AIMST NEWSLETTER
A Quarterly Publication of AIMST University

Installation of Chancellor and 14th Convocation, 2023
TRIOlympics: The Sports Event of the Year
MQA's its 2023 Roadshow at AIMST University

2023 AUGUST
VISION
To be an Internationally Renowned University Achieving Excellence in Teaching and Research by 2025

MISSION
To Develop Talent for National Prosperity and Spearhead Cutting-edge Research for Humanity
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Greetings!

We had a great 14th Convocation on 27th May 2023. It was a celebration of the great sacrifice our graduates had made to earn a prestigious degree from AIMST University. The Board of Directors, staff and I salute our graduates and offer them our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for the future! To the parents and our graduates, we thank you for making AIMST the university of choice.

It was also a historic day for the University as we installed a new Chancellor. He is Y. Bhg Tan Sri Dato’ Sri Dr. SA Vigneswaran. The convocation also saw the award of Emeritus Professorship by our Chancellor to Rtd. Sr. Professor Dr. K.R.Sethuram, our ex-dean of the Faculty of Medicine. AIMST University has a vision. It is to become a world-renowned university excelling in quality education and cutting-edge research by 2026.

Over the last three years, AIMST University has reached new dimensions in quality teaching and pioneering research. We teach our graduates the essential skills required to succeed in an interconnected and digitally-driven world. In our smorgasbord of over 40 academic programmes, we have courses in accountancy, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, machine learning, deep learning, Internet of Things, management information system, software engineering, and data analytics, among others.

To ensure greater employability, we offer skills-based courses in leadership and communication, professional development, professionalism, and self-reliance. And to impart the values that the University espouses, our programmes incorporate the Environmental, Social and Governance, or the ESG, agenda. All our professors regularly score over 85% in teaching effectiveness as rated by students. We have in our midst three professors who are ranked among the top two percent of world scientists.

As a result of the continuing relevance of our courses and the quality of our education, the University enrolment is increasing. AIMST started in 2001 with just 55 students. Since then, the university has grown tremendously. We witnessed a 20% jump in new enrolment in 2022. And we hope to better this record by the end of this year. Now, we have close to 3,350 students in campus.

With over 40 international partnerships with such reputable universities as Harvard, Yale, Leicester, Copenhagen, and Deakin, our students can now immerse themselves in new cultures. They can make lifelong connections that will enrich their personal and professional life. Our collaboration with foreign universities also means that our academicians can work alongside researchers worldwide, tackling global challenges. On the home front, our research tackles some of society’s most pressing problems, including using artificial intelligence, or AI, in conserving our biodiversity such as protecting mangrove forests, fighting climate change, precision farming, and developing new vaccines.
Convo Euphoria
Your education is a dress rehearsal for a life that is yours to lead.

Swipe Right on Success. Grad Mode On.
Epic Grad Moments
INSTALLATION OF
THE CHANCELLOR
A Tribute to our Honourable Chancellor, Tan Sri Dato’ Sri Dr. SA Vigneswaran

Spanning a career from being a youth leader through being the President of the Malaysian Upper House, or Senate, to becoming the President of the Malaysian Indian Congress or MIC, Y. Bhg Tan Sri Dato’ Sri Dr. SA Vigneswaran is a man with an illustrious career. His career exemplifies three characteristics: leadership, a reformist zeal and generosity.

After the 2018 General Election, the MIC was in dire need of leadership. Martin Luther King, the US civil-rights activist once said: “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

With the will to lead the party, Tan Sri Vigneswaran stepped in and took over the Presidency unopposed. That he has been at the helm of the MIC for five years now bespeaks Tan Sri’s adaptive and charismatic leadership in a volatile world of politics.

Born in 1965, Tan Sri got his early education at the La Salle Primary and Secondary School in Klang. He then read Law at the Manchester Metropolitan University England. Following in his father’s footsteps as a grassroots community leader, Tan Sri stewarded the MIC Club in London during his university days.

After coming back from his studies, Tan Sri continued his service to the community by becoming actively involved in MIC youth activities. That eventually earned him the distinguished appointment as the MIC National Youth Leader in 2002. Thereafter, he successfully defended his post in the next 2 party elections in 2003 and 2006.

The very essence of leadership is that a leader should have a vision. For without a vision, the people perish. As the youth leader then, Tan Sri Vigneswaran’s vision was to uplift the lives of youths and to transform them into leaders of tomorrow.

Tan Sri believes that our lives begin to end the day we become silent on things that matter. As such, neglecting the disadvantaged youth was not an option for him. He believed then, as now, that education is the key to snatching struggling Indian youths in Malaysia from the clutches of hardship.

Accordingly, Tan Sri Vigneswaran, a die-hard reformer, initiated several reforms within the party to create educational opportunities. Tan Sri Vigneswaran feels that our younger generation needs to be guided in the correct direction. That way they can build a brighter future for themselves and for our country.

One of Tan Sri’s major achievements was inviting troubled Indian youths to funnel their energy into constructive undertakings. This led to the establishment in 2006 of the Malaysian Indian Youth Development Foundation. The foundation has since evolved into a formidable national youth caucus with 45,000 members.
Based on his struggles for the Indian community, Tan Sri authored his first book entitled “Redemption of Indian Dignity” in 2009. That publication succinctly advocates the need for a paradigm shift in the minds of the Indian community. As the voice of the youth and with a burning passion for the community, the Party fielded Tan Sri Vigneswaran in the 2004 11th General Election. Tan Sri was elected as the Member of Parliament for Kota Raja in Selangor. He was then appointed as the Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Tan Sri’s reformist zeal knows no bounds. He considers that good institutions augur well for the prosperity of a nation. Therefore, as a Parliamentarian, he played an active role in reforming parliamentary organisations such as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), and the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Association (AIPA).

His appointment in June 2014 as a senator of the Dewan Negara, gave Tan Sri the golden opportunity to shape that revered institution so that it can become a greater force for good. For his good work on institutional reform, in April 2016, Tan Sri was sworn in as the 17th President of the Senate. He continued to hold this venerable position till June 2020.

Niccolo Machiavelli, a 15th Century Italian political philosopher wrote in his book “The Prince”: “There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things”

But the difficulty of the reform task was no impediment. As the President of the Senate, Tan Sri continued his good work of promoting good governance to ensure that the Senate protected our cherished institution - Parliamentary Democracy. He upheld his constitutional duty to protect the sanctity of the Chair.

Despite the many calls for its abolition, Tan Sri Vigneswaran was resolute in his belief that a reformed Dewan Negara would better serve the people. And so, as its President, Tan Sri ensured that the Senate discharged the sacred duty to safeguard the interests of the people and the nation above everything else.

He solemnly believes that Malaysia needs a Senate even more today than at any point in its history. This is because the Upper House is a less partisan Chamber and less consumed by partisan politics. Such bipartisanship is critical to protecting the sanctity of our democracy - a vital institution that is a bulwark of our liberties.

Even today as our Chancellor and Chairman of AIMST, he is reforming the HR structures so that AIMST can attract and retain talent. He has instituted incentives to unleash the potential of the staff.
Tan Sri is a generous man. He is active in various international humanitarian initiatives. To start with, he, with a delegation from Aman Malaysia, visited Palestine to offer aid. Subsequently, Tan Sri led a delegation to Sri Lanka and India to deliver food, clothing and shelter to the victims of the 2004 tsunami. By these acts of charity, Tan Sri lives by the exhortation of Mother Theresa.

Mother Theresa, the late Albanian nun who spent her life in the slums of Kolkata, once said: “At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, or how many great things we have done. We will be judged by "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in."

Tan Sri’s life reflects the sacrifice that Mother Theresa speaks of, to live a life of significance.

In recognition of his international humanitarian work, Tan Sri Vigneswaran was conferred in 2006 the award of Ambassador for World Peace by the Universal Peace Federation, a global network of peace builders.

Tan Sri is a doting father and a loving husband. He is happily married to Puan Sri Susita Periasamy. And God has blessed them with two lovely daughters and a son.

For his professional accomplishments and for his great sacrifice for the community and the nation, the AIMST Board of Governors considers Tan Sri Dato’ Sri Dr. SA Vigneswaran as the most qualified to lead AIMST University into the future. Tan Sri Dato’ Sri Dr. SA Vigneswaran was appointed as the Honourable Chancellor of AIMST University during its 14th convocation on the 27th May 2023.

Prof. Datuk Dr. John Antony Xavier
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive
AIMST University
The 14th Convocation 2023 of AIMST University was held at the Great Hall on May 27, 2023 with traditional fanfare and splendour. It was a day filled with unforgettable moments, inspiring speeches, and captivating smiles. The most remarkable moment of the event was the installation of Y. Bhg Tan Sri Dato’ Sri Dr. SA Vigneswaran as the Chancellor of AIMST University.
The Director of the Institute for Clinical Research (ICR), National Institute of Health (NIH), Ministry of Health, Malaysia, and the Head of the Centre for Coordination of Clinical Research (CCRN), along with Head, Clinical Research Centre (CRC), Hospital Sultan Abdul Halim, Sungai Petani, paid a visit to AIMST University on July 3, 2023 and held working dialogue and discussion on research collaboration between AIMST University and CRC, CCRN and NIH.
The Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) held its 2023 roadshow with the northern zone Higher Education Providers (HEPs) on Saturday, 24th June 2023, at the AIMST University’s Great Hall.

The session provided a platform for MQA and HEPs to connect, engage, and share valuable insights and information with attendees. Participants had the opportunity to interact with representatives from various higher education institutions and gain a deeper understanding of the quality assurance processes and accreditation standards upheld by MQA.

The AIMST University's Great Hall and other facilities served as an ideal venue for this occasion, providing a welcoming and inclusive environment that greatly enhanced the overall experience for all participants.

Our heartfelt appreciation goes to everyone who attended the event. Their active participation and enthusiasm contributed significantly to the vibrant atmosphere and fruitful discussions throughout the day.
AIMST UNIVERSITY’S FACULTY OF DENTISTRY SIGNS A MOU WITH GLOBAL DENTAL ACADEMIA SDN. BHD.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing ceremony between AIMST University’s Faculty of Dentistry (FOD) and Global Dental Academia Sdn Bhd (GDA) took place on the 2nd of June 2023. The ceremony was attended by delegates from both institutions, highlighting their commitment to collaboration and excellence in dental education.

The GDA was represented by its Director & Founder, Dr. Bala Saravanan Bala Rajentharen, and the CEO, Mr. Kavin Sothirasan. AIMST University was led by Professor Dr. Ramesh Kumaresan, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs) and Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry (FOD), accompanied by Associate Professor Dr. G. Prabhakaran, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Industry Linkage), Mr. Halikhan Bin Daulat, the Bursar, and deputy deans of FOD, Sr. Associate Professor Dr. Jegarajan Pillay, and Associate Professor Dr. Manikandan Natarajan.

The primary objective of this MOU is to reinforce and expand the existing relationship between AIMST University and GDA. Both parties have agreed to establish the "AIMST Centre of Dental Excellence," which will serve as an exceptional platform for conducting continuous professional development (CPD) programmes. These programmes will be tailored to focus on dental education and clinical competency training courses to elevate the quality of training and educational offerings in dentistry.
AIMST UNIVERSITY AND RAJAS DENTAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL (RAJAS) FORGED A COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP TO PROMOTE DENTAL PROGRAMMES

AIMST University and RAJAS Dental College & Hospital (RAJAS) have forged a collaborative partnership to strengthen their dental programmes. On April 27th, 2023, the two institutions signed a MOU to promote collaboration in various aspects of dental education and research.

RAJAS has been delivering quality education in dentistry for over three decades, and it is affiliated with Tamil Nadu Government’s Dr. MGR Medical University in Chennai. It is governed by the Selvam Educational Trust, which manages two other colleges, Sardar Rajas College of Nursing and the S. A. Raja Pharmacy College.

The partnership between AIMST University and RAJAS will mutually benefit their faculties and students. They can engage in staff development, joint research, continuous professional development, and other related activities. The partnership will also enable the sharing of knowledge and resources to enhance the quality of education and research in dentistry.

Senior members from both institutions attended the MOU signing ceremony. RAJAS was represented by its Chairman, Dr. Arul Raja Jacob Raja, along with the Principal and Vice-Principal. AIMST University was led by its Vice-Chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr. John Antony Xavier, Sr. Associate Professor Dr. G. Prabhakaran, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research & Industry Linkage, Sr. Associate Professor Dr. Sundram M. Karupiah, Registrar, Mr. Halikhan Bin Daulat, the Bursar and the deputy deans from the Faculty of Dentistry.

With this partnership, AIMST University and RAJAS are poised to make significant strides in dentistry. They are committed to working together to provide their students and faculty with the best education and research opportunities.
AIMST UNIVERSITY AND MALABAR DENTAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH CENTRE (MDCRC) SIGNED A MOU TO ESTABLISH A COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP

On 10th April 2023, AIMST University and Malabar Dental College and Research Centre (MDCRC) signed a MOU to establish a collaborative partnership. The signing ceremony was attended by Mr. Thufail Mohamed, the Vice-Chairman of MDCRC, and his delegation, which included Mr. Shihab Mecheri, the CEO of MDCRC together with other key members of the dental college. MDCRC, located in Kerala, India, is a leading educational project of the Malabar Educational & Charitable Trust, founded in 2007 under the University of Calicut.

Through the MOU, both institutions will engage in faculty and student exchange programmes, providing opportunities for staff and students to enhance their knowledge and skills through joint research, continuous professional development, and other related activities. The MOU also facilitates the exchange of library and laboratory resources and the collaboration of editorial teams for publications. Moreover, the partnership aims to initiate combined certificate programmes to provide students with a more comprehensive learning experience.

The signing ceremony was attended by senior representatives from AIMST University, including Senior Associate Professor Dr. Kathiresan Sathasivam, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic & International Affairs, Professor Dr. Ramesh Kumaresan, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs and the Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, Sr. Associate Professor Dr. G. Prabhakaran, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research & Industry Linkage, Sr. Associate Professor Dr. Sundram M. Karupiah, Registrar and the Bursar, Mr. Halikhan Bin Daulat.

This MOU signing marks the beginning of a promising partnership between AIMST University and MDCRC, which will undoubtedly benefit both institutions.
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCES
ENGAGEMENT OF FAS WITH INDUSTRIAL PARTNERS

The Faculty of Applied Sciences actively seek collaborations with industrial partners for opportunities to expand research and development activities as well as placement of internship students. On 30th of November 2022, a meeting between Mr. Giva Kupusamy and FAS led to the initiation of a collaboration with the aquaculture industry, specifically in the production of the giant freshwater prawn (Macrobrachium rosenbergii). Mr Giva is one of the faculty’s alumni and the founder of GK Aqua - a BioNexus status company which applies aquaculture biotechnology in the prawn rearing industry for improving production yields and promoting sustainable farming.

On 3rd of May 2023, a meeting between Leave a Nest Malaysia and FAS was held to discuss the possibilities of collaborative projects, commercialization of research and internship for students. Leave a Nest was founded by a group of 15 graduate students in the field of science and engineering in 2001. Leave a Nest has a network of collaborators across 6 countries including Japan, Singapore, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, America and Malaysia.

Representatives of Leave a Nest, Dr Suzianti, with the academic staff members of FAS.

Founder and CEO of GK Aqua, Mr Giva Kupusamy (center), with the academic staff members of FAS.
FAS PROMOTES STEM TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF INNOVATORS

On the 12th and 13th of May, lecturers and students from the Faculty of Applied Sciences showcased biotechnology projects from AIMST University at the largest STEM event in Seberang Perai, Penang. This was aimed at educating the public on the wide-ranging applications of biotechnology and instilling curiosity in the younger generation. The event was jointly organized by Tech Dome Penang, Penang Math Platform and the University of Wollongong Malaysia. There were STEM workshops, career talks, education talks, STEM experiences, STEM discoveries and corporate technology exhibits. The two-day event was officiated by the Penang Deputy Chief Minister II and Penang STEM Chairman, YB Prof Dr P Ramasamy.

Some of the Biotechnology exhibits by FAS in the STEM workshop

FAS student volunteer explaining about the biotechnology innovations to school students
On 29th April, FAS year 1 Biotech students had the opportunity to experience an active learning session at Batu Dua Natural Farm, Sungai Petani. The session involved learning various survivor skills such as setting up fire, knotting, self-defense and other skills that would be useful in outdoor situations. This field trip was part of the self-reliance and social responsibility course in the BSc Biotechnology and Bioinformatics programme. Apart from these skills, the students were also exposed to various important skills such as basic vehicle maintenance, first aid, CPR, growing own food and money management.
On 22 March, ASBA, ABC and AESA jointly organized the TRIOlympics sports event. This event lasted for two weeks, and students from FAS, FBM and FECT came together to participate in it. The response from students was overwhelming, and the event turned out to be a huge success. The TRIOlympics event featured a range of sports activities, including basketball, badminton, and track and field. The sport events started thereafter with standout performances from the biotech students. They won several medals in various sports, including gold in the track and field events. The biotech students’ success was a testament to their hard work and dedication in training for the event.

Overall, the TRIOlympics event was a fantastic showcase of the talent and dedication of students at ASBA, ABC, and AESA. It showcased the sporting prowess of the biotech students and promoted physical fitness, sportsmanship, and camaraderie among the students. The event was a great example of how sports can bring people together and foster a sense of community. It was an unforgettable experience for all the students who participated in it.
Participant of the badminton men single, Yathavan, from FAS Year 3 Biotechnology.

Participant of the badminton men single, H’ng Zi Hao, from FAS Year 1 Biotechnology.

Participants of the badminton women doubles, Kalaimadhi and Vashynave, from FAS Year 2 Biotechnology.

Participants of the badminton women doubles, Sik Yu Kuan and Teh Moon Ley, from FAS Year 3 Biotechnology.

TRIOlympics Organizing Chairperson 1 - Jayden Low Luke Way from FAS.

Sportmanship of students from FAS at the TRIOlympics event (featured Teh Yik Lee from FAS).

Participant of the badminton men single, Yathavan, from FAS Year 3 Biotechnology.
BIOTECH RESEARCHERS STRUCK GOLD AT ITEX 2023
INNOVATION COMPETITION

The International Invention, Innovation & Technology Exhibition (ITEX) is an annual exhibition which features the best innovations from Asia and beyond. This year the event was held on 11-13 May 2023 at KL Convention Centre, Malaysia. Two research teams from AIMST University showcased their biotech inventions and both managed to clinch the Gold Medal award. The inventions were MyCholTM: Prototype, Dual-Use, Live, Cold-chain Free, Oral Vaccine for Cholera and Travellers’ Diarrhoea (team members: Tew Hui Xian, Subramani Parusuraman and Guruswamy Prabhakaran) and Phage-cific: Phage-based Green Agri Bio-control solution (team members: Heera Rajandas, Sivachandran Parimannan, Prasanna Mutusamy, Sasireigga Jaya Jothi, Lee Su Yin, Yukgehnaish Kumarasan, Michelle Loh Jiamin, Heama Maleini A/P Balasubramaniam, Fong Tze Yan, Tan Yee Fan, Priscilla Isaac).

Certificate of Awards for Two Inventions. Both inventions: MyChol™ and Phage-cific secured two gold medal awards.
The National Dental Intervarsity Game Tournament (NDIVG) was held at MAHASA University on May 27 and 28, 2023. AIMST University dental students came home with 25 Medals, including 11 GOLD, 7 SILVER, and 7 BRONZE.

Various events included: Swimming, Track 400 m, Track 1500m female, Dodgeball, Badminton men doubles, Track 4x400m female, Track 200m female, Badminton men single, Swimming, Track 3km, Table tennis mixed double, Table tennis women doubles, Frisbee, Badminton mixed doubles, Track 5km, Track 1500m male, Track 100m female, Volleyball female, Female basketball, Futsal male, Badminton women single.

20th Students Scientific Conference, Resurgence Of Research Post Covid, 9th March 2023 organized by School of Dental Sciences, USM.

1st Place ePoster, Category (Public Health): Won by Kaneesha A/P Chandrasekaran, Kartikeya A/L Sridharan, Keshavani A/P Tanabalan, Khoo Jo Yee

Supervisor(s) Dr. Erry Mochamad Arief, Dr. Hasnah binti Hashim

Title: Analysis of Smile Patterns and Upper Lip Curvatures in Three Different Races and Gender in AIMST University Dental Centre, Malaysia
On 27th of May, the 14th convocation of AIMST University was held amidst huge fanfare and grandeur at the Great Hall. The event was officiated by His Excellency Tan Sri Dato’ Sri Dr. SA. Vigneswaran, the chairman of the AIMST University board of directors. A total of 692 students graduated from the seven faculties, which included students from batch 50 of FAS. This event also witnessed the installation of His Excellency as the Chancellor of AIMST University. Besides the conferment of the students’ scroll, the Distinguished Alumni Awards were also given out. The FAS Distinguished Alumni Award recipients were Dr Ashiwin Vadiveloo (The Chancellor Award), Mr Giva Kuppusamy (Professional Achievement Award), Dr Heera Rajandas (Tomorrow’s Leader Award) and Dr. Ayappa V. Subramaniam (Community Service Award).
Dr. Galvin Sim Siang Lin from the Faculty of Dentistry, AIMST University won the 2nd Prize in Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) Research, Innovation & Entrepreneurship International Symposium 2023 held on 9-10th May 2023.

Dr Priyadharshini Arjunan, Lecturer, Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology, Faculty of Dentistry, AIMST University won the second prize for the poster presentation titled “Proton Flash- Magical Silver Bullet Against Cancer” in 7th world Dental Sciences and Oral Health Conference organized by Cynodont International and Indian Society of Dentistry in collaboration with Sharda University, Greater Noida, India and International College of Dentists USA on 30th March 2023 – 3rd April 2023.

She secured second prize for the poster presentation titled "Use Flash to Slay Crabs" in National conference Dentocon 2023-Holistic Approach in Orodental Care: An Innovative Perspective, organized by Seema Dental College and Hospital, Rishikesh on 20th – 22nd April, 2023.

She secured first prize for the E-poster presentation titled “Fast 01 – First Trial” on Advances in Oral Medicine &amp; Radiology” held at K.M. Shah Dental College &amp; Hospital, Sumandeep Vidyapeeth, Vadodara, on National OMR Day 24th April, 2023.
The 6th AIMST Dental Students’ Colloquium with theme ‘Quintessential Dentistry meets Artistry’ was successfully conducted on 15th, 18th and 19th April, 2023 in the Faculty of Dentistry. The students enthusiastically participated in various academic and fun filled events. The events were categorized under online events and face to face events. This colloquium comprised of twenty various events which were carefully crafted by the Faulty of Dentistry to encourage and motivate the soft skills and leadership skills of the students. There were about 250 participants from Year 1 to Year 5 BDS and Year 1 to Year 4 BDT. The events included Next Gen Top/Budding Dentist and Dental Technologist 2023, scientific presentation of the research projects, quiz, calligraphy, instareels, creativity video making, picture prompt story writing, poetry writing, sculpt-a-sculpt, mad-ads, soap carving, photography, slogan writing, wire bending, meme making, sketch ’n paint and FOD got talent. The Opening and closing ceremony were conducted on 19th April in Lecture Theater 2 FOD building. The staffs with 10 years of service in the Faculty of dentistry were recognized during the opening ceremony. Release of the Dental Magazine ‘Reflections’ for the year 2023 by Vice chancellor was one of the memorable moments. The Dean’s list candidates of the academic year 2021-2022 were awarded with certificates and medals during the closing ceremony of 6th ADSC. The winners of the ADSC events were recognized with certificates and trophies. The scores obtained by each participant was added to their respective batch scores which made the Year 2 BDS and BDT of the academic year 2022-2023 the top scorer and was awarded “Overall Championship” for the 6th ADSC, 2023.

Organizing committee:
Advisor : Dr. Ramesh Kumaresan
Co-advisors : Dr. Sivakumar Pendyala
               Dr. Saurabh Shekhar
Chairperson : Dr. Vini Rajeev
Co-chairperson : Dr. Sivadas Ganapathy
                Dr. Rajeev Arunachalam
Secretary : Dr. Jeevan M B
Treasurer : Dr. Tan Wen Wu

Organizing team for various events : All the lecturers, administrative staffs support staffs and student volunteers of the Faculty of Dentistry.
Opening ceremony of 6th ADSC and Release of Dental Magazine ‘Reflections’

Vice chancellor handing over the 10 years' service completion certificate to staff

Awarding rolling trophy to the Year 2 students who are overall winner of the 6th ADSC 2023
Next Gen Top/Budding Dentist and Dental Technologist 2023 Competition
Dean handing over the cash award and certificate to winner of scientific presentation

Awarding BDS and BDT Dean’s list candidates of academic year 2021-2022 during 6th ADSC 2023
Quiz

Mad-ad Competition where students showcase their acting and communication skills
Student's Creativity shown in Sculpt to Sculpt Competition

Students displaying their skill in Soap carving event
Wire Art Competition

Calligraphy Competition
Keshavani Tanabal - MBBS, Year 5 (Batch 14)

- Competition: 1st place in national level Yoga championship, in advance level age category 21-30
- Competition: 1st place in Yogaolympic Women Yoga Asana category
Dr Bala received his Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree from AIMST University in 2010. He is an entrepreneur who has founded a chain of clinics, a lab, an academy, and the first-ever dentist co-working space in Malaysia. In 2013, he founded “The Dental Lab” to fill a niche for more dental labs in Malaysia with one dental technician, and has now grown into a successful factory with 25 dental technicians. Dr Bala founded the Dental Academy Malaysia, when he discovered there was a need for competency training for young dentists and grew it into The Dental City, a 15,000 sq ft dental experience centre, providing dentists with a 360 solution with a dental education centre, the world’s first dental co-work sharing space, a dental shop for dentists, and much more. He is a perfect example of “360 in the dental field.”

Dr Wong received her Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree from AIMST University in 2010. She subsequently served in the Ministry of Health for three years. Dr. Wong pursued her Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (Endodontology) degree at UKM, and graduated in 2017. She has also received membership in Endodontics from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in the same year. She is one of the pioneers of locally-trained Endodontists in Malaysia. Dr. Wong is actively involved in teaching both undergraduate and postgraduate students at UKM, and currently serves as the coordinator of Dental Materials for undergraduates. Over the years, she has mentored numerous undergraduate and postgraduate research projects, which have been widely recognized through various local and international publications and awards. Besides her academic duties, Dr. Wong actively participates in the Malaysian Endodontics Society (MES), having served as treasurer from 2018 to 2020.
Dr Sylvia received her Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree from AIMST University in 2012. Dr Sylvia joined the Mercy Malaysia in 2013 which is an international humanitarian organization and underwent training. She is currently the chairman of Mercy Malaysia Sabah state. She volunteered as outreach dentist in Sabah state and served over 30 missions in various parts of Sabah. During Covid time she has been actively volunteering in the vaccination team and in the medical resources team. She has been serving the MDA eastern zone as an Exco member since 2015. She has actively involved in various CSR projects sponsored by MDA for the poor and underprivileged community. She has been volunteering for dental missions in countries like Thailand, India and Myanmar. She is rightly called as the “Borderless Dentist”.

Ms Joanne received her Bachelor of Dental Technology degree from AIMST University in 2019. She is one of the pioneers of locally trained Dental Technologists in Malaysia. After her graduation, she started working in Apex Dental-Digital Implant Laboratory since January 2020. Currently she is working as Assistant Manager at the Apex Digital Lab and also perusing her MBA in Digital Transformation from Veritas University College. Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality. She has made her vision into a reality by establishing ACE3D Digital Dental Laboratory. She is just apt for the Tomorrow’s Leaders award.
Foo Jia Yi

Foo Jia Yee is a diligent and hardworking personality. She is self-motivated and consistently exceeds expectations with her quality of work. Besides her exceptional academic performance, she actively participates in social activities and volunteer programs. Her positive outlook and independence make her a rewarding dentist and a successful individual. Her exceptional leadership abilities and a strong sense of teamwork shine through in her involvement in multiple student organizations. She is a dedicated and selfless individual, actively engaged in community service to support various local and international charities and mentoring programs.

Lim Ee Xin

She is an exceptional dental technologist who is skilled and passionate about her work. She has consistently demonstrated academic excellence in her field, and her ambition and confidence are evident in her approach to dentistry. Over time, she has refined her skills and developed a deep interest in the intricacies of the field. Her dedication and professionalism make her a valuable asset to any dental team.

Khoo Chia Wee

Khoo Chia Wee is a dedicated student who showed great perseverance when facing challenges in pursuing dentistry. She is determined to succeed and was selected as Dean’s list for 4 consecutive years. In addition, her participation in various national and international events has shown that she strives to improve herself at all times to be a better dentist than yesterday.
From Bachelor of Dental Surgery 2021-2022 a total of 43 students received dean’s list award.

**YEAR 1**
Chan Kai Nor | Cheng Ru We | Chieu Evee | Foo Zhi Lin, Lee Xuan En | Lim Chun Hung
Ngew Jia Wen Carmen | Ong Shi Hong | Rachel Lim Sze Zhia | Vengadesh Sandara Segran
Vikrant | Josephine Yu Siaw Li

**YEAR 2**
Beh Hui Ying | Cheah Xiao Wei | Choong Hui Yen | Chuah Ri Faye | Daniel Roshan
Dharshini Gopalakrishnan | Joey Lim Eng Jie | Kayalvili Mani Segaran | Lee Jing Ling
Mabel Theodora Robless | Ng Wei Erhn Peter | Nishantini Shanmugam | Pui Ka Yan
Tang Hao Siang | Tang Zi Yu | Vanessa Ting Jing Yi | Victor Loh Xian Wei | Yem Pui San

**YEAR 3**
Chin Pei Ying | Leaw Hong Xin | Lee Wei Bin | Richard Lee | Teh Szu Ann | Tiang Shi Jie

**YEAR 4**
Caris Dong Zhi Xuan | Elin Ting | Shelen Wong Tze Ning

**YEAR 5**
Foo Jia Yee | Tan Hung Jia | Wong Yu Juzn
AIMST University participated in an educational event organised by the Penang Youth Development Corporation (PYDC) on the 25th & 26th of March 2023 at Butterworth Arena. We thank YB Puan Lim Hui Ying, Deputy Education Minister, YB Tuan Soon Lip Chee, Penang EXCO for Sports and Youth, Dr. Gwee Sai Ling, General Manager of PYDC, Dr. Haarindra Prasad, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering & Computer Technology (FECT) and Mr. J Philip Vincent, Industrial Advisory Panel (IAP) member for AIMST University for the cooperation and contribution towards the education fair, which has created a good platform for students to focus on pursuing their tertiary education.

INDUSTRIAL ENGAGEMENT WITH MONITOR ERP SYSTEM

On 5th April 2023, we had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Lingeswaran Nathan, the Business Development Manager and Technical Consultant of Monitor ERP System, a global Swedish company, accompanied by Mr. J Philip Vincent, AIMST Industry Advisory Panel (IAP) member & the Group Director of GSH Group Of Companies. The highly informative session resulted in fruitful discussions leading to exciting opportunities for collaboration between our Faculty of Engineering & Computer Technology and industries.

We were impressed with the opportunities that Monitor ERP System could offer to educate students about managing advanced global manufacturing software systems as they gain knowledge and experience through state-of-the-art manufacturing software systems, which will add value to their learning experience.
The Faculty of Engineering & Computer Technology (FECT) welcomed representatives from BECKHOFF Automation Sdn Bhd, a renowned German Technology Company, on the 11th of April 2023. The meeting aimed to explore potential collaborations and identify areas of mutual interest between the two organisations.

BECKHOFF Automation was represented by Ms. Sofia Salim, the customer service sales engineer, and Ms. Aries Yoong, HR, and admin executive, along with Mr. J Philip Vincent, Group Director of GSH Group of Companies, who serves as our Industrial Advisory Panel (IAP) member, Dr. Haarindra Prasad and Mr. Raguraman, the Dean and Deputy Dean of FECT, respectively.

It was a great opportunity for FECT to build a strong relationship with BECKHOFF Automation and explore opportunities for collaboration. BECKHOFF Automation is a global leader in providing high-end hardware and software technologies for manufacturing and industrial applications. The company has the potential to offer training, expertise, internships, and job opportunities for our students, which could help them gain practical experience and knowledge in the field of manufacturing and industry.

Both parties had a productive discussion and better understood each other's areas of expertise. FECT is excited about the potential collaborations and opportunities arising from this meeting.
Dr. Haarindra Prasad, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering & Computer Technology (FECT), and Mr. Azam Azuar, the Computer Science Lecturer of FECT, had a meeting with Cisco Systems (M) Sdn. Bhd. in Penang on the 18th of April 2023.

The meeting was fruitful with Mr. Nick, the Technical Manager of Cisco Systems (M) Sdn. Bhd. providing valuable insights into the importance of keeping the syllabus updated with current technology, particularly Cisco’s offerings. He highlighted the need for students to learn programming languages such as Python and Cloud Computing using Kubenet networking and software.

Miss CL Lee, the Director of Cisco Systems (M) Sdn. Bhd., was also present at the meeting and committed to helping FECT collaborate with the Cisco Networking Academy. This academy offers students an unparalleled educational experience, providing them with training, technical support, and professional certification, such as Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert (CCIE certification) and Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA).

FECT and Cisco Network Inc's partnership is significant and game-changing. It equips students with the necessary tools to excel in today's world, producing top-notch graduates capable of competing globally. This collaboration ensures that FECT is well-equipped to prepare its students for the ever-evolving job market, giving them an edge over their peers.
UNLEASHING INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE: FECT’S OPEN DAY 2022 LEAVES A LASTING IMPRESSION

The Faculty of Engineering and Computer Technology (FECT) has once again proven its commitment to excellence with its successful Open Day event on the 1st and 2nd of October 2022. The event was open to feeder colleges, polytechnics, secondary schools, and the public from Penang, Kedah, and Perlis. With over 300-340 participants and visitors in attendance, FECT left a lasting impression on all who attended.

The event featured a PUBG Mobile Gaming Open Tournament, faculty and industrial showcases, course overviews, career pathway talks, and campus tours. Visitors had the opportunity to explore the cutting-edge technology and impressive facilities available at FECT. The faculty members and Student Recruitment Division staff were on hand to answer any questions and provide valuable information to prospective students.

With the full support and commitment of the University's top management, the FECT Open Day was a resounding success. The event showcased the faculty’s commitment to providing quality education and preparing students for successful engineering and computer technology careers. The positive impact and impressions made during the event were a testament to FECT’s dedication to excellence.

In conclusion, the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Technology's Open Day event was a great success, offering visitors an opportunity to learn more about the faculty and explore the innovative technology and facilities available. The event reflected FECT's commitment to providing quality education and preparing students for successful careers. With their unwavering determination to excellence, FECT will continue to lead the way in engineering and computer technology education.
FACULTY OF Medicine
MEDICAL CAMP AT MASJID AL-IMAM AMBANGAN HEIGHTS SUNGAI PETANI

On June 24, 2023, a medical camp was jointly organised by Senior Citizens, Sungai Petani, in collaboration with AIMST University, Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) Kedah Branch, Hospital Sultan Abdul Halim (HSAH), LPPKN Alor Setar, District Health Office of Kuala Muda, and "Pusat Khidmat Rakyat Adun Bukit Selambau." The camp took place from 8.30 am to 3.30 pm at Masjid Al Imam Ambangan Heights in Sungai Petani. Dr. Leela Anthony Joe from AIMST University was the medical camp’s coordinator. YB Summugam, the Bukit Selambau Assemblyman (ADUN), provided financial support for the camp, and Dato Dr. Rama, a local private practitioner supplied the medicines. The Imam of the mosque officially inaugurated the medical camp.

The medical camp received assistance from staff members representing the aforementioned organisations. AIMST University contributed 17 specialists from various faculties, including the Faculty of Medicine (FOM), Faculty of Dentistry (FOD), and Faculty of Pharmacy (FOP). Additionally, there were 15 student volunteers from FOM and two assistants each from the FOD and FOP.
Several activities were carried out during the medical camp, including screenings for non-communicable diseases, consultations with clinical specialists, pap smears, and dental checkups. The following specialists contributed their expertise to the camp:

- Dr. Kamal Narain and Dr. AKM Moniruddin Chowdhury from the Medicine Unit
- Prof. Mohammad Abdur Rashid and Dr. Mohamad Kanchan Ali Mallik from the Paediatrics Unit
- Dr. Bhurhanudeen Abdul Kareem and Dr. Raghuman Sheriff Feroze from the Orthopaedics Unit
- Dr. Christina Gellknight from the Ophthalmology Unit
- Dr. Sawri Rajan Rajagopal, Dr. Tin Soe Saifullah, and Dr. Madhumita Sen from the Family Medicine Unit
- Dr. Kallyan Debnath and Dr. Jayita Poduval from the ENT Unit
- Dr. Leela Anthony Joe from the Community Medicine Unit
- Dr. Jegarajan Pillay and Dr. Kameswari Kondreddy from FOD
- Mr. Sabri Hashim, Ms. Thanapakiam, and Ms. Ng Jing from FOP

Additionally, two alumni from AIMST University, Dr. Ruban Ravi Chandran and Dr. Jessica Jебamalar William Joseph, who are attached to Kulim Hospital, participated in the medical camp. Approximately 210 people visited the medical camp, but only 176 who officially registered returned their forms, allowing the team to analyse their data. Breaking down the racial distribution, most participants were Malays, totalling 169, while 4 individuals were Chinese, and 9 were Indians. Most attendees sought help from the Family Medicine Unit, followed by Orthopaedics, Dental, Medicine, and Ophthalmology units. It is worth noting that some patients required consultations with multiple specialists, highlighting the comprehensive nature of the care provided. The medical camp surpassed all expectations, leaving a lasting impression on everyone involved. Inspired by its impact, the mosque’s Imam envisioned an annual tradition, a beacon of healing and compassion. To express gratitude, the Imam graciously catered food that mirrored warmth and generosity.

Dr. Leela Anthony, Deputy Dean (Research, Postgraduate and Administration), Faculty of Medicine, AIMST University, being conferred the ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ by MEU India
World Health Day is observed on April 7 every year to commemorate the establishment of the World Health Organization (WHO). It serves as a global awareness day to encourage nations to promote information and resources related to better health. The fundamental right to health should be accessible to everyone, regardless of their financial situation, ensuring they receive the necessary health services when and where they need them.

Each year, the WHO selects a theme for World Health Day. This year, on the 75th anniversary of WHO, the theme is 'Health for All.' The concept of Health for All envisions a world where every individual enjoys good health, leading to a fulfilling life in a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable society. In alignment with the global celebrations, the Community Medicine Unit of the Faculty of Medicine at AIMST University organised various health-related activities to raise global and individual health awareness.

The event took place on the afternoon of Friday, March 31 2023, and was inaugurated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. G Prabhakaran, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Industry Linkages), representing the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Datuk Dr. John Antony Xavier.

Distinguished guests, including Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ramesh Kumaresan, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sundram M. Karupiah (Registrar), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jegarajan N. Pillay (Deputy Dean, Faculty of Dentistry), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rohini Karunakaran (Deputy Dean Academic, Faculty of Medicine) and Prof. Kevin Fernandez (Head of the Community Medicine Unit) attended the event. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Saraswathi Bina Rai, Deputy Dean of Student Affairs, Faculty of Medicine, delivered the welcoming address.

The event showcased various activities, including a digital poster competition and a quiz open to all faculties. The quiz on the Kahoot platform added excitement as participants competed against time, and winners were awarded prizes.

Quiz masters for the event were Prof. Kevin and Dr. Theingi. After the quiz, Dr. Bina delivered a talk on 'Travel for Health' while Ms. R.T. Letcimei, AIMST Counsellor, introduced the concept of mindfulness and guided everyone through a short practical session. The event was elegantly hosted by our emcees, Keertan Olagunathan from Batch 25 and Aishwariya Arul from Batch 26, resulting in a delightful afternoon.

We sincerely appreciate everyone involved in making this event a success. Special thanks to Dr. Shivali for ensuring the smooth flow of the program, Dr. Theingi, all the staff of the Faculty of Medicine, the participants of the quiz and poster competitions, the student volunteers (especially those from Batch 25 Group A), and numerous other unnamed student volunteers. We also thank the Faculty of Medicine Dean’s Office staff, particularly Ms. Buanes and Mr. Kavin, for handling the logistics efficiently.

A delightful tea session was arranged to conclude the eventful afternoon, adding the final touch to a truly enjoyable event.
Quiz participants and Dr. Shivali keeping an eye to make sure all runs smoothly

Arrival of special guests

The organisers with guests, speakers and the emcees

Figuring out the quiz questions

Quiz in session

Prize-giving ceremony

Quiz participants and Dr. Shivali keeping an eye to make sure all runs smoothly
William Arthur Ward, an American motivational writer, once said: “The mediocre teacher tells… The great teacher inspires.” That inspirational quality embodies Rtd Snr Professor Dr. KR Sethuraman’s academic career spanning some 40 years.

His story at AIMST starts in 2005 when Dr. Sethuraman assumed the mantle of Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. The appointment came with the onerous responsibility to transform the fledgling Faculty into a world-class institution. Not given to taking things lightly, and with the firm conviction that work is divine, Dr. Sethuraman accomplished his first assignment. He obtained for the University the full accreditation of the MBBS programme from the then National Accreditation Board. With this feather in his cap, Dr. Sethuraman went on to restructure the medical faculty. He set up the Clinical Skills Centre in 2006 for simulation-based clinical teaching. In the same year, Dr. Sethuraman set up the Medical Education Unit to elevate the teaching quality while enhancing the learning experience of students.

In 2007, when AIMST was upgraded to a full-fledged university, and in recognition of his remarkable leadership, Dr. Sethuraman was made the first Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic and International Affairs; a post he served with distinction for six years till 2013. Following the full accreditation of the MBBS programme, Dr. Sethuraman set about another demanding assignment. He was to get the educational resources at the Medical Faculty ready for a bid to increase the admission quota from 150 to 200. Dr. Sethu and team worked tirelessly. Victory ensued. In 2008, AIMST had its MBBS quota increased to 200.

Believing that examinations are to test what a student should know, Dr. Sethu revamped the examination rules. His effort paid off when the then National Accreditation Board approved the modifications in 2008. The simplification of rules heralded a significant drop in the student-attrition rate. It also earned Dr. Sethuraman a seat in the Ministry of Higher Education’s prestigious medical-education panel.

Continuing his institution-building exercise, Dr. Sethu established the Clinical Liaison Unit at the University in 2010. This unit continues to forge a more dynamic relationship between AIMST and government hospitals to ensure effective clinical training for our students.

In 2011 and 2012, a caring Maju Institute of Educational Development, or MIED, sought the help of the medical faculty to coach MBBS students from unrecognised overseas colleges to help them pass the Malaysian qualifying examination.
Under Dr. Sethu’s leadership, intensive coaching to a cohort of 40 MBBS students for 7 straight months secured an almost 100% pass rate, thereby, salvaging careers that could have otherwise been lost.

After seven (7) productive years as the dean, it was time to go home. Dr. Sethuraman accepted an offer in 2013 to be the Vice-Chancellor of Sri Balaji Vidyapeeth University, Pondicherry, India.

But AIMST continued to tug at Dr. Sethu’s heart strings. He gave up his coveted position as vice-chancellor to re-join the Medical Faculty as its Dean in 2018. During his second tour of duty, Dr. Sethu faced two formidable challenges. The first was to regain the original quota of 200 for the MBBS intake which was cut 150 in 2017. Again, victory followed. In October last year, the Malaysian Qualifying Board restored the original quota of 200.

The second major challenge was the disruption of clinical teaching at hospitals during the pandemic. With his vast experience, Dr. Sethu overcame this difficulty in two ways: First, he meticulously designed a “jig-saw model” curriculum. That syllabus separated components that could be taught online and those that must be taught face-to-face. Next, he innovatively developed the “Mini-Clinical-Encounter Exercise”. This alternative method for clinical teaching was an instant hit among the external examiners and students.

With these “out of the box’ solutions, AIMST, during the pandemic, managed to train its students at a 99% pass rate. This was done without compromising content or quality. Early this year, Dr. Sethu felt that it was time yet again to go home. And in one of our walks up the slope opposite the bungalows he said: “A good leader knows when it is time to pass the baton to the second bench of leadership. I came with two aims. One was to restore the original quota of 200 medical seats. And two, to revamp the medical curriculum to produce better doctors. It is mission accomplished!

AIMST University remains indebted to his visionary leadership, unwavering dedication, and indefatigable efforts in nurturing future generations of medical professionals. To paraphrase General Douglas McArthur’s quote: “Old professors never die; they just fade away.” As Dr. Sethu draws the curtain on his academic career, knowing that he has fulfilled his purpose which God gave him the light to discern, we wish him happy retirement, good health and happiness.

For his contributions to the University and medical education, the AIMST Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the University Senate, conferred on Rtd Senior Professor Dr. K. R. Sethuraman the prestigious award of Emeritus Professor of AIMST University at the 14th Convocation on the 27th May 2023.
Supported by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation with an 11 million-ringgit grant, our cholera vaccine is at the clinical-trial stage. The novelty of our vaccine is that it will be cheaper as it will not require refrigeration for storage and transport. If we succeed, and God willing we shall, our vaccine will serve all, especially the bottom one billion in the world who do not have access to refrigeration and who were unable to afford such vaccines in the past.

Grants from the government, industry and international bodies have largely contributed to the historic high of 235 high-impact publications in 2022. This year till June, we have published some 115 papers. Our innovations have won many awards and gold medals at the international stage. I am proud to announce that AIMST’s commitment to excellence is attested by its recent achievements. With a 35% increase in high-quality research output last year, and an average of 200 papers over the last two years, we are positioning ourselves as a research-oriented university. The 22,000 high-impact citations since 2002 attest to our publication quality.

Additionally, we have filed 13 patents in the last 3 years and we have secured nearly RM10 million in government and industry grants over the last five years. Due to its prodigious research output, the QS ranking board has categorised AIMST as a high-research output university. Our research tackles some of our society’s most pressing challenges, including using artificial intelligence, or AI, in biodiversity conservation, fighting climate change and developing new vaccines. We have three centres of excellence dedicated to pursuing research in the, science, technology and teaching.

For example, the Ministry of Higher Education acknowledges the AIMST Centre for Excellence for Omics-Driven Computational Biodiscovery, or COMBio, as a critical part of the Consortium of Excellence in the niche area of AI. Given this recognition, COMBio has received half a million in funding from the ministry. Now, COMBio is only a step away from being recognised as a High Centre of Excellence, which will then attract a RM 6 million grant from the Ministry. These advances in teaching and research have earned us a commendable rank among the top 53 percent of all universities in the QS Asian Ranking and the 69th best university in South-east Asia.

For this remarkable progress, we thank our honourable Chancellor, Tan Sri Vigneswaran, the Maju Institute of Educational Development and the MIED Capital for the huge investments to develop the University’s infrastructure so that the University can live up to its reputation as a world-class university. We also owe a debt of gratitude to the AIMST Board of Directors. Their advice and support have steered the university to greater heights of excellence.

I am equally indebted to my staff, for their utmost dedication to upholding the good name of AIMST. To the many who have contributed to the development of this University, and to making this University a fine institution that we are all proud of, we say.

Prof. Datuk Dr. John Antony Xavier
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive
AIMST University
SCHOOL OF Nursing
A joyous and vibrant atmosphere enveloped AIMST cafeteria as the melodious tunes of popular Malay music echoed through the air. Students, adorned in a kaleidoscope of colorful traditional attire, added to the festive charm of the event. The aroma of delectable local Malay delicacies such as 'satay,' 'various kueh-mueh,' and 'ais kacang' wafted through the space, tantalizing the taste buds of all present. Laughter and cheer filled the air as the crowd immersed themselves in the delightful performances of dance and popular Malay songs, all of which were brought to life by talented students. Their captivating moves and heartfelt melodies enchanted the audience, leaving smiles on their faces and hearts full of happiness.

The Student Affairs Department was abuzz with excitement as nursing graduates gathered to celebrate their felicitation. The event was graced by Professor Dr Yu Chye Wah, Dean of the School of Nursing, and all the nursing lecturers.
An exclusive interview for the July 2023 Intake Nursing Programme was held at AIMST University.

**NURSES’ DAY CELEBRATION @ AIMST UNIVERSITY: THE HEART OF THE HEALTHCARE TEAM**

It was an unforgettable day filled with excitement and camaraderie, as participants engaged in a myriad of thrilling activities from dawn till dusk. The event commenced with aerobic exercises, setting the tone for a day brimming with energy and enthusiasm. A delightful treasure hunt added a dash of thrill and adventure, while a health camp and exhibitions provided valuable insights into wellness and healthcare. As the sun dipped below the horizon, the festivities culminated in a grand Black & White themed dinner held at the Purest Hotel in Sungai Petani, Kedah. The night exuded elegance and sophistication, as they relished delectable cuisine and cherishing every moment of this truly remarkable occasion.
FACULTY OF
Pharmacy
UNDERSTAND THE ROLES OF COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS

On April 11, 2023, the CPD & Seminar Committee of the Faculty of Pharmacy hosted an online career talk on the roles of community pharmacists. The talk was held in collaboration with Health Lane Family Pharmacy and was open to year 3 and 4 Pharmacy students. The talk was a great success, with 91 students in attendance. The speakers, who were all experienced community pharmacists, provided a comprehensive overview of the roles and responsibilities of community pharmacists. They also discussed the future of community pharmacy and the opportunities that are available to pharmacists in this setting. The students who attended the talk found it to be very informative and helpful. They said that they learned a lot about the different aspects of community pharmacy and that they were now better equipped to make informed decisions about their future careers. The CPD & Seminar Committee was very pleased with the success of the talk. They said that it was a valuable experience for all involved and that it achieved its intended goals. They are planning to host similar talks in the future.

1-DAY INTENSIVE MTAC WEBINAR: A KEY TO IMPROVED PATIENT OUTCOMES

AIMST University hosted a highly informative and engaging webinar on Medication Therapy Adherence Clinic (MTAC). The event held on 23th April, 2022, was organized by the CPD & Seminar Committee of the Faculty of Pharmacy and was aimed for pharmacy students, pharmacists, and lecturers interested in learning more about MTAC.

A total of 51 attendees from diverse pharmacy backgrounds participated in the event. The purpose of the event was to provide participants with valuable knowledge and insights from experienced MTAC pharmacists who served as keynote speakers. The event was structured into several sessions, with each session featuring a different speaker sharing their expertise in a specific field of MTAC. The interactive sessions and case studies allowed participants to engage with the speakers and apply the knowledge they had gained to real-life scenarios.

Overall, the event was a resounding success, providing participants with valuable insights and networking opportunities.
AIMST UNIVERSITY AND GEORGETOWN PHARMACY: A PARTNERSHIP FOR THE FUTURE OF PHARMACY

A momentous gathering of 100 individuals marked the highlight of July 14th, 2022, as AIMST University’s LT02 (Kanagawa), Dental Building brimmed with anticipation. The event, orchestrated by the CPD & Seminar Committee, FOP, AIMST University, in collaboration with Georgetown Pharmacy, was an eagerly awaited affair for the pharmacy students in attendance. Gracing the stage as the keynote speaker was Ms. Ong Hoay Ling, an experienced pharmacist, who shared her insights on the different fields that pharmacists can pursue after graduation. With a perfect blend of informative presentations and engaging discussions, the event successfully achieved its goal of introducing diverse career pathways for aspiring pharmacists. In retrospect, this event was not just a gathering; it was a transformative experience that paved the way for a brighter and more promising future for all those who attended.
On September 15-16, 2022, the CPD & Seminar Committee (FOP) at AIMST University hosted a successful online career talk for aspiring pharmacists. The event targeted individuals interested in pursuing a career as a community pharmacist and drew 74 attendees. The keynote speakers, Ms. Teoh Sin Yee and Ms. Lim En Ni, provided valuable insights into the real-life scenarios of a community pharmacist and shared their experiences in handling the challenges of the profession. Participants had the opportunity to engage with the speakers through an interactive Q&A session, where they could ask questions and seek advice on various aspects of the profession. The purpose of the event was to provide a platform for aspiring pharmacists to gain a better understanding of the challenges and rewards of a career as a community pharmacist. Overall, the event served as an excellent opportunity for aspiring pharmacists to learn from experienced professionals and gain insights into the realities of a career in community pharmacy.
NORTHERN REGION PHARMACISTS CONVENTION 2022: A GATHERING OF THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST IN PHARMACY

On 8th - 9th October 2022, AIMST played host to a highly anticipated hybrid event that drew a large crowd of 114 pharmacists from northern Malaysia. The event was organized by Malaysian Pharmacists Society - Kedah / Perlis Area in collaboration with CPD & Seminar Committee, Faculty of Pharmacy. In alignment with the theme of "Empowering Pharmacists in Men’s and Women's Health," the event presents a unique opportunity for pharmacists to augment their knowledge across a wide range of areas. Overall, the event was a huge success, thanks to the efforts of the organizers, collaborators, and the active participation of the participants.
Aman Central in Alor Setar hosted an event celebrating World Pharmacist Day on 1st October, 2022. The event was organized by the Kedah State Health Department (JKN) in collaboration with the Faculty of Pharmacy at AIMST University and the Malaysian Pharmacists Society (MPS) Kedah. The event was aimed at the general public, and approximately 300 participated in the activities. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about the importance of pharmacists in promoting public health and encourage healthy habits in the community. The event featured a variety of engaging activities, including, health screening booths, educational seminars and a drawing competition for children. Keynote speakers were also present to discuss important health topics and answer questions from the audience. The event was a great success and provided attendees with valuable information and resources to improve their health and well-being.
UNVEILING THE POWER OF PHARMACY ENFORCEMENT: AIMST UNIVERSITY’S PHENOMENAL EVENT ON WORLD PHARMACIST DAY!

In a splendid celebration of World Pharmacist Day, October 2022 witnessed a momentous gathering at AIMST University that left a lasting impact on aspiring pharmacy students. Collaboratively organized by Jabatan Kesihatan Negeri (JKN) Kedah and the Faculty of Pharmacy, AIMST University, the event’s theme, “Venture Into Pharmacy Enforcement Career,” drew a full attendance of more than enthusiastic 300 students.

With a resolute focus on promoting health, wellness, and the burgeoning field of pharmacy enforcement, the event unfurled a plethora of engaging activities. Participants were immersed in a captivating health campaign booth, tantalized by a thrilling lucky draw, and interactive station games. A pivotal moment was the educational talk delivered by a seasoned keynote speaker, who shed light on the untapped potential of pharmacy enforcement as a promising career pathway.

A tapestry of experiences awaited students, as they not only enriched their knowledge but also seized the opportunity to network with peers and professionals. The event ignited their curiosity and passion, opening their eyes to the possibilities within the pharmacy profession. Overall, the event was a huge success, thanks to the efforts of the organizers, collaborators, and the active participation of the students.
DIGITAL MARKETING: UNLEASHING THE ROAD TO A DIGITALIZED WORLD

In a thrilling rendezvous with the future of marketing, AIMST University was transformed into a hub of innovation on 10th December 2022. Malaysian Pharmacists Society-Young Pharmacists Chapter (MPS-YPC) orchestrated an exhilarating event "Road To Digitalised World," in collaboration with CPD & Seminar Committee and Pharmaceutical Society of AIMST (PharmSA). The allure of this gathering attracted pharmacy graduates from Northern Malaysia, all eager to explore the digital marketing realm. The keynote speaker, Ms. Vievient Choy, captivated hearts with her inspiring presentation on digital marketing. The event saw 88 bright minds from AIMST University and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) converge, creating a platform for networking, learning, and sparking innovative ideas. Through engaging talks, interactive workshops, and lively discussions, the event successfully equipped future graduates with the essential knowledge and skills to master effective digital marketing strategies. A resounding success, participants left enriched with a treasure trove of practical insights, ready to embrace the digitalized world that beckons!
AIMST University congratulates, Ms. Phoon Yi Jun, a Year 4 Pharmacy student, for her outstanding achievement in the prestigious 2nd MyPSA National Pharmacy Competition (NPC 2022) Piala Aishah Compounding Challenge (PA). Her exceptional talent and unwavering commitment shone bright as she secured a remarkable position in the Top 4, earning the esteemed title of 3rd Runner Up. This impressive feat, accomplished during the event held from 9th to 10th April 2022, is a testament to her hard work and passion for pharmacy. As she continues to excel and make her mark in the field, we celebrate Ms. Phoon Yi Jun’s well-deserved success and wish her a future filled with even more triumphs.

PHOOYI JUN: A RISING STAR SHINING BRIGHT IN THE IPSF PHARMA OLYMPICS COMPETITION - BEAUTY EDITION 2021!

In a dazzling display of talent and skill, Ms. Phoon Yi Jun, a Year 4 Pharmacy student, captured the spotlight and emerged as the Champion in the prestigious IPSF Industrial Skills Event - Pharma Olympics Competition - Beauty Edition 2021. The competition, organized by the renowned International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (IPSF), centered around the captivating theme of “Beauty,” recognizing the cosmetics industry as a promising avenue within the field of pharmacy that is set to flourish in the years to come. With the Preliminary Round held on 11th March 2021 and the thrilling Final Round on 21st March 2021, Ms. Phoon Yi Jun’s exceptional talent and dedication earned her well-deserved recognition and acclaim. As she continues to shine brightly on her journey, we celebrate her as a rising star in the world of pharmacy, destined for a future filled with success and brilliance.
DAZZLING PHARMILY WING-DINGSOME: 
PHARMACY DAY 2022 MARKS A JOYOUS REUNION!

In a heartwarming celebration of camaraderie and connection, the eagerly awaited Pharmacy Day 2022 unfolded on the vibrant 14th and 15th of November. Organized with great enthusiasm by the Year 2 students from the Bachelor’s in Pharmacy, this annual extravaganza served as a delightful welcome for the incoming batch of pharmacy students, while rekindling the bonds between seniors and juniors. Making a triumphant comeback after two years of pandemic challenges, the event embraced the catchy theme "Dazzling Pharmily Wing-Dingsome," setting the stage for an unforgettable experience. With an array of captivating games scattered across the campus, the juniors reveled in exploring their new academic home, all while creating cherished memories alongside their senior counterparts. A resounding success, Pharmacy Day 2022 witnessed an incredible turnout, with over 95% of Year 1 and Year 2 students joining the joyous reunion. Amidst laughter, camaraderie, and a shared passion for Pharmacy, this event proved to be a true testament to the spirit of unity and belonging within the vibrant Pharmily community.

AIMST UNIVERSITY TRIUMPHS AT MYPSA COMPOUNDING & FORMULATION OLYMPIC CHALLENGE 2023!

Amidst an electrifying atmosphere of competition and camaraderie, the highly anticipated MyPSA Compounding & Formulation Olympic Challenge 2023 witnessed the rise of Mr. Chui Jun Hao, a talented Year 4 Pharmacy student, emerging as the Champion. Organized by the Malaysian Pharmacy Students Association, this thrilling event unfolded on the momentous date of 15th April 2023. Chui Jun Hao showcased his mastery in compounding and formulation, leaving a lasting impression on all who witnessed his exceptional talent.
2ND RUNNER UP AT IPSF APRO REGIONAL PATIENT COUNSELING EVENT

Chui Jun Hao, an outstanding student from the faculty of pharmacy emerged as the second runner up in the IPSF APRO Regional Patient Counselling Event held on 25th February 2023 to 26th February 2023 organised by the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation. As we bask in the glory of his triumph, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to this pharmacy virtuoso, and with unwavering confidence, we wish him all the success in his future endeavors.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, FOOD!
FOOD FURNIVAL 2023 TAKES AIMST BY STORM!

In a delectable celebration that combined the magic of movies and the joy of culinary delights, Food Furnival 2023 stole the show on the 23rd of March. The brainchild of Year 1 pharmacy students, this captivating event unfolded as a ‘Movie-themed’ food carnival, enticing all AIMST staff and students with a tantalizing array of themed food, snacks, and drinks inspired by beloved films. With creativity and enthusiasm at its helm, the organizing team curated an unforgettable experience that not only brought students together but also fostered leadership and marketing skills among them. The event achieved its noble objective of raising funds for the society while leaving a trail of smiles and satisfied taste buds. As the vibrant PharmSA sets its sights on continuing this cherished tradition, the benefits for all pharmacy students are bound to be limitless. Get ready for the next blockbuster edition of Food Furnival, where cinematic dreams and culinary wonders unite!
TB CPG SHOWDOWN: PHARM-EXPERTS STEER THE WAY AT MYPISA CPG DAY

Get ready for a thrilling ride as the bachelors in pharmacy students, Tan Thye Chang, Phoon Yi Jun, Yun Yuk Shan, and Sarah Grace Andrew, take center stage at the MyPSA Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) Day 2023. On 12th March 2023, these pharmacy dynamos showcased their expertise in the "Management of Tuberculosis," a bold initiative by the education office to spark awareness and apply Clinical Practice Guidelines in clinical practice. As the event unfurled, the aim was clear - to supercharge the knowledge on Tuberculosis among pharmacy students and propel them to new heights. Embracing the spirit of competition, a challenge was laid out before the participants. Brace yourselves, because all four students blazed their way into the top 20 finalists!

But hold on tight, because there’s more! In a nail-biting finale, the incredible Yun Yuk Shan emerged as the shining second runner-up in the TB CPG competition. Prepare to be inspired and educated as these pharm-experts show us the way at the MyPSA CPG Day 2023

PHARM-OLYMPICS TRIUMPH: AIMST UNIVERSITY SOARS AT 16TH MYPISA NATIONAL PHARMACY SPORTS CARNIVAL

A total of 74 Bachelor of Pharmacy students from AIMST University represented the university in the 16th MyPSA National Pharmacy Sports Carnival 2023, which was held in USM campus, Penang from 17th March 2023 to 19th March 2023. The PharmSA team made the university proud by winning the overall second runner-up with 5 gold medals, 8 silver medals, and 6 bronze medals among the 12 universities that participated. The gold medal winners were Phuah Yan Jin and Alistair Wong Guan Xin for badminton mixed doubles, Oon Brandon for swimming, Hong Zie Sheng for 400m track & field, and the basketball team. The high-level of commitment and dedication shown by the students in the preparation for the event were seen and appreciated. It was definitely a memorable win for the team. The team’s success was a result of the hard work and dedication of the students, as well as the support of their coaches and trainers. The team members were also able to bond and build friendships during the competition, which made the experience even more rewarding. The PharmSA team is looking forward to defending their title in the next MyPSA National Pharmacy Sports Carnival. They are confident that they can achieve even greater success with the continued support of the university and their coaches.
On April 29th and 30th, 2023, two teams of four Bachelor of Pharmacy students from AIMST University participated in the 3rd MyPSA National Pharmacy Challenge (NPC) 2023 - Clinical Pharmacy Challenge. The event was hosted by Taylors University in collaboration with Malaysian Pharmacy Student Association. The event was a two-day competition that tested the students' knowledge and skills in clinical pharmacy. The students were tasked with managing a variety of clinical cases, including dispensing medications, providing patient counseling, and managing drug interactions. One of the AIMST teams, consisting of Tee Zhang Hong, Chui Jun Hao, Chin Wing Yin, and Ooi Qiu Ping, made a remarkable achievement by emerging as the champion. The team's victory was a testament to their hard work and dedication, as well as the support of their lecturers, Ms. Ng Jing and Ms. Ng Yee Mei. The team's victory is a proud moment for AIMST University and the Faculty of Pharmacy. It is also a testament to the high quality of education that is offered at AIMST. The team is looking forward to defending their title in the next MyPSA National Pharmacy Challenge.
Dr. Varatharajan Rajavel, was invited as a keynote speaker at the 2-day International Conference on Innovation and Future Challenges in Basic and Clinical Pharmacology organized by the Faculty of Pharmacy, Amity University Madhya Pradesh, Gwalior, India on September 29-30, 2022. He spoke on the topic of “Potential roles for Preclinical Pharmacology in Phase I Clinical Trials,” sharing his expertise and insights on this important topic.

Dr. Abu Sadat Md. Sayem participated in the “International Conference on Pharmaceutical Sciences 2023 (ICPS2023)” on 7-8th March 2023 as an invited speaker, sessions chair and judge organized by the Faculty of Pharmacy, UKM, Malaysia.

Dr. Neeraj Kumar Fuloria, was invited as a Speaker at the International Conference on Industry Driven Pharmaceutical Education and Research: Current Trends and Future Prospects (IDPER-2023) organised by Chandigarh group of colleges in collaboration with Institution of Innovation council and APTI between 27 -28 April 2023.

Dr. Neeraj Kumar Fuloria was invited as a Resource Person in PHARMACON-2022 “International conference on recent advancement in drug design and delivery system”, organized by the School of Pharmacy, SGVU, Jaipur, India on 30th April 2022.

Dr. Neeraj Kumar Fuloria was appointed as an international organising member at the 3rd National Tishk Pharmaceutical Conference on “Recent advances in Cancer Therapy” organised by Tishk University, Iraq held on 30th April 2023.

Dr. Neeraj Kumar Fuloria was invited as a Resource Person in the faculty development programme organized by Department of Biotechnology, Hindustan College of Arts and Sciences, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India. on 24th April 2023.

Dr. Neeraj Kumar Fuloria was invited as a Resource Person in the International E-Symposium "Role of Pharmacist in Healthcare", organized by SSGM College of Pharmacy, Maharashtra, India on 24th September 2022 (Online).

Dr. Neeraj Kumar Fuloria was invited as a Resource Person at Geomatika University Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 30th December 2022.

Dr. Shivkanya Fuloria was invited as a scientific expert at a two-day virtual 2nd International Conference on "Innovations in Chemical, Biological and Pharmaceutical Sciences", organized by the Institute of Pharmaceutical Research, GLA University, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, India, on 18-19th November 2022.

Dr. Shivkanya Fuloria was invited as a chairperson at a virtual oration competition 2023 on the occasion of International Woman’s Day 2023, organized by APP Madhya Pradesh & Brazilian International branch in collaboration with APP Community and Clinical Pharmacy Division at SAM Global University, India on March 08, 2023.

Dr. Shivkanya Fuloria was invited as guest of honour at a virtual oration competition 2023, APP 26th Indo-US International conference organized by APP Madhya Pradesh & APP US International branch in collaboration with APP Pharmaceutical Education & Healthcare Management Division at Sharda School of Pharmacy, Pethapur, Gujrat Technical University, India on March 06 April, 2023.

Dr. Shivkanya Fuloria was appointed as an international organising member in the 3rd National Tishk Pharmaceutical Conference on “Recent advances in Cancer Therapy” organised by Tishk University, Iraq held on 30th April 2023.
Ms. Shalini Shanmugavelu was awarded the 2nd best oral presenter at the International Conference on Industry Driven Pharmaceutical Education and Research: Current Trends and Future Prospects (IDPER-2023), organized by Chandigarh group of colleges in collaboration with Institutions of Innovation council and APTI from 27 April 2023 till 28 April 2023. Ms. Shalini Shanmugavelu presented a paper on “Methods to Detect Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) and the Relationship of ROS with Antioxidants and Cancer” in the 3rd National Tishk Pharmaceutical Conference on “Recent advances in Cancer Therapy” organised by Tishk University, Iraq held on 30th April 2023.

Ms. Shalini Shanmugavelu presented a paper on “Study on Action, Detection and Management of Reactive Carbonyl Species in Various Chronic Diseases” at the international conference on “Current and Future Perspectives of Pharmaceuticals in Health care” organised by the School of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Jamia Hamdard and Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University at constitution club of India, New Delhi, India on 13th May 2023. Ms. Shalini Shanmugavelu was awarded with a Lifetime Membership of Association of Young Pharma professionals (TAYPP)

Ms. Sireesha Paruchuri presented a paper on “Female university students’ knowledge on Breast Cancer and Breast-Self Examination Practice” at the 3rd National Tishk Pharmaceutical Conference on “Recent advances in Cancer Therapy” organised by Tishk University, Iraq held on 30th April 2023.

Ms. Sireesha Paruchuri presented paper on “Breast Cancer Screening awareness among students” at the international conference on “Current and Future Perspectives of Pharmaceuticals in Health care” organised by the School of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Jamia Hamdard and Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University at constitution club of India, New Delhi, India on 13th May 2023.

Ms. Sireesha Paruchuri was awarded with a Lifetime Membership of Association of Young Pharma professionals (TAYPP)
Dr. Naeem Hassan Khan delivered a talk as a Resource Person on “Journey of a Pharmacist” Marketing event organized by the Faculty of Pharmacy, AIMST University on 14th September 2022.

Dr. Naeem Hassan Khan was invited as a Resource Person in the Faculty development Programme organized by the Department of Biotechnology, Hindustan College of Arts and Sciences, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India on 24th April 2023.

Mr. Ganesh Pandian Balasubramanian presented a paper on “Assessing the Knowledge, Attitude and Perception on Elder Abuse among the Healthcare Professionals and Healthcare students in Malaysia” at the 3rd National Tishk Pharmaceutical Conference on “Recent advances in Cancer Therapy” organised by Tishk University, Iraq held on 30th April 2023.

Mr. Ganesh Pandian Balasubramanian presented a paper on “Knowledge, Attitude and Perceptions about Potentially Inappropriate Medications among Community Pharmacists in Kedah, Malaysia” at the international conference on “Current and Future Perspectives of Pharmaceuticals in Health care” organised by the School of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Jamia Hamdard and Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University at constitution club of India, New Delhi, India on 13th May 2023.

Mr. Ganesh Pandian Balasubramanian was awarded with a Lifetime Membership of Association of Young Pharma professionals (TAYPP)
TRAINING

Seven students embarked on a transformative journey during their six-week Industrial training at Alshifa College of Pharmacy in Perintalmanam, Malapuram, Kerala. To enhance their understanding of Ayurveda, they also had the privilege of visiting the esteemed Vaidharantna Research Institute in Thaikkattussery, Thrissur, Kerala – a renowned hub blending tradition and technology in Ayurvedic research. This enriching experience has undoubtedly sparked a new passion and appreciation for the field, leaving them with cherished memories and a bright outlook on their pharmaceutical careers. Their inspiring journey is a testament to the power of learning and exploration.

MOU

Dr. Venkatesh Kumar from the Faculty of Pharmacy initiated an MOU between AIMST University and Malaysian Rubber Council on 10th March 2023. This collaboration promises great opportunities for advancement in the field of pharmacy.
Nittek University College or NUC (not its real name) in Kelang Valley is a mid-sized college with 3000-odd students. It had been barely making ends meet, more so when the pandemic struck in 2020. It had to do something to stanch the enrolment ebb. Otherwise, closure was imminent.

Realising that students increasingly cared for the environment, NUC switched its focus to becoming an environmental-friendly university. The worldwide movement of Greta Thunberg, the Swedish activist, is largely responsible for this shift to environmentalism among students and youngsters. Presumably stirred by the native American proverb, “We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children,” Greta inspired the young to lower their carbon footprint with her mantra, “You are never too small to make a difference.”

NUC was further inspired by the remarkable beach-cleaning feat of Afros Shah, an Indian lawyer-turned-environmentalist.

Way back in 2015, while looking out from his window, Afros Shah saw the Versova Beach in North Mumbai strewn with unimaginable amounts of plastics. Being an ocean lover, he realised that these plastics would poison the food chain as the fish ingest the garbage that would inevitably be washed into the ocean.

So, on that day he resolved to clean up the beach. Along with an 84-year-old neighbour, the pair started cleaning the beach themselves. Soon other volunteers chipped in. After two years, the largest beach clean-up swept up 20 million kilograms of garbage across the 2.5 km shore.

Enthused, NUC excited its students to follow in the footsteps of the Indian beach warrior. These student activities were later extended to visiting old folks and welfare homes, and paying for essential supplies for the inmates through donation drives. It further made students happy and more engaged in their studies.

News of these CSR activities spread throughout the land. Many donors came forward and the University obtained free publicity in the press for the noble work it was doing through its students.

To demonstrate integrity, NUC followed the Securities Commission guidelines on corporate governance. Additionally, it started to take action to secure an ISO certification on anti-bribery,

To walk its talk, NUC took steps to introduce recyclable cutleries, recyclable bins and other visible changes that demonstrated the college’s concern for the environment. It became serious about introducing solar power to reduce carbon emissions from electricity usage.
In three years, with these initiatives, NUC managed to double its student numbers and turn its finances around.

NUC's turnaround says much about how institutions of higher learning (IHLs) can grow by placing the ESG agenda on the front burner. In expanding their concern for the environment, IHLs should encourage other biodiversity-conservation projects such as protecting and replanting mangroves and spearheading precision and sustainable farming using Artificial Intelligence.

An ESG centre of excellence can dedicate research efforts to climate change, social justice and good governance. Such research will be a valuable contribution to developing a more sustainable society.

Second, as part of the social justice effort, or the S in the ESG, IHLs, as did NUC can undertake community work that enhances the welfare of the neighbouring community. For example, they could organise medical and health camps for schools and the poor with volunteer doctors and dentists. Administering to especially the poor and the needy, can give their students a great sense of satisfaction, knowing that they are giving back to society. It is also one way of building their leadership potential, that is, leaders are not there to bark orders. Rather, they are meant to serve their stakeholders.

The third lesson is that IHLs should institutionalise their virtuous efforts by introducing the ESG component in their courses. Additionally, new programmes can be offered on environmentalism, ethics and values, and ESG and leadership. These courses are essential to prepare students to tackle the challenges of the 21st century.

Prof. Datuk Dr. John Antony Xavier
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive
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