When the Movement Control Order (MCO) was announced by the Malaysian government on the night of 16th March 2020, uncertainty befell the Heriot-Watt University Malaysia community. “What will happen to the staff and students? What now?” The verdict: the Malaysia campus had to be closed, classes had to be shifted online and all staff members would be required to work from home.

The community was faced with a new set of normalcy - online meetings, remote support, reimagining new ways of delivering value: adapting to this new normal was no walk in the park. This was especially true for working mothers, who had to juggle between delivering results, managing teams, and taking care of their young and needy children. Apart from this, poor internet connection was another issue for the teams, as some of us constantly faced challenges with accessing the CRM and other systems central to our daily activities.

The Provost and CEO of Heriot-Watt University Malaysia, Prof Mushtak Al-Atabi, took daily videos and sent e-mails to express his thoughts on the MCO and provide positivity boosters to staff and students. In line with the daily Action for Happiness posts on the Malaysia campus’ social media, Prof Mushtak encouraged students and staff to remain strong and optimistic during these trying times.

Meetings were held every morning to coordinate tasks among team members and daily targets were set to measure deliverables. This nationwide restriction in movement also posed a major test to the team’s marketing creativity, as we had to constantly come up with new ideas to promote our waivers and attract potential applicants, such as adding personalised touches to our Education Consultants’ communication methods and organising live webinars with academic staff. In spite of these challenges, it was not all work and no play for the Marketing and Student Recruitment Team. The team organised our first ever Online Ice-cream and Cake Party, where all of us were invited to bring our own desserts and sweet treats while catching up with each other via Zoom. We were prompted to share one thing we learnt from remote working and one thing we felt grateful for during the MCO.

Prof Mushtak encouraged students and staff to remain strong and optimistic during these trying times. 

The Malaysia Marketing and Student Recruitment Team at the Online Ice-cream and Cake Party. The sweet treats were gobbled up too soon :)
Malaysia started the MCO on 18th March to contain the spread of COVID-19, and after two months of working from home, I have gained many invaluable experiences. I was in my hometown, Pontian, when the lockdown was announced, as I was taking care of my then one-month-old baby. During the MCO, I had to manage the workload between work and family. A shout-out to my IS team that supported me throughout the MCO period, as at the early stage of MCO I had to fully use my mobile device to execute my tasks. Without them, it would have been so much more challenging. Nevertheless, I had the privilege of being surrounded by nature; a quick breath of fresh air helped a lot in getting me up and going every morning. Overall, it was a great experience, but I do hope that the pandemic will improve in the near future.

We never ever thought that we would eventually work from home; and it was COVID-19 that gave us all this opportunity to try something new. It was terrible at first, having to juggle work, meal times (what to cook for lunch), family (kids) and others. While some got used to it pretty quickly, some struggled to adapt to the new norm. I am particularly very appreciative of the team’s spirit throughout this stint. Although we could only work together virtually, I think somehow we also learnt to communicate virtually too!

One of my main roles was to answer the Student Support Centre phone calls while working from home. Every day was a challenge for me as so many things were uncertain. I attended to calls and enquiries of various natures from students and parents, and I learnt that all issues can be solved if we listen, empathise and tend to them with care. My impact statement allowed me to thrive during this crisis and it looks like I am happily applying it to my daily life. Yes, I am a solution provider. I’m glad that I could assist the students and parents in need.

For the Student Accommodation Team members, working from home had been a bittersweet experience. We had to provide virtual support and ensure students’ safety and wellbeing were taken care of. There were numerous limitations encountered along the way. We had to quickly adapt to a ‘new normal’ and establish a new working procedure befitting the current situation. Our weekly catch-up sessions via Teams were something that we looked forward to, as it gave us the opportunity to catch up on each other’s work progress and keep our sanity in check.

We have gained many invaluable experiences.

ZULFIQAR JAMAL BAHARIM
Information Services Executive

... I HAVE GAINED MANY INVALUABLE EXPERIENCES...!

... QUICKLY ADAPT TO A NEW NORMAL AND ESTABLISH A NEW WORKING PROCEDURE BEFITTING THE CURRENT SITUATION...

FIRDAUS ASFHAN OMAR
Asst Manager,
Student Accommodation

... VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THE TEAM’S SPIRIT THROUGHOUT THIS STINT...

HR TEAM

YES, I AM A SOLUTION PROVIDER.
I’M GLAD THAT I COULD ASSIST THE STUDENTS AND PARENTS IN NEED.

KANAGAVALI MARIMUTHU
Executive,
Student Support Centre
GRAND CHALLENGE RESEARCH FUND (GCRF) GRANT AWARDS

Pioneering Research Responding to COVID-19

In response to the University’s call for research proposals seeking to address the challenges of COVID-19, the Malaysia campus has had considerable success in winning awards funded via the Grand Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) initiative. We are delighted that our colleagues have done so well in securing these awards and look forward to hearing about the project outcomes, and how they have contributed to tackling the virus and helping Malaysia rebuild its economy. The award recipients are:

**GCRF GRANT WORTH RM105,000**

**DR SARAT CHANDRA DASS**
School of Mathematical and Computer Science (MACS), HWUM

This research project provides important insights on the feasibility of lifting the Movement Control Order (MCO). It develops models of the COVID-19 spread and quantifies the impact of different stages of the MCO. Key insights gleaned from this modelling technique will be used to study several exit strategies and assess their effects on the occurrence of new cases post-MCO. Several what-if scenarios will be developed and analysed for controlling new cases. Model predictions from these scenarios will provide important information to the government for the identification of the best exit strategies.

**GCRF GRANT WORTH RM90,000**

**DR KE, GUEK NEE**
School of Social Sciences (SoSS), HWUM

This project is being undertaken with NGOs and public institutions in Malaysia, including the Malaysian Psychological Association (PSIMA), Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER) and Universiti Malaya. The project focuses on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis and how this links to the psychological wellbeing of vulnerable groups in Malaysia. Outcomes from this project will not only contribute to the nation’s longer-term plans for recovery by developing a strategic psychological intervention concept to improve and strengthen mental health but will also help to recommend various policy frameworks for the government.
The pandemic has led to several disruptions within the agro-industry supply chains in Malaysia and the Philippines. In order to maintain the stability of the agriculture sector in these countries, it is essential to develop strategies for post-pandemic recovery. A research team led by Dr Viknesh Murugappan was recently awarded the GCRF grant to develop solutions for post-pandemic recovery. In particular, the fund will support a short-term project aimed at developing a post-pandemic economic analysis model that will help identify critical economic sectors for the agriculture industry in both countries. Furthermore, the model will provide insights on strategies to facilitate the efficient allocation of government resources for post-pandemic recovery. The research team also includes Prof Ir Dr Denny Ng from Heriot-Watt University Malaysia; Prof Raymond Tan, Prof Kathleen Aviso and Dr Krista Danielle Yu from De La Salle University, Philippines; and Dr Nishanth Chemmangattuvalappil from University of Nottingham, Malaysia.

The research will examine the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on small and medium sized enterprises (SME) in construction and evaluate the risk levels and vulnerability of these businesses to the pandemic. It will also provide projections to forecast the continuing impacts of COVID-19 to SME businesses in the short- and medium-term.
The initiative sits within the context of the Pioneering in Education theme within Strategy 2025 and aims to develop a new way of delivering online learning for the Foundation Programme for Semester 1 of 2020 intakes to the MFP, thereby mitigating the risk to the programme presented by COVID-19 from both institutional and student perspectives. The Digital Foundation Programme, or known as Reimagining the Malaysian Foundation Programme, creates a virtual learning environment that is immersive and engaging, where students experience learning through a pedagogy based on addressing a real-world challenge presented through a global narrative that will integrate the learning from various courses across the breadth of the MFP. Follow the journey of Reimagining the Malaysian Foundation Programme since its successful inception on 27th April 2020.

Introduction

The Chinese character for crisis uses two brush strokes: one stands for danger; the other for opportunity. In Malaysia we had enrolled over 200 students into our Foundation programme that was scheduled to start on 27th April and were preparing for that intake on campus when COVID-19 arrived. Subsequently, many students started contemplating delaying the start of their university journey. We therefore seized the opportunity to set ourselves apart from our competitors and speedily developed a high-value, high-standard programme that caters for the needs of these new university students.

The digital foundation programme goes beyond the migration of academic content online and focuses on leveraging the digital tools and our staff experience, knowledge and passion to deliver a truly engaging and effective learning experience while achieving the same Learning Outcomes. This development sits comfortably within the context of the University’s Strategy 2025, in particular the ‘Pioneering in Education’ theme. The aspiration of the digital foundation programme is to act as a pilot programme to further progress our capability for the planning and delivery of a Global Foundation College. The programme was planned and is being executed throughout the months of April, May, June and July 2020.
Philosophy and Pedagogy

The programme’s philosophy is focused on putting learning into a wider practical context. Students are to work, in teams, on a number of projects and challenges that will provide the context for their learning. Specifically, students will be working in a fictional city whose state government plans for it to become the state’s first Smart city. In each course, students will work within teams collaboratively to help the city achieve its goal. Each course will require students to address a challenge which, when solved, contributes towards the city’s goal of becoming Smart. The challenges in each course are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Students are required to conceptually “build” a Smart stadium.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Skills</td>
<td>Students work for a publishing unit where they publish articles in a monthly journal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>Students are to advise young entrepreneurs on starting and running a business.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Students are part of a Psychology Institute.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>Students work within an accounting firm, financially planning for a large festival within the city.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics:</td>
<td>Students are part of a research group made up of physicists, electrical engineers and mathematicians, specialising in the field of optoelectronics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Students work within an Institute of Science and Technology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Students work within teams to plan and ‘build’ sustainable infrastructure.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The students’ journey began on 27th April 2020 with a digital orientation course to set them up for success. Called Fit-for-Future, the course aims at introducing the new students to the University and each other while preparing them to learn online and be equipped with 21st century skills that will set them up for success as they progress through their academic journey and beyond. Learning how the brain works, managing relationships and setting personal goals are some examples of key topics in preparing students for the programme. This builds on the work we have already piloted in Malaysia and Edinburgh.

The successful delivery of a digital first programme requires the re-imagination of the role of academic staff from ‘teacher’ to ‘facilitator of learning’. Now, the academic staff members invest their time supporting their students’ learning in a highly personalised manner. As facilitators of learning, they are working more collaboratively with other academic staff to deliver an integrated experience as the challenges the students go through go beyond the silos of individual courses. Besides the engaging online activities, students attend regular live Webinars that are facilitated by academic staff and also organise their online team meetings.
As the programme is highly social and challenge-based, it is delivered in a way that invests in the building of a learning community. Besides the academic rigour, the programme provides emotional support to the learners. This is particularly important as a number of studies are indicating that prolonged lockdown conditions can have a negative impact on the individual’s emotional wellbeing.

Learning Analytics

As students are learning, real-time data is being generated, describing their academic progress. Using learning analytics, the academic staff will be able to measure, analyse and help optimise students’ learning. This non-intrusive privacy-preserving learning analytics will also assist the academic staff to offer personalised support for all students.

For example, here are the analytics relating to the Fit-for-Future orientation week of the Foundation Programme that ran as a one-week course from 27th - 30th April 2020. It required students to complete four modules, namely:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module 1</td>
<td>Successful Mindset, Rewire Your Brain and Gratitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 2</td>
<td>Emotional Intelligence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 3</td>
<td>SMART Goals and Social Capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 4</td>
<td>Planning for your Future</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each module consisted of the appropriate course material as well as live Webinars and learning activities, and were to be completed in a day. Over the four days, more than 180 students (close to 100% participation) completed all four modules.
The following quotes from different members of our community provide insights into the programme as a whole.

**Through the Fit-for-Future programme, I realised my own potential and now feel empowered.**

_AS’AD MAULA AZRAN_
MFP Student

**Throughout the four days of the Fit-for-Future programme, I not only got to learn more about myself (personality, goals, passion, etc.), which I didn’t really care about before, but also got to have a memorable experience of learning online with new people in a new environment. I’ve got to say it was a really fun and amazing four days, which has helped me to build confidence and teamwork and also know how to solve the P-word while being optimistic!**

CHANT QIAN TONG
MFP Student

**It was certainly a new and interesting learning curve to scale. Our students and facilitators did very well in making this very first online orientation at Heriot-Watt University a huge success! Students’ enthusiasm encouraged me to spend more time to go through their comments/postings on the virtual learning platform. I made it a point to assist students to refine their SMART Goals.**

ANDREW LEE
MFP Academic Staff
When the Movement Control Order (MCO) began in Malaysia, fresh Mechanical Engineering graduate Mohd Nurezman bin Hj Md Ezamudin wanted to be able to contribute to the frontliners, who had been working hard to keep the pandemic at bay. After gathering feedback and complaints from them, he discovered a common problem: the issues encountered when wearing the ear-loop face masks. This is especially true for female Muslims who wear the hijab and are not able to have the masks on properly.

With some research, he came across a face mask buckle that he could easily reproduce using a 3D printer belonging to the MakerZ Club, a student club dedicated towards innovation and design.

The face mask buckle is an add-on plastic accessory to the ear-loop face masks, which can resolve two typical issues. Firstly, it addresses the irritation behind the ears when face masks are worn for long periods of time. Besides that, it is also more convenience for hijab wearers, as it allows them to quickly put on and take off the face masks without the need to take off their hijab. The face mask buckle is produced using a 3D printer, with each piece taking 30 minutes to print. As can be seen, it has multiple hooks per side, providing easy access to attach the ear-loops of the face masks, thus making it an essential accessory for everyday mask wearers.

I was elated that I was able to print around 150 buckles per week, but the MCO limited my ability to get access to hospitals to distribute the buckles. A neighbour, Dr Azmi bin Alias, who is the Head of Department & Chief Consultant of the Neurosurgery Department at Hospital Kuala Lumpur, helped me to share the buckles at the Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya hospitals, respectively. Little did I know, he had also distributed them among many other hospitals; I was pleasantly surprised when I received random ‘thank you’ texts.
Heriot-Watt University has taken a positive step towards online learning and teaching practices. An example of this is the way I teach my students at the School of Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS). Recognising the challenges students might face in terms of internet connectivity, I opted to make video recordings of my lectures. These recordings are then made available for students to download anytime. From here, they have the freedom to watch these video lectures at any time based on their study styles. This gives them flexibility as some of them might prefer studying in the evenings while others prefer waking up early to begin their studies. Additionally, the recorded videos allow students to pause the lecture and replay sections that they do not understand. On top of this, I accompany these video lectures with live Q&A sessions. The live sessions allow students to clarify any specific misconceptions or doubts they have about the video lectures. It also gives me a chance to clearly identify specific areas in which students have difficulty and to formulate a way to tackle that. This approach to online learning has certainly benefited the students in their understanding of the course.

However, online learning may seem very daunting for students who are new to it. So, if you are one of them, here are some tips to help you along your online learning journey.

*** TIP 1: STABLE INTERNET/WI-FI
A stable Wi-Fi is paramount to a student’s learning experience when online learning is concerned. Stable connections offer clear and uninterrupted video feeds during lectures. Thus, if students anticipate Wi-Fi instability or lack access to stable connections, it is imperative for them to reach out to their respective instructors. This way, arrangements can be made to ensure the learning experience of the student is not affected.

*** TIP 2: STAY ENGAGED
Each course is taught differently. In fact, there are several surveys, quizzes, videos, extra materials and course discussions provided by each instructor. The tip here is to get involved often in these and to keep updated with what is happening. This will allow students to remain familiar with the course content throughout the semester and ease studying right before examinations.

*** TIP 3: BE DISCIPLINED AND DETERMINED
Online learning puts the power mostly in the learner’s hands. In this respect, the learner, i.e. the student, will need to play an active role in reviewing course materials after lessons. This will give them an opportunity to identify areas where they need more clarification and keep track of what is happening. It is worth noting that when there is a sense of control within oneself, a sense of confidence comes along with it.

*** TIP 4: LEARNING ENVIRONMENT THAT IS CONDUCIVE
As students are likely to spend hours on their laptops/devices attending lessons from day to day, an environment that is conducive is essential to facilitate comfortable learning.

*** TIP 5: ASK AND DO NOT BE SHY!
Yes, just ask. If students have curiosities or doubts about the course materials/lessons taught, it is important to just ask. Students have multiple avenues to do so. For example, social butterflies can approach instructors during online lessons. As for the shy students, instructors can be contacted via online discussion boards and e-mail, too. Instructors at Heriot-Watt University are always happy to provide a helping hand to ensure students get the best learning experience possible. In fact, students can request for additional consultation after lessons from instructors via online platforms such as Microsoft Teams. In the end, if you do not ask, you will never know.
STUDENT VIEWS

ON THE ONLINE SUPPORTED LEARNING PLATFORM INTRODUCED DURING THE COVID-19 MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDER

I thought learning online was something very dry and boring, but this new online platform is totally different from what I expected. There are lots of tasks and activities that we need to complete, and I learnt something in every task. It is amazing! It also allows me to scroll through other people’s posts as well as giving likes and comments. I get a chance to make new friends even though we do not meet face to face. I decided to apply for the foundation programme and study now because it allows me to learn more about the degree course and further develop my skills before I pursue my degree studies.

I was nervous as this was my first time participating in a programme online. But after a few tries and exploring the online platform with the help of my lecturers, I can say that the platform is convenient and easy to use. All pages are connected to each other with just a click. I chose to study at Heriot-Watt as I want to graduate with an Engineering degree and was really attracted to the courses here. The platform allows me to continue my studies uninterrupted without having to wait for a later intake.

I find the online platform to be user-friendly. There is a range of fun and helpful features available, such as the coffee chat session for online discussions and the private chat session. I also like the green bar feature which shows how much I have completed a certain task – it’s like playing a game to finish my missions!
Apart from the educational standard, the university’s diversity attracted me. Here, you get to meet people from different countries, cultures and walks of life. We come together to achieve a similar goal, and the connections made are invaluable.

I have made several connections with various industries, not only those relevant to my studies. HWUM has always encouraged students to be more diversified and have no fear in approaching different people to form connections. That is something I feel blessed and grateful for.

There will be times where you may find yourself saddled with an immense amount of work, but always have the mind-set that you can accomplish it. Also, never hesitate to look for your course mates and lecturers if you need any support. They are always there for you.

Graduating from HWUM is truly an accomplishment for me, and there is no doubt that it has given me the first step into the future. What I believe is most important about the degree is the experience and knowledge I have gained, as well as knowing that there is always the next page to read, a new skill to obtain.

It has definitely kick-started my career. The knowledge learnt is an advantage when it comes to understanding the insurance and data industry. Still, there is always another level, a never-ending learning process.

I would say the experience. Looking back, there have been a few moments that are truly precious; some of them during study periods with friends and lecturers, some of them during off-campus events with friends. The happy moments and the stressful moments all became a memorable experience.

There will be times where you may find yourself saddled with an immense amount of work, but always have the mind-set that you can accomplish it. Also, never hesitate to look for your course mates and lecturers if you need any support. They are always there for you.

I have made several connections with various industries, not only those relevant to my studies. HWUM has always encouraged students to be more diversified and have no fear in approaching different people to form connections. That is something I feel blessed and grateful for.

My name is Sean Yap Jun Mun, and I pursued a degree in Actuarial Science. The past few years in Heriot-Watt had been an unforgettable experience. I believe that you should work hard and smart, and keep your head held high. Appreciate the moment you are in right now and live with no regrets!
COVID-19: CAMPUS CLEANING & DISINFECTION

A campus cleaning and disinfection exercise was conducted at high touch point areas, and on floors, carpets, furniture and fittings since 3rd April 2020 by our appointed Facility Management vendor during the Movement Control Order (MCO) following the guidelines and standard operating procedure (SOP) issued by the Ministry of Health (MOH).
Most of the world migrated online as varying degrees of lockdown measures were implemented as a result of the pandemic. Inspired by this trend, our Marketing Team conceived WATT’s Up, World!, a first-of-its-kind online talk show series that takes a look at how the pandemic has affected our lives. With celebrity Azura Zainal as host, the show invites prominent industry names as guests and discusses topics such as tips for working from home, the current and future job scene, the dawn of a new education landscape and positive education and holistic wellbeing, to name a few. The first episode of this innovative talk show debuted on 13th May 2020.
In spite of the Movement Control Order (MCO), the Careers Service team continued to support students through virtual drop-ins and online consultations. Engagements with industry partners were held through online sessions. These included Career Anchoring with Plus Solar, Future of Work after COVID-19 by Cognizant and the introduction of opportunities in Ernst & Young through a sharing session titled “Actuarial Services” by EY.

We introduced a new online mentoring programme to penultimate and final year students through FutureLab. Through this programme, which runs for three months starting May 2020, 30 students are each paired with a mentor, allowing them to gain clearer insights into mapping their career development and achieving their career aspirations.
...CONTRIBUTION TO CSR

HWUM Information Services partnered with LeapED Services, a social enterprise passionate in child-centred education, to donate 30 PCs to their trust school, SMK Kuala Perlis, in late January 2020. The 30 PCs were existing work PCs that were not being used, and their contents were wiped out thoroughly to ensure no data compromise prior to donation.

On 12th February 2020, a Young Entrepreneur Master Class was organised by the Edinburgh Business School, School of Social Sciences, under its Entrepreneurial Development Programme (EDP). The EDP is a year-long programme with activities put in place to reach out to students who are aspiring entrepreneurs and to develop their entrepreneurial skills. The master class was designed to provide young entrepreneurs with an opportunity to learn from the guest speakers the skills and behaviour necessary to establish and run a company. The event was also part of the EmPOWER Programme aimed at future-proofing our graduates by unleashing their potential to prepare them for a highly uncertain world. This class was related to one of the six developmental domains, namely Innovation, Creativity & Entrepreneurship.

...HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR MASTER CLASS
On 26th February 2020, a group of 31 undergraduate students from our Psychology programme went on a field trip to Diveheart Malaysia. The aim of the visit was to learn more about Adaptive Techniques and create empathy for the People with Disabilities (PWD) community, focusing on increasing awareness of the varying abilities and exploring adaptive teaching techniques to apply when training and diving with physically and mentally challenged divers.

A group of 44 Year 1-3 students from the business, engineering, actuarial science and construction disciplines visited the Malaysian Global Innovation and Creativity Centre (MaGIC) recently. The event aimed to create awareness among students on the facilities and support MaGIC can offer to aspiring entrepreneurs as well as the entrepreneurial work that MaGIC does at national level.

Twenty international students went on a day trip to the historical state of Malacca earlier this year. The outing was organised by the International Student Support Office, HWUM. Among the places visited were Mini Malaysia and ASEAN Cultural Park, Pantai Klebang, Baba and Nyonya Heritage Museum and Jonker Street. The students were happy to mingle and get to know other international students. The trip also helped expose them to and improve their understanding of Malaysia’s culture, food and history.
**PETROCON**

Petrocon is an oil & gas-centric engineering event organised by HWUM engineering associations. It focuses on the concept of industrial symbiosis, bringing together professionals and students to give the latter better insights into the diversity of the oil & gas industry through talks, forums and competitions. This event successfully brought together Velesto Energy, Shell, Metora Data Science, Petronas and Schlumberger to meet and network with students and conference participants. Petrocon was graced by Heriot-Watt Principal and Vice-Chancellor Prof Richard Williams, whilst En Adrin Shafil Ahmad Nasir, the COO of Velesto Energy, delivered the Keynote Address.

**SHELL ECO-MARATHON**

Shell Eco-marathon Asia is an annual competition held for teams in the Asia Pacific and Middle Eastern regions. It is a part of the global Shell Eco-marathon, a worldwide energy efficiency competition for students sponsored by Shell, which aims to push the boundaries of what is technically possible and inspire young people to become leading scientists and engineers of the future. Participants build automotive vehicles to achieve the highest possible fuel efficiency. The pinnacle of the competition is the Shell Eco-marathon Drivers’ World Championship, where the most energy-efficient Urban Concept vehicles compete in a race with a limited amount of energy. The HWUM team was tasked to build and design an energy-efficient lightweight prototype vehicle for on-track and off-track competition. They qualified up to the second stage and will be moving on to Stage 3 of the competition, which is scheduled for June 2020. The team is supervised by Assoc Prof Ir Dr Shasthri, Ms Noor Shieela K, Assoc Prof Ir Dr Yap TC and Dr Saqaff SA.

**IMechE GLOBAL ENGINEERING DESIGN SOLUTIONS CHALLENGE**

The IMechE Global Engineering Design Solutions Challenge is an engineering design competition for Young Members of the Institution. The competition aims to address real-world issues through engineering design projects and provide solutions to their related challenges. This time, the theme revolved around the future drinkable water crisis. The HWUM team emerged as a runner-up in the challenge with their design of an Economic Solar Still with Passive Solar Design. Seah Chiun Chao (MSc Energy student) and Hong Chin Hsien (2019 MEng Graduate) won themselves £300 and an IMechE official certificate. The students were supervised by Ir Dr Steven Hoo.
On 27th February 2020, about 70 students from SMK Seri Hartamas visited HWUM to get a first-hand experience of the university. There were various activities organised for them, including a Search Your Wallet game, which was run by the Foundation in Business team. This activity saw the students being divided into 10 teams. They had to quickly reach the judge with the right answer, which can be found in their wallets. Some ran helter-skelter to the judge but brought the wrong item with them. However, they were all certainly energised and ready to run to the judge, even before the questions were read out in full! All-in-all, the students had an enjoyable time learning about our Malaysian notes and coins at the Plaza that morning.

Two teams consisting of 10 Civil Engineering students from the School of Energy, Geoscience, Infrastructure and Society (EGIS), HWUM, made the university proud at the UTAR Structural Earthquake Stability Competition 6.0, which was held on 15th February 2020 at Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), Sg Long Campus. This annual competition was organised by the UTAR Student Chapters of The Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM), Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) and UTAR Civil Engineering Department. It was also sponsored by NS BlueScope Lysaght Malaysia Sdn. Bhd.

TEAM SECOND, comprising Vitricious Vinnleo, Valentina Nicson, Lee Jia Yi, Chua Jia Ern and Lee Mei Sze, emerged as the second runner-up, whereas TEAM MULAN, comprising Kevin Chong Zhi Liang, Ng Yin Hang, Chan Wei Chew, Yeu Jia Yi and Lim Yee Kwong, emerged as the consolation prize winner. Supervised by Ir Chai Voon-Chiet and Dr Ng Soon Min, both teams managed to complete the model construction before the allocated time was up, and their structures remained stable throughout all levels of the earthquake simulation, which was conducted using a shaking table.
...THE GLORY OF THE BEST PAPER AWARD

Asst Prof Dr Ashley Hong from School of Energy, Geoscience, Infrastructure and Society (EGIS), HWUM, won the Best Paper Award under the sub-theme “Eco Tropical Built Environment” with the title “Urging Green Retrofit of Building Facade in the Tropics – A Review and Research Agenda” at the 4th International Tropical Renewable Energy Conference (i-TREC), which was held at The Anvaya Beach Resorts-Bali Indonesia from 14th-16th August 2019. The event was hosted by The Faculty of Engineering Universitas Indonesia and co-hosted by the Faculty of Engineering Chulalongkorn University.

The International Tropical Renewable Energy Conference (i-TREC) is a prestigious annual conference series on tropical renewable energy organised with a motivation to provide an excellent international platform for the academics, researchers, engineers, industrial participants and students to share their research findings with the global experts, and establish relations to find global partners for future collaboration.

The coral reef ecosystem covers less than 0.2% of the seabed, yet half a billion people in coastal communities benefit from its production and protection. Coral reefs provide effective coastal protection against ocean hazards, are an important source of protein and income, and are the next frontier for medical research. Despite their importance to humankind, and unless action is taken, anthropogenic impacts are likely to destroy this valuable resource within the next century. Since 2018, academics and students at HWUM have been actively involved with the local community on Tenggol Island on a coral restoration project that strives to preserve this valuable ecosystem.

DR HONG W.T., ASHLEY
Asst Prof. School of Energy, Geoscience, Infrastructure and Society (EGIS)

DR URVAL PATEL
Programme Director, MSc Petroleum Engineering
CREATORS OF TOMORROW

Cheo Kar Shin, a BSc (Hons) Statistical Data Science student from HWUM, was recognised as one of the top three finalists together with his teammates at the ‘Creators of Tomorrow’ university challenge organised by HP Inc. Malaysia. The challenge aimed to bring the visions of aspiring student entrepreneurs to life by providing them with resources to help elevate their business.

Kar Shin teamed up with students from Sunway University and Tunku Abdul Rahman University College to come up with a business idea. The team, called Top Flow, proposed the idea of Bumbung, an online property dealing platform that allows rental transactions between landlords and tenants. According to Kar Shin, the platform also enables a peer-to-peer review and rating system which allows users to identify the best landlord or tenant. With the online tenancy agreement system, the platform ‘streamlines the process of renting a house and makes it smarter, cheaper and safer’.

KPMG IDEATION CHALLENGE 2020

By Thor Qiao Hui, BSc Actuarial Science

On 13th February 2020, Kwan Audrey Yung Chee and Thor Qiao Hui participated in the KPMG Ideation Challenge (KIC) National Finals held at the KPMG tower. This challenge is an experience designed to stretch students’ limits and challenge what is possible.

Audrey and Qiao Hui were among the 24 shortlisted out of 122 participants after the first round of video submissions. Among others, they participated in workshops conducted by the KPMG Malaysia team on strategic ways to come up with innovative ideas meant for changing the world and were guided by KPMG data scientists, coders, business specialists and tech gurus to help bring their idea to life. Finally, each team created a business model and pitched their final idea to the business leaders. Audrey’s team proudly bagged the second runner-up position in this national competition.
Four experienced data science professionals from Cognizant, Experian, Fusionex and PPG Coatings shared work-related anecdotes that ingrained in participants a clear understanding of the inner workings of the data science profession at the Data Science – The Career of the Future Forum hosted by the Society of Logical Interpretation of Data (SOLID), HWUM. The forum was a huge success, witnessing the support of more than 100 participants as well as industry partners. The speakers also gave intuitive insights regarding the future of the industry, quelling any worries attendees might have regarding the career prospects of a data science professional.

Dr Yew Weng Kean, an Electrical and Electronic Engineering lecturer from the School of Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS) made history when he successfully bagged the nation’s first gold medal in e-sports at the 2019 SEA Games in the Philippines. Known as wkyew90 within the e-sports community, Dr Yew beat Thailand’s Popan Werit 3-1 in Hearthstone, a two-player virtual card game.

“This gold medal means a lot to me and Malaysia because it is our first medal for e-sports in the history of the SEA Games. I feel amazing, happy and grateful. I believed that I would be able to make history by contributing a medal to the country, and I feel great to have achieved it. e-Sports is a trend now and will stay regardless of what we do. Parents should look at it with a positive perspective because gaming can actually improve your thinking, critical and strategic skills,” said Dr Yew.

“These are all the necessary skills for life. But kids should have balance between gaming, healthy activities and studies. If you are gaming all the time without improvement in studies, you are not going to get very far.”

Provost and CEO Prof Mushtak Al-Atabi proudly remarked, “It is really a great moment today to receive Dr Yew to Malaysia. He made us all proud. It is not difficult to have a world-class career and also pursue your passion in computer games. Whatever you do, it is all about critical thinking, strategising, time management, being empowered and being emotionally intelligent. It is about having all these skills that we will need to succeed in the 21st century. We are so proud and so happy to be here to receive a champion for the nation.”
HWUM celebrated International Day successfully with a total of nine Culture Booths showcasing different cultures from around the world, including Indian, Chinese, Korean, Kyrgyzstani, Scottish, Indonesian, Yemeni, Mauritian and Malay cultures. There were performances (dances and songs) by the booth organizers, Music Club and Dance Club, as well as a Cultural Fashion Walk organized by the Fashion & Makeup Club. Live cooking sessions were also conducted at several of the Culture Booths.

NUMed Games is an annual sporting event, where athletes from universities across Malaysia come together to compete for glory. This year, which marks the seventh NUMed Games, saw the participation of 656 students from 16 universities. These included Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia, Asian Metropolitan University, University Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Institute of Industrial Technology, Monash University Malaysia, Melaka Manipal Medical College, MDIS Malaysia, Sunway College JB, Raffles University Iskandar, AIMST University, Perdana University, Southern University College, University of Reading Malaysia, University of Nottingham Malaysia, International Medical University, University of Southampton Malaysia and, of course, HWUM. The event was held at the EduCity Sports Complex, NS Sport, Impian Sports Skudai, in Skudai, Johor.

The HWUM team consisted of 28 athletes, who participated in the following events:
...LIST OF EVENTS

ACHEIVEMENTS

Badminton
- Women Single – Gold
- Women Double – Bronze
- Mixed Double – Bronze
- Men Single – Bronze
- Men Double – Silver

Table Tennis
- Men Double – Bronze

Volleyball
- Men and Women Teams – 4th place