Without a swift and clear decision making concerning the changes within the university, it would not have successfully executed the abrupt transformation to digital literacy. This became a moment to redefine the Pandemic Proof University of The Future."

She described that embracing Industrial Revolution 4.0 in Higher Education can be done twofold: using IR4.0 technology to improve University service, increase student experience, and provide relevant IR4.0 key enabling technologies knowledge and skill to support the national vision. "For leaders in Higher Education Institutions to embrace IR4.0, they need to adapt to digital transformational leadership style," added the Vice-Chancellor.





7TH ICLE 2021

20 July 2021 - The CCTL lecturers were invited to speak at the seventh International Conference on Language and Education (7th ICLE) 2021, Association of Language Teachers in Southeast Asia (ALTA).

The 7th ICLE, held from 15 until 17 December 2021, was jointly organised by the Association of Language Teachers in Southeast Asia (ALTA), Faculty of Tarbiyah Science and Teachers' Training UINSU, and ALTA Publish.

The three-day conference featured a distinguished keynote speaker and twelve invited speakers from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Brunei, and the Philippines. Approximately 55 papers from various countries, including Malaysia, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Pakistan, and Brunei, were presented.

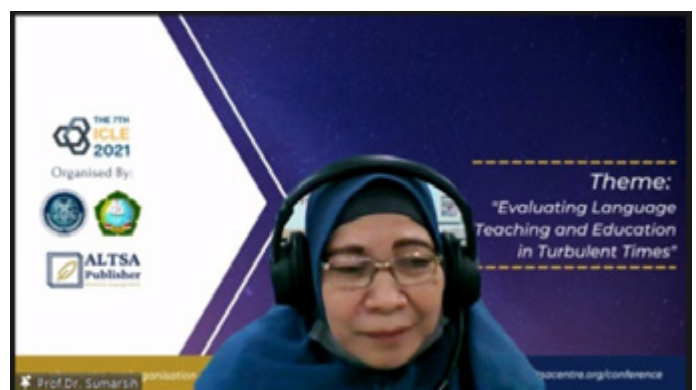
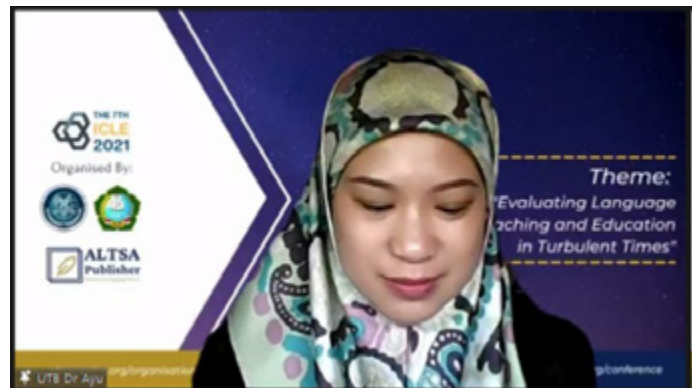
Two lecturers from CCTL, Dr. Nena P. Valdez, Senior Assistant Professor, and Dr. Mas Ayu Mumin, Assistant Professor, were invited as the speakers for the event.

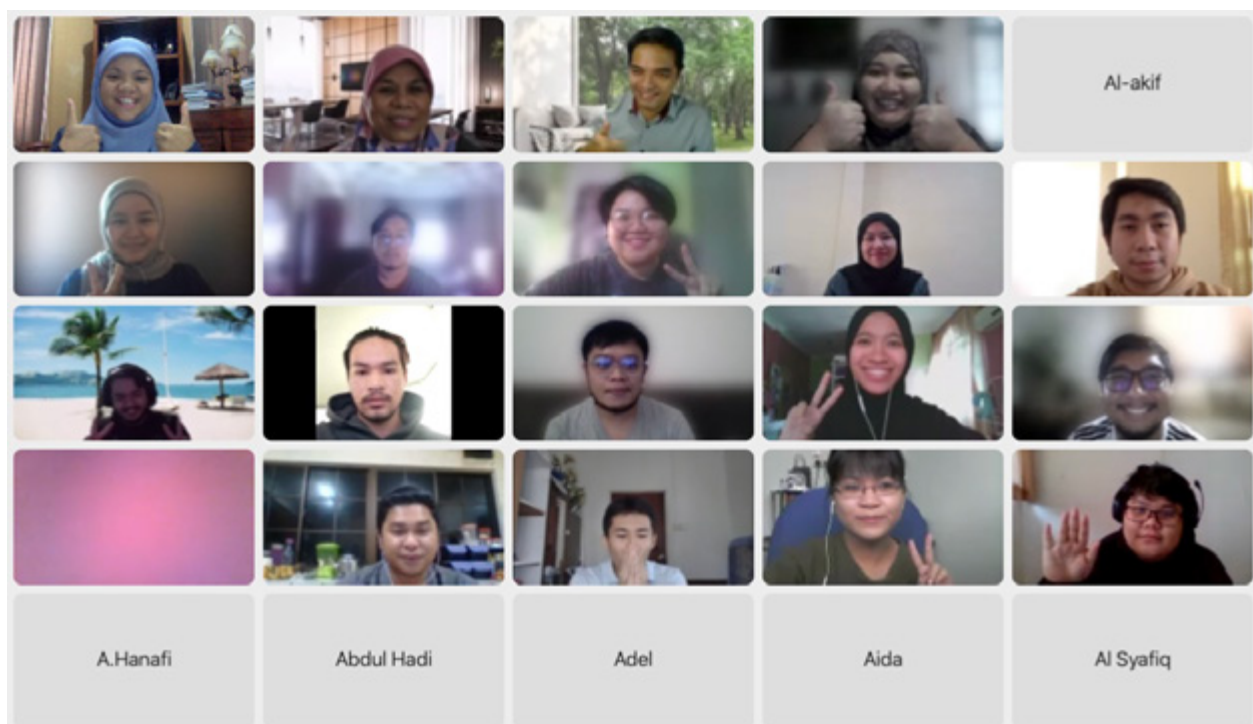
During the session, Dr. Nena delivered a topic on 'Multi-Infoliteracy Processing Agencies among STEM Learners in Higher Institutions: Responsive Exigencies of the New Era of Industrial Revolution'. The paper explores the information processing agencies that conditioned learners to exercise multi-dimensional criticality in dealing with data and information from networked media and increasingly sophisticated technology.

Meanwhile, Dr. Mas Ayu presented 'Finding

Heutagogy: Virtual learning impact on academic identity and Community of Practice awareness in Bruneian undergraduates' which focused on a study on thirty-four first year fresh undergraduate students. Its objective was to uncover their learning and academic preparedness of facing university-level online learning for the first time as higher education students.

With the theme Evaluating Language Teaching and Education in Turbulent Times, the virtual conference aimed to gather and exchange knowledge and establish networking across various integrative disciplines in a single platform. It was conducted to facilitate the great ideas and findings from students, lecturers, scholars, and researchers and explore the opportunities in language learning and education facing the Global Challenging





GLOBAL CLASSROOM

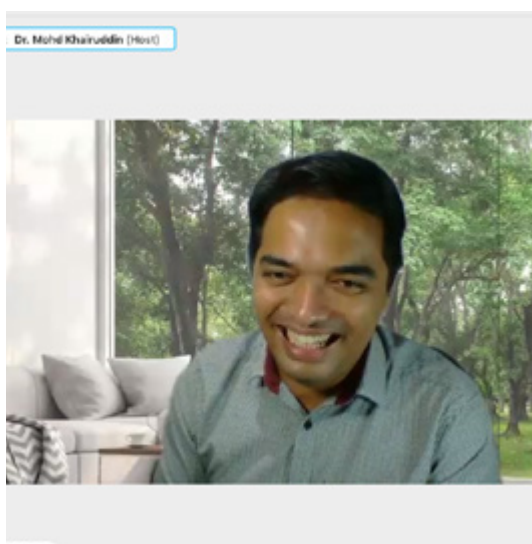
11 September 2021 - In collaboration with UTB global partners, UTB School of Business (UTB-SB) offers Global Classroom starting this semester to expose them to international learning experience.

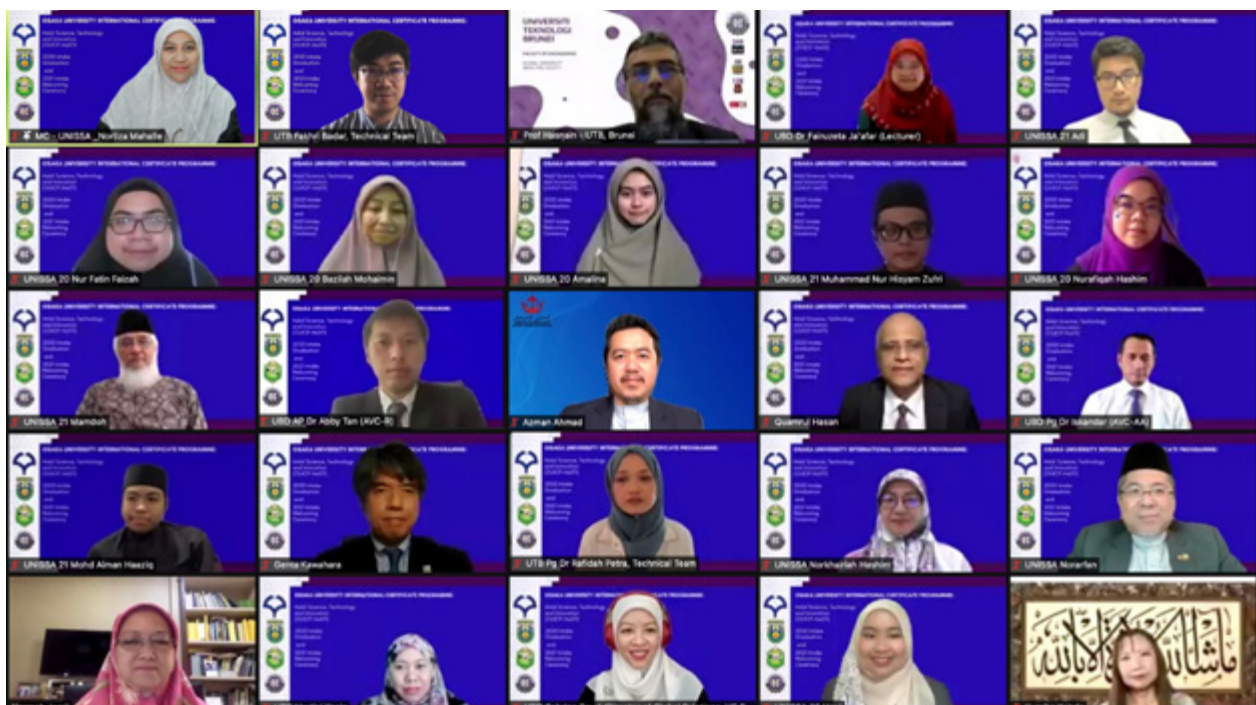
The classrooms involved collaborations with Curtin University from Australia; Woxsen University from India; Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, International Islamic University Malaysia and Universiti Utara Malaysia from Malaysia; University of Central Punjab and Karachi School of Business & Leadership from Pakistan; National University of Science & Technology from Indonesia; and Tunghai University from Taiwan.

The cohorts attending the global classroom were postgraduate and undergraduate students undertaking the Accounting and Management programme area.

The students were taught by lecturers from international partner universities through lectures, tutorials and other interactive sessions virtually. This initiative gives students the opportunity to explore various topics in an international context as well as global perspectives.

As for its module specification, at least one module is chosen based on the availability and interest of the global partners and for those modules at least 10% of the Module Intended Learning Outcome (MILOs) are covered. This is to ensure internationalisation is not only implemented but also measured impact.





OSAKA UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM GRADUATION AND WELCOMING CEREMONY FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

30 September 2021 – Three local institutions Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), and UTB had their first virtual graduation yesterday in which 31 students from each respective institution had completed a 10-month special program called Osaka University International Programme: Halal Science, Technology and Innovation (OUICP-HaSTI) hosted by Osaka University (OU) Japan. A Welcoming Ceremony for the second batch of the program was also held at the event.

Attending the momentous event were Dr Haji Azman bin Ahmad, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education; Professor Dr Genta Kawahara, Executive Vice President of Global Engagement, OU; Rector and Vice-Chancellors from UNISSA, UBD and UNISSA.

The Guest of Honour, Dr Hj Azman in his speech shared this program strengthens the collaboration between Osaka University and Higher Education Institutions in Brunei Darussalam (UBD, UNISSA and UTB) in their collaboration through the use of digital

collaboration. The programme started in 2018 when OU first expressed its interest to work with our local higher education institutions and in establishing Osaka University ASEAN Campus.

Dr Hj Azman expressed his sincere appreciation to OU for their contribution to this initiative which is very much aligned with Ministry of Education strategic plan in particular to enhance development of teaching and learning by strengthening stakeholders' support and engagement. Throughout the four years journey, the collaboration has achieved several achievements, initiatives, continued growth through the introduction of many programs such as joint research, student exchange, English language program and the Osaka University International Certificate Program: Halal Science, Technology and Innovation.

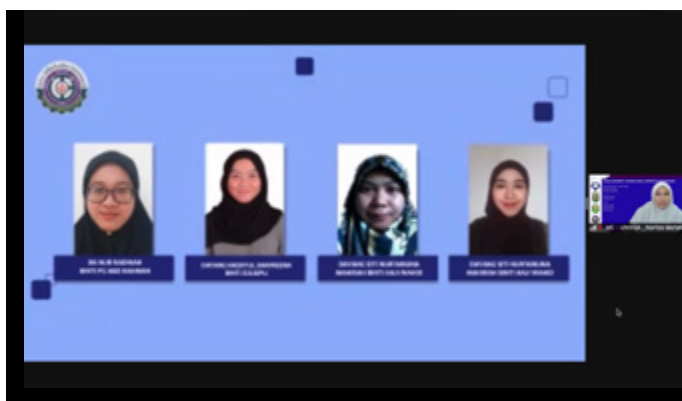
The Osaka University International Certificate Programme: Halal Science, Technology and Innovation (OUICP-HaSTI) is an educational program initiated by OU ASEAN Campus in collaboration with their counterparts in ASEAN countries.

OU issues a certificate upon successful completion of the program in a specific field with 6 to 8 credits. In general, OUICP-HaSTI is offered to graduate students of Joint Campus counterpart universities and working people (non-students) who have received at least a bachelor's degree.

The programme aims to contribute to the solution of issues in the ASEAN region while focusing on the individuality of each country's society and culture, and develop infrastructure to benefit those societies through international, innovative approaches such as co-creation with industry, government, academia, and the community by nurturing advanced global human resources in the fields of bioengineering, applied physics, infectious disease, environmental engineering, halal science, biodiversity and bioresources, and Japanese language and culture.

Thirty-one students studied a few courses under the programme such as Halal Science, Sustainable Development Goals, Advanced Technology for Halalan-Toyyiban, Product and Service Innovation for Halalan-Toyyiban and by the end of the programme, all students were required to undertake practical study abroad for eight weeks which had been done virtually. Under this programme, students were taught by academicians from 4 universities (OU, UBD, UNISSA, and UTB) with two invited lecturers from the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism Brunei and NPO Japan Halal Association.

The event also welcomed a total of thirty-one students of the new OUICP-HaSTI 2021 intake. The participants are comprised of students from OU, UBD, UNISSA and UTB, as well as professionals from the industry.





MARINE HAVEN AWARDED 1ST RUNNER UP FOR BEST PROJECT IN ENVISIONING SDGS

4 October 2021 – The team joined by Faculty of Engineering (FEng) postgraduate student, Dayang Amalina Ashikin binti Ali along with students from other universities was named first runner-up for Best Project Presentation during the ‘Student SDG Virtual Workshops: Envisioning 17 SDGs for 2030’ Closing ceremony yesterday.

Hosted by Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), Malaysia under the Asia Technological University Network (ATU-Net), the workshop aimed to increase students’ knowledge on the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to encourage collaborative thinking, and to develop critical elements on the 17 SDGs. The workshop intended to enhance their understanding and skills while collaborating with students from international universities.

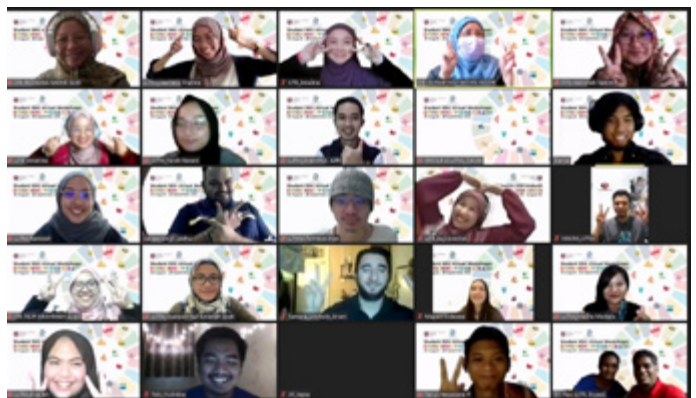
The workshop was conducted every Saturday since 30 August until 25 September 2021 with participation from over 200 students and facilitators.

UTB was represented by a delegation of six undergraduate and postgraduate students and a lecturer from FEng, Dr Rama Rao Karri as the facilitator. During the final week of the

workshop, the teams of student were tasked to present or pitch their project within five minutes and was graded on a variety of criteria, including issue clarity, project management, project feasibility and viability, cost and return on investment, impact, and creativity.

For the 1st Runner-up group, which comprised of students from Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei which was Dayang Amalina Ashikin, was assigned for the SDG 14: Life below water. The team then proposed to develop a mobile application called the ‘Marine Haven’ application which provides users with up-to-date information, news, and articles about marine life, the environment, and pollution, as well as the policies, laws, and regulations that govern these subjects. According to Dayang Amalina Ashikin, the app’s primary feature provides users with a list of coastal areas near their location including those that require attention due to pollution.

The team’s targeted users are the community, NGOs, and businesses or industrial companies, particularly those required to meet their social corporate responsibility obligations. “This app aims to educate the users by providing them with up-to-date information, news, policies, and laws and regulations about SDG 14 (Life below water),” she added.



OVERALL CHAMPION (1ST)



UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI BRUNEI

TEAM PAHLAWAN XXI

STUDENTS SWEEP AWARDS AT THE 4TH NATIONAL STEM & INNOVATIVE CHALLENGE

14 October 2021 – Undergraduate students from the Faculty of Engineering and School of Design swept the highest number of awards in the 4th National STEM & Innovative Challenge (NSIDC) during the prize presentation ceremony.

Present as the Guest of Honour at the virtual event was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Hj Hamzah bin Sulaiman, Minister of Education.

A total of forty-six teams from secondary schools and higher education institutions participated in two categories namely Formula One Junior Class Category (for secondary school students) and Formula One Senior Class Category (for students of Sixth Form, Technical & Vocational Centres and Higher Education Institutions). The teams competed in the race (car racing) challenge for three days from 29 July to 2 August 2021 which took place at PAP Hjh Masna Secondary School.

The winning teams were comprised of two teams namely Team Pahlawan XXI and Team Wira. Throughout the competition, the teams were supervised under Pg Dr Seri Rahayu binti Pg Ya'akub, Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering

programme area along with technician, Dayang Rahimatushukriyah binti Mohammad Rafie.

Attending as the Head of Judge representing UTB for the competition was Dr. Ahmad Syamaizar bin Haji Ahmad Sabli, Dean of School of Design.

In Formula One Senior Class Category, Team Pahlawan XXI bagged First Place Overall Champion, Best Engineered Car, Best Verbal Presentation, and Fastest Car Award. Team Wira also took home the Second Runner Up Overall Champion.

One of the main aims of this challenge was to gather students to compete using 21st century skills in the academic version of Formula 1 (F1) adapted from the F1 in Schools. By utilising the design and creative arts processes that replicate real F1 cars, students were challenged to produce F1 mini cars through the use of

4TH NSIDC 2021 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS CEREMONY



With Judges

software such as Autodesk Inventors, Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM) equipment.

The NSIDC is an annual national competition organised by Science Technology Environment Partnership (STEP) Centre, Ministry of Education, where participations were opened to government secondary schools, vocational and technical institutions, and higher learning institutions, which have been supplied with DENFORD machines.





A GLOBAL UNIVERSITY IMPACTING SOCIETY

“To nurture socially responsible talents deeply rooted in MIB values, and committed to building a global and entrepreneurial society in pursuit of innovation, industry-relevant capabilities, towards the fulfillment of Brunei Vision 2035.”



STUDENTS BAGGED 2ND RUNNER UP AT THE ATU-NET HACKATHON 2021

23 October 2021 – A team of four students from UTB and Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology (ITS) came up with innovative ideas and bagged third place at the ATU-Net Hackathon 2021. The hackathon was organised by Asia Technological University Network (ATU-Net) and hosted by Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

UTB was represented by a delegation of nine undergraduate and postgraduate students. Teaming up with ITS, UTB students comprised of Sarinah Ziziumiza from Faculty of Engineering and Umami Salmah Haji Mohammad Firdaus from School of Computing & Informatics were announced third place at the Winner Announcement Ceremony and received a US\$300 cash prize.

Their third winning project AgroWithUs is an e-learning platform on agriculture content that provides fun, blended learning, and interactive virtual experience to users. It serves to increase knowledge and provide an immersive experience by adopting experiential learning for users.

Carrying the theme 'Fostering Innovation for Sustainable Industry and Infrastructure', the online event was participated by students from ICT, Engineering, Management, and Business academic backgrounds. The event was in collaboration with industry and featured prominent speakers from various fields. Networking sessions with students from other countries, learning opportunities via webinar sessions, and mentoring were curated to guide students towards becoming the champion.

From 1 September until 23 October 2021, the participants were given various problem statements by CREST (The Catalyst for Malaysia's Technology Ecosystem) and MaGIC (Malaysian Global Innovation & Creativity Centre). The activities included team building sessions, design thinking, creating a business model canvas, developing a mockup or prototype of the solution, creating a project proposal for preliminary assessment, preparing video pitching for the secondary evaluation, and designing a pitch deck. At the final stage, the teams were tasked to pitch their projects confidently with a viable solution to solve the local and global problems.



FST STUDENTS AWARDED PLATINUM FOR BEST POSTER

1 December 2021 – A group of four students from the School of Applied Sciences & Mathematics (SASM) was awarded Platinum in the Best Poster category at the 5th International Seminar on Halalan Thayyiban Products and Services (SAPPHAT).

The event was organised by Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) through the Halalan Thayyiban Research Centre. Four keynote addresses and twenty-two poster presenters were featured at the one-day seminar in conjunction with the Brunei December Festival 2021.

Witnessed by Dr Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of UNISSA, three best presenters and three best posters in the platinum, gold, and silver categories were announced at the seminar.

The Platinum award went to the students from Food & Science Technology programme area; Siti Madihah Mohd Don, Nurnajihah Abd Samad, Mohammad Isam Ariffin Sari, and Nurshairah Samrah. The team was supervised by SASM lecturers, Professor Dr. Beston F. Nore and Dr. Mas Munira Rambli.

Entitled Developing Halal Beverages from Fermented Lemongrass, the content of the team's poster focused on



developing a halal fermented beverage using readily-available lemongrass as the main raw material. It aims to observe and determine the physiochemical analysis of the formulated lemongrass in terms of the pH value, sugar content and level of alcohol production.

Over 200 local and overseas participants joined the event carrying the theme Halal Industry Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic. The implementation of 5th SAPPHAT in 2021 is expected to be a catalyst for all halal industry practitioners and operators, particularly in the country, to continue to strive and show resilience in improving the quality and quantity of Halalan Thayyiban products and services, which will strengthen the economy.



MTSE LUCKY DRAW PRIZE PRESENTATION

16 December 2021 – The Module and Teaching Staff Evaluation (MTSE) is part of UTB’s effort to ensure the quality of teaching and learning. For this semester, nearly 6000 completed MTSE surveys were received from students, providing comprehensive anonymous feedback for improvements to teaching and learning in their modules.

To further reflect the MTSE’s importance, a lucky draw prize was offered to those who completed the MTSE for all their July-November 2021 semester modules. From ten randomly-shortlisted finalists who had provided valuable

and constructive feedback, the Vice-Chancellor had the honour of selecting the winning access code.

Muhammad Faisal Haji Sauli of the School of Computing and Informatics won the Samsung Galaxy Tab A7 (LTE) prize, presented by Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Haji Sulaiman, Vice-Chancellor of UTB.

Community Participation as a Means of Socio-Economic Development



MUHAMMAD KHALIQ SYAFIE MD DON
PhD Student
Centre for Communication,
Teaching and Learning
Universiti Teknologi Brunei



SITI AISAH JANAJI
PhD Student
School of Business
Universiti Teknologi Brunei

ATU-NET STUDENT LEADER FORUM 2021

22 December 2021 – Two PhD students participated in the ATU-Net Student Leader Forum (ATU-Net SeLF) 2021 to discuss issues and share best practices with youth and student leaders from member institutions of the Asia Technological University Network (ATU-Net).

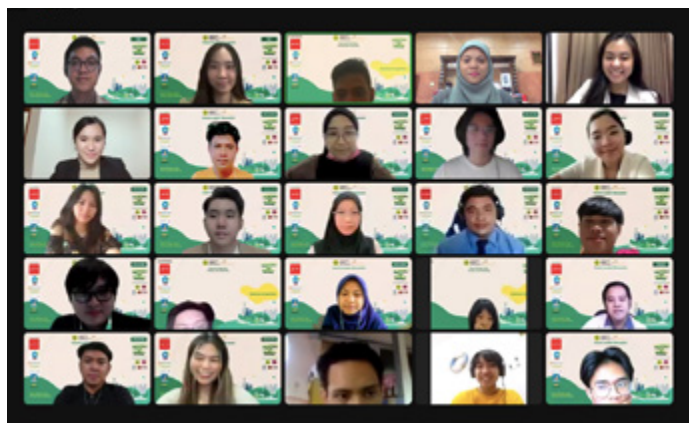
Themed 'The Future We Want: Priorities of SDG-Engaged Community', the event seeks to inspire leadership and actions on Sustainable Development Goals among youth and student leaders.

The forum provided opportunities for participants to dissect and deliberate on the current societal crisis and the future prospect. In particular, the two-day event concentrated on the key roles of youth in shaping the narrative of today's world, through guided vision and designed leadership for the benefit and prosperity of the lives of others.

Dayang Siti Aisah Janaji and Awang Muhammad Khaliq Syafie Md Don, from the UTB School of Business (UTB-SB) and Centre for Communication, Teaching & Learning (CCTL) respectively were speakers for the 'Future

Leader Discussion MENEFESTO 2021' session which was held on the second day of the event.

Both presented on the topic entitled 'Community Participation as a Means of Socio-Economic Development'. During the session, the duo highlighted on recognising the strengths that include natural capital, human capital, and social capital that communities in Brunei possess have contributed to socio-economic development. Moreover, they emphasised the key roles of youths, leaders of tomorrow in engaging with the global vision for the future.



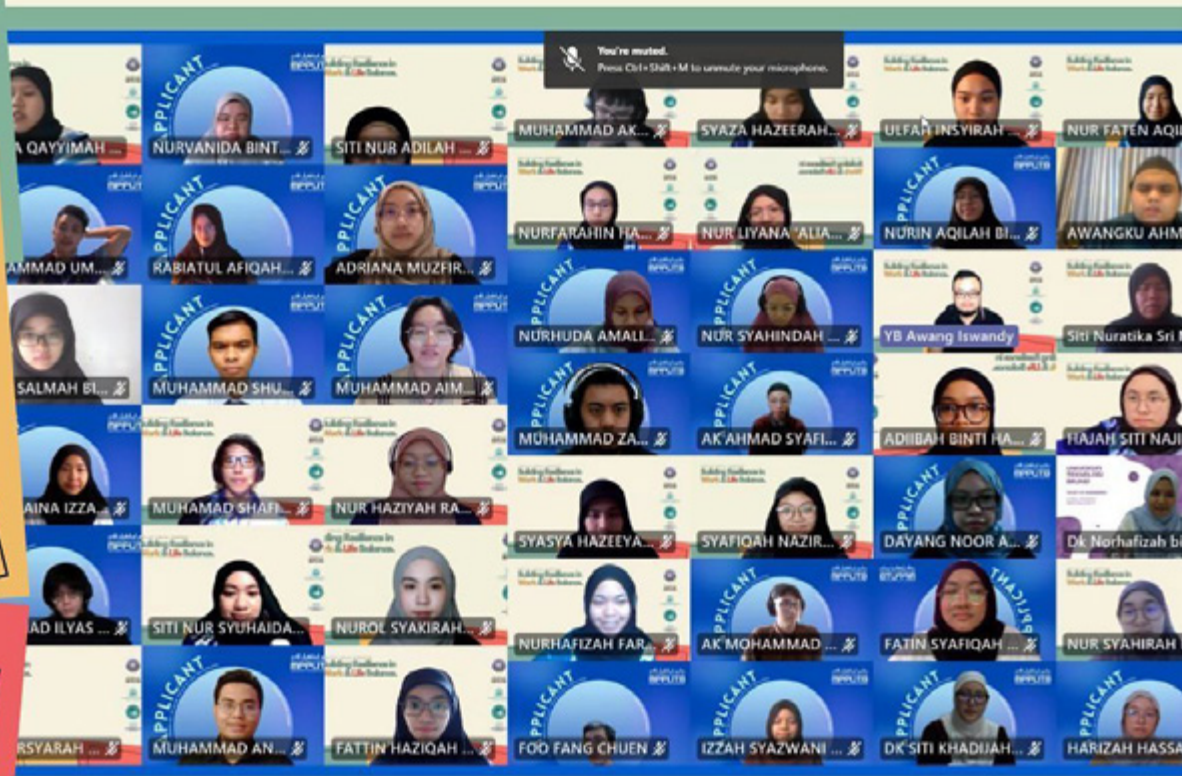


مجلس قروماكليمار قلدرد
MPPUTB
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI BRUNEI

CAMPUS LEAD
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI BRUNEI
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



PERSPECTIVE
INSAN



ONE DAY VIRTUAL WORKSHOP Building Resilience in Work & Life Balance.

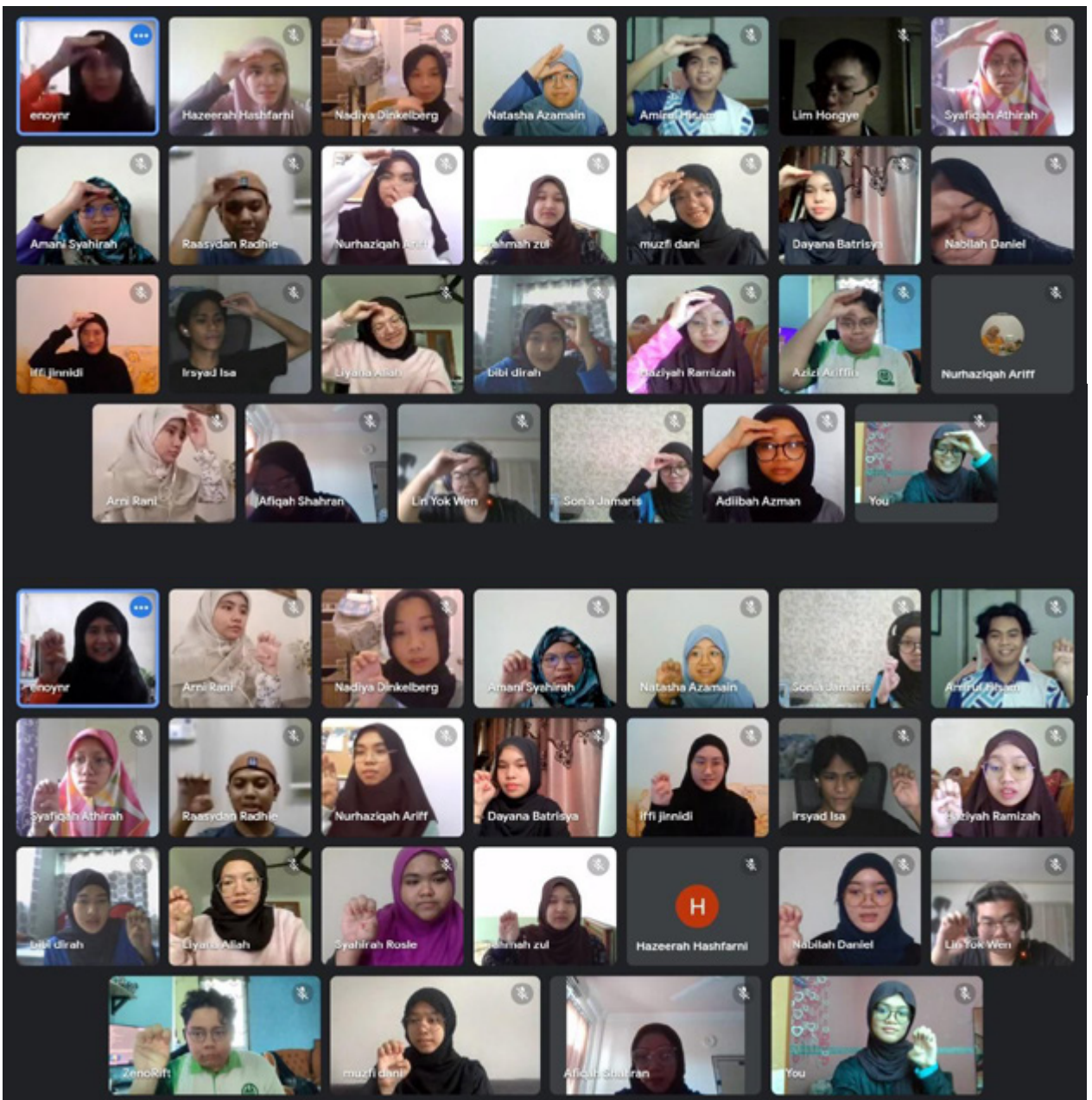


BUILDING RESILIENCE IN WORK AND LIFE WORKSHOP

23 December 2021 – The UTB School of Business (UTB-SB) Campus LEAD students conducted a virtual workshop, 'Building Resilience in Work and Life Balance', to help students gain new insights on how to bolster their resilience and give them the confidence in managing a work-life balance after university.

About 79 students attended the workshop delivered by Yang Berhormat Awang Iswandy bin Ahmad, Co-founder and Lead trainer from Perspective Insan Academy cum Legislative Council Member.

During the one-day workshop, Yang Berhormat Awang Iswandy emphasised on how students can comprehend stress-reducing and mindful approaches to ensure a work-life balance and to build self-resilience whenever they face challenges in their daily lives.



SIGN LANGUAGE AWARENESS

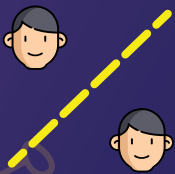
28 December 2021 – The Campus LEAD of the School of Applied Sciences & Mathematics (SASM) in collaboration with Jari-Jari Ku, a non-government organisation that advocates for people with hearing disabilities, organised a virtual sign language workshop for students of the university.

The workshop was led by Dr. Hajah Norbayah binti Haji Shahminan, Chief Executive Facilitator and Interpreter from Jari-Jari Ku.

A total of thirty students joined the two-hour virtual workshop where they were taught the basics of sign language, including finger-spelling and how to indicate commonly used words and questions.



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM COVID-19



Practice social distancing (approximately 6 feet (2 meters) between people to slow the spreading of infections or diseases. Avoid large group of people, social outings, and group gatherings.



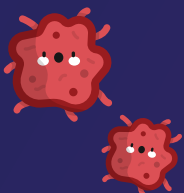
Practice frequent hand washing with soap and clean water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser (especially before handling food or eating, after going to toilet, after coughing or sneezing).



Wear a mask if you have respiratory symptoms such as coughs or runny nose.



Cover your mouth with tissue paper when coughing or sneezing, and dispose the soiled tissue paper into the rubbish bin immediately.



BE RESPONSIBLE if you have symptoms of infections, seek immediate medical attention and rest at home. Avoid visiting public places and attending public events.

THE 8TH BRUNEI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

OPENING CEREMONY

8 November 2021 – The 8th Brunei International Conference on Engineering and Technology (BICET) 2021 was officially opened by the Guest of Honour, Dato Seri Paduka Ar. Awg Haji Marzuke bin Haji Mohsin, Acting Minister of Development.

UTB under the Faculty of Engineering was the main organiser of the conference with Pertubuhan Ukur, Jurutera dan Arkitek (PUJA) Brunei, Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMEchE), Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) International (Brunei Section), Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), and Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) as the supporting partners. BICET 2021 was sponsored by Berakas Power Company Sdn. Bhd., Petrokon Utama Sdn. Bhd., Huawei Technologies (B) Sdn. Bhd., and Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) Company Sdn. Bhd.

At the opening ceremony, a welcoming remark was delivered by Professor Dr. Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Hj Sulaiman, Vice-Chancellor of UTB as the Advisor of BICET 2021, followed by a speech from the Guest of Honour. The Acting Minister later officiated the opening of the BICET 2021.

The event then proceeded with two keynote presentations sharing their latest findings in their respective fields by Professor Dr. Janardhan Reddy Koduru from Kwangwoon University, Korea on 'Magnetic Functionalized Graphitic Carbon Composites for Sustainable Water Remediation' and Yang Mulia Professor Dr. Ataur Rahman from Western Sydney University, Australia on 'Rainwater Harvesting System as a Tool to Promote Sustainable Water Management' respectively.

Other two keynote presentations entitled 'Effect of Trochoidal Strategy in End Milling of Titanium Alloy Ti-6Al-4V' by Professor Dr. Safian Sharif from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, and 'Overview of the Current Development in Compressed Air Energy Storage' by Professor Dr. Jihong Wang from the University of Warwick will be delivered at the conference. Parallel sessions by the participants will also be held

throughout the three days.

BICET is the flagship international conference series organised by UTB's Faculty of Engineering over the past two decades. It is a biennial event for academicians, researchers, and engineers to share their ideas, recent issues, opinions and research findings on the latest technological development in their respective fields.

Carrying the theme Innovation in Engineering and Technology towards Enhancing Quality of Life and Society, this year's conference is organised into four parallel tracks, composed of 20 sessions conducted over three days. A total of 206 papers from 30 countries were received from various fields in Civil Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Petroleum and Chemical Engineering.

As a leading technological university, UTB nurtures socially responsible talents committed to building a global and entrepreneurial society in pursuit of innovation, industry-relevant capabilities towards the fulfillment of Brunei Vision 2035. In this capacity, UTB remains the Sultanate's key provider of Higher Education in Engineering. BICET 2021 provides an important platform for academics, researchers, engineers, students, and experts to exchange ideas to strengthen innovative and interdisciplinary research on integrated technologies towards embracing the fourth industrial revolution (IR4.0).





8TH BRUNEI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY 2021

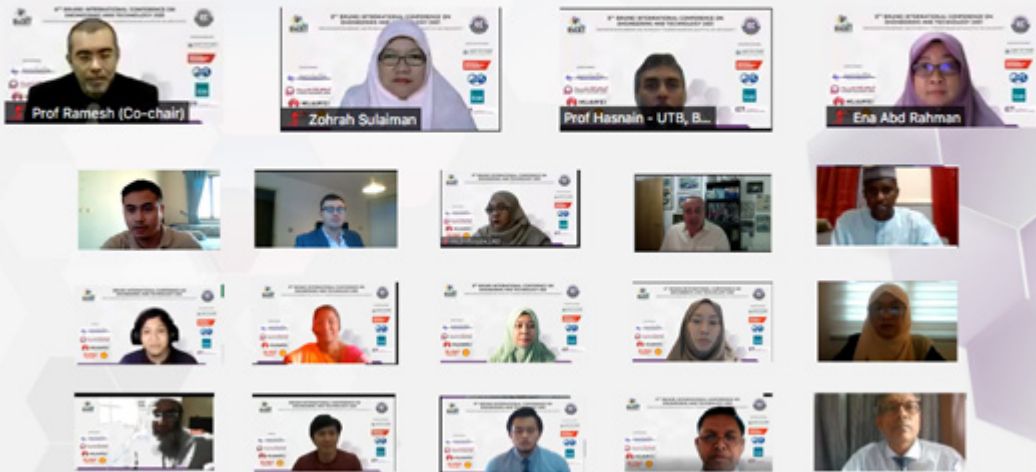
"INNOVATION IN ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY TOWARDS ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE AND SOCIETY."





8TH BRUNEI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY 2021

"INNOVATION IN ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY TOWARDS ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE AND SOCIETY."

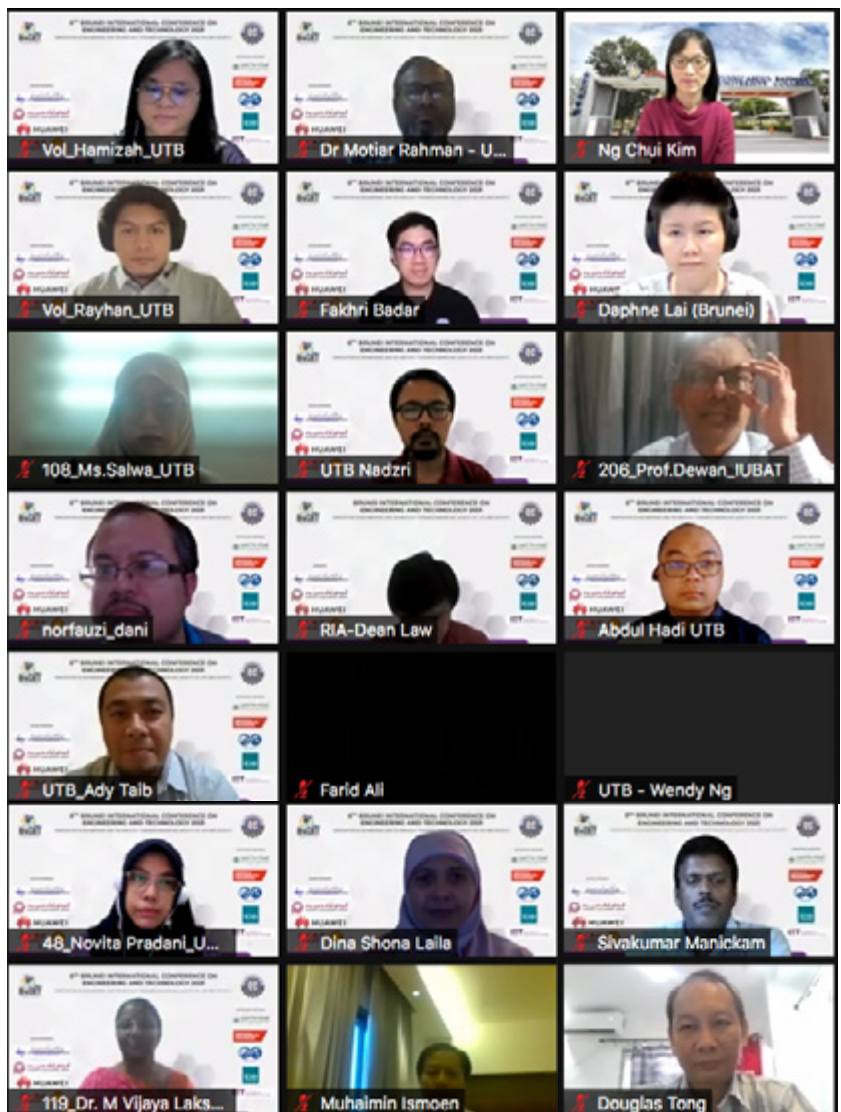


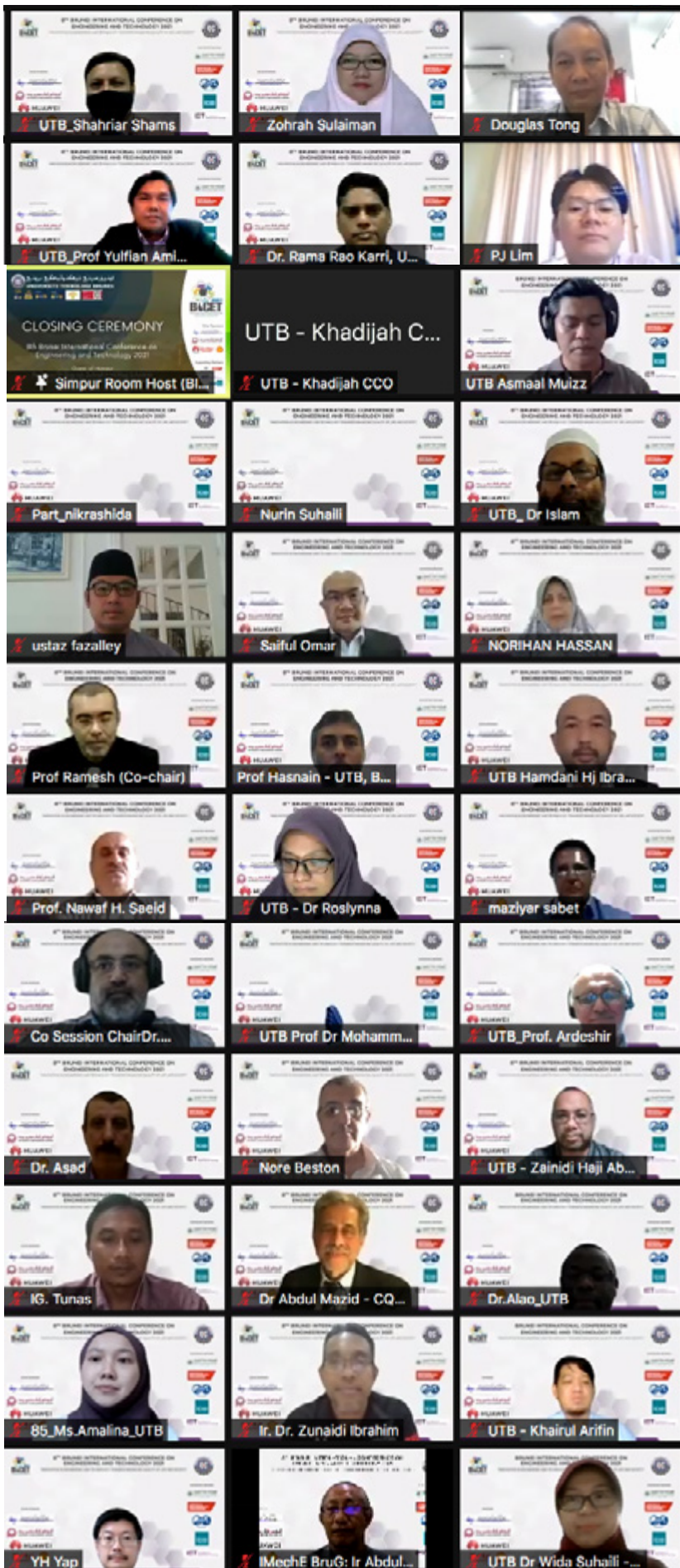
8TH BICET CONCLUDED WITH TWENTY BEST PAPERS

10 November 2021 – A closing ceremony was organised virtually to conclude the 8th BICET. Present as the Guest of Honour was the Vice-Chancellor of UTB. The ceremony began with a closing remark by Professor Dr. Mohamed Hasnain Isa, UTB Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Research) as the Chair of Steering Committee, BICET 2021.

In his remarks, the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Research) announced that twenty recipients had been awarded throughout the conference. The papers were organised into twenty sessions, with the best presentation awards given for each session.

Professor Dr. Mohamed Hasnain stated that the theme 'Innovation in Engineering and Technology Towards Enhancing Quality of Life and Society' was very well reflected by the presentations.

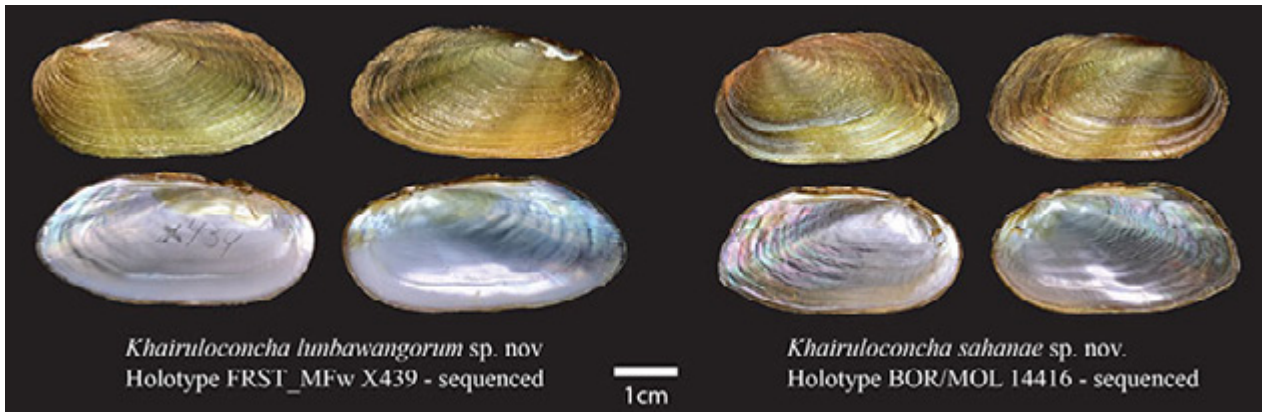




"Many issues such as greenhouse gas emission, resource depletion, environmental degradation, occupational safety, and others that pose challenges to the sustainability of this planet and our very survival were addressed, and solutions were proposed," he added.

The Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Research), who shared a quote "Think globally, act locally" cannot be more relevant given today's global village model where physical borders are mere lines drawn on the ground and where impacts of activities in one part of the world can be easily felt in other regions. He said this makes it more important for cross-border collaborations and knowledge sharing at all levels; government, non-government, industries, academia, and others.

A total of 180 speakers encompassing the conference theme shared their work and ideas during the three-day conference. All manuscripts are peer-reviewed, and accepted papers will be published in the AIP Scopus-index Conference Proceedings. Out of all the participants, twenty recipients from Brunei, the United Kingdom, Nigeria, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, South Africa, Qatar, Japan, and Bangladesh were awarded for best paper presentation.



UTB VICE-CHANCELLOR DISCOVER NEW FRESHWATER SPECIES OF MUSSELS

11 October 2021 - UTB Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Hj Sulaiman was one of the scientists in joint research on discovery of new freshwater species of mussels in Borneo. The research led by the University of Nottingham along with collaborators from Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia, USA and Portugal made the discoveries in small streams in the Gomantong Forest Reserve, Sabah, and near the village of Kuala Mendalam, Sarawak, respectively.

The scientists found that both species are unique to Borneo and are described by the researchers as “quite different from anything we have known to date”, therefore representing a new freshwater mussel group, or genus. The team named the species *Khairuloconcha sahanae*, in honour of the late Dr Sahana Harun, and *Khairuloconcha lunbawangorum*, after the indigenous Lun Bawang tribe of Borneo.

Their discovery comes 94 years after the last freshwater mussel from Borneo was described (*Ctenodesma scheibeneri* in 1927) — the other 17 species known from that island were described much earlier (between 1840 and 1903). Borneo has an exceptionally high number of endemic freshwater mussels, with 15 of the 20 currently recognised native species being restricted to this island.

The findings of the team’s four-year study are published in the journal *Aquatic Conservation*:

A new genus and two new, rare freshwater mussel (*Bivalvia*: *Unionidae*) species endemic to Borneo are threatened by ongoing habitat destruction.

The team are also responsible for the first ever DNA sequence data of Bornean freshwater mussels, generated in 2016.

“The new species of freshwater mussels we have discovered are very rare, known only from a single site each (one in Sarawak, one in Sabah), and highly threatened by ongoing habitat destruction,” Dr Alexandra Zieritz, Anne McLaren Fellow at the University of Nottingham and lead author of the study.

She added: “One of these species is at especially high risk of extinction, as the only site it’s known from has already been dedicated for an industrial oil palm plantation. We are in the process of preparing the paperwork with the Universiti of Malaysia Sarawak to get this area protected. This would not only help the unique biodiversity in this area but also the indigenous Lun Bawang tribe after which we named that species, “*Khairuloconcha lunbawangorum*!”

The authors note that the declines of existing populations of freshwater mussels on Borneo have likely been caused by industrial-scale deforestation and land-use change from primary rainforest to agricultural monocultures (predominantly oil palm plantations).

The experts say these practises result in high levels of soil erosion, strongly increasing sediment yield (amount of sediment run-off), and organic and inorganic pollution (via agricultural run-off) of rivers, all of which negatively affects freshwater mussels directly, by degrading habitat quality, or indirectly by reducing host fish populations that they require to complete their life cycles. Other potential drivers of declines in Borneo’s freshwater mussel populations

include pollution from domestic and industrial sewage, hydrological alterations, mining, climate change and invasive species.

Freshwater mussels are a crucial part of many freshwater habitats globally. They live on the bottom of all kinds of freshwater habitats, including rivers, streams, lakes and ponds, where they filter algae, bacteria and other organisms from the water, thereby acting as biological filters and playing a major role in nutrient cycling. They can remove algae, bacteria and other material at a rate of about 1 litre of water per hour per mussel. Much of this material is subsequently transported to the benthos (organisms living on the bottom of the habitat), providing food for insects and other invertebrates, which thrive in mussel beds in terms of both abundance and diversity.

They have also been shown to enhance biodiversity of insect larvae and other small organisms by providing a three-dimensional habitat. Especially in Asia, people use them directly as a food source and their pearls and shells for ornamental purposes. Other ecosystem services that they provide worldwide include their use in biomonitoring (i.e. monitoring of water quality) and bioremediation (e.g. wastewater treatment).

Dr Zieritz said: “The discovery means that there is a lot that we do not yet know about Borneo’s freshwater mussel diversity. Despite our efforts over these past few years, we have so far only surveyed a small proportion of the island, restricted to Malaysian Borneo and Brunei. Hardly any recent data on freshwater mussels are available for Kalimantan, the

Indonesian part of Borneo, which makes up 73 per cent of the island.

“Despite these constraints, we already found two new species, suggesting that there may be more species waiting to be discovered and which likely require protection. However, considering the rapid rate of habitat destruction, we need to act fast in locating the remaining populations of native and endemic Bornean mussels, so that they can receive the necessary protection. It may also be worth noting that the situation is most likely similar for other obscure freshwater organisms, such as beetles, snails or mayflies, for which we have even less data at the moment.”

The collaborators on the study were: Leonardo Jainih of Universiti Malaysia Sabah; John Pfeiffer of National Museum of Natural History; Khairul Adha A. Rahim of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak; Hari Prayogo of Tanjungpura University; Muhammad Sofwan Anwari of Tanjungpura University; Arman Hadi Fikri of Universiti Malaysia Sabah; Farah Diba of Tanjungpura University; Hussein Taha of Universiti Brunei Darussalam; Zohrah Sulaiman of Universiti Teknologi Brunei; Elsa Froufe of CIMAR/CIIMAR-UP Centre of Marine and 3 Environmental Research, AEE; Manuel Lopes-Lima of CIBIO/InBIO – Research Center in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources, University of Porto.

- SOURCE & COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM





THE CHINA-ASEAN BIG DATA INDUSTRY-UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ALLIANCE

17 November 2021 – UTB has become one of the China-ASEAN Big Data Industry-University Research Alliance members along with other prestigious universities and industries from China and five ASEAN countries. The alliance was announced and launched during the 2021 China-ASEAN University (Country and Regional Studies) Think-Tank Network Forum.

Aimed at promoting knowledge sharing, joint research, and China-ASEAN big data development, the alliance is jointly initiated by Guangxi University and China-ASEAN Information Harbor Institute of Big Data Research.

Prior to the event, an agreement was signed by Professor Dr Dayang Hajah Zohrah binti Hj Sulaiman, UTB Vice-Chancellor, for UTB to join the alliance together with university and industry representatives from Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and China.

The alliance’s objective is to form an ASEAN campus for the big data platform that allows researchers to address issues related to big data analytics in Industry 4.0. Furthermore, its overall goal is to strengthen the exchange and cooperation between China and ASEAN countries’ big data research universities, scientific research institutions, and enterprises.

Over 180 experts, international organisations, university think-tank representatives from China, Thailand, Singapore, Denmark, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Cambodia attended the forum and witnessed the launching of the China-ASEAN Big Data Industry-University Research Alliance.

Representing UTB at the event was Dr Lim Tiong Hoo, Director of Planning & Development Office.

The launching ceremony then proceeded with a board meeting where the council, secretariat, expert and professional committee were formed. During the meeting, China-ASEAN Information Port Big Data Research Institute and Thailand’s Suan Dusit University were elected as the co-chairmen by Alliance Council.

The first batch of the member units came from six countries comprising Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and UTB representing Brunei, followed by fourteen enterprises and institutions including China Mobile, Huawei, iFlytek, and Digital Guangxi.

The 2021 China-ASEAN University (Country and Regional Studies) Think-Tank Network Forum was held physically and online. Themed Serving New Western Land-Sea Corridor (WLSC) and Focusing on Digital Economy Integration, the forum was divided into three sections, namely Section I: Retrospect and Prospect of China-ASEAN Cooperation in 30 Years, Section II: Promotion of Construction of New WLSC by China-ASEAN Cooperation, and Section III: China-ASEAN Big Data Cooperation: Embracing the Era of Digital Economy.



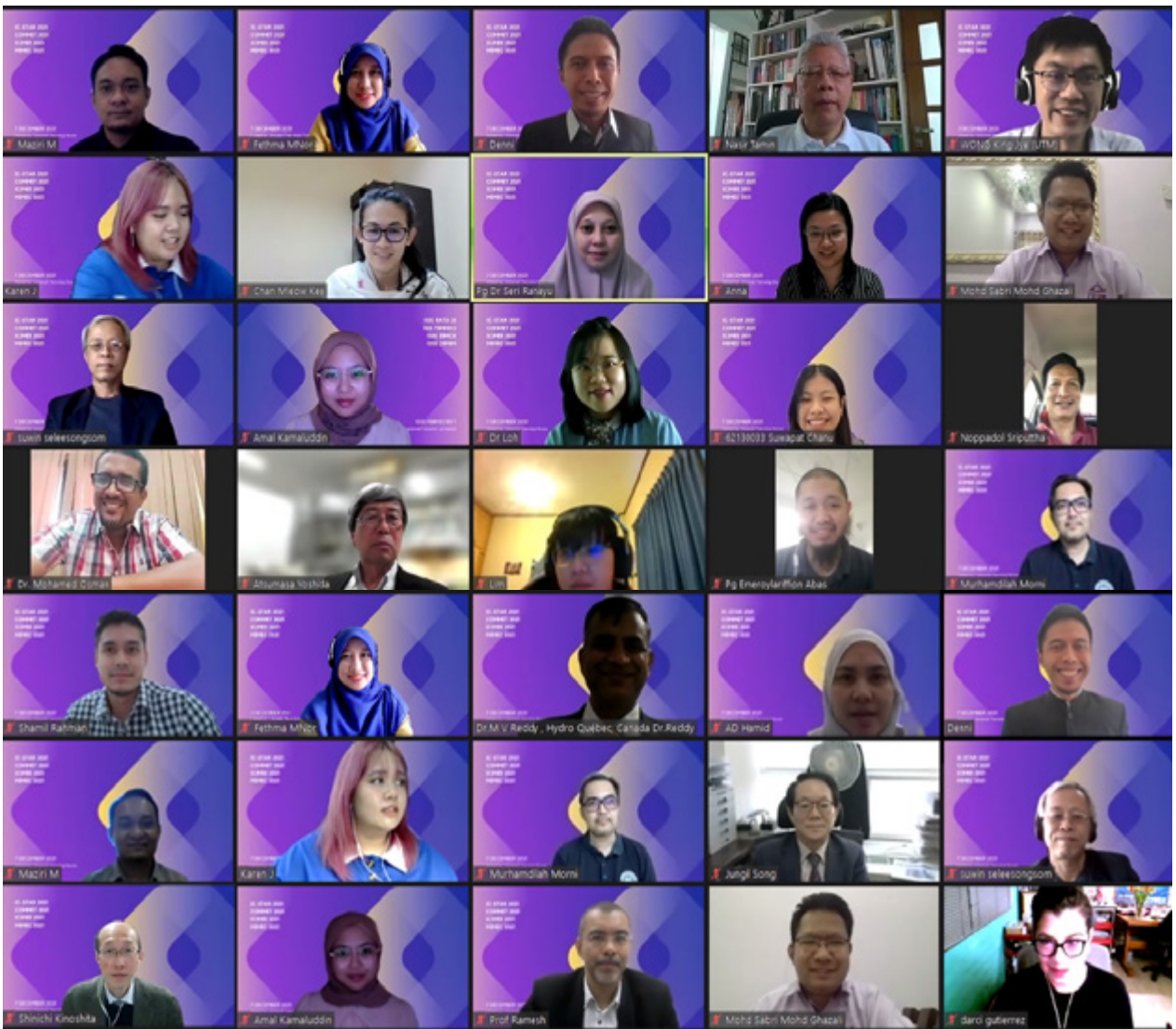
BRU-NAPC BRUNEI NETWORKED ASEAN PEAT SWAMP FOREST COMMUNITIES AWARDED FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT



3 December 2021 – The ‘BRU-NAPC Brunei Networked ASEAN Peat Swamp Forest Communities’ was awarded the ASEAN Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award for the Year 2021 at the 39th Conference of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisation (CAFEEO).

The award was presented by Ir. Haji Mohammad Zin bin Hj Salleh, President of Pertubuhan Ukur, Jurutera dan Arkitek (PUJA) Brunei to the Assistant Professors from the School of Computing & Informatics and Faculty of Engineering, Dr Wida Susanty bin Hj Suhaili and Pg Dr Rafidah binti Pg Hj Petra, respectively.

The project was awarded in recognition of providing solutions to conserve the peatland ecosystem through cross-cutting technologies and for its role in the tropical rainforest environment and attaining the goals of Brunei Darussalam’s National Climate Change Policy. The award ceremony took place during the CAFEEO 39 Closing Ceremony at the International Convention Centre, Brunei Darussalam.



3RD INTERNATIONAL COMMET 2021

7 December 2021 – The Faculty of Engineering under the Mechanical Engineering programme area hosted the virtual 3rd International Conference on Materials and Manufacturing Engineering Technology (CoMMET 2021).

The CoMMET 2021 was part of the international conference series of the 7th International Online Conference on Science, Technology, and Interdisciplinary Research (IC-STAR2021), 4th International Materials, Industrial, and Manufacturing Engineering Conference (MIMEC2021), and 1st International Conference of Industrial, Mechanical, and Electrical Engineering (ICIMEE2021).

The series was intended to provide a global platform for researchers and engineers from the fields of engineering and applied sciences to share their research results among their peers. The event saw six keynote speeches, parallel sessions, and presentations from 19 countries across three world continents. After editorial and peer review processes, the manuscripts will be submitted and eventually published in partner journals and conference proceedings (indexed in Scopus). The event concluded with a remark by Pg Dr. Seri Rahayu binti Pg Yaakub, Deputy Dean (Academic) of FEng as the Co-Chair of CoMMET 2021.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOMS

Tri-CEd, that oversees the lifelong learning and continuing education in UTB holds a live webinar series titled “beyond the classrooms” every Saturday from 11 September until 2 October 2021.

The series aimed to provide transformative knowledge and introduce students and the public on enhancing their soft skills as well as supplementing their knowledge on the current

trends of technology, environment and society.

The series involved four sessions of webinar that featured a line-up of panels from UTB and Brunei Climate Change Secretariat (BCCS) to discuss data analytics, importance of spreadsheet, climate change and employment marketability. In the long term, Tri-CEd also aims to present the series with a frequency of one series per semester.

The webinar series intends to be educational and inclusive that a non-inclined academic person will be able to participate. It also acts as promotional sessions to the upskilling and reskilling short courses the university offers.



INCREASE YOUR MARKETABLE EMPLOYABILITY

11 September 2021 – The first session of the webinar commenced with a topic on ‘Increase your marketable employability’ that focused on ways to enhance soft skills and an individual’s ability when securing a job especially with the high unemployment rate in the country and the impact of the pandemic.

Forty-five jobseekers consisting of students and graduates from the university attended the session delivered by Dr. Norihan Abu Hassan, Dean of Centre of Communication, Teaching & Learning, UTB.

The participants were trained with a range of skills that allow them to communicate effectively during job interview.

The strategies to increase marketability and identifying what are the soft skills employers seek during interview was also explained in the session.



DATA ANALYTICS

18 September 2021 – The series continued with Strategising your business using Data Analytics topic which explored an in-depth look into building and making business thrive by utilising data analytics.

About forty-five participants consisting of students and graduates from UTB and the public attended the webinar. The session was delivered by Dr. Haji Saleem bin Haji Nazmudeen, Dean of UTB School of Business

In the session, Dr. Haji Saleem shared about how data analytics practices are executed in the business world and able to nurture business growth. Besides business, he added that data analytics can be utilised in many other areas such as

marketing and healthcare to name a few.

Among other key areas highlighted in the session were the infrastructure requirements, applications of data analytics, linking data analytics to the organisation/business strategy, and further study on data analytics.

The participants were also enlightened on the three types of analytics namely Descriptive, Predictive and Prescriptive. He added that these analytics may contribute to better decision making to boost business performances and to reach its strategic goals.



ENHANCING SPREADSHEET SKILLS

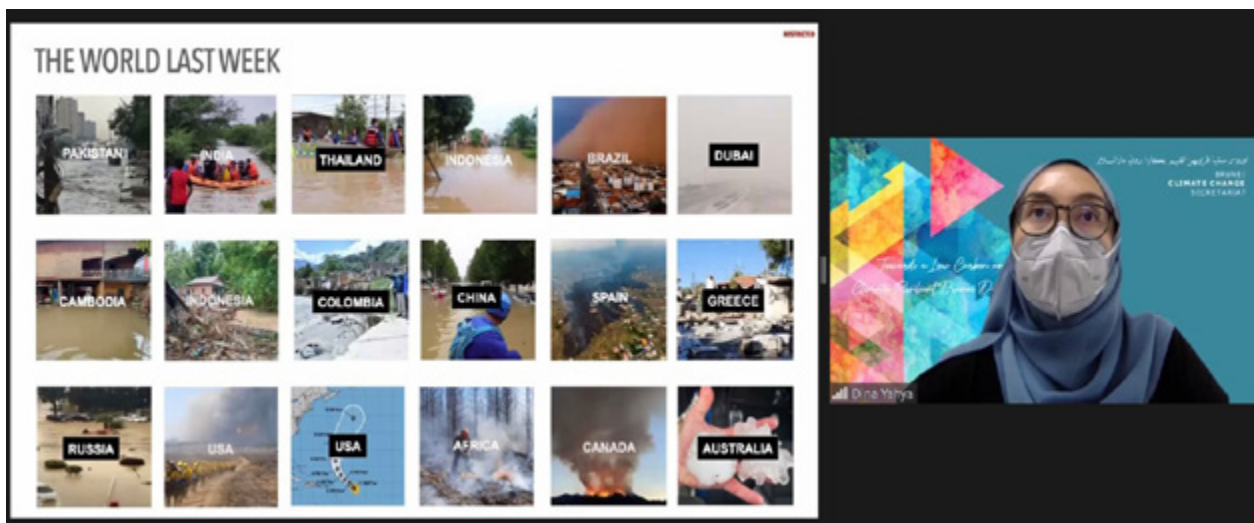
25 September 2021 – More than fifty participants attended the third session entitled 'Things you didn't know about Spreadsheet'. This edition focused on the tips and tricks in spreadsheet that could ease the learning process of the learners.

The session delivered by Dr. Rama Rao Karri, Senior Assistant Professor, Faculty of Engineering was attended by participants comprising students, graduates and lecturers from UTB as well as the public.

According to Dr. Rao, there are a lot of things that can be done with Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that people are unaware of. Other than storing information, users are able to organise,

compile, categorise and analyse data into logical format.

In the session, Dr. Rao also introduced some of Microsoft Excel features such as simple student data entry form, creating dashboard, sending personalised emails through Word-Excel-Outlook, creating QR code and sending automatic e-certificates for participants. The participants were also taught on how to use spreadsheet through shared files in Google Drive.



RAISING AWARENESS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

2 October 2021 – The series concluded with a fourth session entitled Climate Action NOW!: Brunei National Climate Change Policy. The session aimed to share valuable information on how the world and specifically Brunei intends to tackle this impending disaster.

Around seventy participants gained insights on climate change delivered by Dayang Noor Dina Zharina Yahya, Head of Brunei Climate Change Secretariat (BCCS).

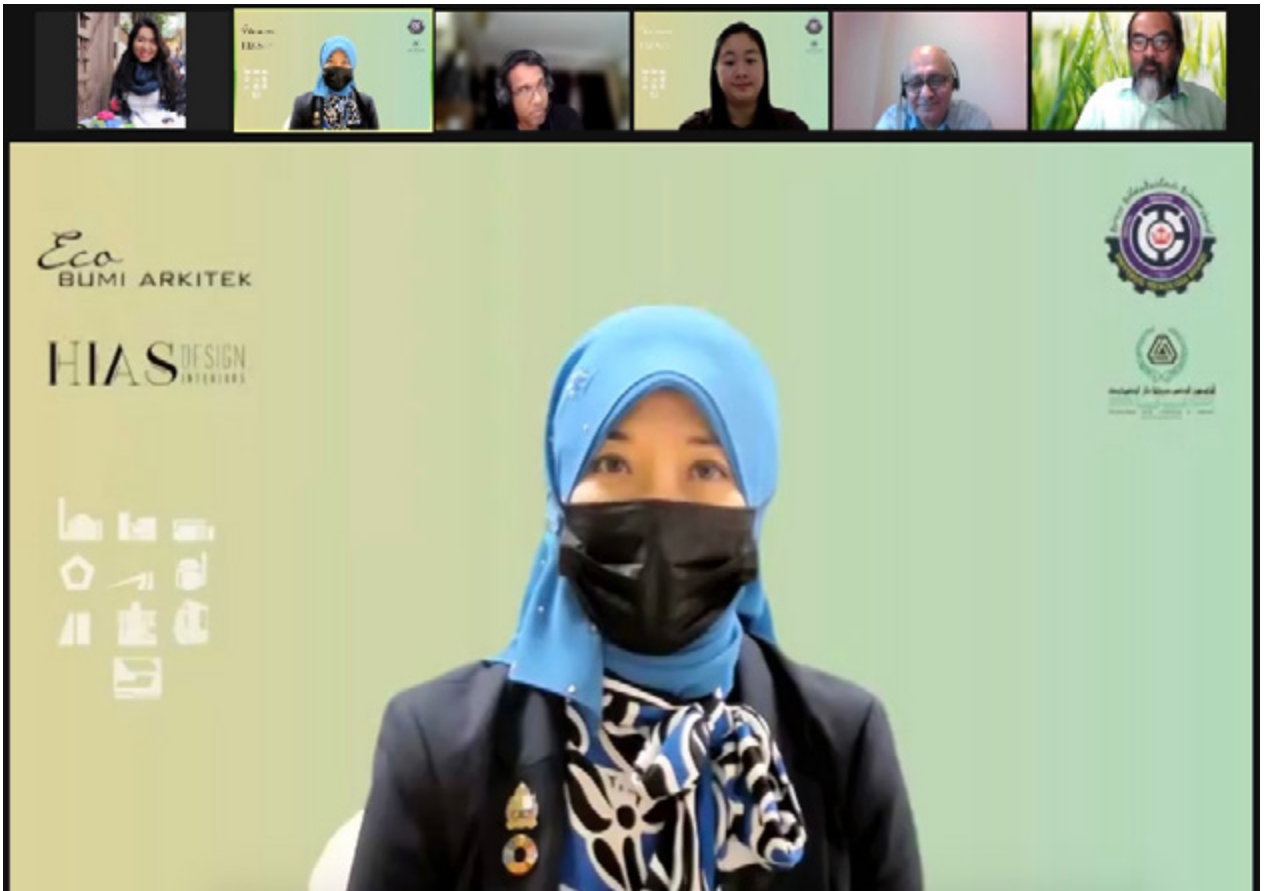
In the session, the Head of BCCS shared a statement by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) in which they declared the year 2018, 2019, and 2020 were the warmest three years ever recorded and she finds it quite alarming. She stressed that transformational change is needed to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees celsius, Global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions must be reduced by 45% by 2030 and the world must reach net zero emissions by 2050.

As for the climate change impacts on Brunei, the country may be one of the least to contribute to global warming, yet it is impacted by landslide, floods and forest fire. She also stated

that the country's mean temperature has shown an increasing trend of 0.25 degrees celsius per decade.

Dayang Noor Dina mentioned that climate change issues should be addressed in a whole-of-nation approach which resulted in the development of the Brunei National Climate Policy (BNCP) that outlines the principles, values, and strategies needed to pave the way for low carbon and climate-resilient pathways for a sustainable nation.

Towards this, ten key strategies were identified and need to be achieved in line with Wawasan Brunei 2035 and cover areas pertaining to industrial emissions, forest cover, electric vehicles, renewable energy, power management, carbon pricing, waste management, carbon inventory, climate resilience and adaptation, and, awareness and education.



CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY'S PROFESSIONAL ETHICS LECTURE SERIES

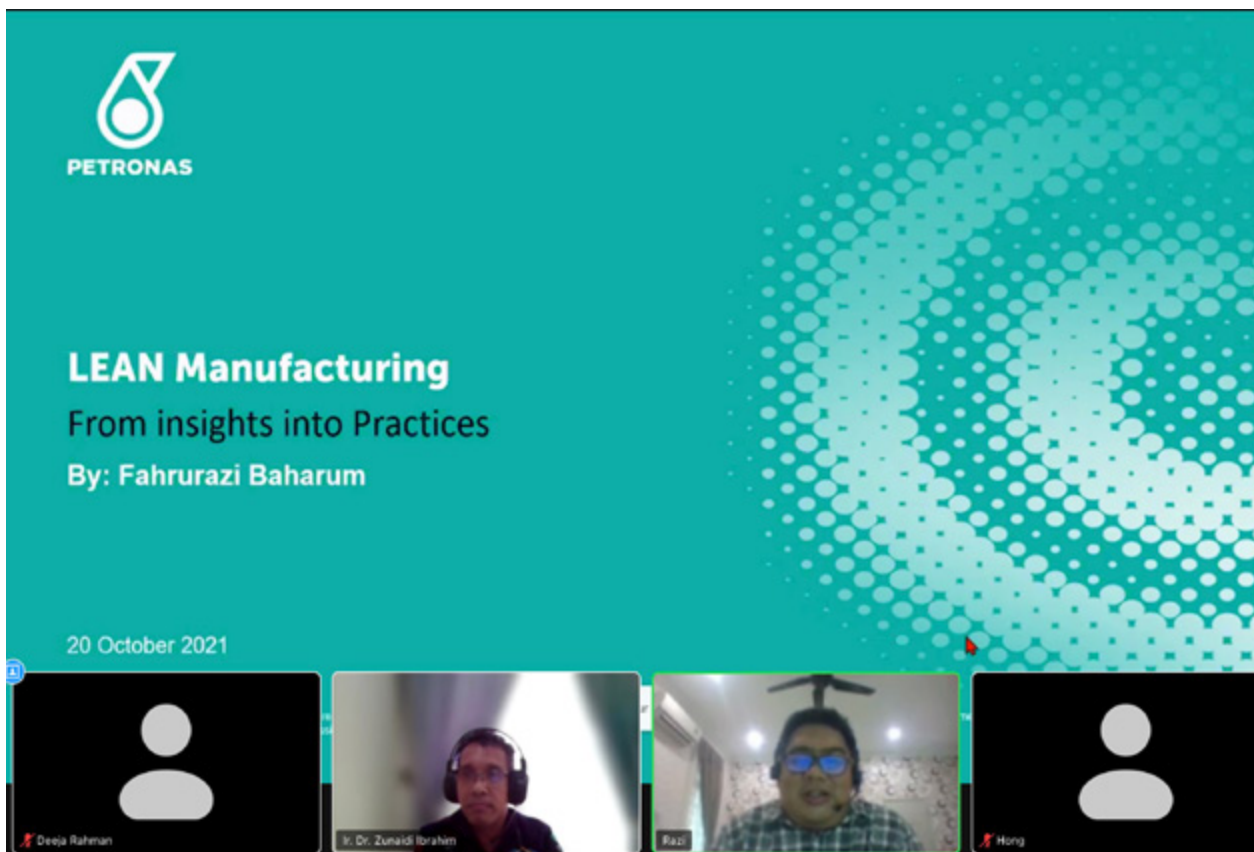
2 October 2021 – The lecture series was hosted through an online platform by the university's Faculty of Engineering (FEng) in collaboration with the Pertubuhan Ukur, Jurutera dan Arkitek (PUJA) Brunei and Eco Bumi Arkitek.

More than 100 construction enthusiasts attended the series led by Yang Berhormat FDr Ar Siti Rozaimeriyanty binti Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Abdul Rahman, Legislative Council member cum Director of Eco Bumi Arkitek and Immediate Past President of PUJA.

The attendees were briefed about the importance of maintaining professional ethics throughout implementing projects to set the relationships between parties to prevent construction projects from suffering.

At the lecture series, the project managers from Eco Bumi Arkitek presented two project case studies as examples related to professional ethics including the proposed development of the Abode, Eco Resort Temburong, and Projek Menaiktaraf Galeri Seni, Bandar Seri Begawan. Issues and challenges faced from the case study were also shared such as site condition, third party coordination, COVID-19 impact, heritage site limitations and meeting stakeholder's objective.

The series then concluded with some key points shared by Eco Bumi Arkitek's junior designer, on how university studies can be applied to career practice and how to prepare to meet the industry expectation.



LSS LECTURE SERIES

20 October 2021 – About 50 attendees comprising lecturers and students gained new insights about the application of Lean Six Sigma (LSS) at a Lecture Series entitled ‘Lean Six Sigma in Just-in-Time System Manufacturing: From Insights into Practices’. The lecture series organised by the Faculty of Engineering (FEng) was delivered by a guest speaker from Petronas Malaysia.

The lecture began by introducing what LSS is, as defined by Mr. Fahrurazi Baharum, Head of Organisation Improvement and Senior Lean Six-Sigma Master Black Belt, in business definition LSS is known as a systematic approach in achieving and sustaining business success by focusing on customer-driven value. Meanwhile, in operational definition, Mr. Fahrurazi said that LSS is a set of data-driven tools integrated into a structured problem-solving approach to improve process performance variation to meet the business requirement.

According to Mr. Fahrurazi, LSS is the best tool to drive continual improvement in any organisations. The attendees were given a concise overview of Petronas and how LSS could benefit the organisation. The relation between, Kaizen – continuous improvement, and LSS were also explained.

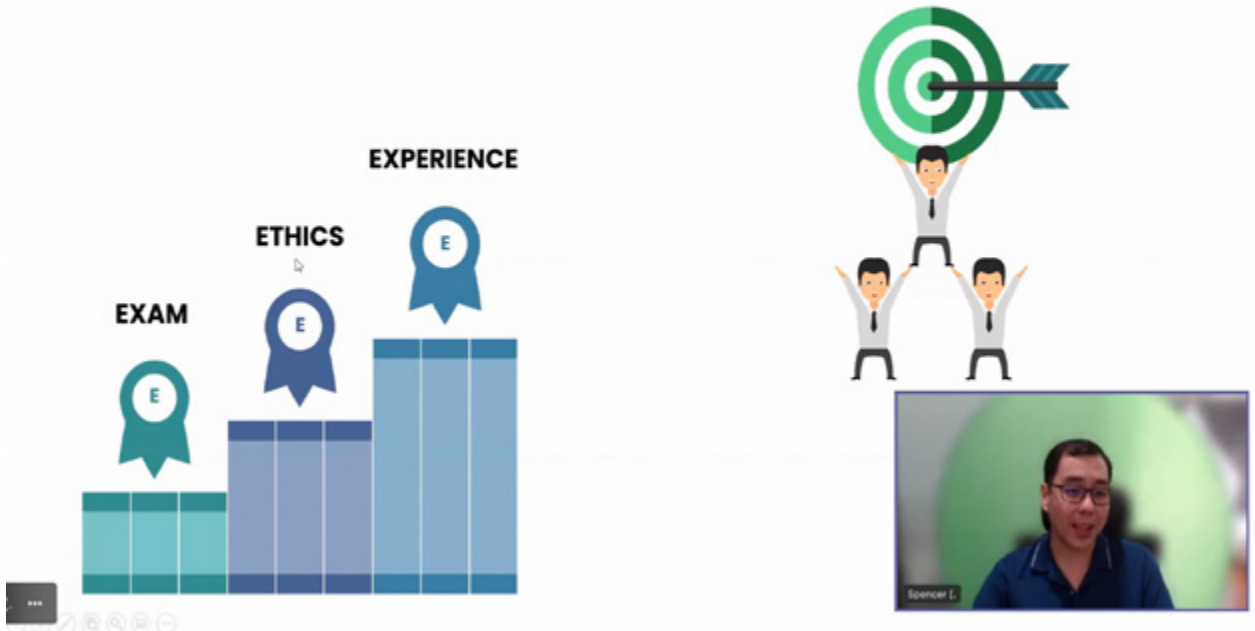
The attendees were then briefed about the difference between Lean (waste elimination) that focuses on speed and flexibility, and Six Sigma (quality improvement) which gives stability and accuracy. Therefore, when both are being executed together, it gives a powerful union that could solve various types of problems related to the improvement of processes and products.

The series then concluded with some examples of where Lean can be implemented in Petronas such as the lean application in compliance with COVID-19 guidelines, organisation safety, greenhouse project execution, improving group procurement operation, and maintenance and operations.

ACCA Qualification

To be an ACCA Member

2



ACCA ENGAGEMENT SESSION

23 October 2021 – More than fifty undergraduate students from the UTB School of Business (UTB-SB) attended an engagement session with ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) organised by UTB-SB.

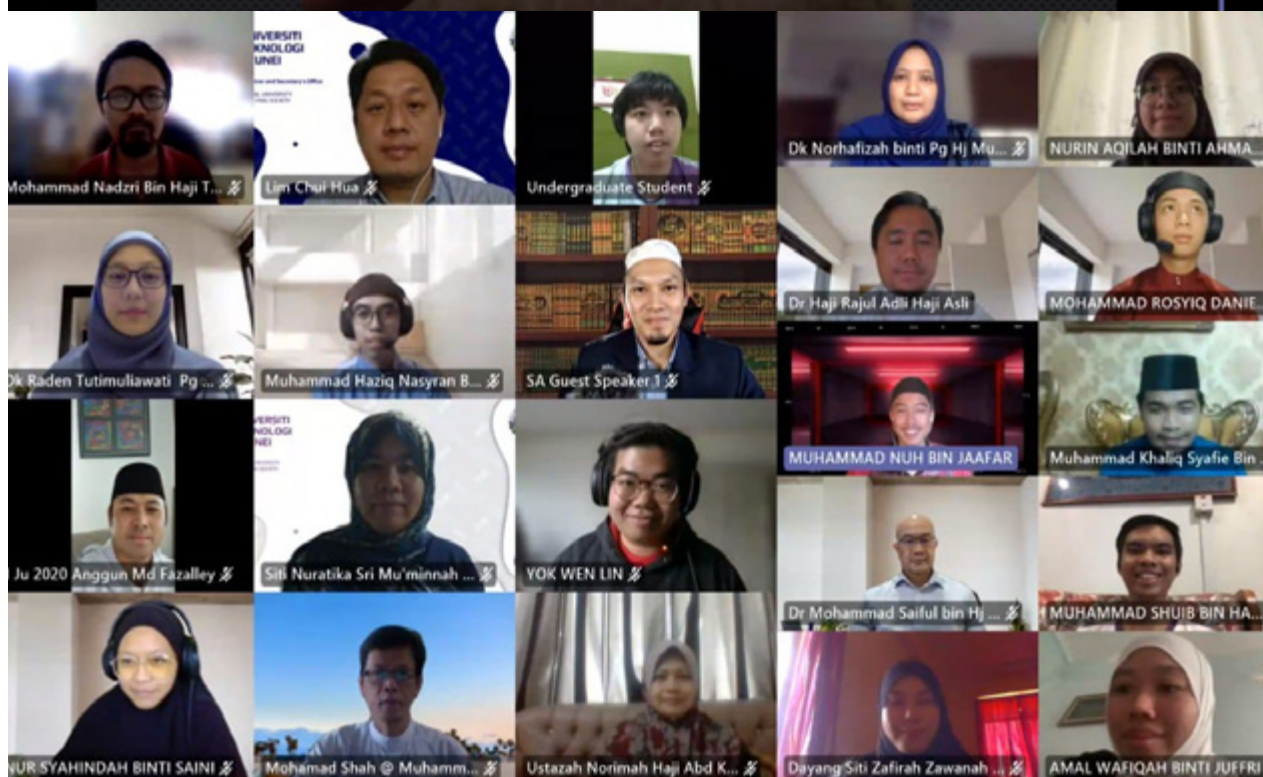
The engagement session that was delivered by representatives from the ACCA Malaysia office was divided into two parts. The first part, 'ACCA Accelerate Programme,' was presented by Mr. Peter Gabriel, giving an overview of ACCA and the benefits of the Accelerate programme.

Meanwhile, in the second part of the session on 'ACCA Syllabus Structure (Strategic Professional) & Exam/Study Support,' Mr. Spencer Cheah shared the types of examinations and syllabuses that the students are expected to undertake.

During the session, the students were encouraged to consider the ACCA as part of their accounting professional qualifications. A special arrangement has been made between ACCA and UTB that allows students to register the Accelerate programme at a reduced fee and to undertake the exams while completing their undergraduate degree.

Mr. Cheah highlighted that student would gain a potent blend of skills and experience when taking ACCA qualifications during their studies, making them instantly attractive to potential employers.

DOES YOUR EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS?



ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE ON MENTAL HEALTH

8 November 2021 – In conjunction with Mental Health Day 2021, the Counselling Unit of the Student Affairs Office hosted a virtual motivational talk for staff and students about mental health from an Islamic perspective.

The talk entitled 'Mental Health - an Islamic Perspective: How to Support Your Mental Health' was delivered by guest speaker, Ustaz Awang Muhammad Yussof bin Hj Abdul Majid. He discussed the importance of mental health and how faith

can be a source of motivation for a person to address their mental health challenges.

In the talk, Ustaz Awang Muhammad Yussof advised not to underestimate the role of religion and spirituality in mental health, nor blaming mental illnesses on the lack of faith and religiosity of an individual. Common misconceptions about mental health in general and ways to help people who are going through mental health problems were also shared.

What can you report to BruCERT?



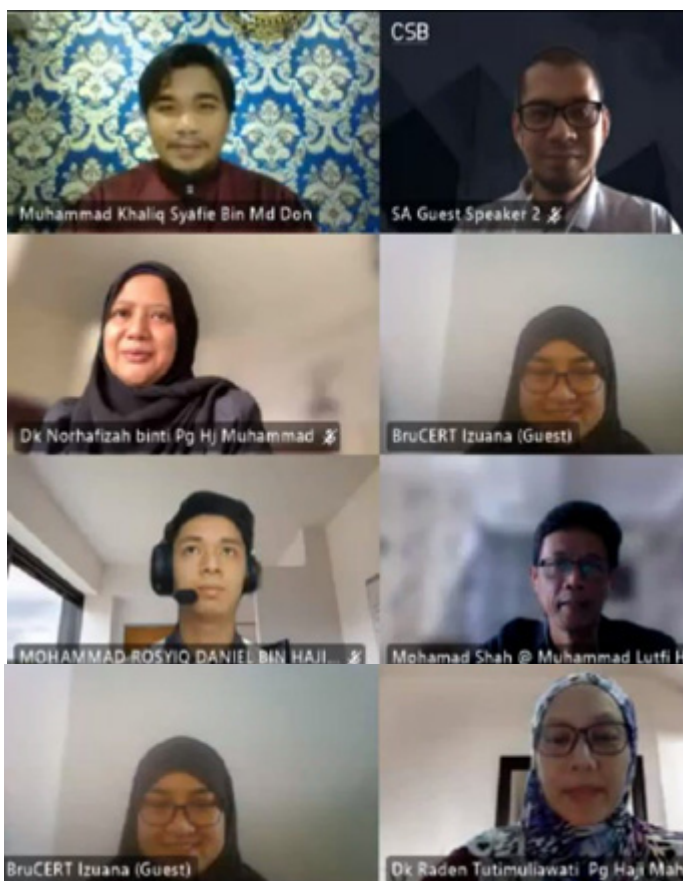
RAISING AWARENESS ON CYBERBULLY

2 October 2021 - To raise awareness on cybercrime issues, the Counseling Unit of the Student Affairs Office hosted a talk entitled 'Cyber Aggression vs Cyber Bullying'. About forty attendees consisting of staff and students attended the talk delivered by Dayang Siti Nor Izuana binti Ayob, Cybersecurity Awareness Officer from BruCERT.

As the use of technology has evolved and on the rise, the attendees were briefed on the different types of cyber aggressions and ways to report or block cyberbullying on social media platforms.

According to Dayang Izuana, cyberbullying is unavoidable, including cyber-assaults, slander, misappropriation of likeness, defamation, and false light breaches of privacy.

The attendees are reminded to be vigilant when online and advised to report to BruCERT if they encounter any cybercrime issues. Among other problems that can be reported to BruCERT are infected computer, malicious website, hacked email account, phishing, business email compromise, cyberbullying, website defacement, denial of service, and social media that involves scam.





ISW 2021 AWARDED ATU-NET EVENT OF THE YEAR

23 November 2021 – The International Staff Week (ISW) 2021 co-hosted by UTB under the Corporate Communications Office (CCO) held in August 2021 was awarded the ‘ATU-Net Event of the Year’ at the Asia Technological University Network (ATU-Net) Virtual University Presidents Forum (VUPF2021).

The ISW 2021 was tailored for members of the international office that serves as a capacity building programme to foster stronger ties and enhance cooperation amongst the universities worldwide.

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS) and Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) were also the co-hosts of the event.





SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE 2021

2 October 2021 – Seeds for the Future 2021 was officiated by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman, Minister of Education as the Guest of Honour at the virtual opening ceremony.

Seeds for the Future is Huawei's flagship Corporate Social Responsibility Programme. For more than ten years, Huawei aimed to develop local talent, enhance knowledge transfer, promote a greater understanding and interest in the ICT sector, and encourage participation in the digital community.

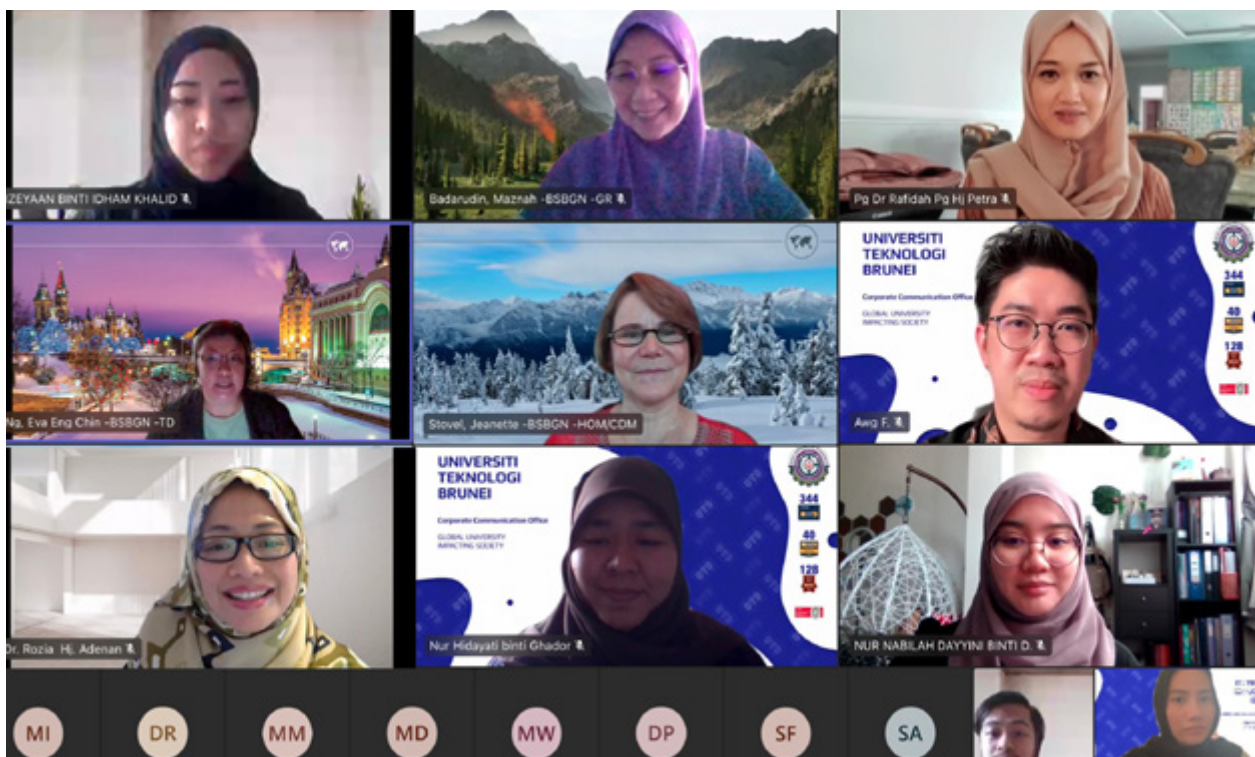
This year, Huawei was delighted to welcome 42 more students from different majors and institutions including UTB, UBD, Politeknik Brunei, Institute of Brunei Technical Education and Micronet International College to participate.

Huawei's Headquarters (HQ) team is continuously refining the course quality by focusing on industry-leading technologies and offering students the chance to work in a global environment and participate in numerous cultural exchanges. For Seeds for the Future 2021, Huawei's HQ has added new topic in the programme such as China live-streaming

culture, Exploring China social media, Huawei leadership approach, Uber model across Asian markets, "Tech4Good" Group Work - Multi-cultural learning environment, Creativity and Innovation, Interactive and dynamic classroom, Huawei exhibition hall live visit, Live Chinese cultural sightseeing, Tailored pre-recorded visit and live Q&A with fast-growing companies.

During the eight day programme, it was hoped that the students will enjoy the seeds journey and gain more experience on culture as well in the ICT field and ready for the future career hunt.





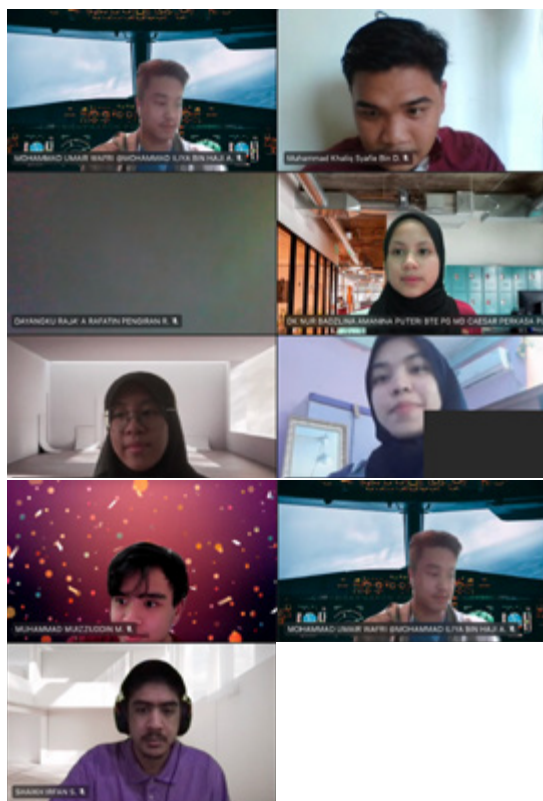
COFFEE CHAT WITH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF CANADA

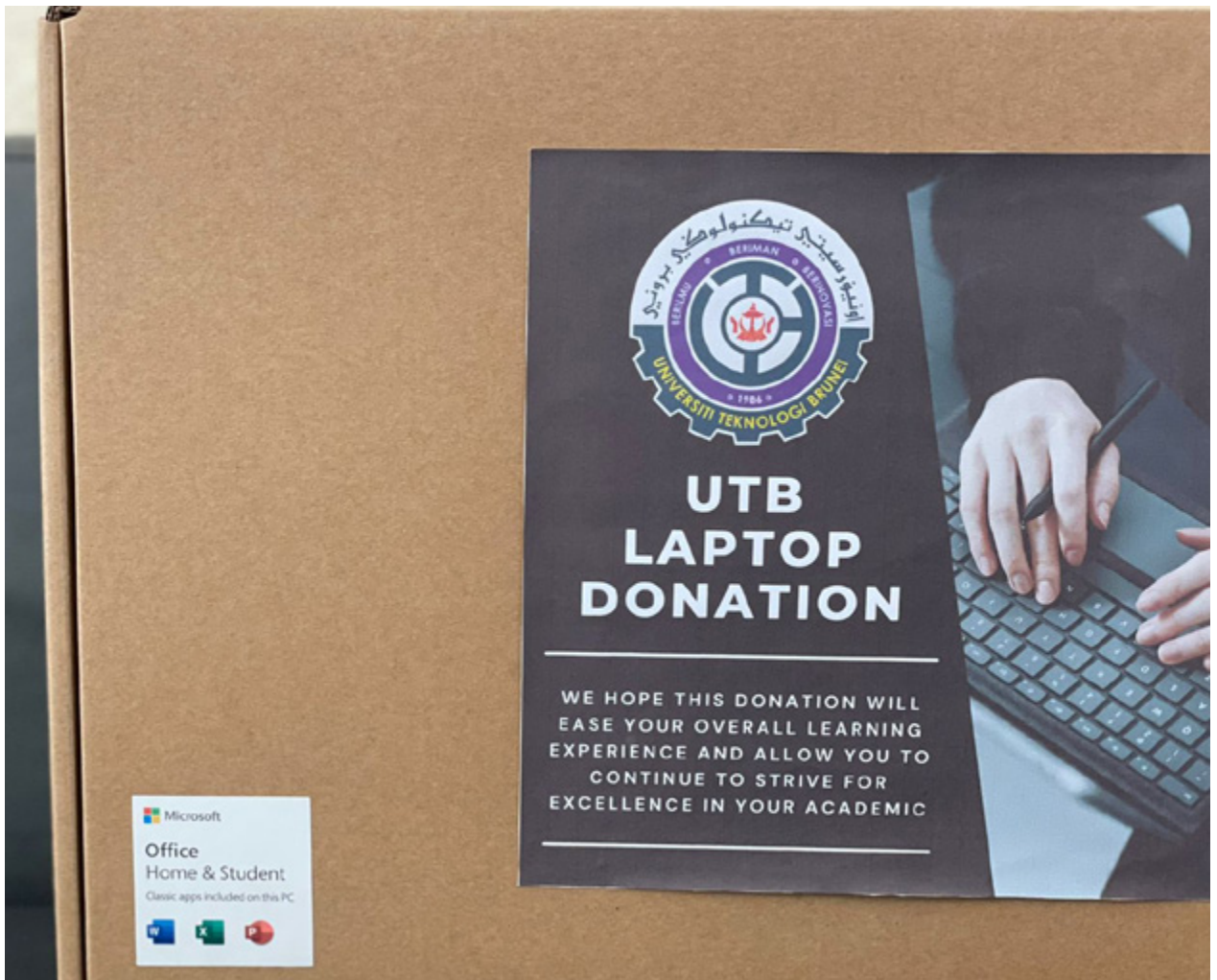
9 December 2021 – Over fifty staff and students sat down over a cup of coffee and had an informal virtual conversation with Her Excellency Madame Jeanette Stovel, High Commissioner of Canada in Brunei Darussalam at the Coffee Chat Session.

During the session, Her Excellency gave an overview of the Canada-ASEAN Scholarships and Educational Exchanges for Development (SEED) and shared what the students need to know to study in Canada, from advice on choosing the university to guidance on applying for the scholarship and the study life in Canada.

Her Excellency explained that SEED is a short-term scholarship programme for Southeast Asia students to conduct short term study or research at any Canadian institutions in areas related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. She mentioned that there are about 125 scholarships that will be offered this year from around the ASEAN region. “The duration will be four to eight months for undergraduate level and four to six months for postgraduate level,” she added.

Interested candidates were advised to apply for the scholarship as early as possible and to consult with the UTB’s Corporate Communications Office on the application process.





UTB LAPTOP DONATION

27 December 2021 – Following the COVID-19 Donation Drive 2.0 held from 14 September 2021, the Student Affairs Office continued to organise another donation drive called UTB Laptop Donation.

Four students were selected to receive the donation which was handed by Dk Norhafizah binti Pg Muhammad, Acting Dean of Student Affairs Office.

The laptop donation was organised to further assist and ease the burden of students of the university in response to the current e-learning situation. The donation was collected amongst the UTB staff from 27 October to 2 November 2021.





COVID-19 SOP VISIT FROM MOE

28 December 2021 - As the country entered the early endemic phase, higher education institutions and schools nationwide will be opened in stages to ensure the safety of the community.

The Ministry of Education (MOE) visited UTB to review the university preparedness for the re-opening of the university

for the upcoming semester and to ensure COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) are adequately implemented.

Present during the visit was Dr Haji Azman bin Ahmad, Permanent Secretary (Higher Education). The MOE delegates were welcomed by Dr Mohamad Saiful bin Haji Omar, Acting Vice-Chancellor of UTB.






Designing your future

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