Lifelong learning drives success

MANAGEMENT and Science University (MSU) celebrated academic excellence, resilience, perseverance and scholarly achievement through its third Postgraduate Hooding Ceremony held in conjunction with MSU's 37th Convocation Ceremony on May 17 and 18.

The Hooding Ceremony which took place on May 16 was officiated by Prof Tan Sri Dr Mohd Shukri Ab Yajid, president and founder of MSU.

A total of 142 postgraduate students from the Graduate School of Management (GSM) and the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) graduated during the first convocation session on May 17.

The graduates represented a diverse international community from 15 countries, namely Malaysia (73), China (40), Indonesia (six), Libya (five), Maldives (five), Sri Lanka (three), Saudi Arabia (two) and one graduate each from Kosovo, Jordan, Nigeria, Mauritania, Oman, India, Algeria, and Syria.

Among the graduates, 63 completed master's degrees across 10 programmes, while 79 earned doctoral degrees from six programmes.

The Master in Business Administration recorded the highest number of master's graduates with 56, while the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Management produced the largest doctoral cohort with 45 graduates.

In his official address, Prof Shukri highlighted the growing importance of lifelong learning and continuous self-development.

"This ceremony marks not only the completion of an academic journey, but also the beginning of a new path filled with continuous growth, innovation, and lifelong learning.

"Lifelong learning is not merely a concept; it is a culture and an essential mindset for anyone who aspires to remain at the forefront and excel in their field," he said.

Among the postgraduate students recognised as best graduates during MSU's 37th Convocation Ceremony were recipients of the:

Prof Mohd Shukri (back row, centre, in a black suit) with graduates at the Postgraduate Hooding Ceremony. This year's cohort comprises a diverse international community from 15 countries.

President's Award

> Abdul Ahad A.K.S Mohd Salleh, Doctor of Philosophy (Accounting/Finance)

Academic Awards

> Azizul Jamaludin, Doctor of Philosophy (Management/Business),

> Shakeerah Shukri, Doctor of Philosophy (Management/Business), and

> Siti Nursyahirah Bakar, Master in Science (by Research) Biomedicine;

Industrial Awards

> Waleed Aktar M Sultan, Doctor of Philosophy (Management/Business),

> Peng Dandan, Doctor of Philosophy (Management/Business),

> Raaginie Tamil Segaran, Master in Science (by Research) Biomedicine, and

> Muhammad Zulfadli Abd Wahab, Master in Business Administration

MSU's postgraduate offerings include MBA, MSc and PhD qualifications across a wide array of disciplines, ranging from Medicine, Engineering and Pharmacy to Health Sciences, Information Sciences, Education, Social Sciences, Business Management, and Hospitality and Culinary Arts.

■ For more information on postgraduate programmes offered at MSU, call 603-5521 6868, email enquiry@msu.edu.my or visit *www.msu.edu.my*

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Yayasan msu

A total of 7,000 working adults graduated from OUM during its 30th convocation in May.

Fast-tracking your education

IF you have spent 20 years managing budgets, leading teams and navigating corporate crises, the last thing you want is to sit through a three-hour lecture on textbook theories you disproved a decade ago.

The itch to get a master's or doctorate is real for many seasoned Malaysian professionals. But between boardroom meetings, family duties and saving your weekends, a conventional academic pathway is nearly impossible.

What if you didn't have to start from scratch? What if your decades of career sweat equity became your degree?

At the 30th convocation of Open University Malaysia (OUM) last May, where approximately 7,000 working adults graduated, an entrepreneur earned his doctorate through a pathway known as Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning for Qualification (APEL.Q).

Pioneer of flexible education

This unconventional route is driven by OUM's Open, Distance and Digital Education (ODDE) approach.

By fusing digital accessibility with flexible learning, OUM removes the geographical and physical constraints of higher education. It is a proven formula that has produced nearly 140,000 graduates to date, establishing the university as a leading institution for working adults.

OUM's entire ecosystem is built around the philosophy that learning must fit your life. Academic programmes are distributed across five specialised faculties: Education, Business and Management, Technology and Applied Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities, and Computing and Analytics.

Beyond APEL.Q, OUM utilises the full spectrum of prior learning accreditation to help students save time and money.

If you do not meet the conventional entry requirements for a programme, APEL.A (Access) provides alternative admission based on work experience.

If you are already enrolled, you can gain course exemptions through APEL.C (Credit Award), enabling you to graduate faster. Together with APEL.Q, these pathways ensure that no corporate experience goes to waste.

Mohd Jafri became the first to earn a doctorate from OUM through the APEL.Q pathway.

Your resume is the textbook

APEL.Q is an accelerated, fully MQA-accredited pathway for experienced professionals. Instead of exams and assignments, it assesses what you already know, significantly cutting the time needed to graduate.

The catch? This is a structured evaluation that involves a portfolio, a field and validation visit, a challenge test and capstone courses. The bar is also high: you need at least 20 years of professional experience for a master's and 25 years for a doctorate.

Honouring vast experience

Datuk Dr Mohd Jafri Abd Razak, who earned his Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) at the convocation, is a corporate veteran with 36 years of business leadership.

"I already had a master's from the United Kingdom, but I wanted to go further. I've always been careful about choosing where I study – it must be credible and well recognised. OUM met that with MQA accreditation and a growing international presence.

"More importantly, its flexible, tech-driven model works really well for someone with a busy schedule like mine," he added.

The first to earn a doctorate from OUM through APEL.Q, Mohd Jafri was honoured with the Pro-Chancellor's award for his achievement.

Built for the real world

OUM's corporate focus is deliberate. The university recently appointed banking and corporate titan Tan Sri Azman Hashim as its new chancellor, reinforcing its commitment to industry-relevant education. It is also why consumers voted OUM the Gold winner at the 2025 Putra Brand Awards.

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>
> Datuk Dr Mohd Jafri Abd Razak

Under president and vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Ahmad Izanee Awang, OUM has built an APEL.Q portfolio that mirrors the modern economy.

Senior executives can now leverage their career histories to fast-track heavyweight programmes like the DBA, MBA, or Master's in Project Management and IT.

Newer specialised APEL.Q pathways are also being rolled out. For technical fields, OUM is introducing a Master of Facility Management (with Sirim certification) and a Master of Occupational Safety and Health Risk Management, alongside a Doctor of Education and a Master of Early Childhood Education.

If you have spent two decades building a career, you have already done the hard work. Stop letting time constraints hold you back.

■ For more information, call 03-7801 2000, email admission@oum.edu.my or visit *apel.oum.edu.my*

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