

APU SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT

2023





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FOREWORD

Chief Executive Officer



Datuk Parmjit Singh

CEO

*Asia Pacific University of
Technology and Innovation
(APU)*

I am delighted to introduce the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Report for the year 2022 by Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation (APU). As the CEO of APU, I am immensely proud of the strides we have made in integrating sustainability into our practices, aligning with global aspirations while navigating the dynamic business landscape in Malaysia and beyond.

In recent years, the business landscape in Malaysia has seen remarkable transformations, marked by technological advancements, evolving consumer preferences, and an increasing emphasis on sustainability. As the world moves towards a more interconnected global economy, businesses face new challenges and opportunities that demand innovative and sustainable approaches.

Amidst this changing landscape, the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals cannot be overstated. The SDGs provide a universal framework that guides businesses to operate responsibly, address societal needs, and create value not only for shareholders but for all stakeholders, including communities and the environment.

At APU, we recognize that businesses play a pivotal role in driving sustainable development. Our commitment to the SDGs is deeply ingrained in our business strategies, operations, and corporate culture. We believe that integrating sustainable practices not only enhances business resilience but also contributes positively to society and the planet.

The SDG Report 2022 reflects our concerted efforts in embedding sustainability across our operations, academic endeavors, and community engagements. It showcases our dedication to fostering innovation, responsible business practices, and impactful collaborations that advance the SDGs.

As a university deeply entrenched in preparing future leaders and professionals, we understand the significance of instilling the principles of sustainability in our students. Our goal is to nurture graduates who are not only academically proficient but also socially responsible and equipped to address the challenges of the evolving business landscape.

In this rapidly changing world, our commitment to sustainable development serves as the guiding principle that steers our decisions and actions. We recognize the interconnectedness of global challenges and believe that collective efforts are essential to achieving the SDGs.

I extend my gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our SDG initiatives and invite all stakeholders to explore this report. Let us together reaffirm our commitment to sustainability, leveraging our collective strengths to create a more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable future for generations to come.

FOREWORD

Vice-Chancellor



Professor Dr. Ho Chin Kuan

Vice-Chancellor

*Asia Pacific University of
Technology and Innovation
(APU)*

It is with great pleasure that I present the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Report for the year 2022 by Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation (APU). As the Vice Chancellor of APU, I am immensely proud to witness the significant strides we have made in advancing sustainable practices and embracing the global call to action outlined by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

The SDGs serve as a blueprint for a better and more sustainable future for all, addressing critical global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice. At APU, we have embedded these goals into our academic, research, and operational frameworks, fostering a culture of responsibility, innovation, and inclusivity among our students, faculty, and staff.

Throughout the year 2022, our university remained steadfast in its commitment to contributing meaningfully to the SDGs. Our collective efforts spanned various initiatives, from education and research to community engagement and operational practices, aligning with the goals and targets set forth by the UN.

Our academic programs continue to integrate sustainability across disciplines, empowering our graduates with the knowledge and skills needed to address complex societal challenges. The dedication of our faculty and students in conducting impactful research further reinforces our commitment to finding sustainable solutions to real-world problems.

Moreover, our community engagement initiatives aimed to raise awareness, promote social responsibility, and foster partnerships that advance the SDGs. We understand that collaboration is key to achieving these goals and have actively sought partnerships with local communities, industries, and NGOs to drive positive change.

As we navigate the challenges and uncertainties of a rapidly changing world, our unwavering commitment to sustainable development remains resolute. This report serves as a testament to our continuous efforts, achievements, and the collective commitment of the APU community towards a more sustainable future.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the success of our SDG initiatives. Your dedication and passion have been instrumental in propelling us closer to our shared vision of a better world for current and future generations.

I encourage all stakeholders to delve into this report, reflect on our progress, and join us on this ongoing journey towards a more sustainable and equitable future.

INTRODUCTION

The Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) recognises that its economic, social and civic responsibilities are central to its activities and that the University's core business and teaching operations have the potential to affect the environment, health and prosperity of its employees, its students and the communities in which it operates. APU Ultra-Modern University Campus is strategically located in Technology Park Malaysia (TPM), Kuala Lumpur. APU's Campus blends technology, integration, innovation and creativity under one roof. University wishes to play a central role in protecting and enhancing sustainability locally, nationally and internationally, by ensuring that this principle underpins all its operations and activities.



ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ACTION POLICY

Sustainable Development - "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (Brundtland Report, 1987). We at APU are committed to sustainable development and operating practices through the responsible management of building design, construction, and renovation, landscape practices, energy use, water and waste management, emissions, transportation, and procurement, within a framework of regulatory compliance and fiscal prudence. Through bold leadership and, in alignment with Government and industry, we will put environmental issues at the forefront of our operations. We recognize the role we can play in driving policy, changing behaviors and providing new ideas and solutions to difficult global problems.

CLIMATE ACTION GOALS

To integrate environmental and carbon action into all University processes and to maximize the influence of the University in reducing its footprint through education research and its operations.

APU has committed to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This is not a simple journey but it is necessary and important. Reaching net zero emissions will require collective effort and support from all our staff, students, and external stakeholders. To achieve this, we must ensure that we integrate climate action into all that we do.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Environment and Climate Action Board (attendees from Research, University, Professional Services and Students) is accountable for ensuring the Policy is implemented. Implementation will be embedded in all new decisions/operations and activities. All employees have a responsibility to ensure that the aims and objectives of the policy are met.

APU APPROACH:

1. We will seek to create a culture on campus that supports and encourages staff and students to recognize that we all have an element of personal responsibility for the environment and to act on that.
2. We will strive to integrate and balance economic, social, and environmental responsibilities within all its activities. We are committed to operate as a responsible University, addressing the challenges of sustainable development.
3. We will continually improve, and to meet environmental legislative and regulatory requirements as they relate to all our activities.
4. We will continuously review our performance against the sustainability strategy using a quantitative and qualitative performance measurement approach. A report will be circulated to all APU Board members for review.

APU will embrace the Environment and Climate Action Agenda both strategically and globally through its development of footprint reduction initiatives, Climate Action plans and staff, student, and community engagement. We will strive to minimize negative impacts and optimize positive opportunities by delivering our Climate action targets and goals through our strategies, recognizing our global and local reach, through the divers operations, partnership and programs. Asia Pacific University (APU) is a member of various networks, organisations and have commitment and pledges to bring positive actions for the future of our environment, through education and research, as well as facility and resource management in line with sustainability goals.

GOAL 1: NO POVERTY

End Poverty in All Its Forms Everywhere

Research Publication
SDG 1 Related Activities

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REACHING OUT TO INDIGENOUS & UNDERPRIVILEGED COMMUNITIES

Monday 24 July 2023, 01:10 pm

"We can change the world and make it a better place. It is in our hands to make a difference." – Nelson Mandela.



A welcoming traditional dance was performed by the school children from the national primary school of Sekolah Kebangsaan Sungai Mok, during APU's crew visit.

The quote resonates deeply with the Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) and its commitment to sustainability and creativity. APU, anchored by its **School of Business (SoB), Integrated Sustainability & Urban Creativity Centre (ISUC) Student Chapter, and APU Community Engagement (ACE)**, recently made a meaningful difference in the lives of underprivileged communities across the country.

Recognizing the current situation faced by the indigenous community in Sungai Mok, Kuala Rompin, Pahang, the academic staff and students from APU's SoB and ISUC embarked on a CSR Project. They visited



The ceremony of handing over the Smart TV set to Sekolah Kebangsaan Sungai Mok, participated by (L-R): Ms. Sueraya Alwie (APU), Ms. Abhirami Sivarajan (APU), Mr. Ikhwan Al-Rashid Abdul Rahman (Aspirasi Lestari), Ms. Nadiyah Suki (APU), Ms. Azura (Rompin District Education Officer), Mr. Muhammad Haji Kalib (Headmaster, SK Sg Mok), Mr. Ranap Man (Village Elder), Mr. Rosdi Mahadi (Chairman, Village Development & Security), Mr. Muhammad Saiful (Teacher Representative, SK Sg Mok), Mr. Fadri Yusri (Chairman, Parent-Teachers' Association, SK Sg Mok).



Led by Ms. Abhirami Sivarajan (right), the representatives of APU Community Engagement (ACE) visited Rumah Kasih and donated charity funds to this old folks' home.

the national primary school, Sekolah Kebangsaan Sungai Mok, and donated a SMART TV set. This technology will be used to facilitate online English classes for children who are eager to learn but lack advanced access to educational resources.

On 7 June, the APU team, including academics from SoB, **Ms. Sueraya Alwie, Ms. Nadiyah Suki, and Ms. Abhirami Sivarajan**, along with **Ms. Chung Wei Qi**, a member of the ISUC Student Chapter, arrived at the school. The warm welcome they received was expressed through a traditional dance performed by the children. According to Ms. Abhirami who supervised the Chapter, the SMART TV, valued at around RM3000, will empower standard six students with e-learning tools and prepare them for their secondary school studies.

Associate Professor Dr. Jason James Turner, APU School of Business Senior Head, expressed his delight in making a positive impact on the community. He stated that the project's objectives align closely with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). APU's commitment to sustainability, creativity,



Agathians Shelter, an orphanage in Petaling Jaya, was another point to donate charity goods and funds by APU Community Engagement (ACE).

and community engagement contributes to various SDGs, including SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

The act of charity does not end with this one project. APU's SoB and the ISUC Student Chapter engage externally each year, selecting organisations to support and collaborate with. The decision to work with Sungai Mok primary school arose when APU was approached by Aspirasi Lestari, a local nongovernmental organization (NGO), to support e-learning for standard six students in this school with approximately 100 students and five teachers. Dr. Jason emphasized the importance of ongoing efforts to fully realise the potential impact of such initiatives, using SMART TV to provide continued teaching and learning opportunities to this eager community.

Additionally, the APU Community Engagement (ACE) successfully raised RM15,000 in charity funds through the APU Neon Run held on 6 May. Over the following two months, ACE distributed the funds and goods to four organizations: Rumah Kasih (an old folks' home), Agathians Shelter (an orphanage), FurryKids and SPCA (animal shelters).

The humanitarian acts of the APU community exemplify the transformative power of kindness in making the world a better place. While the SDGs are universal and inherently global goals, initiatives like these instil a compassionate mindset in the younger generation. By engaging in such efforts, undergraduates gain valuable insights into global issues and develop into mature citizens of the future.



Always on the move - the humanitarian acts of the APU community exemplify the transformative power of kindness in making the world a better place.

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
1	APU Handover RM14,038.90, Türkiye-Syria Fund to Mercy Malaysia	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2862
2	Reaching Out to Indigenous & Underprivileged Communities	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2884
3	APU Eco-Tourism CSR Project Empowers Indigenous Community	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2927
4	Changing the world for the better with IoT and Big Data	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2898
5	Eradicating Poverty Through Data	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2953

THE LOST FOOD PROJECT & APU - TACKLING FOOD WASTE, FEEDING THE UNDERPRIVILEGED

Monday 18 September 2023, 03:35 pm



Prof. Dr. Ho Chin Kuan (2nd from left) and Mr. Ariffin Buranudeen exchanged the signed documents, flanked by Ms. Cynthia Paul (left) and Ms. Rossin Bassi (right).

Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) and The Lost Food Project Association, also known as The Lost Food Project (TLFP), have joined hands in a significant partnership to tackle the pressing issue of food waste and feeding the needy.

"The collaboration was formalised on August 29, 2023, through an MoA signed by **Professor Dr. Ho Chin Kuan**, Vice Chancellor of APU; and **Mr. Ariffin Buranudeen**, CEO of TLFP, witnessed by **Ms. Cynthia Paul**, ISUC Student Chapter Advisor, **Dr. Stephen Poon**, Head of ISUC, as well as the ISUC Student Chapter Team, and **Ms. Rossin Bassi**, Head of Operations of TLFP."

TLFP is a Malaysian non-profit organisation dedicated to preventing quality, nutritious food from going to landfills

and redistributing it to those in need, regardless of their background.

Under this partnership, facilitated by APU's Integrated Sustainability & Urban Creativity Centre (ISUC), both parties will educate volunteers on using leftover or excess produce to create sellable items and impart this knowledge to the B40 community, thereby generating sustainable income for the underprivileged.

Training for volunteers on composting and biomass utilisation with overripe produce will be facilitated by APU Engineering students. Besides, assistance will be offered to help lower-income communities with financial planning and tracking. APU students will teach marketing techniques and tools to the B40 community.

There will be a First In First Out (FIFO) method implemented to minimize waste and create an efficient inventory management process. To further empower the B40 group, the signatories of this MoA will cultivate herbs and vegetables in recycled containers to generate income for this community.

Last but not least, both parties will organise competitions, campaigns, and awareness programmes involving schools, community members, and the B40 community to find innovative ways to utilise excess produce.

Under this agreement, both APU and TLFP

commit to collaborating on these initiatives for the betterment of society. Students and staff from APU will actively participate in the programme, contributing their expertise and knowledge.

Additionally, APU and TLFP have identified several other partners for collaboration, including Soroptimist International Club of Shah Alam, Bites n Brew, YTL International College of Hotel Management (YTL-ICHM), and Triple T Two Train Track Enterprise (Datin Jamilah and Fatim).

By formalising this partnership, APU and TLFP are taking a significant step toward reducing food waste and improving the well-being of underserved communities, whilst supporting sustainable initiatives and goals.



A group photo of representatives and staff from both APU and TLFP after the MoA signing ceremony at the Senate Room of the APU managerial office.

KEY ENGAGEMENTS UNDER SDG 2 FOR 2023

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
1	The Lost Food Project & APU - Tackling Food Waste, Feeding the Underprivileged	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2933
2	Loving And Giving: APU Community Celebrate Ihya' Ramadan By Sharing 'rizki'	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2830
3	APU Cultivating Sustainability in Tackling Food Waste and Nurturing Responsible Consumption	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2996

RECLINE AND DR FIRST AID CHATBOTS WON SILVER MEDALS AT PIID 2023

Wednesday 05 July 2023, 11:00 am

APU students from Level 2 and 1 Intelligent System built a chatbot to assist Carpal Tunnel Syndrome patients and provide basic first aid.



From left: Vinnie Teh, Chu Kwan Yeu Jovi James, and Edward Ding Hong Wai (Dr First Aid Chatbot), and Leong Kah Meng and Ho Hooi Yi (RECLINE).

It can save lives. In some cases, first aid can be the difference between life and death. For example, if Carpal tunnel patients feel pain in their hands and wrists, they can apply ice to reduce their discomfort.

These important first-aid skills may be learned with RECLINE and Dr First Aid, a chatbot created by Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) students from Level 2 and 1 Intelligent System, Leong Kah Meng, Ho Hooi Yi, Vinnie Teh, Chu Kwan Yeu Jovi James, and Edward Ding Hong Wai.

They earned two Silver medals at the Penang International Invention, Innovation, and Design (PIID 2023) under the guidance of Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Vinothini Kasinathan, Ms. Nur Amira Abdul Majid, and Dr. Julia Juremi.

PIID 2023 was organised by the Research Management Unit in partnership with the Centre for Civil Engineering Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Pulau Pinang.



PIID 2023 Silver medals and certificates.

PIID 2023 promotes 'Energising Sustainable Future Through Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation Technology' as a competition theme this year, in keeping with the government's objective to boost research activities in Malaysia and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Leong Kah Meng and Ho Hooi Yi, develop RECLINE to help persons who suffering from carpal tunnel syndrome using an

Artificial Neural Network System as part of their design.

Their chatbots include home exercise gestures for supporting patients, as well as the RECLINE voice, which provides motivation and advice like a personal physiotherapist.

The excitement Kah Meng and Hooi Yi felt while competing has undoubtedly fuelled their desire to achieve something even greater and would eagerly participate in future competitions.

"This was a great experience for us to get a good insight into the world of competing, and we would definitely be willing to push for a gold medal next time if given the chance," they stated.

Meanwhile, their junior, Edward Ding Hong Wai, Vinnie Teh, and Chu Kwan Yeu Jovi James, also earned Silver medals with their Dr First Aid, which uses chatbot technology to teach people what to do in an emergency and how to use first aid equipment and other solutions.

"Anyone can learn, and it can be utilised in schools for children to learn. In an emergency, the chatbot might potentially serve as a guide until human aid arrives," said Hong Wai represents the teams.

When asked why they created this chatbot, they say, "We feel that by doing so, we will be able to develop a system that will make a difference in society, and we are now more inspired to perform better and achieve more, especially with the assistance of my mentors, lecturers, and teammates."

Both teams are not giving up and intend to modify their systems utilising competition input to further develop intelligent system features, increase smart system function, and use their chatbot system in future competitions.

TRAUMA SKILLS TRAINING FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS AT APU

Friday 28 April 2023, 05:20 pm



Traumatic experience affects people of all ages in ways that disrupt their capacity to work, study, play, and generally function in their day-to-day lives. People often have nightmares, flashbacks, and ongoing fears about traumas that are known and unknown to them.

Mental health professionals from across the nation embarked on the two-day hands-on skills training on Treating Trauma in Children, Adults and Families held on 1 & 2 April 2023 at the Centre for Psychology and Wellbeing, APU.

This training was organized by Silver Lining Psychology Services and co-hosted by the APU Psychology Society and School of Psychology and drew 40 counsellors, psychologists, psychotherapists, medical doctors and our psychology students.

The team of expert trainers consisted of Dato Dr. Lai Fong Hwa (Psychiatrist), Ms. Loh Sit Fong (Clinical Psychologist), Ms. Silviana Bonadei (Special Educator), and our very own Psychology lecturer, Mr. Jaff Choong Gian Yong.

This training provided attendees with the skills and tools that will enable them to better engage clients through a trauma-informed lens. Such training focuses on understanding how someone who has experienced complex trauma can be triggered, processes, intakes, and deciphers information.

Understanding how to support students and peers to form secure relationships is vitally important in establishing healthy

connections and facilitating effective engagement as well as creating a trauma-sensitive institution that can provide transformational equity for all.

Apart from the analysis of symptoms, diagnosis, risk factors, and epidemiology in dealing with trauma, there were also four practical workshop sessions which were divided according to the symptoms



of trauma: 1) Dealing with Intrusion, 2) Dealing with Arousal, 3) Dealing with Avoidance, and 4) Dealing with Cognition.

This training was also beneficial in fostering collaborations with industry specialists in the field of psychology and can serve as an opportunity for future partnerships and internship opportunities for our APU Psychology students.

In fact, during the two days, the academic team from the School of Psychology were able to demonstrate some of the technology used in our curriculum such as the EEG and Eye Tracker machines to the attendees who were mental health and health practitioners from the industry who were genuinely impressed by the use of technology for psychology.

"The machines are advanced and I believe they will surely be helpful to all mental health patients. I hope APU and the team can conduct more research and provide some training for practitioners on how to fully utilize these machines in helping our clients," said Dato Dr. Lai Fong Hwa.

In conclusion, the opportunity to co-host this trauma skills training was a huge success! The knowledge and skills gained significantly benefitted the mental health professionals as well as provided scenario-based learning exposure for our staff and students from the School of Psychology.

Here are some of the participants' feedback -

"The 2-days trauma skill workshop has been an insightful experience, enlightening, packed with useful information and practical intervention tools." Ms. Emily Octavia Mathius, APU Counsellor.

"I thoroughly enjoyed and learned so much as it was a hands-on, thought-provoking training that left me inspired; feeling much more influential with the tools and resources as takeaways that I can apply immediately!" Ms. Dhevaania C. Gendsen, Psychology Lecturer.

"From the trauma workshop, I learned a lot of valuable skills and techniques to use when handling people who are traumatized. One example of a technique I learned is not to give advice right away, it is important to actively listen and validate their feelings and calm them down before trying to advise them." Kiarha Rubbinunan, Year 2 Psychology Student.

"The most rewarding to me through the workshop is I have a chance to explore what I've learned in the text and able to apply it through the practical training. It's enhanced my confidence and I've decided to explore more in the field." Edmond Chua Wei Hong, Year 1 Psychology Student.



KEY ENGAGEMENTS UNDER SDG 3 FOR 2023

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
1	Changing the world for the better with IoT and Big Data	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2898
2	APU Mental Health Week Campaign Paves the Way for Organising Special Needs Children Camp	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2982
3	Mindfulness And Well-Being For Yemeni Refugee Children Through 'Yoga Gives Back' Programme	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2818
4	Unbreakable Bonds at Fulfilling Bonding Event	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2967
5	Spine & Mind Harmony	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2992
6	RECLINE and Dr First Aid Chatbots Won Silver Medals at PIID 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2865
7	Our Colours: Where Diversity Thrives, Borders Dissolve	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2973
8	APU Merdeka Fiesta 2023: An Extravaganza Celebration of Unity and Diversity	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2977
9	Embracing Mental Wellness	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2990
10	APU Engineering Scientist Meets Nobel Laureate	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2768
11	Revolutionising Elderly Care	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2940
12	CoronAI Wins Bronze Medal In iVEDIIC 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2803
13	Watch out SPM Leavers, Can AI Decide Your Future?	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2851
14	The Future of Psychology: Exploring the Integration of Technology and Human Behaviour at APU	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2857
15	APU Sports Team Swept 4 Gold, 1 Silver And 2 Bronze In The Trident Games	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2822
16	Trauma Skills Training For Mental Health Professionals And Psychology Students At APU	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2826
17	School Of Psychology Field Trip To Child Interview Centre, Bukit Aman	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2782

GOAL 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities For All

Research Publication
SDG 4 Related Activities

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HIGHER DEGREE PATHWAYS AT APU FOR PSDC SCHOLARS

Monday 10 April 2023, 04:45 pm

Students with PSDC Engineering Diplomas can now pursue Bachelor's Degrees in Computer Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, or Mechatronic Engineering at APU with maximum credit transfers as a result of the collaboration between the two institutions.



From left: APU Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Ts. Dr. Murali Raman, APU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ho Chin Kuan, PSDC Chief Executive Officer Tan Eng Tong and PSDC Senior Manager Mohd. Hisham Abdul Mutalib, exchanged MoU documents to promote the academic opportunity for PSDC engineering diploma holders to pursue APU bachelor's degrees.

KUALA LUMPUR, 3rd April 2023 – Penang Skills Development Centre (PSDC), Malaysia's first tripartite, industry-led skills training and education centre, and **Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU)** have cemented a collaboration to provide bachelor's degree upskilling pathways for PSDC engineering diploma students.

Aside from gaining maximum transfer of credits, PSDC diploma students have advanced pathways entry options into Year 2 of APU Bachelor of Computer Engineering with Honours, Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical & Electronic Engineering with Honours, or Bachelor of Engineering in Mechatronic Engineering with Honours.

This initiative is part of PSDC and APU's objective to nurture and educate the next generation of engineers that meet the industry's needs.

The collaboration also fulfils Goal 4 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG), Sustainable Development Goals: Ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes lifelong opportunities for all.

The collaboration was formalised by **PSDC Chief Executive Officer Mr. Tan Eng Tong** and **APU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ho Chin Kuan** witnessed by **PSDC Senior Manager Mr. Mohd. Hisham Abdul Mutalib** and **APU Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Ts. Dr. Murali Raman**.

PSDC Management Council Member Ir. Ts. Bernard Lim, APU President Dr. Hari Narayanan P. Ondiveeran, APU Chief Operating Officer Mr. Gurpardeep Singh, APU Senior Director, Student Services and Marketing Mr. Muhammad Anis Ur Rehman, APU Head School of Engineering (SoE) Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr. Siva Kumar Sivanesan and APU Head of Career Centre & Alumni Connect Dr. Sryee Inthran also attended the ceremony.

PSDC has trained more than 250,000 industry workers through more than 13,000 courses, and APU transforms students into highly employable, competent, and future-proof professionals.

According to **Eng Tong**, as a premier training institute in Penang for over 33 years, PSDC always looking for best-in-class partners who matches their DNA and can develop a suitable curriculum based on engineering training, so that their students can develop

the right skills needed in today's fast-changing world.

"We focus on the training and skills the students need to get started, and PSDC provides these students with opportunities and skills so that when they graduate they will get jobs in factories and companies in Penang," he explained.

All PSDC Diploma graduates who seek employment get job offers before they graduate, based on the skills they acquire at PSDC.

"With this partnership, we give another pathway to our aspiring PSDC students who want to pursue a course in higher education at one of the best universities known for technology and innovation."

"The capabilities and reputation of APU are well known, and we look forward to working with them more closely in the future," he added.

Meanwhile, **Dr. Hari** stated that PSDC and APU have similar visions and purposes, and both are well aligned, allowing them to utilise this opportunity to leverage each other.

"Our students are our product, so we make sure every student gets the best quality education and develop them into future professionals with 100% employability," he concluded.

Through this MoU, APU offered PSDC students a 25% of credit transfer for Bachelor of Computer Engineering with Honours followed by 22% for Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical & Electronic Engineering with Honours, and Bachelor of Engineering in Mechatronic Engineering with Honours.

The total percentage of credit transfers given to diploma students enrolling in APU bachelor's degrees is the highest ever offered, ensuring a smooth flow of engineering programmes with improved modules in line with the Industrial Revolution 4.0. (IR4.0).

With this collaboration, students enrolled in PSDC engineering diploma programmes and continuing to APU degree programmes will complete their studies in 5 1/2 years – three years for the PSDC diploma and progress to APU to complete Year 2 (partial completion for



It is a done deal: Mr. Tan Eng Tong (sixth from left) representing PSDC delegation and Dr. Hari Narayanan P. Ondiveeran (seven from left) representing APU management supported this initiative, which was sealed by an MoU signed at APU's Corporate Office in Bukit Jalil.

unmapped modules), Year 3 and Year 4 of the Engineering Degree Programme, based on existing Malaysia Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) and Engineering Accreditation Council (EAC) regulations.

Aside from this, PSDC Diploma engineering students will gain professional qualifications, recognised and respected worldwide, enhancing their career prospects after graduating from APU's Engineering Degree Programmes.

The partnership between PSDC and APU will also pave the way for other long-term collaboration in relation to short courses, certification in IR4.0 core technology areas, and potentially in postgraduate programmes offered by APU, in light of both institution's commitment towards lifelong learning aspirations skills development for the nation.

SPM LEAVERS – GEAR UP FOR THE METAVERSE

Wednesday 14 June 2023, 04:06 pm



The Metaverse is a vision of what many in the computer industry believe is the next iteration of the internet.

WHILE the Metaverse remains a widely discussed topic, not many realise that this virtual space is greatly influenced by Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR).

VR is an artificial and fully-immersive experience perceived through VR headsets, totally obscuring the real world. AR, on the other hand, enhances the real physical world through technological tools.

When the physical and digital worlds are combined, we get Mixed Reality (MR), where the user can interact with and among the real world, together with digital objects.



Extended Reality (XR) is an umbrella term encapsulating Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), Mixed Reality (MR) and everything in between.

The next quantum leap in this ecosystem is Extended Reality (XR), which revolutionises spatial computing. XR is a comprehensive concept that encompasses AR, VR, MR and everything in between.

Despite AR and VR's diverse and groundbreaking experiences, they share common underlying technologies that serve as the driving force behind XR.

XR Studio at APU

To develop talents for the VR/AR/MR ecosystem, Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation (APU) has invested RM2.25mil to set up its XR Studio, which is a first-of-its-kind spatial computing facility among universities in Malaysia.

Developed in partnership with Ministry XR, the studio is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities which include a 360° volumetric video capture zone, EDEX (extended education experience) station, high specification gaming standard workstations, and MR Smart Glasses in the form of Microsoft HoloLens, Oculus Quest and HTC Vive.

In addition to this groundbreaking XR studio, APU had earlier launched, and now hosts, the VR/AR International Association (VRARA) Malaysian chapter.

This initiative provides an invaluable opportunity for students and staff to interact and share knowledge, interests and development with a global network of VR/AR peers and professionals.

Industry collaborations for high employability



The XR Studio at APU is a first-of-its-kind facility among universities in Malaysia.

APU's XR Studio project is led by APU chief innovation and enterprise officer Prof Dr Vinesh Thiruchelvam, who has jointly developed the VR/AR education blueprint with Ministry XR.

"This partnership is part of the academia-industry collaboration which continues to be APU's primary strength in having industry on campus. It drives our offering and leads to assurance of high employability for APU graduates," says Prof Vinesh.

Assignments can also be carried out at the XR Studio, providing inquisitive minds with the advantage of distinctive exposure, practical application and knowledge.

With the integration of multiple technologies, the skills of students are honed – technically and creatively – to ultimately generate high-value creative technologists for the new digital economy.

"The XR Studio comprises four stations with engagements designed to generate interest across multiple disciplines and it is the only lab where students can experience and build on professional tools to create immersive AR, VR and MR applications," says APU's Creative Interactive Technology lecturer Dr Siti Azreena.

"The studio is for lessons related to XR development. However, it is not limited to class and lab lessons, the studio is also accessible for research purposes.

"Currently, we have several research grants associated with XR technology and in prototype development."

A Bachelor's degree with specialisations in VR/AR

The journey to acquire knowledge, skills and a professional qualification in VR/AR begins with a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Multimedia Technology with specialisms in VR/AR.

Specialised modules in this programme include Introduction to VR/AR, Digital Image Production, Audio Visual Technology, VR/AR Design Principles, Advanced VR Technology, VR/AR Design Project and Investigations in Multimedia Technology.



Mixed Reality smart glasses in the form of Microsoft HoloLens (left) and Oculus Quest (right) are wearables provided at APU's XR Studio

The student projects and assignments carried out at XR Studio focus on developing skills in spatial computing related to XR technical expertise, XR creative expertise and the integration of other courses.

Through collaboration between APU and its industry partners, students are inspired to design compelling stories via the creation of interactive spatial computing systems that are supportive of the increasing industry demands.

To enhance practical skills alongside their academic knowledge, students also undertake a 16-week internship in the second year of their degree studies.

Several internship options are available with APU's industrial partner Ministry XR and other VR/AR companies, through internships that are conducted at APU's XR Studio, with guidance from respective lecturers and industry XR engineers.

APU also offers the APU-DMU dual degree programme, where students can receive two degree certificates upon graduation: one from APU and another from De Montfort University in the UK, renowned for its 150 years of experience in providing higher education.

This dual degree enhances the employability of graduates, growing their competencies towards maintaining APU's 100% employability track record.

As a Premier Digital Tech Institution (PDTI), APU was also recognised with the Outstanding Faculty Award 2022 by the Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) in February 2023.

APU-DMU DUAL DEGREE GRADUATES FULFILL GLOBAL TALENT DEMAND

Monday 27 March 2023, 04:27 pm



Parents, guardians, and visitors packed into the graduation hall to witness the significant moment when the graduates received their parchments.

The Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) celebrated the successful graduation of 1,252 students of the class of 2023 during the graduation ceremony held over 5 sessions on the 18th and 19th of March, at its Bukit Jalil campus.

Among the graduates, 229 also received Degrees from De Montfort University, UK (DMU) as part of the Dual Degree partnership between APU and DMU Dual Degree. DMU was represented by Professor Richard Greene, Deputy Vice-Chancellor; Professor Shushma Patel, Pro Vice-Chancellor Student Experience and Dean of Computing, Engineering and Media; and Dr. Richard Cross, Associate Dean International, Faculty of Computing, Engineering & Media.



Members of the DMU Senior Leadership Team Professor Richard Greene (left) and Professor Shushma Patel (right) leading the Academic Procession upon completion of a session of the graduation ceremony, accompanied by Professor Dr. Andy Seddon (back row), Senior Director of Partnership and Standards at APU.

Under the APU-DMU Dual Degree Scheme, students are awarded separate degree certificates from each institution – one from APU, Malaysia; and another from DMU, UK.

Professor Shushma Patel commented, "The APU-DMU teaching has prepared graduates to become global citizens. They have the best teaching in the Malaysian education system and the best teaching from the education system in the UK. This best of both worlds prepares them for global careers."



Professor Richard Greene, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of DMU, is seen in this photo handing a degree certificate to one of the graduates.

Commenting on transnational education efforts across borders, which enhance not just teaching and learning experiences, but also the career prospects of local and international students of APU, Prof. Richard Greene opined, "This is a magnificent achievement of our partnership and a major accomplishment by all graduates."

"To see more than 200 students in the dual-award programme graduate is exciting. What's more, this has been done through the difficult phase of the pandemic. I see the partnership being strengthened and I am looking forward to coming back in future years to see even more APU-DMU graduates," he said.



APU celebrated the successful graduation of 1,252 students from the class of 2023 during the graduation ceremony, which was held over five sessions on the 18th and 19th of March. The aisle leading to the hall was lined with a red carpet and a gigantic banner.

Dr. Richard Cross added, "I think students should have not only the confidence in the industry relevant skills that they developed but also confidence in the international benchmarking of the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), UK. They are also supported through our alumni hub where they can interact among themselves and many industry players in Malaysia, beyond Malaysia, as well as in the UK."

With a history of over 150 years, DMU was recently recognised as "Best University Careers/Employability Service" at the National Undergraduate Employability (NUE) Awards. APU's newly launched alumni portal (alumniconnect.apu.edu.my) also provides a very useful platform for networking as well as offers them access to a broad range of benefits.

The year 2023 graduating class included students from 47 countries. Among the graduates, 28 students received Best Student Prizes and another 28 students earned the recognition of Best Student Projects.

Dr. Hari Narayanan P. Ondiveeran, President of APU, and Professor Dr. Ho Chin Kuan, Vice-Chancellor of APU, congratulated the graduates on their achievements and encouraged them to continue pursuing



Professor Dr. Ho Chin Kuan, Vice-Chancellor of APU delivered the graduation address to the class of 2023.

knowledge to make a positive impact on their personal lives and well-being of society.

"As you all are now alumni of APU, I encourage you to keep in touch with us and be a part of our global community. We are looking forward to hearing about your accomplishments. Graduation is not the end, but rather, the beginning of a journey towards your dreams. Let your enthusiasm lead the way, your tenacity keep you going, and your courage carry you ahead," addressed Prof. Dr. Ho.

Awarded the status of Premier Digital Tech Institution (PDTI) from Malaysian Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC), APU is committed to offering a wide range of degree programmes in Technology that aim to nurture students into professionals and prepare them for challenging careers and roles in business and society globally. APU and DMU congratulate the graduates and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

KEY ENGAGEMENTS UNDER SDG 4 FOR 2023

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
1	APU Mental Health Week Campaign Paves the Way for Organising Special Needs Children Camp	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2982
2	Mindfulness And Well-Being For Yemeni Refugee Children Through 'Yoga Gives Back' Programme	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2818
3	Unbreakable Bonds at Fulfilling Bonding Event	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2967
4	Spine & Mind Harmony	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2992
5	Our Colours: Where Diversity Thrives, Borders Dissolve	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2973
6	Embracing Mental Wellness	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2990
7	Revolutionising Elderly Care	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2940
8	Watch out SPM Leavers, Can AI Decide Your Future?	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2851
9	The Future of Psychology: Exploring the Integration of Technology and Human Behaviour at APU	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2857
10	APU Sports Team Swept 4 Gold, 1 Silver And 2 Bronze In The Trident Games	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2822
11	Trauma Skills Training For Mental Health Professionals And Psychology Students At APU	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2826
12	School Of Psychology Field Trip To Child Interview Centre, Bukit Aman	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2782
13	Reaching Out to Indigenous & Underprivileged Communities	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2884
14	APU Eco-Tourism CSR Project Empowers Indigenous Community	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2927
15	APU and Chitkara University Join Forces to Foster Academic Excellence	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2944
16	SYWL Meetup with the IEEE President, Prof Saifur Rahman	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2986
17	APU students' triumph at ACI YLS Sustainability Startathon, head to Singapore for Youth Leadership Summit	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2989
18	Set To Collaborate With MoE To Integrate UN SDGs Into The Curricula	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2755
19	The Battle of The Undergrads Brings Unity	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2907
20	APU Venture Day Ignites the Spirit of Entrepreneurship	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2910
21	Fostering Global Academic Enrichment: A Spotlight on the SIMATS Student Mobility Programme at APU	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2923
22	ERASMUS Mobility Project of the Supply Chain Between APU & Germany's BBW University	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2932
23	APU and Futurize Announce Strategic Partnership	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2970
24	APU's International Partnerships Drive Comprehensive Product Development for Digital Transformation	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3009
25	D3finitely_N0t_AI_G3nerated Emerges Cybersecurity & Forensics Champion In ICTF 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2824
26	Understanding The Law-Making Processes at Parliament	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2873
27	APU's IMechE Student Chapter Spread Awareness on Plastic Waste Disposal at Port Dickson	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2892
28	Planet-friendly: Sustainability Heroes Of APU ISUC Student Chapter	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2820
29	Innovative Ultrasonic Scarecrow by Primary School Students Won PIID Award – a Scientific Project Mentored by APU SoT and SoC staff	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2854
30	APU Team Won MYCAT Debate Competition	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2808
31	APU Data Analytics Students Triumph In iTank Competition with Innovative Solution ti Plastic Pollution	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2908

KEY ENGAGEMENTS UNDER SDG 4 FOR 2023

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
32	APU Research Group Emerges As Winner at Data Mining Cup 2023 - Showcasing Sustainable Solutions for E-Commerce	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2881
33	Building Drone Tech With Multidisciplinary Aptitude	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2760
34	APU Wayang Kulit La Coloration Challenge 2023: A Cultural Voyage for French Students	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2993
35	APU's Robo-Whiz Claims Top Prize at World of Robotics Championship 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3013
36	School Of Psychology CSR Initiative: Special Educational Needs Children And Teenagers Camp	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2749
37	APU student book donation project brings joy to community	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2891
38	Flavours of the World Under One Roof at APU	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2919
39	Revolutionary AI-powered Python Learning Chatbot Secures Silver Award at IBIEC 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2979
40	Celebrating Multicultural Harmony	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3006
41	Lazada X APU ASBX Business Challenge Empowers Young Innovators And Next Generation Of Entrepreneurs	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2868
42	VFX, Animation & Gaming Industry Professionals Inspire APU Community @ MYDCF 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2960
43	An Anime Industrial Exposure For APU Animation Undergraduates	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2823
44	APU Student Demonstrates Cyber Security Prowess in Blue Team Challenge 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2968
45	Honorary Shawls Awarded to APU Tech Experts for Inspiring SIMATS Students in India	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2997
46	Quintupling The Fun And Acquiring Digital Skills At ?QRuined Apotic	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2821
47	Chang Shiao Huei, Shining Star Of The Wicked 6 Cyber Games, 2023 Women's Global Cyber League	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2832
48	Gain Extra Hands-on Experience at The Autonomous IoT Workshop	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2861
49	SME-Focused Digital Transformation Solution Secures Grand Champion Prize for APU Students	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2872
50	Accelerating Digital Talent-Drive in Malaysia - APU Appointed as CASUGOL Platinum Academic Partner	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2882
51	APU Students Gain Insights Into The World of Manufacturing at Canon Opto Malaysia	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2894
52	APU and AVERIS Forge Innovative Educational Collaboration	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2902
53	Cultivating Cross-Field Excellence	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2918
54	Cyberspace Defence success for APU Cybersecurity teams at Siber Siaga CTFs: Code Combat 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2929
55	Muzium Negara's 60th Anniversary features Digital Launch Gimmick by APU students	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2943
56	APU and KL Society Unite for Education, Research, and Global Engagement	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2956
57	Champions of E-Learning Innovation at IUCEL 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2961
58	APU Student Achieves Remarkable Victory in National Mathematics Olympiad Competition	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2969
59	A Spectacular Celebration of Cultural Diversity and Innovation	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2972
60	APU Cyber Security Teams Top the Charts at PETRONAS CTF 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2975
61	Highlighting Academic Excellence	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2976

KEY ENGAGEMENTS UNDER SDG 4 FOR 2023

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
62	APU Partners with Acxyn to Advance Educational Frontiers of Game Development	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2978
63	APU and SIDC form Strategic Learning & Upskilling Alliance	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2991
64	APU Cyber Security Whizzes Secure Top 3 Spots in iTREXC2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2999
65	Binary Pursuit: Tracing the Trail of the Robot's Nemesis	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3003
66	APU Student Soo Ching Hao Secures First Place at National and APJC Levels of Cisco Netriders Competition 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3007
67	APU Chapter of AMAR Club Launch: Making Waves in Professional and Ethical Conduct	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3011
68	Three APU Teams Placed In Top 10 At i-HACK 2022	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2751
69	3Particle Solution & APU Sign MoU For Broader Cooperation Related To XR, AR And VR In Virtual Production	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2752
70	APU Student Crowned Champion At Hari Profesion Teknikal Negara 2022	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2757
71	APU And Masverse Bringing Together Malaysia's First Micro-Credential Certificates In NFT	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2765
72	APU Student Wins 4th Place In Global Case Competition, 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2777
73	Multiple Wins for APU In The MDEC PDTI Awards	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2778
74	Learning Beyond The Classroom - RegTech, Innovation & Commercialisation	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2825
75	APU-Amazon Web Services (AWS) DeepRacer Competition 2023 Showcases Future Machine Learning And Data Science Talents	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2828
76	APU Bags MDEC PDTI Outstanding Faculty Award	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2853
77	APU Forges Strategic Collaboration With Red Hat Malaysia to Advance Tech Education	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2925
78	LifeTech Solutions And APU Commence Joint Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Digital Forensics, And Network Activities	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2812
79	INDUSTRIAL VISIT FOR APU ACCOUNTING & FINANCE STUDENTS	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2860
80	Crypto Exchange Visit Bridges Industry-Academia Gap	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2888
81	APU Holds Record-Breaking Mega Career Fair Offering Over 10,000 Job and Internship Opportunities	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2901
82	APU and Mission Business Academy Formalise Partnership on Leadership Development	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2938
83	Famelab Malaysia 2023 Celebrates Diverse Talents for STEM with 3 APU Students Made It to the Top 11	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2954
84	Inspiring Students' Creativity & Innovation Through Ideation	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2962
85	OpenMinds and APU Partner to Bring Industry to Students	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2971
86	APU Students Make a Mark on Sustainable Development at Fusion 2023, Winning Gold and Silver Awards	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2988
87	APU's SoE Pioneers Metrology Education with ZEISS Certified Trainers	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2995
88	A Triumph in Sustainable Engineering Innovation	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3000
89	An Inside Glimpse To The Actuarial World	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2753
90	Tea & Chat Sessions Highlight Real-Life Sharing With Cybersecurity Leaders	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2761
91	APU First-Year Banking & Finance Undergraduate Emerged Top 5 For CMT Association 2022 Internship	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2779

KEY ENGAGEMENTS UNDER SDG 4 FOR 2023

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
92	AmBank Group Inks Strategic MoU With APU To Nurture And Empower Digital Talents Under Broader IR4.0 Aspirations	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2809
93	Hackathon Wins for Women in Tech at APU	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2874
94	APU Welcomes the First Malaysian Gold Medalist From the World University Games	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2909
95	APU Officially Selected As the 1st eSports Focal Sports Centre Coordinator by MoHE	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2843
96	Varsity Team Imparts Life Skills with Dose of Fun to Orphanage Children	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2855
97	Adobe Certified Professional Malaysia Champion Heads to Florida for World Championship	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2864
98	Math Galactica 2023 - Exploring The Infinite Universe of Mathematics!	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2871
99	Real-world experience for APU students makes learning more interesting	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2875
100	APU's ESG Initiative Builds Coding Skills Among SMK USJ 23 Students	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2893
101	IEM Gold Medal for APU Mechatronic Engineering Graduate	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2900
102	School of Marketing and Management Guest Lecture Throws Light on Personal Branding and Networking	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2905
103	APU Garners Multiple Accolades at Private Education Excellence Awards 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2915
104	Success at Cybersecurity CTF Competition for APU Teams	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2931
105	ISUC Hosts Transformative Powerpoint Presentation Skill Workshop for Pusat Kreatif Kanak-Kanak Tuanku Bainunn (PKKTB)	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2934
106	APU's ESG Initiative Fosters Patriotism and Develops Digital Skills Among Orphanage Children	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2937
107	Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts of 2023/2024	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2941
108	'Welcome Back to Campus' By Graduate Student Council	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2802
109	APU-DMU Dual Degree Graduates Fulfill Global Talent Demand	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2806
110	Industrial Visit Gives An Eye-Opening Experience For APU Tech Students	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2811
111	Nurturing Financial Literacy From Young	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2813
112	Higher Degree Pathways At APU For PSDC Scholars	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2816
113	Financial Literacy For Kids: How To Raise Them Well?	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2827
114	APU Collaborates With P10 To Strengthen T&L With Advanced Financial Intelligence System	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2838
115	APU Celebrates Top Achievements In The Spring Edition Of CMT Association's 2023 Investment Challenge	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2840
116	Navigating through the challenges of a PhD	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2924
117	Empowering Communities Through Mathematical Excellence	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2947
118	Exploring the Extraordinary at the Postnormal Times Exhibition	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2951
119	Ejjaz Hakimi's Triumph and APU's Stellar Show at FameLab Malaysia 2023 Finals	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2959

GOAL 5: GENDER EQUALITY

Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls

Research Publication
SDG 5 Related Activities

1
9

HACKATHON WINS FOR WOMEN IN TECH AT APU

Friday 14 July 2023, 12:33 pm

A sustainable and inclusive tech industry requires active participation from those who are well-trained and knowledgeable in this profession, including women. However, women remain under-represented in STEM careers. Globally, women make up 31% of research and development positions in science, with the lowest proportions in Southwest Asia (24%) and East Asia and the Pacific (27%).



To create an environment where women realise their full potential and feel supported, empowered, and inspired to push boundaries, the **Code; Without Barriers Hackathon 2023** – a programme to foster diversity and inclusion in the tech industry, sponsored by Microsoft –was organised and concluded on June 8, 2023.

In this remarkable event organised by iTrain Asia Pte. Ltd. (Singapore) and supported by Girls in Tech, Inc., two female students from Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) showcased their exceptional skills and dedication to their craft in addressing different problem statements and were ultimately selected as winners, demonstrating their strength in contributing to and thriving in the tech ecosystem.

Sangeeta Yadav, a Master's student in Data Science & Business Analytics, and **Devina Wiyani**, a final-year student studying BSc (Hons) in Computer Science with a specialisation in Data Analytics at APU, were announced as the hackathon winners among 770 female participants from 12 countries across the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region.

Out of 72 impressive submissions addressing various problem statements, Sangeeta and Devina not only stood out among the rest but emerged as the sole winners for the respective problem statements, solving real-world challenges.

Sangeeta worked on a problem statement given by the company of HCLTech which required her to predict whether there

amazing. I would encourage all women out there to come out and leverage such platforms and showcase their potential," added a mother who aims to become a reputed data scientist in the future.

In this rigorous competition that lasted for one-and-a-half months, Devina disclosed that she had successfully developed a regression model with high accuracy, as high as 93%, and received applause from a Carsome representative for her extra steps in deploying the model itself by creating a mini system for users to interact with it.

"This is one of the first capstone projects I have done. It is quite challenging to learn most things from scratch despite being aspiring women in tech, both Sangeeta and Devina encouraged their counterparts. "Woman, just give your talent a push. You are never late to start. Just do it," said Sangeeta. And Devina opined, "Just continue to prove ourselves regardless of identity. Despite any difficulties, keep thriving." knowing the concept of data mining itself. I referred to quite a few Kaggle and GitHub notebooks and codes and learned how other people approach their projects. I have also learned and applied much newly learned knowledge, especially for Python," said Devina, who had been offered an internship at Carsome upon winning.



Being aspiring women in tech, both Sangeeta Yadav (left) and Devina Wiyani realise their full potential and feel supported, empowered, and inspired to push boundaries at APU.

would be an influenza outbreak in each region by using the Twitter Dataset or the Influenza Surveillance Dataset.

On the other hand, Devina solved a problem statement from Carsome that requires participants to develop a pricing algorithm accurately predicting the selling price range of a car based on auction data, brand, and mileage.

"Developing the time series model for influenza outbreak prediction was crucial for accurate and timely information to help public health officials, medical professionals, and individuals prepare and respond effectively to influenza outbreaks. By forecasting influenza outbreaks in advance, we can better allocate resources, implement preventive measures, and minimise the impact on public health," explained Sangeeta.

"The entire hackathon process was

She further stated, "The experience not only taught me a lot but also boosted my confidence and motivation to keep learning and enriching my portfolio with even bigger and better projects." Devina had been anticipating this hackathon since she had previously joined several events held by Girls in Tech, Inc., where she met many amazing women.

Being aspiring women in tech, both Sangeeta and Devina encouraged their counterparts. "Woman, just give your talent a push. You are never late to start. Just do it," said Sangeeta. And Devina opined, "Just continue to prove ourselves regardless of identity. Despite any difficulties, keep thriving."



APU outstanding female students - Sangeeta Yadav (left) and Devina Wiyani pose at the advanced-equipped tech lab on the APU campus.

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Thursday 06 April 2023, 11:52 am



APU International Women's Week was packed with events and activities, such as seminars and workshops themed 'DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality'.

In conjunction with International Women's Day 2023 (IWD) on 8th March 2023, we Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) celebrated for an entire week to honour the resilience, strength of our staff and students, while also looking forward to a brighter more equal future.

A week full of events and activities from 6th to 10th March 2023, featuring seminars, workshops and an exhibition under the theme '**DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality**', with female speakers from various industries coming together to honour this occasion and champion women's achievements.

Inspiring speakers from the School of Accounting and Finance (SoAF): Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chong Lee Lee, Ms Ng Hui Chen, Ms Cheryl Lim Chiew Lian, and Ms Kavitha Arunasalam discussed how to promote inclusivity for women in the Accounting Technology industry.

Prof. Ts. Dr. Murali Raman's second session concentrated on the realities of being a working parent, as well as how to manage expectations and challenges in the digital world while raising children.

Notable women in prominent positions also shared their insights; Women in Leading Tech Strategies by Head and Senior Vice President of Strategy and Policy, MDEC Dr. Sumitra Nair, as well as a STEM workshop on Obstacle Avoidance with Boe-Bot by Ts. Vickneswari Durairajah from the School of Engineering (SoE).

In addition, Dr. K. Chitra, Principal Sri Ramakrishna College of Arts and Science College for Women, and Dr. Latha Parameswaran, Director-Computational Science, PSGR Krishnammal College for Women, both from India, provided participants with a deeper understanding of the Digital Gender Divide from a research perspective.

At the same time, Maybank Berhad. delivered the inaugural address, titled: The Role of Technology in Shaping the Future of Work for Gender Equality by Dr. Shameem

Farouk, Executive Vice President Maybank Group Malaysia.

During the session, an online game was played, which gave three of our students a chance to intern with Maybank. Our three students Tam Jun Jie, Nafha Nasrullah, and Muhammad Luqman Hakim Abd Rahim secured 12-week internships with Maybank via an online game activity conducted during the session.

Other related topics include the value of mindfulness and the marvels of women. This event will be graced by female industry titans from various disciplines, who will come together to acknowledge the power of women in shaping the world.

At the same time, a special online session was also held by APU's strategic partner from De Montfort University (DMU) which featured speakers from United Kingdom



(UK), Malaysia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Senegal and Kazakhstan.

Among those who spoke were DMU Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Simon Oldroyd, Head of DMU Dubai Prof. Michael Gallimore, Associate Dean International (Education, Sustainability & EDI) Dr Manjeet Ridon, DMU Dubai Certified Digital Marketing Professional Dr. Fatima Beena, DMU Dubai Senior Lecturer Dr Charu Banga, DMU Kazakhstan Ms Sakina Zafar, DMU UAE Social Entrepreneur & UN Women Mentor Ms Ayesha Khan, APU Head of Digital Learning Hub Prof. Dr. Abtar Kaur, APU Senior Lecturer Ms Meera Eeswaran and special guest speaker from Peace Advocate Ms Dorothy Akende.



Senior women leaders from both the private and public sectors, as well as UN Women partners, emphasised the critical role universities can play in women's education, while also demonstrating the importance of women's leadership.

The spotlight was on the amazing women who are driving change and making an impact in their fields on Day 4 of APU's International Women's Week.

A series of talks on Equity and Equality, Women in Engineering, and Space Technologies Influencing Gender Equalities, as we honour our achievements and strive for a more equitable future.

Day 5, the final day, was dedicated to wellness. Women frequently experience stress and anxiety on a daily basis, as a result of juggling multiple roles and obligations, as well as navigating systemic inequalities and societal pressures, all of which have an impact on both their mental and physical well-being.

While APU celebrates women's accomplishments and resilience around the world, let us also commit to tackling the underlying causes of stress and anxiety in women and creating a more supportive and equitable world for all.

All events were led by an entire team of women who will continue to thrive towards continuing efforts in women empowerment activities moving forward.

Kudos to our thriving group of Women of APU consisting of Prof. Dr. Abtar Kaur, Ms Meera Eeswaran, Ms Janet Lee Pe Lini, Ms Elvi Boon Yoke Chin, Ms Adeline Chiang Chi Yie, Ms Nichole Ow Pui May, Ms Saranjit Kaur, Dr. Nur Lalia Rashidah Mohd Rahsiad, Ms Nadiah Suki, Ms Kavitha Arunasalam, Dr. Intan Farahana Kamsin, Ms Subaashnii Suppramaniam, Ms Ng Hui Chen, Ms Gaithri Gunasagran, Ms Cheryl Lim, Ts. Dr. Janitha Kularajasingam, Ms Nur Azyyati Ahmad, Ms Jasminder Kaur Harbindar Jeet Singh, Ms Michele Shivaanii Sundra Raj, Ms Analisa Hamdan, Ms Cynthia Mala Paul Dorairaj, Dr. Dhamayanthi Arumugam, Ms Vinorra Shaker, Ms Nur Ailie Sofyaiana Serasa, Ts. Vickneswari Durairajah, Assoc. Prof. Wong Bee Suan, Ms Aisyamariam Abdul Uzza and Ms Ophelia June Anak Sahak.

KEY ENGAGEMENTS UNDER SDG 5 FOR 2023

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
1	SYWL Meetup with the IEEE President, Prof Saifur Rahman	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2986
2	Quintupling The Fun And Acquiring Digital Skills At ?QRuined Apotic	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2821
3	Hackathon Wins for Women in Tech at APU	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2874
4	Celebrating Diversity And Women's Empowerment	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2814

APU TEAM NAMED THE 1ST PLACE WINNER IN THE WATER VANGUARDS CHALLENGE 2023

Thursday 26 January 2023, 05:55 pm

Dharshini, Rajveen, Chung and Keong raise public awareness about water conservation



From left: Rajveen Kaur, Datin Daria Mathew (WWF-Malaysia Freshwater Team Leader), Dharshini Ramesh Kumar, Chung Wei Qi, and Keong Yan Qi pose with their WWF tokens.

Water is essential for life and nature conservation. Freshwater, in particular, is a scarce natural resource that is critical for human survival because it serves as a major source of drinking water as well as being important for local ecosystems and native flora and fauna.

However, water conservation is a complex problem because there are several potential causes/drivers that can be a hindrance, such as unsustainable consumption patterns, pollution, loss of green cover, and so on.

The WWF-Malaysia Freshwater Conservation organised the Water Vanguards Challenge 2023 to educate the future generation through a study tour and treasure hunt activity combined with a water challenge held at Putrajaya Wetlands Park from 6th to 8th January 2023.

There was also an ice-breaker session, a visit to Pantai 2 Regional Sewage Treatment Plant, Kampung Kuantan Firefly Park, Sungai Congkak, and Semenyih 2 Water Treatment Plant, as well as the planting of a Berembang tree and learning about water quality monitoring.

Dharshini Ramesh Kumar (Cybersecurity), Rajveen Kaur (Financial Technology), Chung Wei Qi (Software Engineering), and Keong Yan Qi (Intelligent Systems) from APU won the Water Vanguards Challenge, taking home RM 800 Touch & Go e-wallet

and popular bookstore voucher.

This is their first time participating in this challenge, and through it, they learned the importance of conserving water and keeping the river clean, because the amount of usable water in the world today is around 3%, and it is difficult to maintain this percentage.

For that reason, they accepted this challenge to raise awareness of water conservation in order to reduce the water footprint.

Their team was nominated champions for being the first group to complete the water search challenge at Putrajaya Wetlands in three hours and with the highest score.

"The Water Vanguards Challenge is basically a treasure hunt activity, that focuses solely on water and river conservation activities. Along with the answer sheets, we were given a passport that contained a map with



tagged locations of the eight stations.

"We were tested with questions and activities primarily focusing on the types of botanical plants and their purpose in a wetland, phytoremediation process, types of wetland birds found, water cycle process, nature-based solutions purpose and importance, replication of water filtration process using raw materials, water footprint measures, and purpose of wetlands in achieving water and river conservation targets and goals," said Dharshini, who is the group leader for the APU team.

According to her, they enjoyed participating in this challenge despite the fact that the majority of them are in IT-related



courses and the modules they studied are somewhat relevant and applicable during the activities.

"We gained a wealth of knowledge and experience, as well as future career opportunities, throughout the challenge. What we once thought was a loose connection between IT and environmental conservation is now clear: Building with Nature (BwN) is the future of technology," she said.

Dharshini added that her long-term goal is to be a volunteer who contributes to a sustainable future by working alongside many other organisations, and she plans to participate in another event/competition in the future to expand her networks and gain new knowledge in order to embrace green practises that benefit both our mother earth and future generations.

Her teammates Rajveen, Chung, and Keong also want to be volunteers in the future to help society and the environment while learning new skills and gaining new experiences, while also contributing to a greener, more sustainable future in which technology and nature can coexist without compromising either side.

They are eager to participate in and host future events, as well as to remain committed to combating climate change by collaborating with many other organisations dedicated to achieving sustainable development goals by 2030.

Dharshini, Rajveen, Chung, and Keong, on the other hand, would like to broaden their learning horizons and embrace sustainability and green practises that benefit our mother earth, as well as influence the youth and hope that future generations will do the same.

KEY ENGAGEMENTS UNDER SDG 6 FOR 2023

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
1	D3finitely_N0t_AI_G3nerated Emerges Cybersecurity & Forensics Champion In ICTF 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2824
2	APU Team Named The 1st Place Winner In The Water Vanguards Challenge 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2758

ENERGISING THE WORLD

Tuesday 01 August 2023, 02:16 pm



APU's Petroleum Engineering programme bridges the gap between students and the real world, preparing undergraduates for the global professional world..

There are many myths circling the petroleum industry.

Some of the most common ones are that renewable energy will replace fossil fuels soon, the petroleum industry does not care about the environment and the oil industry is a monopoly.

Debunking this perception, Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) Bachelor of Petroleum Engineering programme leader Nur Ailie Sofyaiana Serasa points out some important facts that we should know about the oil and gas industry, the Petroleum Engineering degree and the outlook of this academic path.



Nur Ailie (right), who is both a petroleum engineer and geologist by profession, leads her students in geoscience fieldwork at a cut slope wall near Temerloh Toll Plaza.

Depletion of oil and gas is not true

Nur Ailie shares that the pipeline for substitute renewable energy fuels is already present, but it has not come to the mass market stage.

Until then, fossil fuels will still be in demand and highly relevant.

"This continued demand for traditional oil and gas means that the job of petroleum engineers is to make sure oil and gas

by profession.

Geologists are well-versed in materials, processes, products, and the physical nature and history of the earth.

Mining engineers, on the other hand, plan and supervise the processes involved in extracting minerals and the earth's natural resources from mines – particularly coal, when it comes to the aspect of fossil fuels.

Apart from the two professions above, the Petroleum Engineering programme faculty at APU is also made up of chemical engineers, mechanical engineers and data scientists.

Need for skilled professionals

Post-graduate study paths and career prospects for students are abundant, as they can fulfil roles across the board.

The profession of petroleum engineers can be divided into several sub-disciplines that are labelled as Upstream, Midstream and Downstream.

Upstream, which focuses on oil and gas production and exploration, involves petroleum geologists, petrophysicists, geophysicists, reservoir engineers, drilling engineers, mud engineers, completion engineers and production engineers.

Midstream, which pertains to transport and storage, involves mechanical engineers and process engineers, while Downstream, which relates to product preparation and usage involves chemical engineers.

Infusion of IT, data and computing knowledge

APU's Petroleum Engineering programme is 80% infused with software applications, which is in line with the digital transformation and productivity boost of the industry – providing graduates with career-ready skills.

APU's industry-academia partnerships, with organisations such as CMG, Baker Hughes, Kappa, Petroleum Experts Limited and Rock Flow Dynamics Ltd, make it possible for students to use software that is on par with the industrial standard for their learning and research.

The institution is also one of the first universities in Malaysia to provide students with a combination of Integrated Product Modelling (IPM) and Reservoir Engineering Simulation (tNav) modern industrial tools.

APU provides students ample hands-on practical experiences using petroleum engineering-related software tools, which is also applied in their field development project and final year project works.



APU staff using the liquid permeability equipment in the reservoir lab.

extraction is more economical to produce and use, whilst minimising the impact on the environment," she says.

"We need fresh innovative ideas to look into the possibilities of extracting hard-to-reach oil and gas, and this should come from the graduates studying the Petroleum Engineering degree."

The key message she shares is that minimising the impact on the environment will be a crucial part of academic training for a qualified petroleum engineer.

Multi-disciplined faculty

To be a successful petroleum engineer in the field also requires a good grasp of knowledge of many other related disciplines in the industry.

This is why APU hosts a number of multidisciplinary professionals at its institution, so that students learn from academics who have related industrial experience, across multiple disciplines.

"For example, the exploration stage is a sub-discipline of earth science that requires the expertise of a geologist and mining engineer," says Nur Ailie, who is both a petroleum engineer and geologist



International geoscience fieldwork hosted by APU Petroleum Engineering Programme

Professional recognition and accreditation

The Bachelor of Petroleum Engineering with Honours degree programme at APU is fully accredited by the Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM).

This enables graduates to register as graduate engineers with BEM or relevant professional bodies across the globe, provided that they are signatories under the Washington Accord.

The Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) APU Student Chapter was established under the programme in February 2020. It is supported by SPE Kuala Lumpur and recognised by SPE International.

SPE is the best avenue to bridge the gap between undergraduates and the professional world of petroleum engineering, exposing members to the current best practices and enabling familiarisation with the industrial ecosystem globally.

This ultimately enhances their professional and personal development towards a successful career, without borders.

Upon enrolling in the Petroleum Engineering degree programme, students will have the option to opt-in for the APU-DMU dual degree scheme.

Under this scheme, students will receive two sets of degree certificates and transcripts upon graduation, with one from APU and another from De Montfort University in the UK.

APU RESEARCHERS AND STAFF RECEIVED 7 AWARDS FOR INNOVATION AT ITEX'23 Thursday 06 July 2023, 01:05 pm

Students and lecturers shared 'Golden and Silver Moments' with their designs Waste Heat Energy Harvesting System To Generate Electrical Power From Automobile Exhaust Gas With Enhanced Efficiency, Alzhimex, Mavi Box Hub Machine Vision With Autonomous Drones, Rescue AI, Rambutan Peel as a Water-based Drilling Fluid Additive, MedAI and E-Wall.



From left: Manikanth Goud Gurujala, Ts. Dr. Arun Seeralan Balakrishnan, and Amogha Seelan showed their prototypes and the Gold medal they received at ITEX'23.

KUALA LUMPUR - Vishal Maheshwari, The world is changing at a rapid speed and keeping up requires innovation. In the future, we will see solutions to environmental issues as well as even more innovation in a wide range of fields from technology to healthcare to education.

So, Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) has prepared our students for the future by teaching them to be resilient and equipped with cutting-edge technology. They will be the ones to drive future innovation!

APU sent several groups to the International Invention, Innovation & Technology Exhibition 2023 (ITEX'23)



When fitted on a commercial or private vehicle, this prototype may charge the battery utilising heat energy from the exhaust.

to commercialise their prototype ideas, explore new initiatives, and seek feedback from investors so that their inventions

might serve society.

During the competition, APU team received one Gold medal and six Silver medals for their designs Waste Heat Energy Harvesting System To Generate Electrical Power From Automobile Exhaust Gas With Enhanced Efficiency, Alzhimex, Mavi Box Hub Machine Vision With Autonomous Drones, Rescue AI, Rambutan Peel as a Water-based Drilling Fluid Additive, MedAI and E-Wall.

The Gold medal was awarded to the Waste Heat Energy Harvesting System developed by Senior Lecturer Ts. Dr. Arun Seeralan Balakrishnan and two Mechatronics students, Amogha Seelan and Manikanth Goud Gurujala.

"ITEX is the perfect platform to reveal new product developments. Investors can use this platform to find new investors and persuade them to fund their projects," said Ts. Dr. Arun.

"Winning the gold medal award by the APU team demonstrates to business and industry that we, as a team, are producing calibrated young engineers who will soon serve society."

Ts. Dr. Arun is the main inventor of the harvesting heat energy system using TEGs with Heat Pipes, and two of his students supported him in competing as a team in the ITEX'23 competition, where they earned the Gold medal in the University and Educational Institution category.

According to Amogha Seelan and Manikanth Goud Gurujala, as students, they learned a lot from participating in ITEX'23, especially in terms of getting experience in developing mechanical

prototypes that match the judges' requirements.

"We learned a lot about conducting research and using engineering tools to analyse and develop a prototype that would assist us find a solution that will benefit society," said Amogha.

Manikanth added, "As a team it was a great experience to showcase the project to the public and to the judging panel that our project meets the expected criteria. The award means a lot to us, and it is an excellent acknowledgment of our efforts."

TEGs and heat pipes are already on the market, but their study focuses on keeping the temperature on the chilly side by utilising heat pipes properly.

TEGs have the ability to generate voltage and current when there is a temperature differential on both sides (hot and cold). So, utilising heat pipes containing water, the heat energy from the exhaust gas is absorbed to keep the temperature on the cold side of TEG around 30 degrees Celsius.

Dr. Siva Kumar Sivanesan, Head of CREDIT Dipl.-Ing. Ir. Narendran Ramasenderan, Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Sathish Kumar Selva Perumal, Ir. Ts. Dr. Alexander Chee Hon Cheong, Ir. Ts. Dr. Yvette Shaan-Li Susiapan, Arvin Ravindran, Chung Yu Qin, Loke Kun Ming, Sharen Chrisan Fabian Perera, Adam Filchoir, Trishah Rajendran, Yee Han Xiang, Sio Ying Xuan, Krishna Ravinchandra, Ravivarma Sivathanan, Sarim Ahmed Khalil, Ryan Teo Han Ji, Rohit Thomas, Mohammad Owais Noor Butt, Hema Latha Krishna Nair, Ng Joo Kiat, Cheng Yi Heng, Chang Kah Boon, Tan Tze Ying, Cajun Tai Ka Joon, and Haresh Haridas.

Even though CREDIT is an independent research group, SOE academic staff members participate in it and train students for competition and research under the guidance of the Chief Innovation & Enterprise Officer Prof. Ir. Eur. Ing. Ts. Dr. Vinesh Thiruchelvam, and they successfully brought home three silver medals for Alzhimex, Mavi Box Hub Machine Vision With Autonomous Drones and Rescue AI.



APU CREDIT Team with (middle) Head School of Engineering (SoE) Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr. Siva Kumar Sivanesan, Head of CREDIT Dipl.-Ing. Ir. Narendran Ramasenderan, Chief Innovation & Enterprise Officer Prof. Ir. Eur. Ing. Ts. Dr. Vinesh Thiruchelvam, Ir. Ts. Dr. Alexander Chee Hon Cheong and Ir. Ts. Dr. Yvette Shaan-Li Susiapan.

Furthermore, they extended their research by using Nanofluids in heat pipes by simulation process using Ansys workbench software, and this contribution related to 'harvesting heat energy system from the exhaust gas of automobiles' that reduces the temperature that has been thrown out as a waste to our environment and reduces the CO2 given as a waste to the atmosphere.

The best of the rest

Meanwhile, APU team from the Centre of Research and Development IOT (CREDIT) earned three Silvers awards at ITEX'23, demonstrating the team's relentless pursuit of excellence and commitment to pushing the boundaries of technological innovation.

The team presented three groundbreaking prototypes, each targeting a different category – automation and manufacturing, environment and energy, and medical health.

Stepping up to the challenge was Head School of Engineering (SoE) Assoc. Prof. Ir.



Ir. Eur. Ing. Ts. Dr. Harvin Kaur Gurchran Singh is an inspiration to other engineers and researchers, and she is sure to continue to make significant contributions in the years to come.

disaster up to 72 hours in advance, could be a game changer in disaster management. The computer-vision-equipped drones may reply to victims' requests via a smartphone app and deliver medical supplies and food.

Ir. Eur. Ing. Ts. Dr. Harvin Kaur Gurchran Singh has made significant contributions to the field of drilling fluid additives and her work has been recognised with a Silver medal at ITEX'23.

Her research on the use of Rambutan Peel as a Water-based Drilling Fluid Additive has the potential to revolutionize the drilling industry, as it could lead to the development of more environmentally friendly and cost-effective drilling fluids.

Ir. Eur. Ing. Ts. Dr. Harvin's research includes an experimental investigation of the usefulness of bio-degradable food waste products (Rambutan peel) as an ideal supplement for controlling mud rheological qualities because it not only works similarly to a synthetic drilling fluid but also has a low environmental impact.

The team led by Ir. Eur. Ing. Ts. Dr. Lau Chee Yong, which comprised his student Ng Jing Wei, Goh Kwok Liang, Jason Seah, Matthew Lim Jian Le, and Sean Tan Ming Yuan, also won Silver for MedAI, a medication cabinet with built-in artificial intelligence.

MedAI's main function is to export the medication at a predetermined time and remind the user to take it, considerably reducing the possibility of overdosing and medication forgetfulness by the user and is visible and configurable via mobile phone.

It can also remind the user to refill medication if it runs out, record the amount and time of medication consumption for later diagnosis and tracking, and save



From left, Ng Jing Wei, Jason Seah, Ir. Eur. Ing. Ts. Dr. Lau Chee Yong, Goh Kwok Liang, Sean Tan Ming Yuan, and Matthew Lim Jian Le showed Silver's MedAI prototype.



From left, Stephane Jean-Michel Benstrong, Ishaq Easa Muzammil, Dheneshwar Arasu, Ir. Jacqueline Lukose, Howard Young, Taimoor Khalid and Muhammad Abdool Hakim Lallmamode with their Silver medal and certificates.

important data such as the user's blood pressure and heart rate via specialised devices.

Team Innovus mentored by Ir. Jacqueline Lukose, which included Dheneshwar Arasu, Ishaq Easa Muzammil, Muhammad Abdool Hakim Lallmamode, Stephane Jean-Michel Benstrong, Howard Young, and Taimoor Khalid, was also awarded a Silver medal for their prototype, E-Wall.

E-Wall is a technology that uses an autonomous collecting platform to collect and automate the separation of e-waste. It collects e-waste using machine vision and a clever sorting system before transporting it to recycling centres. This method greatly lowers the likelihood of e-waste getting up in landfills and damaging the environment.

APU team's success at ITEX'23 is a testament to the power of collaboration, innovation, and determination. By working together towards a shared goal, these brilliant minds have demonstrated what can be accomplished when they are unshakably dedicated to their work.

Their achievement is a shining example of the transformative power of technology, and it is sure to inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

KEY ENGAGEMENTS UNDER SDG 7 FOR 2023

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
1	Energising the world	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2896
2	APU Researchers And Staff Received 7 Awards for Innovation at ITEX '23	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2869

GOAL 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote Sustained, Inclusive And Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment And Decent Work

Research Publication 13
SDG 8 Related Activities 26

APU HOLDS RECORD-BREAKING MEGA CAREER FAIR OFFERING OVER 10,000 JOB AND INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Friday 11 August 2023, 03:24 pm



The Career Centre of APU deployed three floors for a venue setting hosting more than 550 human resources practitioners manning booths in its annual Mega Career Fair, AMCF 23.

The Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) held its annual **Mega Career Fair, AMCF 23**, on 14 June 2023, setting new records by providing more than 10,000 job and internship opportunities to its students. The event saw the participation of 151 employers, including those from Singapore, Romania, and Finland, making it the most robust, dynamic, and international career fair to date.

AMCF 23 took place across three floors at APU's iconic campus in Mranti Park (Technology Park), Bukit Jalil, and was organised by the university's Career Centre. **Mr. Hariharan**, the Lead of Industry Outreach & Corporate Training at APU, shared, "This year, we received an overwhelming response from employers wishing to join APU Mega Career Fair. As we did not wish to disappoint these employers, we, therefore, decided for the first time to extend the booth setups to three floors on our campus."

The fair attracted more than 550 human resource and industry practitioners manning the employer booths.

Over 6,000 APU students attended the fair including those who were soon to graduate. More than 200 graduating students were given job offers on the spot, with the numbers still growing at the time of writing.

During this year's career fair, APU also collaborated closely with the Malaysian Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC)

to organise interview sessions with employers on the second day of the fair. MDEC had also arranged for students from a number of other Malaysian universities to also attend these interview sessions.



Over 150 employers participated in AMCF 23, offering close to 6,000 full-time job opportunities and 4,000 internship placements, all eagerly sought after by the swarming applicants.

Ms. Nor Ayu Ahmad, HR Manager for Human Resources Business Partner of Mercedes-Benz Malaysia Sdn. Bhd., emphasised, "As we at Mercedes-Benz Tech Malaysia are in the digitalisation, and the nature of our business is providing software solutions for Mercedes-Benz Group around the globe, so there is important for us to find talents as many as possible. Our main position is a full-stack developer, from junior until senior level, and we find APU is among the best universities in supplying us with these graduates!"



Mercedes-Benz Tech Innovation, which develops technological innovations, digital products, and advanced software solutions exclusively for Mercedes-Benz, made its debut at AMCF 23.

For students seeking internships and job opportunities, they were impressed with the event. **Mohd. Zawawi Abdunrosaeh**, a Bachelor of Computer Science (Hons) (Intelligent Systems) student, opined, "With more hiring companies coming into the campus, students like me can explore the opportunities available in terms of the offers, benefits, and working environment of each company offered."



Students are impressed with AMCF 23 because there are ample opportunities to secure a full-time job as well as an internship.

Mohammad Fitri Amiruddin, a University Malaya student, expressed his excitement about the job opportunities at APU Mega Career Fair. "Congratulations to APU for organizing a large-scale career fair, and hopefully, my efforts today will bear fruit," he said.

Liu Koh En, studying BA (Hons) in Business Management with a specialisation in E-Business at APU, rated the event 4-star out of 5. "This is because I hope APU can include more organisations that offer business positions as a majority of the companies here today are looking for IT-related positions."



Students from APU and beyond seeking internships and job opportunities visit the booths at AMCF 23 to explore the opportunities available.

However, for Year-2 Business Management students like **Sameera Kaleem** from India, **Mozhdeh Alsharfar** from Iran, and **Nagham Abu Ali** from Palestine, the APU Mega Career Fair provided fantastic opportunities for industrial training and internships, preparing them for future employment in their home countries. "I sent over ten applications to MSC companies in Malaysia because I want to find a job in India that is related to the

experience I gained during my industrial training or internship here in Malaysia," said Sameera.

Concluding the fruitful event, **Mr. Gurpardeep Singh**, Chief Operating Officer of APU, remarked, "AMCF 23 attracted more than 150 organisations offering close to 6,000 full-time employment opportunities to our students. This represents an increase of more than 30% as compared to the previous year!"



An APU student confidently presented himself during the on-the-spot job interview at AMCF 23, testifying to APU's ability to transform students into highly employable, competent, and future-proof professionals.

Mr. Gurpardeep added, "The event received an overwhelming response from our students who enthusiastically engaged with the employer representatives. More than 1,000 interviews were held on campus, and on-the-spot job offers were also made. This is a clear indication of how strongly sought-after APU graduates are. It was also very heartening to see amongst the employers a number of our alumni present to recruit our students. We are also excited that MDEC had worked with us this time around".

Overall, the COO found that this year's fair was a resounding success and provides a very strong impetus for all APU's staff to continue doing what they do best in transforming students into highly employable, competent, and future-proof professionals.

AFTER-SALES 3D DIAGNOSTIC TOOL LANDS APU TEAM TECHIFY THE GRAND CHAMPION PRIZE AT HILTI IT COMPETITION 2023

Monday 29 May 2023, 04:06 pm

After-sales services and diagnostics, particularly in diagnosing previously sold defective tools, are crucial for maintaining good branding as they directly impact user experiences. Research reveals that 83% of consumers abandon a brand after just one negative customer service encounter, while a mere 1% average human error rate can lead to significant financial costs in business operations.



Team Techify comprising (L-R) Jackson Tai, Jordan Sahabudin, Tan Wei Siang (Team Lead), Mr. Victor Khoo Shien Yang (Mentor), and Gan Wei Jun. They are holding pictures of a member and mentor who couldn't attend the ceremony, Goi Yi Shen & Mr. Amad Arshad.

In light of these findings, **Team Techify**, consisting of five BSc (Hons) in Software Engineering students from the Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU), proposed an innovative IT solution titled *Improving HILTI's After-Sales Diagnosis with 3D Scanning and Machine Learning*. This solution not only aligns with the challenges faced by the construction industry but also positions the team as the frontrunner for the **Grand Champion of the HILTI IT Competition 2023**.

With this victory, the team of five claimed the championship title, a distinction that APU had traditionally held since 2020. The team, led by **Tan Wei Siang**, boasted a formidable lineup comprising Business Lead **Jordan Sahabudin**, Innovation Lead **Jackson Tai**, Operation Lead **Goi Yi Shen**, and Technology Lead **Gan Wei Jun**.

The HILTI IT Competition is an annual global IT competition that provides a platform for junior talents worldwide to tackle daunting challenges from the construction industry. This year, 187 teams, consisting of a total of 656 participants from 31 different nationalities, submitted their proposals between early October 2022 and mid-February 2023. Team Techify advanced to the semi-finals alongside 15 other teams in March and ultimately emerged as the Grand Champion among seven finalists. The prize ceremony took place on May 12 where **the team was awarded a sponsored trip to one of HILTI's strategic IT locations in Switzerland**.

As a multinational company providing products and services for professionals in the construction industry globally, HILTI continuously seeks improvements in its processes amidst the paradigm shift of the fourth Industrial Revolution (IR4.0), aiming to maximise positive impact from the manufacturing plant to the tool service centre. As the competition organiser, the company looks for a rejuvenating force that can transcend the current limitations of digitalisation in construction, while also considering business viability and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Based on this context, Team Techify conceived a highly technical solution leveraging 3D scanning and Machine Learning (ML) to achieve better quality control, reduce tool inspection turnaround time, enhance customer experience, and improve new product design.

According to Tan Wei Siang, the team lead, "3D scanning could improve HILTI's after-sales return process by obtaining the surface deviation of the defective tools and analysing the root cause of the problem. Meanwhile, ML can accurately predict the failure probability of all the parts with a HILTI tool based on historical data patterns."

In contrast to manual inspection, which is susceptible to human error and results in long turnaround times for after-sales returns, 3D scanning and ML can identify the causes of defects based on the scanning results and historical data. This transformative approach can elevate a business to new heights by enhancing customer experience and satisfaction. Tan added, "It could help increase process efficiency by 30%, thereby contributing to profit growth."

The team received guidance from the university's mentors, including Mr. Amad Arshad, Senior Lecturer of the School of Computing, and Mr. Victor Khoo Shien Yang, an APU alumnus of Software Engineering. They also benefited from industry mentors from HILTI Group, namely Ms. Christine Schwaerzler-Duerlinger, Cohort Lead Tool Services, Global IT, and Mr. Ng Kim Hoong, Team Lead IT Integrated Operations Centre. Additionally, Mr. Eric Yong Sze Guan, an ambassador from the competition organiser, provided support.

Furthermore, Team Techify's proposed solution aligned with several of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By utilising ML, the solution can create a more efficient workforce and generate new job opportunities for analysts, thereby supporting SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth.

Moreover, by enhancing the company's resilience during crises and keeping it at the forefront of technological innovation, the solution contributed to SDG 9 - Industry,



Team Techify with (Back row L-R) Gan Wei Jun, Jordan Sahabudin, Tan Wei Siang (Team Lead), Jackson Tai, and Mentor Mr. Victor Khoo Shien Yang (front) joyfully celebrates the Grand Championship of the HILTI IT Competition 2023 with the award of a sponsored trip to one of HILTI's strategic IT locations in Switzerland.

Innovation and Infrastructure. The team's focus on fixing and refurbishing tools to promote sustainable consumption aligns with SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption & Production.

By integrating their proposed solutions with these SDGs, the APU team's proposal demonstrated a broader impact and promoted sustainable practices, making it more appealing to the panel of eight judges, including senior leaders from HILTI



(L-R) Tan Wei Siang (Team Lead), Jordan Sahabudin, Gan Wei Jun, and Jackson Tai.

and senior academicians from Malaysian public and private universities. APU's Chief Innovation and Enterprise Officer, Professor. Dr. Vinesh Thiruchelvam, was one of the judges.

Associate Professor. Dr. Tan Chin Ike, the Head of the School of Computing (SoC), commended Team Techify's success and acknowledged the participation of Team AR Innovators, who made it to the final round. He remarked, "The HILTI IT Competition provides an ideal platform for APU's technophiles, as we ensure that APU students not only have the necessary technical skills but a competitive mindset and problem-solving acumen that is sought after by major tech companies. This serves as a testament to APU's position as the Premier Digital Tech Institution, offering top-notch digital technology courses that ensure the development of highly skilled talents who can meet emerging tech job demands both locally and globally. Congratulations and well done to all the participants."

LAZADA X APU ASBX BUSINESS CHALLENGE EMPOWERS YOUNG INNOVATORS AND NEXT GENERATION OF ENTREPRENEURS

Tuesday 04 July 2023, 12:30 pm



(From left) Sharvin Ravindran, Vishal Maheshwari, Prof Angelina Yee and Kirana Maharani believe start-ups are the way forward for millennials.

Fourteen students from the Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation (APU) were announced as the winners of **Lazada Malaysia x APU ASBX Business Challenge** that took place on 22 June 2023. The programme was designed to provide a dynamic platform to foster greater entrepreneurial spirit and business-oriented analytical thinking among the students while opening the door for them to gain a greater understanding of the eCommerce industry from an online selling perspective.

Lazada Malaysia x ASBX Business Challenge is one of the initiatives under the Enterprise@APU programme called ASBX (APU SandBox). It kicked off with the first workshop in April 2023, conducted via a hybrid mode of online and face-to-face interactions over two months, leading up to the Business Challenge finale by the end of June 2023. Open to all APU students, 21 teams comprised of 105 students from the School of Business, School of Marketing and Management, School of Engineering and Enterprise Academic Fellows participated in the challenge.

During the workshop and leading up to the Business Challenge finale, the students were coached to solve real-life industry challenges and address problem statements within the scope of eCommerce entrepreneurship, omnichannel ecosystem and marketing by their mentors at APU - Prof. Dr. Vinesh Thiruchelvam, Chief Enterprise and Innovation Officer; Dr. Beh Ching Yew,

Head of Entrepreneurship and Innovation; Professor Dr. Angelina Yee, Director of Research and Enterprise; Dr. Stephen Poon, Chair & Head of Integrated Sustainability and Urban Creativity; Jasminder Kaur, Senior Lecturer and Certified Trainer, School of Business, alongside Iv Ho, Vice President of Seller Engagement, Lazada Malaysia; Lim Yong Keat, Head of Seller Tools and Management, Lazada Malaysia; and Ashleigh Ng, Head of Seller Brand Marketing, Seller Engagement, Lazada Malaysia.

Through the workshop and leading up to the business challenge finale, the participating students were encouraged to optimise the latest technology as a way to enhance Lazada's seller journey. The students also presented intriguing case studies such as; blockchain to reduce logistics complexity, solutions to help increase Lazada seller's store performance, AI bot to aid review and more.

During the finale, Team Bargain pitched the best Business Challenge idea of **'Integrated Young Entrepreneurs Community Platform with AI-Enabled Imaging'**, and they emerged as the top champion. Team Underrated clinched the spot as first runner-up with the idea **'Gamified Seller Platform and Rewards System to Motivate Seller Participation on eCommerce Platform'**, while Team The Hustlers was the second runner-up with the idea **'Embedding Artificial Intelligence to Personalise Sales for Digitally Savvy and Active Customers on Social Media'**. The three winning teams took home a total of RM1,500 in cash prizes and special Lazada University merchandise.

"Our team was tremendously excited when we heard that Lazada will be the integral focus of our Business Challenge. The workshop and the valuable coaching lessons that we gained from Lazada and our APU mentors were truly insightful, and it broadened our horizons and exposed us to many facets of eCommerce," shared Trishah Rajendran, Viman Vinesh, Arvin Ravindran and Pua Zhe Yong of Team Bargain.



The three winning teams of the Lazada Malaysia x APU ASBX Business Challenge.

Driven by the long-term objective of empowering the local youth and future-ready talents, value-added initiatives by Lazada that promote strategic collaborations between higher learning institutions and companies such as this will continue to support and sprout the next generation of young entrepreneurs. In 2022, Lazada also launched Lazada4Youth via a 5-year MoU with Universiti Teknologi Mara. **Lazada4Youth** workshops have been organised across UiTM campuses to engage and expose more youth to the opportunity within digital commerce and unlock their potential as online entrepreneurs.

In a digital era where eCommerce is a powerful equaliser, the young generation will have at their disposal affordable and accessible digital empowerment, enabled by Lazada - Southeast Asia's eCommerce pioneer, supporting them to grow and thrive in business and commerce. This will be an impactful undertaking, especially with the projected growth of Malaysia's eCommerce market, estimated to reach around RM47 billion by 2023.

KEY ENGAGEMENTS UNDER SDG 8 FOR 2023

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
1	SYWL Meetup with the IEEE President, Prof Saifur Rahman	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2986
2	Spine & Mind Harmony	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2992
3	Trauma Skills Training For Mental Health Professionals And Psychology Students At APU	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2826
4	APU Eco-Tourism CSR Project Empowers Indigenous Community	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2927
5	APU Venture Day Ignites the Spirit of Entrepreneurship	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2910
6	APU and Futurize Announce Strategic Partnership	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2970
7	D3finitely_Not_AI_G3nerated Emerges Cybersecurity & Forensics Champion In ICTF 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2824
8	Revolutionary AI-powered Python Learning Chatbot Secures Silver Award at IBIEC 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2979
9	LAZADA x APU ASBX BUSINESS CHALLENGE EMPOWERS YOUNG INNOVATORS AND NEXT GENERATION OF ENTREPRENEURS	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2868
10	VFX, Animation & Gaming Industry Professionals Inspire APU Community @ MYDCF 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2960
11	An Anime Industrial Exposure For APU Animation Undergraduates	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2823
12	Chang Shiau Huei, Shining Star Of The Wicked 6 Cyber Games, 2023 Women's Global Cyber League	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2832
13	SME-Focused Digital Transformation Solution Secures Grand Champion Prize for APU Students	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2872
14	APU Students Gain Insights Into The World of Manufacturing at Canon Opto Malaysia	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2894
15	Cultivating Cross-Field Excellence	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2918
16	APU Student Achieves Remarkable Victory in National Mathematics Olympiad Competition	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2969
17	Highlighting Academic Excellence	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2976
18	APU and SIDC form Strategic Learning & Upskilling Alliance	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2991
19	APU Student Soo Ching Hao Secures First Place at National and APJC Levels of Cisco Netriders Competition 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3007
20	3Particle Solution & APU Sign MoU For Broader Cooperation Related To XR, AR And VR In Virtual Production	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2752
21	APU Student Crowned Champion At Hari Profesion Teknikal Negara 2022	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2757
22	Learning Beyond The Classroom - RegTech, Innovation & Commercialisation	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2825
23	APU Bags MDEC PDTI Outstanding Faculty Award	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2853
24	LifeTech Solutions And APU Commence Joint Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Digital Forensics, And Network Activities	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2812
25	Industrial Visit for APU Accounting & Finance Students	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2860
26	Crypto Exchange Visit Bridges Industry-Academia Gap	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2888
27	APU Holds Record-Breaking Mega Career Fair Offering Over 10,000 Job and Internship Opportunities	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2901
28	OpenMinds and APU Partner to Bring Industry to Students	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2971
29	An Inside Glimpse To The Actuarial World	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2753
30	Tea & Chat Sessions Highlight Real-Life Sharing With Cybersecurity Leaders	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2761

KEY ENGAGEMENTS UNDER SDG 8 FOR 2023

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
31	APU First-Year Banking & Finance Undergraduate Emerged Top 5 For CMT Association 2022 Internship	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2779
32	AmBank Group Inks Strategic MoU With APU To Nurture And Empower Digital Talents Under Broader IR4.0 Aspirations	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2809
33	APU Officially Selected As the 1st eSports Focal Sports Centre Coordinator by MoHE	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2843
34	Adobe Certified Professional Malaysia Champion Heads to Florida for World Championship	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2864
35	Real-world experience for APU students makes learning more interesting	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2875
36	APU's ESG Initiative Builds Coding Skills Among SMK USJ 23 Students	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2893
37	IEM Gold Medal for APU Mechatronic Engineering Graduate	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2900
38	School of Marketing and Management Guest Lecture Throws Light on Personal Branding and Networking	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2905
39	ISUC Hosts Transformative Powerpoint Presentation Skill Workshop for Pusat Kreatif Kanak-Kanak Tuanku Bainunn (PKKTB)	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2934
40	APU's ESG Initiative Fosters Patriotism and Develops Digital Skills Among Orphanage Children	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2937
41	'Welcome Back to Campus' By Graduate Student Council	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2802
42	APU-DMU Dual Degree Graduates Fulfill Global Talent Demand	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2806
43	Nurturing Financial Literacy From Young	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2813
44	Financial Literacy For Kids: How To Raise Them Well?	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2827
45	APU Celebrates Top Achievements In The Spring Edition Of CMT Association's 2023 Investment Challenge	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2840
46	Navigating through the challenges of a PhD	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2924
47	Double Championships for APU Students in Nationwide Hackathon	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2847
48	After-sales 3D Diagnostic Tool Lands APU Team Techify the Grand Champion Prize at HILTI IT Competition 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2848
49	ICDBSE 2023: Addressing SDG's and Unlocking Potential of Digital Technologies on Business and Society	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2987
50	Sustainable Fashion Idea Wins Accolades At Intervarsity Challenge	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2819
51	Embracing emerging Accounting Technology	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2903
52	Next-Gen Games Development for Next-Gen Games Professionals	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2981
53	APU's Economic Expertise Illuminates National Governance	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3005
54	Double Championships for APU Students in Nationwide Hackathon	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2847
55	Gearing Up for the Digital Future	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2899
56	Echoes of Victory in the ESTECH 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2952

GOAL 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
Build Resilient Infrastructure, Promote Sustainable Industrialization and Foster Innovation

Research Publication 23
 SDG 9 Related Activities 88

DISASTER MANAGEMENT AI-POWERED DRONE WINS GOLD MEDAL AT WICO 2023 *Wednesday 20 September 2023, 04:20 pm*

RescueAI, the AI-powered drone that's taking disaster management to the next level, took home the highest invention technical award at WICO 2023 and advanced to the finals (business plan competition) of the DB-SNUbiz Global Startup Challenge 2023.



From left: Cheng Yi Heng, Ng Joo Kiat, Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr. Siva Kumar Sivanesan, Dipl-Ing. Ir. Narendran Ramasenderan, Prof. Ir. Eur. Ing. Ts. Dr. Vinesh Thiruchelvam, Cajun Tai Ka Joon, Mr. Krishna Ravinchandra and Ang Jia Ze.

RescueAI: Smart City Disaster Management System with AI and Aerial Robotics, developed by a group of talented young engineers and researchers from **Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU)**, was awarded a **Gold Medal at the 12th World Invention Creativity Olympic (WICO) 2023**, the world's most prestigious invention competition.

The esteemed WICO 2023 Gold Medal Award is a Special Award given by the Turkish Inventors Association (TÜMMIAD) and a further recognition by the Toronto International Society of Innovation & Advanced Skills (TISIAS).

WICO 2023 was held in Seoul, South Korea organised by the Korea University Invention Association (KUIA) and sponsored by the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.

RescueAI was built by a team of experts and students from APU's School of Engineering (SoE) and the Center for Research and Development of IOT (CREDIT), led by **Dipl-Ing. Ir. Narendran Ramasenderan, Mr. Krishna Ravinchandra, Ng Joo Kiat, Cajun Tai Ka Joon, Ang Jia Ze, and Cheng Yi Heng.**

With the support of **APU Chief Innovation & Enterprise Officer Prof. Ir. Eur. Ing. Ts. Dr. Vinesh Thiruchelvam** and **Head SoE Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr. Siva Kumar Sivanesan**, the team developed a pioneering prototype that stands as a beacon of innovation in disaster management.

RescueAI stood out among 1,200 inventions from 80 countries that were awarded the Gold Medal at WICO 2023. It used artificial intelligence (AI) and aerial robotics to collect real-time data on the environment, such as weather conditions, structural damage, and the location of people and assets.

This data is then used to create a digital twin of the disaster area, which can be used to simulate different scenarios and plan the most effective response.

The team is excited about the potential of RescueAI and is currently working on commercialising the system and making it available to governments and businesses around the world.

"We are honoured to have won the Gold Medal at WICO 2023," said Dipl-Ing. Ir. Narendran, added, "The team's success is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the entire team as well as the power of innovation and the potential of young people to make a difference in the world."

"RescueAI demonstrates how technology may be applied to solve real-world problems and improve people's lives."

Delta APU team, top 5 finalists out of hundreds.



From left: Cheng Yi Heng, Ng Joo Kiat, Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr. Siva Kumar Sivanesan, Dipl-Ing. Ir. Narendran Ramasenderan, Prof. Ir. Eur. Ing. Ts. Dr. Vinesh Thiruchelvam, Cajun Tai Ka Joon, Mr. Krishna Ravinchandra and Ang Jia Ze.

Meanwhile, APU is represented by **Ng Joo Kiat, Chang Kah Boon, and Cheng Yi Heng** from team **Delta** in the **DB-SNUbiz Global Startup Challenge 2023**, where

they advanced to the final round in Korea and won fully sponsored travel tickets and accommodations worth over RM13,000.

The DB-SNUbiz Global Startup Challenge 2023 is co-organized by the DB Group, a major South Korean corporation that specialises in cutting-edge green technology and financial services, and Seoul National University (SNU), Korea's top-ranked higher education institution.

Team Delta also featured RescueAI: Smart City Disaster Management System with AI and Aerial Robotics as a project intended to address the issues caused by climate change, which has resulted in extreme weather events such as heat waves and floods.

To replace the 2D dashboard, the team designed a 3D Digital Twin model, which provides a more comprehensible representation of flood and fire disasters. This Digital Twin model can run flood simulations that properly anticipate flood spread and impact on various places..

Drones equipped with sensors and pre-trained YOLOv8 models are used to record real-time data, while the Digital Twin model is constantly updated to ensure data accuracy.

A mobile app for reporting flood and fire incidents is also being developed. This app contains AI detection and alarm functions that simplify the reporting process and enable for quick responses to emergencies.

Even though the team did not win any awards in the finals, they were able to clearly articulate the problem they were trying to solve, the solution they developed, and the potential impact of their project.

They also had the opportunity to visit South Korea's capital, Seoul, and participate in a variety of activities, such as exploring Seoul Start-Up Hub, SNU and the DB Finance Centre.

RescueAI demonstrates how technology may be applied to solve real-world problems and enhance people's lives. It serves as a powerful reminder that the young can do great things – to create a future in which technology serves humanity, fostering a global community that is united in its quest for safety, innovation, and progress!

SME-FOCUSED DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION SOLUTION SECURES GRAND CHAMPION PRIZE FOR APU STUDENTS

Wednesday 12 July 2023, 12:18 pm

As digital transformation continues to be a top priority for global business organisations, the market value of this sector has reached an impressive USD 588 billion. With global spending on digital transformation projected to reach USD 3.4 trillion by 2026, tertiary education institutions are expected to play a vital role in providing an innovative workforce to meet the growing market demand.

Team **DoBetter**, comprising undergraduate students from Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) Computer Science and Information Technology programmes, showcased how young talents can bridge the gap for 77% of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Malaysia that are still in the early stages of digitalisation.



Team **DoBetter** is made up of **Woon Eusean** (3rd from left onwards), **Nicole Ee Sze Mien**, **Hoh Shen Yien** (Team Lead), and **Khor Zhen Win**. They received recognition as the **Grand Champion of ImpactHack 2023**, flanked by **Inbaraj Supiah**, **Jomhack** (1st from left onwards); **Sammeer**, **Managing Director, Private and Business Banking**; and **Joy Chowdhury**, **Chief Technology and Operations Officer, Standard Chartered Malaysia** (1st from right).

The team, led by **Hoh Shen Yien**, a high-achieving final-year student from the Computer Science Data Analytics specialism track, emerged as the **Grand Champion of ImpactHack 2023**. This nationwide hybrid hackathon, organised by **Standard Chartered** and hosted

by **JomHack**, focused on digitalising Malaysian SMEs to transform the industry.

With the support of Hoh's capable teammates, **Khor Zhen Win** (Data Analytics), **Nicole Ee Sze Mien** (Information Technology - Digital Transformation), and **Woon Eusean** (Computer Science), Team **DoBetter** stood out among 100 teams with over 350 participants, including industry professionals from all over Malaysia.

The APU students won a cash prize of RM30,000 from the event's total pool of RM105,000.

Their project, **BizFlow**, is a centralised data intelligence solution featuring a user interface (UI) that provides a general-purpose solution with potential benefits for various industries. The team successfully navigated the 48-hour virtual hackathon held from June 16 to 18, qualifying as one of the top 10 teams. They then captured the attention of the judges during a five-minute presentation at the grand final, which took place physically at the Asian International Arbitration Centre (AIAC) on June 24.

"BizFlow was developed using Next.js, React, and Flask, enabling us to build a functional website with a seamless UI and high performance within a short timeframe. This allowed us to distinguish ourselves from our competitors. Overall, our team demonstrated exceptional skills in data science, business and marketing, web development, innovation, and creativity," explained the team lead.

The team employed various AI models, including **FlowAI**, a powerful Large Language Model powered by **ChatGPT's API**, supplemented with a locally trained **Llama Index** that provides the model with relevant knowledge about the business's data. By highlighting the challenges faced by SME owners, the team demonstrated how **BizFlow** can digitalise day-to-day

operations and business processes using AI.

"BizFlow went the extra mile by incorporating **Stable Diffusion** models, enabling the inclusion of media such as images and videos in the output. It further distinguishes itself by automating user actions, allowing for message sending, posting of social media images, and even providing video recommendations based on user prompts," explained Hoh, emphasising the team's innovative approach.

In addition, recognising that typing may not be convenient for every SME owner, the team implemented a voice recognition feature, which was a unique feature in the competition.

Upon their victory, the team was delighted to be invited for a tea session with the judges and sponsors, an honour that further acknowledged their hard work and dedication.

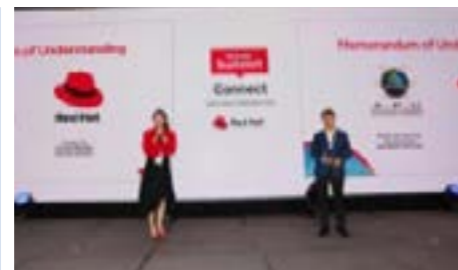
Affirming the exceptional achievements of his students from the School of Computing, **Associate Professor Dr. Tan Chin Ike** remarked, "Team **DoBetter's** victory in **ImpactHack 2023** not only highlights their exceptional skills in the area of digital transformation but also underscores the significant role APU plays in meeting market demands and empowering SMEs from a talent perspective. Through their innovation and creativity, the students have set a remarkable example and benchmark for the next generation of innovators. That is what the young talents at APU always strive toward - constantly pushing the boundaries of technology, innovation and a winning mindset."

APU FORGES STRATEGIC COLLABORATION WITH RED HAT MALAYSIA TO ADVANCE TECH EDUCATION

Monday 11 September 2023, 02:08 pm

The Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) has formalised a strategic collaboration with **Red Hat Malaysia** through the signing of a comprehensive **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to advance technology education and innovation in the region.

This agreement was inked by **Tammy Tan**, Country Manager of **Red Hat Malaysia**, and **Professor Dr. Ho Chin Kuan**, Vice Chancellor of APU, on September 5, 2023, during the official **Red Hat Summit: Connect 2023** at **Pavilion Hotel Kuala Lumpur**.



Tammy Tan (left), Country Manager for **Red Hat Malaysia** onstage with **Prof Dr Ho Chin Kuan**, Vice Chancellor of **APU** after the **MoU signing ceremony** at **Red Hat Summit Connect Kuala Lumpur**.

This strategic collaboration between **Red Hat**, the world's leading provider of enterprise open source solutions, and **APU**, a Higher Education Institution with a Premier Digital Tech University status awarded by the **Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC)**, aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry, fostering technological innovation and preparing students for careers in an ever-evolving technology landscape.



Tammy Tan (left), Country Manager of **Red Hat Malaysia**, and **Professor Dr. Ho Chin Kuan**, Vice Chancellor of **APU**, exchanged the symbolism of **MoU** during the official **Red Hat Summit: Connect 2023** at **Pavilion Hotel Kuala Lumpur**.

The **MoU** outlines the key objectives of this collaboration, which include: **Curriculum Benchmarking and Endorsement**; **Internship Opportunities**; **Webinars, Talks, and Events**; **Certification Initiatives**, and additional collaborative initiatives.

In collaboration with **Red Hat**, **APU** will ensure the relevancy of selected **Computing Degree** programmes by benchmarking their curriculum against skills and competencies both organisations see as needed in the technology industry.

The partnership will promote internship opportunities for **APU** students within **Red Hat**, offering them valuable industry experience.

Both parties will collaborate to organise webinars, talks, and events that raise awareness about **Red Hat's** enterprise open source solutions across key areas such as **DevOps**, **Cloud Computing**, **Automated Testing**, **Cyber Security**, and **Application Development**.

Red Hat and **APU** will also work together on certification initiatives, benefiting both students and academic staff, fostering skill development and industry recognition. In addition, the **MoU** paves the way for additional collaborative initiatives, ensuring that the partnership remains dynamic and responsive to evolving needs.

Looking forward to the working ties established, **APU VC Prof. Ho** remarked, "Through the strategic collaboration between **Red Hat** and **APU**, we embark on a journey to shape the future of tech education. This collaboration not only bridges the gap between academia and industry but also ignites a beacon

of innovation, guiding students towards success in the ever-evolving tech landscape. As we benchmark curricula, provide internships, and host insightful events, we pave the path for students to thrive and for technology to flourish."

Concurred, **Tammy Tan** added, "Malaysia has set ambitious goals to establish itself as a digital hub in the **ASEAN** region. To drive digital competitiveness, we are taking the initiative to collaborate with **APU** in accelerating open source education. This collaboration could have a multiplier effect on knowledge-sharing and solving real-world problems. The newly established collaboration aims to foster a culture of learning and growth, providing opportunities for individuals to acquire in-demand digital skills. This, in turn, will contribute to the country's digital transformation."

In sum, the strategic partnership between **Red Hat Malaysia** and **APU** is a testament to the power of collaboration, education, and innovation in shaping the future of technology education and fostering the growth of individuals and industries alike.

KEY ENGAGEMENTS UNDER SDG 9 FOR 2023

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3	An Anime Industrial Exposure For APU Animation Undergraduates	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2823
4	3Particle Solution & APU Sign MoU For Broader Cooperation Related To XR, AR And VR In Virtual Production	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2752
5	APU Bags MDEC PDTI Outstanding Faculty Award	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2853
6	Crypto Exchange Visit Bridges Industry-Academia Gap	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2888
7	An Inside Glimpse To The Actuarial World	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2753
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12	Sustainable Fashion Idea Wins Accolades At Intervarsity Challenge	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2819
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15	Gearing Up for the Digital Future	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2899
16	Echoes of Victory in the ESTECH 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2952
17	APU Researchers And Staff Received 7 Awards for Innovation at ITEX '23	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2869

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
18	Hackathon Wins for Women in Tech at APU	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2874
19	Celebrating Diversity And Women's Empowerment	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2814
20	Watch out SPM Leavers, Can AI Decide Your Future?	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2851
21	The Future of Psychology: Exploring the Integration of Technology and Human Behaviour at APU	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2857
22	APU's International Partnerships Drive Comprehensive Product Development for Digital Transformation	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3009
23	Innovative Ultrasonic Scarecrow by Primary School Students Won PIID Award - a Scientific Project Mentored by APU SoT and SoC staff	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2854
24	APU Data Analytics Students Triumph In iTank Competition with Innovative Solution ti Plastic Pollution	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2908
25	APU Research Group Emerges As Winner at Data Mining Cup 2023 - Showcasing Sustainable Solutions for E-Commerce	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2881
26	Building Drone Tech With Multidisciplinary Aptitude	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2760
27	APU's Robo-Whiz Claims Top Prize at World of Robotics Championship 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3013
28	APU Student Demonstrates Cyber Security Prowess in Blue Team Challenge 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2968
29	Honorary Shawls Awarded to APU Tech Experts for Inspiring SIMATS Students in India	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2997
30	Gain Extra Hands-on Experience at The Autonomous IoT Workshop	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2861
31	Accelerating Digital Talent-Drive in Malaysia - APU Appointed as CASUGOL Platinum Academic Partner	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2882
32	Cyberspace Defence success for APU Cybersecurity teams at Siber Siaga CTFs: Code Combat 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2929
33	Champions of E-Learning Innovation at IUCEL 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2961
34	APU Partners with Acxyn to Advance Educational Frontiers of Game Development	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2978
35	APU Cyber Security Whizzes Secure Top 3 Spots in iTREXC2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2999
36	Binary Pursuit: Tracing the Trail of the Robot's Nemesis	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3003
37	Three APU Teams Placed In Top 10 At i-HACK 2022	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2751
38	Multiple Wins for APU In The MDEC PDTI Awards	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2778
39	APU-Amazon Web Services (AWS) DeepRacer Competition 2023 Showcases Future Machine Learning And Data Science Talents	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2828
40	APU Forges Strategic Collaboration With Red Hat Malaysia to Advance Tech Education	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2925
41	Famelab Malaysia 2023 Celebrates Diverse Talents for STEM with 3 APU Students Made It to the Top 11	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2954
42	Inspiring Students' Creativity & Innovation Through Ideation	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2962
43	APU's SoE Pioneers Metrology Education with ZEISS Certified Trainers	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2995
44	A Triumph in Sustainable Engineering Innovation	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3000
45	Success at Cybersecurity CTF Competition for APU Teams	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2931
46	Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts of 2023/2024	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2941
47	Industrial Visit Gives An Eye-Opening Experience For APU Tech Students	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2811

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
48	Higher Degree Pathways At APU For PSDC Scholars	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2816
49	APU Collaborates With P10 To Strengthen T&L With Advanced Financial Intelligence System	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2838
50	Ejjaz Hakimi's Triumph and APU's Stellar Show at FameLab Malaysia 2023 Finals	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2959
51	Changing the world for the better with IoT and Big Data	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2898
52	RECLINE and Dr First Aid Chatbots Won Silver Medals at PIID 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2865
53	APU Engineering Scientist Meets Nobel Laureate	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2768
54	CoronAI Wins Bronze Medal In iVEDIIC 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2803
55	STOU, Thailand & APU Collaboration Focuses on Research and UNESCO Chair Projects	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2845
56	ASEAN Battle of Hackers (ABOH) 2023 Triumphs, Transformations, and Cybersecurity Champions	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3012
57	Forging a greener future	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2916
58	Disaster Management AI-powered Drone Wins Gold Medal at WICO 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2939
59	Real-World Business Exposure and Fun Learning at Yakult Malaysia for APU Students	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2955
60	APU Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Club Shines at ETH Seoul 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2856
61	Tackling cybersecurity challenges	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2858
62	Edge computing: The future of AI and IoT	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2886
63	APU and Korea Valuation Association (KVA) Join Forces for Technology Advancements	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2942
64	APU Students Experience the Science and Culture Behind Vitagen's Success	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3001
65	APU Innovations Take the Spotlight at MSC Malaysia APICTA 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3002
66	SERENIX - A Compassionate and Sustainable Innovation in Handling the Deceased During Emergencies	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3004
67	APQueue Wins The 30-Hour No-Code Hackathon	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2771
68	APU SoMAD Students And Faculty Win Big At Wheel Rims Design Challenge	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2829
69	APU And Jeonju University From Korea Join Hands To Boost Digital Innovations	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2839
70	SPM Leavers - Gear Up for the Metaverse	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2850
71	Industry-Academia Alliance Enhances Robotics and Automation Skills & Graduate Employability	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2928
72	A Low-cost Self-stabilizing Spoon For People With Parkinson's Won International APICTA Award	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2750
73	11 Awards at Prestigious Research and Innovation Competitions for APU Students & Staff	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2911
74	Pioneering 5G-Enabled Solutions For The Industry	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2764
75	APU's Team Triumphs in the 2023 ASEAN-ROK Youth Mataverse Idea Contest	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3008
76	Gaining Insights into Technology Audit Methodology	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2904

MINDFULNESS AND WELL-BEING FOR YEMENI REFUGEE CHILDREN THROUGH 'YOGA GIVES BACK' PROGRAMME

Wednesday 12 April 2023, 04:29 pm

The School of Foundation Studies (SoF) recently organized a **Yoga Gives Back** session as a fundraising activity to support a group of Yemeni refugee children. This initiative was spearheaded by **Ms. Ruthira Nair**, Lecturer of SoF.

Working together with **Ms. Amutha**, an external instructor who generously offered her services to spread the ancient science of yoga for the well-being of others, the event aimed to instil mindfulness and well-being amongst refugee children during the auspicious month of Ramadhan and Eid celebrations.

One of the unique aspects of this programme was the participation of students and staff from various ethnic and religious backgrounds, showcasing unity and a shared intention to improve the lives of others.

The focus of the session was on Sun Salutation, known as "Surya Namaskar" in Sanskrit, which comprises 12 specific asanas or moves. Amutha, with the assistance of Ruthira as the demonstrator, introduced all 12 steps to the participants.

For over 80% of the participants, this was a completely new experience as they had never seen or heard of Sun Salutation before. Upon learning about

the benefits, many expressed their interest in integrating yoga into their daily routine to create a sense of balance in today's fast-paced and digitized world.

The session also dispelled misconceptions that yoga is associated with any particular religion, emphasizing that it is a way of living a mindful life. For students, this was a wonderful opportunity to enhance their on-campus living experience.

Overall, the session provided participants with an opportunity to broaden their thinking and strengthen their concentration. It also offered some much-needed "me-time", particularly for working adults who often prioritize taking care of others. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "If you want to change the world, change yourself first." Being physically and mentally fit enables us to better help others.

In conclusion, the Yoga Gives Back session organized by the SoF was a successful fundraising activity that brought together people from diverse backgrounds in support of Yemeni refugee children. It promoted the practice of yoga for well-being, dispelled misconceptions about religion, and encouraged participants to prioritize self-care while helping others. It was a valuable experience that enriched the lives of all

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APU STUDENT BOOK DONATION PROJECT BRINGS JOY TO COMMUNITY

Monday 31 July 2023, 04:01 pm

As part of his Tunku Abdul Rahman Scholarship effort, Tan Wei Siang was able to gather 1,760 pre-loved books and donate them to five community libraries and schools throughout George Town.



Tan Wei Siang, a Software Engineering student at Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation (APU), enjoys reading. He believes that everyone, regardless of background or circumstances, should be able to experience the joy of reading.

That is why, with the support of 10 volunteers from Taman Free School Village Community Management Council and Young Malaysian Movement (YMM), he formed the 'Books for All' project as part of his Tunku Abdul Rahman Scholarship effort to help give books into the hands of individuals in need.

Wei Siang is also the Founder and Lead of 'Care for All'. He launched the 'Books for All: Donate A Book Change A Life' campaign in April, and manage to collect 1,760 pre-loved books.

Wei Siang started small by collecting books from friends and family. However, as word spread, more people began donating books, including Book For A Better World – a social enterprise company – which donated 400 children's pre-loved books such as fiction/non-fiction books, school textbooks, encyclopaedias, dictionaries, self-help books, and motivational books, while the balance is from public donation around Klang Valley.



Among the books donated by Book For A Better World and Klang Valley residents and taken back to Penang to be donated to those in need.

He brought back all the books and donated them to Mini Library Phone Booths in George Town (outside Balai Polis Lebuah Pantai), Pertubuhan Kebajikan Insan Penyayang Pulau Pinang, Sekolah Menengah Jenis Kebangsaan (SMJK) Heng Ee, Taman Sri Nibong Books Adoption Centre in Tzu Chi Environment Protection Education Centre, and the Lighthouse Drop-in Centre.

He also donated some of the pre-loved books to 100 underprivileged kids at Taman Free School in Jelutong, in addition to the five community libraries and local schools, since he recognised the

transformative power of education and expanded his vision to include the Books for All campaign.

"Students who get the books will be able to raise their reading engagement and academic achievement, while community libraries will be able to revitalise their collections and make them more accessible to the community, along with bringing people together and creating a more literate community," said Wei Siang.

He is honoured and proud of all the donors' efforts to spread the joy of reading because they recognise how books can open up a world of possibilities for people, and he is

committed to ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the joy of reading.

Wei Siang previously raised RM70,000 through crowdfunding and eSports competitions during the pandemic and donated food baskets to over 1,000 underprivileged families in Taman Free School – Penang's poorest area – for two years as part of the Care for All projects.

For his noble and caring efforts to help the poor, Wei Siang received the Penang Young Excellence Award in Pandemic Leadership from the Penang State Government.



The Books for All campaign will continue in the future with various plans.

KEY ENGAGEMENTS UNDER SDG 10 FOR 2023

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
1	Watch out SPM Leavers, Can AI Decide Your Future?	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2851
2	Trauma Skills Training For Mental Health Professionals And Psychology Students At APU	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2826
3	APU's ESG Initiative Fosters Patriotism and Develops Digital Skills Among Orphanage Children	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2937
4	'Welcome Back to Campus' By Graduate Student Council	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2802
5	Nurturing Financial Literacy From Young	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2813
6	Mindfulness And Well-Being For Yemeni Refugee Children Through 'Yoga Gives Back' Programme	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2818
7	Our Colours: Where Diversity Thrives, Borders Dissolve	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2973
8	Revolutionising Elderly Care	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2940
9	APU Sports Team Swept 4 Gold, 1 Silver And 2 Bronze In The Trident Games	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2822
10	School Of Psychology CSR Initiative: Special Educational Needs Children And Teenagers Camp	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2749
11	Flavours of the World Under One Roof at APU	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2919
12	Celebrating Multicultural Harmony	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3006
13	A Spectacular Celebration of Cultural Diversity and Innovation	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2972
14	APU Welcomes the First Malaysian Gold Medalist From the World University Games	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2909
15	Watch out SPM Leavers, Can AI Decide Your Future?	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2851

GOAL 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
Make Cities Inclusive, Safe, Resilient And Sustainable

Research Publication 9
 SDG 11 Related Activities 8

BUILDING DRONE TECH WITH MULTIDISCIPLINARY APTITUDE *Thursday 02 February 2023, 10:11 am*

Ir. Narendran Ramasenderan spearheading UAS skillsets building at CREDIT, APU

According to the Malaysian Research Accelerator for Technology and Innovation (MRANTI), which currently leads the national Drone Technology (MyDroneTech) industry development initiative, the drone tech market in Malaysia is projected to contribute RM50 billion to the GDP and create 100,000 job opportunities by 2030.1

While the Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) market is set to revitalize various industries across the gamut from logistics to factory operation management, the demand for UAS skillsets in Malaysia is now seen skyrocketing.



Ir. Narendran Ramasenderan (2nd from right) is working on a drone with his novices at the Centre of Research and Development of IoT (CREDIT), APU.

Ir Naren received his Master's degree in global solar production engineering from the Technical University of Berlin, Germany, and has accumulated vast industrial experiences in photovoltaic engineering, and silicon crystal growth automation from Ruhr, the German industrial heartland, Ir. Naren's expedition into drone tech has proven to set APU's engineering graduates apart from their domestic peers.

"My current foray into drone tech is to very much dovetail APU's current engineering forte into robotics, specifically autonomous robots as I leverage our engineering students as the future talents in the drone industry with hands-on skills," introed Ir. Naren - APU's first drone pilot by Malaysian law endorsed by the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM).

Ir. Naren explained his intention of acquiring a Remote Pilot Certificate of Competency (RCoC-B). "As my research and work with the various aerial drone projects in APU progressed, we managed to secure a partnership with the Malaysian fire brigade through MRANTI to participate in the Drone technology task force to alleviate and help the flood rescue operation in 2022.

"However, as per the civil aviation law in Malaysia, only registered pilots can fly a drone in Malaysia, and as such, to participate in the exercise, I had to register so that APU could join the task force," he said.

This eligibility will enable Ir. Naren to train more drone pilots at APU, therefore, not only

CREDIT members could participate in drone projects with industrial partners but also equip upcoming graduates with the relevant skillset to excel in their future careers.

"I hope to further develop our solution to incorporate swarm capabilities and more advanced AI features to increase its capability," said Ir. Naren whose expertise is in industrial automation and autonomous machines to synergize the various hardware and software elements within the artificial intelligence, data analytics, and simulation, leveraging them towards application-centric engineering applications.



Ir. Narendran Ramasenderan (seated, 1st from left) posed with his CREDIT team members who won multiple national and international awards with their purpose-built drones, a testimony of meeting the demanding multitude of the work environment.

Established in 2016, CREDIT is anchored on the School of Computing, School of Engineering, and School of Technology which have since trained and equipped over 10,000 students. It is a testbed and prototype centre for various industry-academic partnerships having established projects with various multinational companies.

The projects undertaken by CREDIT are woven into students' studies, which infuses the industrial horizontals and technology verticals to keep them abreast on the industrial landscape and helps grow their competencies towards maintaining APU's 100% employability track record through their industry-tested skill stacks and project portfolios.



Leading the Centre of Research and Development of IoT (CREDIT) at Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU), Ir. Narendran Ramasenderan, Senior Lecturer at the School of Engineering (SoE) is taking a pivotal role in spearheading aerial drone projects.

Leading the Centre of Research and Development of IoT (CREDIT) at Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU), **Ir. Narendran Ramasenderan**, Senior Lecturer at the School of Engineering (SoE) who is taking a pivotal role in spearheading aerial drone projects, is now readying to demonstrate and field test APU's firefighting and flood assistance drones with novices he trained.

Way before their projects got endorsed by the disaster authorities in Malaysia, Ir. Naren and his team have earned multiple national and international recognitions - the winner of **MYStartup Hackathon X DNB 2023**, grand prize winner of the **Intel Industry-University Challenge 2022** (flood-assist drone), bronze prize winner of **Bitgram International Exposition of Electric Power Technology, BIXPO 2022** (smart fire fighting drone), and many more.

"Our programmes emphasise hands-on skills and industry-ready graduates by incorporating the industry needs into the engineering curriculum more palatable to the government bodies, especially given the huge focus we now place on industry-relevant projects in their classroom assignments," added Ir. Naren who currently registered as an international professional engineer license with Australia, Germany and Malaysia.

Reflecting on the various drone projects he had participated with his students which won multiple awards, Ir. Naren summed up that these were the synthesis of multi-disciplinary knowledge and skills.

"At CREDIT, we leverage students from across the computing and engineering spectrum to create cohesive and diverse teams. It also builds character as they work within the constraint of a timeline based on the contest's due date and the need to be creative to solve the problems with the resources at hand.

"Furthermore, they are taught to design, build and troubleshoot the prototype for pilot deployment and in some cases full

deployment as we work with industrial partners, engaging them in real-life scenarios which mimic closely their working life once they graduate. These experiences are valuable and much sought after by employers, as they show their resilience and capability to perform well under stress," he further elaborated.

On a larger perspective, Ir. Naren foresaw the most sought-after skillsets for the Malaysian drone tech industry would be in the field of software and hardware integration, primarily dealing with customized AI solutions embedded in various specific applications and the ability to design and customize the drone design, payload and overall system to meet the demanding multitude of the work environment.

"The skillsets in demand would require a team of engineers with a high degree of multidisciplinary aptitude, working in collaboration to calibrate and troubleshoot the various issues. This is a perfect fit for the engineering programmes at APU, which gear our students through various multidisciplinary projects in their final year project work," underlined Ir. Naren.

Kampung Orang Asli Bukit Panjang's Jakun community comprises 250 residents with a rich traditional cultural heritage in a village setting. The project's facilitators introduced the villagers to effective communication, intending to enable them to not only provide information about their culture to tourists but also convey the deep significance and importance of their traditions.

The APU volunteers participating in this project included a student pursuing a BA (Hons) in Accounting and Finance (Forex and Investments) and four Diploma in Business with Information Technology students - Anusha Albert Edise Nelson, Chong Eu Meng, Eric Ee Yang Lim Jr., Gautamm Geeva Nathan, and Ryan Lim Yi Ren. Their involvement in this CSR project provides practical, real-life exposure to study modules - Managing Services, and Business Communication Skills.

Recognising that effective communication necessitates nurturing self-esteem, interpersonal skills, and overall development, Dr. Nor Azrul and other academics utilised simulations to provide hands-on experiences for the learners. "During these simulations, Orang Jakun assumed roles, interacting with hypothetical tourists simulated by APU students to engage in conversations and share cultural insights. This practical session proved invaluable, allowing



A group picture of the project volunteers and the Orang Jakun community in concluding the event was taken in the community hall in Kampung Orang Asli Bukit Panjang, Bukit Kepong.

participants to refine their skills in a controlled and supportive environment," said Dr. Nor Azrul.

The event was made possible through generous financial support and sponsorship by APU and the Association of Malaysian Environment-Behaviour Researchers (AMER), highlighting their commitment to supporting initiatives that empower indigenous.

APU ECO-TOURISM CSR PROJECT EMPOWERS INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY

Tuesday 12 September 2023, 01:58 pm

In line with the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development's mission, the School of Marketing and Management (SoMM) at the Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) launched a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project aimed at empowering the indigenous Jakun people by promoting sustainable eco-tourism in their village.



APU volunteers who were made up of lectures and students kicked off "The Indigenous in Eco-Tourism 1.0 (Communication)" project at Kampung Orang Asli Bukit Panjang in Bukit Kepong, Muar, Johor. From left - Eric Ee, Ms. Nooraneda, Anusha Albert, Chong Eu Meng, Gautamm, Ryan Lim and Dr. Nor Azrul.

On September 4, 2023, a team of seven APU volunteers journeyed to Kampung Orang Asli Bukit Panjang in Bukit Kepong, Muar, Johor, to engage in immersive activities with the locals. Following these activities, an expert-led Communication Skills Enhancing Session was conducted.

Dr. Nor Azrul Mohd Zin, a lecturer at APU's SoMM, led "The Indigenous in Eco-Tourism 1.0 (Communication)" in collaboration with the Department of Orang Asli Development (JAKOA), which is under the said Ministry, and the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM).

Dr. Nor Azrul, Ms. Nooraneda Mutalip Laidey, a lecturer from the School of Business at APU; and Dr. Suhaizi Suhaimi from IIUM played instrumental roles in guiding and empowering the indigenous participants to enhance their communication skills for eco-tourism.

Kampung Orang Asli Bukit Panjang's Jakun community comprises 250 residents with



APU students experiencing the art of woven handcraft at Jakun Community

a rich traditional cultural heritage in a village setting. The project's facilitators introduced the villagers to effective communication, intending to enable them to not only provide information about their culture to tourists but also convey the deep significance and importance of their traditions.

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Dr. Suhaizi of IIUM demonstrated how to play Kercang and facilitated how to use effective communication skills in promoting a traditional game to tourists.

KEY ENGAGEMENTS UNDER SDG 11 FOR 2023

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
1	Building Drone Tech With Multidisciplinary Aptitude	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2760
2	An Anime Industrial Exposure For APU Animation Undergraduates	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2823
3	APU Researchers And Staff Received 7 Awards for Innovation at ITEX '23	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2869
4	Changing the world for the better with IoT and Big Data	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2898
5	Disaster Management AI-powered Drone Wins Gold Medal at WICO 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2939
6	SERENIX - A Compassionate and Sustainable Innovation in Handling the Deceased During Emergencies	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3004
7	APU SoMAD Students And Faculty Win Big At Wheel Rims Design Challenge	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2829
8	SPM Leavers - Gear Up for the Metaverse	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2850
9	APU Eco-Tourism CSR Project Empowers Indigenous Community	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2927
10	Next-Gen Games Development for Next-Gen Games Professionals	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2981
11	Reaching Out to Indigenous & Underprivileged Communities	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2884
12	Planet-friendly: Sustainability Heroes Of APU ISUC Student Chapter	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2820
13	APU Wayang Kulit La Coloration Challenge 2023: A Cultural Voyage for French Students	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2993
14	Syawal Fest 2023: A Festival of Unity, Diversity & Culture	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2863
15	Fostering Sustainable Living and Social Responsibility through Community Engagement	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2958

FORGING A GREENER FUTURE Tuesday 29 August 2023, 07:44 pm

According to the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), industrial design is essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – particularly Goal 9 which focuses on infrastructure, innovation and sustainable industrialisation.



APU's industrial design programme is designed to equip students with the best design practices that prioritise circularity and sustainability.

Sustainable Design is one of the specialised areas that a student pursuing a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Industrial Design at Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) can delve into, along with other modules such as Product Design, Transport Design and Furniture Design.

APU School of Media, Arts and Design (SoMAD) programme leader **Christine Lim Pei Shin** shares that industrial design not only plays a pivotal role in sustainable development but also contributes to the circular economy, as it shapes our material environment to meet our needs and desires, while minimising negative environmental impacts.

"By selecting eco-friendly materials, reducing waste, optimising energy usage, influencing user behaviour towards sustainability and facilitating recycling or repair, industrial designers can drive the transition towards a circular economy," she says.

The circular economy is a system aimed at addressing climate change, global issues and preserving our planet, so that materials never become waste and nature is regenerated.



The Lesterial research team at SoMAD transforms cardboard, egg cartons and other organic materials into synthetic composites that are suitable to use to make daily products.

Given this context, APU's industrial design programme is designed to equip students with the best design practices that prioritise circularity and sustainability.

Whether students choose the pathway of Sustainable Design, Product Design, Transport Design or Furniture Design, the curriculum is equally infused with circularity principles, sustainable practices and considerations for sustainability implications.

Focusing on the pathway of Sustainable Design, curated for those with a keen interest in global sustainability efforts, individuals will learn more on the principles of eco-design.

This provides them with the knowledge to create products and systems that have minimal environmental impact.

Sustainable Design students are taught to design with considerations for energy efficiency, waste reduction, recyclability and reusability, providing a comprehensive understanding of the product lifecycle from a sustainable perspective.

This approach aligns with the principles of the circular economy, preparing students to be forward-thinking designers capable of developing innovative, environmentally friendly solutions.

The teaching methods employed by SoMAD to foster Sustainable Design thinking include tasks such as reimagining packaging for major global brands to adopt eco-friendly practices, creating alternative sustainable materials from industrial waste, designing items with repair and recycling to extend their lifespan and transforming collected corrugated board into a new sustainable synthetic composite.

APU students have showcased brilliant examples of sustainable inventions such

as "Kuno", a sustainable cooler fridge that requires zero electricity; "WaterPod", a sustainable seawater desalination pod for sea nomads; and "Whalecro", an underwater propulsion vehicle with a micro debris filtering system.

These designs garnered international recognition by winning the prestigious James Dyson Awards in 2020 (national winner), 2021 (national winner) and 2022 (national runner-up).



"WaterPod" – a sustainable seawater desalination device designed for sea nomads, harnesses basic science and the energy of the sun to convert seawater into drinkable water. This achievement earned APU Industrial Design students the James Dyson Award 2021 in Malaysia. (Photo courtesy of James Dyson Award).

As global environmental concerns continue to grow, there is an increasing demand for industrial designers that are equipped with sustainability knowledge.



Whalecro, designed by APU students with expertise in industrial design and engineering, is an underwater propulsion microplastic clean-up vehicle aimed at the eco-tourism market. This project won the national runner-up position in the James Dyson Awards 2022. (Photo courtesy of James Dyson Award)

"As businesses strive to minimise their ecological footprint, and create products and systems that not only satisfy consumers but also respect our planet, designers who can blend aesthetics, functionality and eco-friendliness are highly sought-after," says APU SoMAD head **Debbie Liew Pooi Kuan**.

"They are capable of guiding companies towards a more sustainable future. Furthermore, mastery of sustainable design principles positions designers at the forefront of this significant shift, making them key players in the drive towards a sustainable world."

Both Lim and Liew agree that industrial design goes beyond creating aesthetically pleasing products, as it is a comprehensive process that requires a deep understanding of manufacturing techniques, market demands and user requirements.

"Industrial Designers are not just artists, they are problem solvers, strategists and system architects who ensure that every product is functional, manufacturable and tailored to customer needs," adds Liew.

"With their unique blend of creativity and practical knowledge, industrial designers play a crucial role in creating products

that are not only visually stunning but also resonate with users and succeed in the marketplace."

SoMAD provides advanced facilities with the latest technology to inspire creativity while arranging real-world industry projects that offer hands-on experience.

A key feature of the programme is individualised mentoring, where experienced lecturers with industry backgrounds – committed to staying relevant in their field – provide personalised guidance to help students reach their full potential.



APU's purpose-built campus with an ultra-modern design is strategically located at MRANTI Park Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur.

Combined with strong industry connections, APU offers a balanced blend of theory and practical training, nurturing skilled designers ready to tackle future challenges.

In addition to tutorial sessions and consultation guidance, Industrial Design students engage in real industry class briefs facilitated by industry professionals.

This process provides students with constructive feedback to enhance their skills and valuable experience working with the industry through designated modules.

To further expand their portfolio and sharpen their skills, students are encouraged to participate in competitions and initiate network building through the school's strong connections.

Industrial Design students at APU have the option to participate in the APU-DMU Dual Degree Scheme, which awards them a pair of degree certificates and transcripts upon graduation – one from APU Malaysia and another from De Montfort University (DMU) in the UK.

APU RESEARCH GROUP EMERGES AS WINNER AT DATAMININGCUP2023-SHOWCASINGSUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR E-COMMERCE Monday 24 July 2023, 12:02 pm

A team of academics with a student from the Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) was selected as one of the winners of the **Data Mining Cup 2023**, alongside two universities from Germany. The APU team was the only research group from Malaysia and Asia to participate in this international competition.



APU research group shares a light moment with the winners and jury of Data Mining Cup 2023 at its workshop in Old Smithy's Dizzle in Berlin.

Out of the 69 teams from 17 countries that took part in the competition, APU emerged in the Top 3, together with the Anhalt University of Applied Sciences (AUAS) and the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences (Frankfurt UAS).

The winning research group consisted of Senior Lecturer **Mr. Mafas Raheem**, and Associate Professor **Dr. Nirase Fathima Abubacker**, both academics from the School of Computing (SoC), as well as

Ms. Devina Wiyani, a student from the BSc (Hons) in Computer Science specialising in Data Analytics.



Upon winning Data Mining Cup 2023, the APU research group with Associate Professor **Dr. Nirase Fathima Abubacker** (left) and **Mr. Mafas Raheem**, both senior lecturers of the School of Computing, presented their project titled "Returns Reduction in E-commerce" at a workshop held in Berlin, Germany.

As winners, they were sponsored by the organiser, GK Artificial Intelligence for Retail AG, Germany, to present their data mining project focusing on sustainability at the Data Mining Cup workshop held on June 22nd in Berlin.

The annually held Data Mining Cup (DMC for short) competition aims to enthuse university academics and students in intelligent data analysis (data mining) and to challenge them to find the best solution while competing with others. After holding for more than 20 years, the organiser made it more interactive with a focus

on networking this year by highlighting several projects from the winners in a joint workshop.

During the workshop, the trio presented their project titled **Returns Reduction in E-commerce**, which aimed to improve customer satisfaction and minimise returns by classifying and analysing product reviews. Their presentation garnered positive feedback from the audience.



APU's School of Computing Associate Professor **Dr. Nirase Fathima Abubacker** (right) explained their data mining project focusing on sustainability at the Data Mining Cup workshop. **Devina Wiyani**, APU's computer science student who specialises in Data Analytics by her side.

At the beginning of the competition, participants had six weeks to submit their projects. APU's representative developed a project targeting e-commerce sellers facing challenges with high product return rates, which can negatively impact sales and sustainability.

To reduce returns and improve customer satisfaction, thereby fostering increased sales and a more sustainable e-commerce ecosystem, the team utilised Natural Language Processing (NLP) to identify common themes and issues related to customer satisfaction.

"The project also provided insights into customer review sentiment, enabling sellers to quickly identify areas of concern and take action to improve their products and services," said Mafas Raheem, who has mentored students to top awards in similar competitions over the past four years.

The winners were announced by the organiser on May 26th, followed by the physical presentation. "It was a great honour for us to be invited to this presentation. It took place at Old Smithy's Dizzle in Berlin, where the jury and other winners were presented to listen to us," said Mafas.

"We received positive feedback on our project idea, as it addresses a contemporary issue in e-commerce platforms. We were also commended for the techniques we proposed during our presentation. We are delighted to contribute to APU's commitment to fostering a research culture at our university," he added.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nirase Fathima Abubacker also expressed her enthusiasm, stating, "The opportunity I had in Berlin was amazing. We were able to present a winning project at an international stage and bring recognition to APU."

As an experienced academician with expertise in Data Science and Data Mining, coupled with experiences as a visiting professor at the United Arab Emirates University, UAE, and an Associate Professor at Dublin City University at Princess Noura University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

Dr. Fathima always incorporates her research findings into her teaching and delivery practices with her students.

Devina Wiyani, in her final year of undergraduate studies, expressed her gratitude, saying, "I consider myself extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to travel to Berlin and present our ideas and projects. This experience has provided invaluable practical exposure to developing AI and data implementations in the retail industry, aligning perfectly with my career aspirations upon graduation."

Furthermore, listening to the ideas and insights shared by other teams has been truly inspiring for Devina, as it has sparked additional ideas for personal projects that will further enhance her skill set.

"I believe these experiences will significantly enrich my portfolio, serving as proof and demonstration of my abilities to future employers," shared Devina, highlighting APU's track record of 100% employability.



During the Data Mining 2023 workshop, the top-3 winners from APU, Anhalt University of Applied Sciences (AUAS), and the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences (Frankfurt UAS), gathered at Old Smithy's Dizzle, a 1920s heritage building in the heart of Berlin-Friedrichshain. In this photo, APU's researcher Associate Professor Dr. Nirase Fathima Abubacker is presenting her view.

KEY ENGAGEMENTS UNDER SDG 12 FOR 2023

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
1	Forging a greener future	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2916
2	APU Researchers And Staff Received 7 Awards for Innovation at ITEX '23	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2869
3	SERENIX - A Compassionate and Sustainable Innovation in Handling the Deceased During Emergencies	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3004
4	APU Eco-Tourism CSR Project Empowers Indigenous Community	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2927
5	Sustainable Fashion Idea Wins Accolades At Intervarsity Challenge	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2819
6	APU Engineering Scientist Meets Nobel Laureate	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2768
7	Real-World Business Exposure and Fun Learning at Yakult Malaysia for APU Students	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2955
8	APU Students Experience the Science and Culture Behind Vitagen's Success	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3001
9	11 Awards at Prestigious Research and Innovation Competitions for APU Students & Staff	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2911
10	After-sales 3D Diagnostic Tool Lands APU Team Techify the Grand Champion Prize at HILTI IT Competition 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2848
11	Energising the world	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2896
12	APU Team Named The 1st Place Winner In The Water Vanguard Challenge 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2758
13	The Lost Food Project & APU - Tackling Food Waste, Feeding the Underprivileged	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2933
14	APU Cultivating Sustainability in Tackling Food Waste and Nurturing Responsible Consumption	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2996
15	Rearth Chatbot: A Silver Medal for Sustainability	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2930
16	Transforming Food Waste into Cash	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2980

GOAL 13: CLIMATE ACTION

Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and Its Impacts

Research Publication 7
SDG 13 Related Activities 5

PLANET-FRIENDLY: SUSTAINABILITY HEROES OF APU ISUC STUDENT CHAPTER

Monday 17 April 2023, 10:17 am

APU's ISUC Student Chapter hits the streets, partnering with Earth Warriors, KSNP and the Chrysalis Project to clear, plant, and educate.



Volunteering can provide students with valuable life experiences and skills that will benefit them in both their personal and professional lives. This engagement helped students develop leadership, communication, problem-solving, time management, and teamwork skills, all of which are beneficial to their personal growth.

In March, 27 students from Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) Integrated Sustainability & Urban Creativity Centre (ISUC) Student Chapter partnering with Earth Warriors, Kuala Selangor Nature Park (KSNP) and the Chrysalis Project engaged in clearing and preparing the ground for planting, as well as educating the next generation of environmentally aware citizens.

APU's ISUC Student Chapter President Ethan Thong Ken Zen said "This is not our first time. As ISUC members, we have previously participated in programmes like these, and we have learned how fragile nature is, as well as the conservation efforts required to maintain our planet."



Six of the ISUC Student Chapter members, Meeganathan Kalli Darss, Kashwene Anpalagan, Nashita Hussain, Nassyrzhan Mukhamejanov, Kuptsov Kirill, and Ethan, joined with Earth Warriors to clean up the area around Kota Kemuning Lake in Shah Alam, Selangor, as they had done the previous year. They gathered nearly 20 large plastic bags, which they then recycled.

For the tree planting, nine members: Khant Nandar Naing, Howard Young, Nashita Hussain, Dharshini Ramesh Kumar, Tan Jiun Yuan, Gulfam Bakieva, Nilyufar Bakieva, Goh Jia Lin and Ethan joined the KSNP Volunteer Day programme which is held on the third or fourth Saturday of every month.

In this program, they have the chance to learn about Mangrove tree planting while also supporting the Malaysian government's initiative to plant 100 million trees.

Lastly, Khant Nandar Naing, Nashita Hussain, Dharshini Ramesh Kumar, Meeganathan Kalli Darss, Kashwene Anpalagan, Khinsha Fakhar, Goh Jia Lin, Yeo Jia Qi, Kamil Hassan, Liow Hoi Chuen, Sai Hlaing Han Le, and Ethan also joined the Chrysalis Project as volunteers to help release 1,500 butterflies and educate the youngsters on the importance of butterflies in the ecosystem.

All volunteers agreed that participating in these activities makes them feel as if they have added to something bigger than themselves. For example, the trees they plant will remain as a reminder of their good acts long after they have passed away.



"It is critical to remember that we have the power to make a positive change for the future, no matter how small. As Robert Swan stated, the greatest danger to our world is the belief that someone else will save it.

"We cannot leave it up to others if we have the power to do it ourselves," Ethan added, "We also very much enjoyed participating in these activities and we definitely grew closer as a group going through mud and mosquitoes together."

All ISUC Student Chapter members at APU want to leave a legacy at APU and beyond after they graduate. Engaging in these activities will ensure we can all look forward to a brighter future, ecologically sound with a society more aware of the environment which surrounds them.

APU TEAM NAMED THE 1ST PLACE WINNER IN THE WATER VANGUARDS CHALLENGE 2023

Thursday 26 January 2023, 05:55 pm

Dharshini, Rajveen, Chung and Keong raise public awareness about water conservation. Water is essential for life and nature conservation. Freshwater, in particular, is a scarce natural resource that is critical for human survival because it serves as a major source of drinking water as well as being important for local ecosystems and native flora and fauna.

However, water conservation is a complex problem because there are several potential causes/drivers that can be a hindrance, such as unsustainable consumption patterns, pollution, loss of green cover, and so on.

The WWF-Malaysia Freshwater Conservation organised the Water Vanguard Challenge 2023 to educate the future generation through a study tour and treasure hunt activity combined with a water challenge held at Putrajaya Wetlands Park from 6th to 8th January 2023.

There was also an ice-breaker session, a visit to Pantai 2 Regional Sewage Treatment Plant, Kampung Kuantan Firefly Park, Sungai Congkak, and Semenyih 2 Water Treatment Plant, as well as the planting of a Berembang tree and learning about water quality monitoring.



From left: Rajveen Kaur, Datin Daria Mathew (WWF-Malaysia Freshwater Team Leader), Dharshini Ramesh Kumar, Chung Wei Qi, and Keong Yan Qi pose with their WWF tokens.



Dharshini Ramesh Kumar (Cybersecurity), Rajveen Kaur (Financial Technology), Chung Wei Qi (Software Engineering), and Keong Yan Qi (Intelligent Systems) from APU won the Water Vanguard Challenge, taking home RM 800 Touch & Go e-wallet and popular bookstore voucher.

This is their first time participating in this challenge, and through it, they learned the importance of conserving water and keeping the river clean, because the amount of usable water in the world today is around 3%, and it is difficult to maintain this percentage.

For that reason, they accepted this challenge to raise awareness of water conservation in order to reduce the water footprint.



Their team was nominated champions for being the first group to complete the water search challenge at Putrajaya Wetlands in three hours and with the highest score.

"The Water Vanguard Challenge is basically a treasure hunt activity, that focuses solely on water and river conservation activities. Along with the answer sheets, we were given a passport that contained a map with tagged locations of the eight stations.

"We were tested with questions and activities primarily focusing on the types of botanical plants and their purpose in a wetland, phytoremediation process, types of wetland birds found, water cycle process, nature-based solutions purpose and importance, replication of water filtration process using raw materials, water footprint measures, and purpose of wetlands in achieving water and river conservation targets and goals," said Dharshini, who is the group leader for the APU team.

According to her, they enjoyed participating in this challenge despite the fact that the majority of them are in IT-related courses and the modules they studied are somewhat relevant and applicable during the activities.

"We gained a wealth of knowledge and experience, as well as future career opportunities, throughout the challenge. What we once thought was a loose connection between IT and environmental conservation is now clear: Building with Nature (BwN) is the future of technology," she said.

Dharshini added that her long-term goal is to be a volunteer who contributes to a sustainable future by working alongside



many other organisations, and she plans to participate in another event/competition in the future to expand her networks and gain new knowledge in order to embrace green practises that benefit both our mother earth and future generations.

Her teammates Rajveen, Chung, and Keong also want to be volunteers in the future to help society and the environment while learning new skills and gaining new experiences, while also contributing to a greener, more sustainable future in which technology and nature can coexist without compromising either side.

They are eager to participate in and host future events, as well as to remain committed to combating climate change by collaborating with many other organisations dedicated to achieving sustainable development goals by 2030.

Dharshini, Rajveen, Chung, and Keong, on the other hand, would like to broaden their learning horizons and embrace sustainability and green practises that benefit our mother earth, as well as influence the youth and hope that future generations will do the same.

KEY ENGAGEMENTS UNDER SDG 13 FOR 2023

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
1	Planet-friendly: Sustainability Heroes Of APU	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2820
2	APU Researchers And Staff Received 7 Awards for Innovation at ITEX '23	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2869
3	Energising the world	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2896
4	Rearth Chatbot: A Silver Medal for Sustainability	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2930
5	Changing the world for the better with IoT and Big Data	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2898
6	APU and Futurize Announce Strategic Partnership	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2970
7	Volunteerism and Animal Care @ Zoo Negara develops Socially Responsible APU Scholars	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2889

GOAL 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

Conserve And Sustainably Use The Oceans, Seas And Marine Resources

Research Publication 0
SDG 14 Related Activities 1

APU'S IMECHE STUDENT CHAPTER SPREAD AWARENESS ON PLASTIC WASTE DISPOSAL AT PORT DICKSON

Monday 31 July 2023, 05:16 pm

Spreading awareness of plastic waste disposal harm to marine life while sharpening social interaction, leadership, teamwork, and critical thinking.



guided by **Prof. Ir. Eur. Ing. Ts. Dr. Vinesh Thiruchelvam**, APU's Chief Innovation & Enterprise Officer.



Malaysia is a high-consumption country, with single-use plastics such as plastic bags, straws, and bottles. These plastics are often not properly disposed of and end up in the environment, where they can damage waterways and oceans.

Many people are unaware of the negative impacts of plastic pollution and do little to reduce their plastic footprint. As more plastic enters the environment, it contributes to the problem of plastic pollution.

Plastic waste is extremely harmful to marine life, killing fish and other marine life, and making it unsafe for human consumption.

20 volunteers from the Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU)'s IMechE Student Chapter undertook an initiative to cleanup the beachfront in Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan.

APU's IMechE Student Chapter in partnership with IMechE Malaysia Branch is an independent student-led organization that is affiliated with the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) – professional body for mechanical engineers in the United Kingdom and around the world.

This volunteer activity is part of the program's corporate social responsibility (CSR) and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) efforts, which are

"The main objective of this event is to spread awareness about plastic waste disposal towards marine life because Malaysia is one of the top ten countries that contribute the most plastic marine debris to the ocean.

"Thus, cleaning the beach and collecting plastic waste material will protect the open ocean from harmful floating plastic," said **Ts. Dr. Arun Seeralan Balakrishnan**, Academic Liaison Officer for APU's IMechE Student Chapter, who joined the students during the awareness activity.

"It took four hours to gather various waste, including small pieces of plastic on the beach sides, and we were able to collect 20 huge pieces of plastic waste."

According to Mechatronics student, Amogha Seelan Balakrishnan Arun Seeralan, volunteering is a fantastic way to give back to your community and make a difference in the world.

"Beach cleaning is a particularly rewarding activity because it contributes to the long-term preservation of our oceans and beaches for future generations.

"I enjoyed working as a volunteer because it taught me how to manage our committee

members and create a proper event plan," he explained.

His classmate, Muhammad Ridwan Bayrajee, pointed out that volunteering is important to him because he participates in volunteer initiatives in his native country.

"Volunteering can help us develop leadership and teamwork skills," he added "We learn how to encourage and inspire people, as well as how to delegate tasks, solve problems, collaborate, and compromise, when we are in charge of leading a team of volunteers."



Zainab Yasmin Baig, a Computer Engineering student, mentioned that "some people do not care about the environment," and wonders how as a future engineer she could help resolve this problem with what she learned at APU.

"This activity is beneficial for us because apart from being able to see the outside world, we can participate and contribute, and we will try to use what we learn to solve harmful plastic waste problems in the future," she said.

It is critical to raise awareness about the dangers of hazardous waste disposal since it can help to prevent pollution from affecting marine life. By teaching people on the dangers of plastic waste disposal, we can help ensure that it is disposed of correctly and responsibly.

KEY ENGAGEMENTS UNDER SDG 14 FOR 2023

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
1	APU's IMechE Student Chapter Spread Awareness on Plastic Waste Disposal at Port Dickson	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2892
2	Splash for Sustainability – Protecting Marine Ecosystems	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2974

GOAL 15: LIFE ON LAND

Goal 15 LIFE ON LAND - Sustainably Manage Forests, Combat Desertification, Halt And Reverse Land Degradation, Halt Biodiversity Loss

Research Publication 1
SDG 15 Related Activities 5

APU TEAM WON MYCAT DEBATE COMPETITION

Thursday 30 March 2023, 05:40 pm

Keong Yan Qi, Chung Wei Qi, Chua Eng Khee, and Rajveen Kaur prevailed in six rounds of debate at Taman Negara, Pahang; coming out victorious against students from other local universities including UM, UCSI and TAR UMT.



Keong Yan Qi, Chung Wei Qi, Chua Eng Khee, and Rajveen Kaur, debaters from Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) won first place in the inaugural Youth for Tigers (Y4T) Debate Competition held in Sungai Relau, Taman Negara, Pahang.

Despite majoring in financial technology, actuarial studies, software engineering, and intelligent systems, respectively; the four of them are very engaged in conservation work, particularly related to the environment and wildlife.

Opportunity to participate in an adventure trip to Malaysia's 130 million-year-old tropical rainforest organized by the non-governmental organization (NGO), Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers (MYCAT), allowed them to learn education outside of the classroom, particularly through the Y4T Debate Competition and other activities such as



ice-breaking sessions, camping, a tiger documentary, and a CatWalk.

APU debaters faced off against teams from local universities including University Malaya (UM), University College Sedaya International (UCSI), International University of Management (IUM), Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT).

Each group had to compete in six rounds of debate on the theme of 'Tigers and Its Forest' while camped out in tents and living off the grid and in the final round, APU debaters were crowned the debate winners.

"Y4T Debate Competition taught us how to put forth our knowledge as well as being open-minded and sympathetic to opinions," said Yan Qi, speaking on behalf of her team.

The reason for their team's success is that they kept an open mind after being critiqued by an experienced debater who was kind enough to provide feedback after one round of debate.

"His teaching made us more confident and really boost our growth and competitiveness, and after adjusting our roles and skills, we manage to triumph at the end," she said adding that "We gained valuable knowledge and insights

on conservation work as well as a sense of responsibility towards Mother Nature."

Furthermore, the four of them understood that their participation in the APU Integrated Sustainability Urban Centre (ISUC) Student Chapter greatly improved their chances of winning.



Students said they were fortunate to have the unwavering support of Ms Abhirami Sivarajan, who guided them through the process of sharing knowledge and constructive criticism.

"We will definitely compete in future competitions, pursue a career that values sustainability, and influence others to do the same," she concluded.

Last year, APU ISUC Student Chapter collaborated with MYCAT and De Montfort University (DMU) to organise an obstacle run called Roar Run at APU campus.

More than 150 people participated in the Roar Run, which raised RM3,734.80 for tiger conservation efforts. All participants received t-shirts and e-certificates from MYCAT, and the top three finishers received smart neck massagers from Tech Murah. The Roar Run initiative also won the MYCAT award for Best Individual Initiative and received RM 1,000.

Additionally, Rajveen Kaur was chosen to join the Global Goals Youth Summit 2023, which took place earlier this year and was attended by more than 100 young leaders from 25 different countries.

Upon completion of all training, delegates were appointed as Global Action Ambassadors for their recognised countries.

VOLUNTEERISM AND ANIMAL CARE @ ZOO NEGARA DEVELOPS SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE APU SCHOLARS

Wednesday 26 July 2023, 03:06 pm

All participants displayed a remarkable level of teamwork, unity, and dedication towards a shared goal of improving the environment, fostering a sense of camaraderie, and strengthening their bond.



A group of 27 students from Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation's Forensic & Cybersecurity Research Center - Student Section (FSEC-SS) successfully completed an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) at the Zoo Negara on 7th July 2023.

Dr. Julia Juremi, Ms. Noris Ismail, Mr. Mohd. Hanis Jenalis, Ms. Nik Nurul Ain Nik Suki, Ms. Rizawati Rohizan, and Ms. Zaireeda Mohd. Fauzee from the School of Technology (SoT) accompanied the students.

This ESG activity aims to give back to the community and promote a sense of responsibility in participants through a range of tasks including cleaning, feeding animals, and providing enrichment activities.

Equipped with cleaning tools and a strong sense of purpose, they embarked on their mission to enhance the cleanliness of the Kancil Hall and Tunku Abdul Rahman Theatre within the Zoo premises.

All participants were divided into smaller groups and strategically planned their approach to ensure maximum efficiency.

They worked diligently to scrap wall paint and remove any litter, debris, and unwanted items from the designated areas.



With their collective efforts and a shared commitment to making a difference, the Kancil Hall and Tunku Abdul Rahman Theatre underwent a noticeable transformation.

Throughout the event, the participants displayed a remarkable level of teamwork, unity, and dedication.

Their shared goal to improve the environment fostered a sense of camaraderie and strengthened their bond as they worked collaboratively to achieve a common objective.

The atmosphere was filled with energy, as laughter and friendly conversations echoed throughout the venue.

Apart from the physical impact they made, the participants also understood the significance of their actions in promoting environmental sustainability and setting an example for others in maintaining cleanliness and preserving the natural beauty of Zoo Negara's surroundings.

Make an Impact



For the participants, the volunteering program can strengthen the relationship between the students involved, in addition to raising awareness and fostering love for the environment and animals.

"We discovered the value of animal welfare and conservation. We also learned a lot about communication and teamwork," said **Liew Kar Yan**, a Computer Science (Intelligent System) student.

Chen Lik Ken, a Computer Science (Cybersecurity) student, expressed that the Zoo Negara ESG initiative is the best platform for exposing students to the importance of community involvement in social activities related to volunteering in the city.

"We enjoyed all of the activities. Cleaning and feeding the animals at the Zoo are

among the activities carried out," he explained.

His classmate, **FSEC-SS Vice President Yeo Jia Qi**, believed that participating in this ESG project influenced students to be braver and wiser in completing tasks because they faced challenging moments when doing cleaning work.



"I would like to thank the management of Zoo Negara for giving us the opportunity and cooperation to make this volunteering program a success," she said.

"We are proud of our students' dedication to ESG. They have made a significant impact in Zoo Negara. The Zoo Negara's management praised the students' ESG," said Dr. Julia, Head of FSEC, who represents all lecturers who participated in this ESG.

"We are extremely grateful to APU and its students for their cooperation. The ESG programme for students is merely one example of APU's dedication to social responsibility.

"The university also has a number of other initiatives in place. Through our ESG initiatives, we believe it is important for our students to play a positive role in their communities and make a difference," she concluded.

Overall, the ESG initiative was a huge success. The 27 APU's FSEC-SS participants exemplified the values of teamwork, responsibility, and environmental awareness.

Through their collective efforts, they left a lasting impression on the overall cleanliness and ambiance of Kancil Hall and Tunku Abdul Rahman Theatre.

Their dedication and enthusiasm serve as an inspiration for others to actively engage in ESG initiatives and contribute to the betterment of society.

KEY ENGAGEMENTS UNDER SDG 15 FOR 2023

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
1	Splash for Sustainability – Protecting Marine Ecosystems	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2974
2	Planet-friendly: Sustainability Heroes Of APU	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2820
3	Innovative Ultrasonic Scarecrow by Primary School Students Won PIID Award – a Scientific Project Mentored by APU SoT and SoC staff	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2854
4	APU Team Won MYCAT Debate Competition	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2808

UNDERSTANDING THE LAW-MAKING PROCESSES AT PARLIAMENT

Wednesday 14 June 2023, 12:11 pm

About 40 students from the School of Business (SoB), Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) visited the Parliament of Malaysia on 14 June to enhance their knowledge of the law-making processes in Malaysia.



Guided by their mentor-lecturers, **Ms. Michele Shivaanii Sundra Raj** and **Dr. Meera Eeswaran**, the undergraduates of business studies were exposed to the detailed procedures and workings of Parliament.

During the visit, the group were able to visit the Senate (upper house of Parliament), where the main briefing took place. Thereafter, they experienced the "Royal Stairs", the eminent spot where the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (His Majesty of the King of Malaysia) and his consort used to be at the House of Representatives (lower house of Parliament).

The students also had the opportunity to visit the public gallery of the House



of Representatives and experience live proceedings. There were ongoing debates and discussions among prominent Members of Parliament that took place. This was a very interactive, interesting, and eye-opening experience for the students.

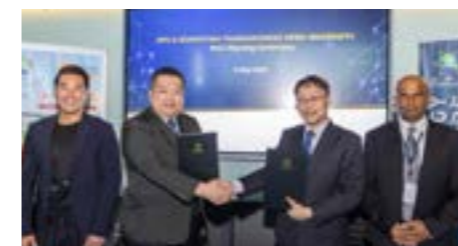
KEY ENGAGEMENTS UNDER SDG 16 FOR 2023

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
1	APU Wayang Kulit La Coloration Challenge 2023: A Cultural Voyage for French Students	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2993
2	Syawal Fest 2023: A Festival of Unity, Diversity & Culture	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2863
3	Flavours of the World Under One Roof at APU	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2919
4	Celebrating Multicultural Harmony	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3006
5	A Spectacular Celebration of Cultural Diversity and Innovation	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2972
6	ICDBSE 2023: Addressing SDG's and Unlocking Potential of Digital Technologies on Business and Society	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2987
7	APU Student Demonstrates Cyber Security Prowess in Blue Team Challenge 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2968
8	ASEAN Battle of Hackers (ABOH) 2023 Triumphs, Transformations, and Cybersecurity Champions	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3012
9	APU Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Club Shines at ETH Seoul 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2856
10	Tackling cybersecurity challenges	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2858
11	Gaining Insights into Technology Audit Methodology	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2904
12	APU's Economic Expertise Illuminates National Governance	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3005
13	Quintupling The Fun And Acquiring Digital Skills At ?QRuined Apotic	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2821
14	Understanding The Law-Making Processes at Parliament	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2873
15	APU Chapter of AMAR Club Launch: Making Waves in Professional and Ethical Conduct	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3011
16	APU Students Exploring Cultural Diplomacy: A Memorable Field Trip to the Russian House	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2926

STOU, THAILAND & APU COLLABORATION FOCUSES ON RESEARCH AND UNESCO CHAIR PROJECTS

Thursday 25 May 2023, 06:40 pm

Both universities will create a joint exclusive team aimed at harnessing cross-border research, providing funding for conferences and grants, fostering industry partnerships, building a solid ecosystem, and providing mentorship and support in research and development (R&D).



From left: Assistant Prof. Dr. Gan Chanyawudhiwan, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Manit Jumpa, Prof. Dr. Ho Chin Kuan and Prof. Ts. Dr. Murali Raman at the signing ceremony.

Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University (STOU), Thailand's royal charter eleventh state university, and Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) announced an exciting collaboration to create a joint exclusive team aimed at harnessing cross-border research, providing funding for conferences and grants, fostering industry partnerships, building a solid ecosystem, and providing mentorship and support in research and development (R&D).

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed by **STOU Acting President Assoc. Prof. Dr. Manit Jumpa** and **APU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ho Chin Kuan** witnessed by **STOU Acting Vice-President for Academic Services, Cultural Preservation, and International Affairs Assistant Prof. Dr. Gan Chanyawudhiwan** and **APU Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Ts. Dr. Murali Raman**.

STOU Head of International Affairs Mr Rattip Phukkeson, APU Senior Director, Admin & Human Resources Dr Teh Choon Jin, and APU Senior Lecturer/Programme

Manager, Digital Learning Hub Ts. Jonathan JS Kovilpillai also attended the ceremony.

Both higher education institutions will develop specialised programmes that foster a collaborative research culture and an environment that encourages students and faculty members to collaborate on joint outputs such as conferences and International Journal papers through this collaboration.

The MoU will also allow APU's Digital Learning Hub and STOU to collaborate on collaborative research efforts under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Chair partnership framework, which will be spearheaded by APU Digital Learning Hub Director and UNESCO Chair Lead Prof. Dr. Abtar Kaur Darshan Singh.

Prof. Dr. Abtar is Malaysia's first academic to be appointed to the prestigious position of UNESCO Chair on Harnessing Innovations in Technology to Support Teachers and Quality Learning.

STOU has graduated 169,798 undergraduates and 3,186 postgraduates from its 12 schools of study, which include Law, Communications Arts, Human Ecology, Political Science, Management Science, Health Sciences, Liberal Arts, Education, Economics, Agriculture and Cooperatives, Science and Technology, and Nursing.

"STOU not only mitigates these concerns, but also offsets its emissions through verifiable collaborations, and we are immensely proud of our partnership with APU. We are taking a stand for a sustainable future by delivering our capability and

providing our students with cutting-edge advanced technology and innovation that aligns with our values," said **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Manit**.

"APU is thrilled to collaborate with STOU to leverage technology for greater access and equity in higher education. Together, we will work towards creating innovative solutions that enable more learners to achieve their academic aspirations, regardless of their background or location," remarked **Prof. Dr. Ho**.

Going beyond helping students attain success, APU instils a growth mindset in its students, inspiring them to continuously think forward as entrepreneurs and preparing them for employment in a disruptive, globalised world of business and technology.

"Our strategy extends beyond providing cutting-edge technologies and specialised programmes to develop a growth mindset and entrepreneurial spirit among our students from all over the world, supported by our research outcomes.

"Our staff members will collaborate on joint research papers in the main areas of Artificial Intelligence (AI) applied to 'Teaching and Learning' as a result of our collaboration. We are convinced that working with STOU will become an aspiration, boosting our research to new heights," said **Prof. Ts. Dr. Murali**.

The two parties also discussed conference partnership for the **International Conference of Digital Business Society and Economy (ICDBSE) 2023**, which will be held on 24th and 25th October 2023 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, organised by APU and its co-organiser STOU (Thailand), Chitkara University (India), and The bbw Hochschule-University of Applied Sciences (Germany).

This conference promises to be an exciting and informative event, bringing together experts and enthusiasts from around the world to share their ideas, research, and insights into the impact of digital technologies on business and society.

With a diverse range of keynote speeches, presentations, and panel discussions, we aim to explore the many different facets of digital business and society, including its impact on innovation, entrepreneurship, governance, and ethics.



This collaboration will strengthen both universities' R&D, especially in the fields of technology and innovation.

ERASMUS MOBILITY PROJECT OF THE SUPPLY CHAIN BETWEEN APU & GERMANY'S BBW UNIVERSITY

Monday 18 September 2023, 03:05 pm



bbw Hochschule - University of Applied Sciences is one of the largest private, state-recognised universities in Germany. The new light-flooded and atmospherically calm premises in the state-of-the-art office lab campus will start operating in Wagner-Régeny-Straße of the Science and Technology Park in Berlin-Adlershof next March.

Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) announcing the approval of the Erasmus Mobility Project with bbw Hochschule - University of Applied Sciences, Germany.

This project focuses on knowledge exchange and staff/student mobility in the area of supply chain management, representing a significant milestone in APU's ongoing commitment to international collaboration and curriculum development.

Erasmus, an acronym of the "European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students", is a European Union (EU) student exchange programme established in 1987.

In 2019, APU successfully applied for European Commission funding to form part of the international consortium of Higher Education Institutions in Europe and across Asia to support internationalisation capabilities and campus diversity.

By being part of the ERASMUS+ FRIENDS Project, APU aligns with the prime goal of developing students' global competence through the integration of intercultural dimensions into the university's formal and informal curriculum.

bbw Hochschule - University of Applied Sciences is one of the largest private, state-recognised universities in Germany, renowned in the industry for producing employable graduates with an emphasis on applied learning and a mission statement of "From the Economy - For the Economy."

By being part of the ERASMUS+ FRIENDS Project, APU is now on the Erasmus Mobility Project with bbw Hochschule - University of Applied Sciences, Germany.

The project focuses on knowledge exchange and staff or student mobility in the area of the supply chain.

Commenting on the ties established, Professor Dr. Andy Seddon, Senior Director of Partnership and Standards at APU stated, "The synergy between APU and bbw University is clear, both are internationally focused, industry-engaged and dedicated to producing graduates who can drive change in their respective fields. This project builds on previous collaborative activities between the two institutions and leverages the strengths each institution has in the areas of technology and sustainability."

Prof. Dr. Andy is APU's ERASMUS+ FRIENDS Project Lead.

A special project team from the School of Business (SoB) at APU will use the exchange opportunities this project affords to add value to the Supply Chain Management Specialism being introduced in the Master of Business Administration (MBA) in January 2024.

The above project team is formed by academics from SoB, led by the Head of School, Associate Professor Dr. Jason Turner, with members consisting of Associate Professor Dr. Rohana, Ts Dr Noraini Ahmad, Ms. Shailaja Kumar and Mr. Kantharow Apparavu.

The approval marks the beginning of an exciting journey for our respective institutions, underlining the importance of collaboration and cultural exchange to enhance academic programmes and produce employable, future-facing graduates in the area of Supply Chain Management.

APU HANDOVER RM14,038.90, TÜRKIYE-SYRIA FUND TO MERCY MALAYSIA

Thursday 20 April 2023, 12:30 pm

APU Charity Drive, which ran from 23rd March to 6th April 2023, successfully raised RM14,038.90 thanks to kind donations from the APU community.



APU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ho Chin Kuan represented APU in the handover of a mock cheque to MERCY Malaysia's Deputy Executive Director Mr. Hafiz Amirrol.

Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation (APU) successfully raised RM14,038.90 for the 'Türkiye-Syria earthquake victims' which channelled to **Mercy Malaysia** in their effort to serve humanity.

This donation collection is done through the **APU Charity Drive**, which is an Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) event hosted by APU that serves local and worldwide communities.

The APU Charity Drive was organised by four schools led by **Ms. Khurshid Abdul Jabbar**, and supported by **Dr. Dewi Octaviani**, **Ms. Ir. Jacqueline Lukose**, and **Dr. Nennie Trianna Rosli** from School of Technology (SoT), School of Computing (SoC), School of Engineering (SoE) and School of Business (SoB) respectively.

With the encouragement received from Senior Head of School of Technology (SoT), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thang Ka Fei, RM14,038.90 was collected through walk-in's collections held at Atrium and classrooms. This collection was made possible by the efforts of 19 student volunteers.

APU held a mock cheque handover ceremony for MERCY Malaysia on 20th April 2023, which was handed by **APU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ho Chin Kuan** to **MERCY Malaysia's Deputy Executive Director Mr. Hafiz Amirrol**.



APU Senior Management and volunteers pose with Mercy Malaysia representatives. From left (first row) Ms. Khadijah Shafie, Ms. Sharifah Hidayah, Ms. Nur Zulaikha Zulkifli, Mr. Hafiz Amirrol, Prof. Dr. Ho Chin Kuan, Ms. Khurshid Abdul Jabbar, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thang Ka Fei, (second row) Ms. Noor Ain Zaira Hasnan, Ghaarib Khurshid, Yusuf Karamoglu, Alvin Joshy, Tan Xue Qiang, Smaa Mohamed Fawzy, (third row) Ralph Rowland, Chang Zun Ni, Yap Ai Ling, Lim Min, Jasmine Lawrence, Brenna Lo, (forth row) Dr. Kohila Malar Kalesamy, Ir. Jacqueline Lukose, and Muhammad Uzair Saleem.

Ms. Khurshid delivered welcoming remarks, which were followed by Prof. Ho's speech which he emphasised the need for organisations to contributing to ESG and CSR activities for the improvement of societies both locally and globally.

He spoke to the student volunteers about the importance of managing their academic and social commitments in order to contribute to society's needs.

The mock cheque was then handed over to MERCY Malaysia, followed by a speech by Mr. Hafiz, a closure by Ms. Khurshid, and a group photos session.

Smaa Mohamed Fawzy, Tan Xue Qiang, Alvin Joshy, Yusuf Karamoglu, Ghaarib Khurshid, Brenna Lo, Jasmine Lawrence, Lim Min, Yap Ai Ling, Chang Zun Ni, Ralph Rowland, and Muhammad Uzair Saleem were among the 12 student volunteers (out of 19) that attended the event.

Ms. Khurshid, who represented the APU Charity Drive, extended special thanks to Mohammad Bilal, the student volunteer lead who devoted considerable time and effort.

"APU extends its heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to all student volunteers



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thang Ka Fei is a driving force behind the APU Charity Drive.

for a wonderful occasion through their valuable time and effort," she said.

The APU Charity team would also like to thank APU Chief Operating Officer Mr. Curpardeep Singh for his recommendation to hold the mock cheque handover, Assistant Manager, Student Affairs Ms. Hashanna Abdul Halim, and her team for booth management, Mr. Jerry Ling Lih Kai and the team for an excellent mock cheque design, the AV team, and, most importantly, all donors who generously donated.

On 6th February 2023, a huge earthquake struck central and southern Türkiye as well as northern Syria. It was one of the most powerful earthquakes ever recorded in Türkiye-Syria history.

Over 53,500 deaths had been confirmed as of 1st March 2023: over 43,500 in Türkiye and 8,400 in Syria. A severe snowstorm delayed rescue attempts by covering the rubble and causing the temperature to plummet.

Because of the low temperatures in the area, any survivors, especially those stuck under the wreckage, are extremely vulnerable to hypothermia. The earthquake caused \$84.1 billion in property destruction, making it the fourth greatest earthquake loss in recorded history.

To assist those in afflicted areas, Mercy Malaysia has implemented the Türkiye-Syria 2023 Earthquake Emergency Response Plan and their emergency medical team (EMT) has been verified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as one of the EMT Global Classified teams in the Type 1 Fixed category.

Mercy Malaysia is the first Asian non-governmental organisation (NGO) to be part of self-sufficient teams ready to deploy to health emergencies around the world if the need arises.

KEY ENGAGEMENTS UNDER SDG 17 FOR 2023

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
1	APU Students Exploring Cultural Diplomacy: A Memorable Field Trip to the Russian House	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2926
2	APU's IMechE Student Chapter Spread Awareness on Plastic Waste Disposal at Port Dickson	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2892
3	Volunteerism and Animal Care @ Zoo Negara develops Socially Responsible APU Scholars	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2889
4	Next-Gen Games Development for Next-Gen Games Professionals	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2981
5	Reaching Out to Indigenous & Underprivileged Communities	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2884
6	Our Colours: Where Diversity Thrives, Borders Dissolve	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2973
7	APU Sports Team Swept 4 Gold, 1 Silver And 2 Bronze In The Trident Games	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2822
8	D3finitely_Not_AI_G3nerated Emerges Cybersecurity & Forensics Champion In ICTF 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2824
9	Gearing Up for the Digital Future	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2899
10	APU's International Partnerships Drive Comprehensive Product Development for Digital Transformation	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3009
11	APU Data Analytics Students Triumph In iTank Competition with Innovative Solution ti Plastic Pollution	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2908
12	APU Research Group Emerges As Winner at Data Mining Cup 2023 - Showcasing Sustainable Solutions for E-Commerce	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2881
13	Gain Extra Hands-on Experience at The Autonomous IoT Workshop	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2861
14	Accelerating Digital Talent-Drive in Malaysia - APU Appointed as CASUGOL Platinum Academic Partner	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2882
15	APU Partners with Acxyn to Advance Educational Frontiers of Game Development	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2978
16	Multiple Wins for APU In The MDEC PDTI Awards	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2778
17	APU-Amazon Web Services (AWS) DeepRacer Competition 2023 Showcases Future Machine Learning And Data Science Talents	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2828
18	APU Forges Strategic Collaboration With Red Hat Malaysia to Advance Tech Education	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2925
19	Inspiring Students' Creativity & Innovation Through Ideation	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2962
20	Success at Cybersecurity CTF Competition for APU Teams	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2931
21	APU Collaborates With P10 To Strengthen T&L With Advanced Financial Intelligence System	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2838
22	STOU, Thailand & APU Collaboration Focuses on Research and UNESCO Chair Projects	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2845
23	APU and Korea Valuation Association (KVA) Join Forces for Technology Advancements	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2942
24	APU Innovations Take the Spotlight at MSC Malaysia APICTA 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3002
25	APU And Jeonju University From Korea Join Hands To Boost Digital Innovations	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2839
26	Industry-Academia Alliance Enhances Robotics and Automation Skills & Graduate Employability	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2928
27	A Low-cost Self-stabilizing Spoon For People With Parkinson's Won International APICTA Award	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2750
28	APU's Team Triumphs in the 2023 ASEAN-ROK Youth Metaverse Idea Contest	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/3008

NO	TITLE / DESCRIPTION OF EVENT/ACTIVITY	URL OF EVENT REPORT / PUBLICISED ARTICLE
29	APU and Chitkara University Join Forces to Foster Academic Excellence	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2944
30	The Battle of The Undergrads Brings Unity	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2907
31	Fostering Global Academic Enrichment: A Spotlight on the SIMATS Student Mobility Programme at APU	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2923
32	ERASMUS Mobility Project of the Supply Chain Between APU & Germany's BBW University	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2932
33	APU and AVERIS Forge Innovative Educational Collaboration	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2902
34	APU and KL Society Unite for Education, Research, and Global Engagement	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2956
35	APU Cyber Security Teams Top the Charts at PETRONAS CTF 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2975
36	APU And Masverse Bringing Together Malaysia's First Micro-Credential Certificates In NFT	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2765
37	APU and Mission Business Academy Formalise Partnership on Leadership Development	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2938
38	APU Garner Multiple Accolades at Private Education Excellence Awards 2023	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2915
39	APU Handover RM14,038.90, Türkiye-Syria Fund to Mercy Malaysia	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2862
40	Eradicating Poverty Through Data	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2953
41	APU Signed MoU With PSGR KCW For Stronger Educational Ties	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2759
42	APU Signed MoU With PSGR KCW For Stronger Educational Ties	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2759
43	APU Inks Strategic MoU with FrieslandCampina Service Centre Asia Pacific to Forge Academic Excellence	https://www.apu.edu.my/media/news/2994



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