Building careers in green tech

AS industries evolve and sustainability takes centre stage, postgraduate education is no longer optional – it is a strategic step for those ready to lead change.

At Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), the Faculty of Engineering and Green Technology (FEGT) empowers future leaders with the knowledge, skills and mindset to shape a smarter and more sustainable world.

The FEGT offers a dynamic portfolio of postgraduate programmes designed for ambitious individuals who want to go further. From the Doctor of Philosophy (Engineering) and Master of Engineering Science to specialised programmes such as the Master of Engineering in Electronic Systems, Master of Environmental Technology and Master of Sustainable Construction Management, each pathway is crafted to meet real industry demands while addressing global sustainability challenges.

Innovation sits at the heart of the FEGT experience. The Master of Engineering Science and PhD (Engineering) programmes immerse students in advanced research, encouraging them to explore new ideas, develop impactful solutions and contribute to technological progress.

UTAR's Faculty of Engineering and Green Technology medallists celebrate their victories at iCompEx 2025.

With strong academic mentorship and access to well-equipped research facilities, graduates are well prepared for careers in research and development, academia and leadership roles across industries.

For those driven by environmental impact, the Master of Environmental Technology offers hands-on exposure to key areas such as waste management, pollution control and environmental policy. Students gain technical expertise as well as the ability to think holistically and address complex sustainability challenges.

Complementing these are the Master of Engineering in Electronic Systems and Master of Sustainable Construction Management programmes, which integrate smart technologies, digital innovation and sustainable practices. They equip graduates with future-ready skills to thrive in a fast-changing, tech-driven landscape.

Beyond academics, FEGT stands out for its strong track record in research excellence and innovation. In 2025, its academics and students secured 13 medals, including four gold awards, at the International Innovation and Invention Competition through Exhibition (iCompEx 2025), highlighting the faculty's strength in applied research and creativity.

FEGT researchers are also internationally recognised, with several listed among the world's top 2% scientists. The faculty has earned top Asean Green Award honours, and continues to shine at platforms such as the Malaysia Technology Expo SDG Awards.

FEGT dean Prof Dr Ng Choon Aun said, "Our postgraduate programmes are designed not only to advance knowledge but also to nurture innovators and leaders who can address real-world challenges.

"We aim to empower our students to create sustainable solutions that benefit society and the environment."

Adding further value, selected programmes incorporate a work-based learning approach, allowing students, especially working professionals, to apply what they learn directly in real workplace settings.

For those ready to elevate their careers and make a meaningful difference, UTAR's FEGT offers more than a degree; it offers a platform to turn ambition into action and drive sustainable change for a better future.

■ Visit UTAR's Open Day on May 23-24 from 9am to 4.30pm at both the Kampar and Sungai Long campuses. For details, visit *www.utar.edu.my* or call 05-468 8888 (Kampar campus) or 03-9086 0288 (Sungai Long campus).

Shaping futures via quality learning

CELEBRATING a culture of excellence among its graduates, the 37th convocation ceremony of Management and Science University (MSU) saw 1,879 graduates from 120 academic programmes receive their scrolls at the MSU Chancellor Hall in Shah Alam.

The convocation was held over four sessions on May 17 and 18, involving 63 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) graduates, 79 master's degree graduates, 966 bachelor's degree graduates and 771 diploma graduates.

Present to officiate the ceremony was MSU chancellor, the Raja Muda of Kedah, Tengku Sarafudin Badlishah Sultan Sallehuddin.

Also in attendance were MSU president and founder Prof Tan Sri Dr Mohd Shukri Ab Yajid, MSU pro-chancellor Prof Emeritus Datuk Seri Dr Zaini Ujang, MSU vice-chancellor Prof Puan Sri Datuk Dr Junainah Abd Hamid, members of the university board as well as its senior management.

MSU president and founder Prof Tan Sri Dr Mohd Shukri Ab Yajid (front row, 16th from left, in black suit and red tie) posing for a group photo following the university's 37th convocation ceremony.

In recognition of their outstanding academic and co-curricular achievements, 61 graduates were honoured across five categories of special excellence awards. The recipients received plaques, cash prizes and scholarships from Yayasan MSU to pursue further studies at the university.

Among the top achievers was Chancellor's Gold Medal Award recipient Nur Desslinna Cheah Mohd Ridzuan Cheah, Bachelor of Education (Hons)-TESL.

The prestigious President's Award was conferred upon Abdul Ahad AKS Mohd Salleh, Doctor of Philosophy (Accounting/Finance); Choong Shuning, Bachelor in Economics and Finance (Honours); and Adam Haris Hazatul Isman, Diploma in Computer Forensic.

Additionally, Muhammad Azrai Mohd Shamsol Bahri, Bachelor in Creative Multimedia (Honours), received the Mohd Shukri Yajid Outstanding Award.

The ceremony also honoured 36 graduates with Academic Awards and 20 with Industry Awards.

Industry partners involved in sponsoring the Industry Awards for outstanding MSU graduates include MSU Medical Centre, MSU Pharma Sdn Bhd, Betelcare Sdn Bhd, Affin Bank Bhd, Institut Jantung Negara, Hong Leong MSIG Takaful Bhd, BilaBila Retail Sdn Bhd, Mahsuri Food Sdn Bhd, NRG Capital Sdn Bhd, Fire Fighter Industry Sdn Bhd, Novatiq Scientific Sdn Bhd, Interlight Technology Sdn Bhd, Megane Samurai Malaysia Sdn Bhd, Mas Awana Services Sdn Bhd, SNK Market Data Research Sdn Bhd, LEDtronics Sdn Bhd, as well as Indkom Engineering Sdn Bhd.

MSU celebrated graduates from 120 academic programmes at its 37th convocation ceremony at the MSU Chancellor Hall in Shah Alam.

The strong collaboration between MSU and over 3,000 industry partners, particularly through the University Industry Advisory Panel (UIAP), has contributed towards the development of quality, industry-relevant academic and TVET programmes.

This achievement saw MSU being recognised as Asean's Most Transformative and Impactful TVET University at the Malaysia Education and TVET Awards 2025.

The 2024 Graduate Tracer Study by the Higher Education Ministry recorded that MSU achieved a graduate employability rate of 99.7%, making it among the highest in Malaysia.

This achievement is further supported by recognition from Talentbank, which named MSU as The Employers' Choice of University 2026, while also awarding 6-star employability ratings for Dentistry, Hospitality Management, Law and Tourism.

MSU is a Global Comprehensive Dual Sector University that integrates academic and technical education within a single higher education ecosystem. It offers both higher education programmes and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) pathways, enabling flexible learning progression from industry-driven skills-based training with global exposure.

Its global outlook has also enabled MSU to establish strategic collaborations with more than 500 university partners worldwide.

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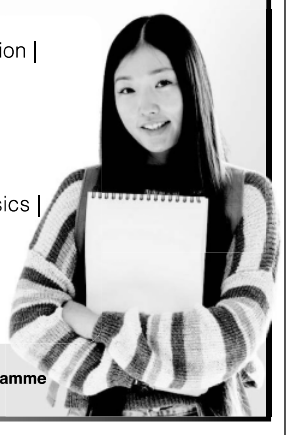

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Pathway to licensed property careers

CERTAIN jobs, such as doctors, lawyers, pilots, and architects, require not only a formal tertiary education but also a professional licence before one can practise the profession.

These jobs require special licences as they involve highly skilled work, dealing with safety, well-being and health matters.

Another industry that requires certain licences is the real estate sector, particularly in areas such as valuation, property management and estate agency.

"Licences for professionals in the real estate industry are important as the industry deals with high-value investments in properties.

"Professional licences, in this sense, are recognition by authorities to facilitate deals and transactions involving large financial sums.

"In Malaysia, three professional licences represent the core regulated practices within the real estate industry as they establish professionalism, accountability and ethical standards across the sector," explained Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT) Faculty of Built Environment's Real Estate Department Assistant Professor Tham Kuen Wei.

The three important licences for professionals in the real estate industry are the Registered Valuer licence (V), the Registered Estate Agent licence (E) and the Registered Property Manager licence (PM).

Tham says, holding all three licences plays an important role in guiding TAR UMT students who are pursuing their Bachelor of Real Estate Management (Honours).

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Key to real estate career success

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Besides teaching and supervising research, Tham ensures that the programme meets professional standards set by recognised bodies in Malaysia and internationally. This means students graduate with knowledge that is relevant, practical and aligned with industry expectations.

For Sanjay Sivan, the journey has been both challenging and meaningful.

"I chose to pursue my degree in real estate because I am interested in learning how properties influence the way people live, work and invest.

"However, as I progressed in my studies, I discovered that the field is much broader than I first imagined," he said.

"Real estate is not just about buildings. It involves planning, finance, law and long-term decision-making that can impact individuals and communities."

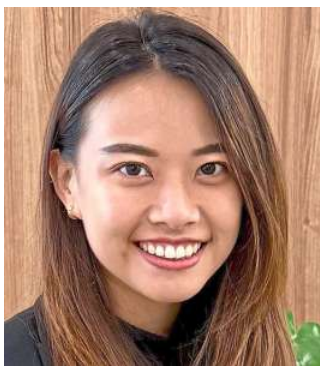
Throughout the programme, students learn about property valuation, estate agency, property management, land use planning and real estate finance.

They also learn important skills such as communication and leadership, and are trained to enhance these skills through various practical activities.

Group assignments and case studies are designed to reflect real situations, helping students work together to apply what they have learnt in practical ways.

Some subjects involving calculations and legal principles require focus and discipline. Balancing coursework with practical training can be demanding, but these challenges help students become more confident and prepared for the workplace.

Learning from lecturers who have industry experience also provides students with clearer insight into professional expectations. Looking ahead, Sanjay sees professional licensing as an important next step.



(From left) Loh, Prof Tham and Sanjay.

"I am at the stage of strengthening my knowledge foundation through my degree programme. The next step is to work towards obtaining the required licences, as they provide formal recognition of our knowledge and competencies.

"Holding these licences will help build trust with clients and employers, and open up more career opportunities," he said.

The long-term value of this preparation can be seen in the journey of TAR UMT alumna Loh Swee Fong. She now serves at Nawawi Tie Leung Property Consultants Sdn Bhd, as associate director leading the firm's Johor office.

After graduating from TAR UMT, she worked towards obtaining her professional licences in valuation, estate agency and property management. She credits TAR UMT's strong foundation and practical training for helping her adapt quickly to the industry.

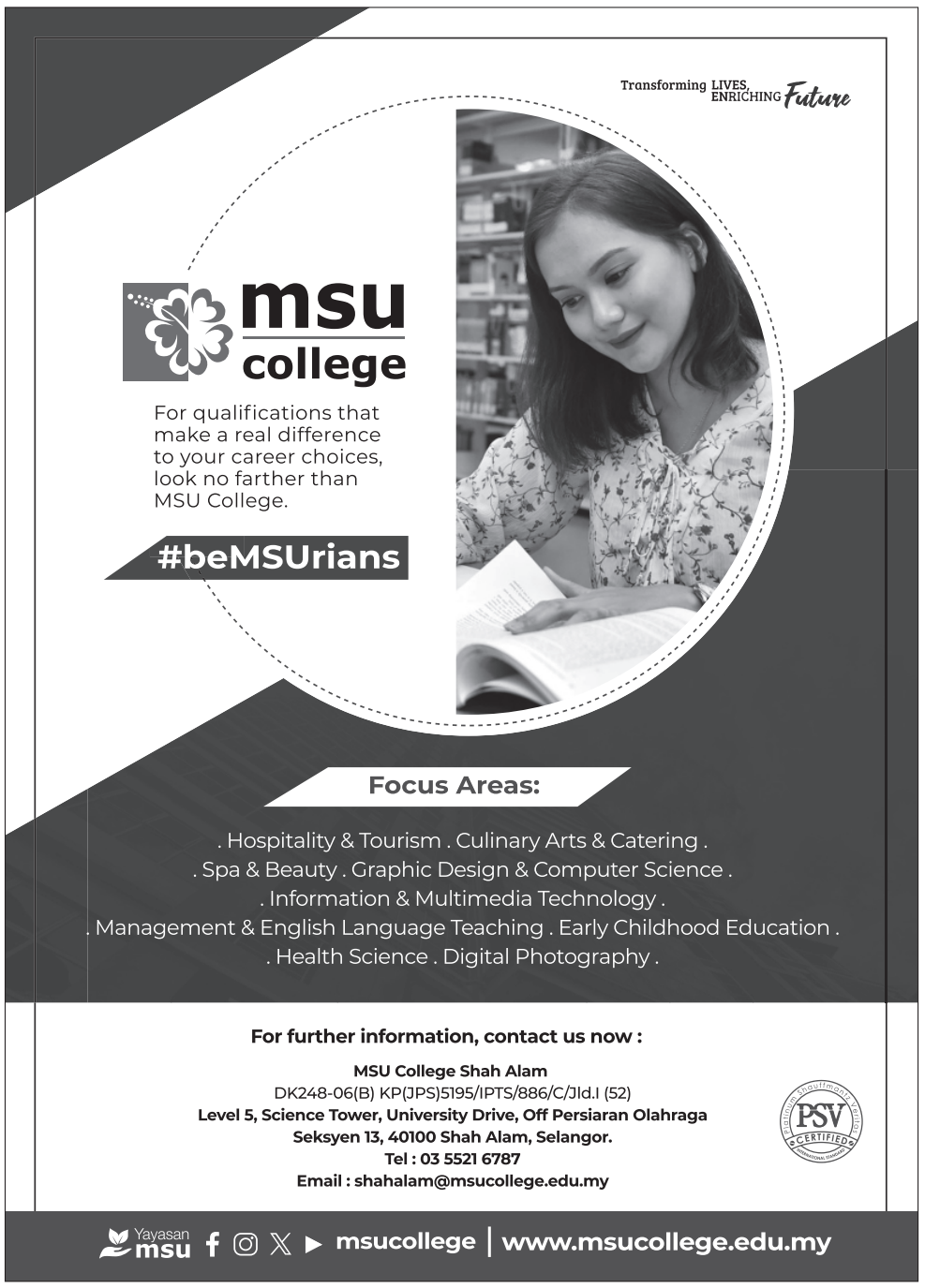
As a result, she has gained experience in various property projects and corporate assignments. After obtaining her licences, she was given the opportunity to establish and lead the Johor office, taking on greater responsibilities within the company.

■ For more details on the Real Estate Management programme and other built environment programmes, join the TAR UMT Open Day on June 6-7 from 10am to 5pm at TAR UMT campuses nationwide.

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

Prospective students can also call 011-1075 8535 or email fobe@tarc.edu.my. To apply online, visit *www.tarc.edu.my*.

Financial aid and merit scholarships are also available for qualified students.



Healing hands across borders

FROM Jan 25 to Feb 7, 18 chiropractic students and two faculty members from IMU University embarked on an international mobility and community outreach mission in the Philippines under the "Hands for Vitality" initiative.

Led by Chiropractic Mobility coordinator and senior lecturer Yi Kai Wong, alongside senior lecturer Janice Chan, the delegation delivered chiropractic care across nine missions in Antipolo City, Pasig City, Camarines Sur, Navotas City, Caloocan City, Quezon City, Pampanga, as well as at an Air Force camp and a Marine camp.

The mission was conducted in collaboration with Hands for Vitality, the Camara Institute for Chiropractic Sciences, and Intercare, in coordination with local government units in the Philippines.

Outreach activities were delivered in urban, rural and uniformed service communities, reflecting IMU University's commitment to global health engagement, service-learning and improving access to care for underserved populations.

IMU University's outreach mission included stops at Air Force and Marine camps, where students treated uniformed personnel for occupational strain and musculoskeletal pain.

Clinical exposure

Throughout the mission, students provided supervised chiropractic assessments and care to community members who would otherwise have limited or no access to such services.

In total, the team managed around 2,945 patients presenting with 6,267 conditions.

People-centred profession

Reflecting on the broader impact of the initiative, Chan shared, "Hands for Vitality is more than a clinical outreach. It is a powerful platform for developing empathy, cultural sensitivity and professional responsibility.

"Watching our students step confidently into unfamiliar environments and serve with humility reminds us why service learning is such an essential component of healthcare education."

Yi added, "This mobility programme embodies the spirit of chiropractic as a people-centred profession. Our students learn that healthcare is not confined to well-equipped clinics. It is about adaptability, compassion and a willingness to serve where the need is greatest."

Reflecting on the collaboration, Dr Martin Camara, Hands for Vitality founder, the Camara Institute for Chiropractic Sciences, and Intercare shared, "Hands for Vitality was built on the belief that quality chiropractic care should be accessible to every community, regardless of geography or circumstance.

"Our continued partnership with IMU University demonstrates how academic institutions and community organisations can work hand in hand to expand access, strengthen capacity, and create sustainable impact for the populations we serve."

Building global ties

Across the outreach locations, the team worked closely with local healthcare workers, volunteers and community leaders. The collaboration reinforced the importance of interdisciplinary teamwork and culturally responsive care delivery.

The mission also strengthened ties between IMU University and community partners in the Philippines, contributing to a growing network of global engagement within complementary and alternative medicine education.

IMU is the first university to offer the complete Chiropractic educational programme in Malaysia and in South-East Asia. Its five-year Chiropractic Programme includes academic and clinical training.

Students can opt to complete the entire degree at IMU or study part of the programme here and then transfer to IMU's partner universities – Health Sciences University (UK), University of South Wales (United Kingdom), CQUniversity (Australia) or Macquarie University (Australia).

IMU's Chiropractic degree is accredited with conditions by the Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia (CCEA), an internationally recognised accrediting body who evaluates chiropractic programmes to ensure they meet stringent quality standards.

The commencement of this programme is in April and September of each year.

■ Interested students can make an online application today. For more information, visit *www.imu.edu.my*, email start@imu.edu.my or call 03-2731 7272.

Nurturing future culinary professionals

CULINARY arts involve the preparation, cooking, presentation and serving of food in a professional manner. Those in the field are responsible not only for creating delicious dishes, but also transforming food into visually appealing edible art.

Management and Science University (MSU) College's School of Hospitality, Education and Business Studies offers a Diploma in Culinary Arts, which lets students transform their passion for cooking into a professional skill that will lead them into the rewarding world of food preparation.

The programme not only exposes students to a variety of culinary arts disciplines; it also provides a blend of solid culinary knowledge, practical competency, industry know-how and management skills.

These include patisserie and local cuisine, visually appealing food presentation and flawless cooking and food processing.

In terms of entry requirements, students must obtain at least three credits in any subjects in Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia or its equivalent.

Students who complete the diploma programme can immediately begin their careers or further their studies at MSU through the School of Hospitality and Creative Arts via credit transfer into the second year of bachelor's degree programmes in the same field or other related programmes.

MSU College offers a Diploma in Culinary Arts, allowing students to transform their passion for cooking into a professional skill.

With all the skills acquired, graduates may have the opportunity to work in hotels, start their own restaurant or cafe, or run a catering business.

Students can also choose other programmes such as Tourism Management, Hotel Management and Food Service and Restaurant Management.

MSU College also serves as the MSU APEL Centre, where potential candidates can 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 details, call 03-5521 6787, email enquiry@msucollege.my or visit *www.msucollege.edu.my*