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Reflection on Merdeka Day Celebration

Happy Merdeka Day!

This year Malaysia will celebrate her 61st Merdeka Day. Merdeka Day is our Day of Independence and marks the occasion in which Malaya gained independence from British colonial rule and officially became Malaysia. This is a long journey since we gained independence in 1957. The independent Malaysia (formerly known as Malaya) is truly significant as we are totally liberated from colonial rule. For more than 400 years, Malaya was colonized by the Portuguese, Japanese, Communist aka Bintang Tiga before the British colonial rule.

Malaysia was formerly known as the Federation of Malaya. During the 1950s, the nation experienced a time when freedom was yearned for and patriotism was at its peak. There were many political leaders from major races in the country and many more besides who stood up for Malaysia's independence. To gain independence, they worked together regardless of race to present a united front. They led a simpler and much more difficult life than we can ever imagine. The most prominent was Tunku Abdul Rahman who successfully led a mission to negotiate and compromise for Malaya's independence from the British government.

Merdeka Day should not be seen as just another public holiday. We have come a long way in 61 years. It's a day that means more than the commemoration of independence. Whilst our country is by no means perfect, there can be no denying that Malaysians enjoy a stellar quality of life, political stability and huge opportunities to progress.

Our national day parade is the perfect time to witness the colours and celebrations of Malaysia's Independence Day. The main parade is traditionally held at the Merdeka Square in Kuala Lumpur (occasionally in Putrajaya). However, you can catch these parades in all major capital cities nationwide from as early as 7.30am.

Regardless of our nationality and ethnicity, embracing unity, diversity, tolerance and harmony are the strings that tie us closer in Malaysia's pluralistic society. We at Manipal International University (MIU) must be blessed with the Merdeka spirit. Our students and staff alike can practice the qualities that cultivates respect, mutual understanding, tolerance, positive relationships and community building. We have to encourage the development of deep empathy and understanding of difference when communicating with friends from diverse background. We must build a strong campus community that values togetherness and thus, honouring the significance of Merdeka in Malaysia. Celebrating Merdeka is in fact celebrating how far we have come as a sovereign nation. Under the new Pakatan Harapan government led by Premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed, we hope to see Malaysia rapidly progress and progressively developed. -Mohd Shah Abdullah.

MIU Vice-Chancellor Opens Up On Favourite Things and Things That Matter

By Adriana Ameer Firdaus and M. F. F. Hasna



“No matter who I am, I need to adjust to the local culture.”

That is the humble opinion of MIU’s Vice Chancellor, Dr Franco Gandolfi. Having grown up in Switzerland, studied in Australia, and lived in many countries such as the USA, Fiji and the UAE; he considers himself culturally competent and therefore a citizen of the world.

The joy of experiencing different cultures, customs, religions and cuisine gives him joy like no other. And who would have guessed that he has a penchant for Thai food!

He is an avid lover of animals, and has always looked forward to spending time with his animal and bird pets.

His openness and friendly aura are not traits that one would expect to see in a person of his status. Occasionally cracking a joke or two, he helped us relax and feel comfortable around him. On a normal day, don’t be surprised if you see Dr Franco walking around in shorts, a t-shirt and flip flops which he claims to be his preferred choice of clothing!

Dr Franco thinks that learning about people and understanding them is what helped him become a leader who leads with passion and energy.

When asked about his work, he said “I have people around me who make me laugh. I enjoy a relaxed work environment where we have fun and enjoy ourselves, but still remain serious about our work. I feel humbled because without my wonderful team I would not have been able to get so far.”

“I want our students to feel like they matter, to be strong and to have the competence to be able to change the world and make a difference. Not just academically, but within their community, family and even globally,” he said closing the interview session with MIU HIVE.





*Encouragement...
Dr Vinod interviewed by
MIU HIVE reporters
during his quick visit
to MIU campus.*

Focus on Academic Excellence - Dr. Vinod Bhat

Nilai: "Students are strongly advised to excel in academics and equip themselves with new knowledge through extensive reading," says the Vice Chancellor of Manipal Academic of Higher Education (MAHE) Dr Vinod Bhat in his recent visit to Manipal International University (MIU).

He said MIU students should cultivate a culture of reading to gain and explore new knowledge in today's rapidly changing world. In addition he stressed on the importance of learning to ensure future success in life.

Dr Vinod was in MIU for a short visit on July 31 accompanied by Prof Chancellor MAHE, Dr HS Ballal and Registrar MAHE, Dr Narayana Sabhahit. They were earlier in Melaka to attend the Melaka Manipal Medical College (MMMC) convocation ceremony.

Later in a meeting with MIU Heads of Academic, Dr BH Ballal stressed on the importance for MIU to achieve a reputable academic standing by improving quality education.

MAHE has been awarded the coveted 'Institution of Eminence' award by the HRD ministry, Government of India; this award was conferred upon six universities (3 private and 3 public) in India. Towards achieving this objective they have prepared an extensive 26,000-page document to be presented for the assessment. MIU is extremely happy and proud of its parent university.

Dr HS Ballal told MIU Heads of Academics that going for international world ranking is another historic milestone not only for MAHE but for all institutions under Manipal Group of Education (MAGE).

MIU Mechanical Engineering Department Visits Proton Tanjung Malim Sdn Bhd

A group of 39 students and seven academic staff from the Department of Mechanical Engineering went for a second visit to Proton Tanjung Malim Sdn Bhd on July 17. The group, led by Head of Department, Prof Amer NordinDarus, left the vicinity of the campus at 7:00AM and reached their destination at 11:00PM following a brief stop for breakfast. Their industrial visit lasted for 4 hours before they headed back to Nilai.

Upon arrival, they were welcomed into the Stamping Plant where they were given in-depth exposure on the processes in which sheet metal was stamped under high forces to create panels for the models of vehicles manufactured in the plant. A total of three stamping machines varying in tonnage were observed by the students and academic staff. Moving on, the group continued to the Assembly Plant in which the said panels were assembled to the chassis of the car by means of automated robots.

The panels were assembled with meticulous spot welds by the various automated robots in the assembly line, and accompanied into the Trim and Final Plant in which the vehicles were undergoing the last process of assembly where door panels, dashboards and various final fittings are put together to complete the vehicle. The only plant the group were not allowed to visit was the paint shop due to the hazards of chemical fumes.

Proton has two manufacturing plants in Malaysia, one situated in Shah Alam and the second in Tanjung Malim. The plant in Tanjung Malim manufactures the Saga, Preve, Ertiga and Iriz models while the Shah Alam plant puts together the Perdana and Exora.

The visit was not only beneficial to the students, but also to the academic staff who came along. The students were exposed to real-life industrial safety procedures. The manufacturing process of said vehicles utilize many processes which students learn in the classroom, such as stamping and welding. Mechatronics of the automated robots in the manufacturing line were intricately observed by the students as well. The production planning and quality control testing demonstrated their importance in the manufacturing process to obtain quality products.

“The industrial visit was a fruitful and educational one for the students as they are also allowed to see how the knowledge they gained in class is used in a practical and real-world situation. More industrial visits of such caliber should be organized and undertaken to invigorate the spirit of students.”
- Mechanical Engineering Department.



Thoughts on the Implementation of No Foreign Cooks Policy

By Ranjinidevi Govindaraju

The government had recently released a statement regarding plans to ban foreign cooks in restaurants in Malaysia, to be effective on 1st July 2018. This statement has caused concern among restaurant workers as most small restaurants like 'mamaks' hire foreign cooks.

In an attempt to gather public opinion on this matter, a survey was carried out in Nilai. From the interviews, respondents have different opinion towards the policy.

Zizan, 40, who is a Takaful Advisor, speaks on his own perspective of the issue.

"I disagree with the statement as some foreign cooks came to Malaysia legally and some came illegally, which cannot be accepted, if they do not go through medical check-ups, we Malaysians should be more concerned about the health issue," he said.

He added that although different foods are made by foreign cooks, he preferred more Malaysian cooks to work in restaurant.

Tun Nan, 55, who works as a waiter, said he doesn't mind the presence of foreign workers.

He said, "I agree with the statement because local chefs demand high salaries, so they prefer to go overseas."

While he agreed that the statement will affect small restaurants, he suggested restaurant owners should refer to Malaysian authorities for advice.

Until today, Malaysians have always been kind and accepting of outsiders. It would be interesting to see the public's reaction when the policy actually takes place.

Review of National Education System: Yay or Nay?

By Sri Letchimy Anandan

The government's move to review the school-based assessment system came as a surprise to many Malaysians. As former school pupils who went through the school-based assessment system (PBS), some felt very strongly about sharing their experience in local schools.

Twenty-two-year-old Lalitha wonders, "Why does the education system and the materials required for teaching or learning have to be changed constantly?"

The university student said she remembered her seniors used to call her and her classmates "lab rats" when she was in Form 3.

This was because they would be the first batch of students sitting for the PT3 exam. The exam for Form 3 students was changed from PMR to PBSMR to PPMR and finally to PT3 in less than one year.

Because of the Education Ministry's lack of preparation, teachers and students had to rush through the syllabus for that year because it was being changed again and again. Teachers spent more time getting the students ready for exams instead of teaching.

Siti, a 35 year-old-housewife pointed out that time was needed to prepare for change and the education ministry shouldnot rush as it may spoil things.

On the other hand, it is good that the Education Ministry is aligning the Malaysian curriculum with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CERF). This will be better than using the current English textbooks from the aspect of content, grammar and vocabulary.

HAND, FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (HFMD)



Toddler Dead from Suspected HFMD Infection in Sarawak Re-reported by Vivien Guok

“The Health Ministry has advised the public, especially those with young children, to take precautions to reduce their risk of being infected.”



PETALING JAYA: A child has died of suspected hand, foot, mouth disease (HFMD) in Sarawak on Saturday (July 28).

The toddler, aged two years and five months, was from Kampung Pangtray, Daro in Mukah, Sarawak.

In a statement on Saturday, Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said the child began to have a fever on July 24 and showed signs of rashes on the palms and feet, as well as oral ulcers the next day.

“The child was taken to the Daro Health Clinic on July 25, 2018, diagnosed with suspected HFMD and given treatment. The mother was advised to seek immediate treatment if her child did not recover,” he said.

“Clinical samples were taken to verify the cause of death,” he added.

The Health Ministry has advised the public, especially those with young children, to take precautions to reduce their risk of being infected.

Top of the list is to wash one’s hands with soap and clean water after using the toilet, before preparing food, after changing diapers and after cleaning up children’s faeces.

HFMD, caused by infection of the Coxsackie A16 and EV71 virus, is easily spread through contact with saliva, blisters and faeces. – The Star Online

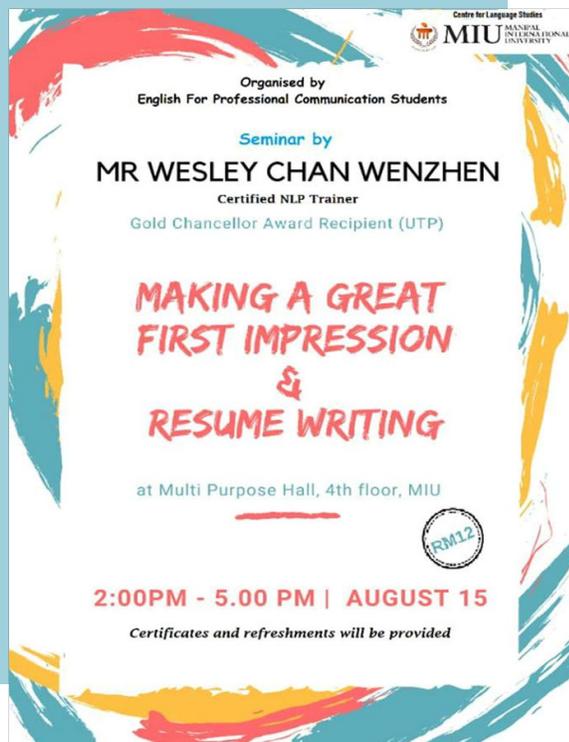
Resume Writing Seminar At MIU

By Natasha Johari

Manipal International University is hosting the "Resume Writing and Making a Great First Impression" seminar to be conducted by Mr. Wesley Chan Wenzhen. The event will be held on August 15, 2018 at the Multi-Purpose Hall from 2.00pm-5.00pm. Participants of the seminar will be served some refreshments and receive certificates of attendance.

Mr. Wesley Chan Wenzhen, a certified Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) Trainer/Master Coach under the American Board of NLP, will help students enhance their speaking skills and assist them to produce good business writing for the future. Students will also get a chance to familiarise themselves with interview situations and techniques.

The event is a project by MIU's degree and diploma students for their English subject. Tickets will be on sale at their booth on August 8, 2018 where they will be promoting the talk.



Want to make a great first impression and polish your resume writing skills?

Join the enigmatic Wesley Chan Wenzhen on August 15, 2018 for a workshop located at MPH (4th floor) from 2:00pm to 5:00pm.

Fee is RM12 and participants will be served refreshments and receive a certificate of participation.

Don't miss it, see you there!

Hack Your Uni Life!

By Surendran

Top 3 Fun Tips:

1) Clean your keyboard with Post-It notes.

Getting bits of junk food stuck under your keyboard is the worst feeling ever. But crumbs and general dust can be removed in seconds by creating a Post-It note in the middle and sliding the sticky part under your keyboard keys.



FACT: Students who travel daily to and back from university with the train can save money by applying for the KTM student card!



2) Use baking soda to remove stains from your clothes.

Spilling things on your favourite pieces of clothing is the worst thing ever because it creates stains that can't be removed by detergent and renders those clothes pretty much useless unless you want to wear a shirt with massive stain on it to campus. But don't worry because you can remove that curry and Teh Tarik stain from your clothes by rubbing some normal household baking soda and vinegar mixture on the stain before chucking it into the washing machine. Sadly this method only works on cotton clothing.

3) Block those ads on your desktop

How many times has an advertisement ruined your experience when watching videos on YouTube or studying online. Well, don't worry because there is a method to block those ads. Open Google and click on the Settings tab, then scroll to the bottom of the page until you see the Advanced ▼ option. Clicking it opens a new section of settings, scroll down and click on Content settings and then click on the Ads option. After that proceed to switch off the Allowed switch. Click the back option and then click on Popups and switch off the option. Doing this will block any annoying ads on your Google browser.

MyeongDong Topokki

By Kaarthini Otamaputhiran



MyeongDong Topoki has just opened its doors to patrons in Mesa Mall. Located on the ground floor next to Watsons, the new Korean restaurant has been attracting quite a crowd since it began operations.

The restaurant, inspired by the Korean Subway Station in MyeongDong, Korea, mainly serves mainly Topoki (rice cake), hence their name. They offer a variety of snacks, dishes, drinks and set meals at very reasonable prices. The quantity and quality also match what you pay for.

At MyeongDongTopoki, the pictures don't lie! What you see is what you get. I tried the Dakgalbi Chicken Deopbab which costed RM16.90. It is a set dish that comes with a bowl of soup, side dishes and cold green tea. Dakgalbi is steamed rice with spicy chicken toppings.

Overall, my dining experience was very interesting indeed. Fear not if you are not familiar with Korean dishes because there are

plenty of pictures on the menu to help you decide. Give it a go, you won't regret it!

Ordering food at the outlet is interesting, so if you plan to visit, here is what you can expect the order process will be like:

- 1.Place your order (and pay) at the counter**
- 2.You will be given a restaurant pager**
- 3.Once your order is ready, the pager will vibrate**
- 4.Bring the pager to the pickup section and Voila!**
- 5.Take your food to your table and enjoy!**

Is the Keke Challenge An 'Influenza'?

By Adriana Ameer

We know that people nowadays love to follow trends. Before the Keke Challenge crept into our lives, Tiktok and Musically hit us first. Tiktok and Musically are actually music applications on which people will dance or make a hand sign and follow the rhythm of the music.

For now, the Keke Challenge is a hot topic on social media. The challenge, inspired by Drake's hit song InMyFeeling, is also as The Shiggy challenge which has gone viral worldwide and spread like influenza.

Judging by the 271,354 hashtags that used #keke, it proves that it has spread fast. People do it for fun but if we look on social media such as Instagram, it is obviously a dangerous challenge. People thoughtlessly jump out from their cars while it is moving to dance, and these often cause accidents.

In Egypt, people doing the KekeChallenge are sentenced to one year in prison. Magdy El-Shahed, Aide to the Interior Minister, on warned the public on July 23 against performing the Keke Challenge on public roads.

Meanwhile, in Malaysia, this challenge has involved celebrities like Bella Dally, FashaSandha and HafidzRoshdi. An article in Harian Metro was titled 'Stop the Keke Challenge'.

The Head of Kuala Lumpur Traffic Investigation and Enforcement Department, Assistant Commissioner Zulkefly Yahya, said the concept of 'prior to exposure' had to be applied in their efforts to ensure that individual actions did not cause any adverse consequences resulting in injuries and accidents.

"So far, we have not received any complaints unless the accident report involves the activity around the capital city. However, the police want to remind the public to stop performing the dance on the road. They are concerned that it will cause the injuries and accidents," he told the press. - The New Straits Times

"Article 81 of the traffic law stipulates a penalty of one year in prison and a fine ranging from EGP 1,000 to EGP 3,000 (RM300-600) for anyone who obstructs traffic or endangers the lives of others," El-Shahed told the New Straits Times