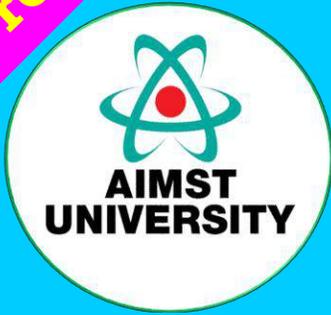


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AIMST Newsletter

(AIMST) Asian Institute of Medicine, Science and Technology

This Newsletter is Intended for AIMST University's Community and its Stakeholders

Volume 2, Issue 4

January–March 2020

12th Convocation Ceremony - Highlights

Convocation is among the biggest exciting events held on the AIMST University's lush green Campus. The great enthusiasm of the graduands, their parents, friends and family members, and the presence of specially invited guests, local and international collaborators as well as members of AIMST University management and dynamic teaching staff, makes it unique. ► **Read more on page 3.**



Proactive Measures to Prevent COVID-19 Occurrence at AIMST University

AIMST University's Senior Management Team is meeting on a regular basis to carefully review the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic situation in order to ensure that all necessary steps are taken proactively for the safety of students, staff and stakeholder. The university management team will continue to monitor COVID-19 pandemic developments both domestically and abroad and will notify the critical updates as appropriate to the AIMST community. For efficient communication, AIMST University has launched a website (<https://www.aimst.edu.my/event-news/covid-19/>), which will serve as a resource for its community. Students, staff, and stakeholders are advised to visit the above-stated website to monitor the situation and stay updated for safety. ■



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The AIMST Newsletter is distributed to all AIMST University's staff, students, and stakeholders. This newsletter is also available online. Both, online and print version of the newsletter are provided free of charge to all intended recipients. It is published four times annually in March, June, September and December months. Its purpose is to keep all stakeholders informed of the AIMST University activities and to highlight the important issues vital for the AIMST community. The newsletter is edited and produced by AIMST university staff from material provided by staff, students, stakeholders and other interested parties.

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Editor's Note



Dear Readers,
Welcome to the March edition of AIMST Newsletter, AIMST University's quarterly newsletter.

Currently, the whole world is going through a difficult time due to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The World Health Organization (WHO) data indicate that as of 31 March 2020, globally, 750890

people were infected with Coronavirus, and 36405 people were deceased due to COVID-19. The ongoing global health crisis created by pandemic has forced the global community, health professionals, regulatory agencies, and stakeholders to focus on the 'Bio(logical)risk Management' to prevent the virus spreading to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 infection.

For AIMST University, the safety of its students, staff, and stakeholders is always the topmost priority. Hence, AIMST University management took precautionary measures to address several concerns in time to protect everybody on the university campus. In line with the Malaysian Government's Movement Control (PKP) Order and guidelines of the Ministry of Higher Education (KPT) and the Department of Higher Education (JPT), AIMST University management is carefully taking the necessary steps to ensure the safety of its students, staff, and stakeholders.

For the safety of everybody, all students, staff, and stakeholders are advised to cooperate with AIMST University's Security personnel at the main gate, as they will carry out the screening procedures for everyone before allowing entry inside the campus.

Almost the whole world has come to a standstill, as the COVID-19 pandemic persists. As a result, it has severely

12th Convocation Ceremony - Highlights

► *Continued from page 1*

AIMST University's the 12th Convocation Ceremony was held on 16th November 2019 at the well-known its very own Great Hall, located in the spectacularly beautiful campus of the university. With the usual pomp and grandeur, the event was presided over by AIMST University's Honourable Chancellor, Tun S. Samy Vellu.

A total of 644 graduands from seven faculties and the postgraduate programmes graduated this year. The Great Hall was

interrupted the processes and operations of every industry across the board, including the education industry. In this unique situation, the global education industry is bringing rapid innovations to deal with the issues associated with admissions, orientations, teaching-learning processes, examinations, and various other academic issues to overcome the unforeseen challenges posed by lockdowns.

AIMST University has also taken very prompt necessary actions to ensure the teaching-learning processes are uninterrupted for its all the educational programmes offered. It was essential to avoid an academic loss for the students.

Based on the practices adopted by all institutions of higher learning and universities, it appears that ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is serving as a critical turning point to bring in the changes in the education industry. Due to pandemic situation, all academics and students has swiftly embraced (and became acquainted with) the online teaching and online learning process, respectively. The online teaching-learning process is becoming a 'new normal', and for sure, it is going to revolutionize the higher education landscape.

In this global crisis, online teaching and learning is becoming a solution in the education industry and helping to overcome the challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic. Within a short time, all academics have become accustomed to online teaching, and presumably, most of them would love to continue it. Therefore, if we make some pedagogical adjustments in suitable courses, then it is possible to convert some of our regular courses into online courses.

Take care and stay safe,

Dr Subhash J Bhore

Editor-in-Chief, AIMST Newsletter

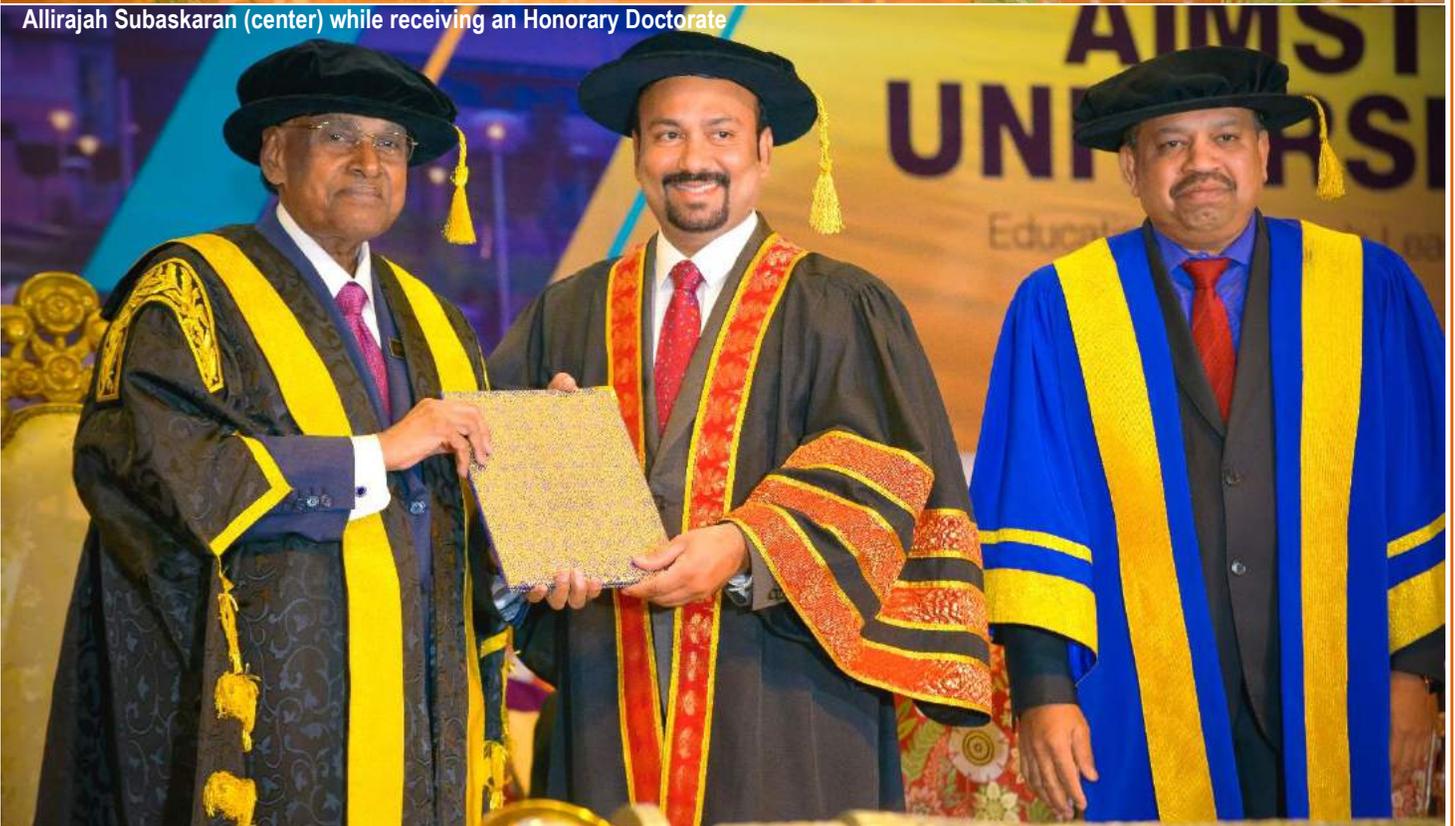
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filled with proud parents, graduands and faculty members. The programme commenced at 7.00 am with the arrival of parents and guests. The graduands procession at 8.00 am was followed by the Academic Procession and the Chancellor's Procession. The Honourable Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive of AIMST University, Emeritus Professor Dr. Harcharan Singh Sidhu, delivered his convocation address after the National Anthem. This year an Honorary Doctorate was conferred on Mr Allirajah Subaskaran. This ... ► *Continued on page 4*

► Continued from page 3
...was followed by conferment of degrees to the 623 graduands who attended the convocation. Each year, the University Gold medal is awarded to the outstanding student, who has excelled not just in academic but also in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.
► Continued on page 5



Emeritus Professor Dr Harcharan Singh Sidhu while delivering his convocation address



Allirajah Subaskaran (center) while receiving an Honorary Doctorate

► **Continued from page 4** This year we had two students worthy of the University Gold medal, Ms. Goh Pei Yee from Faculty of Dentistry and Tan Yee Ling from Faculty of Pharmacy, and they were awarded the Gold medal.

The 12th Convocation ceremony concluded with the Kedah State Anthem. After the processions left the Great Hall, the proud graduates and their parents revelled in their

success, and the festive mood was as all prevailing and infectious.

The Live cast of the Convocation Ceremony was done using Facebook platform. The planning and preparation for the ceremony was started in June 2019 and would not have been possible without the dedicated teamwork and support from the university management, the Steering Committee, and various respective Subcommittees. Some snaps of the event are shown below. ■



► Continued from page 5



▶ Continued from page 6



► Continued from page 7



A Courtesy Visit to Kedah State’s Director of Health

Dean, Faculty of Medicine (FoM), Senior Professor Dr KR Sethuraman, Deputy Dean (Academic), Professor Dr PK Rajesh, Dato’ Dr Hasnah and Ms Buanes of clinical liaison unit of FoM paid a courtesy visit to meet YBrS Dr Hj Mohd Fikri B. Ujang, Director of Health, Kedah State. Dr Fikri recalled his earlier visits on behalf of the Public Service Commission to AIMST University to interview the outgoing MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) students to select them for a short service appointment. The Director was invited to visit AIMST University during April 2019 to view the facilities available, which may be useful for any continuing professional development (CPD) activities of the directorate or the hospitals affiliated with AIMST University. ■



International Post Graduate Colloquium on Current Opinions in Medical Sciences

On 6-8 January 2020, Faculty of Medicine (FoM), AIMST University had hosted the “International Post Graduate Colloquium on Current Opinions in Medical Sciences (IPCCOMS-2020)”. This Colloquium was an excellent opportunity for the Post Graduate Medical scholars to present their research findings at an International platform through virtual presentations. The IPCCOMS-2020 was a great success, thanks to the keen enthusiasm and support from partner universities from India and the hard work of the local organizing committee.



Virtual presentation in progress



A section of delegates at IPCCOMS 2020



IPCCOMS 2020 organizing committee with overseas delegates

The winners at various sessions of the colloquium were as follows: Young Scientist Award Winners: 1. Rashmi Raveendran, Department of Pathology, Saveetha Medical College and Hospital, Chennai, India. 2. Monisha Sundararajan, Department of Anesthesiology, Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute, Pondicherry, India. First runner up 1. Subalakshmi.S, Department of Microbiology, Saveetha Medical College and Hospital, Chennai, India. 2. Shweta Gangurde, Department of Community Medicine, Dr D.Y.Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune, India. 3. Melody M. A., Department of Psychiatry, Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute, Pondicherry, India. 4. Saranya Nagalingam, Department of Anesthesiology, Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute, Pondicherry, India.

Second runner up 1. Harish Manoharan, Department of Microbiology, Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute, Chennai, India.

International Symposium on Contemporary Trends in Advanced Physiology

Unit of Physiology, FoM, AIMST University had organised an “International Symposium on Contemporary Trends in Advanced Physiology” on the 9th of October 2019. During the symposium, speakers from across the world shared their views and research findings with the audience. The symposium concluded with a vote of thanks from the organizing chairman Dr Usha Kumari.



Members of IPCCOMS 2020 organizing committee

search Institute, Chennai, India. 2. Ajita Mishra, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dr DY Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune, India.

Oral Presentation: AIMST University, Best Oral Presenter: Ms Prasanna Mutusamy, Faculty of Applied Sciences, AIMST University, Malaysia.

Saveetha University: First Place: Monica Raghavan, Department of Microbiology, Saveetha Medical College and Hospital, Chennai, India. Second Place: Rajavani Mahendran, Department of Microbiology, Saveetha Medical College and Hospital, Chennai, India. Third Place: 1. Oviya Priya. I, Department of Microbiology, Saveetha Medical College and Hospital, Chennai, India. 2. M. Mohana Priya, Department of Microbiology, Saveetha Medical College and Hospital, Chennai, India. ■



The organizers of Symposium

► **Continued from page 9** As whole, the symposium was successful with an overwhelming response. A total of 98 participants attended the conference.

Snr Prof Dr K R Sethuraman was the advisor. Prof Dr P K Rajesh, Prof. Dr Rabindarjeet Singh and Prof Dr Jaiganesh were the co-advisors. The organizing committee consisted of Dr Usha Kumari, organizing chairman, Dr Sherly Deborah and Ms Harini Narayanam as organizing secretaries, and Dr Rajiv Pathak as



A section of delegates during a session

treasurer. And the other unit members held various responsibilities as part of the organizing committee. ■

The First National Quiz on Gastrointestinal Physiology

On October 9, 2019, the Unit of Physiology, FoM, AIMST University had organized the “1st National Quiz on Gastrointestinal Physiology”. Snr Prof Dr K R Sethuraman was

the advisor, and Dr P K Rajesh, Dr Rabindarjeet Singh and Dr Jaiganesh were the co-advisors. Dr Usha Kumari was the organizing chairman. Participants came from various universities in Malaysia. Students from UniKL-RCMP won the first prize while AIMST University student bagged the first runner up prize. ■



Winners of first prize: UniKL-RCMP



First runner up: AIMST University



Participants with organizing committee

Felicitation Ceremony of AIMST University MBBS Students

The Faculty of Medicine (FoM), the flagship program of AIMST University, is proud to have produced over 2000 successful Medical doctors and postgraduates in its eighteen years of academic excellence. On 15 November 2019, the felicitation ceremony was arranged for Batch 20 and 19 A MBBS students. As a Dean of FoM, Snr Prof KR Sethuraman delivered the Address and administered the Hippocratic Oath to the grandaunts. The Dean stated that the faculty and staffs have tried to inject the “AIMST Gene” into all our students and this gene expresses the ability to face challenges with grit and deliver one’s best despite any limitations one may have to endure. He also mentioned that it could also be labeled as the ‘hidden curriculum’ of FoM.

Emeritus Prof. Dr Harcharan Singh, Vice-Chancellor & Chief Executive of AIMST University, felicitated the stu-

dents and released the FoMMag, the Odyssey of Batch 20. He informed that our FoM alumni had gone above and beyond to demonstrate the University’s motto of Educating Tomorrow’s leaders with values of Integrity, Grit, Creativity, Social Responsibility and Confidence. He wished and hoped that the accomplishments of Batch 20 students in their career also be a part of the AIMST history in future.

Prof PK Rajesh, Deputy Dean Academic & International Affairs made the session enjoyable by showing the 'then and now' pictures of the grandaunts. MMA Kedah and Dean's awards for the Top 3 students of Batch 20 were distributed. Dr Anthony Leela proposed the vote of thanks. Cultural performances, reflections video show, cake cutting, and distribution of badges were part of the event. The event was coordinated by Prof. PK Rajesh, Dr Gokul Shankar and Dr Theingi Mg Mg. Prof. Kevin Fernandez was the Master of the ceremony. ■



MBBS (Batch 20) Students and FoM faculty staff with Prof Dr Harcharan Singh Sidhu, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, AIMST University during a photo session after the Felicitation Ceremony

Medics Intersarsity Games 2019 – AIMST University (Au) Stands for Gold



Students with Faculty of Medicine (FoM) Flag off Team(L); Flag off Team from FoM & student affairs division, AIMST University (R)

AIMST- FoM students were ranked overall third and Gold wise Second in MVIG 2019 games among over 30 Medical schools in Malaysia. AIMST- FoM students won 12 Gold, 3 Silver and 4 Bronze medals in the Medics Intersarsity Games 2019 competition. ■



4 x 100 Gold



Dota Gold

▶ Continued from page 11



Basketball Gold



◀ Gowree Shankar, AIMST University, was awarded the Best Outstanding Sports-women in the event.

Stakeholders Meeting for AIMST University MBBS Curriculum Revision



Students, Faculty members, Alumni, Government hospital doctors and external examiners at FoM Curriculum revision stakeholders meeting held on November 29, 2019.

FoM Events on World AIDS Day

To commemorate the World AIDS Day, a quiz competition on HIV/AIDS and a talk entitled “Towards ending AIDS in Malay-

sia 2030: are we ready?” by Dr Azlina Binti Azlan, Principal Asst. Director (HIV/STI), Kedah State Health Department was organized on 2nd December 2019 at AIMST University. ■



Participants of quiz competition



Winners of the quiz competition



Expert panel meeting on proposed MBBS assessment, December 11, 2019

Team Deanery



Dr Azlina Binti Azlan, Principal Asst. Director (HIV/STI), Kedah State Health Department

with Prof. Dr Hayati Bt Abd Rahman, USIM; Prof. Dr Krishnan, Head, Department of Family Medicine, RCSI; Prof. Dr.KR Sethuraman, Dean FoM, AIMST University; Dato’ Prof. Dr Raymond Azman Ali, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Prof. Dr Ganesh, Deputy Dean Academic, MAHSA. ■

FoM Alumni Gala Dinner 12 October 2019, Cinta Sayang Golf Resort, Sungai Petani, Kedah



FoM Alumni News and Achievements



Dr Vennila

Dr Vennila A/P Gopalan, AIMST alumnus MBBS batch 8, completed her Masters in Physiology at University Malaya. She will join National University Singapore for her PhD physiology in 2020. On air with National TV 2 RTM: A sharing session by Dr Mogan and Dr Rama (MBBS Batch 2) on creating awareness among the pub-



Dr Rama



Dr Mogan

lic in Malaysia on Diabetic foot ulcers and limb amputations. ■

Hands-on Training Workshop on Tips on Organizing and Creating E-Quiz

FoM AIMST University had organized a hands-on training workshop on “Tips on organizing and creating E-Quiz” on November 8, 2019, at AIMST University spanning on two sessions. ■



Participants and trainers with Dean Sr. Prof. Dr KR Sethuraman (session 1)



Talk by Dean Dr KR Sethuraman (session 1)



Participants and trainers with Dean Sr. Prof. Dr K.R. Sethuraman during the second session of the workshop



Cochrane Systematic Reviews Workshop at AIMST University

An inaugural workshop, entitled ‘An Introduction to Cochrane Systematic Reviews’ was conducted on the 20th of November 2019. This was a ‘hands-on’ work- ► **Continued on page 14**

► **Continued from page 13** -shop conjointly organized by AIMST University and Cochrane Malaysia based at RCSI-UCD Malaysia Campus. The invited speakers and trainers, namely Prof. Jacqueline J Ho, and Dr Tan May Loong from the RCSI-UCD Malaysia Campus, are well known and established authors in the international Cochrane Colloquium, and have extensive experience in conducting Cochrane Systematic reviews. The organizing Chairperson was Dr Cyril Natarajan from the Surgical Department, FOM, AIMST university. The workshop was

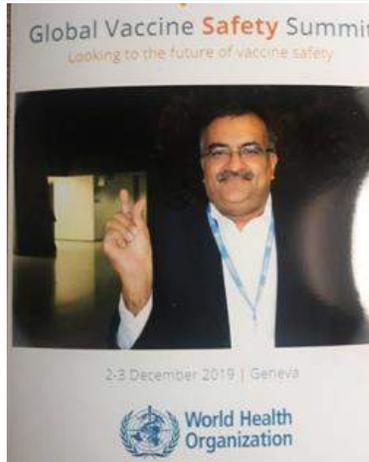
inaugurated by a very encouraging message by the Dean Faculty of Medicine, Senior Professor KR Sethuraman. There were presentations on several aspects of Cochrane research, including how to register titles for Systematic Reviews and how to become an author. The workshop also included a 'hands-on' component where participants were given several systematic reviews to analyze, subsequently presenting their respective interpretations and conclusions. Around 50 participants attended the workshop and gave very positive feedback. ■



Group photo of the workshop participants

Global Vaccine Safety Summit

The Global Vaccine safety blueprint 2.0 was being prepared over the last few years, with inputs from stakeholders from around the world. The Global Vaccine Safety Summit aimed to finalize the blueprint was held at WHO Head Quarters, Geneva, Switzerland on 2-3 December 2019. Prof. Dr PK Rajesh from FoM, AIMST University had participated in the summit.



The Who's who of WHO/CDC/UNICEF/GAVI, scientists, researchers, vaccine manufacturers and end-users met to discuss vaccine safety guidelines and ► **Continued on page 15**

► **Continued from page 14** its future. On day one, the address from WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus was followed by presentations, video displays and discussions on the governance, coordination and the regulatory framework of the Global Vaccine safety initiative. Post lunch session included an address by CDC Principal Deputy Director and UNICEF Execu-

tive director on Surveillance of adverse events following immunization and enhanced vaccine safety communication. Day two was dedicated to novel vaccines and their safety issues, new vaccine technologies and pharmacovigilance. It was an excellent platform for networking with the best in the field of vaccines.■

Hiking Through the Forest to Visit Gravity Feed System

It was an adventurer and a tortuous journey, a 3 kilometre up the hill through the forest to see the gravity feed system and another 3 kilometres down along with the year 4 group E students. Changes in altitude, slope and the muddy pathway was a challenge. Dr Leela said “It was a hike that



got my heart pumping, at the same time embracing nature, bitten by leeches on the way and it was indeed a real challenge going up the steep hill. I almost gave up as my heart was pumping and breathlessness in between but the

student’s encouragement, help, holding my hands and motivated me to push myself to go up and reach the top. It was an experience that I will cherish throughout the rest of my life, their love, and how they took care of me is something that I will never forget.■



Subramaniam, Jeeviamonica Johnson.■

FoM Students Participated in Intersarsity Debate Competition

Two teams, comprising of six MBBS students from year 5 FoM, AIMST University, participated in the intersarsity debate competition held at UKM Kuala Lumpur on December 14, 2019. The theme was Mental Health Mental disorders. The teams were accompanied by Dr S Sudarsanan, Prof and Head, Psychiatry Unit. Both groups performed very well in the preliminary three rounds but narrowly missed a berth in the semifinals.

Team A: Brandon Heu Sing Ann, Valneesraj Muniyandi, Jasmeen Lee Pek San.

Team B: Jagathesen Thiru Chelvam, Arravinnath



Medical Camp at Kampung Pengkalan, Kedah

A medical camp was organized by MBBS (Batch 23 Year 3 Group D) students under the supervision of Unit of Community Medicine FoM, AIMST University. This camp was held in the hall of Sekolah Kebangsaan Haji Omar Tahir, Merbok, Sungai Petani on 14th December 2019. In total, about 50 participants came for the health camp registration. Clinical lecturers involved in the camp were Prof. Kevin Fernandez, Dr Badrinath Marthy, Dr Diwaka Aiyaloo, Dr Moses Dass, Dr Christina, Dr Tin Soe, Dr Tracy Sein, Dr Theingi Mg Mg and Pn Azila. The leader for the health camp was Ho Song Jun from Year 3, Batch 23. Majority of the participants were 50 years old and above. Proper medical examination and appropriate

treatment were given, and referral letters to hospitals were given to the participants who needed to seek further medical advice and treatment. The children were advised to take deworming medication. They were advised to brush their teeth daily as there were quite a number of them had dental caries. They were also given toothbrush and toothpaste. Participants were also demonstrated simple exercises to reduce their joint pain. They were also checked for short-sightedness and long-sightedness. This health camp was a success, and overall, the participants were extremely excited and cooperative. Students sharpened their verbal and non-verbal skills and had a more meaningful experience by serving and helping the community. In return, their leadership skills were strengthened, and they learnt to be more efficient in working as a team. ■



Registration station



Paediatric booth



Family Medicine booth



Blood Pressure booth



Blood Glucose booth



Ophthalmology booth



Orthopaedic booth



Prescription counter



Surgery booth



Dr Theingi, the supervisor of camp, gave certificate to the student leader, Ho Song Jun (left) The organizers with the school principal and the village leader (right).



Medical Camp at Kampung Pasir, Kedah

MBBS (Batch 23 Group C) students and Unit of Community Medicine, FoM, AIMST University had jointly orga-

nized a health camp and a drawing activity for children on February 16, 2020 at Kampung Pasir, Kedah. The snaps of the event are shown below.■



AIMST Students Win at National Level Chess Tournament

AIMST students from various faculty participated at a National Level Chess Tournament, KEJOHANAN CATUR TERBUKA PACU-KMKN 2020 which was held on 15 February 2020 at Dewan Badlishah Kolej Mara Kuala Nerang, Kedah.

Player credentials: A) Yip Thung from Faculty of Nursing-Diploma got 5th Place scoring 6.5/8 points (6 Wins 1 Draw 1 Loss). B) Malvinpal from Faculty of Medicine-Year 3 got 9th Place scoring 6/8 points (5 Wins 2 Draws 1 Loss). C) Ravinaesh from Faculty of Medicine-Year 1 got 12th Place scoring 6/8 points (6 Wins 2 Loss).■



Co-Curricular (CCA) Activity of MBBS Students



MBBS students (Batch 23 Year 3) during the spelling Bee activity in their Co-Curricular (CCA) activity. The activity has strengthened the knowledge of medical terms, especially the names of microorganisms. This game allowed students to refresh their memory and to learn more and remember better. In addition, this game provided opportunities to students to improve their communication skills and vocabulary, thus made them more confident. Overall this activity was fun, scientific and effective to create bonding among the students. CCA coordinator Dr Vimalah Devi facilitated this activity. ■

FoM Staff News and Achievements

- On January 15, 2020, Dr Leela Anthony, Deputy Dean FoM, delivered a talk entitled “Importance of taking Occupational History” for the General Practitioners at CME Program, at Klinik Kesihatan Bakar Arang, Sungai Petani.



- Dato Prof

Ragupathy Naidu and Prof Arulmoli, FOM AIMST University, participated as examiners at the MRCS B OSCE examinations held at Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and UCD Malaysia



campus at Penang Medical College on 18th and 19th January 2020.

- Dr Shivali Shamsheer was invited as a guest speaker at the Acute Pain Service (APS) Workshop organized by Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Department, Hospital Seberang Jaya, Penang, on 19th February 2020. She was invited as a speaker on 21 and 22 December 2019 at a two-day training and recruitment program for new volunteers organized by Pertubuhan Kebajikan Sneham Malaysia, an NGO (Sneham) working on Mental Health.

- Prof. Jaiganesh, HOU & Dr Sobana.R Associate Professor of Physiology, AIMST University attended SIMULUS 5: 5th Annual Conference of Pedi STARS on Medical Simulation "Building the future - Medical Education and beyond "at Chennai on 6th-9th February 2020. ► **Continued on page 19**

► **Continued from page 18** • Dr Sobana R did an oral presentation "Do vicarious observers learn effectively compared to active participants of a simulation-based teaching session?" • Dr Sobana R completed the "CHSE-Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator" course conducted by Simulation Society for Healthcare, the USA on 19.02.2020. • Dr Sobana R is selected for the "IPSS-INSPIRE Paediatric Simulation Fellowship" by the IPSS-International Paediatric Simulation Society, USA. • Dr Sobana R delivered a Talk at FoMAP-Faculty of Medicine Academic Programme "Simulation-Beyond Mannequins", AIMST University on 21st February 2020.■



AIMST Quality Improvement Programme

The AIMST University Library is actively coordinating the AIMST Quality Improvement Programme (AQIP). As a part of it, every month, tailor-made talks or activities are organized for the benefit of junior and senior staff. The AQIP also welcomes external speakers by special invitations. A fitness programme is being held weekly at the sports complex from 5.45 pm to 6.45 pm. These activities will be resumed once the movement control order (MCO) to contain COVID-19 is over. Some snaps of the recent events are shown below to update the AIMST Community.■

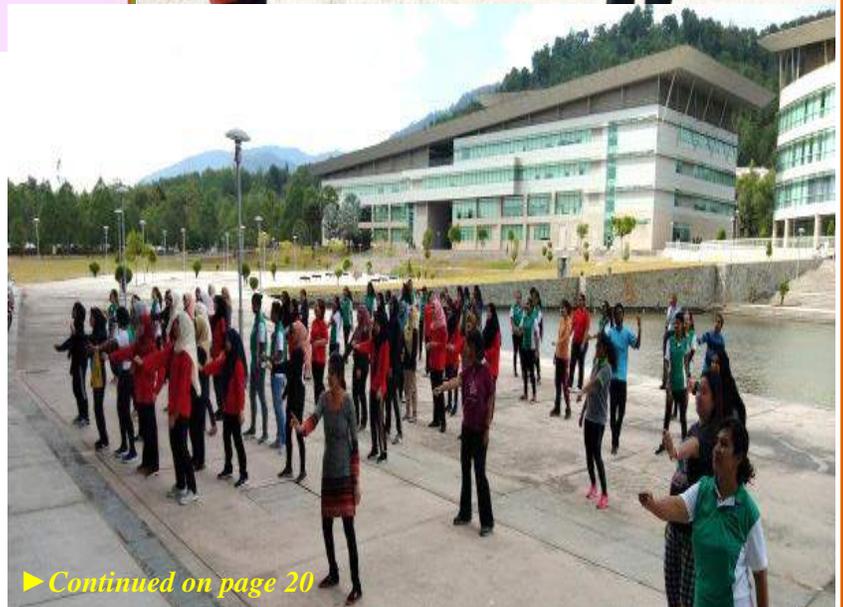
AIMST Quality Improvement Programme

Topic: Healthy Lifestyle

Presenter: Puan Norain Bt. Md. Napiah
(Faculty Of Allied Health Professions- Nursing)

Date: 22-01-2020 (Wednesday)
Time: 4.30pm - Introduction
5.00pm - Zumba exercise
Venue: Admin foyer
(Ground floor, administrative building)

Please contact: Ms. Glory S. George
at ext: 6105 or
email: glory@aimst.edu.my



► **Continued on page 20**

AIMST Quality Improvement Programme

"Connectivity: Team Building Activity"

*light refreshments will be served



Trainer/Facilitator:
Dr. Neeraj Kumar Furloria
(Faculty Of Pharmacy)
Dr. Shivkanya Furloria
(Faculty Of Pharmacy)

On 31st January
2020, Friday
2.30pm to
4.00pm
Orientation hall
(Opposite Student
Affairs office)
Coordinated by: AIMST Library

Note**
Kindly submit your
names by
3pm
(30.01.2020 Thursday)

Registrations after 3pm
(30.1.2020) will not be
accepted as activities are
based on registered numbers.
Thank you

Please contact :
Ms . Glory S. George
at ext : 6105 or
email :
glory@aimst.edu.my

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Top Achiever

Scholarships*

Foundation in Science
leading to

- MBBS
- Dental Surgery
- Pharmacy



Continuous Dental Education (CDE) Programme



On 17 December 2019, Faculty of Dentistry conducted a Continuous Dental Education (CDE) programme for its BDS Year 3 students. This programme was organized in collaboration with Colgate Company. Dr Manikandan Natarajan from faculty and Ms Ying Soo Wai from Colgate-Palmolive were the speakers at this CDE programme. This event was very interactive, and all the participants imbibed insightful knowledge on oral health. ■

Leadership and Learning are Indispensable Qualities

We at AIMST University believe in “Leaders help themselves and others to do the right things”. It’s our duty to train our young generation to lead Malaysia in various fields. Ten of our Dental students represented AIMST University in MSDA Leadership Summit organized by the Malaysian Dental Students’ Association. The Leadership Summit was held on 12th and 13th October 2019 at Ecoventure Semenyih Resort and Recreation, Selangor (Malaysia). Various team building activities were held as part of this event. ■



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Learning New Thing and Knowing New Cultures

Eleven students from Faculty of Dentistry represented AIMST University at Asia Pacific Dental Students’ Association Mid-year meeting and participated in “Lend-A-Hand Project” conducted at Ho Chin Min City, Vietnam. The programme was held on 12th -15th December 2019. Students gained extensive knowledge by attending various workshops on dentistry, photography, and cooking delicious Vietnamese cuisines. It was a multi-cultural learning experience to understand south-east Asian cultures. Participated students highly appreciated this event. ■



Pure Happiness Comes from Activity of the Mind and Body

We at AIMST believe that “Physical activity holds the key to improving students’ mental health”. In this line, AIMST Dental Student Association (ADSA) had organized ‘Adsalympics’. Its annual sports event, which was held from 9th -19th December 2019. All the students from year one to year five actively participated in various track and field events. Congratulations to the winners and participants of Adsalympics. The friendly matches conducted between dental faculty staff and dental students was the highlight of the event. ■



Visitors to AIMST Dental Faculty: International Articulation Programme



Seven dental students from SGT University, India has visited Faculty of Dentistry for an attachment programme from 19th - 29th November 2019. Students completed their two weeks programme by participating in numerous workshops and clinical observatory postings organized by the Faculty of Dentistry. The feedback from the visiting students was excellent. ■



Clinical Observatory Attachment Programme @ AIMST University's Dental Faculty

As a part of MoU between AIMST University and MNR Educational Trust, India, seven dental students along with Dr Deepika V., Director of International Affairs, MNR Institutions, visited the Faculty of Dentistry for Clinical Observatory attachment programme. This programme was conducted from 16th - 23rd December 2019. The response from the visiting students was very encouraging and apprised the faculty and facilities at AIMST Dental Institute. ■



MoU between AIMST University and Malla Reddy Institute of Dental Sciences, India

An MoU was initiated between AIMST University and Malla Reddy Institute of Dental Sciences, India. To begin this process, 5 dental students of Malla Reddy Institute of Dental Sciences attended a two-week Clinical Observatory attachment programme at AIMST University from 16th - 23rd December 2019. Dr G Sudhir, Head, Oral Pathology & Microbiology Department, Dr Kranthi Kiran Reddy Ella, Oral Pathology Department, Malla Reddy Institute of Dental Sciences were part of the team that visited AIMST University. ■



Engaging our Communities

Forty-eight (48) children and six teachers from D'monte Kindergarten Bandar Laguna Merbok and Legenda Heights visit AIMST University's Dental Centre on 5th November 2019 for a half a day tour. This programme was organized as a part of oral health education. The kindergarten children were exposed to various interactive games and oral health awareness activities. ■



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A Panel from the Malaysian Qualifications Agency Visited AIMST Faculty of Dentistry

The accreditation panel members from the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) visited the Faculty of Dentistry on 5th February 2020. The panel members, Prof. Dato’ Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Bin Abu Hassan, Assoc. Prof. Dr Iswan Zuraidi Zainol, Dr Noormi Binti Othman, and Dr Aziz Ab Malek conducted the audit on the Bachelor of Dentistry Programme. The panel expressed satisfaction for the implementation and execution of the new curriculum. ■



Felicitations Ceremony for our Passing Out Batch

“If you want to be an excellent professional someday, then love whatever job you have.” This message from the Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, Dr Ramesh Ku-



maresan was clear and loud to all the passing out students of batch 10 of BDS and batch 1 of BDT programmes. All the graduating students swore in and recited the Hippocratic Oath. All the graduating students were felicitated with a certificate of appreciation and medals for their achievements on the eve of the 12th AIMST University Convocation Ceremony. Some snaps of the programme are shown on the next (27) page. ■

▶ Continued from page 26



↑ Student receiving Certificate and medal of appreciation from Faculty of Dentistry. Hippocratic Oath ↓



Prize money of 3000 RM was gifted to “The Best Dental Technology Student Award “ to Ms Tee Yu Qian sponsored by Smilelink Dental Care

Ms.Jasmyn Tiong was awarded RM 2000 by Dental Academy Malaysia for “The Best Outstanding Dental Student” in Batch 10.



Prize money of 3000 RM was gifted by Dental Academy Malaysia to Ms Goh Pei Yee for “The Best Dental Surgery Student” in Batch 10

The 1st Batch of AIMST University’s Dental Technology Students

The 3rd AIMST Dental Students Colloquium

The 3rd AIMST dental students colloquium was conducted for one week, starting from 17th to 21st February 2020. The theme of the colloquium was “Crafting Proficiency in the Art of Dentistry”. The organizing chairperson Dr Khushboo Gupta welcomed all the delegates for the opening ceremony on 21st February 2020 which was graced by Emeritus Professor Dr Harcharan Singh Sidhu, Vice-Chancellor & Chief Executive of AIMST University, Senior Assoc. Prof. Dr.Kathiresan Sathasivam, Registrar of AIMST University and other distinguished guests from the university. The Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Dental Faculty released the 2nd Issue of the Dental Magazine “Reflections 2.0”. They appreciated the editorial team for their commendable efforts headed by Dr Neeraja Turagam and Ms Puah Shu Min. All the dental faculty members were involved in organizing various extracurricular and co-curricular activities. These activities

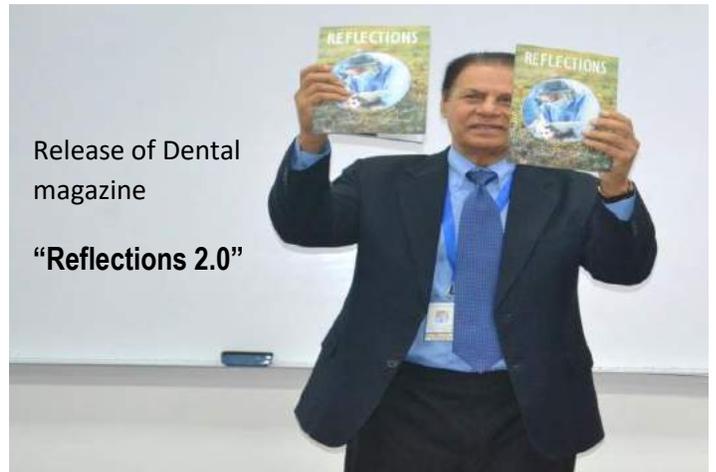
▶ Continued on page 28

provided a platform for the students to craft masterpieces in soap carving, wire bending with full imagination and proficiency to make it a fun-filled and memorable event for the students and staff.

► Continued from page 27



Opening ceremony of 3rd AIMST Dental Student Colloquium 2020



Release of Dental magazine

“Reflections 2.0”



In recognition of the services endeavoured to the dental faculty, on completing ten years, our Super 10 dedicated staff members were felicitated by the Vice-Chancellor of AIMST University. Our Alumnus, Dr Prasath Subramaniam, delivered a plenary talk on “Pathway into government service” and ‘Journey of New Dental Officer (NDO) in Government’ which was very beneficial for the dental students. During the colloquium, 28 presentations were presented by BDS year five students and BDT year four students. Each of these presentations imparted more knowledge in the field of dentistry. The presentations were judged, and the two Best paper presentations were awarded prize money of RM 500. Both the selected best presentations will be representing AIMST at the upcoming National level competition. All the 297 participants and the winners in various events were awarded certificates at the closing ceremony.

Paper presentation during the Dental Colloquium



1st Prize winner - Dental photography



The other activities like Face painting and best out of waste, teams presented unique creative ideas and completely captivated the minds of the judges. All the Students performed mad ads, mannequin challenge, tik tok videos and debate with their confidence and creativity. During the closing ceremony, winners were presented Certificate, and the Trophy for the Overall Championship of the 3rd AIMST Dental Colloquium was awarded to BDS Year 5 (Batch 11). Some snaps of activity are shown on the next page, 29.■

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Prize winning creations with wires -Wire Bending

“Best out of waste” - Creativity



Closing Ceremony of 3rd AIMST Dental Student Colloquium 2020



BDS year 5 (Batch 11) winning trophy of overall championship for 3rd ADSC 2020

Dental Quotes

If a patient cannot clean his teeth, no dentist can clean them for him. — Martin H. Fischer

An aching tooth is better out than in. To lose a rotting member is a gain. — Richard Baxter

FAS Students Show Off Their Talents in Cirque Du Freak Night

Students from Faculty of Applied Sciences had organised a Talent Night with the theme “Cirque Du Freak” on 12 December 2019 on the AIMST University campus. The event featured presentations such as dancing and singing of Year 1 and Year 2 BSc Biotechnology and BSc Bioinformatics programme students. Overall, it was an enjoyable and entertaining event for both staff and students. The event provided an opportunity for students to show their hidden talent. ■



↑ Students posing with the lecturers and Dean



Some snaps of the event ↗



AIMST Biotech Alumnus Delivered a Talk on Algal Biotechnology

BSc Biotechnology alumnus, Dr Ashiwin Vadiveloo was invited to deliver a talk on ‘Sustainable Production of Bioproducts from Wastewater-Grown Microalgae’ at Faculty of Applied Sciences on 17 December 2019. The talk was part of the Biotechnology and Bioinformatics Trends course. Dr Ashiwin is currently working as a postdoctoral research fellow and Deputy Director of Algae Research and Development Centre at Murdoch University, Perth, Australia. ■



CRISPR Technology Drives Discoveries in Biotechnology

One of the most significant and most important scientific discovery of the past few years is the CRISPR technology. CRISPR (pronounced “crisper”) is a powerful biotechnological tool for editing genomes. It is used to alter DNA sequences with the potential to correct genetic defects and treat certain diseases. Faculty of Applied Sciences had organised a talk on ‘Genome Engineering with CRISPR’ by Dr Kunitaa Theva Dass from Advanced Medical and Dental Institute (IPPT), Universiti Sains Malaysia on 19 December 2019. The talk provided insights about the CRISPR/Cas9 technology and its tremendous potential in the fields of medicine, agriculture and industrial biotechnology. ■



Dr Kunitaa (centre, standing) posing with staff and students after the talk.

AIMST University Signs MoU with Dayananda Sagar University, India

AIMST University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dayananda Sagar University (DSU), Bangalore, India on 26th September 2019. Prof. K Muthuchelian, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of DSU and Prof. Emeritus Dr Harcharan Singh, Vice-Chancellor of AIMST University signed MoU. This MoU aims to facilitate academic exchange and students and staff mobility. ■



Faculty of Applied Sciences Welcomes Students under the Global Immersion Programme

As a part of academic collaboration between AIMST University and Dayananda Sagar University (DSU), 40 Biotechnology students from DSU participated in AIMST's one-week Global Immersion Program (GIP). Students were hosted by AIMST University's Faculty of Applied Sciences from 8 -16 January 2020. Various talks on biotechnology by experts, practical sessions on — RNA extraction, biosensor, sequencing with nanopore technology (MinION), and laboratory biorisk management (L-BRM) were arranged to train the students. Visits to the clinical skills lab, dental hospital, anatomy museum and an industrial visit to the Penang Science Cluster were arranged for the students. At the end of the program, the students were presented with a certificate of programme completion. ■



During a briefing at the Penang Science Cluster



Participants posing with their certificates at the end of the program

Biotech Students Promote Environmental Awareness

Year 1 BSc Biotechnology and BSc Bioinformatics students had organised an Environmental Awareness campaign on 21 January 2020 to highlight the importance of environment protection and conservation, sustainable practices and the impact of pollution in the Sungai Petani area. Dr Tneoh Shen Jen, Medical Advisor to Persatuan Tindakan Alam Sekitar, Sungai Petani and Executive Director of Metro Specialist Hospital delivered a talk on “Environmental Awareness”, followed by a talk on “Saving the environment: Are we doing enough?” by Assoc. Prof. Dr Arefuddin Ahmed, Faculty of Medicine. A mini-exhibition was also arranged to promote environmental awareness among students, staff and visitors. Planting of a plant was done to mark the opening of the Environmental Awareness campaign. From left: Mr Nithi, Dr Arefuddin, Mr Hassif Mubaraq (Program Director), Prof. M. Ravichandran (FAS Dean), and Dr Tneoh. ■ —————>



FAS Signs MoU with Veterinary Research Institute of Malaysia

Faculty of Applied Sciences, AIMST University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Veterinary Research Institute (VRI), Malaysia, on 7th January 2020. Prof. M. Ravichandran and his team members visited VRI on 6th February 2020 to discuss research collaboration, biotechnology students’ internship and training. VRI director Dr Faizah Hanim bt Mohd Saeid welcomed the AIMST researchers. The meeting was attended by Ms Marini bt Safar, Department of Veterinary Sciences, Putrajaya. One of the exciting outcomes of the collaborative meeting is the possibility of a joint research on the development of an antiviral drug for avian coronavirus. ■



Collaboration between AIMST University and CGSS, USM

Researchers from USM - Centre for Global Sustainability Studies & South East Asia Sustainability Network (CGSS) visited AIMST University on 20th February 2020 to discuss collaboration in teaching, research and development activities. The team was headed by Dr Suzyrman Sibly (Director, Centre for Global Sustainability Studies (CGSS), USM & SEASN Secretary-General). AIMST University plans to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CGSS in the near future. ■



AIMST University's Young Doctor and Young Scientist Programme

Two batches comprising of 40 Thailand school children arrived at AIMST University between 3-9 and 10-13 October 2019. They stayed at AIMST University green campus's hostel apartment and gone through this unique program. Students visited the anatomy museum, and Clinical Skills Laboratory. Professors at the medical faculty gave briefings to students about the anatomy of the human body. In nursing school, they learned first aid and CPR to develop their skills as a young doctor. In the Engineering faculty, they experienced robotics challenge. Faculty of Applied Sciences which coordinated this program demonstrated gene cloning experiments and gave the students a project work on "foldscope- foldable microscope" assembling and usage. A half a day dental facility visit was one of the highlights where they experienced various dental facilities. Like "budding dental technologists", they prepared the mould of their finger. As an educational tour, they visited the Bujang Valley archaeological museum and man-



groves forest around Merbok River. Peer mentoring activities were conducted by our medical students to Thai students to inspire and guide them towards the medical field. Attractive team building activities were also organized by the AIMST students' council. All the team members involved in this program were thrilled to see such a nice batch of cultured Thai students. The Thai students were placed in the hostel and

dined along with our Medical, Dental, Pharmacy, Allied Health, Business, Biotechnology and Engineering students. The Thai students gained the unique experience at AIMST University. This is one of the new channels of activities which not only to attract stu-

dents from Thailand but also generate revenue to sustain the university. This will be a way forward for the university toward “Global Immersion Program” to gain international ranking and reputation. ■

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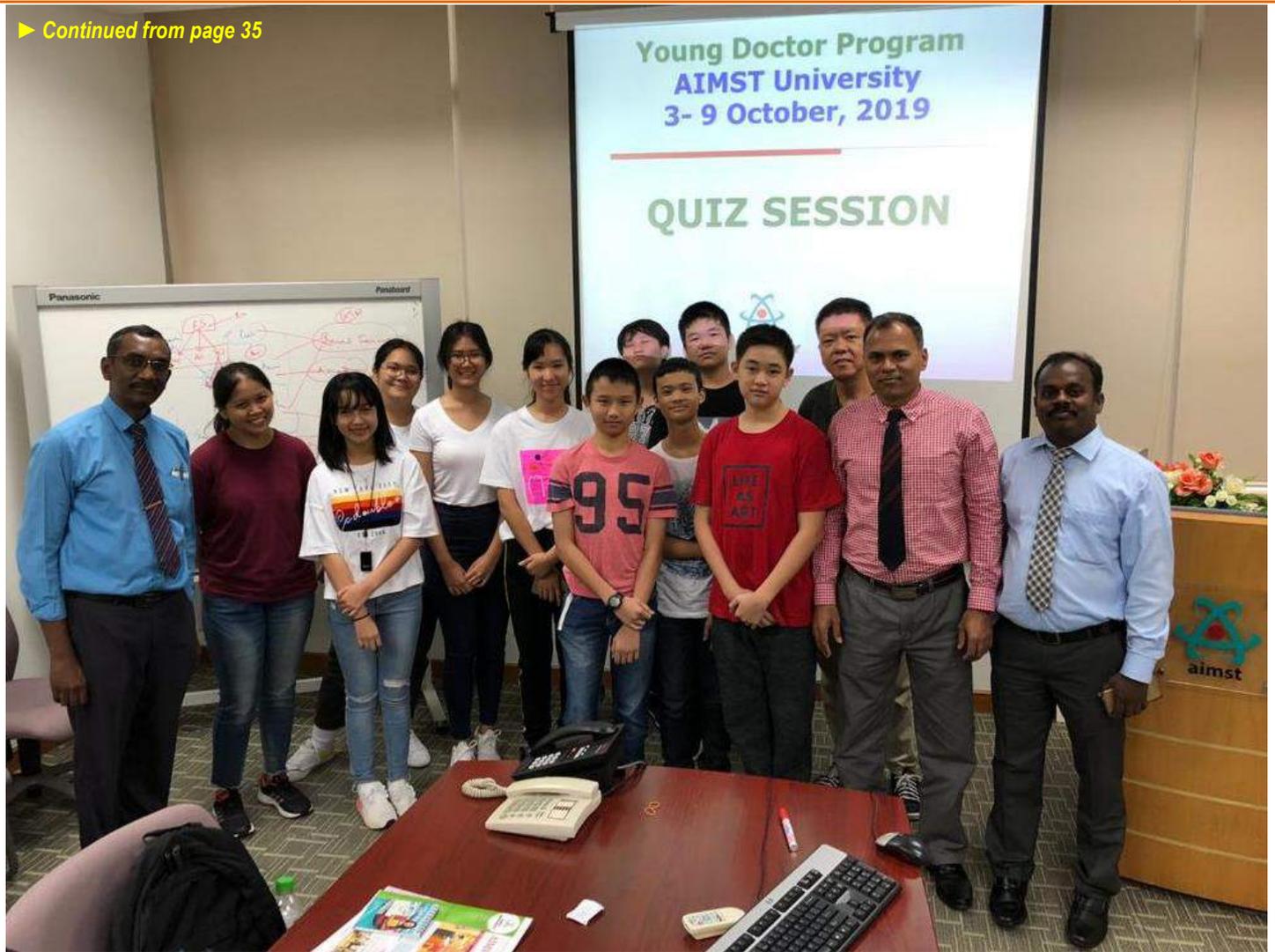


Some snaps of the programme activities



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Nature Photography Exhibition and a Talk on Environment by Dr Arefuddin Ahmed

“Healing Cancer Pain Through Mother Nature” – a photography exhibition on Malaysian nature and wildlife was held on 1st and 2nd December 2019 at the School of Health Sciences (PPSK), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Kelantan. It was organised to commemorate the 20th anniversary of PPSK, USM. It was jointly coordinated by Dr Arefuddin Ahmed, Associate Professor & Head of Radiology Unit and Dr Shyamoli Mustafa, Associate Professor, Pathology Unit of Faculty of Medicine, AIMST University. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Dean of PPSK, USM. The majority of the USM academics and students attended it. On the broader aspect, the theme of the exhibition attracted the crowd. Being a cancer patient himself, Dr Aref explained how wandering through nature and enjoying the beauty and diversity of wildlife helped him to cope with the severe neuropathy he is suffering for the last ten years. His Oncologist also came to see the exhibition and appreciated his photography.

Dr Aref is a long-time nature enthusiast with a severe

HEALING CANCER PAIN THROUGH MOTHER NATURE

A photography exhibition on Malaysian nature & wildlife to commemorate the 20th anniversary of PPSK, USM

PPSK, USM
Kubang Kerian
1 & 2 December, 2019
8:30AM - 5PM (SUN),
8AM - 12PM (MON)

By: Dr Arefuddin Ahmed & Dr Shyamoli Mustafa

*In commemoration of our 20th anniversary
 An excellent gift to us all*

Aref 11/12/19

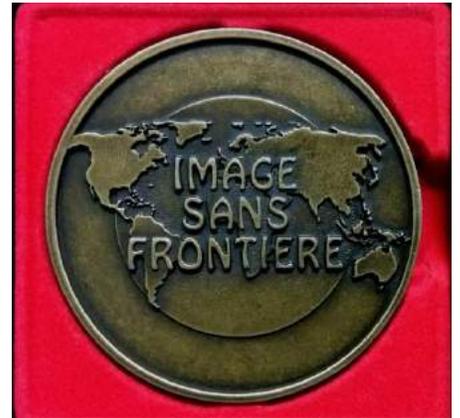
PPSK, USM, KUBANG KERIAN
 Dean
 School of Health Sciences
 Health Campus
 Universiti Sains Malaysia
 15350 Kubang Kerian, Perak.

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On 21st January 2020, he delivered a talk on environment protection during the “Environment and Wildlife Awareness Campaign” organised by AIMST University’s Biotechnology students. He highlighted that there is a drastic reduction in the number of bird species in the last three years due to the smoke from the nearby dump



hobby of photography for more than 40 years. He got many national and international awards for photography including the Image Sans Frontière (ISF) Gold Medal in 2017

At AIMST University, Dr Aref displayed his exhibition on “Flora and Fauna at AIMST University” on 27th November 2017 during the 1st International Conference of Faculty of Medicine, AIMST University.

pit area. Nowadays, we are observing pigeons on the campus are dropping dead. He opines that this is due to the smoke inhalation. Some photos which were displayed in the exhibition are shown below. ■



Pink-necked Green-Pigeon on a berry tree at AIMST University campus. IUCN status: Least concerned

Coppersmith Barbet on a wild berry tree at AIMST University campus. IUCN status: Least concerned



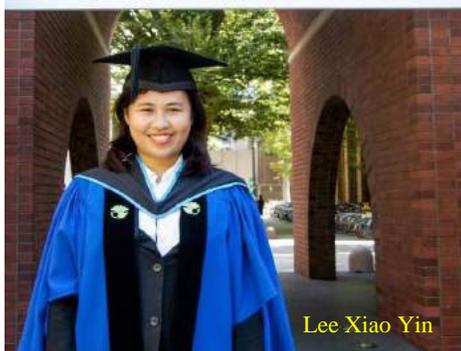
Dusky Leaf Monkey / Spectacled Langur, Taiping, Perak. IUCN status: Near threatened

Chestnut-necklaced Partridge in Jitra, Kedah; IUCN status: Vulnerable

Take a Leap from Comfort and Do Something Amazing: AIMST University Biotechnology Alumnus

Glittering Ms Lee Xiao Yin (Batch 13) graduated with a BSc (Hons) Biotechnology degree from AIMST University in 2011. She had shared her experience of studying Biotechnology at AIMST University as follows: AIMST has equipped me with reliable

The University of Tokyo Autumn-Semester Diploma Presentation/Graduation Ceremony



Lee Xiao Yin

and broad knowledge in applied sciences. The high standard of education and training that I received in AIMST biotechnology program has been beneficial to

me, as it is helping me since my graduation. It has shaped me to be a competitive person and paved the way for my future career inter-nationally. I was able to see the world and travelled to several countries, including Japan, Austria and Belgium, to pursue my research career in both industrial and academic settings without any problem.

My career path after graduation is a bit diverse, and yet a bit adventurous compared to others. I was lucky to have the opportunity to explore my chances during this time in both industry and academic settings around the world. After my graduation, I was hired as a microbiologist in Malaysia at a multinational company, SGS, which was the first time for me to learn and apply my skills in the real industrial world. During that time, I also secured an Ajinomoto Scholarship as the only Malaysian candidate to do my Master studies abroad at a world-leading prestigious university, the University of Tokyo, in 2012.

I was in Japan as a research student and managed to pass the entrance examination, in a shorter time than



originally scheduled. Thanks to my background knowledge that I gained at AIMST University. For my Master's research, I was affiliated with Japan's best-known research Centre "RIKEN", where I worked on developing and applying novel computational algorithms to identify epigenetic drugs. I was lucky that I could work in an international team with young and talented scientists from all over the world. After obtaining my Master's degree in Japan, I wanted to challenge myself by moving out from my comfort zone (Asia) and went to another continent, Europe. After exploring several options at that time, I accepted the VBC fellowship and moved to the University of Vienna, Austria. During my time living abroad, I met my spouse, and we relocated to Belgium to start our own family.

With my past education, I first started working in clinical trials research and later I was recruited as sci-



entific support staff by IDT Belgium, the European seat of an American biotech company. In this position, I gave scientific advice to the European customers as well as to researchers from the US, Singapore and Africa.

I loved the job in the industry; but, it was time for another challenge in life. I left the position and pursued my dream of obtaining a PhD degree in Cancer Research. My previous industry experience, coupled with my improved credentials made the career transition relatively easy for me. I am lucky to have been accepted and allowed to join the lab of Prof. Claessens, who is well-known in the field of prostate cancer in the top-ranked university in KU Leuven, Belgium. Thanks to education from AIMST University. It helped me to go this far.

My advice for budding biotechnologist:

Work hard, play hard: Enjoy yourself and keep your mind open to any possibilities. Don't be afraid to learn new things and challenge yourself in anyways. Take a leap from comfort, do something amazing and make us proud. ■

Senior Professor Manickam Ravichandran

Professor of Biotechnology and Dean of Faculty of Applied Sciences, AIMST University; Former Chief Executive & Vice-Chancellor, AIMST University; Former Block Coordinator – Communicable Diseases Block, MD Program, School of Medical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia; and Former Associate Member of Academy of Science Malaysia (ASM), Malaysia

By *Subhash Janardhan Bhole*

Department of Biotechnology, Faculty of Applied Sciences, AIMST University, Kedah, Malaysia



Prof. M. Ravichandran

Manickam Ravichandran was born in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India. He completed his 'Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree programme in Botany with a gold medal, at Madurai Kamaraj University, India. He was fascinated by microbes;

hence, to understand the microbial world, he did his 'Master of Science' degree in Medical Microbiology from Christian Medical College, Vellore, India (in 1991). He gained his PhD degree in Biotechnology from Anna University, Chennai, India (in 1997).

As a postdoctoral fellow, he joined the Department of Microbiology and Parasitology at School of Medical Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), in 1997 and researched on "Epitope polymorphism of Malarial Parasite". Because of his hardworking nature and overachiever tag, in 1999, he was appointed as Visiting Lecturer by USM. He served USM for about 11 years as a lecturer and associate professor. In 2008, he was invited by AIMST University to serve as Dean for the Faculty of Applied Sciences. As an able Professor, in 2014, he was seconded to lead the AIMST University as Chief Executive & Vice-Chancellor while continuing as Dean of Faculty of Applied Sciences. After his tenure as Chief Executive & Vice-Chancellor in November 2017, Prof Ravichandran continued to lead Faculty of Applied Sciences once again. He is a well-known scientist in Microbiology. Currently, his research interests are cholera vaccine, molecular diagnostics and phage therapy. He has 74 publications in international journals, supervised/Co-supervised 44 postgraduate students, filed 11 patents, obtained 50 awards for academic and research innovations and commercialized four products on diagnostics. At AIMST University he has started the dengue

mosquito project entitled "Intelligent algorithm based remote *Aedes aegypti* mosquito and post-dengue patient monitoring, reporting and preventing solution for Dengue outbreak in Malaysia", funded by CREST.

He was an associate member of Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM) and Expert panel member for Sciencefund, Technofund, Community Innovation Fund (CIF) and Enterprise Innovation Fund (EIF), and Innovation (MOSTI), Malaysia. He was the Cluster Working Group (CWG) Committee member on Human Capital Development, Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation and the Committee member on 'Top Research Scientists Malaysia (TRSM)' of Academy of Sciences Malaysia (ASM). It is noteworthy to mention that Professor Ravichandran was one of the founding members of the Institute for Research in Molecular Medicine (INFORMM), Universiti Sains Malaysia which has been awarded the Centre of Excellence Award (HiCoE) by Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia. Not only at USM, but Professor Ravichandran was also the pioneer in establishing human and animal ethics committee and Centre for postgraduate studies at AIMST University. His academic journey suggests that hard work and passion are the keys to success.

What got you interested in biotechnology, and what influences directed you to become a well-known educator?

With my background in Microbiology and Virology, I found that Biotechnology is an exciting area where we can manipulate genes for the wellbeing of humanity. I got very excited when we can clone and name the genes and mutate them. With this in mind, initially, I started teaching Molecular Biology techniques to Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology, BSc Biomedicine and MD Students and later to postgraduate students at Universiti Sains Malaysia. My genome engineering skill enabled me to develop several cholera vaccine candidates which have been patented in the USA and Europe.

Who influenced your medical biotechnology thinking early in your career, and how?

I have been sculptured and moulded by several eminent scientists. My Biotechnology guru and role model was Prof Kunthala Jayaram, who was a well-renowned biotechnologist who pioneered biopesticides in India. I learned systematic medical biotechnological and immunological techniques from Dr Siddhartha Mahanty at National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA while working on "Human Lymphatic Filariasis" project at his lab in 1991. In Malaysia I had two mentors; on the Genetic engineering side, Prof. Zainul Fadhiruddin Zainuddin, a humble man with full of ideas and inspirations all the time and the one who get excited with scientific development, the second one, Dato Prof Asma Ismail on Molecular Diagnostics, a scientist who is world renown for her work on typhoid diagnostics. I am indebted and grateful to all of the great icons. Not forgetting the current mentor, Emeritus Professor Dr Harcharan Singh Sidhu who has vast experience in WHO inspired me towards being an international civil servant.

How do you convince non-biotech scientists about the importance of biotech research and education?

It's easy; Biotechnology is a multi-disciplinary subject that encompasses technology and biology. We have to teach them basic central dogma of molecular biology, once they understand, they will be eager to apply biotechnology in their field. Another way to convince is that everyone on this planet currently uses biotechnology or biotechnology-related products in everyday life such as softer bread, detergents with enzymes, recombinant proteins (e.g. insulin), biodegradable plastic bags, biofuels etc, hence the research and education in this field obviously have great demand. Gene editing and gene therapies are going to make a big bang in the life of humans.

What scientific journals do you regularly follow?

Science and Nature are the journals I look forward to learning the scientific developments. Listening to American Society for Microbiology (ASM) podcasts (<https://www.asm.org/podcasts>) is my favorite past time.

What are the challenges you face in managing the faculty of applied sciences?

I can easily manage a bacterium, clone its gene and mutate in a way I wanted. But humans are more complex and we need to manage them

with higher intelligence and by providing them with academic freedom but being firm. Positively motivating staff is another strategy. Balancing the academic quality and financial sustainability is another challenge with a vital element of marketing skills.

As Dean of the Faculty, what are the five essential qualities you look for in staff?

Positive, student-friendly, knowledgeable, sincere, and research-orientated staff.

What tools do you use to remain an efficient Dean of the Faculty?

Listen to staff and students periodically through feedback forms (Using google forms) and University first concept.

What made you as the longest-serving Dean of the Faculty?

Students satisfaction, academic quality and employability of the students and the long-term vision.

What advice would you give educators to encourage students to explore biotechnology as a career?

Everyone wants a job, since Biotechnology is a multidisciplinary subject, one can encourage a student to study the ever-expanding field of medical, pharmaceutical, agricultural, industrial and food biotechnology and also get job easily as our BSc (Hons) Biotechnology program placement rate is consistently 100% in the last few years.

If you were able to repeat your years as a graduate or postgraduate student, would you do anything differently?

I am a plant lover and I wanted to be an agricultural scientist, possibly I will take a postgraduate degree in agricultural biotechnology and final dream is to do a DSc degree in Biotechnology.

Based on your outstanding experience, can you rank your interest in five areas of your career?

Genome engineering, gene editing, phage therapy, vaccinology and biosensing.

What keeps you inspired to continue in biotechnology education?

The new exciting developments, in particular Next-generation sequencing and gene editing.

If you had six months off, what would you do with your time? Any hobbies?

I always wanted to learn to fly planes. I will spend time learning to fly drones and do IoT projects on home automation and smart farming with Arduino boards. Possibly with drones, I will learn to fly in future. ■

AIMST Student wins the championship in World Abacus and Mental Arithmetic International Tournament, 2019

The 4th Annual Taoyuan Mayor World Open Abacus and Mathematical International Invitational Tournament was held on the 15th of December 2019 at the Women's and Children's Museum of Pingzhen, Taoyuan, Taiwan. Participants hailed from diverse countries such as Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Canada, and Australia. Malaysia was represented by Lin Xin Joe, a student from the Faculty of Business and Management (FBM), AIMST University.

In total, more than 700 individuals participated in various categories. The youngest participant was only four years old, while the most former was 79 years old. The primary objective of the competition was to honour the legacy and promote the use of the abacus. Abacus is a traditional calculating tool that was commonly used by ancient civilisations in the Near East. Not surprisingly then, it is often referred to as the precursor to the modern-day electronic calculator. Although today abacuses are usually constructed as a bamboo frame with beads sliding on wires, originally



↑ *Lim Xin Joe (second from left) receiving the Grand Trophy from the organisers of the championship*

they were beans or stones moved in grooves of sand or on tablets of wood, stone, or metal. Because of its historical significance, the abacus was officially declared as a world cultural heritage in 2013.

Following a series of fierce heats and drills throughout the entire day, Lim Xin Joe was ultimately declared as the champion. We are proud of her and wish her sustained success in the years to come. ■

A Visit to Hospital Bahagia, Perak

On the 17th of February 2020, 35 students from Year 3 nursing students visited Hospital Bahagia Ulu Kinta as a part of their educational trip. The trip was or-



Taklimat Penjagaan Kebersihan Diri Tadika SMD (Global) Bandar Utama Sungai Petani

School of Nursing had been invited by Tadika SMD (Global) to deliver the talk and social activities to their 70 students and nine teachers. Hence, the talk

was organized under Mental Health Nursing training. The objective of the visit was to expose students to institution specialized in Mental Health with treatment facilities for people with a mental health condition. ■



was given on the 13th February 2020. The activities include talking, singing and games were inclusive of the personal hygiene practice such as hand washing (snaps are shown on the next page). You may view some snaps of event shown on the next page, 42. ■



The 1st International Conference on Nursing and Healthcare 2020 (Future of Nursing 2020)

Ms Ooi Saw Geok and Ms Wong Lai Kun had represented School of Nursing, AIMST University as the

academic partner for the “1st International Conference on Nursing and Healthcare 2020. The research presentation had invited the participant from Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Japan and Peru (North America). It was held in Transit Hotel Kuala Lumpur on 22th & 23th February 2020. ■



Teaching Excellence Achievement Programme and Teaching Strategies

On the 21st February 2020, School of Nursing had invited Madam Saharah Binti Abdullah to share the teaching and learning strategies to enhance students’

learning. Recently, Madam Saharah had participated in the United States Fulbright Teaching Excellence Achievement Programme. During the talk, she shared her experience, gave some tips to improve teaching and inspired the staff of Nursing School. ■





Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic: Do's and Don'ts to Protect Yourself and Others

#	Do	Don't
1.	Do clean your hands frequently	Don't panic
2.	Do keep distance between yourself and other people	Don't believe everything on the internet
3.	Do stay at home if you're sick	Don't take antibiotics
4.	Do cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze	Don't travel unless necessary
5.	Do avoid people who are sick	Don't go to crowded areas
6.	Do put used tissues in the trash	Don't touch your face
7.	Do wear a facemask if you are sick	Don't stockpile on mask
8.	Do take the flu shot, if possible	Don't worry!
9.	Do clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily	Don't propagate hostility against Asians or people of any race

Dr Subhash J Bhore, IFBA Certified Professional (Biorisk Management and Biosecurity); Chairman, Institutional Biosafety Committee, AIMST University. To know the latest on COVID-19 pandemic, visit www.who.int/ of 1) The World Health Organization (WHO), <https://www.who.int/>; and 2) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), <https://www.cdc.gov/>

Be active at home during #COVID19 outbreak



Online exercise classes

Dancing

Playing active video games

Jumping rope

Muscle strength and balance training



#BeActive

#HealthyAtHome

Dodge.Duck.Dip.Dive and Dodge!

On 4th January 2020, AIMST Jaegers Dodgeball Club had organized AIMST Jaegers Open Dodgeball Competition 2020. It was held at AIMST Sports Complex. Thirteen teams had registered, and 104 players participated in the tournament. This tournament



Winner!
Carlos and Friends

was organized primarily to promote AIMST Jaegers Dodgeball



Club and to promote a healthy campus lifestyle for the youths. Special credits to Penang Association Dodgeball (PAD) for supporting Jaegers DC event and Malaysia Association Dodgeball (MAD) for approving our event. Special thanks to national team captain, Carlos Goonting for coming down from Kuala Lumpur to join this competition along with others. He has been a great inspiration to our young dodgeball players.



First Runner Up. We Catch Balls!!! (Wolf DC)



2nd Runner Up.
The Light (Legacy DC)

An event was led by AIMST Jaegers Dodgeball Club President 2019/2020, Ms Chan Ye Jia and Advisor Mr Lim Soon Keat, both are a student from Bachelor of Physiotherapy, Faculty of Allied Health Profession. Not to forget, a lot of help and support from AIMST Jaegers ex-members by itself also was beneficial as to promote and spread the words throughout the dodgeball community in Malaysia and to facilitate the process to ensure that tournament goes smoothly. ■

AIMST Jaegers

On 23rd November 2019, AIMST Jaegers Dodgeball Club had organized AIMST Dodgeball Closed Competition 2019 at AIMST Sports Complex. Ten teams had registered to participate in the tournament. It was very much welcoming to see all the participants were excited to be part of the competition as it encourages and creates a platform for the youngsters to shine in this tournament. AIMST Dodgeball Club managed to attract 80 students from all the faculties to participate in the event. Thanks to very best cooperation from all the committee members and the management ▶ *Continued on page 45*

► **Continued from page 44** by the committee. A committee was led by Ms Chan Ye Jia as a president of AIMST Jaegers Dodgeball Club. Kudos to her and the team.



I think sportsmanship is knowing that it is a game, that we are only as good as our opponents, and whether you win or lose, always give 100 per cent.



恭 喜 發 財
GONG XI FA CHAI



Chinese community all over the world, celebrated Chinese New Year in February when the Lunar Year usually begins. In Malaysia, the Chinese celebrate the event with a festive spirit as it is the most important festival to them, and every Chinese home was made ... ► **Continued on page 46**

► **Continued from page 45** ready for the great game. With the new year is around the corner and our physiotherapy students were far from their home and there comes the plan from APSA to have a pre-Chinese New Year celebration. It was planned to have a kickstart for the upcoming new year. It is in a way to create a culture friendly environment for our fellow students at AIMST University.



Wishing the Dean

With fellow DPT students at ADH

With Coordinator and DPT students

With APSA Advisor

APSA Committee

Recognitions and Fellowships



Dr Nandini

Dr Nandini Katta, Paediatric Dentist and Dr Sudheesh Kakkunath Mani, Oral Surgeon from the Faculty of Dentistry, have successfully completed the Diploma of Membership of the Faculty of Dental Surgery (MFDS) – an internationally recognized dental qualification exam conducted by the prestigious Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, United Kingdom (UK). They are now the officially affiliated members of the Royal College Dental Unit, Edinburgh, UK.



Dr Sudheesh

Assoc. Prof. Dr Siva Kumar Pendyala has received the **Master of Oral Implantology** from the International Congress of Oral Implantologists (ICOI) at ICOI ASEAN Congress, held at Colombo, Srilanka during 23-25 January 2020. Dr Siva had previously received the ICOI **Fellowship in Oral Implantology** in 2018. Dr Kameswari Kondreddy has also become a recipient of the **Fellowship in Oral Implantology** from the

ICOI. The ICOI is an international organization devoted to dental implant education. The ICOI was founded in 1972, devoted to providing implant education. The ICOI is one of the world's largest dental implant organizations and is among the very few organizations to provide continuing dental implant education. Congratulation!■



Assoc. Prof. Dr Siva Kumar



Dr Kameswari

Demonstration on Electronic Instruments by GW Instek

A Taiwanese based manufacturer of electronic instruments and equipment, GW Instek demonstrated their new series of advanced laboratory measurement instruments such as Spectrum Analyser, Oscilloscope, Signal Generator, EM Safety Tester, and Power Supply. These technical demonstrations were arranged at the Micro Processor and Microcontroller Laboratory of Faculty of Engineering, and Computer Technology (FECT), AIMST University on 19th February 2020, from 9.00 am till 12.00 noon. The final year students of BEng (Hons) in Electrical and Electronic Engineering who currently carrying out their final year project for the Honours of their degree gained knowledge and practical hands-on experiences in the specialisation of electronic measurements in-term of the spectrum as well as waveforms in real-time applications. This presentation had given an introduction to the new model of “Oscilloscope and Spectrum Analyser” as in one instrument fits a broad range of application developed by GW Instek especially for research, design, and educational purposes. The demonstrations programme was initiated and coordinated by Mr Raja Govindasamy, Laboratory Technician of FECT. ■



A Scientific spectrum and wave analysing instrumentation techniques were shared and discussed.

Mr W. L. Choong of L&T Scientific receiving a memento from the Acting Dean of FECT.

Technical Talk and Membership Drive by IEM at AIMST University

The Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM) of Northern Region, Perlis and Kedah Branch conducted an IEM Membership Drive and delivered a Technical Talk encouraging the engineers to take up leading roles in the development of advanced electronic manufacturing, research and education sectors. This programme was held on 23rd October 2019, from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm at the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Technology, AIMST University. This programme was specially organised by Mr Ravandran Muttiah in collaboration with IEM. Invited speaker, Associate Prof Ir. Dr Mohamad Shaiful Ashrul Bin Ishak, an academic in the field of Manufacturing Engineering, who is also a Professional Engineer in Mechanical Engineering attached with University Malaysia Perlis shared his knowledge and experiences with engineering students and staffs of Faculty of Engineering and Computer Technology. It was a part of Engineering, Science and Technology promotion. ■



Electrical and Electronic Engineering students had a discussion with IEM on becoming student member of IEM.



IEM Perlis and Kedah Branch committee member delivering a technical talk in Faculty of Engineering.

MoU Signing Ceremony between SMT Technologies and AIMST University

The management of AIMST University and SMT Technologies Sdn Bhd signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 24th October 2019 at AIMST University. SMT Technologies recruits AIMST students for industrial training as well as provide employment opportunities. The final year students of BEng (Hons) in Electrical and Electronic Engineering of Faculty of Engineering and Computer Technology will carrying out an industry demand-based final year project in close collaboration with SMT Technologies industrial personals. ■



Group photographs of participants in IEM technical event.



Memorandum of Understanding Signing between SMT Technologies Sdn Bhd. and AIMST University.

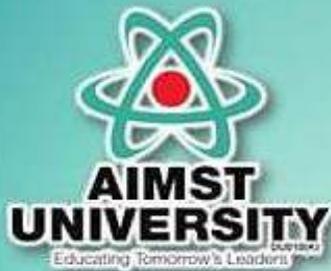


Student Recruitment at Polytechnic Seberang Perai by AIMST Engineering Team



After discussion with Management Team member of Polytechnic

The Faculty of Engineering and Computer Technology Marketing Coordinator Ts. Ir. Pratap Nair and Mr Raja Govindasamy, Laboratory Technician, discussed with the Management of Polytechnic Seberang Perai to recruit the current Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Diploma in Electronics and Communications Engineering and Diploma in Computer Engineering students of Polytechnics into the BEng (Hons) in Electrical and Electronic Engineering programme of AIMST University. This meeting was carried out on the 20th February 2020 from 9.30 am till 12.00 noon at Polytechnic Seberang Perai Campus in Penang. The Management of Polytechnic motivated AIMST Engineering Team to have Games/Hands-On Activities/Industrial Revolution (IR) 4.0 Talk to attract the Polytechnic students. ■



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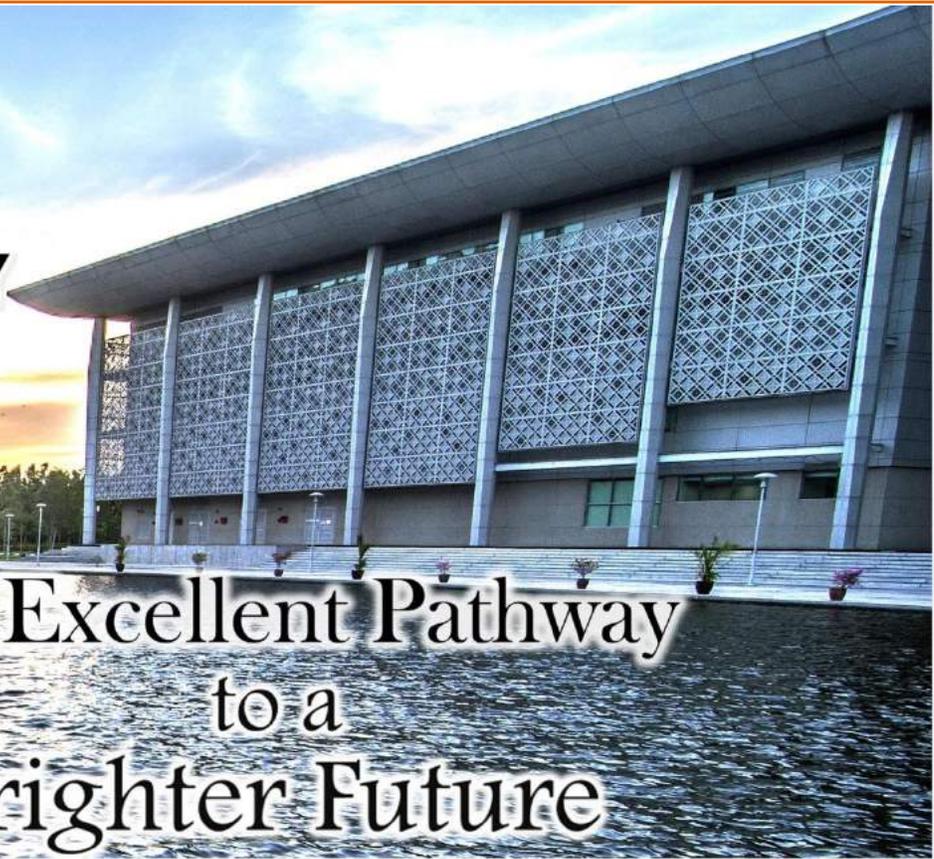
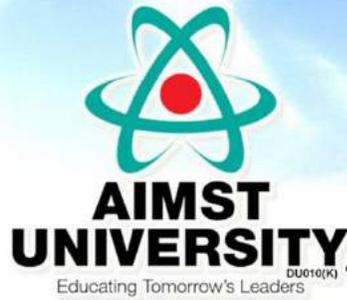
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