The Year of the Sea
Welcome to the inaugural issue of In Kilter, our revamped newsletter. Meaning “in good spirit,” In Kilter will report on the happenings and exciting news of the Heriot-Watt University community. We have a great team of students as well as professional services and academic colleagues who work tirelessly, and in good spirit, to regularly put this newsletter together telling the story of our growth and success. I personally believe that the stories we tell and the language we use are extremely important in shaping our future and creating our reality. That is why I will look forward to reading “In Kilter” and see it grow as a platform to reach out to all our stakeholders and partners.

Higher education in the twenty first century is being transformed to respond to the changing needs of the community and the disruptive impact of technology and innovation. In order for universities to remain relevant in the age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, we need to make sure that we are able to equip our graduates with the skills and mindset that will enable them to be successful, resilient and happy. Besides our role of creating and disseminating knowledge, we choose to champion the Happiness agenda and aim at developing a community that is positive and resilient, meaning-driven and emotionally intelligent. We believe that in this way we can enable our community to realise their full potential and make the world a better place.

A Hopi Native American proverb says, “Those who tell the stories rule the world.” I am full of confidence that through the stories In Kilter will share and explore, we will make the world a better place. Enjoy!

Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi
Provost and CEO
With some help from our friends at the Edinburgh campus, we chose Killar as the name for our new quarterly publication. The word ‘Killar’ is never used in solitary, always paired with an ‘in’ or ‘out of’ and has been in use since early in the 17th century. In Killar means good spirits or in perfect harmony or balance – for me, this resonates perfectly with the campus and the people at Heriot-Watt.

As we continue our journey through the rest of the year, we look forward to sharing more stories with you from everyone and everything on campus; both entertaining as well as informative. You too may have something to share with us that may be reflective of your time here at the campus or during an industrial visit, or a success story that could be the catalyst for our progress as a university.

Featured in this issue in celebration of the Year of the Sea, we have a compilation of photos from our inaugural Boat Race, that was both exciting and heart-warming to see as all three campuses came together in a sporting event for the very first time. We are also happy to share with you the workshop that was hosted by our Director of Research, Professor Lynne Jack and Professor Toby Peters, (Senior Research Fellow in Transformational Innovation for Sustainability at Heriot-Watt University) on ‘Clean Cooling’. Professor Lynne has also shared some information on how staff can contribute to the University’s new strategy that may be of interest to our campus community. We are also featuring several highlights from the University’s ‘A Happier U’ event and our Effective Learning Manager, Stella Galimpin’s input on how students can be happier.

We will work harder in the future to highlight all our achievements and we hope to share more articles in our next publication. I hope you enjoy seeing all the things that have taken place on our home ground and do let us know if there are any topics you’d like to see covered in the future.

Nur Ilı Syazwani
Editor-in-Chief, Assistant Professor, Malaysia Foundation Programme

EDITORIAL BOARD

Meet The Team

Proud to be

#TrulyGlobal

From left: Kula, Chia Ping, Anum, Nirmala, Intan, Ilı, Nazha, Arun and Syahida
Across 2018, Heriot-Watt University celebrates the Year of the Sea. This sees us schedule a busy calendar of events that focus on the sea and links to our research and teaching activities on campus.

Our regatta on Putrajaya lake on 3 March 2018 was a huge success, with students from three global campuses competing in the University’s first ever inter-campus boat race competition.

In April, we welcomed both staff and students from our Orkney campus who were in Malaysia to undertake field studies in Terengganu in support of their course in ‘Coral Reefs Management and Monitoring’.

We will also be visited by Professor Mercedes Maroto-Valer, the University’s Assistant Deputy Principal for Research. Professor Maroto-Valer will undertake a series of workshops delivered so as to allow all staff an opportunity to contribute to the development of the University’s new research strategy. Please join these workshops if you can, and also feel free to make a contribution directly to Professor Maroto-Valer (m.marotovaler@hw.ac.uk) or to Professor Lynne Jack (l.b.jack@hw.ac.uk), Director of Research (Malaysia campus).

Please keep an eye out for future events as we progress through the year! For details, contact Professor Lynne Jack.

SCHOLARSHIP

Info

In celebration of the recent contribution to sustainable development of the marine environment made by the oil and gas sector, we are delighted to announce scholarships to undergraduates and industry professionals enrolling in the MSc in Petroleum Engineering in 2018. Students applying to the September 2018 intake will be granted a 25% tuition fees waiver.
HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA’S Inter-Campus Boat Race 2018

Putrajaya Water Sports Complex bear witness to the Inaugural Heriot-Watt Inter-Campus Boat Race on 3 March 2018. Heriot-Watt students from its three global campuses converged in Putrajaya, Malaysia, to participate in the University’s first ever competition in celebration of the Year of the Sea 2018. Almost 40 students from Heriot-Watt’s Malaysia, UK and Dubai campuses participated in two main events; the 500 metres Men & Women Doubles and the 250 metres Dragon Boat race.

The Men Doubles (Race 1) was gunned off at 9am followed by the Women Doubles (Race 2) and the Dragon Boat (Race 3). After a short intermission, the final 2 races took place for Men Doubles (Race 5) and Women Doubles (Race 6). The final results follow:

**Men Doubles:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAM</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tr>
<td>UK A</td>
<td>01:51:15</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>02:02:89</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MALAYSIA B</td>
<td>02:33:31</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Women Doubles:**

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>01:58:35</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MALAYSIA A</td>
<td>02:25:67</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MALAYSIA B</td>
<td>03:26:21</td>
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**Dragon Boat:**

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<th>TEAM</th>
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<tr>
<td>MALAYSIA</td>
<td>01:50:90</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>02:10:26</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUBAI</td>
<td>03:09:52</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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The event ended with the UK Team bagging the Best Team Overall for the competition, bringing home the Andy Walker Cup which was gifted by Professor Andy Walker.
Chinese New Year
CELEBRATION FOR #HWUMPEOPLE
PROFESSOR

Richard Williams

Professor Richard A Williams, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Heriot-Watt University was with us from 6 - 12 January. Here are some highlights of his visit:

Signing Ceremony with Universiti Teknologi MARA, UiTM, Malaysia

In January, we were visited by Professor Richard A Williams, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Heriot-Watt University. Professor Williams’ programme of integration and engagement across the University is an extensive one and we were delighted to welcome him and to have the chance to update him on developments on the Malaysia campus, as well as to hear some updates from Edinburgh.

Professor Williams’ busy schedule began with a visit to the Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) where alongside Professor Emeritus Dato’ Dr Hassan Said (Vice-Chancellor at UiTM), Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi (Provost and CEO of Heriot-Watt University, Malaysia), and Professor Dr Normah Omar (Director of UiTM’s Accounting Research Institute), he signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Heriot-Watt and UiTM. In addition to the joint promotion of institutional information and activities, this MoU will enable exchanges between staff and students and will also enable the joint organisation of symposia, conferences, short courses and meetings on research issues. The MOU signing was well attended by staff from both institutions and also drew significant media attention.
University Leadership Forum in Malaysia

Professor Williams was also able to join the University Leadership Forum (Malaysia) where he offered an opening address and presentation before joining colleagues in a lively discussion on ‘Creating a Globally Integrated University’. This dovetailed nicely with the presentation made by Professor Williams at our Town Hall meeting where we had the opportunity to hear about progress on the new University strategy and proposed college structure, associated milestones and key priorities for action. It also provided all of our staff, especially those new to Heriot-Watt, with an excellent opportunity to hear first-hand how things are progressing across the University and how the Malaysia campus is integral to this development. Professor Williams noted that “engaging with staff and communicating our vision for the University is key. It is imperative that we are successful in all campus locations and that we continue to work together as one organisation”.

“I’m grateful for the opportunity to spend time discussing our strategic direction with staff on the Malaysia campus, and am impressed by the way in which colleagues here embrace the Heriot-Watt spirit.”

We were keen to make sure that whilst here, Professor Williams had an opportunity to hear about many of the new projects underway on the Malaysia campus. To enable this, we made individual presentations on our ‘A Happier U’, P:Edge, Industrial Development, Strategic Performance Management and International Development projects. These were well-received by Professor Williams who commented that he found the sessions well-structured, engaging, diverse and informative.

We are also pleased to report that alongside a busy schedule on campus, Professor Williams also found time to engage with our local community and alumni in Malaysia. Here, he met with Mr Paul Rennie OBE, Deputy British High Commissioner, and with our recent honorary graduate Dato’ Yeoh Seok Kian.
Education for ALL
HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA PROVIDES BASIC ENGLISH CLASSES FOR ITS JANITORIAL STAFF

A university is an education hub where the transfer of knowledge occurs as we nurture the leaders of tomorrow. However, not everyone is fortunate enough to receive such an education. According to Heriot-Watt University Malaysia’s Head of Human Resources, Voo Jing Yng, she realised that many organisations have a tendency to look externally when initiating corporate social responsibility activities whereas charity should actually start from “home”. Voo wasted no time in pitching her idea for change to her colleagues, Assistant Professor Dr Zuhrah Boevi from the School of Social Sciences and Stella Marie Galimpin, Heriot-Watt University Malaysia’s Effective Learning Manager. Hence, the very first basic English class for the campus janitorial staff started in October 2017.

A total of 17 janitors attended the English class every week for six months, and the improvements were apparent. Among them was Ujjm, who is 40 years old without any experience of school life. Similarly Noraini, 49, did not receive any formal education, still both ladies were very motivated and eager for the chance to learn English, a language widely used on campus. Ujjm and the rest of the cleaning ladies are Orang Asli, indigenous people of the Tumuan Tribe. Their supervisor, Iri, noticed that the janitors’ confidence levels increased in direct relation to the time spent attending classes, and that they are now smiling more while performing their duties. Many staff members have also started noticing that the janitors are greeting them using simple English. There are also times when the janitors could be heard practising their conversational English with the staff members. An additional benefit of learning English is that they now feel part of the Heriot-Watt family and no longer merely a third-party that comes to clean the campus.

The programme is part of the University’s ‘A Happier U’ initiative, which intends to promote and cultivate a caring community on campus. When asked about what inspired her to be part of this effort, Stella explained, “Actually, it’s the most practical thing to do for our janitors. Very often, foreign students who enter the university would ask for directions during their first few days on campus. The easiest persons to approach would be the janitors because they are everywhere.” Together with Dr Zuhrah Boevi and an army of student ambassadors, this dream-team kept the class busy by providing support with one-to-one reading initiatives.

At times, the lessons were equally challenging for the instructors. One of their biggest tasks was to raise the confidence of the janitors as they were very shy. Each of them came in at different education levels: some attended school for a short while, and few didn’t attend at all. Helping them break out of their shells required continuous effort and support, but these campus champions are not only hard workers, they are also passionate learners and they progressed remarkably. In March, they attended a ‘Completion Ceremony’, which served as a special reminder of their achievement throughout the six months of language discovery. And it won’t be the end of it, according to Stella. “We are starting an intermediate class next month. There’s already momentum for this. In fact, the more diligent among them have asked for additional reading classes!”

Ujjm, who had just joined the university five months ago, is delighted now that she is able to answer basic questions. In halting English she said, “I like here. I learn to speak English. Saya dapat belajar bahasa baru. Seronok.” (I get to learn a new language. I enjoy it.) In the pursuit of improving themselves, Ujjm, Noraini and the other cleaning ladies helped each other prove to everyone that their learning spirit still burns bright. Sarimah, who is a mother of an 18-year-old, said that it was definitely a challenging journey, but she persevered. She firmly believes that as she pushes herself further, she would be an example to her child that nothing is impossible and though it is tough, this journey will be worthwhile.

A janitor once told Voo that her wish is to see her child be like Voo, sitting in an office and working in an air-conditioned room. It makes her happy to know that the university was able to help them see this vision. “One day, a janitor ran to me with excitement, telling me how happy she was when she understood a student of ours asking for a replenishment of toilet paper. It was at that very moment I realised that the Heriot-Watt community is making a difference in our janitors’ lives,” she enthused. As one of the driving forces behind the University’s ‘A Happier U’ initiative, Voo is resolute that achieving happiness is not about climbing the highest peak of success or swimming in the deepest ocean of fame. Instead, connecting with other life-forces within our own community could actually bring us joys and a sense of accomplishment; and this has made all the difference.
Happiness Forum
AND OFFICIAL LAUNCH

Heriot-Watt University Malaysia recently held a Happiness forum entitled “A Business Model for Happiness” at its campus in Putrajaya. The forum was one of the main highlights of the University’s ‘A Happier U’ initiative introduced to promote happiness, cultivate a caring community, encourage the community to live a happier and healthier life, as well as providing opportunities that lead to positive emotions and well-being.

The Happiness forum shed light on latest research that shows happiness can be taught and learnt and be made into a viable business model. The forum explored on strategies needed to be adopted by businesses, educational institutions, policymakers, and individuals so that people can live happier, more connected and purposeful lives.

The forum featured notable individuals across multiple sectors: YB Datuk Paduka Ir Siti Hamisah Tapsir, Director General of the Ministry of Higher Education; Paul Rennie OBE, Deputy Head of Mission of the British High Commission, Kuala Lumpur; Professor Mushak Al-Alabi, Provost and Chief Executive Officer of Heriot-Watt University Malaysia; Dr Karen Jennifer Golden, Psychology Honours Program Coordinator of Monash University and Co-Founder of Positive Minds; Mr Michael Warren, Director & Team Lead – Strategy, Advisory & Services of Invest KL; and Dr Ke Guek Nee, Associate Professor for Psychology at Heriot-Watt University Malaysia.

Emphasising the importance of cultivating happiness at the work place, Professor Mushatak said, “Happiness isn’t only about positive emotions. It is also about resilience and meaning. We will all have difficult times, resilience is important to help us deal with them. Working towards something meaningful is also important to keep us motivated and resilient.”

Datin Paduka Ir Siti Hamisah added that the Education Blueprint by the Ministry of Higher Education acknowledges this. “We recognise the importance of developing holistic, entrepreneurial and balanced graduates. This is the first shift in the Blueprint. We are also advocating humanising the Fourth Industrial Revolution as we see this as an important prerequisite for our youth and our nation to remain productive and play a key global role in this century. Initiatives such as ‘A Happier U’ will go a long way in ensuring that graduates are resilient, emotionally intelligent, happy as well as life and career ready.”
Welcoming our colleagues from our international campuses

WHO IS THE Happiest OF THEM ALL?

Carole Bold, Marketing & Communications

Dr Gillian Murray, Deputy Principal (Enterprise and Business)

Donna Goll, International Recruitment

Dr Olga Kazlova, Enterprise Creation Manager, (Research and Enterprise Services)

Dr Anna Sedla, School of Social Sciences, Psychology

Professor Julian Jones, Vice-Principal and Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Professor Bryn Jones, Deputy Provost, Dubai

Professor Toby Peters, Senior Research Fellow in Transformational Innovation for Sustainability

Jen Wither, Sports Union President

Natasha Lolley, Enterprise Executive (Research and Enterprise Services)
Jonathan Ho conducted a quick survey to find out what makes students happy and these are some of the responses that he got:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People I love!</th>
<th>Food and friends</th>
<th>Tea.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nur Iman Aleesa, BSc Actuarial Science</td>
<td>Reading, listening to good music,</td>
<td>Mythology, etymology, logology — preferably Greek or Latin. Dr Pimple Popper, Addams Family Values, 00:20:37. Also...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being able to grow in terms of mind and knowledge during university life.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wong WK, BSc Actuarial Science</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jonathan Ho, BSc Actuarial Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achieving my goals, good company,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dale Ya Aman, BSc Actuarial Science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talking to my parents on the phone; when my brother returns home from Sarawak during his sem break; going to my favourite temple on Thursdays for prayers; baking cakes with my sister; saving up RM10 for the week and spending it all on chocolates and ice creams; colouring and painting with my younger cousins; kids; animals;</td>
<td>The high I get whenever I successfully solve a calculus question!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I'm happy when I get to help people. Seeing those smiles on their faces, ah,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nothing can excite me more!!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>基础 in Business</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seeing someone else happy.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicholas Lee, BSc Actuarial Science</td>
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S Ravindran, BSc Actuarial Science
The Robotic Arms competition was held on 5 March 2018 at the campus plaza. The competition was organized by the IMechE Student Chapter of Heriot-Watt University Malaysia under the supervision of Mrs Noor Shieela. Collaborating with the School of Engineering and Physical Sciences, 11 groups of Year 2 students took the challenge to design and produce a prototype as part of the “Design and Manufacturing 4” course, under the supervision of Dr Al-Omili.

Design-to-cost (DTC) is the most challenging concept that future mechanical engineers will have to abide by as not only should a product that is designed be fully functional, it must also fulfill requirements like having the ability to yield a 1kg load and be within budget limitation.

The students were divided into 11 groups to participate in this competition. Engineering knowledge, creativity and innovation, and the ability to work as a team were keys to ensure that their sleepless nights and efforts would come to fruition.

The group that won the prize for robot design created a robot to provide support to spinal cord injury patients.

THE
Robotic Arms
COMPETITION
by Ooi Teng Hao (Jack)
(BSc (Hons) Actuarial Science)

“Which product will you buy?” was the key factor that determined the winner. The students also enhanced their skills in marketing as they convinced and persuaded the judges to vote for their creation.
A collaborative project involving Heriot-Watt University Malaysia and Samalaju Downstream Sdn Bhd won a bronze medal in the Innovation category at the Sarawak Invention, Innovation and Design Exposition (SIIDE) 2018 held in Kuching, Sarawak on 2 - 4 March 2018.

This expo cum competition provides the platform for academicians, professional services, researchers from public and private institutions of higher learning and private agencies to transform their thoughts and ideas into products with potential commercial value. This event attracted a total of 755 participants from Malaysia.

The project “Soft Soil Carriageway Reinforcement” is led by Dr. Johnson Olufemi Adebayo, Assistant Professor Civil Engineering in the School of Energy, Geoscience, Infrastructure and Society. This study aims to reduce the cost of carriageway reinforcement by using waste tyre.

The research team also includes Dr. Ng Soon Min and Kenneth Goh from Heriot-Watt University Malaysia and Ng Chee Hiong from Samalaju Downstream Sdn Bhd, Kuching Sarawak, Malaysia.

The ability to save someone’s life is in our blood. Having this power in our bodies – we should be more than willing to share this gift with those in need.

A blood donation drive was organized by the Year 2 students for their Community Service (MPU3412) project on the 7 March 2018 in collaboration with the National Blood Centre Malaysia. Ever since the date of the blood drive was announced, the 23 students who organised the event worked very hard to promote the event amongst the students of Heriot-Watt University Malaysia to encourage them to donate.

The aim of the blood donation campaign was to create awareness on the importance of donating blood and to highlight its significance in saving lives during emergencies. As we know, there are many people in this community that at any point might require medical help and would need it immediately. They may have serious injuries, severe burns, or life-threatening diseases. All of them would require frequent blood transfusions. According to the chairperson of the event, Mohd Nurezman: “When we donate one pint of blood, we are able to save three lives. By doing this we are able to contribute back to society, to all the Malaysians who suffer from blood loss and are depending on blood donations to survive”. Thus, it is important that everyone participate in blood donation programmes.

There were over 100 participants in this event. The success of the event was attributed to the good marketing skills possessed by the students who promoted it through WhatsApp, posters and banners. As a result, there was an overwhelming response from the donors through their participation in this noble cause. After undergoing pre-screening medical tests, academics and professional services alike donated blood along with the students.

In order to acknowledge each donor for their contribution, donors were distributed certificates provided by the National Blood Centre Malaysia. They were also provided with complimentary gifts.

For further information on how you can donate blood, kindly visit http://www.pdn.gov.my/
Entrepreneurial
BOO T C A M P
by Lee Chia Ping

Pitch Perfect

We asked our experts, Dr Gillian Murray (Deputy Principal, Enterprise and Business), Natasha Lobley (Enterprise Executive, Research and Enterprise Services) and Dr Olga Kozlova (Enterprise Creation Manager, Research and Enterprise Services) on what students should do when it comes to pitching their ideas to potential investors:

- Practise, practise and practise!
- Write the speech down and time yourself.
- Remember to breathe! (Imagine saying a few sentences in one breath and gasping for air before the next!)
- Get friends to listen and get their feedback — that’s what friends are for!
- Include the ‘Why?’ — The purpose of your pitching, and remember to ask for what you want.

From L-R: Dr Olga Kozlova, Dr Gillian Murray and Natasha Lobley

Take Five

1. What is your purpose here?

To conduct an Enterprise Bootcamp for the Malaysia campus students, and to look for entrepreneurial hubs in which digital technology can be used and students can work together across campuses to solve and develop new innovations.

2. Who should attend the Bootcamp? Why?

Everyone. Whoever attends would learn new skills needed in pitching to investors, or even pitching themselves during a job interview.

3. Describe ‘Entrepreneurial’ in your own words.

N: A different way of thinking; different way of looking at things to make innovation.
G: Creativity, open-mindedness, resilience, personality.
O: Being sporting and pursuing opportunity.

4. What do we need the most to become more entrepreneurial?

N: Confidence, look at failure as opportunity. Do not fear failure.
O: Take calculated risks (this applies to work as well).

5. What’s your favourite quote to live by?

“Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.”
— Winston Churchill
GETTING OUT OF THAT HAMSTER WHEEL: A GUIDE TO BEING “A Happier Student”

by Stella Galimpin

Picture this scenario: Mary, a university student, attends classes from 9am to 5pm, goes back to her parents’ house by 8pm after being stuck in horrendous traffic, and eats dinner without talking to anyone because she is thinking about her assignment that is due tomorrow. After a quick shower she is again hard at work and unwittingly drops to an exhausted sleep on top of her books at 2am. Mary wakes up with a start, realising that she is not even halfway through her assignment, and wearily, she dives back into her work. Mary needs to take a shower at 7am to arrive at the university by 9am for her first class. But she dreads that horrendous traffic jam that awaits her every morning. She comes to the class tired, stressed out and hungry since she skipped breakfast to be on time. This is a typical day for Mary, the university student, and this will continue until the semester ends.

What is so familiar with this scenario? This is a situation which we live through as students. The constant rush to finish something is akin to a hamster running on a hamster wheel. Every time the hamster goes onto its wheel, it runs desperately as though a pack of hounds are at its tail. Thankfully for a hamster, it runs blissfully unaware in circles, never arriving at a destination. However, at any moment rigorous exercise will flood its brain with the neurotransmitter, endorphin.

What about Mary, who lives in that furious pace of requirements that dictates her day-to-day activities? The outrageous speed of flashing from one activity to another, one assignment to another, is like being a hamster trapped running on a wheel. Mary is running around in circles making the same mistakes over and over again. When is Mary going to get off her self-inflicted hamster wheel?

GREAT DREAM is an acronym for the ten keys for a happier living suggesting that our actions and choices in life can affect our happiness. If we reflect back on the preceding scenario, we can visualise that, at any moment we can abruptly halt that hamster wheel from spinning impetuously.

Fortunately for Mary, the hamster wheel that she has unknowingly forced herself into, can be stopped. And it starts with a GREAT DREAM.

We can reflect on our past choices, make the necessary adjustments to our direction, and with resilience resume our daily life without stepping back into that hamster wheel. What steps can we take to get off the hamster wheel?

Let’s consider the first R of GREAT DREAM: R stands for relating to others. It also means connecting with others. In probably one of the longest longitudinal studies conducted by Harvard University, Professor Robert Waldinger in his TED talk says, “What makes a good life? Lessons from the longest study of happiness said that good relationships keep us happier and healthier.” He further elaborated that although social connections are good, the quality of the relationship that we have with our parents, friends and classmates essentially matters more than having a lot of social connections. As students, we have countless opportunities to connect with others through face-to-face interaction in classes and at university activities. How we bring these relationships to that level of closeness, wherein we can emotionally benefit from it, is a challenge that is not at all insurmountable. A very good way to start would be to make that leap towards eating lunch with someone.

Never Eat Alone by Keith Ferrazzi talks about the meal time as an excellent time to connect with someone and so if we are eating alone we miss that opportunity to bond with a friend, an acquaintance or even that stranger lining up next to you in the cafeteria.

Secondly, ponder on the D of the GREAT DREAM. Direction means having goals to look forward to. How do we illustrate further what “a happier student” is? This can be translated to “Do you love what you are doing?” Or, “Do you have a purpose in life?” Or to put it simply, “What makes you get out of bed?” A purpose in life is something which is far greater than us. In the Horiot-Watt Happiness Forum that was held on 20 March 2018, one of the speakers, Michael Warren, mentioned the Japanese word ikigai. Ikigai can be loosely translated as the reason that makes us jump out of bed. Being happy is the melding of our job, profession, passion and mission – our lifetime of work. When we are well paid for something that we are good at and at the same time we love what we are doing it is something that leads us to a greater happiness. Finding our true north (our direction) is a sure path to happiness.

What this article is discussing may be complex and perhaps unintelligible to us. This can however be simplified by a simple hack to make us happy. In his book, ‘59 Seconds: Think a Little, Change a Lot’, Richard Wiseman revealed a hack for becoming happy. Happiness can be attained in less than a minute: happiness is a pencil away. What behaviour do we equate with happy people? We observe that happy people are smiling, thus, the key then to be happy is to simply smile. But what if you are too sad to smile? Grounded in the science of Psychology, this simple hack to be happy is to merely bite a pencil in between our teeth making sure that the said pencil does not touch the lips. (Warning: please clean the pencil first before biting it.) Forcing the lips open through biting a pencil, mimics the movement of a smile which ultimately leads us to be happier in 59 seconds.

To sum up, you do not have to be like Mary. To be happier as a student, think mindfully about relating towards others and find your direction, your true north. And if a quick fix is urgently needed, then why not go bite a clean pencil.
‘Clean Cooling’ WORKSHOP

by Professor Lynne Jack
(Director of Research, Malaysia Campus)

In March, Professor Toby Peters and Professor Lynne Jack jointly hosted a ‘Clean Cooling’ workshop bringing together leading Malaysian academic experts to discuss on how to meet the region’s rapidly increasing demand for cooling.

A white paper ‘Freezing in the Tropics: Asean’s air-con conundrum’, commissioned by the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program (K-CEP) and produced by Eco-Business earlier this year found that cooling technologies such as refrigeration and air-conditioning could account for 40 per cent of Southeast Asia’s electricity demand by 2040. This would generate a significant amount of climate-change causing carbon emissions if left unchecked, particularly where coal is a major source of energy.

Says Professor Toby Peters of Heriot-Watt University and expert in clean cooling: “The growth of artificial cooling is already having a major environmental impact; left unchecked it could be responsible for more than 13% of total global emissions by 2030. This is an urgent crisis. We need to work together to deliberate on how we can provide sustainable and affordable cooling services to all. It is not just technologies but also new business models, policies, skills, capacity building and training which will be required.”

Effective cooling is essential to preserve food and medicine. It underpins industry and economic growth, is key to sustainable urbanisation and provides a ladder out of rural poverty. It makes much of the world bearable – or even safe – to live in.

Alongside the issue of air-conditioning, a key topic for the workshop was food chains. The lack of adequate cold storage and refrigerated transportation causes the loss of 200 million tonnes of food with consequences extending to hunger, farmer poverty and inflated food prices.

Post-harvest food loss occupies a land area of almost twice the size of Australia, consumes 250km³ of water per year; three times the volume of Lake Geneva, and emits 3.3 billion tonnes of CO₂, making it the third biggest emitter after countries like the US and China.

A major challenge is the rapid increase in refrigerated vehicles. Conventional diesel-powered cooling of transport refrigeration emits not only high levels of CO₂ but also grossly disproportionate amounts of Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) and particulate matter (PM). They also use high GWP refrigerants.

Professor Peters added: “The world must not solve a social crisis by creating an environmental catastrophe – we need to work together to ensure access to affordable cooling for all with minimum environmental impact and maximum efficient use of natural and waste resources.”

This workshop was the first in a series of events aimed at identifying clean cooling initiatives, recognising progress, sharing best practice and working together as a global community to find answers to the big challenges of meeting our global demand for cooling sustainably. The findings will feed into the world’s first congress on ‘clean cold’, to be held in the UK in April 2018, to discuss the urgent topic of how to meet our global demand for cooling sustainably.

For future research events and workshops, contact Professor Lynne Jack, Director of Research (l.b.jack@hw.ac.uk).
The recent months have been busy for all of us engaged with research on the Malaysia campus. Not only have we been fully immersed in compiling our 2018 MyRA submission, we have all been working hard on our Ministry of Higher Education grant submissions while the ‘application window’ is open. There is a real buzz amongst our academics, who aspire to boost the profile of Heriot-Watt University Malaysia and show how we can deliver high-quality cutting-edge research that has relevance to Malaysia, to South East Asia and beyond.

As we develop our MyRA indicators and pursue research income, we also patiently await the outcome of our request to the Malaysian Qualifications Agency seeking approval for the admittance and registration of PhD students on the Malaysia campus. We’ll circulate any news as soon as we receive it, and in the meantime, we are now considering making a similar application for supervision of MPhil students. Approval for both programmes would help considerably in the delivery of projects and in building a strong research culture on campus.

All of this will feed into development of our research strategy for the Malaysia campus; an aspect of our activity that will dovetail with development of the University’s research strategy. As the latter develops, we look forward to welcoming Professor Mercedes Maroto-Valer to campus, when she visits Malaysia to run strategy-based consultation workshops. Details of the workshops will be announced soon, and we encourage all academics to attend and make a contribution – we are keen to hear your views!

Finally, as the end of semester approaches, we wave ‘au revoir’ to Dr’s Thein Chung Ket and Go Yun Li as they leave us for a few months to each take up a research fellowship role in Taiwan. These short-term visits are sponsored by the Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and are awarded to researchers to enable them time at a host university in Taiwan. We wish them both well on their research visit!
Burns Day
by Carole Bold

"But little Mouse, you are not alone,
In proving foresight may be vain:
The best laid schemes of mice and men
Go often askew,
And leave us nothing but grief and pain,
For promised joy!
Still you are blest, compared with me!"

– Robert Burns

Robert Burns
(1759 - 1796)

A

Wee Burns event was held at the Malaysia Campus on Wednesday 24 January, on the eve of Rabbie Burns day. Local students were invited along to meet with our Scottish Go Global students and learn about Scottish culture. Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi, Professor Lynne Jack and student, Michael Christine demonstrated traditional Scottish clothing by wearing their kilts and several of our non-Scottish students asked Michael to pose with them for photos. Scottish snacks, Irn Bru and haggis were served, which local students were surprisingly keen to sample! Our Scottish students also demonstrated some ceilidh dancing and showed the Malaysians how to dance the Gay Gordon! On Burns Day itself, Professor Mushtak shared more information about Rabbie Burns and other traditional celebrations in Scotland.
Groom for Happiness
WITH MARY KAY

In conjunction with A Happier U, a Groom for Happiness with Mary Kay Training session was conducted on 5 and 9 March 2018 by Mary Kay beauty consultants on how to groom and to understand your face and skin better. Mary Kay consultants guided the participants on how to wear makeup the correct way by conducting a demonstration.

The “lipstick effect” is a known psychological phenomenon in which wearing makeup can give individuals a confidence boost by making them feel more physically attractive, increasing feelings of self-esteem, attitude, and personality.
Rugby TOURNAMENT
by Syahida Adam & Nur Ili Syazwani

The Silverback Invitational 10s was held on 10 March 2018, and if there is one word to describe the tournament, it would be “awesome”. Set on the fields of Precinct 5 Putrajaya, the tournament was greeted by blue skies and morning hues of a beautiful Saturday welcoming teams from Heriot-Watt University Malaysia (HWUM), International University Malaya Wales (UWM), Mara Japanese Higher Education Program (MJHEP), Kolej Mara Seremban (KMS), Multimedia University Malaysia (MMU), Nottingham University (Notts) and Muskeeters Rugby Club. The team from Kolej Mara Banting pulled out at the eleventh hour, resulting in a slight delay of the starting time.

The tournament was graced by the attendance of YBhg Datuk M Noor Azman Taib, Deputy Secretary General (Planning & Development), Ministry of Federal Territory; Professor Mushtak Al-Atabi, Provost and CEO of Heriot-Watt University Malaysia; Datuk Khairiah, Event Organizer and Dato Sharman T, official sponsor for the prizes. An officiating speech followed by a “kick-off” by YBhg Datuk Azman started the first match between Heriot-Watt’s Silverbacks and The Muskeeters.

Personal Experience from Captain and Head Coach, Michael Christine:

I would like to draw upon the experience I had, not just as the captain and player, but as the head coach as well. Before the tournament began, we had many difficulties due to assignments, but we managed to work around these obstacles. It has been a personal pleasure of mine to come from the Edinburgh campus and be able to have such an unbelievable opportunity to coach and train with a great bunch of students that I can now call my close friends. I have been able to watch them progress from students who had never played the sport or had little experience and see them develop their rugby skills along with their social and leadership skills. Many of these students were shy when they came to our first training session and now they can be considered the loudest on the pitch.

Moving on to the tournament, we all felt the adrenaline the night before and the morning of the tournament. This was such a great opportunity for the players to show off all the hard work they have put in over the last year. Our first game, which started the tournament, was against the Muskeeters who were tipped as favourites and it showed. Even though our boys tried their hardest against these experienced side, unfortunately it was not enough and we lost our first game of the tournament 24-5.

But this did not dampen our hopes of doing well in our tournament – our next game was against UWM. We had played against them two weeks prior and knew their strengths were in the forwards and in the game we made sure we were tough in the forwards and kept our tackles low. Once we had the ball we made sure we got it to our fast backline. Our tactics worked. We won the game comfortably 32-0 which put us into the decider in our last game against KMS.

It came to our final group game, it had been a long hot day but our boys were ready to fight for that 2nd place spot to put us into the Plate Final. We had played them just last week and failed to beat them on both occasions we played with them, but I encouraged my team to play with a winning spirit. We started the game better than possible, we caught the ball from kick off and scored off the first play. The rest of the game was controlled by us, our forwards won all the possession and our backline finished the job. As head coach, it was a particularly beautiful sight to see my players that I had trained enjoying the game I love so much. It’s something I will remember above all from my time in Malaysia. We won the game and had the opportunity to win the Shield against Nottingham.

Our fourth and last game was against Nottingham in the Plate Final. We had played against them last semester and won in what is considered our most memorable win of the year. We went in with the pride that we had done our university proud but we wanted one more win for ourselves. Nottingham was a strong team and we knew that. So we tried to front up as much as we can. Unfortunately
it was not the fairytale ending we had hoped for and we lost 15-0.

We lost in the final but we placed 4th overall in the tournament which is a fantastic result for our team which has only existed since March of 2017. For myself, I will never forget the people I met this year. These memories will be with me as long as I live. I would like to thank Ryan Cheleton (President), Elizat Abdullah Cassie (Vice-President) and Ross Durnin (Assistant Coach) for making our tournament a success.

Meet the Silverbacks

We sat down with two of the founding members of the HWUM Silverbacks: Elizat and Michael Christine to talk about their passion for rugby.

The team was officially formed on 17 March 2017 by the Heriot-Watt University Malaysia Student Association (HWUMSA) but they only started training together officially on 15 September after successfully recruiting people to join the team.

We asked the boys why they chose to be called the Silverbacks – and they told us that their social media manager, Moosa suggested the name. A silverback is a mature male gorilla; known to be dominant yet still gentle and shy in nature. The silverbacks resonate with the team’s general ethos – formidable yet humble. It was a name that was thus adopted by the team.

Reminiscing the early days of the Silverbacks, Elizat and Michael said that their love for the sport became their reason to gather those who share the same passion for rugby to join the team.

With 30 students signing up for their initial meet up, they were all set to play their first match. Michael, who is from the Edinburgh Campus and an experienced player, took up the responsibility of training the team. He vividly remembers his first time on the field with the Silverbacks. Admitting that his accent was an initial barrier, the team and Michael himself persevered and in no time they were the new kids on the block playing against some big names in the local rugby scene.

After winning against Nottingham University’s team, and playing a few friendly games, the gentlemen decided that they did not want to settle with just playing friendly matches against others. The boys decided to host their own rugby tournament so as to introduce themselves to the other clubs. Hence on the 10th of March, the Silverbacks hosted the Silverback Rugby Festival which included eight other teams and a variety of activities. Elizat admitted that the whole process of being the host was anything but easy, yet nothing beats the sense of accomplishment that they felt as the tournament received positive reception from all that attended.

The team is looking forward to pass the baton soon to those who love the sport, and we are excited to see what they will be up to next!
It came to me as such a surprise to have been selected as one of the 50 Malaysians to represent our country at a global youth event, the World Festival of Youth and Students 2017 (WFYS2017), which gathered over 20,000 youths from across the world. As excited as I already was upon receiving this good news, I became more excited upon learning that the event was going to take place in Sochi, Russia, a country I had never stepped foot on before and a city I knew very little about.

The WFYS has been organised by the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY), a United Nations-recognised international youth non-governmental organisation, together with the International Union of Students since 1947. The festival has been held regularly as an event of global youth solidarity for democracy and against war and imperialism.

The event was the most inclusive one I have ever attended, as hundreds of programmes on various fields, like sports, arts, music, culture, economy, finance, engineering, IT (you name it!) and many more were happening all at the same time. All we had to do was to choose which programme to attend which would enable us to learn new skills, gain different perspectives, share our opinions and meet experts in those fields.
I wish I could have attended them all, and I did try to attend as many as I could, but the events I would like to highlight are the talk Nick Vujicic presented on coping with struggles in life and a discussion on how technological advancements and sociological changes will affect the world economy in 2030.

It was an honour to be in the same room as Nick Vujicic, a man who not only inspired people around the world but has also helped them turn their lives around 360 degrees. He shared his stories on coping with uncertainties and limitations, inspiring the audience to go out into the world with a brave heart and finding our own methods to cope with difficulties.

The World in 2030 was an eye-opener as it exposed me to the speed of how innovation is taking place in Russia in various fields and how the country is moving towards developing young people who are not only intellectually inclined but socially intelligent – a combination many nations are hoping to achieve with their people, ours included. It was great to see experts in the field of technology and economy discussing how the tools and techniques used in teaching are among the many things that will lay the foundation in achieving this perfect combo. Clearly, education is one of the core tools when it comes to elevating the economy.

Other than attending events in Sochi, I had the opportunity to spend a few days at Orenburg, where I learned about various Russian culture and traditions, visited schools to see the latest technology used in teaching, tried different foods and definitely made new friends from around the world.

Attending the festival was an eye-opening experience for me as it did not just teach me about the Russian culture and economy, but it also gave me a new perspective on how to analyse any task at hand, which is my biggest takeaway from this adventure.
Being in my third and final year in Heriot-Watt University Malaysia, it was a golden opportunity when I received the offer to study in the main campus in Edinburgh. Growing up, it had always been my dream to study abroad, away from home, but at 17, I was awarded a local scholarship by the renowned Securities Commission Malaysia, so I put aside my “study-abroad-dream” to be a scholar, which at that time, at least for me, was the toughest decision ever. But little did I know, the decision led to beautiful memories of the two-week Study Tour in Edinburgh. Enough throwback, now for the fun stuff!

The study tour is designed to give students a taste of what studying in Edinburgh is like. Some students joined the tour to make a better decision as to whether they should participate in the Go Global Programme, and some, like me, went to grab one last chance to study abroad. Preparing for the trip was the easiest process ever! No Visa needed (thanks Malaysia!), just my passport and two suitcases filled with coats, coats, and more coats! My long flight was greeted by none other than Mr. Extreme Cold, the amazing Edinburgh weather.

First day in the Edinburgh campus left me in awe. The campus was huge especially when compared to ours back home. There’s even a lake with swans! Putrajaya Lake is pretty nonetheless, but swans! It’s like having a princess garden in your own university compound. It took me a good hour to finish touring the whole campus, from the multi-level library to the furthest building at the end of the campus. Restaurants and cafes are scattered everywhere, sandwiches, pastas, pizzas, fish and chips, Asian cuisine, western dishes — you name it, they have it! Halal food and prayer room are accessible as well for my Muslim friends. The lecturers were friendly and helpful. Being a foreigner there did not make me feel left out at all. Thankfully, the Edinburgh campus’ study progression is a perfect mirror to ours in Malaysia, so there was no gap between my classes back home and here.

Apart from studying, Edinburgh is truly a magical city of its own. It may not be as exciting as London or as green as New Zealand, but its heritage and culture speak volumes. The preserved castles, cathedrals, parliaments and the rest of the Old Town are some of the most astonishing buildings I’ve ever seen. Fret not, if you’re a city girl, the New Town will blow your socks off! Brands ranging from Zara, Primark to Cath Kidston are there to calm your city-heart. My geeky side was also amazed by the huge National Museum of Scotland and numerous other museums. Oh, did I mention Edinburgh was where JK Rowling wrote Harry Potter? You will be inspired by this magical city, that’s an assurance I give to you.

Two weeks was definitely not enough for me to discover Edinburgh fully, but the experience I gained from studying abroad is irreplaceable. If you ever have the chance to do so, take it, it’s a life-changing experience. You will come home a more independent learner as well as a better individual. I can keep rambling about my journey, but “see it to believe it”. You have to witness the magical city and what our Edinburgh campus has to offer. Trust me on this.

For more information on opportunities to study abroad with our Go Global programme, visit www.hw.ac.uk/goglobal.

EDINBURGH
Study Tour
by Farzana Aida Zulrailan
(BSc (Hons) Actuarial Science)
Last January, I had a wonderful opportunity to go on a study tour to the Heriot-Watt University campus in Edinburgh for two weeks. It was a chance for us to experience studying in the UK campus. The campus is located in the outskirts of the Edinburgh city, surrounded by lush and scenic greenery. The enormity of the campus is unbelievable considering that the campus in Malaysia only consists of one building. The campus is made up of many buildings and residential halls scattered around the university with a huge lake in the middle complete with a bevy of swans swimming in it. Since the trip was during winter time, the weather was pretty challenging as I was not used to such a drastic change in temperature; it went down to 0 degree Celsius! I even experienced my very first snowfall and snowball fight with my friends.

Although I was a little sceptical at first, I must admit that both the HWU campuses have a seamless teaching timeline, there was a smooth transition from the topics that I was studying in the UK campus and the topics covered here. The lecturers were informative and very clear, similar to the lecturers in Malaysia although teaching styles were different.

I managed to do a little sightseeing and immersed myself in the rich Scottish culture. I enjoy reading about the English monarchs, so naturally I was thrilled when I visited the Edinburgh Castle. Further ahead of the Edinburgh Castle lies the oldest part of Edinburgh, the Edinburgh Old Town. Beautiful buildings from the medieval era surround this area with streets paved with cobblestones; I could almost imagine horse drawn carriages trotting along the streets in the olden days. The whole essence was perfectly captured with the sound of the bagpipes being played in the background by men in their traditional attire. Being a diehard Potter fan, it was an absolute must for me to visit The Elephant House café where JK Rowling frequently visited whilst working on the famous Harry Potter series. Be sure to make a pit stop at the café’s toilet as that was where the real magic happened.

I also visited the National Museum of Scotland which was very informative. There were fun and interactive learning activities for all visitors. Since Scotland is also known for their famous Scotch whiskey, I made it a point to join The Scotch Whisky Experience tour where I learnt more about the history and brewing process of making whiskies. It was an exhilarating experience as I got to try various types of whiskies from different parts of Scotland. During the weekends, I visited London and Glasgow. Although these were metropolitan cities with their own charm, there is something about Edinburgh that is absolutely breathtaking. I love how the city has a certain rustic yet modern feel to it.

Most restaurants in UK offer student discounts which was a plus point for me. Being a foreigner there, it’s no surprise that I ventured to try out all the different types of food I could find in Edinburgh. The Scottish breakfast is definitely a must have while Sunday Roasts are appetizing and very filling, so much so that you do not need to eat for the rest of the day. Some of my favorite restaurants were Badgers & Co. Bar Burello and Ask Italian (be sure to try out their stuffed mushroom — it is out of this world!) However, haggis, the national dish of Scotland, made from lamb’s intestines, was not my cup of tea but I did enjoy the “neeps and tatties” which were turnips and potatoes.

I am very grateful to the university for organising this study tour as it gave me a chance to experience studying in the main campus. If you are thinking of transferring to the main campus or just want to get a feel of studying in the UK, I urge all of you to take up on this opportunity to step out of your comfort zone and to expand your global perspective. HWU and Edinburgh will forever be etched in my memory as some of the best times I have ever had.
#HWUGoGlobal

Inter-Campus Transfer EXPERIENCE

Hannah Elizabeth Mary Kane
(International Business Management with Marketing)
It all started when I went to the applicant day back in 2015 with my dad. That’s where I first heard about the opportunity to participate in an inter-campus transfer which would allow me to study in either Dubai or Malaysia. It was one of the reasons I ended up choosing Heriot-Watt as my firm choice over the other offers on the table. The chance to experience a culture so different from the typical Scottish environment in which I grew up whilst not missing out on my studies was hugely appealing, not to mention it was the chance to have a ‘gap year without the gap’, as my parents described it. Honestly, I had never been so nervous about anything as making the decision to head out to Malaysia but I firmly believe that this opportunity, in spite of my eternal pessimistic attitude, has been one of the best experiences I could have ever had.

I suppose I should maybe point out why this experience has been so good. Well firstly, I have been able to travel to parts of the world I never would have dreamed of before this year. First stop: Langkawi which I like to refer to as the fear conqueror. I am hugely afraid of heights and open water and yet on this trip I strolled across the Sky Bridge and went jet skiing! We won’t talk about my later experiments with water sports, safe to say it was not as enjoyable as jet skiing. The list of places that I have been able to experience is incredible although I must say spending the weekend in Bali was on another level. Beautiful scenery, great food and unforgettable experiences has made it one of the highlights of my entire year.

That being said, all the travel would not have been half as fun if it wasn’t for the group of transfer students that I have been luckily enough to experience this great adventure with. Before coming out here I only knew a few others who had applied but within a few days of being here everyone thought that we had been friends for years. Whilst there has been a certain amount of drama, that’s to be expected when you pack a few dozen people in their late teens to early twenties in a relatively small space for nine months. Still, I cannot imagine having this experience with anyone else. Even with people leaving after semester one and a new bunch arriving for semester two, everyone seems to have gelled and I think that it is safe to say that we have all made friends for life through this transfer programme.

I suppose that considering this article is being written for the university and the programme is ultimately about enhancing our degrees, I really should talk about what university life is like. The overall experience on the Malaysia campus is hugely different to that of Edinburgh. First of all, the sheer number of people is different. In Edinburgh, you are able to recognise faces but you can never know every one of the thousands of students. It is a huge comparison to Malaysia where everyone seems to be familiar with each other and the small class sizes lead to a more school-like atmosphere. Another huge difference is that there is always something going on in the Plaza of Malaysia’s campus from food sales and dance performances to dancing dragons to Chinese New Year celebrations, it is a little bit different from the bake sales on the bridge link back at home. It has been fun to become more involved in the university over here in Malaysia throughout the year and the people have made it so easy, with them being so welcoming.

Overall this experience has been life-changing. I have had once-in-a-lifetime experiences that I never thought would happen. I have made friends for life from being out here and travelled a part of the world that I have never been to before. All of this will benefit me hugely both in my personal life and my work life. In spite of the blips of homesickness and the typical university stress getting me down, I cannot recommend grasping this opportunity with both hands enough. If you have the chance, then take the risk and embrace the challenge. I can promise you, you will not regret it.
INDUSTRIAL VISIT

Sandisk Trip 2018

by Edmund Thoy Jin Wen
(Secretary, IET Heriot-Watt On Campus)
On the morning of 1st March, we were greeted by the staff of Sandisk and we were taken to the training room. After having our morning refreshments, we were greeted by our first speaker, Mr Mohd Zaimi, an EHS professional and a member of the security staff over at Sandisk Storage Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. He briefed us about the importance of safety inside the factory and also the Do’s and Don’ts inside the factory.

We were then introduced to our second speaker, a senior director in charge of the SSD production of the factory. He gave us a detailed overview of what goes on in the factory, from wafer fabrication to the assembly of the SSDs that are found in our computers and electronic devices that we hold in our palms today.

He gave us an insight about the targets of their organisation and their long-term goals. We were even treated with several exclusive videos regarding a fully automated factory in Shanghai, China codenamed “lights out”.

After an eye-opening talk, we were then received by the Head of Research and Development (SIP). He brought along some engineering samples for us to see and touch. He talked about micro SD cards and how the technology developed at their company differs from others available in the market. He stressed that the production at the Malaysian plant has been improved due to research done by the R&D team here in Malaysia to reduce the overall rate of production.

The talks lasted for about an hour and a half, and it was 11am by the time we were done. Mr. Tunku then brought us around the factory to see how everything is operated at Sandisk. Although it was a tiring trip, I believe that I can say this on behalf of my friends that it was a fruitful and insightful trip.

...the production at the Malaysian plant has been improved due to research done by the R&D team here in Malaysia to reduce the overall rate of production.
The Heriot-Watt University Malaysia and Partners Networking Luncheon was an excellent platform for our university community (management, staff and students) to engage with the industry partners. During this event, the university had the opportunity to network and gain more insight from the industry experts and vice versa, the industry partners got to know our programmes and talents for possible future collaborations. The luncheon was held in the Multi-Purpose Hall on 11 January 2018 where almost 20 students and 35 staff attended the event. It started with an opening speech by our Deputy Provost, Professor Dennis Wong followed by a welcome speech by the Senior Manager of Student Support Services, Puan Shariffah Mastura Syed Mohamed. The highlight of the event was the presentation about Heriot-Watt University together with a pop quiz. The event ended with a presentation of souvenirs and the taking of group photos before all attendees proceeded with the networking lunch.
Florence Ong Woei Yng

Company: BAE Systems
Position: Project Management Graduate

HW course:
BEng (Hons) Chemical Engineering

Location of study:
Malaysia (1st year),
Edinburgh (2nd and 3rd year)

Year graduated:
June 2017

Q: What has been your career path since completing your degree?
A: I have applied to BAE Systems, a highly competitive graduate scheme and have been working here since. Due to the very established and structured graduate scheme which encompasses rotations between departments to allow a holistic learning, i.e. three to four months per rotation, I have been able to experience and learn from different parts of the business, and understanding the business as a whole.

Q: How did your time at Heriot-Watt add to your employability?
A: I worked for Heriot-Watt University as a student ambassador during special events i.e. Open Day, Global Day, Career Fair and etc. Through these events I have further honed my soft skills and interpersonal skills especially when having to communicate with people, relaying the right information and creating a lasting first impression. Having these transferrable skills into my current job in Project Management is crucial due to the nature of the job that revolves around managing people from different domains to deliver a project successfully.

Q: What was most memorable to you about your experiences at Heriot-Watt University?
A: At the Malaysia Campus, it was the serenity and serenity of the university next to a beautiful lake out in peaceful Putrajaya; the lack of queues in the canteen during lunchtime; 365 room being available at all the times; empty classrooms to hang out between classes and ample parking spaces that I reminisce of the most.

On the other hand, in Edinburgh, the community of friends from home; the accessibility of holidaying in so many different countries; multinational friends who came from all over the world with all sorts of background; independence and being responsible over oneself (i.e. cook, laundry, dishes, groceries etc) and of course the amount of time spent in the kitchen meal-prepping are probably the highlights of my experience being abroad.

It’s a crazy yet life-changing experience – one of the things that should be in your bucket list and be checked off. You will be amazed of the unexpected yet promising opportunities that might come along the way, so don’t think twice!
#HWUMPEOPLE

Building Our Commonality

In building our commonality and working towards an effective integrated global university, visits by our colleagues from both our Dubai and UK campuses are so important in supporting cross campus collaborations and understanding.

We warmly welcome staff and students from all across Heriot-Watt’s global campuses, and look forward to extending the University’s international aspirations.

They have contributed to the following activities:

- Networking meetings
- Workshops/Trainings
- Accreditation
- Go Global – Our global student programme
- Lectures
- Academic review
- Recruitment fairs
They have also contributed the following hours for:

- **37h** Workshops / Sharing Sessions
- **5h** Staff Development
- **9h** Academic Review
- **16h** Accreditation
- **12h** Leadership Forums

Workshops or sharing sessions took the first spot with 38 hours, out of which 61% was conducted for students and 39% for staff.