Raising the bar in tech talent

WHEN Malaysia was named the top-performing nation among 10 countries at the 2025 WorldSkills Asean competition in the Philippines, the celebration extended far beyond the medal podium.

At the heart of this achievement was a story of dedication, mentorship and institutional excellence – one that shines a spotlight on Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT).

Long before the medals were announced, TAR UMT's reputation had already been strengthened when a number of its lecturers were appointed by Jabatan Pembangunan Kemahiran (JPK) as national experts and coaches.

In the Internet of Things (IoT) category, in which the team from TAR UMT won the silver medal, Prof Dr Tew Yiqi served as Malaysia's Country Expert, supported by lecturers Wong Wai Zhong and Joan Hau.

The trio worked closely with international experts, analysing evolving test projects and developing strategies that could withstand the unpredictable pressures of the competition.

Prof Tew described the experience as "a collaboration that demanded both technical precision and emotional intelligence,"adding that he and the coaches spent months not only training the students but also "guiding them through the mental and physical demands of a world-class competition."

Similarly, in the Cybersecurity category, Lim Mei Shyan, together with coach and TAR UMT alumnus Wong Yik Han, led the Malaysian team to win the gold medal at the Asean level, and the team went on to win the bronze medal for cybersecurity at the Asia level.

The duos who represented the country at the Asean and Asia levels are Bachelor of Information Technology (Hons) in Information Security graduate Wang Teng Zheng and UniKL MIIT graduate Mohammad Ezaly Iman Ramli.

The TAR UMT IoT category team (from left): Prof Tew, Ang, Yong, Wong and Hau.

Training took place in environments designed to reflect industry realities rather than competition theatrics.

IoT competitors and Bachelor of Software Engineering (Hons) students, Ang Wen Yee and Yong Qiao Rou, spent months working with the YALONG IoT training system, immersing themselves in coding, network protocols and systems integration.

They often trained late into the evenings and on weekends, meeting their lecturers regularly to dissect mistakes and refine strategy.

As Ang shared, "Our lecturers never let us face our weaknesses alone. They pushed us to improve, and they always guided us whenever we felt overwhelmed."

The mock competitions – especially those held in public spaces on campus – were designed not just for skill refinement, but to strengthen emotional resilience.

To find out more about TAR UMT's computing and information technology programmes, visit the Open Day from May 9-10, 16-17, as well as on June 6-7, from 10am to 5pm at TAR UMT campuses nationwide.

Qualified students will receive on-the-spot offers during TAR UMT Open Day at the Kuala Lumpur campus (terms and conditions apply).

■ For more information, call 011-1075 8554 or email focs@tarc.edu.my. To apply online, visit *www.tarc.edu.my*. Various financial aid and merit scholarships are also available for qualified students.

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DEADLINE 30 May Saturday

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"The Power to Question is the Basis of all Human Progress"
DEADLINE 13 June Saturday

NATIONAL FINALS: LIVE
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The expanding fintech world

THE global financial landscape is undergoing a profound transformation, driven by rapid technological advancement and the convergence of finance with digital innovation.

As this shift gains pace, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), through its Teh Hong Piow Faculty of Business and Finance (THP FBF) and Faculty of Accountancy and Management (FAM), is equipping students with the expertise and agility to lead in this dynamic sector.

As fintech ecosystems expand, so too does the demand for highly skilled professionals who can navigate both financial and technological domains.

Recognising these industry demands, UTAR has strategically designed its academic offerings to bridge the gap between finance and technology.

The Bachelor of Finance (Financial Technology) with Honours programme offered under FAM integrates core financial knowledge with emerging technologies.

Complementing this, programmes under THP FBF are aligned with current market needs. The Bachelor of Finance (Honours) programme emphasises quantitative analysis, risk management and financial decision-making, while incorporating forward-looking components such as sustainable finance and business analytics.

Beyond the classroom, UTAR students consistently demonstrate excellence on national platforms.

Students from THP FBF emerged as champions at the National-level Financial Instruments Trading (NFIT) Competition 2024.

Meanwhile, students from FAM achieved national recognition at the PayNet Digital Campus 4.0 competition, securing first place in the Student Representative Council Category and second place in the University Category, with total winnings of RM150,000.

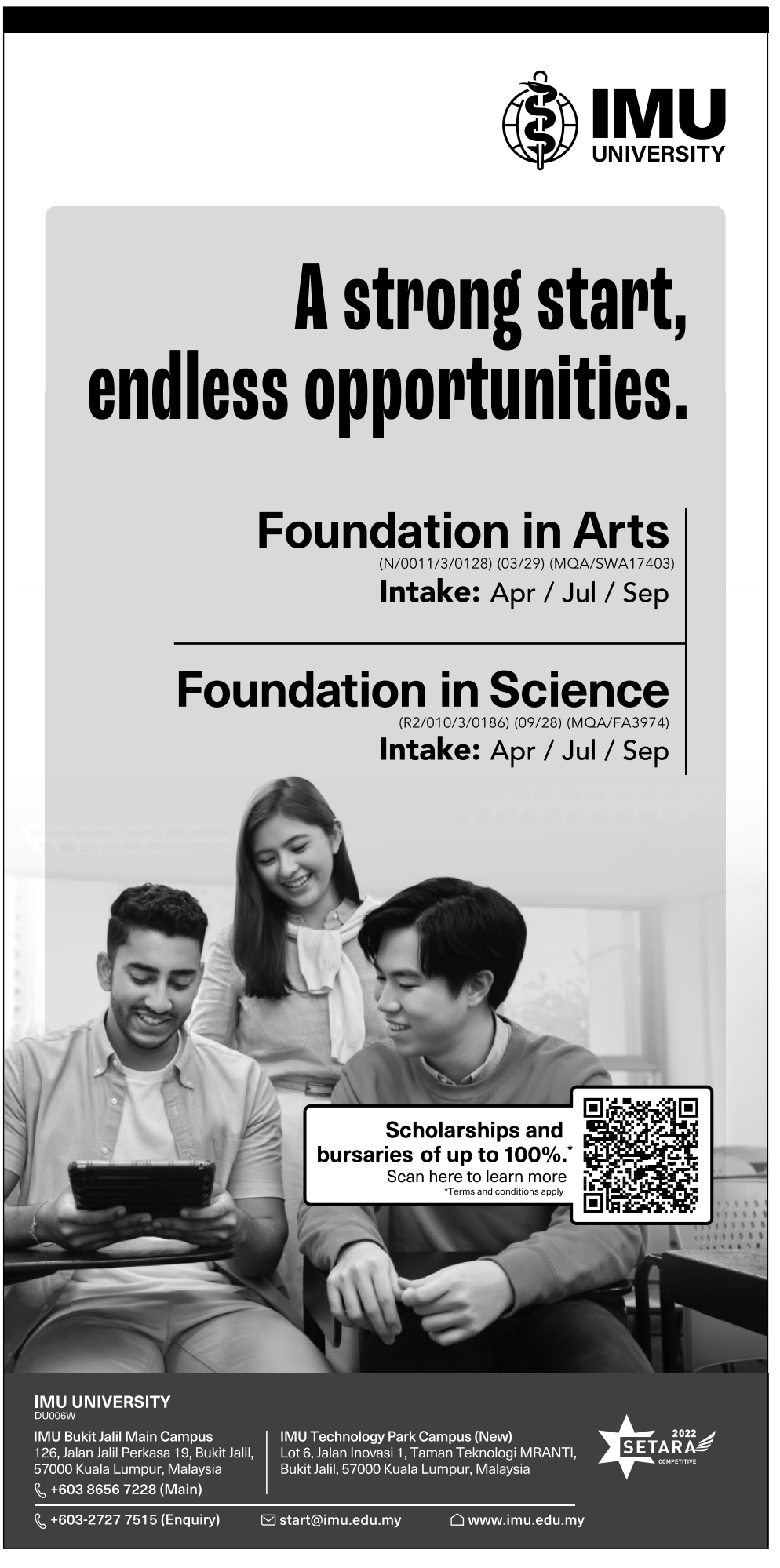
UTAR FAM students achieved dual national recognition at PayNet Digital Campus 4.0.

For students seeking a field defined by innovation, impact and global relevance, UTAR offers compelling pathways into the expanding world of fintech.

The institution offers over 140 programmes. These include programmes such as Accounting, Business, Finance and Economics, Actuarial Science, Mathematics and Process Management, Agriculture and Food Science, Arts, Social Sciences and Education, Chinese Studies, Creative Industries, Digital Animation, Multimedia and Design, Engineering and Built Environment, Information and Communication Technology, Life and Physical Sciences, and Medicine and Health Sciences.

■ To find out more, visit the UTAR Open Day on May 16-17 and May 23-24, from 9am to 4.30pm at both its Kampar and Sungai Long campuses.

For more information, visit *www.utar.edu.my* or call 05-468 8888 (Kampar Campus) or 03-9086 0288 (Sungai Long Campus).



Major leap in varsity rankings

MANAGEMENT and Science University (MSU) continues to strengthen its position in the higher education landscape in Malaysia and across Asia, as it was listed among the top 300 universities in Asia, ranking in the 251-300 band in the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2026.

This achievement reflects MSU's continued commitment to enhancing academic excellence and international reputation, with a significant rise of 150 places from the 401-500 band last year. It also places MSU as the 12th best university in Malaysia.

This achievement complements MSU's global performance across various THE rankings in 2026, including the World University Rankings 2026, where MSU is placed in the 601-800 band globally.

At the regional level, MSU also performed strongly, ranking 17th in South-East Asia, highlighting its significant contributions to academic development and research.

In THE World University Rankings by Subject 2026, MSU marked a significant milestone with its debut entry, as two of its academic disciplines – Education Studies and Medical and Health – were ranked in the 501-600 band globally.

In recognition of its SDG initiatives, MSU was also ranked in the 101-200 band globally in THE Impact Rankings 2025.

MSU is a global, comprehensive dual-sector university that integrates academic and technical education within one ecosystem.

It offers both higher education programmes and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) pathways, enabling flexible progression from skills-based training to advanced qualifications.

Envisioning a better, more sustainable future for all, MSU champions equality by providing a level playing field across extensive efforts in transforming lives and enriching the future through compelling learning experiences.

As an applied and enterprise university focused on enhancing graduate employability, MSU's graduate employability currently ranks at 99% of graduates securing employment within six months of graduation, based on the Higher Education Ministry's (MOHE) tracer study.

MSU's success reflects its collective dedication to fostering academic excellence, research, industry engagement, international collaboration and sustainable initiatives.

MSU is also rated by the Higher Education Ministry with a Setara Tier-5 Excellent Status for Emerging University, as well as being ranked the Most Entrepreneurial Private University in Malaysia.

As the recipient of Asean's Most Transformative & Impactful TVET University Award at Malaysia Education & TVET (META) 2025, as well as Malaysia's Best University (TVET Education) at META 2023, MSU has consistently demonstrated its commitment to advancing TVET-based education both nationally and internationally.

MSU encompasses a diverse range of faculties and schools, including the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, Faculty of Business Management and Professional Studies, Faculty of Information Sciences and Engineering, International Medical School, School of Pharmacy, School of Dentistry, School of Veterinary Medicine, School of Education and Social Sciences, School of Hospitality and Creative Arts, School of Graduate Studies, Graduate School of Management and Centre for Fundamental Studies.

Unlock your business career future

ARE you ready to step into a future where business, technology and global opportunities intersect?

At IMU University's School of Business and Technology, the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) is not just another degree, it serves as a launchpad for future-ready leaders, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving global economy.

Graduates can obtain two degrees in three years, with a second degree from the University of Dundee, UK, in addition to a degree from IMU University.

Students can also obtain a 25% Global Leadership Scholarship for the 2026 intakes.

IMU also offers a range of merit-based scholarships and need-based financial aid packages for eligible students (terms and conditions apply).

Through a balanced curriculum covering core business disciplines such as finance, marketing, management, operations, entrepreneurship and international business, students will gain a strong foundation in business principles while developing critical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills.

Students gain practical work experience through internships with leading firms, applying classroom concepts to real business challenges.

The IMU BBA programme does not just teach business; it immerses students in it.

From core courses to electives, graduates leave with a portfolio of real achievements, not just a degree.

Additionally, this BBA serves as a strong foundation for postgraduate studies.

Graduates are prepared for high-demand roles such as Business Analyst, Digital Marketing Strategist, Financial Consultant, Operations Manager and Entrepreneur across industries including banking, e-commerce, consulting, healthcare and government sectors.

The IMU programme emphasises real-world applications, ensuring graduates leave with the expertise to excel in any industry.

In an era shaped by artificial intelligence (AI), digital transformation and globalisation, organisations are actively seeking graduates who combine business acumen with technological fluency, making this the perfect time to pursue a future-focused BBA.

The programme commences in February, April, July and September each year. Interested applicants are encouraged to submit an online application today.

■ For more information, refer to *www.imu.edu.my* or email start@imu.edu.my or call IMU at 03-2731 7272.

IMU University students gain work experience through internships with leading firms, applying classroom concepts to real business challenges.

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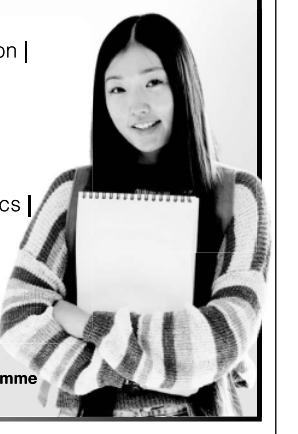

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Shaping vibrant creative futures

GRAPHIC design is more than just creating images – it's the powerful art of communicating ideas, emotions and stories through visual and textual elements. From stunning advertisements and impactful branding to sleek web designs and captivating magazine layouts, graphic design shapes how the world sees and experiences ideas.

At MSU College, the School of Science and Technology (SST) offers a dynamic Diploma in Graphic Design programme designed to unleash creativity and prepare students for the fast-evolving creative industry.

This comprehensive two-and-a-half-year programme blends artistic vision with practical industry skills, empowering students to become a confident, innovative and industry-ready designer.

Graduates of this programme are prepared to step confidently into diverse roles such as graphic designer, layout artist, technical illustrator, art director and creative director.

The entry requirements for the programme include a pass in Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) or its equivalent with three credits in any subject, or an MSU College certificate in a related field with passes in all subjects.

Upon completing the diploma, graduates may advance directly into the second year of a bachelor's programme at Management and Science University (MSU) through the Faculty of Information Sciences and Engineering (FISE), providing a seamless pathway toward higher qualifications and career growth.

MSU College offers students hands-on learning in graphic design.

MSU College is also an MSU APEL Centre for potential candidates to take the APEL Aptitude Test as a non-conventional pre-qualification for entry into higher studies.

MSU currently offers APEL A and APEL C at T-3 (certificate), T-4 (diploma), T-6 (bachelor's degree) and T-7 (master's degree) levels.

■ For more information on programmes offered, interested individuals may contact the college's team at 03-5521 6787 or email enquiry@msucollege.my or visit *www.msucollege.edu.my*

Global stage for young speakers

ONE of the country's top public speaking competitions – the English Speaking Union of Malaysia (ESU)-Taylor's Public Speaking Competition was launched on April 16 by the British High Commissioner of Malaysia, Ajay Sharma CMG, alongside Taylor's College campus director Josephine Tan and ESU Malaysia chairman Tunku Dara Tunku Tan Sri Naquiah Almarhum Tuanku Ja'afar.

(From left) Tan, Tunku Dara Tunku Tan Sri Naquiah and Sharma at the event.

The ESU-Taylor's Public Speaking Competition is also organised with the support of the Malaysian English Language Teachers Association and MIDP Youth Institute.

This year marks the 46th edition of the International Public Speaking Competition (IPSC), one of the world's largest public speaking competitions, bringing together students aged 16 to 20 from more than 50 countries. Last year alone, 115,254 students from 39 countries took part.

This year, speeches based on the respective themes will be submitted online for the preliminary and semi-final rounds.

The competition will kick off in mid-May with a workshop, followed by the preliminary submission deadline on May 30 and the semi-finals on June 13.

The Malaysian Finals will take place on June 27, while the International Finals will be held live in Malaysia and London, respectively.

The national champion will win an all-expenses-paid trip to represent Malaysia at the IPSC in London from July 13 to 18, and will attend a training camp on July 4 in Malaysia.

To support participants, a complimentary online preparatory workshop will be held via Zoom on May 16 at 2pm. Interested students can register at *https://bit.ly/ESUTAYLORSPSC2026*

Participants will be judged based on the substance of their speech, as well as expression and delivery. Finalists will also be required to respond to at least two questions from the judges following their speech. All workshop participants will receive an e-certificate of participation, while finalists will be awarded a certificate of merit.

Prizes for the finals are as follows:

> First prize: RM1,500 cash and a flight ticket to London (to compete in IPSC 2026)

> Second prize: RM1,000 cash

> Third prize: RM800 cash

> Consolation prizes (seven finalists): RM250 each

> School or educational institution of the regional champion: RM500 cash

■ To find out more email info@esumalaysia.org