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**KUCHING:** The Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management (FHTM) of UCSI University Sarawak Campus has been named 'Malaysia's Best University in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Hospitality and Tourism.'

In a statement, the university said the 'Malaysia Education and TVET Awards 2024' honour reflected its distinguished standing as a leading institution in the field of hospitality and tourism management.

"The university's innovative approach to education, particularly through the praxis education concept, sets it apart from others," it said in a press release yesterday.

Adding on, it said this school of thought prioritised pragmatic, experiential learning, guaranteeing that students would not only comprehend academic knowledge, but would also acquire crucial skills through real-life encounters.

"This approach is demonstrated by the distinct incorporation of the FHTM within the UCSI Hotel Kuching facilities.

"Housing the faculty within a functioning hotel offers students an unparalleled learning environment. They are immersed in the daily operations of a professional hospitality establishment, providing them with direct exposure to industry standards and practices.

"This unique educational environment enables students to synthesise classroom knowledge in real-time; thereby, cultivating a more profound comprehension of the hospitality and tourism industries.

"This praxis education



Christopher Wan (second right) receives the awards from Deputy Minister for Higher Education Datuk Mustapha Sakmud.

style effectively connects theoretical knowledge with practical application, resulting in graduates who are highly equipped to enter the workforce and thrive in their professional endeavours."

UCSI University said the FHTM had made significant contributions that surpassed conventional education.

"The faculty has constantly collaborated with industry partners to provide practical learning opportunities, guaranteeing that students acquire significant insights and hands-on experience.

"FHTM's success has been greatly influenced by initiatives such as collaborative projects, internships, and guest lectures conducted by industry leaders."

Meanwhile, UCSI University

Sarawak Campus pro vice-chancellor Mukvinder Kaur Sandhu hailed the accolade as 'evidence of the diligent efforts, commitment and originality demonstrated by the faculty members and students'.

"We take pride in being leaders in TVET in Malaysia, namely in the hospitality and tourism industries, which play a vital role in the country's economy."

Assistant professor Christopher Wan Sageng, dean of the FHTM, remarked: "Our mission has always been to nurture future leaders in hospitality and tourism. This recognition inspires us to continue enhancing our programmes, forging stronger industry ties, and providing our students with the best education possible."