

UTP Quarterly



UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
PETRONAS

ISSUE
72

ISSN 1675 - 2023
Oct - Dec 2019

Message

From The VC

Dear all,

We have come full circle once again and the end of the 2019 is upon us. Our journey through the year has indeed been event-filled, with numerous victories, success stories and accomplishments.

While we celebrate these milestones, we also need to be mindful of the reality of changing times.

UTP has not been spared the challenges and trials that have inundated the higher education sphere in Malaysia. From ever-evolving teaching and learning methods to a drop in enrolment, lack of interest in STEM, rising development and operational costs, and stiff competition, we are in the thick of things.

In spite of all these, the UTP spirit remains strong and resilient. Strongly backed and supported by PETRONAS and our other stakeholders, we will strive to ensure our infrastructure and learning eco-system remains conducive and contemporary to ensure every student receives the best of educational experiences.

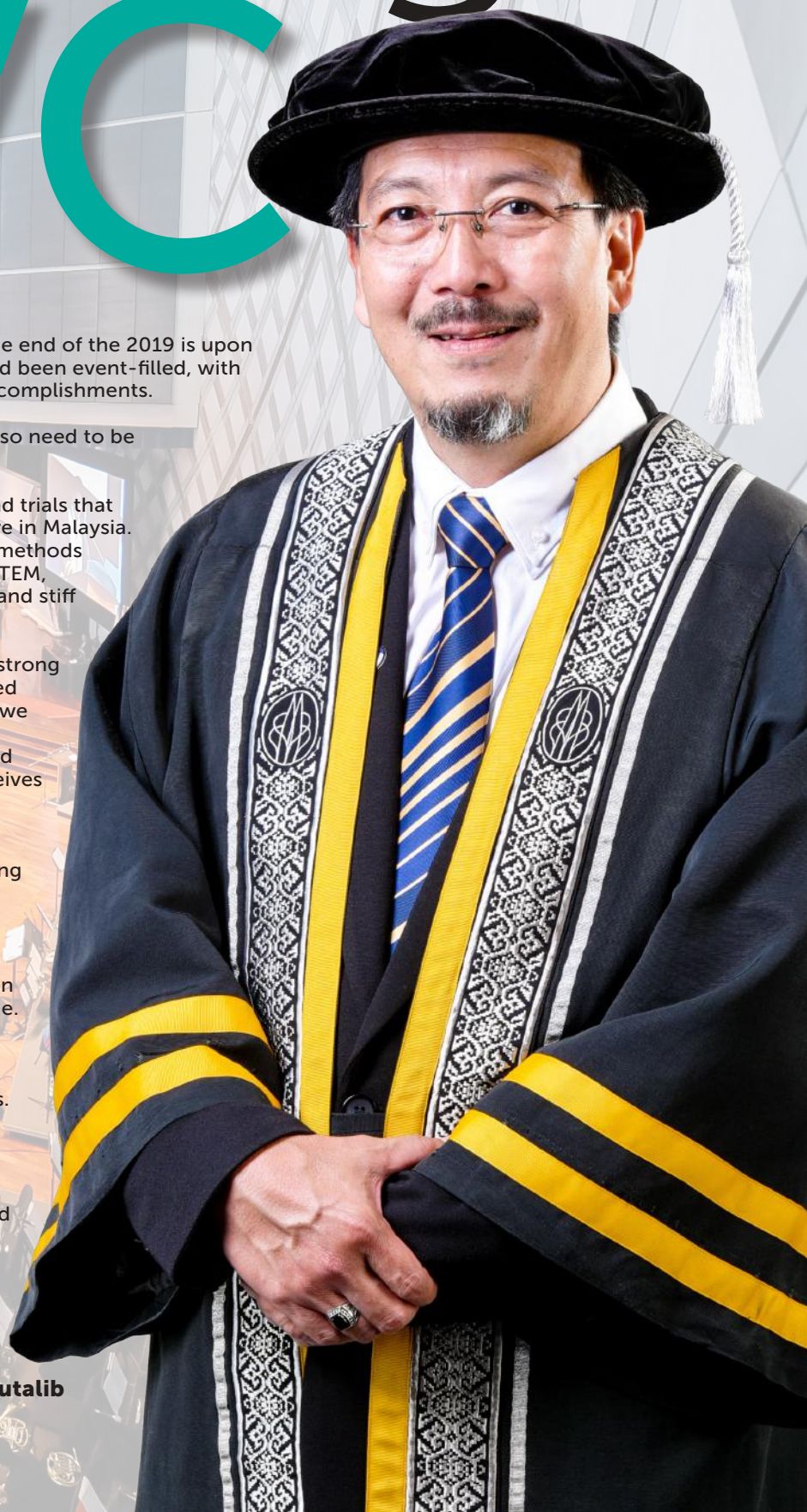
We also continue to transform and grow, enhancing our approach to learning, aligning our curriculum and fortifying research activities as we build upon our student experiences. All these are geared towards producing graduates who are increasingly able and skilled who in turn will strengthen UTP's position on the world education stage.

With this firmly in mind, we bid farewell to 2019 and look forward to a new decade of vision, growth, development and successes.

I thank each and every one of you for your dedicated and concerted efforts through 2019. Our successes were only possible through the hard work, countless hours and commitment you so willingly lent to UTP.

Wishing all of you peace, health and happiness as you celebrate the end of the year and plan for new beginnings.

Prof Ts Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Abdul Motalib



Celebrating Our Latest Batch of Graduates

UTP's 19th Convocation Ceremony saw us sending off 1,711 graduates. We awarded 115 doctorate, 143 Masters, and 1,453 bachelor degrees this time round.

From these, 227 comprised international students from 28 countries including Brunei, Iraq, Yemen, Uzbekistan, Sudan, Egypt and Ukraine. With this batch of students, UTP is proud to have produced a total of 19,013 graduates to date.

As per tradition, we also honoured our high achievers and this year's Chancellor's Gold Award went to Information Technology graduate Aliya Najiha Amir while Civil Engineering graduate Looi Chee Kean and Chemical Engineering graduate Ho Syhui took home the Silver and Bronze awards respectively.

Abdallah Abdelmoniem Abdallah Mohammed, a Chemical Engineering graduate was recognised as the Best International Undergraduate Student while Dr Yiin Chung Long, a Chemical Engineering doctorate graduate, received the Best Postgraduate Student award.

This 19th Convocation Ceremony was celebrated with UTP-style pomp and grandeur with more than 2,000 present seated in our auditorium.

We also had our fun events, such as UTP-Kledang Trail, Convo Ride, Convo Run, Corporate Career Exposure and Convo Fest, among others, to liven up the festive atmosphere and to bring our UTP community together in celebration.



Proudly Maintaining our Number One Position

We are proud to announce that we still hold the position as Malaysia's number one private university. In the latest QS Asia University Rankings 2020, we climbed 17 places from last year to take 82nd place, putting us among the top 15% of the 557 published institutions in the rankings.

This 17-place climb to our highest achievement in the QS Asia University Rankings to date, is truly encouraging in that it is testament to our on-going efforts to improve. Through the years, we have jumped 109 places ever since our debut in the rankings list in 2014.

We must also mention that we received the highest score among Malaysian universities for two indicators, namely papers per faculty and the number of international faculty members.

Our fellow Malaysian institutions who sit within this stemmed list are University of Malaya, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia. While we ranked 6th after all these counterparts, we remain Malaysia's only private university in this top 100 list.

Well done team!



Recognised as a Leading Graduate Employer

UTP was the second runner-up under the Education Sector category at Malaysia's 100 (M100) Leading Graduate Employers Awards recently.

An annual event, this ceremony recognises the most popular employers in 18 career sectors. These sectors include Automotive, Banking & Financial Services, Education, Electronics, Energy/Oil and Gas/Utilities, IT, Insurance, Telecommunication, to name a few.

It is the largest graduate recruitment awards in the country and is the benchmark for employer branding excellence on-campus.

Employers are voted by more than 40,000 students and graduates in Malaysia, from universities across the country. The votes are gathered via the annual M100 survey, which is the largest and longest-running study on graduate recruitment trends in Malaysia.

This recognition, testament to UTP's brand recognition and strength, illustrates that we are an employer of choice for graduates looking to work in the education sector.

It certainly augurs well for us as we march into the future and our need for talent grows.





A Visit from our President and Celebrating Academia Day

PETRONAS President and Group Chief Executive Officer, YBhg Tan Sri Wan Zulkiflee Wan Ariffin visited us for an engagement session, joining in the Academia Day Celebration with the university staff.

Commending UTP for its accomplishments, he congratulated UTP for having produced more than 19,000 graduates, who have high employability factors locally and internationally. Tan Sri Wan Zulkiflee also shared his aspirations for the university.

He presented Focused Recognition awards to five departments/divisions and their team members for embracing and demonstrating PETRONAS Cultural Beliefs and producing excellent work and services.

Tan Sri Wan Zulkiflee also joined in the Academia Day celebration. This event, initiated by the Education Ministry, honours and recognises lecturers and staff from institutions of higher learning in the country.



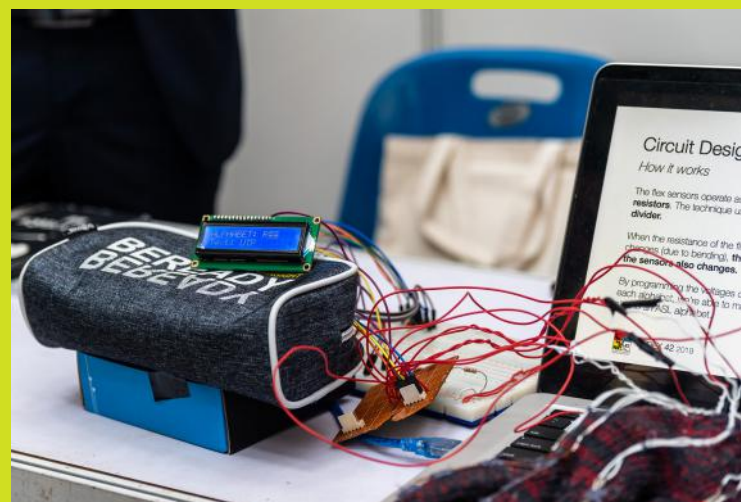
Discover, Challenge, Innovate



This was the theme of SEDEX42 held at our Chancellor Complex in November, that saw the participation of some 470 students with 159 entries in 4 categories.

Held annually, SEDEX is an opportune platform for students and staff to showcase their talent and creativity in building solutions for everyday and industrial challenges.

SEDEX hopes to hone students' communication and presentation skills – the attributes of a well-rounded graduate that UTP seeks to produce.





Energy and Environment... Right Up Our Alley

True to our position as the top university in Malaysia for oil and gas energy related studies, our team swept the top prize for the Energy and Environment Competition organised by UiTM Shah Alam.

This is the second time UTP has participated in this event, the first being last year when it was called Pelantar 2018.

This year, we sent 5 teams to the competition, armed with the best of knowledge in the oil and gas industry as well as environmental matters. Training and preparations for the teams started a month before the competition held early in November with all the time and effort spent earning us the championship.

Preparation and Preparedness really do lead to wins. Three cheers Team UTP!

Coming Out Tops at APGCE 2019

We are proud to announce that UTP shined at the Geoquiz of this year's Asia Petroleum Geoscience Conference and Exhibition.

Not only did our team emerge as Champion, one of our students was also recognised as the Best Student.

This Geoquiz, held in tandem with the Conference, attracts Asia Pacific universities who bring the best of their geological knowledge to the table in an exciting event. The winning team then is sponsored to attend the EAGE Annual Conference in Amsterdam.

This year, UTP sent in two teams, one of which ploughed their way to emerge as champion.



A Gathering of Safety Experts

UTP's Centre of Advanced Process Safety (CAPS) organised the first Loss Prevention Asia (LPA) 2019 International Conference and Exhibition, bringing in field experts from various nations.

The theme "Building Resilience through Advanced Digital Safety and Technology" was timely in light of the lightning fast changes in today's technology-driven world. Delegates were deep in discourse and discussion on the advancement of technology through the digitalisation of process safety and integration of data analytics on future trends in managing process safety.

LPA 2019 created a platform to introduce the latest innovations and ground-breaking discoveries in process safety. Two keynote speakers, four plenary speakers and two panel discussions provided thought provoking insights.

UTP also signed an MoU with IChemE Safety Centre Australia in the area of process safety, strengthening ties and collaborative roles to develop a safety culture in the ASEAN region and subsequently the world.





Bringing Student Affairs Professionals Together

The ever changing landscape of higher education necessitates that more concerted effort is put into ensuring student experiences are constantly monitored and upgraded wherever necessary.

Towards this end the inaugural Conference for Student Affairs Professionals (ConSAP) has created a dynamic platform for personnel in this specialised area to brainstorm and share ideas with the potential of creating a Community of Practice (CoP).

Initiated and organised by UTP's Division of Student Affairs and Alumni and officiated by Dr Zaid Omar, the Director, Student Holistic Division, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, the one day conference was well-attended by UTP student affairs practitioners and those from other private and public institutions including USM, UNITEN, MMU, UniKL, Taylors, Sunway, APU, UTAR, and SEGI, to name a few.

One of the fruits of the conference was the first ConSAP Conference Proceedings document which is a compilation of best practices, exemplary approaches and valuable experiences in various student affairs areas such as careers, mobility, student monitoring systems, student development, alumni, psychology, entrepreneurship and many more.

In our continuous bid to expand partnerships and to better position UTP on the world stages of academia and research, UTP works hard to build and develop strategic alliances with partners from industry and education.

In the 4th Quarter of 2019, we penned the following agreements with:

1. Universitas Islam Indragiri (UNISI)

...to broaden the scope of work of our experts in the Fundamental & Applied Science Department (FASD). Parties from the two universities will work on joint research projects, grant applications, publications and resource sharing, among others. Attachment opportunities, seminars, and short courses will also be on the table.



2. China University of Petroleum Beijing

...to establish a Joint Centre for sustainable energy technologies where we will work together to research and develop sustainable energy technology.

With Asia positioned as a dynamic and vibrant market facing the challenge of increasing energy demands in the midst of meeting climate commitments, this is a timely collaboration. We are hopeful that the coming together great minds of these two esteemed establishments in the education and research of oil and energy technology will lead to exciting solutions in the future.

3. BMS College of Engineering, Bangalore, Karnataka & Central Institute of Technology (CIT), Kokrajhar, Assam

...to promote mutual research and academic collaboration in various fields. This also cements our commitment to expand collaboration with Indian counterparts encompassing academic expertise and students exchange, curriculum design, research projects cooperation and internship opportunities.





4.University College of Technology Sarawak (UCTS)

...to work together on academic programmes, staff and student exchange and joint research and publications across the seas.

We see the need to work under a NEXUS platform to develop surrounding communities in Sarawak to create an economically stable, socially developed and knowledge driven culture. NEXUS will comprise universities, government efforts and industry players.



5.Mahasarakham University (MSU)

...to pool resources and knowledge and to work together for global solutions in research and science.



6.INTEC Education College and Cosmopoint College

... for collaboration in the areas of student exchange programmes, short courses as well as other staff and student development programmes.



7.Terengganu Strategic & Integrity Institute (TSIS)

...to implement the Terengganu State government administrative policies and to work together in the education and mineral resources technology.

This is UTP's first partnership with a Terengganu state strategic agency with TSIS being a government linked company serving as the think-tank of the Terengganu State Government.

A PRiCE-less Event Indeed

UTP organised and hosted the first-ever Perak Region Company Engagement 2019 (PRICE19) with resounding success. Attracting 63 personnel from 35 companies in the region, the event comprised numerous information and engagement sessions as well as exhibitions and entertainment.

Organised in collaboration with the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) Perak State Office and Perak Investment Management Centre (InvestPerak), it promoted the potential of UTP as a collaborative partner, our student industrial internship programme and career-related matters, as well as showcasing our academia-industry relations. Guests were also given a campus tour.

All these initiatives were geared towards attracting new opportunities and collaboration with industry, to showcase what UTP can offer and to potentially create opportunities for talent sourcing among our graduates. It was also a platform to generate scholarship opportunities, funding, CSR activities and research potential. This inaugural event proved to be a great success and CSD plans to expand it to include other regions in the future.



UTP-ALTAIR Centre of Excellence for Applied Scientific Computing

UTP now has a centre of excellence for Applied Scientific Computing. This UTP-ALTAIR centre is the first of its kind in Malaysia and was officially launched in November by Yang Berbahagia Datuk Ahmad Nizam Salleh, Chairman of PETRONAS and UTP's Pro Chancellor.

The UTP-ALTAIR relationship took root in 2017 with an MoU to enhance scientific, technical and engineering competencies. Various seminars and hands-on train sessions have since been held.

To date, more than 30 types of engineering software and a HPC system with 128 cores are available to UTP. We hope that this infrastructure will attract industries to work with us on consultancy projects.

This exclusive partnership with Altair enables us to subscribe to the HWUL campus wide licence, offering us many simulation-driven design software used in industry. While it allows us to leverage on teaching and learning activities, it also opens up doors for research and consultancy work as well as commercial applications.

While being part of the Computer Aided Engineering course, the wide range of software in our licence package allows students from other departments to utilise such engineering solutions to design projects and to assist them in final year projects.

This centre will be the platform through which UTP will look for collaborative tie-ups, for research that combines complex real-world business challenges with academic enquiry and intensify consultancy and commercialisation capabilities.

Our vision is for the UTP-Altair CoE for Applied Scientific Computing to become a regionally recognised resource centre for computational modelling.



Celebrating the Festival of Lights

Yaysan PETRONAS brought light and cheer to the hearts of some 500 people from various charities, schools and homes across 7 states this Deepavali.

Part of the Sentuhan Kasih Programme, PETRONAS volunteers distributed daily necessities, household items, festive hampers, clothes and other goodies to underprivileged families and orphans.

Children were also taken for shopping sprees to prepare for the celebrations.

This spirit of caring, brought cheer not only to the hearts of the recipients but also to the many Yayasan PETRONAS staff who participated in the events. As they say, the joy is found more in the giving than the receiving.

This initiative was also a good eye opener to the needs of the underprivileged and fostered closer Malaysian spirit among the community.

The foundation generously shared RM280,000 - in cash and kind - in this outreach event.

Closer to home in Perak, UTP reached out to 141 beneficiaries from 5 schools, presenting them vouchers for the purchase of new clothes.

Yayasan PETRONAS' Sentuhan Kasih programme is part of the Foundation's Community Well-being and Development focus area specially designed to coincide with major festivals in Malaysia.



Back-to-School with UTP

Playing its part to encourage and support education, UTP participated in Yayasan PETRONAS' Back to School 2019 programme, reaching out to students from low-income families.

This largest ever outreach programme targeted 21,000 primary school students from across Malaysia who received school supplies for the 2020 academic year. Each student from these selected B40 households received a school bag, water tumbler, poncho, stationery, two pairs of uniform, a pair of socks and shoes.

Volunteers from UTP distributed some 1,200 of this Back-to School packs to students from 14 schools across Perak. They also conducted STEM activities at these schools to encourage a love for the sciences. Children of UTP security personnel and general workers also received these gifts. While being small, these gifts are meaningful and motivating, as there are some children who actually drop out of school because of lack of uniform and school supplies.

This 2019 initiative that was conducted in October and November, is the latest nationwide outreach since the inception of the programme 17 years ago.



Rejuvenating a Stream

Our Civil and Environmental Engineering Department initiated efforts to rehabilitate Sungai Lumut Kanan.

The Ate River Kome programme, which drew the support of JPS Manjung and Majlis Perbandaran Manjung and other community partners, was held as a service-based learning program for UTP students.

Held in Manjung, it comprised a Hydraulics session for 2nd years students, Urban Water Design learning for 3rd year undergraduates and Coastal & Engineering class for 4th year students.

This initiative provided our students with excellent real-life situations and hands-on opportunities to enrich their learning. While they applied knowledge of Mathematics, natural sciences and engineering fundamentals to solve complex engineering problems, it was also a fun event for all and most of all, contributed to the betterment of the environment for the society there.

In bringing together the surrounding community as well as the related authorities, it created an environment of cooperation, unity and teamwork for all.



UNLOCKING TRUE POTENTIAL

We understand, where to study next is a big life decision. With our top-ranked programmes and learning facilities, education at UTP will connect you to the best job opportunities in the future as first choice graduates.

Together, we can dream up new possibilities.



f @ UTPOfficial

Take the first step into the future, visit us at
www.utp.edu.my

Malaysia's Top University



Get Connected with



Scan the QR code or go to <https://bit.ly/2Ra323b>

