



France-Malaysia

Education Partnership

A vibrant celebration of culture and diversity



i Message from
Provost & Chief
Executive Officer

1 Global Insights

2 Features

6 Milestones &
Highlights

9 Happenings

14 Achievements

CONTENTS

Message from Provost & Chief Executive Officer

Greetings everyone,

As we embrace the 2025/26 academic year, I am pleased to reflect and share the many milestones and accomplishments that define our journey here at Heriot-Watt University Malaysia.

These achievements, captured in our latest edition of In-Kilter, are a testament to our commitment to providing quality, purpose-driven education as well as our dedication to fostering innovation and sustainability.

I am delighted to share that over the past quarter, the quality of our academic excellence and the impact of our research continue to be recognised as manifested by the rise in The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2026 ranking.

On a national stage, our University has been shortlisted for the prestigious Best Sustainability Initiative Award (Higher Education) at EDUtech Asia 2025, recognising our campus-wide efforts to integrate sustainability across teaching, research, and campus operations. Our students also

continue to make us proud, recently showcasing exemplary innovation and securing top ranking in the recent Tech4Good Challenge (T4G) 2025, a prestigious national-level invention competition organised by ViTrox Technologies and University Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR).

From a global lens, I am delighted to share that we have strengthened our international partnerships, particularly with institutions in Europe and China, reaffirming our position as a transnational education leader. These collaborations enhance opportunities for student mobility, research and cultural exchange, that further underpin the truly global learning experience that we offer at Heriot-Watt University Malaysia.

As we step forward, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our community. May we continue this progress by supporting one another in our collective pursuit of knowledge, excellence and purpose.

Wishing you a successful and fulfilling year ahead!



“ I am excited to share that we have strengthened our global partnerships, particularly with institutions in Europe and China, reaffirming our leading position in transnational education. ”

– Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi
Provost and Chief Executive Officer
Heriot-Watt University Malaysia

Heriot-Watt University powers ahead in influential Times and Sunday Times rankings

Heriot-Watt University has significantly risen in The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2026, now ranking 39th out of 130 United Kingdom (UK) institutions, climbing from 51st in the previous year. The University was also named runner-up for the title of Scottish University of the Year.

The improvement is mirrored in many of our University's academic disciplines, with six subjects placed in the UK's top ten. Leading the way is Building, which has been ranked first in the UK.

Other highly placed subjects include Mathematics (5th), Mechanical Engineering (7th), Town & Country Planning and Landscape (7th), Aeronautical and Manufacturing Engineering (8th), and Chemical Engineering (10th).

The Good University Guide is widely regarded as one of the UK's most influential university rankings. It assesses institutions across eight key measures including teaching quality, student satisfaction, graduate job prospects, and research excellence, providing a trusted benchmark for prospective students and their families when making choices about higher education.

This year's strong performance follows a series of accolades for the University. Later this year, Heriot-Watt University will vie for the coveted title of University of the Year 2025 at the prestigious Times Higher Education Awards, as the only Scottish institution to be shortlisted. In addition, the University rose 17 places to 25th in the latest Complete University Guide and moved up to 31st in the Guardian University Guide 2026.

20 years of Heriot-Watt University Dubai

Heriot-Watt University Dubai is celebrating two decades of academic excellence, growth, and community impact in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

For the past two decades, Heriot-Watt University Dubai has been at the forefront of shaping the region's higher education landscape. Established in 2005 as the first UK university to set up a campus in Dubai International Academic City, it has steadily expanded its presence and reinforced its reputation as a leader in tertiary education. Staying true to its roots as an institution created to educate, upskill, and prepare the workforce in the markets it serves, the Dubai campus has been instrumental in preparing a future-ready talent pool not only for the UAE and the region but also for the global workforce.

In the last 20 years, Heriot-Watt University Dubai has reached many significant milestones that reflect the growth and impact in the UAE. In 2021, Heriot-Watt University Dubai moved to a purpose-built, state-of-the-art campus in Dubai Knowledge Park, designed to provide an exceptional learning and teaching environment for students. The Dubai campus also proudly hosted the Climate Hub as part of COP28, welcoming thought leaders and changemakers to drive conversations around sustainability and climate action. Heriot-Watt University Dubai were also honoured to welcome His Majesty King Charles III, who officially opened the Dubai campus of Heriot-Watt University in November 2023, a moment of pride for the entire community.

Most recently, receiving accreditation from the UAE Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR) further strengthened Heriot-Watt University Dubai's position as a trusted academic institution, recognised for delivering high-quality education and research. Each of these milestones underlines the continued commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and shaping a sustainable future for students and the wider community.

Over the years, more than 15,400 students have graduated from Heriot-Watt University Dubai, going on to build careers across multinational corporations, start-ups, government bodies, and non-profit organisations. This thriving alumni network reflects the university's enduring commitment to developing globally capable professionals who remain deeply connected to their communities.

BUSINESS NEWS



Artificial Intelligence Business News Education Skills Development Workplace

Heriot-Watt University Malaysia Launches Purpose-Driven Robotics Programme and Education Initiatives

Posted on August 1, 2025 by Staff Writer

Heriot-Watt University Malaysia has launched its new MEng Robotic and Mechatronic Engineering programme at its Putrajaya campus. The launch coincided with the University's WattTech: Engineer in You initiative and the 4th Teachers' Conference 2025.

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The Star 30 YEARS ONLINE

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Becoming a 'super-professional'

EDUCATION

Sunday, 10 Aug 2025

This is the time of the year when many universities around the world have their graduation ceremonies. With over 30 million graduates crossing the stage as proud degree holders, it is a time to celebrate and reflect.

Young people are graduating at one of the most transformative times in human history. This era is defined by artificial intelligence (AI), which is not just a tool but a force reshaping work, careers and entire industries.

While this brings extraordinary opportunities, it also brings uncertainty, especially for early-career professionals. Emerging global data is already pointing towards fewer available graduate jobs.

Not too long ago, being competent, qualified and hardworking was sufficient to carve out a successful career.

That world is fading fast. Today, it's not enough to be a professional; graduates – whether an engineer, an accountant, a computer scientist or a psychologist – must become a "super-professional".

What does that mean? It means unleashing their POWER by mastering the five qualities that will make them not only employable but also unstoppable in the AI era. These are outlined below:

> Purpose: We need to start by knowing our purpose as it is both an anchor and a north

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LIFESTYLE

The Small Acts and Big Hearts Powering Malaysia's Merdeka Spirit

By BusinessToday August 30, 2025

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Malaysia marks 68 years of independence this 31 August, but the spirit of Merdeka is proving to be more than a historic milestone. Across the country, young Malaysians are keeping its meaning alive through small acts of kindness and community service that embody freedom, compassion and solidarity.

At Heriot-Watt University Malaysia (HWUM), students participating in the EmPOWER Programme have translated their sense of purpose into tangible, positive change. From January to July 2025, their fundraising activities have raised nearly RM100,000, benefiting 11 charities nationwide.

One standout initiative was the Mini Golf, Major Impact project, which transformed the university plaza into a lively mini-golf course. The event raised RM5,400 to support Epic Homes, an organisation providing housing for Orang Asli families.

The students' compassion also extended to animal welfare. Through virtual runs, bazaars and online campaigns, they collected more than RM17,000 for the PAWS Animal Welfare Society.

Many volunteers went beyond fundraising, spending time at shelters to feed cats, clean cages and assist with adoptions. As one student put it, "We realised that even a small effort can bring real change."

Inclusivity was another theme that ran through their work. To support the Malaysian Association for the Blind (MAB), students organised a blindfold challenge, allowing peers to experience life without sight. Alongside a table tennis tournament and creative bazaars, these efforts raised RM13,500.

Recognising that millions of Malaysian children face the risks of poverty, the students also championed the cause of Yayasan Chow Kit (YCK).

Through community sports and bazaars, they raised more than RM15,000 to provide food, education, and safe environments for vulnerable children. By doing so, they upheld Merdeka's promise of dignity and justice for future generations.



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Features

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EDUCATION

Sunday, 31 Aug 2025

A nation at the crossroads



In a 1993 study titled *Ripe for Rivalry: Prospects for Peace in a Multipolar Asia*, published in the journal *International Security*, American political scientist Aaron L. Friedberg argued that Asia appeared more likely than Europe to be the "cockpit of great-power conflict", concluding that in the long run, "Europe's past could be Asia's future".

Three decades later, reality has proven otherwise. Since the 1990s, Europe has experienced several conflicts in Bosnia, Croatia, Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia, Georgia and Ukraine.

In the same period, there was no major conflict in Asia, despite lacking the interconnectedness enjoyed by their European counterparts.

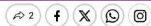
What explains this relative peace? According to geopolitical expert Kishore Mahbubani, who served as Singapore's permanent representative to the United Nations for more than a decade and as UN Security Council president between 2001 and 2002, the simple answer is that Asia benefits from a culture of pragmatism, as demonstrated by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), which emerged as a successful regional organisation at the end of the Cold War.

Mahbubani seems to recognise the contributions of an alternative leadership style, built

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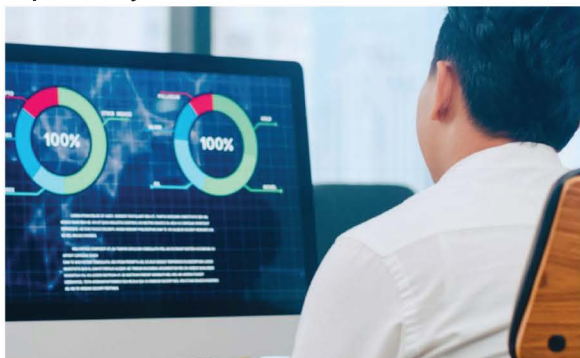
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PARAFRASA TERKINI - 19 Sep 2025 08:00 AM

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Membina tenaga pakar kewangan digital demi masa depan Malaysia



Oleh Prof. Madya Dr. Jimmy Tam Kok Chian
editor@dagangnews.com

Mata wang paling berharga hari ini bukan lagi sekadar minyak, emas atau modal, tetapi modal insan – khususnya bakat yang menggabungkan kepakaran kewangan dengan keupayaan membuat keputusan berasaskan data.

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BUSINESS NEWS



Data-Savvy Finance Talent: The Catalyst for ASEAN's Global Competitiveness

Posted on September 12, 2025 by Staff Writer

By Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jimmy Tam Kok Chian, Head of School of Social Sciences, Heriot-Watt University Malaysia

The most valuable currency today is not just oil, gold, or even capital; it is human capital, particularly, talent that combines financial expertise with data-driven decision-making.

Cultivating such talent is important to unlocking investment, driving sustainability, and fostering innovation for Malaysia and the wider ASEAN region.

In this context, the 13th Malaysia Plan Mid-Term Review (RMK13), unveiled last month by Yang Amat Berhormat Prime Minister Anwar Bin Ibrahim, marks a pivotal step forward.

This recalibrated national roadmap signals a generational shift in the country's development priorities. Among its ambitious targets are RM60 billion in investments, including RM430

billion in development expenditure, and increasing the proportion of skilled workers to 35 per cent of the labour force by 2030.

Finance talent

These targets are more than just numbers; they reflect a strong commitment to building a future-ready, inclusive, and sustainable Malaysia.

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BUSINESS NEWS



Heriot-Watt University Malaysia Marks Mid-Autumn Festival with China Diplomats and Students

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Heriot-Watt University Malaysia Marks Mid-Autumn Festival with China Diplomats and Students

Posted on September 26, 2025 September 26, 2025 by Staff Writer

Heriot-Watt University Malaysia (HWUM) brought tradition and diplomacy together in a vibrant celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival, welcoming Chinese diplomats and hundreds of students from diverse backgrounds for an evening of cultural exchange, unity, and shared heritage.



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By Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi - October 1, 2025



I believe Budget 2026 should not only maintain funding levels but set clear priorities to nurture graduates who are innovative, inclusive, and resilient. These qualities will define the success of our country in the years ahead.



Professor Mushtak Al-Azabi is the provost and chief executive officer of Heriot-Watt University Malaysia, who is also the chairman of Vice Chancellors Council for Private Universities (VCCPU). | Photo by Heriot-Watt University / NHA File Photo

Research and innovation must also be a focus. Supporting "blue-sky" research, which may not have immediate applications but leads to breakthrough discoveries, is essential. It is through this type of work that Malaysia can transition to a knowledge-driven economy. Increased funding and stronger collaborations between academia and industry will create a dynamic research environment that fosters creativity and leadership.

Inclusion must be at the heart of our education system. Supporting neurodiverse and disabled learners is not only a social responsibility but also a way to unlock untapped talent. Dedicated funding and inclusive policies will ensure education is accessible to all Malaysians. Enhancing Education Quality and Global Standing

Finally, Malaysia must lead in STEM and Artificial Intelligence (AI). These fields are the foundation of future innovation and economic growth. Investment in STEM education and AI initiatives will prepare the next generation of leaders and innovators.

*. This article was written by Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi, the Provost and Chief Executive Officer of [Heriot-Watt University Malaysia](#), and the Chairman of Vice Chancellors Council for Private Universities (VCCPU).

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02/10/2025 10:13 AM



Heriot-Watt University Malaysia's pro-vice and chief executive officer Prof Mushtak Al-Azab

In a statement, he said last year's RM18 billion allocation to higher education was a positive step, but the rapidly changing economic landscape calls for greater ambition and forward-looking investment.

Mushtak, who is also the Vice Chancellors Council for Private Universities (VCCPU) chairman, also emphasised that internationalisation must remain a priority, highlighting Malaysia's steady growth in international student enrolments, particularly from China, Indonesia and India.

Citing data from Study Malaysia and Education Malaysia Global Services, he said the country is on track to meet the 250,000 international student target by 2025.

"To build on this, the government should introduce targeted incentives to attract more students, especially to private institutions. This will boost Malaysia's global standing while generating economic benefits," he added.

On research and innovation, Mushtak urged support for "blue-sky" research, which may not have immediate applications but has the potential for breakthroughs, stressing its importance in building a knowledge-driven

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Bernama cited Prof Mushtak Al-Atabi, Provost and CEO of Heriot-Watt University Malaysia, describing last year's RM18 billion allocation for higher education as a positive foundation but stressed the need for increased ambition to prepare graduates who are "innovative, inclusive, and resilient."

He highlighted that Budget 2026 must focus on nurturing these qualities to ensure Malaysia's long-term success on the global stage.

Mushtak, also chairman of the Vice Chancellors Council for Private Universities, underlined the importance of internationalisation, noting that Malaysia is on track to meet its target of 250,000 international students by 2025.

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Local

Budget 2026 crucial for Malaysia's higher education global competitiveness

theSun Local

2025-10-02 10:20 AM



Graduates of Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK) at the 14th UMK Pro-Chancellor Proclamation and Consecration Ceremony held at the UMK Bachok Campus on May 2, 2025 - BERNAMA

KUALA LUMPUR: Budget 2026 represents a defining moment for Malaysia's higher education sector with crucial decisions needed to ensure the country's ability to compete on the global stage, said Heriot-Watt University Malaysia provost and chief executive officer Prof Mushtak Al-Atabi.

In a statement, he said last year's RM18 billion allocation to higher education was a positive step, but the rapidly changing economic landscape calls for greater ambition and forward-looking investment.

"Budget 2026 should not only sustain current funding levels but also prioritise nurturing graduates who are innovative, inclusive, and resilient. These qualities will determine Malaysia's long-term success," he said.

Mushtak, who is also the Vice Chancellors Council for Private Universities (VCCPU) chairman, also emphasised that internationalisation must remain a priority, highlighting Malaysia's steady growth in international student enrolments, particularly from China, Indonesia and India.

Citing data from Study Malaysia and Education Malaysia Global Services, he said the country is on track to meet the 250,000 international student target by 2025.

"To build on this, the government should introduce targeted incentives to attract more students, especially to private institutions. This will boost Malaysia's global standing while generating economic benefits," he added.

On research and innovation, Mushtak urged support for "blue-sky" research, which may not have immediate applications but has the potential for breakthroughs, stressing its importance in building a knowledge-driven economy.

"Increased funding and stronger academia-industry partnerships will create a dynamic research ecosystem that fosters creativity, discovery and leadership," he said, adding that investment in virtual platforms, smart campus infrastructure and digital tools is critical to prepare students for a workforce that values flexibility and personalised learning.

Apart from that, Mushtak said supporting neurodiverse and disabled learners is not only a moral obligation but also a way to unlock hidden talent and dedicated funding as well as policies will promote accessibility to ensure equal opportunities for all Malaysians.

To enhance education quality and global recognition, he recommended establishing unified national quality frameworks and incentives to align local institutions with international standards, which would improve graduate employability and raise the global reputation of Malaysian universities.

He also urged Malaysia to lead in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Artificial Intelligence (AI), saying that investing in both fields would equip the next generation with the skills to lead in an increasingly technology-driven world as they are the backbone of future innovation and economic growth.

"Budget 2026 is not just about numbers, it is an opportunity to invest in Malaysia's future. At Heriot-Watt University, we are committed to working with the government and partners to achieve this vision and ensure Malaysian universities continue to thrive globally," he added. - Bernama

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Heriot-Watt University Malaysia shortlisted for EDUTech Asia 2025 Best Sustainability Initiative Award

Starting the first quarter of the academic year with fantastic news as our Malaysia campus was shortlisted as a finalist for the prestigious Best Sustainability Initiative Award (Higher Education) at EDUTech Asia 2025, joining a distinguished group of higher education institutions that have made remarkable progress in embedding sustainability across their teaching, research, and campus operations. This recognition honours our efforts in integrating sustainability into our academic curricula, developing renewable energy and green infrastructure, promoting eco-conscious practices as well as organising Global Sustainability Week across the campus.

Alongside our world-class programmes and global curriculum, we also require our students to develop leadership skills through the EmPOWER Programme - an initiative that helps them discover their purpose and turn it into meaningful, real-world impact.

Heriot-Watt University Malaysia strengthens ties in China to promote global education

In a special promotional event organised in collaboration with Education Malaysia Beijing, Heriot-Watt University Malaysia was introduced to essential partners in China, promoting Malaysia as an attractive destination for top quality, globally recognised education. This aligns with our continued efforts to expand our student community and foster cross-cultural exchange across our campus.

Professor Richard A. Williams, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, delivered the opening address, reaffirming our University's global commitment to accessible, high-quality education. He was joined by Deputy Provost Professor Lai Yin Ling and Mike Bates, Director of Recruitment and Admissions.

Adding a personal touch to the event was Yitong Shen, Education Malaysia Beijing's Assistant Marketing Officer and a proud alumnus of our Malaysia campus, who also took part in a panel discussion to share his student journey and life in Malaysia.

The event was attended by nearly 100 attendees, including potential recruitment partners and education agents, marking a strong step forward in building new connections and promoting our global educational mission.



HWUM representatives with key partners in Beijing to promote world-class, cross-cultural education



Professor Richard A. Williams, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, delivering the opening address

Malaysia campus hosts International Student Luncheon with Embassy of France in Kuala Lumpur representatives



Representatives from HWUM with representatives from the Embassy of France

Heriot-Watt University Malaysia recently welcomes representatives from the Embassy of France in Kuala Lumpur (La France en Malaisie) alongside Education Malaysia Global Services, to strengthen educational ties and explore future collaboration in student mobility and research. This visit was followed by an International Student Luncheon, celebrating cultural diversity and the global community on campus.

In his opening remarks, Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi emphasised that the future belongs to those who collaborate. Collaboration requires a sense of purpose, and education remains one of the few platforms that can build the trust needed to develop a better world.

The engagement was followed by the International Student Luncheon, which transformed the Multi-Purpose Hall into a vibrant celebration of culture and diversity. Students from around the world including China, India, United Kingdom, Pakistan, Kazakhstan and more came together over lunch to share stories, build friendships, and celebrate what it means to be part of a truly global university.

Mr. Thierry d'Anna, Counsellor for Cooperation and Cultural Affairs at the Embassy of France underscored the significance of international education, "French students who choose Malaysia for their mobility, and in particular



Students from across the globe enjoying local delicacies during the International Student Luncheon

those who join Heriot-Watt University Malaysia through the exchange program with ESIEE, ECE and other institutions, become, in their turn, bridges between our two nations. Your presence here is much more than a study abroad program. You are, in a very real sense, ambassadors of France in Malaysia."

Mr. D'Anna was also joined by Mr. Yohann Breard, Attache for Science and Higher Education at the Embassy of France in Kuala Lumpur.

The France-Malaysia education partnership has become a model of what transnational education can achieve: long-term relationship building, mutual academic benefit and truly global student experiences. It is also driven by student voices with many French students citing strong peer recommendation and positive testimonials as key motivators for choosing our Malaysia campus.



Study abroad students share their experiences and personal highlights while reflecting on their journey at the Malaysia campus

(Bottom, right): Mr. Thierry d'Anna, Counsellor for Cooperation and Cultural Affairs from the Embassy of France receiving a token of appreciation from Professor Richard A. Williams

(Bottom, far right): Mr. Yohann Breard, Attache for Science and Higher Education from the Embassy of France receiving a token of appreciation from Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi



Milestones & Highlights



HWUM marks the Mid-Autumn Festival bringing together tradition, culture, and diplomacy

HWUMSA, HWUMCSSA and HWUMCCS host Mid-Autumn Festival with China Embassy representatives

Heriot-Watt University Malaysia Student Association (HWUMSA) together with Heriot-Watt University Malaysia Student Association (HWUMSA), the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (HWUMCSSA), and the Chinese Cultural Society (HWUMCCS) united tradition and diplomacy in a vibrant celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival, welcoming China Embassy and hundreds of students from diverse backgrounds for an evening of cultural exchange, unity, and shared heritage.

Held at the Happy Café and Plaza on the University's Putrajaya campus, the celebration was graced by Mr. Zhao ChangTao, Counsellor at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Malaysia, and Mr. Tang Jing, Secretary of Education at the Embassy, who attended as guests of honour.

Their presence reaffirmed the event's significance not only as a cultural celebration but also as a platform for strengthening diplomatic and educational ties between Malaysia and China.



Guests of honour Mr. Zhao ChangTao and Mr. Tang Jing join HWUM, HWUMSA and HWUMCCS representatives in a lantern lighting ceremony



Students from diverse backgrounds participate in the DIY fan workshops



HWUM students take the stage with cultural performances



The celebration concluded with a scenic tour of Putrajaya Lake

Happenings



Students gaining valuable insights into university life and what lies ahead during HWUM's Welcome Week

Welcome Week

Heriot-Watt University Malaysia's Welcome Week provides new students with an essential introduction to university life, offering opportunities to meet with the faculty, familiarise themselves with new surroundings, campus facilities, student unions and societies and connect with each other.

The week started with a warm address from Provost and CEO Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi who reflected on the origins of Heriot-Watt University in meeting industrial demands. This tradition continues today, especially with the rise of AI shaping our industry-driven programmes, all guided by our University's commitment to providing purpose-driven and future-focused education.

We extend our gratitude to all our staff, students, and volunteers worldwide who contributed to the success of Welcome Week.



HWUM students and staff gather for an inspiring Welcome Week address by Provost and CEO, Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi, highlighting Heriot-Watt's purpose-driven, future-focused mission



Associate Professor Dr Jasmine Low, Head of Global College, HWUM engages with new students during Welcome Week



HWUM students connect and share experiences as they begin their Heriot-Watt journey.



Energy and enthusiasm fill the campus as HWUM students take part in interactive Welcome Week activities

MBA CEO Faculty Lecture: Dato' Ir. Ts. Izwan Hasli Mohd Ibrahim: Insights into delivering successful projects



Dato' Ir. Ts. Izwan Hasli Mohd Ibrahim receiving a token of appreciation from Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi

Heriot-Watt University Malaysia organised its first MBA CEO Faculty Lecture series for academic year 2025/26 on 27 September with Dato' Ir. Ts. Izwan Hasli Mohd Ibrahim, CEO of Putrajaya Holdings Sdn. Bhd. The session, part of the Delivering Successful Projects module, delved into Dato' Ir. Ts. Izwan's two decades spanning journey through ten pivotal projects from the energy sector in PETRONAS Upstream, to driving digital transformation at PETRONAS Digital, to landmark developments at KLCC, and finally to shaping Malaysia's iconic administrative capital with Putrajaya Holdings.

Throughout the lecture, Dato' Ir. Ts. Izwan shared ten personal leadership stories that charted his professional journey, each highlighting pivotal moments that demanded resilience, innovation, and human-centric decision-making.

In his opening remarks, HWUM Provost and CEO, Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi, noted that while many professionals are often defined by their positions or qualifications, Dato' Ir. Ts. Izwan stands out for his ability to redefine the roles he undertakes.



Dato' Ir. Ts. Izwan shares his leadership journey and professional insights, drawing from over two decades of experience across PETRONAS, KLCC, and Putrajaya Holdings

Dato' Ir. Ts. Izwan's leadership philosophy focuses on adaptability and empathy, core traits he considers non-negotiable in today's ever-evolving business landscape. His stories spanned from navigating critical corporate challenges to making data-driven decisions that prioritised long-term growth over short-term gains.

The MBA CEO Faculty Lecture Series continues to serve as a vital platform for bridging industry experience with academic learning. By bringing seasoned executives into the classroom, EBS ensures its students are equipped with practical perspectives and leadership mindsets essential for thriving in the global business environment.

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, where the audience engaged Dato' Ir. Ts. Izwan on topics ranging from stakeholder management to leadership in the age of digital transformation, followed by a group photo to commemorate a memorable and enriching event.



Dato' Ir. Ts. Izwan joins HWUM staff, students, and faculty for a group photo, commemorating a memorable and inspiring MBA CEO Faculty Lecture Series session

Happenings



IChemE representatives join HWUM students and staff for a group photo, marking a collaborative effort to strengthen professional ties and future-ready engineering education

Malaysia Campus hosts IChemE President, Professor Raffaella Ocone

Our Malaysia campus recently had the honour of welcoming Professor Raffaella Ocone, President of the Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE), alongside Ms Rachel Baxter, IChemE's Head of Registration. Their visit highlighted the university's ongoing commitment to aligning with global professional standards in chemical engineering.

Organised by the IChemE Student Chapter in Malaysia, the session brought together students, staff, and representatives from IChemE for an insightful session focused on membership opportunities, career progression, and the pathways to becoming a Chartered Chemical Engineer.

The visit emphasised our University's solid ties with industry and professional bodies. It also reinforced the university's mission to provide students with more than just academic knowledge but also the guidance and tools needed to thrive in a professional engineering environment.



Professor Raffaella Ocone, President of IChemE receiving a token of appreciation from Dr Koh Kai Seng from HWUM School of Engineering & Physical Sciences



Ms. Rachel Baxter, Head of Registration IChemE receiving a token of appreciation from Dr Koh Kai Seng from HWUM School of Engineering & Physical Sciences

EBS Cubes launched at Heriot-Watt University Malaysia to foster student entrepreneurship



HWUM students listening attentively as the EBS Cubes initiative is unveiled



Associate Professor Dr Jimmy Tam, Head of School of Social Sciences and Edinburgh Business School, HWUM introduces EBS Cubes, emphasising its role as a catalyst for creativity, collaboration, and real-world learning

Edinburgh Business School (EBS) Cubes was recently introduced this quarter at our Malaysia campus, providing students and staff the opportunity to showcase and sell their own products and services, bringing creativity and business acumen together under one roof.

EBS Cubes is a strategic step toward fostering innovation, self-sufficiency, and hands-on learning. By enabling real-world business experience, the initiative supports skill development, encourages economic contribution, and nurtures entrepreneurial confidence within our campus environment.

Head of School of Social Sciences, Associate Professor Dr Jimmy Tam highlighted that “EBS Cubes is more than a platform for entrepreneurship. It is a spark for innovation, a space for collaboration, and a driver of meaningful impact through practice-oriented education.”

Each of the selected businesses will be showcased in individual display cubes located in the 365 Room. The initiative is scheduled to run in two cycles, the first cycle starting September till November 2025 and the second cycle starting from January to March 2026.

Malaysia campus hosts Careers Open House, connecting students with industry experts

The Malaysia campus’ Careers Service department successfully hosted the Careers Open House 2025 on 24 September 2025, offering students a dynamic platform to explore career pathways, engage with industry professionals, and gain practical insights into the job market.

Held across various campus venues, the event attracted students from all schools and years of study, eager to take the next step toward their future careers. A highlight of the afternoon was an engaging “Ask Me Anything” session led by Talent Houz, where students participated in candid discussions around current employment trends, hiring expectations, and effective job-hunting strategies.

The event also featured a session by bp Malaysia, titled “Discover Opportunities with bp Technology Centre”. Representatives from the company introduced students to career pathways within bp’s Business Technology Centre in Kuala Lumpur and shared inspiring success stories of HWUM alumni currently thriving within the organisation.



Adding a unique dimension to the event, Shu Uemura made its campus appearance with a booth and a Style and Professional Image Workshop. The workshop introduced students to the importance of self-presentation in professional settings, offering tips on grooming, styling, and building personal confidence.

The Careers Open House 2025 successfully bridged the gap between academic life and the professional world, equipping students with the tools, networks, and motivation to pursue their career aspirations.

Malaysia campus hosts Ryukoku University

Heriot-Watt University Malaysia was privileged to welcome delegates from the Ryukoku University of Japan. The visit, led by Professor Masami Shiokawa, Director of the Global Education Office, aimed to explore opportunities for academic collaboration, including the development of a short-term English language and cultural programme, student internship placements, and sharing of best practices in career development support.

The day began with a warm welcome and a guided campus tour led by our Malaysia campus' student services team, offering Ryukoku University delegates a first-hand look at the Malaysia campus' student-focused learning environment and facilities.

The visit marked a significant step toward strengthening ties between HWUM and Ryukoku University, with both institutions expressing enthusiasm for future collaboration that fosters global learning, cultural exchange, and student development.



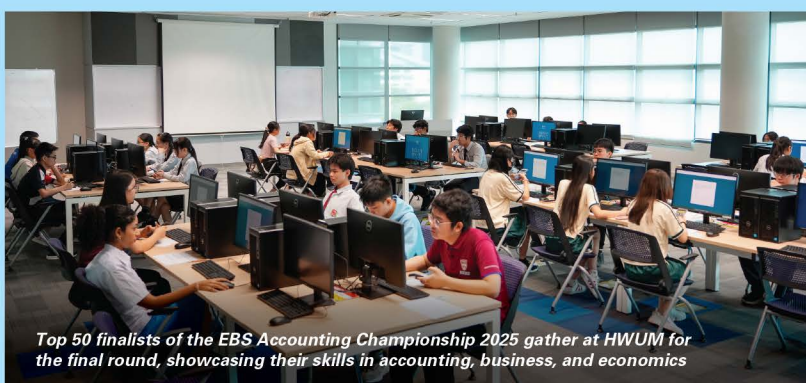
Heriot-Watt University Malaysia hosts Edinburgh Business School Accounting Championship

This quarter, Heriot-Watt University Malaysia proudly hosted the Edinburgh Business School (EBS) Accounting Championship, a nationwide competition designed to challenge and recognise the brightest young minds in accounting. The competition was held on 4 October 2025 attracting participants from public, private, and international schools across Malaysia.

The championship was structured into three progressive rounds, each designed to test the participants' knowledge and skills in accounting, economics and general business knowledge. The first two rounds were conducted online, taking place from 15 to 19 September and 24 to 26 September, respectively. The final round was held on 4 October 2025, and only the best 50 finalists were selected to the Malaysia campus for a face-to-face showdown.

The winners were judged based on their accuracy and speed in solving the accountancy problems. In the individual category, first place was awarded to Sean Lim Chi Hao from A&O Centre of Excellence, Johor, followed by Gan Ian Mark Ming Jin from Prime International Secondary School, Selangor in second place, and Claire Lau Xin Yii from SMK Tengku Panglima Perang Tengku Muhammad, Pahang, who secured third place.

For the educational institution category, Sri Sempurna International School in Kuala Lumpur emerged as the top school, with Han Chiang High School in Penang taking second place, and Shen Jai High School in Perak finishing in third.



Top 50 finalists of the EBS Accounting Championship 2025 gather at HWUM for the final round, showcasing their skills in accounting, business, and economics



Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi, Provost and CEO of Heriot-Watt University Malaysia, delivers an opening address at the EBS Accounting Championship 2025

Malcolm Isaac Fernandez, James-Watt PhD Scholar, published in Energy and Renewable Energy – Elsevier Q1 Journals



Congratulations to Malcolm Isaac Fernandez , our James-Watt PhD Scholar for research publication in Energy and Renewable Energy – Elsevier Q1 Journals, entitled “Development and analysis of national energy system scenarios for Malaysia’s energy transition towards net zero” and “Modelling and development of utility-scale energy system for Malaysia with advanced energy balance analysis: Supply, demand and trade.”

This work was guided by an international supervisory team comprising Associate Professor Dr Yun li Go, Associate Professor Dr Wolf-Gerrit Fruh and Professor M.L. Dennis Wong. This research demonstrates the modelling of future energy system scenarios for Malaysia towards 2050.

A prestigious milestone: Lim Wei Xiang passes CFA Level 1

Lim Wei Xiang, a second-year Business and Finance student, has successfully completed the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Level 1 exam, one of the most globally respected and demanding qualifications in the finance and investment sector.

The CFA designation is recognised in over 165 countries, and passing Level 1 is a significant achievement. The May 2025 session recorded a global pass rate of just 45%, reflecting the exam’s challenging nature.

Wei Xiang’s ability to balance intensive exam preparation alongside his full academic workload is a testament to his dedication, discipline, and determination. His success also highlights the strong foundation provided by our Business and Finance programme, which equips students with the knowledge and skills required to thrive in professional finance environments.



Heriot-Watt University Malaysia students shine at Tech4Good Challenge

Our Malaysia Campus proudly celebrates the remarkable success of its students at the Tech4Good Challenge (T4G) 2025, a prestigious national-level invention competition organised by ViTrox Technologies and University Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR).

This year, our talented team from the MEng Electrical and Electronics Engineering program stood out among 200 competing teams nationwide, securing the 2nd Runner-Up position in Category 2 (Tertiary) – Manufacturing Track and taking home RM1,000 in prize money.

The team is comprised of Loh Yue Hung, Yong Zi Cheng, and Sim Jun Heng, all first-year students under the guidance of Dr. Yew Weng Kean, Assistant Professor at the School of Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS).

Their winning project, titled 'Integrated Vision Inspection System (IVIS),' introduced a breakthrough solution to optimize Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QAQC) in the aircraft manufacturing industry. The system integrates AI-powered defect detection using the YOLOv8 model; natural language interaction via the DeepSeek LLM; a custom photogrammetry technique for precise 3D reconstruction of component surfaces; and IoT-enabled real-time data transmission and automated reporting.



The team's journey to the grand finals would not have been possible without the strong support of EmPOWER and the School of Engineering and Physical Sciences.

This dual achievement reaffirms the University's commitment to nurturing future-ready graduates and fostering a culture of innovation and excellence. Congratulations to both teams for making us proud!

Since its inception in 2023, T4G has served as an inspiring platform for Malaysian students to showcase innovation and creativity in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

Heriot-Watt University Malaysia team place third at PayHack 2025



Our Malaysia campus' team playfully named Team Pineapple Donkey emerged as second runner-up in PayHack 2025, Malaysia's largest intervarsity hackathon where university teams tackled real-world challenges in digital payments and fintech innovation.

The team brought together students from the School of Social Sciences (SoSS), including Business and Finance, and the School of Mathematical and Computer Sciences (MACS), a powerful example of interdisciplinary collaboration in action.

Competing against twenty top teams from ten private institutions across Malaysia, Team Pineapple Donkey's performance showcased the value of teamwork, creativity, and cross-functional thinking, all key qualities in today's evolving business landscape.

Marketing students excel in Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM)

We are delighted to celebrate a remarkable milestone achieved by three of our Marketing students at the Malaysia campus, namely Saccty, Low Zhi Jun, and Intissar Shaiful, who have successfully passed the highly respected 'Marketing in Action' module from the Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM) during Year 2 (Stage 3) of their studies.

This remarkable achievement is a testament to their dedication and the high standards of our CIM-accredited MA Marketing programme.

The 'Marketing in Action' module is a CIM Graduate Gateway module that lets students apply marketing theories to a real or realistic business project, focusing on planning, analysis, execution, and reflection. Students complete a work-based assignment where they design and evaluate a marketing project within an organisational context. Passing the module grants exemptions towards the CIM Level 4 Certificate in Professional Marketing, linking academic study with professional recognition and strengthening practical marketing skills.

As part of their coursework, Saccty, Low Zhi Jun, and Intissar Shaiful, also participated in The Pitch, CIM's global marketing competition, where the feedback received played an integral role in supporting their coursework and final assessment.

Reflecting on the programme, Low Zhi Jun shared that the Marketing in Action module provided a perfect lens to the real marketing world.

Thanks to their success, all three students are now on track to be awarded the CIM Level 4 Certificate in Professional Marketing upon graduation a credential highly regarded by employers and industry professionals worldwide.

What makes this achievement even more significant is that it marks a historic first across our MA Marketing cohorts in UK, Dubai, and Malaysia. It highlights the global calibre of our programme and reinforces our commitment to empowering students with both academic excellence and industry-relevant credentials.



2025/2026 - Q1

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