SST eDigest



Issue 04 | June 2020



Preface



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is hard to believe that I am now writing the preface to already the fourth eDigest of SST. This means the entire year has passed since the initial introduction of our quarterly on-line bulletin presenting major events and achievements that took place at our School. Interestingly, that, by chance, the digests one and two have represented a fundamentally different reality compared to the digests three and four. The first pair covers the second half of the busy, eventful, yet successful and optimistic "normal" the year 2019 that we happily celebrated and sent off with good wishes to all of us and our families for the coming New Year. However, as we all now know, the year 2020 has been very different in practically every aspect of our institutional work as well as has significantly changed our lives in general. And it has inevitably influenced the latter pair of the digests.

We are now coming to the end of the March Semester. And I am very glad to acknowledge that the School has come through this most challenging period of its operations under the MCO, CMCO, and (currently) RMCO conditions and restrictions while displaying maturity, confidence, discipline, responsibility, flexibility, and overall professionalism. Combined with the hard work these important qualities of the SST staff have allowed us to achieve the very good results in the first half of 2020 (many of them are outlined in this issue of eDigest): we have managed to keep (and even slightly increase) our student numbers, provided impressive quality of teaching to our students, balanced our budget and achieved vitally important savings, submitted a record number of grant applications, published a very impressive amount of refereed and indexed journal, conference and other papers and articles, and many more. All of this makes me strongly believe that we would be well up to any new and existing challenges ahead no matter how serious they could be thus achieving the overall excellent performance across the entire 2020.

The above, in turn, would strongly support our staff recognition through the 2020 promotion round. I am confident that despite the very tough conditions experienced this year, the University would find resources and be willing to acknowledge the consistently excellent performing staff. And I do hope that we, as a School, will continue achieving a high success rate in the promotion applications leading a substantial number of colleagues being recognised. We had very good promotion results in 2018 and 2019, and it would be very rewarding to see that the tendency is on-going in 2020. After all, in addition to being a long-term stable growing entity of the University, the SST is the very backbone of the research-lead and research-enhanced teaching as well as a top research contributor significantly adding to Sunway's success in progression up in the regional and global academic rankings. This includes the recent upward advancement of the University's position in the QS Top University ranking 2021. It can be foreseeing also that in the near future we, as a School, will join the QS subject rankings in one or more disciplines.

In a wider sense, it is important to in-full publicise and promote our achievements and to nominate our deserving colleagues for awards and recognition for their contributions to all areas of the life and operation of the School, University, and society at large. It is a paradox, but it is often easier to get recognition during a tough time than when things are positive and smooth, when everyone is performing great, and when a number of high-flyers is large. Publicising of our successes and results, promoting our research, teaching, and administration star-colleagues are also absolutely essential to further strengthen our institutional reputation both regionally and globally – the strategic goal the University has embarked upon.

Summarising, I would like to sincerely thank our SST colleagues for the exemplary hard work during the recent very challenging quarter and to wish very best success to all in, perhaps, even more trying time ahead.

Prof. Serge Demidenko

Dean

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The SST eDigest Editorial Team:

Editor: Jacky Tan

Co-Editors: Hani Zalehan, Catherine Chan, Christine Chong and Winnie Teo

Happening @ SST

Dean's Communication Online Session (March 2020 Semester)

The Dean's Communication Session was held on 28th April 2020 via Zoom during the Movement Control Order (MCO) period. Dean shared with the SST team on the SST new appointments, student statistics, student barometer results, academic achievements and other important updates. The session followed by Associate Dean, Assoc. Prof. Dr Lau Sian Lun shared on the online teaching and the student survey report on online learning, while Associate Dean (Research), Professor Mohamed Kheireddine shared on the SST research achievements, research strategies and action plans. The session followed by the Research Centres' sharing & updates by Head of Research Centres, Professor Mohammad Khalid and Assoc. Prof. Dr Yap Kian Meng.





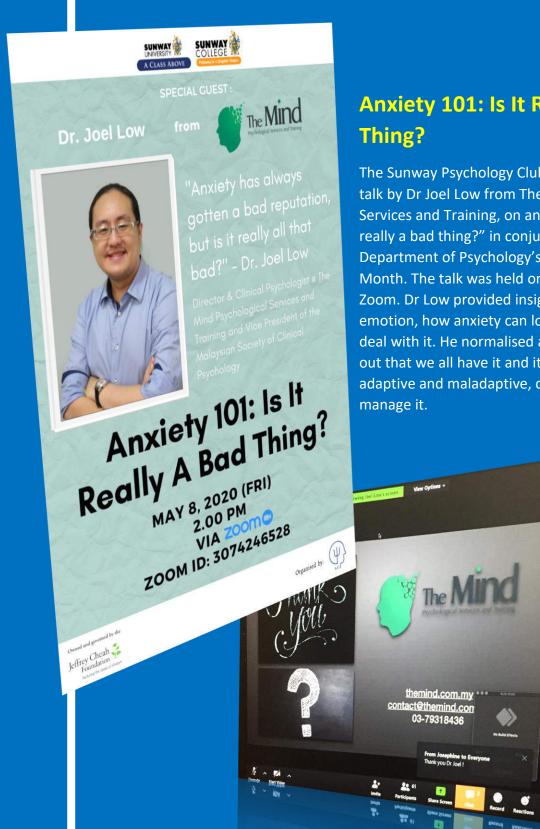
Challenge 2!

In conjunction with the Sunway Virtual Challenge 2 and to further encourage SST staff to take part in this challenge to stay healthier, the first 3 in SST to complete the 100, 000 steps will receive a prize from the School in addition to the Finishers' Medal from the Sunway Group.

The following are the first 3 winners in SST to complete the 100, 000 steps:

1st - Dr Muhammed Basheer Jasser 2nd - Assoc. Prof. Dr Teh Phoey Lee Heard 3rd - Dr Arulraj Arunachalam





Anxiety 101: Is It Really A Bad

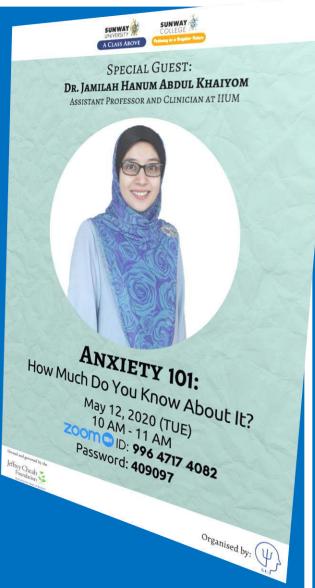
The Sunway Psychology Club organised an online talk by Dr Joel Low from The Mind Psychological Services and Training, on anxiety called "Is it really a bad thing?" in conjunction with the Department of Psychology's Anxiety Awareness Month. The talk was held on 8th May 2020 via Zoom. Dr Low provided insights on anxiety as an emotion, how anxiety can look like and how to deal with it. He normalised anxiety by pointing out that we all have it and it can be both adaptive and maladaptive, depending on how we

Gollery View 1 Exit Full Screen

Anxiety 101: How Much Do You Know About It?

In conjunction with the Department of Psychology's Anxiety Awareness Month, the Sunway Psychology Club organised an online talk by Dr Jamilah Hanum Abdul Khaiyom on "How Much Do You Know About Anxiety?". The talk was held on 12th May 2020 via Zoom. Dr Jamilah Hanum is Assistant Professor and clinical psychologist at International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). She shared about the symptoms and contributing factors of anxiety. The talk ended with a very informative Question & Answer Session.





Assoc. Prof. Dr Lau Sian Lun was interviewed by Ai FM

Assoc. Prof Dr Lau Sian Lun (Associate Dean and Head, Department of Computing and Information Systems) was interviewed online by Ai FM Live Online Radio on 19th March 2020. The interview was about the importance of data science, computer science and technology during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Professor Alvin Ng was Interviewed by Positive Parenting

Professor Alvin Ng Lai Oon (Head, Department of Psychology) was interviewed online on 8th June 2020 by Datuk Dr Zulkifli Ismail, the Chairman of the Positive Parenting Management Committee, on "Coping with Movement Control Order". The interview was about how this unprecedented situation has affected society, and what parents and family members can do to deal with any upcoming issues.

[Source: https://mypositiveparenting.org/2020/06/08/coping-with-mco-a-dialogue-with-a-psychologist]



Professor Mohamed Kheireddine and Professor Saidur Rahman as Invited Speakers

Professor Mohamed Kheireddine Aroua [Associate Dean (Research) and Head, Research Centre for Carbon Dioxide Capture and Utilization] was invited as speaker in the Commercialisation Webinar Series organized by University Malaya Centre of Innovation and Commercialisation (UMCIC) held on 11th June 2020.

Professor Saidur Rahman (Head, Research Centre of Nano-Materials and Energy Technology) was invited as speakers in the Online Seminars: i) Improving Academic Writing Skills in Publishing High Impact Journals organized by University Putra Malaysia held on 11th June 2020, ii) Writing and Publishing in a High Impact Journal organized by Universiti Malaysia (UMT) held on 15th June 2020 and iii) Guidelines to Write High-Quality Scientific Papers and Improve Citation Impact organized by Bangladeshi Students' Union Malaysia held on 18th June 2020.





Research Collaboration

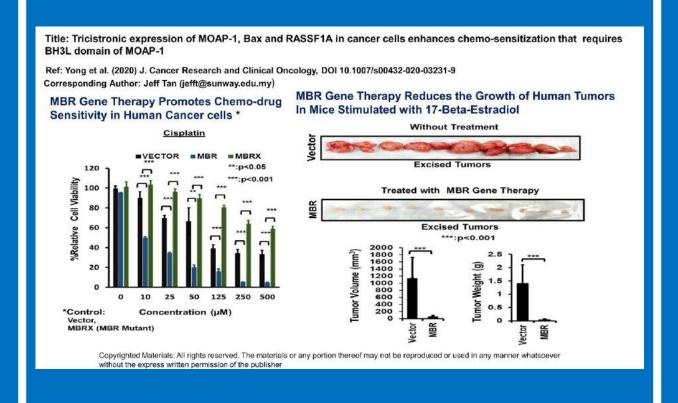
Staff Name	Department/Centre	Partner / Institution	Validity	Purpose of Scope
Dr Richard Wong Teck Ken	Department of Computing and Information Systems	Sunway Construction Sdn Bhd	June 2020 - June 2021	Collaborating on the following research: (a) Document (Delivery order) acquisition platform with real-time feedback using Telegram; (b) Delivery order acquisition app with real-time feedback; (c) Delivery orders format recognition; (d) Information extraction (field value extraction) from delivery orders.

Awards & Achievements

Research Article Published Jointly with Harvard Medical School

Professor Jeff Tan (Corresponding Author, Department of Biological Sciences), Professor Poh Chit Laa (Co-author, Head of Centre for Virus and Vaccine Research), their team members and research collaborators are having their research article published jointly with Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School (USA) and Department of Medicine, University of Tennessee (USA). The research article is on potential use of the gene therapy for cancer treatment was Scopus-indexed in Q1 journal entitled "Tricistronic expression of MOAP-1, Bax and RASSF1A in cancer cells enhances chemo-sensitization that requires BH3L domain of MOAP-1". The gene therapy induces chemo-sensitization in human cancer cells by significantly reduce the dosage of cancer drugs used to kill the cancer cells through apoptosis. The article includes data obtained from animal studies that show the potent effect of the gene therapy on human breast tumors, shrinking the volume and weight of the tumors by approximately 20X and 32X, respectively, when compared to the untreated sample.

Link to article: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00432-020-03231-9



Research Article Published by The Institution of Chemical Engineers

Article written by the SST Associate Dean (Research) cum Head of Research Centre for Carbon Dioxide Capture and Utilization, Professor Mohamed Kheireddine Aroua and his collaborator from University of Malaya, Professor Ir. Dr Mohamed Azlan Hussain appeared in The Chemical Engineer magazine (Issue 942/943 - December 2019 / January 2020) published by The Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE). The article on Mobile Self-cleaning Water Filtration System explains on how a natural disaster led to demonstration and further development of a mobile self-cleaning water filtration unit that impacted communities in remote areas in Peninsular Malaysia and the State of Sarawak.



UF System installed in RH Senabong, Sarawak, water sources from springs.

Professor Mohamed Kheireddine's research is recently shared in the QS Wownews on 5th June 2020.

https://qswownews.com/an-award-winning-research-from-sunway-university-provides-access-to-clean-water-in-remote-areas/?fbclid=IwAR2A0pNboROpyLVdOPSvew8JrNLyOwIzJ-6fmMQwACs61m1YfTavkL_lkvk

Dr Mohd Azlan Kassim has been accepted for IEA Greenhouse Gas R&D Programme (IEAGHG) 2020 Summer School

Dr Mohd Azlan Kassim from Research Centre for Carbon Dioxide Capture and Utilisation (CCDCU) has been accepted to attend International Summer School organized by the IEA Greenhouse Gas R&D Programme (IEAGHG) and hosted by the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB). He would be attending the Summer School in Indonesia from 6th – 13th December 2020.



Most Downloaded Journal of Energy Storage Articles

Two published papers by Research Centre for Nano-Materials and Energy Technology (RCNMET) in the Elsevier Journal "Journal of Energy Storage" are listed in the most downloaded articles (https://www.journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-energy-storage/most-downloaded-articles).

The details of the papers are as below:

- 1. Kalidasan B, Pandey AK, Shahabuddin Syed, Samykano M, Thirugnanasambandam M, Saidur R. Phase Change Materials Integrated Solar Thermal Energy Systems: Global Trends and Current Practices in Experimental Approaches. Journal of Energy storage, 27 (2020) 101118.
- 2. Navid Aslfattahi, R. Saidur, A. Arifutzzaman, R. Sadri, Nuno Bimbo, Mohd Faizul Mohd Sabri, Philip A Maughan, Luc Bouscarrat, Richard J Dawson, Suhana Mohd Said, Boon Tong Goh, Experimental Investigation of Energy Storage and Thermal Conductivity of A Novel Organic Phase Change Material/MXene as A New Class of Nanocomposites, Journal of Energy Storage, 27 (2020), 101115.





From left: Professor
Saidur Rahman
(Head, Research
Centre of NanoMaterials and Energy
Technology), Assoc.
Prof. Dr Adarsh
Kumar Pandey and
Dr Arifutzzaman
Rahat.

Doctor of Philosophy in Biology student is appointed as Sunway University Postgraduate Student Representative

Shobana A/P Gabriel Jabanathan from Doctor of Philosophy in Biology, Department of Biological Sciences is appointed as Sunway University Postgraduate Student Representative, for 2020/2021 term, effective from 1st July 2020 until 30th June 2021. Shobana Gabriel is also the graduates of our very own SST's BSc (Hons) Medical Biotechnology and MSc in Life Sciences programmes.



Shobana A/P Gabriel Jabanathan,
Doctor of Philosophy in Biology student.



Sanitizer made in SST Department of Biological Science

Special appreciation to Professor Abhi Veerakumarasivam (Head, Department of Biological Sciences) and department lab team who produced the sanitizer for Sunway Education Group during the COVID-19 pandemic. SST-made is the best!

- Norha Saifudin
- Dhaniah Mohamad
- Nurafifah Daud
- Timothy Yu

Department of Psychology Adjuncts – Siân Coker and Paul Fisher together with Alvin Ng win UEA Engagement Award for Group Achievement

On 23rd June 2020, the University of East Anglia, UK announced that their Annual UEA Engagement Award winners to include Professor Siân Coker (UEA), Dr Paul Fisher (UEA) and Professor Alvin Ng (Sunway University). They received the Group Achievement Award for their work with the Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH) on Mental Health Literacy (MHL) training in June 2019. The announcement of this award can be found here: https://www.uea.ac.uk/community-university-engagement/awards



Prof Alvin Ng, Dr Paul Fisher and Prof Sian Coker in a recent online meeting

Siân and Paul are both from Norwich Medical School, UEA, and are also adjunct staff of the Department of Psychology at the School of Science and Technology (SST), Sunway University. Alvin, Head of Psychology at SST has held the position Honorary Senior Lecturer at Norwich Medical School in UEA since 2017. The Engagement Award is a further example of the successful partnership between UEA and Sunway which began in 2015. Its steady growing value was highlighted in this 2018 article: https://university.sunway.edu.my/blog/university-east-anglia-encouraged-active-collaborations-department-psychology-sunway-university

The UEA Engagement Awards are open to all UEA staff and students who have shown excellence in their public engagement work over the past year. The three categories for these awards are Achievement, Project and Student. These highly competitive annual awards celebrate distinctions in engagement that are formally recognised by the university and usually publicly celebrated at an awards reception hosted by the Vice-Chancellor. Sadly, given the COVID-19 pandemic this year, there was no award-giving ceremony.

The recognition given to this Mental Health Literacy work in Malaysia is one to be commended. They are the only group to win the Achievement Award. The judging panel received 30 nominations this year, all of which were of a very high standard. Out of these nominations, only 17 awards were given. The judges commented that, "The MHL training programme delivered to healthcare workers in Malaysia in June 2019 that involved close collaboration and engagement with WHO and MOH Malaysia is to be applauded."

Dean of Science and Technology at Sunway University, Prof Serge Demidenko has this to say, "The Award recognises the on-going joint research and academic activities of the international team, as well as celebrates the valuable contribution Siân, Paul and Alvin made to the Malaysian healthcare sector. It is a convincing testimony of the quality of our research links with international partners that also supports Sunway University's fast-growing academic reputation."

Prof Niall Broomfield, Head of Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychological Therapies at Norwich Medical School, UEA, commented, "I was so pleased to nominate this important collaboration between academics in our Department at UEA and colleagues in Malaysia, for this year's UEA Engagement Awards. I was delighted when this was selected for this year's Group Achievement Award. The awards acknowledge members of staff and students from UEA whose work has made a public impact over the last 12 months, whether by sharing their knowledge with others or by inspiring the next generation. This award is also a testament to the successful partnership and enduring relationship between the Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychological Therapies at UEA and the Department of Psychology, School of Science and Technology at Sunway University in Malaysia. We look forward to the partnerships continued success in future years."

Comments from the Team:

Alvin stated, "I am very glad to have Siân and Paul as adjuncts at the Department of Psychology. They have been very instrumental in developing training for clinical psychologists in Malaysia, as well as to progress mental health literacy in our government and non-government organisations. For this collaboration to be recognised with an award is a wonderful validation of combined efforts and commitment between our departments and universities towards global community development. Siân and Paul have also been active in providing training and consultancy at SOLS Health, a non-government organisation in Kuala Lumpur that is a non-profit, community-based centre that provides affordable mental health services. Siân and I are also Advisors to SOLS Health."

Siân commented, "This piece of work was facilitated by Sunway University generously hosting my sabbatical in Malaysia in 2019, and reflects the successful collaboration between colleagues from UEA, Sunway, Ministry of Health Malaysia and WHO Malaysia. We look forward to continuing this collaboration on future projects."

Paul added, "Having been working with colleagues in Sunway since 2015, it was such an honour and privilege to work with Alvin and Siân to develop and deliver this training for MOH and WHO. We are very grateful for the support given to our team by Dr Nurashikin

Ibrahim and Dr Karen Sharmini from MOH, as well as Dr Ying-Ru Jacqueline Lo from WHO, and we hope to work with them again. One of the next steps we would like to peruse to support the develop of mental health services within Malaysia would be to introduce further awareness, training and consultancy about how health care workers can use low intensity Cognitive Behaviour Therapy principles within their work."

Paul, with the help of Siân and Alvin, developed and delivered a three-day Mental Health Literacy (MHL) training programme for the MOH, which was supported by the WHO Malaysia Office. The MHL training programme was delivered to healthcare workers in Malaysia. These healthcare workers came from various governmental and nongovernmental organisations who provided mental health services to the community. This story was covered previously in the Sunway University news (see: https://news.sunway.edu.my/articles/university/sunway-university-adjunct-senior-lecturer-appointed-consultant-world-health).



Dr Paul Fisher in a discussion with stakeholders from the Ministry of Health Malaysia in June 2019.

Overall the MHL project included:

- A literature review of MHL in Malaysia and similar low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) leading to the development of a framework template to support all phases of the work.
- Development and delivery of a three-day, highly interactive training package for healthcare workers and resources to evaluate this package.

- Development and delivery of two additional stakeholder days in Malaysia working alongside MOH colleagues, which sought to review the training, all materials and the delivery of the MHL programme to healthcare staff.
- Dissemination of the outcomes of the project and ongoing discussions with WHO on the implementation of MHL interventions in LMICs. Further dissemination occurred in Malaysia as well as at UEA in the UK.



Prof Alvin Ng, Prof Siân Coker and Dr Paul Fisher with some of the stakeholders of the MHL training in June 2019. Dr Karen Sharmini Sandanasamy (left) and Dr Nurashikin Ibrahim (3rd from left) from MOH Malaysia were instrumental in organising the training programme.

Evaluation from those who attended the training and from key stakeholders indicated that the training package was very positively received. Participants found the workshop helpful and relevant. The range of interactive teaching methods was rated very highly. Following the training a range of recommendations were put forward to further develop and extend the work and these, alongside all training materials, were presented to MOH Malaysia and WHO.

The Department of Psychology and School of Science and Technology are very proud of this achievement by Prof Sian Coker, Dr Paul Fisher and Prof Alvin Ng. It is hoped that the award would further strengthen the academic links between the two universities, leading to new impactful research and development projects and initiatives.

Winning Research Grant

Professor Saidur Secured a RM80,000 Collaboration Grant with University of Indonesia

Professor Saidur Rahman (Head, Research Centre for Nano-Materials and Energy Technology) and his team successfully secured a collaboration grant with University of Indonesia. A funding worth RM80,000 had been awarded to their research "Synthesis of MXene and applications in Energy technology and hydrogen production".



Professor Saidur Rahman and team secured a RM80,000 worth of collaboration grant.

Upcoming Online Event

Date(s)	Event
5 th & 6 th August 2020	Online Seminar: Strategies to Publish in High Impact Journals and Improving Citations Impact by Professor Saidur Rahman (Head, Research Centre for Nano-Materials and Energy Technology)

2020 Administrative Staff Promotion



Ainnul Hamidah
Promoted Position:
Senior Executive — Laboratory
Research Centre for Crystalline Materials



Cheong Pooi Fong
Promoted Position:
Senior Executive –
Administration
SST Admin



Jacky Tan Lye Hock
Promoted Position:
Senior Executive –
Administration
SST Admin

Welcome New SST Members



Dr Peter Ho Chiung Ching
Senior Lecturer
Department of Computing and

Information Systems



Dr Kwong Huey Chong
Senior Coordinator Laboratory
Research Centre for Crystalline
Materials