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WORLD'S TOP 1%

#265

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THE UCSIGAZETTE

BONJOUR PARIS! HOE YEAN IS UCSI'S FIRST OLYMPIAN

UCSI University's star swimmer Khiew Hoe Yean has been selected to represent Malaysia at the 2024 Paris Olympics in the men's 400m freestyle.

This is the first time a UCSI athlete will compete at the Olympics and all eyes will be on Hoe Yean as he seeks to set a personal best on sport's grandest stage.

Hoe Yean is the current holder of the national record which he set at the Australian Open in April this year, recording a time of 3 minutes and 48.36 seconds.

"I am grateful for this opportunity and I would like to thank UCSI University, Majlis Sukan Negara, Malaysia Swimming Federation, Olympic Council of Malaysia, Institut Sukan Negara, my family and friends for their support," said Khiew when contacted from his training camp in Australia.

"I will do my best to represent Malaysia in Paris."

Hoe Yean received a wild card granted by World Aquatics by virtue of amassing the three highest scores amongst Malaysia's male swimmers over the past year, scoring 895 (400m freestyle), 847 (200m freestyle) and 829 (800m freestyle) points.

Hoe Yean is pursuing a computer science degree at UCSI. He has been training in Australia for the past six months, joining 2023 FINA 400m freestyle world champion Samuel Short's camp.

The move has been a fruitful one as Hoe Yean has broken national records in the 400m freestyle, 800m freestyle and the 1,500m freestyle over the past six months.

He will now have his final training camp in Denmark before heading to Paris.

The 2024 Paris Olympic Games are scheduled to take place from July 26 to August 11.

This is the first time a UCSI athlete will compete at the Olympics...



DATUK SERI DR ZAMBRY ABD KADIR LAUNCHES UCSI UNIVERSITY'S DIGITAL SKILLS TVET, MAKING HIS FIRST VISIT AS MINISTER TO A PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir launched Digital Skills TVET, the nation's first technical and vocational education and training programme that focuses on digital marketing.

Developed by UCSI University in collaboration with the Australian Digital Academy, ChamRun Digital and Malaysia Board of Technologist, the three-month distance learning programme is conducted by international digital marketing experts.

On his first visit to a private institution as Higher Education Minister, Zambry said that Digital Skills TVET was a good launch pad to careers in the RM 2.84 trillion global digital marketing industry.

"We need more initiatives like Digital Skills TVET to capture the imagination of our youth," he said in his speech at UCSI's Kuala Lumpur campus.

"In Malaysia alone, digital marketing accounted for 72% of total advertising revenue in 2023, worth around RM6 billion. We need to nurture future-proof talent who will go on to exceed the needs of the global industry.



"Today's launch supports the Ministry's commitment to revolutionise TVET in Malaysia and I would like to congratulate UCSI for taking this bold move and opening the gateways of opportunity for thousands of Malaysians."

He added that the Ministry wanted at least 55% of SPM leavers to enrol with TVET programmes by 2025. This was in line with the 12th Malaysia Plan initiatives that encourage graduates to obtain the Malaysian Skills Certificate.

Under the syllabus, Digital TVET students will learn from case studies and try their hand at running campaigns on digital platforms like Tiktok, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, Google Search and Google Display.

They would also learn marketing strategy, content creation, sales funnel implementation, data analytics, search engine optimisation and AI tools.

UCSI vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir said that this was the first time the University was committing to a Digital TVET endeavour.

"We understand how important Digital TVET is to the Malaysian economy and decided to come up with a different initiative," she said.

"Higher education must evolve to meet the needs and learning preferences of the new generation and we are ready to partner with the Ministry for further initiatives like this."

Zambry also held a dialogue on *The Direction of Higher Education Institutions in Malaysia* at UCSI.





From left: UCSI vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir, Higher Education assistant director Nur Azreen Hamidi, world's number one tower runner Soh Wai Ching, Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Adam Adli and organising chairperson of the Malaysia Towerrunning University Championship at UCSI University Oh Khang Chiang.

YB ADAM ADLI LAUNCHED THE INAUGURAL MALAYSIA TOWERRUNNING UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIP AT UCSI UNIVERSITY

Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Adam Adli launched the inaugural Malaysia Towerrunning University Championship at UCSI University.

Held at UCSI's Kuala Lumpur campus on 18 May 2024, the championship is endorsed by the Youth and Sports Ministry, as well as the Higher Education Ministry.

The championship is co-organised by UCSI and the Malaysian Towerrunning Association. It is open to participants from public and private higher education institutions across Malaysia.

"While tower running may still be a relatively new sport, many of the world's most prestigious skyscrapers are hosting competitions," said Adam in his speech.

"Malaysia already has the world's number one tower runner in Soh Wai Ching and this competition will go far in nurturing the next generation of tower runners.

"I would like to affirm UCSI for its commitment to the development of sports in Malaysia. The Ministry champions initiatives like tower running as it is a highly accessible sport that brings many health benefits."

Adam also thanked UCSI for providing more than 150 scholarships to national and state-level athletes over the years.

UCSI vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir said the intervarsity championship was a great way to foster engagement between students and institutions across the nation.

"This championship is not a one-time affair but a reflection of our commitment in encouraging athletic excellence and promoting a culture of sportsmanship," she said in her speech.

Higher Education assistant director Nur Azreen Hamidi and Soh were also present at the event.

UNITY MINISTER LAUNCHES SEJAHTERA MALAYSIA FORUM AT UCSI UNIVERSITY



The principles of Rukun Negara will be promoted extensively to foster unity and harmony amongst Malaysians, said National Unity Minister Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang.

Government initiatives include the appointment of 50 unity ambassadors and two unity icons this year and the construction of unity complexes at each state in Malaysia.

"The principles of Rukun Negara must be embedded in the soul of every Malaysian," said Aaron in his keynote speech at the Sejahtera Malaysia forum at UCSI University.

"Respect and acceptance are core values we must instil in Malaysian society. We hope to complete the unity complexes by 2027.

He added that his Ministry would also work with the Defence Ministry to promote unity modules.

Co-organised by KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific, UCSI University and Dialog Rakyat, the Sejahtera Malaysia forum is organised to promote unity and social harmony.

UCSI Group executive chairman Dato' Peter Ng said that UCSI was happy to co-host the forum as unity was of paramount importance.

"What makes us Malaysian is not where our ancestors came from, what we look like, what faith we practise or what our preferred language may be," he said.

"What really matters is the flag we pledge our allegiance to, our loyalty to king and country, as well as our respect, empathy and love for each other."

He added that UCSI was glad to champion Harmoni Mesra - a campus movement that promotes diversity, equity and inclusion.

Respect and acceptance are core values we must instil in Malaysian society...

National Unity Minister Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang

UCSI vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir and UCSI council member Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman also serve as panellists at the forum.

What makes us Malaysian is not where our ancestors came from, what we look like, what faith we practise or what our preferred language may be.

Dato' Peter Ng, UCSI University Council chairman and founder



From left: KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific president Tan Sri Michael Yeoh, National Unity Minister Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang, UCSI Group executive chairman and founder Dato' Peter Ng and UCSI University council member Prof Emeritus Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman, were at the launch of the Sejahtera Malaysia forum at UCSI University.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PALO ALTO NETWORKS AND EMBER SDN BHD



UCSI University is partnering with Palo Alto Networks - the world's leading firewall provider - and Ember Sdn Bhd to enhance cybersecurity education and AI-driven learning platforms.

This comes after the three parties inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at UCSI that empowers students with industry-driven curricula, leading cybersecurity systems and innovative learning methods.

The MoU with Palo Alto Networks ensures that UCSI can continue exploring digital opportunities without being hindered by cyber risks such as ransomware and cryptojacking.

Under Palo Alto's generous sponsorship, UCSI becomes the first university in Malaysia to gain access to its academic platform, enabling students to obtain industry-recognised certifications before graduation.

Furthermore, Palo Alto Networks will sponsor the top prize of RM10,000 in UCSI's upcoming hackathon.

The second MoU, signed with Ember Sdn Bhd revolves around exploring new possibilities in AI-driven education.

As young learners gravitate towards online learning and microcredentials, universities like UCSI must adapt to match the preferences of the new generation.



From left: UCSI University deputy vice-chancellor of Research and Postgraduate Studies Distinguished Prof Phang Siew Moi, Ember Sdn Bhd CEO Chai Qiaozhi, UCSI University deputy vice-chancellor of Academic and Internationalisation Prof Datuk Dr Rohana Binti Yusof, Palo Alto Networks Malaysia country manager Sarene Lee, and UCSI University director of the Institute of Computer Science and Digital Innovation Asst Prof Ts Dr Raenu AL Kolandaisamy ink two groundbreaking MoUs.

Under this collaboration, Ember Sdn Bhd and UCSI University will jointly develop avatar lecturers to conduct online lectures, leveraging cutting-edge AI technology.

These avatars and the underlying AI systems will have the capability to detect inattentive or sleepy students, ensuring an

engaging and personalised learning experience.

"Industry relevance is one of UCSI's calling cards and today's MoUs keep this long-standing tradition alive," said Professor Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir, CEO of UCSI Group and vice-chancellor of UCSI University.

Industry relevance is one of UCSI's calling cards and today's MoUs keep this long-standing tradition alive.

Professor Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah, UCSI Group CEO and UCSI University vice-chancellor

UCSI ACADEMICS HONOURED FOR UK-MALAYSIA PARTNERSHIP



Assistant Professor Dr Teng Kah Hou and Associate Professor Eur Ing Ts Dr Yeap Swee Pin, esteemed academics from the Faculty of Engineering, Technology and Built Environment, have been awarded the first runner-up position in the prestigious UK-Malaysia Education Institutional Partnership of the Year category at the 5th British Malaysian Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards 2024.

This award recognises the exceptional collaboration and impact created by the partnership between a UK higher education institution (Liverpool John Moores University) and a Malaysian organisation (UCSI University) in delivering significant contributions to the education sector in Malaysia over the past five years.

Dr Teng and Dr Yeap's work on the UCSI-Cheras Low Carbon Innovation Hub was key to securing this recognition. The said hub is a UCSI University-led collaboration focused on enabling low carbon development in Cheras, Malaysia. It conducts research and drives innovation in areas like sustainable energy, low carbon infrastructure, community climate action, and sustainable waste and water management.

The institution takes great pride in its international collaborations and partnerships, which provide invaluable opportunities for knowledge sharing, cultural exchange and the advancement of education and research. The success of the UCSI-LJMU partnership serves as an inspiration for future collaborations and highlights the importance of fostering global connections in the pursuit of excellence.



From left: Assoc Prof Eur Ing Ts Dr Yeap Swee Pin and Asst Prof Dr Teng Kah Hou proudly display their first runner-up trophy for the UK-Malaysia Education Institutional Partnership of the Year at the prestigious 5th British Malaysian Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards 2024

UCSI YOU in Youth 2024 NEXTALK: LEADERS OF TOMORROW

In March, the class of SM346 from the mass communication programme organised their first event under UCSI YOU in Youth 2024. The event, titled "NexTalk: Leaders of Tomorrow," aimed to provide leadership guidance to youths. It also sought to create opportunities for them to connect with industry professionals, including distinguished UCSI alumni.



From left: Sandnt Kumar and Cynthia Ng during the panel discussion titled "From Dream to Reality: Building Ambitions in Youth" moderated by Valerie Leong and Ian Ong Kwang Zheng, the organising chairperson and vice chairperson of UCSI YOU in Youth 2024 respectively.

Among the notable speakers was alumna Annice Lyn, a Forbes 30 under 30 Asia 2018 inductee, who has made significant strides as a photojournalist. She is also the co-founder of Women Photographers Malaysia, an organisation that plays a crucial role in empowering women in the field of photography. During the event, she shared about her career journey, highlighting the challenges she faced and the lessons she learned along the way.



Divendran Baskaran imparting valuable knowledge during his videography workshop, "Capture Moments Through the Lens".

The event also featured alumna Cynthia Ng, the current assistant vice-president and editor at Astro Awani. Cynthia has interviewed many influential figures, such as Christine Lagarde, former International Monetary Fund chief; Jack Ma, founder of Alibaba; and Malaysia's 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah.

During the event, she participated in a panel discussion with Sandnt Kumar, an international award-winning documentary filmmaker. They shared insights on how their university life



Annice Lyn during her inspiring sharing session titled "Road to Endless Possibilities".

experiences contributed to their careers and personal growth, shaping them into the successful individuals they are today.

Additionally, alumna Divendran Baskaran, a video lead from CILISOS Media, conducted a videography workshop. He shared valuable insights and techniques to help students enhance their videography skills and create compelling visual content.

The event concluded with a virtual reality (VR) workshop conducted by William Chow, the director of HiveTec. Students had the opportunity to experience various VR applications, such as gaming and simulations.

UCSI University has always focused on cultivating students to become successful leaders in the future, and this event provided a new platform for the younger generation to develop their leadership skills and create clear career plans.

The event aimed to enhance students' basic leadership qualities, such as communication, decision-making, problem-solving, teamwork and social skills. By cultivating these social values, students will develop a stronger sense of social responsibility, benefiting them in all aspects of their future lives.



Participants immersing themselves in the world of VR during the hands-on workshop conducted by William Chow.

UCSI YOU in Youth 2024 COMMFEST CHARITY NIGHT 2024



The esteemed VVIPs showing their support at the Commfest Charity Night, championing a cause for change.

UCSI YOU in Youth 2024 held a charity night in March as their second event in collaboration with SUKA society, a non-governmental organisation dedicated to protecting and preserving the best interests of marginalised and vulnerable children in Malaysia.

Through this, the class of SM346 from the mass communication programme raised and donated RM8,100 to SUKA Society. This act aligns with two of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

The donation to SUKA Society could help fund various initiatives, such as providing education and vocational training

to underprivileged children and youth, empowering women through skill development programmes and offering support to families in need. These efforts contribute to breaking the cycle of poverty and promoting social inclusion, which are key aspects of SDG 1.

Furthermore, the partnership between UCSI University and SUKA Society exemplifies the spirit of SDG 17, which emphasises the need for multi-stakeholder collaboration to achieve sustainable development. By working together, academic institutions, non-profit organisations and the private sector can pool their resources, expertise, and networks to create lasting, positive impact in communities.



UCSI YOU in Youth 2024 team.

The night was filled with captivating performances, including a traditional Indian dance called "Kolattam" by JS Fine Art, a hip-hop dance performance by The Type X Clan, piano recitals by the talented Winson Lee, beautiful dance choreography by Serendip'ty of UCSI Dance Club and a lively performance by the UCSI H.O.T Band.



The evening showcased dancing, singing, and piano recitals by UCSI student-led clubs and external performers.

UCSI RIVER WATCH: KLANG GATES DAM

KLANG: While they may not be typical early risers, 35 UCSI University students and staff were up with the lark, heading to the Klang Gates Dam at first light.

Their mission: To clean up the river, to plant new trees and understand more about the river ecosystem.

The visit is the first initiative of the UCSI Riverbank Cleanup Project - a continuous effort to galvanise eco-warriors across Malaysia.



UCSI University's eco-warriors unite for the Riverbank Expedition and Cleanup project.

Highlighting the significance of the effort, UCSI vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir said that the Klang Gates Dam was chosen as it was a vital water source for the Klang Valley.

"The Klang Gates Dam produces 145mil litres of clean water every day," she said. "If its waters are compromised, our lives will be severely affected as well."

"Today's river cleanup will be the first of many future initiatives around Malaysia. We plan to organise such efforts two or three times each semester."

For the effort, UCSI teamed up with Friends of Rivers Malaysia - an NGO that is dedicated to preserve and rehabilitate rivers - and The Blue Ribbon Global - an organisation that promotes environmental awareness and sustainability.

Friends of Rivers representatives Mansor Abdul Ghani and Mazelan Jamaludin were on site to show students the ropes.



Students and staff working together to pick up rubbish along the river.

And they also taught students a thing or two about the medicinal value of plants in the area like mahkota dewa and belimbing buluh that have been used for centuries in traditional Malay medicine to treat ailments like hypertension and diabetes.



Mazelan Jamaludin from Friends of Rivers Malaysia enlightens students about the medicinal wonders of locally planted flora.

The initiative opens up a new front for UCSI's conservation efforts in support of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, better known as the SDGs.

It directly supports SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals).

UCSI is ranked fourth in the world for environmental sustainability in the QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2024 exercise.

The University is also ranked in the world's top 1% in the QS World University Rankings 2025 by virtue of its top 265 ranking, standing out as one of Asia's top private universities.



CELEBRATING THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2024 AT THE 37TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY

UCSI University celebrated years of hard work and achievements of its 1,773 students during the first of three convocations that will be held in 2024.

Selected as the outstanding graduate of her cohort, Nur Haliza Jamal Mohamed Nazar was awarded the Academic Excellence Award for her outstanding academic achievements.



Moments of significance: Nur Haliza Jamal Mohamed Nazar received her award from the council chairman and founder Dato' Peter Ng.

Push your boundaries and work hard. Always aim high, but be realistic at the same time.

Nur Haliza Jamal Mohamed Nazar, recipient of the Academic Excellence Award, Class of 2024

Vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir said that UCSI had a long track record of successful alumni who go on to impact society.

"Four UCSI alumni are Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia inductees and two more are Prestige 40 Under 40 laureates," she said.

"Be a blessing to Malaysia. As citizens, all of us have a solemn obligation to make this country better."

The procession of the convocation ceremony was held in the presence of UCSI University's pro-chancellor Tunku Zain Al-'Abidin Tuanku Muhriz and council chairman and founder Datuk Peter Ng.

Standing out as a barometer of constant achievement, the chemical engineering graduate made the dean's list eight times.

Haliza was involved in many activities and revived the University's Institute of Chemical Engineers student chapter with like-minded peers.

She also participated in chemical engineering competitions like the 10th and 11th Chemical Engineering Design Competitions held by the Institution of Engineers Malaysia.

Placing second in her first attempt, Haliza was in a team of five that sought to turn household waste into fuel. A year later, she led a team of three to victory by designing a sustainable and economically viable industrial plant.

"Push your boundaries and work hard. Always aim high, but be realistic at the same time. If you're the smartest person in the room, you're in the wrong room," said Haliza in her interview.

Be a blessing to Malaysia. As citizens, all of us have a solemn obligation to make this country better.

Professor Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah, UCSI University vice-chancellor

UCSI UNIVERSITY BREAKS INTO THE WORLD'S TOP 265



“UCSI has nurtured four Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia inductees...”

UCSI University climbed 35 spots in the QS World University Rankings 2025 to rank 265th in the world, placing in the world's top 1% for the third year running.

By doing so, UCSI retains its status as one of Asia's top private universities in the competitive annual university rankings.

Acknowledging the results, UCSI vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir said the new ranking was a fair reflection of the good work that was taking place at the University.

“UCSI's 35-spot rise is most encouraging and I would like to thank all UCSI staff and students for their efforts,” she said. “Everyone contributed immensely to the effort.”

“This is the third straight year UCSI is ranked in the world's top 1%. It shows we are moving in the right direction and we will continue focusing on research, teaching, student experiences and graduate outcomes.”

“We are cognisant that our true measure of success lies with our students and they are central to everything we do.”

UCSI has nurtured four Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia inductees and an increasing number of its alumni are launching their own social enterprises.

The latest ranking marks a 216-spot climb - an average 36-spot improvement each year - since UCSI was first ranked in the 2019 edition.

“This is the third straight year UCSI is ranked in the world's top 1%.”

Professor Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah, UCSI Group CEO and UCSI University vice-chancellor

UCSI UNIVERSITY SETS NEW RESEARCH RECORDS



From left: Prof Datuk Ts Ir Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir, UCSI University vice-chancellor and Group chief executive officer, Dato' Peter Ng, founder and executive chairman of UCSI Group and Mr Aaron Bong Keng Jin, deputy general manager at Malaysian Book of Records.

UCSI University is acknowledged by the Malaysian Book of Records as the first university in Malaysia to publish in the prestigious Harvard Data Science Review.

Launched by the Harvard Data Science Initiative and MIT Press, the Review is a top-ranked peer-reviewed journal that serves as an authoritative outlet for professionals and academics in the burgeoning field of data science.

The record comes after UCSI academics led a five-man research team that published a paper titled *Critical Data Challenges in Measuring the Performance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Solutions and the Role of Big-Data Analytics*.

UCSI was represented by Assoc Prof Dr Mehrbakhsh Nilashi, Distinguished Prof Dr Ooi Keng Boon and Senior Prof Dr Garry Tan Wei Han. The trio lecture at UCSI's Graduate Business School and Dr Nilashi stands out as the paper's principal author.

To cap things off, Prof Ooi and Prof Tan are also recognised as the first Malaysians to publish in the Review.

Thanking UCSI and his co-authors for the support, Prof Ooi said that the research team analysed how sustainability metrics are tracked and identified areas of improvement.

“Prof Ooi and Prof Tan are also recognised as the first Malaysians to publish in the Review.”

“The UN SDGs have been a hot topic since 2015 and if we want to achieve the goals by 2030, we need to understand the viability of the metrics that are currently used,” he said. “Big data aggregation is crucial in the effort and we postulated this in our paper.”

UCSI vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir said that the achievements reflected the University's ever-growing emphasis on high-impact research.

“Publishing in a top journal affiliated with Harvard and MIT is no mean feat,” she said after the Malaysian Book of Records certification ceremony.

“These records show that our academics are capable of driving consequential research. We are delighted with the recognition and I am sure that this will spur our students and staff to do more.”



From left: Distinguished Prof Dr Ooi Keng Boon, Mr Aaron Bong Keng Jin, deputy general manager at Malaysian Book of Records and Senior Prof Dr Garry Tan Wei Han.

UCSI STUDENTS SHINE AT INTERNATIONAL CULINARY COMPETITIONS

Contributors: Dr Aladin Mahmod Ibrahim and Asst Prof Mohamad Fadzly Bin Che Omar, Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management (FHTM) Kuala Lumpur Campus deputy dean



Muhammad Aiman Bin Saiful Anuar Clinches Gold at YCI

Aiman, a student from the Master's in International Hospitality Management programme, represented Malaysia at the International Tournament of Young Chefs of Islamic Countries (YCI) held in Kazan, Russia. His exceptional culinary skills and creative flair earned him the coveted gold medal award in the "View Without Borders" category.

Aiman's winning dishes highlighted his mastery of Malaysian flavours and his ability to elevate traditional recipes with modern techniques. His menu included:



A traditional Malaysian dish featuring marinated shrimp, served with a light and airy coconut foam, finished with a drizzle of prawn oil



Juicy halibut fillet coated in a rich, aromatic percik sauce, served alongside crispy potato patties topped with savoury shredded chicken floss



A sweet Malaysian dessert made with sago pearls cooked in palm sugar syrup, served with mango puree, diced mango pieces and topped with a light and fluffy coconut foam

Aiman's innovative dishes, which seamlessly blended local flavours with modern techniques, captivated the judges and earned him the prestigious gold medal.



Yap Chi Xuen Excels at World Hospitality Student Championship 2024

Yap Chi Xuen, also from the Bachelor of Hospitality Administration programme, secured the second-place award in the cocktail and mocktail competitions during the World Hospitality Student Championship 2024 in Kochi, India.

His mocktail creation, "Oriental Dawn," captivated the judges with its refreshing blend of green grapes, mandarin, lime, mango syrup and Grenadine, topped with soda.

These accomplishments were made possible through the dedicated coaching and mentorship of Asst Prof Mohamad Fadzly Bin Che Omar, Chef Azmil Bin Haranay, Dr Aladin Mahmod Ibrahim, Riza Munira Binti Shamsudin and Muhammad Fikri Bin Umadi, and with the support of the FHTM family. Their guidance and support were instrumental in preparing the students for these prestigious competitions.



"Tropical Dawn" by Yap Chi Xuen: A refreshing blend of green grapes, mandarin and lime, infused with mango syrup and Grenadine, topped with soda water and garnished with peppermint.

Tanaka Marianne Makamache and Eunice Teo Ee Triumph at Monin Cup 2024

Marrianne and Eunice, both Bachelor of Hospitality Administration students, displayed their mixology skills at the Monin Cup 2024 Championship for students, held at Berjaya University College in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The competition's theme, "Low is More," challenged participants to create low-alcohol or non-alcoholic beverages.

Marrianne emerged as the champion in the mocktail competition category. Her winning creation, the "Jimmy Shandy," was a refreshing and aromatic mocktail that paid tribute to her journey from Zimbabwe to Malaysia. The drink blended sweet basil, pineapple, mandarin orange syrup, ginger beer and lemon.



"Jimmy Shandy" by Tanaka Marianne Makamache: A refreshing and vibrant drink that perfectly balances tropical flavours with a hint of spice and citrus.



Eunice Teo Ee from UCSI FHTM-Sarawak Campus bagged the second-place award in the cocktail competition category. Her creation, the "Kenyalang," was inspired by the Gawai Season and combined elements of Sarawak's Chinese and Dayak cultures. It was a well-balanced cocktail with layers of sweetness, spice and citrus.



"Kenyalang" by Eunice Teo Ee: This award-winning cocktail features a well-balanced mix of caramel syrup, spice rum, pineapple juice, lemon juice and five spice bitters.

UCSI SETS THE STAGE FOR THE WORLD'S RISING PIANISTS



Singaporean and Chinese pianists bagged the lion's share of awards at UCSI University's 6th International Piano Festival and Competition, winning 11 out of 18 grand awards.

Playing some of the most challenging compositions of Beethoven, Schumann and Ravel, Singaporean pianist Toby Tan Kai Rong delivered a performance of rhapsodic quality to bag first prize in the young artist category – the Competition's top award.

"I'm happy that I won and the Competition is a great platform to test my skills," he said. "UCSI provided us with good facilities and a great team of judges to rate our abilities, which were very helpful.

"This Competition is a powerful motivator for me to elevate my technical skills and musical expression."

For his efforts, Tan won a cash prize of RM4,000 and a full tuition scholarship to study music at UCSI.



All winners of UCSI University's 6th International Piano Festival and Competition during the Award Ceremony and Prize Winners' Concert.

"This competition has taught me to prepare challenging pieces under time constraints," he said. "I also got to meet a lot of talented musicians from different nations and I enjoyed the interaction.

"I plan to pursue music in my tertiary studies and I'm glad that I gained first-hand experience of playing in a university setting."

UCSI also set a new participation record this year with 145 contestants hailing from Armenia, Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Singapore, Taiwan, USA, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia.

Held biennially since 2014, the Competition recognises pianists in different categories, including Best Etude, Best Commissioned Piece and Top Prizes across different age categories; junior (age 10 and below), intermediate (age 14 and below), senior (age 18 and below) and young artist (age 28 and below).

UCSI vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Hamisah Tapsir said that the Competition is in line with the University's mission to elevate the standards of piano performance on a global scale.

"UCSI has advanced its mission to raise the standards of classical piano music, not only in Malaysia but throughout the world," she said in her welcoming speech.

Ranked 42nd in the *QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024*, UCSI's Institute of Music stands out as Malaysia's foremost music school in both the classical and contemporary fields.

Malaysian signing superstar Aina Abdul, mandopop singer Quek Shio Yee, celebrated composer Onn San, as well as violinists Dennis Lau and Dr Joanne Yeoh, among many others, are notable UCSI alumni.



Yao Huacheng bagged the senior category's Best Etude Award.



Toby Tan Kai Rong bagged the first prize in the young artist category.

Fellow Singaporean Yao Huacheng bagged the senior category's Best Etude Award with his rendition of Franz Liszt's *Transcendental Etude No.4 in D minor "Mazeppa"*.

While Mazeppa is considered to be the most difficult of Liszt's 12 Transcendental études, Yao navigated the rapid octave passages, intricate chromatic runs and wide leaps with great dexterity.

UNSW AND UCSI UNIVERSITY SAY YES TO JOINT RESEARCH



SYDNEY: UNSW and UCSI University have pledged to foster collaboration, training and knowledge sharing, particularly in the areas of RNA research, vaccines and therapeutic development.

The partnership was formalised via a memorandum of understanding between the UNSW RNA Institute and UCSI's Centre for Excellence for Research, Value Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

"We are very excited with the opportunity to collaborate with UCSI," said UNSW RNA Institute director Pall Thordason.

"Together, we hope to significantly shape the landscape of RNA technologies and therapeutics, creating a substantial impact on human welfare across our region.

Professor Dr Lionel In Lian Aun said that the partnership would boost UCSI's international research network, providing new opportunities for students and staff.

"UCSI is a strong advocate of international collaboration," he said. "We are eagerly looking to work together with UNSW to advance RNA research and arrive at consequential findings.

"We are confident such high-impact partnerships will have a spillover effect on our research scene."

UNSW's RNA Institute is a world-class RNA science, therapeutics and translational facility. Established with a \$25 million investment from UNSW, the Institute seeks to build NSW's capability to research, develop and manufacture RNA-based therapeutics locally. Malaysia is Australia's second-largest trading partner among ASEAN member states. The activities that follow this MoU will contribute further efforts that enhance bilateral and regional health initiatives.



HIGHER EDUCATION DIRECTOR-GENERAL LAUNCHES PHEI LIBRARY CONSORTIUM AT UCSI UNIVERSITY



Six of Malaysia's leading private universities teamed up at UCSI University to form the PHEI Library Consortium.

The Consortium allows its members to speak as one voice to vendors and policymakers, avoids duplication and promotes the sharing of resources and best practices.

UCSI, HELP University, INCEIF University, Multimedia University, Universiti Tun Abdul Razak, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman and Wawasan University are the founding members of the Consortium.

Witnessing the memorandum of understanding signing ceremony at UCSI's Kuala Lumpur campus, Higher Education director-general Professor Dr Azlinda Azman said that the formation of the consortium was timely.

"The consortium strategically positions itself to address new challenges, ensuring that our educational institutions are equipped to adapt, innovate, and provide high-quality resources to students and researchers," she said in her speech.

"It will amplify the capabilities and effectiveness of its member libraries through resource optimisation, cost efficiency, technological integration and innovation, besides hosting professional development and global connection opportunities."

Azlinda also expressed her confidence that the direction of the consortium would catalyse positive change and bring out a globally connected education landscape.

UCSI vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir said she welcomed the establishment of the consortium which would bring about benefits to various parties not only to researchers, but also students and academics including the public.

"This consortium aligned with our commitment in providing limitless access to knowledge in higher education," she said.

"This collaboration is also a way to support our lecturers to enhance and grow their research opportunities."



Strategic partnership: Professor Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir (fifth from left) and Professor Dr Azlinda Azman (sixth from right) with academic members of participating universities during the MoU signing ceremony.

IRAQI GRADUATES HONOUR DATO' PETER NG WITH CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION



A group of Iraqi graduates recently visited Dato' Peter Ng, the UCSI Group founder. During the meeting, the UCSI Students Iraqi Association Group's advisor, Asst Prof Dr Ammar Abdulaziz Al Talib, and the group's president, Ezzaddin Al Rashidi, presented a certificate of appreciation to Dato' Peter Ng.

The certificate conveyed gratitude for the positive experiences the students had throughout their studies from 2018 to 2023. Dato' Peter Ng also shared valuable advice, encouraging them to make independent life decisions and not be influenced by others.

The Iraqi students, including Ahmed Anmar Mohammed (the new president), Mohammed Abdulleem Abbood, Sajad Nathem Jawad, Abdullah Mohammed Abbas and Mohammed Ali Faria, were integral parts of the visit.

This meeting not only symbolised appreciation but also forged a memorable connection between UCSI and the graduating Iraqi students. As they progress into the future, these graduates carry more than just a certificate; they bear a wealth of experiences that will shape their destinies.

UCSI UNIVERSITY EARNS SIX STARS ACROSS NINE PROGRAMMES IN TALENTBANK'S 2024 EMPLOYERS' CHOICE AWARDS



From left: Talentbank CEO Ben Ho, Intel campus manager Cheryl Tai, UCSI University deputy vice-chancellor (Academic and Internationalisation) Professor Datuk Dr Rohana Yusof, KPJ Healthcare Berhad chief human resource officer Norhamijah Mohd Hanafiah and Talentbank director of employer liaison Tong Li Kiat.

UCSI University was recently recognised as a six-star university at Talentbank's Employers' top Choice Awards.

This comes after UCSI was voted as the top choice by employers for nine disciplines in Talentbank's National Graduate Employability Index.

The nine disciplines are: Architecture and Building, Economics, Entrepreneurship, Event Management, Food Science Technology, Language Studies, Logistics, Marketing and Mechatronics Engineering.

UCSI deputy vice-chancellor (Academic and Internationalisation) Professor Datuk Dr Rohana Yusof said that industry recognition showed that the University was maintaining its long track record of industry relevance.

"We are honoured to be recognised by Talentbank as one of the top picks for employers in multiple disciplines," she said at the awards ceremony that took place at the Grand Hyatt Hotel.

"This achievement underscores our commitment to provide quality education and prepare the future workforce to meet the demands of the global job market."

The awards ceremony was also attended by Higher Education Deputy Secretary General (Policy) Dato' Dr Haji Megat Sany, Higher Education Director General Professor Dr Azlinda binti Azman and Talentbank CEO Ben Ho.

Conducted annually, Talentbank's Index evaluates graduate employability at Malaysian higher education institutions, drawing data from over 700 leading employers of various sizes.

UCSI UNIVERSITY AND BILLION PRIMA TEAM UP



UCSI University and Billion Prima Sdn Bhd, one of Asia's leading companies in non-intrusive inspection technology, will collaborate in research.

Under a memorandum of agreement inked by the two parties, five UCSI students will now work on three engineering projects involving imaging, communication and radiation monitoring.

Billion Prima will sponsor the students throughout their research assignments. The cost of the exercise is expected to exceed RM200,000.

UCSI vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir said that the MoA was significant as it involved high-impact research that could impact the industry.

"I am glad that Billion Prima is sponsoring our students and I am hopeful that this collaboration will generate new knowledge," she said in her speech.

"I am confident that Billion Prima will continue hiring our graduates and I hope that our alumni will go on to establish technology startups of their own."

She added that the field was an area she wanted to venture into during her tenure as Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation secretary-general.

Hailing the collaboration, Billion Prima general manager Lee Yuh Jiunn said that his company was keen to attract more talent from UCSI.



From left: UCSI University deputy vice-chancellor (Research and Postgraduate) Distinguished Prof Dr Phang Siew Moi, UCSI University vice-chancellor and UCSI Group CEO Prof Datuk Ts Ir Dr Siti Hamisah binti Tapsir, Billion Prima general manager Mr Lee Yuh Jiunn and Billion Prima R&D and business development director Prof Dr Ir Abdul Karim bin Mirasa.

"We want to train local talents and we will continue funding them to revolutionise the scanning industry," he said.

"We have been looking to collaborate with UCSI over the past year."

He added that the company had also funded two industrial PhD students from UCSI. One is already working at the company and another will start in August.

Billion Prima runs Southeast Asia's sole R&D centre for cargo and baggage scanning. It is also the region's leading manufacturer of non-intrusive screening equipment.

UCSI is ranked in the world's top 1% in the QS World University Rankings 2025 by virtue of its top 265 ranking. It stands out as one of Asia's top private universities.

Billion Prima will sponsor the students throughout their research assignments. The cost of the exercise is expected to exceed RM200,000.

OVERSEAS RESEARCH ATTACHMENT AND STUDENT ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME 2023



Contributors: Asst Prof Dr Sasikala Chinnappan and Asst Prof Dr Tooba Mahboob, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) students Tai Suet Chee, Yap Jeck Yee, Law Pei Tze and Willicia Ang Shao Wei from UCSI University visited Nihon Pharmaceutical University (NPU) in Japan as part of a research attachment and student enrichment programme in 2023 organised by the International Exchange Committee of NPU.

This programme aimed to provide our students with a comprehensive understanding of pharmaceutical education and practice within the Japanese healthcare system, while fostering interprofessional research collaboration.



Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) students at Nihon Pharmaceutical University, Japan.

During their visit, our students explored various aspects of Japanese culture. They toured the university campus, a Kampo school, a museum and other cultural sites, gaining first-hand experience of local customs and traditions. A highlight of the programme was the introduction to traditional Japanese herbal medicine, known as Kampo. Through talks and exhibitions, students learned about the manufacturing process of Kampo products and had the unique opportunity to touch, smell and even taste the herbs used in these medicines.

Additionally, our students were introduced to concepts such as Collaborative Drug Therapy Management and Protocol-Based

Pharmacotherapy Management. They examined Japan's drug dispensing system and hospital emergency medical services, gaining deeper insights into the country's healthcare infrastructure.

Final-year Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons) students Lau Yu Ping, Audrey Phang Sing Yu, Alfarizzi Ramadhan bin Hendra and Lau Sheng Khai from UCSI University visited Walailak University in Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand, as part of a research attachment and cultural exchange programme 2023 organised by the School of Allied Health Sciences at Walailak University. The primary objective of this programme was to provide our students with a comprehensive understanding of pathogenic amoeba isolated from environmental samples, specifically *Acanthamoeba triangularis*, and to offer hands-on research experience in Thailand.

The Overseas Pharmacy Research Attachment and Cultural Experience provided a unique learning opportunity as the students conducted various antimicrobial assays related to *Acanthamoeba triangularis*. Additionally,

they attended a one-day workshop on electron microscopy at the nanotechnology laboratory of Walailak University, which deepened their understanding of pharmaceutical research in Thailand. Group discussion sessions were also held to stimulate brainstorming and to help develop critical thinking and interpersonal skills.

Overall, this programme was a meaningful and enriching experience for the students. It provided them with the opportunity to work with people from different countries in an interactive and stimulating environment where everyone actively participated and shared constructive ideas, knowledge and experiences. This trip was not just educational but also a cultural exchange that broadened their horizons.



Electron Microscopy Workshop at Nanotechnology Laboratory, Walailak University.



UCSI UNIVERSITY SIGNS MOU FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATION

On May 29th, 2024, UCSI University had the distinct honour of hosting His Excellency Ary Quintella, Ambassador of Brazil to Malaysia, and Professor Scott Fahrenkrug, co-founder of Forjazul Inc, at its Kuala Lumpur campus.

During their visit, the esteemed guests toured the institution's aquatic science facilities and engaged in insightful discussions with Distinguished Prof Dr Phang Siew Moi, Malaysia's foremost academic in algal biotechnology. This meeting of minds has set the stage for a collaborative effort that promises to drive innovation and champion biodiversity.

The highlight of the event was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UCSI University, Bio Bureau Biotechnology and Forjazul Inc. This partnership aims to:

- Facilitate student and staff exchanges
- Promote joint research opportunities
- Develop collaborative teaching and outreach programmes
- Share best practices
- Organise courses, lectures and symposia

By uniting their expertise and resources, the parties are committed to applying science for the greater good and developing sustainable solutions that are both timely and timeless.

UCSI University is excited about the potential of this collaboration and looks forward to many more pertinent endeavours that will benefit our planet and future generations.



WORLD PHARMACIST DAY AND FORMULATION SCIENTISTS' CELEBRATIONS 2023

Contributors: Mr Muhammad Ahsan Iftikhar Baig, Asst Prof Dr Malarvili A/P Selvaraja and Asst Prof Dr Marwan Abdelmohmoud Abdelkarim Maki, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences

"Pharmacy: Strengthening Health Systems"

The annual World Pharmacist Day was established by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) to recognise the vital contributions pharmacists make to patient health. FIP is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to advancing the pharmacy profession through practice, scientific progress and workforce development to meet global healthcare needs and expectations.



Opening remarks by Prof Dr Mogana S. Rajagopal, Dean of Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, UCSI University.

FIP has designated "Pharmacy: Strengthening Health Systems" as the theme for World Pharmacist Day 2023. Aligned with FIP's World Pharmacist Day initiative, our celebration aims to emphasise the value of the pharmacy profession and its impact on improving health to authorities, other healthcare professionals, the media and the public. Additionally, it seeks to provide a platform for positive interactions among stakeholders in the Pharmaceutical Sciences programme.

The Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences organises World Pharmacists' Day and Formulation Scientists' Celebrations annually. The event was officiated by YBhg Puan Noor Hidayah Mohd Nor, senior principal assistant director from the Ministry of Health; YBhg Brigadier General Dato' Dr A. Halim Bin Hj. Basari, chief of management; YBhg Professor Dato' Dr

Noraini binti Idris, advisor and honorary professor from Universiti Malaya (UM) and founder of UM STEM Centre; Prof Ir Dr Jimmy Mok Vee Hoong, pro-vice-chancellor of Springhill campus, UCSI University; Prof Dr Mogana S Rajagopal, dean of the faculty of pharmaceutical sciences; and Muhammad Ahsan Iftikhar Baig, chairperson of the World Pharmacist Day event. The event was graced by various industries, external stakeholders, and the staff and students of the faculty as well.

Prof Ir Dr Jimmy Mok Vee Hoong, emphasised the responsibility of pharmacists in ensuring the rational use of medicine by patients in his welcome address. He highlighted that pharmacy is a noble profession dedicated to changing people's lives. Studies and surveys have shown that pharmacists are among the most trusted professionals by the public. He further mentioned that as practicing pharmacists, the public entrusts them with their health-related issues and follows their recommendations because pharmacists, as healthcare professionals, are equipped with a specific set of skills and knowledge.

Prof Dr Mogana S Rajagopal, emphasised the significance of World Pharmacists' Day in her speech, noting the global effort to honour the contributions of pharmacists. This day, established by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) in 2009 during the FIP Congress in Istanbul, aims to raise awareness of the pharmacist's role in healthcare and to enhance this role through increased community involvement. The faculty of pharmaceutical sciences at UCSI University is proud to partake in this global celebration. Prof Dr Mogana highlighted the theme of this year's event, "Pharmacy: Strengthening Health Systems," which underscores pharmacy's positive impact



Welcome address by Prof Ir Dr Jimmy Mok Vee Hoong, Pro-vice-chancellor Springhill Campus, UCSI University.

on health worldwide and aims to foster solidarity within the profession. She extended the celebration to include formulation scientists, acknowledging their vital role in both healthcare and product innovation industries.

Prof Dr Mogana articulated the extensive responsibilities of pharmacists and formulation scientists, emphasizing their role in developing safe and effective medications, ensuring their proper use, and ultimately impacting patient outcomes. She asserted that the future of health systems relies heavily on the knowledge, skills, and dedication of these professionals. She elaborated on the multifaceted nature of pharmacy, which goes beyond the science of medications to include patient counselling, clinical consultations, therapeutic decision-making, health promotion, and the development of innovative pharmaceutical products. Formulation scientists, she noted, are instrumental in creating products across various sectors, including herbaceuticals, cosmeceuticals, nutraceuticals and pharmaceuticals, thereby significantly impacting lives and making a difference.

Prof Dr Mogana addressed the current global health challenges, from the pandemic to chronic diseases and antimicrobial resistance, and highlighted the crucial role of pharmacy and formulation science in addressing these issues. She emphasised that pharmacists



Pledge of Professionalism by Pharmacy students.

and formulation scientists form a crucial bridge within the healthcare system, especially in these challenging times. In conjunction with the celebration, the faculty of pharmaceutical sciences at UCSI University recognises excellence in pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences education through its Annual Book Prize awards. Outstanding students are selected to receive cash awards, sponsored by industry partners who collaborate with the faculty.

Prof Dr Mogana also noted the declining interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) in Malaysia, which poses a challenge for the nation's aspirations to attain developed status. She referenced Prof Datuk Dr Noraini Idris, president and founder of the National STEM Association, who emphasised the importance of STEM in the digital age and its role as an engine for innovation. To promote STEM awareness, the faculty collaborated with the national STEM foundation to organize an annual TikTok innovation competition, the winners of which were awarded that day. She proudly shared the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences' achievements, including 23 years of academic excellence, the graduation of 1,400 pharmacists, and recognition in the World QS Ranking 2023. The faculty offers 10 programmes, including diplomas, undergraduate, master's, and PhD degrees. In 2022, the faculty secured RM3.5 million in research grants, published 144 papers with an impact factor of 260, and registered 4 patents and 5 copyrights. The faculty's innovative teaching methods, emphasizing the Praxis model, include community

engagement and collaborations with hospitals, community pharmacies, and leading industries and SMEs.

In closing, Prof Dr Mogana extended her sincere gratitude to the Book Prize sponsors (EP Plus Group, Xepa Soul, Medispec, Big Pharmacy, Caring Pharmacy, Viatris, and Pharm-D) and the TikTok award sponsor Viatris for their continuous support. She thanked the distinguished guests, including the honourable VC YB Prof Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah, Pro VC Prof Ir Dr Jimmy, and others for their esteemed presence. She also acknowledged the dedication of the event organizers and the entire team at the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Prof Dr Mogana concluded with an inspiring quote: "Excellence is never an accident; it is the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, skilful execution, and the vision to see obstacles as opportunities."



Pharmacy Research students during poster presentation.

During the event, pharmacy students took the Pledge of Professionalism, led by the president of the University Pharmacy Student Association (UPSA). The pledge emphasizes the need to build and reinforce a professional identity founded

on integrity, ethical behaviour, and honour. This development ensures that students remain true to the professional relationship established between themselves and society as they become members of the community. Integrity must be an essential part of their everyday lives, and they must practice their profession with honesty and commitment to service.

The pledge includes the following commitments for professional development:

DEVELOP a sense of loyalty and duty to the profession of pharmaceutical sciences and be willing to contribute to the well-being of others, enthusiastically accepting the responsibility and accountability for membership in the profession.

FOSTER professional competency through lifelong learning, striving for high ideals, teamwork, and unity within the profession to provide optimal service.

SUPPORT colleagues by actively encouraging personal commitment to the Code of Ethics and Professionalism.

INCORPORATE into life and practice, dedication to excellence, requiring ongoing reassessment of personal and professional values.

MAINTAIN the highest ideals and professional attributes to ensure and facilitate the covenantal relationship required of the profession.

The profession of pharmaceutical sciences demands adherence to a set of rigid ethical standards. These high ideals are necessary to ensure the quality of care extended to the patients served. As a student of pharmaceutical sciences, this commitment does not start with graduation; rather, it begins with membership in this professional university community. Therefore, students must strive to uphold these standards as they advance toward full membership in the profession.



World Pharmacist Day and Formulation Scientists' Celebrations 2023 Group photo of the esteemed guests and organisation committee.

BOOK PRIZE AWARD CEREMONY 2023

UCSI University's Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences Partners with Seven Renowned Industry Partners to Award Top Performers of the Year

The prestigious Book Prize award ceremony for the year took place on 4th of September 2023 in UCSI University, Kuala Lumpur. The event celebrated during the World Pharmacist Day and Formulation Scientist Celebration 2023, organised by the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, UCSI University. The event was themed "Pharmacy: Strengthening Health Systems," highlighted the crucial role of pharmacy in healthcare and served as a call to action for future professionals. The event celebrated outstanding student achievements from Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and brought together a diverse group of different industry partners, including Big Pharmacy, EP Plus, Xepa Soul, Caring Pharmacy, Medispec, Pharm-D and Viatris, to recognise thirteen outstanding students for their exceptional performance this year.

The Book Prize Award aims to provide ongoing motivation for outstanding students to excel in their academic pursuits. Substantial cash awards and certificates of excellence were given to the faculty's top students, sponsored by the seven industry

partners. The Big Pharmacy Awards 2023 were presented to Helia Mokhelsi (BPharm, Year 1) who is also the faculty's student ambassador and Ng Sin Hui (BPharm, Year 3). The Xepa Soul Awards 2023 were presented to Joanne Yap (BPharm, Year 4) and Lee My Chi (BPharm, Year 3). The EP Plus Awards 2023 recipients were Jessica Yon Ai Lyn (BPharm, Year 4) and another outstanding student from Master of Clinical Pharmacy practice (MCPP) programme Evelyn Lau Xiao Xin. Tan Wan Yi (BPharm, Year 1) and Yam Xin Yee (BPharm, Year 2) have received the Medispec Award 2023 for their academic excellence. Viatris Awards 2023 were presented to Chong Kar Jing (BPharm, Year 2) and to Tan Puay Luan for her excellent performance in PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences. Pharm-D Awards 2023 were received by Sharon Anthea Simeon Anthony (Year 2) and Lee Ee Qian (Year 3) from Bachelor of Formulation Sciences (Hons) programme. Caring Pharmacy Award 2023 was received by Law Pei Tze (BPharm, Year 2) for her outstanding academic performances.



World Pharmacist Day and Formulation Scientists' Celebrations 2023 Group photo with Book Prize sponsors Big Pharmacy, EP Plus, Xepa Soul, Caring Pharmacy, Medispec, Pharm-D, Viatris and awards recipients.

UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH PURWOKERTO INBOUND STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME AT FACULTY OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

Contributor: Muhammad Ahsan Iftikhar Baig, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Four students from the Faculty of Pharmacy at Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto (UMP) - Diana Hasri Pusparini, Dwi Listia Ningrum, Indrilla Vena Annindhita and Nadya Erieke - participated in the Community Pharmacy Internship Programme at the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, UCSI University, in July 2023. This programme was a collaboration between UCSI University and UMP to enhance the students' knowledge and skills in community pharmacy practice.

The students were warmly welcomed by Prof Dr Mogana S Rajagopal, dean of Pharmaceutical Sciences; Mr Por Choo Shiuian, deputy dean; Asst Prof Dr Muhammad Junaid Farrukh, head of Praxis, Industry and Community Engagement; Mr Muhammad Ahsan Iftikhar Baig, coordinator; and other faculty members. They exchanged souvenirs as a sign of friendship and partnership. Following the welcome, Mr Hardave gave the students a tour of the campus, showcasing UCSI University's state-of-the-art facilities, including the Pharmacology Lab, Pharmacy Practice Lab, Chemistry Lab, Mock Pharmacy and Postgraduate Research Lab.

Over the next two days, the students attended several briefings by faculty staff on the technical aspects of the community pharmacy system in Malaysia, the community pharmacy internship and



Internship @ JuzCare Pharmacy (with Lim Huei, founder and UCSI Pharmacy alumni).



Group photo with faculty members.

the ongoing research projects of the PhD students. These sessions provided the students with a comprehensive understanding of how community pharmacies operate within the Malaysian healthcare system, the structure and expectations of the pharmacy internship programme, and insights into cutting-edge research being conducted by doctoral candidates at the university.

Following the briefings, the students were attached to JuzCare Pharmacy Sdn Bhd, a collaborative partner of UCSI University. At JuzCare Pharmacy, UCSI alumni Ms Lim Huei Wern played a pivotal role in their training. She equipped the students with essential communication and patient counselling skills, crucial for effective interaction with patients. The training also covered the layout and organisation of products within the pharmacy (planogram), and the usage of various medical devices, rehabilitation products and home monitoring devices. For instance, the students learned to perform blood glucose tests, an important skill for managing and advising patients with diabetes.

Additionally, the students received in-depth training on various aspects of pharmaceutical care and inventory management. This included assessing patients' self-medication practices, preparing informative newsletters and creating comprehensive counselling manuals. These activities were designed to enhance their practical knowledge and prepare them for real-world scenarios in community pharmacy settings.

At the end of their exchange programme, the students presented their internship experiences and achievements to the faculty's assessment panel and staff. This presentation allowed them to reflect on their learning journey and demonstrate the skills and knowledge they had acquired. They also took the opportunity to showcase their rich Indonesian culture and diversity through a cultural presentation, which added a unique and personal touch to the conclusion of their exchange programme.



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