First MOOC in Malaysia Launched

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are courses that are offered online, for free, to any interested participant. Bringing high quality learning to the masses, MOOCs are set to change the educational landscape of the world. Despite being a relatively new phenomenon, MOOCs are now offered by most of the world-renowned universities such as MIT, Harvard, Stanford, UC Berkley and Melbourne.

Taylor’s University School of Engineering (SOE) is the first university in Malaysia to collaborate with Open Learning Pty Ltd to launch a module on entrepreneurship as a massive open online course (MOOC). The module is taught by Professor Dr. Mushtak Al-Atabi, a mechanical engineer by training and currently the Dean of SOE. The course proved to be a success with registrations by 1,400 students from more than 115 different countries.

“Open Learning removes the barriers to a lifelong and quality education by offering continuous enrolment, flexible scheduling and minimal admission requirements, allowing individuals to study at their own pace. With interest from academic institutions and employers, MOOCs have the potential for changing how learning will take place in the near future,” explained Professor Dr. Mushtak Al-Atabi.

While MOOCs offered by other universities treat the online students and the on-campus students as different cohorts, Taylor’s MOOC focuses on the interaction between the two cohorts as the on-campus students are required to work in teams with the online students. This is done in line with the core purpose of Taylor’s, which is to educate the youth of the world and to prepare the on-campus students to be leaders in the global community.

The module started on 25th March 2013 for 14 weeks with a total of 120 learning hours. For more information on the MOOC on entrepreneurship offered by Taylor’s University, please visit https://www.openlearning.com/courses/Entrepreneurship.
SOE Partners with World Class Employers to Offer Taylor’s World Class Scholarship

Mar 7

Taylor’s University, in collaboration with leading world-class multinationals, is once again awarding full scholarships to outstanding students with exceptional academic results and leadership qualities in the Taylor’s World Class Scholarship (TWCS) 2013. Among 12 deserving recipients of the scholarship, three students from engineering school will have the golden opportunity to intern with three top employers, namely BMW Group, Scomi Group and TOP Glove.

The TWCS, unlike other scholarship or bursary programmes, provides a 100 per cent tuition scholarship for recipients to pursue a foundation or degree of their choice at Taylor’s University, plus an internship opportunity as a management trainee with top industry partners. This scholarship is truly one-of-a-kind, as not only do the recipients benefit from the academic and soft skills development, they are also given the opportunity to acquire hands-on industry experience with world-renowned multinationals.

The TWSC award ceremony will be held on 9th July 2013 and the selection interview for deserving scholars is currently on-going.

Valuable Internship Experience at Scomi Rail

Internship is an integral part of a student’s learning experience. A total of 52 students from Chemical, Electrical and Electronic and Mechanical Engineering programme from Taylor’s University School of Engineering recently completed their internship programmes in 38 national and international companies based in Malaysia and abroad. During the internship placement, students were exposed to different business functions through working at administration, marketing, leadership as well as technical departments in an organisation.

During an academic assessment visit by Professor Dr. Marwan, lecturer from SOE, to Scomi Rail Bhd., he visited Gabriel Ngui, one of his students, who was undergoing his internship in this company. Gabriel was placed in various departments within the organisation including engineering, meshing and simulation as well as production office to maximise his industrial exposure.

"The internship placement has certainly given me the much-needed exposure to technical skills as well as real-life working experiences where I can put what I have learnt into practice when I graduate later," said Gabriel Ngui, a third-year mechanical engineering student.

All the interning students received excellent feedback from their supervisors and colleagues in the organisations, where they were placed.
Dr. Theodoros N. Arvanitis recently delivered a talk at Taylor’s University Lakeside Campus, focusing on “Grand Challenges in Health Informatics: Semantic Interoperability”. The informative talk by Dr. Arvanitis has provoked interesting questions from the floor. Thirty students from chemical and mechanical engineering programmes attended this talk.

One of the many challenges related to health informatics is communication. The variation in health informatics systems caused by different semantic languages, interoperability and standards could lead to miscommunication during integration and interchanging of health information. Hence, the talk aimed to educate the students on the current challenges in health informatics to develop a user comprehensible, computable and extensive knowledge representation scheme that provides the necessary infrastructure and seamless information integration across applications within and between homogenous healthcare organisations. The talk also included information on how engineering applications could be applied in medical and biomedical fields.

Dr. Arvanitis is a Reader in Biomedical Informatics, Signals & Systems at the University of Birmingham, UK and a Chartered Engineer. He has done extensive researches with many publications on the emerging field of health informatics.
Newly-Elected Vice President of MyTRIZ

Associate Professor Dr. Edwin Chung Chin Yau, Director of Taylor’s Technology Innovation Centre (TTIC) of SOE, has been elected to be the Vice President for MyTRIZ Innovation Association for a term of two years. TRIZ is an international innovation organisation of practitioners from all over the world and MyTRIZ is playing a growing role in promoting innovation as a way of life in Malaysia. This is a well-earned recognition as Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chung has been playing a leadership role in innovation promotion and training in the country for the past few years.

MyTRIZ Innovation Association is a non-profit organisation that is established to support those who know the TRIZ methodology, interested to learn TRIZ, and wish to apply TRIZ for the benefit of all humankind in Malaysia.

---

Dr. Chong Joins the Chartered Engineers Bandwagon

Dr. Chong Chien Hwa, Programme Director for Chemical Engineering Programme of SOE, was recently selected to be a member of the prestigious Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE) and the Engineering Council (UK), a membership that carries the title – Chartered Engineer (CEng). Dr. Chong is the first chemical engineering academic staff of Taylor’s University to achieve this status.

Currently, SOE has seven chartered engineers from the following programmes: Electrical and Electronic (1), Mechanical Engineering (5) and Chemical Engineering (1).