

**SUNWAY**  
UNIVERSITY



# ANNUAL REVIEW **2020**



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# Vice-Chancellor's Preface



**Professor Graeme Wilkinson**  
*Vice-Chancellor*

It gives me great pleasure to be able to introduce this report of Sunway University's achievements during 2020. It was, of course, a year which presented most higher education institutions in the entire world with unprecedented challenges owing to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic which became globally widespread by March.

Despite this backdrop, academic life continued and teaching and learning went entirely online for a significant portion of the year, with both staff and students adapting rapidly and extremely well. Research also continued in cyberspace as much as possible. Even in the face of such constraints, notable achievements were chalked up.

On the education front, the total number of enrolled students exceeded eight thousand for the first time. We also launched more new postgraduate programmes than undergraduate programmes as we began to focus more on the higher levels of the education value chain. In regard to research, we achieved the highest number of publications indexed in the Web of Science of all the private non government linked universities in the country. We also received our highest number of government fundamental research grants ever awarded in one year (18 of them) across a wide range of subjects including biomedical sciences, business, economics, materials science, mathematics and psychology.

In terms of reputation, we made good advances in both the QS Asia Ranking and in the QS World Ranking and were also ranked for the very first time in the QS Subject Ranking for Business and Management Studies as well as the Universitas Indonesia GreenMetric Ranking. After a long campaign, were finally granted cabinet approval to apply for a medical school licence giving us the opportunity to expand significantly into medical education in the years ahead, enhancing our position as a research-led comprehensive institution.

I can therefore honestly say that in spite of enormous challenges, 2020 was yet another year of new milestones passed and new opportunities opening up, and I must pay tribute to the sheer dedication and commitment of the staff in ensuring that our forward movement continued unabated in extremely difficult times. I must also thank our students for their fortitude and forbearance. It has been a pleasure to lead the University through these challenges and gratifying to experience the successes. I trust that you will find the details in the rest of this report of great interest.

# Year in Review



Example of creative lecture room social distancing measures

## Highlights and Achievements of 2020

The year 2020 saw steady progress being made by the University on many fronts. Research continued to expand, the number of enrolled students reached a new high, and additional investments were made in e-learning infrastructure, despite the University operating for much of the year in extraordinarily difficult circumstances.

The year began quietly and there was much optimism for the future with the very number “2020” being seen as auspicious. However, by early March, initial optimism gave way to unease and then fear, as news of a developing global pandemic of a novel disease began to spread. Little did we know in the early weeks of the year that most of us working in higher education would soon be facing the worst crisis in our entire careers necessitating a complete re-set of the ways in which we operate and that our students would have to face months of isolation having to study from home.



Information sign at campus entry points during the pandemic

The challenge hit home in early March when the Malaysian government announced the first “Movement Control Order” (or lockdown) to stem the spread of the virus, meaning the campus had to be shut. From then on, the year turned into a battle against the COVID-19 virus with successive lockdowns and with normal campus operations severely disrupted and standard pandemic operating procedures being imposed with compulsory mask wearing and social distancing.

From April onwards, lectures had to be delivered virtually and teaching and learning switched to entirely online and subsequently to hybrid delivery (on-campus and online) as the year progressed. This necessitated urgent investments in additional network and server capacity, additional software licences for simulation packages, and significant expansion of the University’s digital library collection of online journals and e-books. The Academic Enhancement Division rapidly rolled out an extensive training programme for staff on online teaching and all staff rapidly became digital education experts.



The effect of these investments and measures were significant in helping to maintain a good student learning experience and in July the University participated in the i-Graduate organisation's international COVID-19 student experience survey. In the results, 76% of Sunway University's students declared themselves to be "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with their online learning experience compared to the global average of just 66% across many international institutions, which gave us confidence that the online teaching was working quite well. Eventually the online experience was supplemented by some hybrid or dual mode teaching and learning with some campus activities being live-streamed through the internet.

Entirely novel and creative ways were found to ensure that the limited classes that could eventually take place on campus involved students being spaced out within rooms, for example using cardboard images of famous personalities.



Anti-viral hand sanitizer produced by the Department of Biological Sciences as part of the COVID-19 countermeasures

Apart from managing the challenges of continuing to deliver high quality education during the pandemic, many staff of the University also contributed in other ways to the efforts to suppress and overcome the threat from the coronavirus. Researchers in the Department of Biological Sciences produced the University's very own anti-viral hand sanitizer, and student volunteers used the Innovation Labs Makerspace to produce personal protective equipment for medical front-liners with some generous external sponsorship.



On the research front, staff in the Centre for Vaccine and Virus Research undertook important work on how to design novel peptide based anti-viral vaccines and on how to deliver potential vaccines orally instead of by injection using nano-particle technology. Although still at an early stage, this pioneering research has the potential to revolutionize rapid vaccine development and mass delivery in the future.

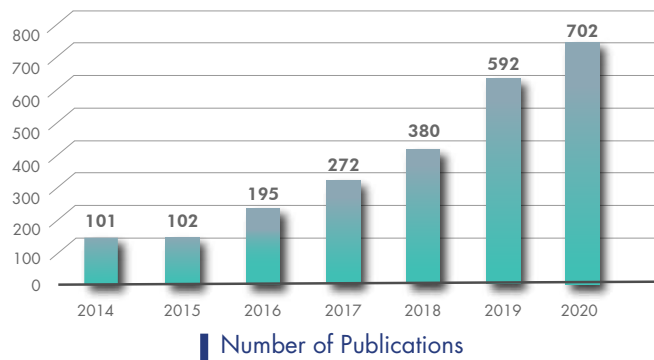
Professor Poh Chit Laa in the Virology Lab





Other staff worked in collaboration with Pemandu Associates in developing and refining a Global Covid Index (GCI) to give a more holistic view of how individual nations have been doing in combating the virus so that important lessons could be learned about the best strategies to follow in order to reduce transmission rates.

Although 2020 was dominated in many respects by the COVID-19 pandemic, other work continued and some notable successes were achieved. Research productivity continued at a high level and by the end of the year, the University had published over 700 papers indexed in Scopus and had more papers indexed in the Web of Science than any other private non-government linked university in Malaysia. Research citations also rose around 60% during the year, demonstrating that not only the quantity of research has been growing but also its significance and impact in the wider world.



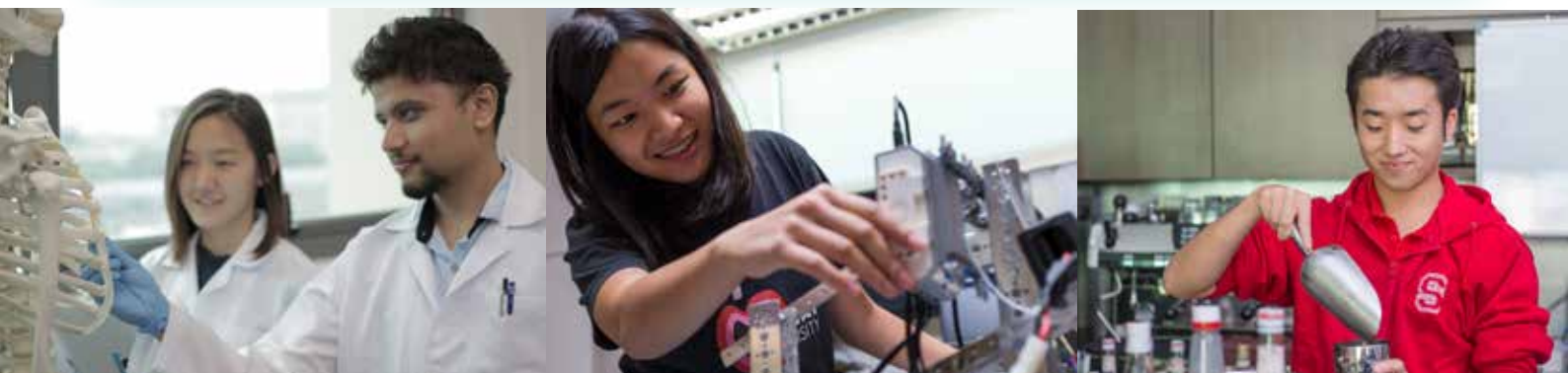
Research progress over the last few years has also significantly contributed to steady improvements in rankings. During 2020 the University rose 22 places in the QS Asia ranking to position 172. This steady improvement was also reflected in the QS World University Ranking with a rise to #701-750 from the previous position of #751-800. For the first time, the University also entered the QS Subject Ranking for Business and Management Studies (#451 – 500) as well as the Universitas Indonesia GreenMetric Ranking being placed at position 473 in the world. Also, in relation to sustainability, the University won a coveted National Energy Award for overall progress in improving campus energy efficiency.

External collaborations continued apace during 2020. An exciting new area of research was started between the Centre for Carbon Dioxide Capture and Utilization and the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). In this research, a novel approach to Carbon capture is being developed using electrochemical processes. An existing collaboration with Harvard University Medical School also led to some promising developments and research publications in 2020 in molecular gene therapy for tumour suppression with fewer side effects.



Sunway University awarded 5 stars in 2020 for the national quality assessment exercise, SETARA 2019

Our academic quality was once more confirmed as being of very high standard with the University being awarded 5 stars in the national quality assessment exercise "Setara 2019". In addition, the University's quality management system embracing teaching and research was re-certified as conforming to the ISO-9001 quality standard.



Finally, at year end, the University's school structure was realigned in order to group activities and departments together in a better way to support more effective academic delivery in the future and in particular, to foster the development of new fields of teaching and research. All medical, health and human sciences (including psychology) were grouped together in the newly renamed School of Medical and Life Sciences, and the former School of Science

and Technology was refocused on physical sciences and technology and renamed the School of Engineering and Technology in preparation for the introduction of engineering degrees from 2021. The School of Hospitality was renamed the School of Hospitality and Service Management in preparation for the development of new areas of academic activity related to real estate, facilities and service management.

# University Governance

## Board of Directors

Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO (Chairman)  
Tan Sri Dato' (Dr) Chew Chee Kin  
Tan Sri Dato' Dr Ramon V. Navaratnam  
Tan Sri Datuk Seri Razman M Hashim  
Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Ranjit Singh s/o Ajit Singh  
Professor Tan Sri Dato' Dr Lin See Yan  
Professor Dato' Dr Woo Wing Thye  
Dato' Sri Idris Jala  
Dato' Dr Lee Weng Keng  
Dr Elizabeth Lee  
Professor Graeme Wilkinson  
Professor Jarlath Ronayne AM FTSE  
Professor Sibrandes Poppema  
Mr Philip Yeo  
Ms Sarena Cheah (Alternate Director to Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Jeffrey Cheah AO)

## Academic Senate

Professor Graeme Wilkinson (Chair)  
Professor Pua Eng Chong  
Professor Peter Heard  
Professor Abhimanyu Veerakumarasivam  
Professor Alvin Ng Lai Oon  
Professor Angela Amphawan  
Professor Bradley Freeman  
Professor Chaiporn Vithessonthi  
Professor Crispin Bates  
Professor Datin Dr Chia Yook Chin  
Professor Dato' Dr Woo Wing Thye  
Professor David Bradley  
Professor Donald Bowyer  
Professor Edward Tiekink  
Professor George John Hess Jr  
Professor Glenda Crosling  
Professor Hew Gill  
Professor Ho Chee Kit  
Professor Hwang Ha Jin  
Professor Jarlath Ronayne AM FTSE  
Professor Jeff Tan Kuan Onn  
Professor Lee Chien Sing  
Professor Leong Choon Heng  
Professor Marcus Stephenson  
Professor Matthew Sansom  
Professor Mayeen Uddin Khandaker  
Professor Michael Dent  
Professor Mohamed Ariff Syed Mohamed  
Professor Mohamed Kheireddine Aroua  
Professor Mohammad Khalid  
Professor Patrick Siau Chi Yin  
Professor Peh Suat Cheng  
Professor Perry Hobson  
Professor Poh Chit Laa  
Professor Raymond McNamara  
Professor Sabine Chaouche  
Professor Saidur Rahman  
Professor Serge Demidenko  
Professor Shandre Mугan Thangavelu  
Professor Sibrandes Poppema  
Professor Stephen Hall  
Professor Steve Williams  
Professor Susela Devi K Suppiah  
Professor Teo Kok Lay  
Professor Wong Chin Huat  
Professor Wong Koi Nyen  
Professor Yau Kok Lim  
Professor Yeah Kim Leng  
Professor Yuka Fujimoto  
Professor Zaharin Yusoff



## Ex-officio

Dr Elizabeth Lee  
Ms Ng Beng Lean  
Ms Wong Sook Jean

## By Invitation

Professor Andrew Abbott  
Associate Professor Dr Cheah You Sum  
Associate Professor Dr Kenneth Feinstein  
Associate Professor Dr Lau Sian Lun  
Associate Professor Dr Mayco Santaella  
Associate Professor Dr Sim Tze Ying  
Dr Jane Teh Kimm Lii  
Dr Paul Linus Andrews  
Mr Augustine Wong Chung Howe  
Ms Chan Yue Yeng, undergraduate student representative  
Ms Izah Isa  
Ms Shobana Gabriel Jabanathan, postgraduate student representative  
Ms Siti Fariza Mohd Dahlan





## University Strategic Management Committee

Professor Graeme Wilkinson (Chair)  
Dr Elizabeth Lee (Alternate Chair)  
Professor Sibrandes Poppema

Professor Pua Eng Chong  
Professor Peter Heard  
Professor Perry Hobson  
Professor Abhimanyu Veerakumarasivam

Professor Donald Bowyer  
Professor Ho Chee Kit  
Professor Marcus Stephenson  
Professor Stephen Hall  
Professor Steve Williams  
Professor Serguei Demidenko  
Ms Ng Beng Lean  
Ms Betty Lai  
Ms Lee Siok Ping  
Ms Lim Shui Chin  
Mr Lucas Tong  
Mr Ng Kok Cheng  
Dr Ooi Pei Boon  
Mr Patrick McVeigh  
Ms Preeti Nair  
Ms Siti Fariza Mohd Dahlan  
Mr Tony Lee  
Ms Wong Lei Lei

Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive  
Chief Executive Officer, Sunway Education Group  
Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah Distinguished Professor and  
Advisor to the Chancellor  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
Provost  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global Engagement  
Dean - School of Healthcare  
and Medical Sciences  
Dean - School of Arts  
Dean - School of Mathematical Sciences  
Dean - School of Hospitality  
Dean - School of Interdisciplinary Studies  
Dean - Sunway University Business School  
Dean - School of Science and Technology  
Group Registrar  
Chief Resources Officer  
Director - Student LIFE  
Director - International Office and Special Projects  
Deputy Chief Financial Officer  
Chief Financial Officer  
Director - Special Projects  
Director - Branding & Corporate Communications  
Director - Strategy and Planning  
Director - University Services  
Chief Information Officer  
Director – Marketing & Customer Experience



# Discovering New Ideas

## Jom LOKA



When the country went into lockdown, many businesses were forced to move online. Small and medium enterprises which could not do so, were on the verge of bankruptcy. Students of event management at the School of Hospitality identified this need of small businesses as they were exploring ideas for events and campaigns for their course. While learning about new methods of event management focusing on virtual events and exploring ways to manage virtual events successfully, the plight of micro businesses which lacked resources to pivot online sparked an idea for these students to help such businesses to promote their products

and services online. The students put together Jom LOKA, a virtual event which sought to provide the platform for vendors to promote their businesses. Organising a virtual event was challenging because it was not the norm. However, it required the same planning and promotion, and students learnt how to engage sponsors as well as stakeholders in order to make it a success. Fifty local businesses benefitted from Jom LOKA and the event had an outreach of over 2,000 people online. This initiative was so impactful that it did not conclude after the semester ended. Watch out for Jom LOKA 2021!

# New “hands-on elective” launched by Startup Foundry



In line with the University’s philosophy of encouraging entrepreneurial minds, the Startup Foundry Elective course was introduced in 2020. Its a first-of-its-kind credit bearing course that brings undergraduates from different disciplines together, with the aim of building on their business ideas as part of their academic programme.

The course will provide undergraduates with the opportunity to explore their business ideas with high scalable potential. Students will be connected to the vast resources of the Sunway Group and utilise Sunway City Kuala Lumpur as “living laboratory” or a test bed for market validation. Successful startups will then be connected to the iLabs

Accelerator Programme that prepare the startups to scale.

A seed funding will also be offered to successful startups. Designed as a full semester elective course, the hands-on approach includes a structured venture building programme that takes students through the 10 building blocks of entrepreneurship. Guided by faculty members from Sunway University, National University of Singapore and University of California at Berkeley, as well as industry specialists, students learn to create viable and sustainable new business models from day one.



# Academic Developments

## Academic Enhancement

In 2020, the University focused significant efforts in supporting the rapid and large-scale transition to online teaching and learning. The Academic Enhancement Division (AED) played a key role in accelerating the adoption of remote learning across the University. Recognising the importance of maintaining clear communication channels during a critical period of remote working and learning, various feedback channels, for both staff and students, were established which enabled speedy resolution of issues together with stakeholders.

In supporting academic staff across the University, AED adopted a varied and multi-pronged approach and received excellent support from University and School management teams, as well as the IT Services team. In addition, AED leveraged on academic staff across the University who were ready to support academic colleagues' development. Through the appointment of these staff as AED Associates and their contributions, institutional capacity for supporting academic staff in a timely manner increased significantly.

AED offered more than 40 workshops, training and sharing sessions throughout 2020 which were attended by 75% of the University's academic staff. These sessions – which covered areas such as curriculum development, blended/online/technology-enhanced learning, research skill development and mental health – were very well-received by participants. Periodic webinar sessions in which academic colleagues shared their experiences and practical insights related to online teaching, learning and assessment were particularly helpful for academics as a means of support and as a way of exploring and resolving their concerns.



Through programme evaluation and feedback from participants, the following have been identified as good practices:

- Availability of just-in-time learning materials, accessible from the online AED Resource Centre
- Workshops and training sessions to support academics in online and blended learning topics relevant to their subjects
- Workshop sessions that are interactive and relevant, with a focus on practical and applied content
- Personalised support through consultation sessions
- Exemplification of good online practices

The Peer Assisted Learning Programme (PALP) also migrated online to ensure that students continued to be supported by it.

The need for PALP during the year was heightened as most students were studying in isolation and at-risk students could easily be overlooked amidst a sea of online faces.

The peer leaders' recruitment process, their training and the peer learning sessions were conducted entirely online in 2020.

New and additional resources relevant to online learning were included as support for the peer leaders and their mentees. Peer leader training sessions also included guidance on how to use online platforms to facilitate sessions and various ways to encourage active, online peer learning.

These initiatives were positively received; feedback from the peer leaders and mentees indicated that they found their involvement with the programme, although challenging as they adapted to online learning, very rewarding. For the mentees, apart from receiving additional support outside the formal learning hours for their subjects, the benefit gained can be seen in their academic performance. The majority of the mentees who attended PALP sessions regularly achieved better grades than their peers who did not, which is consistent with earlier findings when PALP was offered face-to-face. Also consistent with earlier findings, is that the peer leaders reported increased confidence and improvements in time-management, problem-solving and other soft skills.



## Strategy and Leadership

Towards the end of the year, Professor Matthew Sansom was appointed to the newly created University position of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education), to champion digital transformation as well as optimise the way teaching, learning and assessments are delivered - building on the experience of online and hybrid delivery from the pandemic period.

Key initiatives already underway are the introduction of a new University-wide curriculum framework and change to a block-mode academic calendar. The aims of the framework are to enhance the relevance of graduate attributes, enrich and strengthen undergraduate programmes, and enable curriculum design and delivery that engages and motivates staff and students. The curriculum requires coordination between Schools and University Services for successful implementation as well as university-wide programme changes. Much work on these changes has begun and, in consultation with Academic Standards and Quality (ASQ) and the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), the University will undergo full approvals processing during 2021.

Connected with the curriculum framework is the introduction of a new block-mode academic calendar. This, along with full

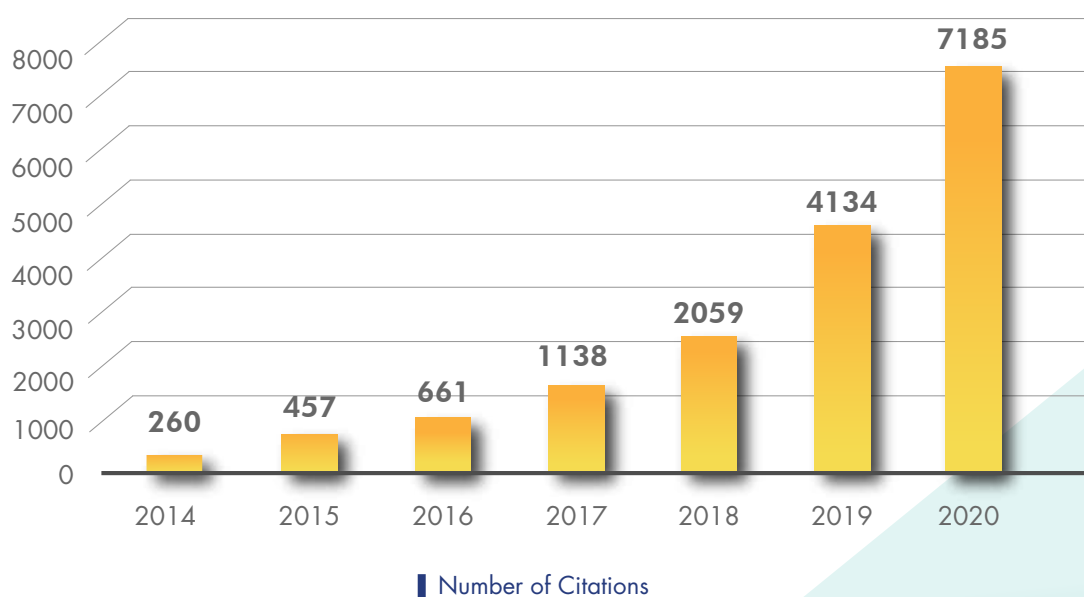
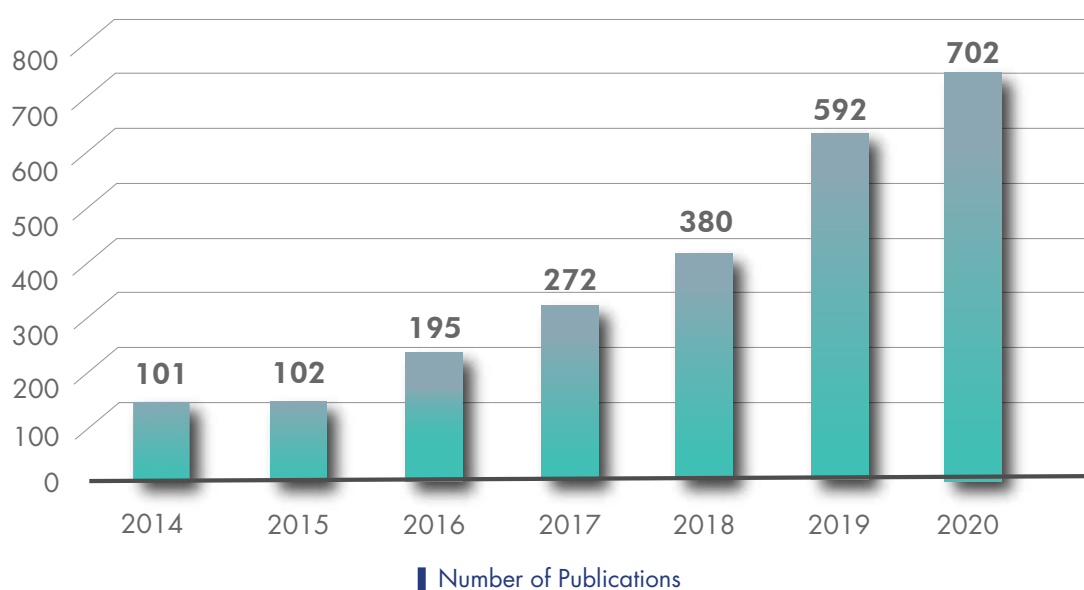
implementation of the curriculum framework, is scheduled to begin in January 2023. The block-mode calendar is in part a response to likely long-term changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, changes which are nevertheless good indicators of 21st-century education trends towards greater flexibility, increased access, technology enhanced teaching and delivery, and active learning methods. It is on this final point that significant effort will be placed. Block or intensive teaching methods will require high levels of staff development and will precipitate an important shift away from traditional lecturing towards active learning. Furthermore, course design and assessment methods will require large-scale changes for successful block-mode implementation. To these ends, AED will be rolling out a 2-year programme of support provision leading up to January 2023.



# Research Highlights

## Scopus Publications and Citations

The year 2020 was a difficult year for the University in the face of challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, despite the campus being shut for most parts of the year, the University made progress in its research endeavours. During the year, the University saw continued growth in research publication output with almost 20% increase in number of Scopus indexed publication and a 74% increase in the number of Scopus citations in comparison to the previous year.





## Increase in Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS) Received

In 2020, Sunway University successfully secured 18 FRGS awards from the Malaysian Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), the highest number of successful FRGS applications that the University has ever received to date. In total, the University was awarded nearly RM2 million in grant funding.

## World Top 2% Scientists list by Stanford University

In a study conducted by Stanford University, seven Sunway University researchers were listed among the top 2% of scientists in the world.

The results of the study was published in 2020, after analysis of the citation metrics of over 150,000 scientists classified via 22 scientific fields and 176 subfields.



(from left to right) - Professor Edward Tiekink, Professor Saidur Rahman, Associate Professor Dr Adarsh Kumar Pandey, Professor Yau Kok Lim, Professor Mohamed Kheireddine Aroua, Professor Sibrandes Poppema and Professor Agamutu Pariatamby

### Stanford University List of World's Top 2% Most-Cited Scientists

1. Associate Professor Dr Adarsh Kumar Pandey
2. Professor Agamutu Pariatamby
3. Professor Edward Tiekink
4. Professor Mohamed Kheireddine Aroua
5. Professor Saidur Rahman
6. Professor Sibrandes Poppema
7. Professor Yau Kok Lim

## Malaysia Research Assessment (MyRA)

Sunway University is continuously enhancing its research performance and this was evident in the MyRA 2020 assessment where the University for the first time obtained a 3\* rating from a 2\* rating.

The continuous growth and increase in quality research publications and various research initiatives and research collaborations has helped the University improve its standing for MyRA.

## Research Collaborations

Research collaboration is important for not only accelerating the progress in research through sharing of knowledge, resources and innovation, but also enhances the quality of the research and extends the repertoire of the partners. To promote research collaboration, the University established the Collaborative Research Grant to support collaboration with Top 20 Global Universities (T20) and Malaysian Research Universities (MRU). The projects under the grant schemes were also jointly funded by collaborating institutions. A total of approximately RM1.4 million was allocated for the Collaborative Research Grant. The research projects include collaborations with top global universities such as University of Cambridge, University of Oxford and National University of Singapore, as well as domestic research intensive universities such as, University of Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.





## External Research Grants Awarded

Listed in the order of quantum received

Principal Investigator	Title of Research	Funding Body	Amount (RM)
<b>Dr Peter Ho Chiung Ching</b>	Deep Spray: Improved Post Processing of Images from Liquid Atomization Stimulations.	Department of Defence United States of America	344,400
<b>Professor Mohammad Khalid</b>	Investigating Thermoelectric Energy Harvester Based on Hybrid Graphene/Bismuth Sulphide/Recycled Carbon Fibre Nanocomposite for Sub-watt IoT Applications.	Fundamental Research Grant Scheme, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia	167,100
<b>Professor Wong Chin Huat</b>	SDGs for Indigenous Peoples: A Framework to THINK, COMMUNICATE and ACT in Malaysia.	WORLD WILDLIFE FEDERATION (WWF)	165,400
<b>Professor Jeff Tan Kuan Onn</b>	Anti-Tumor Therapeutics Mediated By Adeno-MBRM and NANO-ACTD Nano-particles.	Fundamental Research Grant Scheme, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia	163,000
<b>Dr Mohd Ishtiaq Anasir</b>	Structure-guided development of novel antiviral peptides against the four dengue serotypes.	Fundamental Research Grant Scheme, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia	150,400
<b>Associate Professor Dr Adarsh Kumar Pandey</b>	Electron kinetics within semiconductor nano-architecture of flexible Dye Sensitized Solar Cells and perspective role of sintering aids.	Fundamental Research Grant Scheme, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia	148,800
<b>Professor Mohamed Kheireddine Aroua</b>	Unravelling the mechanism of CO <sub>2</sub> reaction with novel adsorbents composed of egg white immobilized on palm shell activated carbon.	Fundamental Research Grant Scheme, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia	132,900
<b>Dr Jane Gew Lai Ti</b>	Glycerol as a sustainable solvent in the extraction of bioactive compounds from Thanaka bark as natural sunscreens.	Fundamental Research Grant Scheme, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia	130,800
<b>Ms Karen Chand</b>	Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land-Use, and Energy (FABLE) Consortium.	Fable Consortium	126,000
<b>Dr Wu Shin Ling</b>	Investigating the underlying mechanism that affects parental discipline and adolescents' mental health in Malaysia	Fundamental Research Grant Scheme, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia	105,000
<b>Dr Woo Pei Jun</b>	A naturalistic observation of early mother-infant interactions.	Fundamental Research Grant Scheme, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia	103,600

## External Research Grants Awarded (continued)

Listed in the order of quantum received

Principal Investigator	Title of Research	Funding Body	Amount (RM)
<b>Dr Low Yeh Ching</b>	A New Family of Regression Models for Correlated Count Data with Cubic Variance Function.	Fundamental Research Grant Scheme, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia	99,800
<b>Dr Audrey Lim Wei Ling</b>	Neuroprotective potential of Polygonum minus (daun kesum) extracts against glutamate-induced toxicity and neurodegeneration in vitro	Fundamental Research Grant Scheme, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia	98,400
<b>Dr Imtiaz Mohammad Sifat</b>	Developing a New Jump Based Approach to Quantifying the Consequences of Energy Price Shocks to Economic Stability	Fundamental Research Grant Scheme, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia	98,400
<b>Dr Sim Kai An</b>	On Ramsey-type theorems for integers and other related problems in combinatorics.	Fundamental Research Grant Scheme, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia	91,200
<b>Dr Ooi Pei Boon</b>	Cyberbullying of visually impaired youth: Prevalence and its associated factors.	Fundamental Research Grant Scheme, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia	85,400
<b>Dr Joyce Nga Koe Hwee</b>	Developing a Model of Financial Well-Being Towards Malaysia's Shared Prosperity Vision.	Fundamental Research Grant Scheme, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia	80,400
<b>Dr Jason Lee Kian Tek</b>	Malaysia's Undervalued Ringgit, Country Risk and Extreme Value Mathematics to Uncover Source(s) of Undervaluation.	Fundamental Research Grant Scheme, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia	74,200
<b>Dr Hassanudin Mohd Thas Thaker</b>	Investigating the Unresolved Low-Middle Income Housing Problem, Malaysia.	Fundamental Research Grant Scheme, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia	73,200
<b>Dr Ho Wai Kee</b>	Developing a sustainability reporting framework to address environmental and climate change concerns.	Fundamental Research Grant Scheme, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia	69,000
<b>Dr Nur Ain Shahrier</b>	Development of CGE with Structural Equations of T20, M40 and B40 Groups' Response to Macroeconomic Shocks.	Fundamental Research Grant Scheme, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia	68,400



# Internal Research Grants Awarded

Listed in the order of quantum received

Principal Investigator	Title of Research	Department / Centre	Approved (RM)
<b>Dr Ronald Teow Sin Yeang</b>	Generation of Exosomes Loaded with Anticancer Iron Oxide Nanoparticles (IONPs) for Targeted Delivery with Hyperthermia Treatment in Colon Cancer.	Medical Sciences	28,000
<b>Professor Mohamed Kheireddine Aroua</b>	Converting Microplastics to CO <sub>2</sub> Capturing Agents.	Research Centre for Carbon Dioxide Capture and Utilisation	26,100
<b>Dr Farihahusnah Hussin</b>	Low-cost renewable material derived from plastic waste as a potential adsorbent for carbon dioxide capture: An alternative way to solve severe plastic wastage problem.	Research Centre for Carbon Dioxide Capture and Utilisation	23,700
<b>Associate Professor Dr Hwang Jung Shan</b>	Activation of extrinsic apoptotic pathway in response to the pore-forming toxin HALT-1.	Medical Sciences	21,600
<b>Dr Chook Jack Bee</b>	An Innovative One-in-Two Design for Hepatitis B Virus DNA Real-Time Quantification Assay.	Medical Sciences	18,000
<b>Professor Abhimanyu Veerakumarasivam</b>	ASEAN Landscape of Responsible Conduct of Research: Understanding the Underlying Factors that Influence Attitude and Practice.	Healthcare and Medical Sciences	16,000
<b>Dr Tommy Tong Yuh Koon</b>	Characteristics of Envelope Genes Cloned From Hiv-1 Infected Plasmas With Potent Neutralizing Response.	Biological Sciences	15,600
<b>Associate Professor Dr Gopalasamy Reuben Clements</b>	Securing the future of the 'king of fruits': elucidating the pollination ecology of durian ( <i>Durio zibethinus</i> ) across Peninsular Malaysia.	Biological Sciences	12,400
<b>Professor Mayeen Uddin Khandaker</b>	Cyclotron production of no carrier added theranostic <sup>186</sup> Re radionuclide for medical application.	Research Centre for Applied Physics and Radiation Technologies	10,800
<b>Dr Mohammad Jasim Uddin</b>	MNC-NGO partnerships and labor rights and welfare: Empirical evidence from the global value chain.	Management	9,000
<b>Associate Professor Dr Teh Phoey Lee Heard</b>	Mining Public Opinion on Plastic Usage and Reduction from Tweets using Sentiment analysis & Sequential Mining Approach.	Computing and Information Systems	9,000
<b>Dr Sim Kai An</b>	The lazy cop number on some Cayley graphs.	Pure and Applied Mathematics	8,900
<b>Dr Ooi Pei Boon</b>	The factors associated among WHO adherence Model, perception towards medication dispensing separation exercise and medication adherence in Malaysia: ESRD patients' perspectives.	Vice-Chancellor's Office	7,000
<b>Professor Angela Amphawan</b>	Mode Division Multiplexing in Free-Space Optics for Internet-of-Things in Smart Cities.	Computing and Information Systems	5,000

## Internal Research Grants Awarded (continued)

Listed in the order of quantum received

Principal Investigator	Title of Research	Department / Centre	Approved (RM)
<b>Dr Ayaz Anwar</b>	Design, synthesis and application of hypoxia-responsive nanomaterials to target the tumor microenvironment.	Biological Sciences	5,000
<b>Dr Chew Jacty</b>	Unveiling the antibacterial activity of Malaysian Green and Brown seaweeds.	Biological Sciences	5,000
<b>Professor Jeff Tan Kuan Onn</b>	Combinatorial Cancer Therapy Mediated by Adenovirus, Tumor Suppressors and Chemo-drugs Targeting Cancer Stem Cells.	Biological Sciences	5,000
<b>Dr Lim Hui Xuan</b>	Development of synthetic peptide-based vaccines against Dengue.	Centre for Virus and Vaccine Research	5,000
<b>Dr Audrey Lim Wei Ling</b>	Neuroprotective potential of Polygonum minus extract against glutamate-induced toxicity and neurodegeneration in vitro.	Biological Sciences	5,000
<b>Dr Mohammad Tahir</b>	Cooperative Game theory based learning algorithms for energy-efficient operation in an ultra-dense HetSNet in 5G network.	Computing and Information Systems	5,000
<b>Dr Mohd Ishtiaq Anasir</b>	Development of novel structure-based antiviral peptides against dengue virus.	Centre for Virus and Vaccine Research	5,000
<b>Ms Janice Wong Shiau Foong</b>	Patterns of Ageing in Europe: Non-communicable Diseases and Comorbidity.	Centre for American Education	4,600
<b>Dr Malissa Maria Mahmud</b>	Big Data Analytics And Meta-Analysis On E-Learning Platforms: A Predictive Analysis Of Transformative Trends And Patterns.	Centre for English Language Studies	4,500
<b>Dr Ashkan Memari</b>	An Optimization Model for a Biofuel Supply Chain under the Carbon Trading Mechanism.	Management	4,000
<b>Dr Ko Young Kyung</b>	The Impact of Political Change on Stock markets and Corporate Board.	Accounting	3,300
<b>Dr Goh Yi Sheng</b>	Design for Sustainability – Ecotourism design for Sungai Lima.	Art and Design	2,800
<b>Dr Abdollah Ah Mand</b>	In-depth study of fiscal economics, and taxation policies in Malaysia and South Korea.	Economics and Finance	2,700
<b>Dr Gayathri Daisy Kanagasapathy</b>	Sustainable Tourist: How Big Is Your Footprint?	Hospitality	2,700
<b>Dr Tan Ai Ling</b>	Measuring the Non-Economic Legacies of Business Events: The Case Study of Malaysia.	Hospitality	2,700

## Internal Research Grants Awarded (continued)

Listed in the order of quantum received

Principal Investigator	Title of Research	Department / Centre	Approved (RM)
<b>Associate Professor Dr Alex Cheng Boon Liat</b>	Sustainable Competitive Advantage Through Service Innovation: Evidence From The Higher Education Industry.	Marketing	2,500
<b>Dr Izian Idris</b>	Sustainable Communication- A Crucial Review on The Effectiveness of Digital and Traditional Islamic Advertising on Halal products and Services.	Marketing	2,400
<b>Dr Perline Siek Hwee Ling</b>	Promoting Malaysian Folklores: The whispered taboos of beliefs in rituals and festive celebrations.	Art and Design	2,300
<b>Dr Suzanne Tan Ser Zian</b>	From your pocket to your mind: Examining the role of temporal extended self in sharing economy.	Marketing	1,900
<b>Dr Gan Chin Chuan</b>	Education Decision: Effect of Pre-decisional Information Overload and Perceived Risk on Dissonance.	Marketing	1,800
<b>Dr Joyce Nga Koe Hwee</b>	The influence of personal values, risk attitudes, financial socialization and financial literacy on financial behaviours: A comparison between Generation X, Y and Z in Malaysia.	Economics and Finance	1,800
<b>Ms Fiona Wong E Chiong</b>	Preserving Local Cultural Heritage: Wayang Kulit Kelantan DIY Craft Kit.	Art and Design	1,500
<b>Dr Nasir Abdul Jalil</b>	Learning analytics in higher education: The Student Expectations of Learning Analytics.	Business Analytics	1,500
<b>Associate Professor Dr Sim Tze Ying</b>	The impact of Computational Thinking skills on the Programming Skills of Novice Programmer, and Programmers with at least 30 hours of exposure.	Centre for American Education	1,500
<b>Dr Sivakumari Supramaniam</b>	Social Media and Cosmetic Brand Marketing.	Marketing	1,400
<b>Dr Racheal Louis Vincent</b>	Investigating the Effect of the Withdrawal of Incentives on E-Wallet Adoption.	Marketing	1,200










## Recipients of Jeffrey Cheah Travel Grants for Southeast Asia

Recipient	Title of Research	Department
<b>Dr Chandrajit Lahiri</b> Associate Professor	Exploring the Therapeutic Potential of South-East Asian Herbs Against Colorectal Cancer and Its Plausible Prognostic Metastasis Marker	Biological Sciences
<b>Dr Hassanudin Mohd Thas Thaker</b> Associate Professor	Monetary Policy and Stock Market Performance: A Tale of Asean Stock Markets	Economics and Finance
<b>Dr Koon Vui Yee</b> Senior Lecturer	Inclusive Human Resources Practices	Management
<b>Ms Manjeet Kaur Harnek Singh</b> Lecturer	Impact of Health Reform on Household Welfare and Labour Market in Malaysia	Economics and Finance

\* Due to the travel restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, none of the recipients were able to travel in 2020.



# School Highlights

	 Arts	 Business	 Healthcare & Medical Sciences	 Hospitality	 Mathematical Sciences	 Science & Technology	 Interdisciplinary Studies
Employed by Graduation <sup>1</sup>	<b>74%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>73%</b>	N/A
Graduates earning above RM3000 <sup>2</sup>	<b>19%</b>	<b>24%</b>	N/A	<b>24%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>34%</b>	N/A
New Students	<b>378</b> (-4%)	<b>1,116</b> (+2%)	<b>111</b> (+22%)	<b>346</b> (-2%)	<b>205</b> (+8%)	<b>706</b> (+9%)	Overall <b>196</b> (-28%)
Total enrolment	<b>1,034</b> (+8%)	<b>2,934</b> (no changes)	<b>252</b> (+24%)	<b>817</b> (-6%)	<b>547</b> (+2%)	<b>1,905</b> (+10%)	<b>363</b> (+4%)
International students	<b>21%</b>	<b>11%</b>	None	<b>27%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>21%</b>
Total staff <sup>3</sup> AC: Academic AD: Administrative INT: International staff	<b>48 AC</b> <b>14 AD</b> <b>19% INT</b>	<b>101 AC</b> <b>20 AD</b> <b>22% INT</b>	<b>36 AC</b> <b>10 AD</b> <b>7% INT</b>	<b>29 AC</b> <b>10 AD</b> <b>10% INT</b>	<b>19 AC</b> <b>5 AD</b>	<b>83 AC</b> <b>25 AD</b> <b>23% INT</b>	<b>60 AC</b> <b>24 AD</b> <b>7% INT</b>
Internal grants received <sup>4</sup>	<b>RM 6,500</b>	<b>RM 33,500</b>	<b>RM 85,400</b>	<b>RM 5,400</b>	<b>RM 8,900</b>	<b>RM 130,300</b>	<b>RM 23,100</b>
External grants received <sup>5</sup>	-	<b>RM 463,600</b>	<b>RM 85,400</b>	-	<b>RM 91,200</b>	<b>RM 1,644,200</b>	<b>RM 291,400</b>
Graduates (all)	<b>233</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>419</b>	N/A
Class I & II(I) (Bachelor's only)	<b>74%</b>	<b>43%</b>	N/A	<b>57%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>64%</b>	N/A
New programmes launched	Doctor of Philosophy in Creative Arts and Media; Master of Arts in Creative Arts and Media	Master of Marketing	Doctor of Philosophy in Medical Science; Master in Medical Science; Post Graduate Diploma in Primary Care for Elderly	Master in International Hospitality Management	-	-	-

<sup>1</sup> Based on MOHE Tracer study 2020 (Number of Bachelor's & Diploma graduates who were employed full time or part time at time of survey, divided by total respondents available for work)

<sup>2</sup> Based on MOHE Tracer study 2020 (Number of Bachelor's graduates earning above RM 3000, divided by Number of Bachelor's graduates who provided income information)

<sup>3</sup> Based on headcount of full-time staff

<sup>4</sup> Grant amount rounded up to the nearest RM 100

<sup>5</sup> Grant amount rounded up to the nearest RM 100



# Student Experience

## Going Virtual

With the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic and travel ban, the University took to organising virtual exchange programmes and building internationalisation at home. “Lepak Without Borders” and “Global Culture Café” were two programmes that were launched during the year. Lepak Without Borders focused mainly on peer-to-peer chat on specific topics, while Global Culture Café focused on sharing about cultures and ethnic groups across the world.

For international students who were unable to be in Malaysia, a pre-orientation programme, entitled *Sunway: The Virtual*

*Experience*, was designed to help transition students into Malaysian and Sunway culture before diving straight into e-classrooms.

The Chancellors Scholars’ annual three-week Lancaster Summer Programme experience also went virtual. A special hybrid programme was organised together with the Lancaster Global Experiences Team, called *Lancaster: The Virtual Experience*. The five-day programme brought scholars together on campus to experience Lancaster and its culture through interactive virtual sessions with staff and students, virtual campus tours and town visits.



# Rising above the Pandemic Wave

## Top of the Class for Student Satisfaction

An important barometer of a university's success is student satisfaction. To measure how it is doing in this area, at the height of the pandemic, Sunway University offered over 7,000 students the opportunity to complete the COVID-19 Response Barometer administered by i-Graduate, which measures feedback on how leading universities in Malaysia have handled the challenges posed by this unprecedented situation.

A total of 42 institutions participated globally, of which five were from Malaysia.

While many universities worldwide have seen student satisfaction scores plummet since the start of the pandemic, with some elite Australian institutions recording a decrease, Sunway University scored student satisfaction way above the global average in every category.

The global survey addresses the issues brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and provided students a platform to rate how institutions have risen to the occasion and adapted to the needs of current times. The main areas in the survey encompassed an institution's overall response satisfaction, communication satisfaction and online learning satisfaction.

To ensure minimal disruption to the education process during the pandemic, Sunway University took on a pioneering role within the industry in transitioning from face-to-face to fully online lessons within a rapid turnaround, whilst maintaining the quality of content and delivery. As a result, students reported higher levels of satisfaction with the support they received from lecturers to successfully learn online, higher levels of satisfaction with the overall quality of their courses that were moved online and higher levels of satisfaction with their university's overall response to the pandemic.

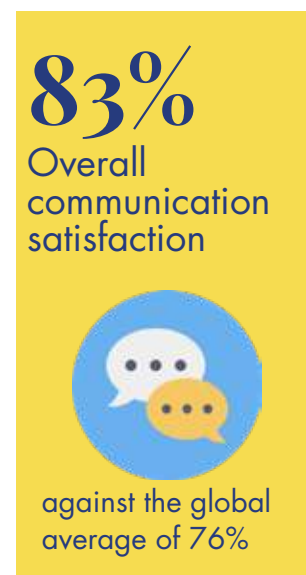


A survey respondent commented: "I believe the lecturer plays a big role in determining the quality of online learning. In my experience, the lecturers were responsive and hardworking, which made it easier." Other independent feedback indicated that the quality of the online learning experience was also satisfying, with one respondent saying: "I am satisfied with the quality of online learning and it is beyond my expectation. I am happy to see the university quickly implement precautionary measures to ensure my learning was not interrupted."

Creative initiatives on highlighting the importance of social distancing on campus also gave a much-needed boost of confidence and reassurance towards the overall level of student health and safety.


Communication with the student and parent community, has been of paramount importance to many institutions throughout the pandemic. And few have been as consistent and innovative as Sunway University who even created video messages reminding students of how important they are and how much they are missed.

#### Highlights of the survey are shown below:



# Scholarly Activities

## Jeffrey Cheah Distinguished Speaker Series

Date	Speaker photo	Speaker Details	Topic
9 January		<b>Professor Suzanne Franks</b> Head, Department of Journalism School of Arts and Social Sciences City, University of London	<b>Making News and Shaping Views; Riding the Rollercoaster of the Digital Revolution</b>



Date	Topic	Event Type
13 January	<b>Dynamic Economic Development and Shared Prosperity: The Kedah Way</b>	<b>Public Lecture</b> (in collaboration with ASLI)
16 January	<b>Why Is It So Hard to Push Chinese High-Speed Railway Projects in Southeast Asia?</b> The Role of Domestic Politics in Malaysia and Indonesia	<b>Public Lecture</b>
4 March	<b>The Rise of Strongmen Regimes: Duterte, Jokowi, and Chinese Capital in Southeast Asia</b>	<b>Public Lecture</b>
24 November	<b>The Borneo Dilemma: Sabah and Sarawak under the Muhyiddin Administration</b>	<b>Webinar</b> (in collaboration with Australian National University)



Date	Topic	Event Type
18 January	<b>Plastic Waste Management on Global and Local Scale &amp; Civic Participation Exercise</b>	<b>Sharing Session</b>
3 February	<b>1: Issues in Social Protection in Malaysia 2: JSC and Rimba: Conducting Applied Research to Bridge the Gap Between Scientists and Decision Makers</b>	<b>Sharing Session</b> (for delegation visit- UN Youth Globalisation Tour (New Zealand))
12 February	<b>1. Overview of Plastics Waste Management 2. Plastic in Daily Life: A Reflection 3. Degradation Time of Plastics: An Experiential Continuum 4. Problems with Plastic Waste: Hazards to Food Chain and Drinking Water 5. Solutions-developing Approach: A Mindfulness-based Activity to Increase Resilience</b>	<b>Workshop</b>
22 April	<b>Happiness &amp; Sustainability Around the Earth: What is Happiness? A Provocative Conversation</b>	<b>Webinar</b> (in collaboration with SDSN Global)





# International Collaborations

## The Jeffrey Cheah Biomedical Centre

The Jeffrey Cheah Biomedical Centre is named for Tan Sri Jeffrey as a result of the Cambridge-Sunway Collaboration Agreement, signed in 2017. The Centre became fully operational during 2019 and three centres were assigned floor space in the new building. These are the Cambridge Wellcome Stem Cell Institute, the Cambridge Institute for Therapeutic Immunology and Infectious Disease, and the Milner Therapeutic Institute.

The Cambridge Sunway Collaborative Agreement provides for links between Cambridge and Sunway as follows:

- a) Development of the Sunway Clinical Research Centre in Sunway Medical Centre as a regional site partner of the Cambridge University School of Clinical Medicine
- b) A Visiting Leaders Programme, which allows for visits to Sunway of senior Cambridge academics in the areas of medicine and surgery
- c) An Education programme that offers courses in medicine and allied health sciences from the Cambridge Postgraduate Education Division to staff in Sunway Medical Centre and Sunway University, as well as award courses in medical administration offered by the Judge Business School
- d) Cambridge-Royal College of Physicians-Sunway Continuing Medical Education Courses delivered in Sunway on a regular basis
- e) Collaborative research in medicine

The Jeffrey Cheah Biomedical Centre, Cambridge University Biomedical Campus







## Opinion Pieces by Jeffrey Cheah Professors

During the period July to September 2020, opinion pieces by our Jeffrey Cheah Professors from Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, and Sunway were published as a series in the Star newspaper. The titles of the articles and Jeffrey Cheah Professors are as follows:

- **Developing International Excellence in Education**  
Sir Leszek Borysiewicz FRS, Emeritus Vice-Chancellor, University of Cambridge
- **Philanthropy in Education: Towards the Common Good**  
Sir Alan Fersht FRS, Emeritus Master, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge
- **A Malaysia Pride: Spearheading Global Innovations**  
Kay Tee Khaw CBE, Emeritus Professor of Gerontology, University of Cambridge
- **Building the Nation with Quality Education**  
John Todd FRS Professor of Human Genetics, University of Oxford
- **Sunway-Oxford Academic Link**  
Mark Wilson, Professor of Physical and Theoretical Chemistry, University of Oxford
- **Corporate Responsibility and Integrity**  
William Swadling, Professor of Law, University of Oxford
- **The Bonds of Friendship: Oxford and Sunway**  
William James, Professor of Virology, University of Oxford
- **Valuable Contribution to Global Sustainable Development**  
Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- **Enabling Policies to Improve Lives**  
Rema Hanna, Jeffrey Cheah Professor of South East Asian Studies, Harvard University
- **To be the Best, Learn from the Best**  
Jarlath Ronayne AM FTSE, Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah Distinguished Professor, Sunway University
- **You will only see it when you understand it**  
Sibrandes Poppema, Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah Distinguished Professor, Sunway University



## Chevening Jeffrey Cheah Scholarships

In 2018, the UK Foreign and Development Office and the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation signed an Agreement for sponsorship of an annual Jeffrey Cheah Chevening Graduate Scholarship. For 2019-2020 the Scholarship was awarded to Ho Rhu Yang, who successfully undertook a master's degree in Public Health at the University of Edinburgh. The 2020-2021 Scholarship was awarded to Liyan Ooi, who is undertaking a master's degree in Health Psychology at University College, London.

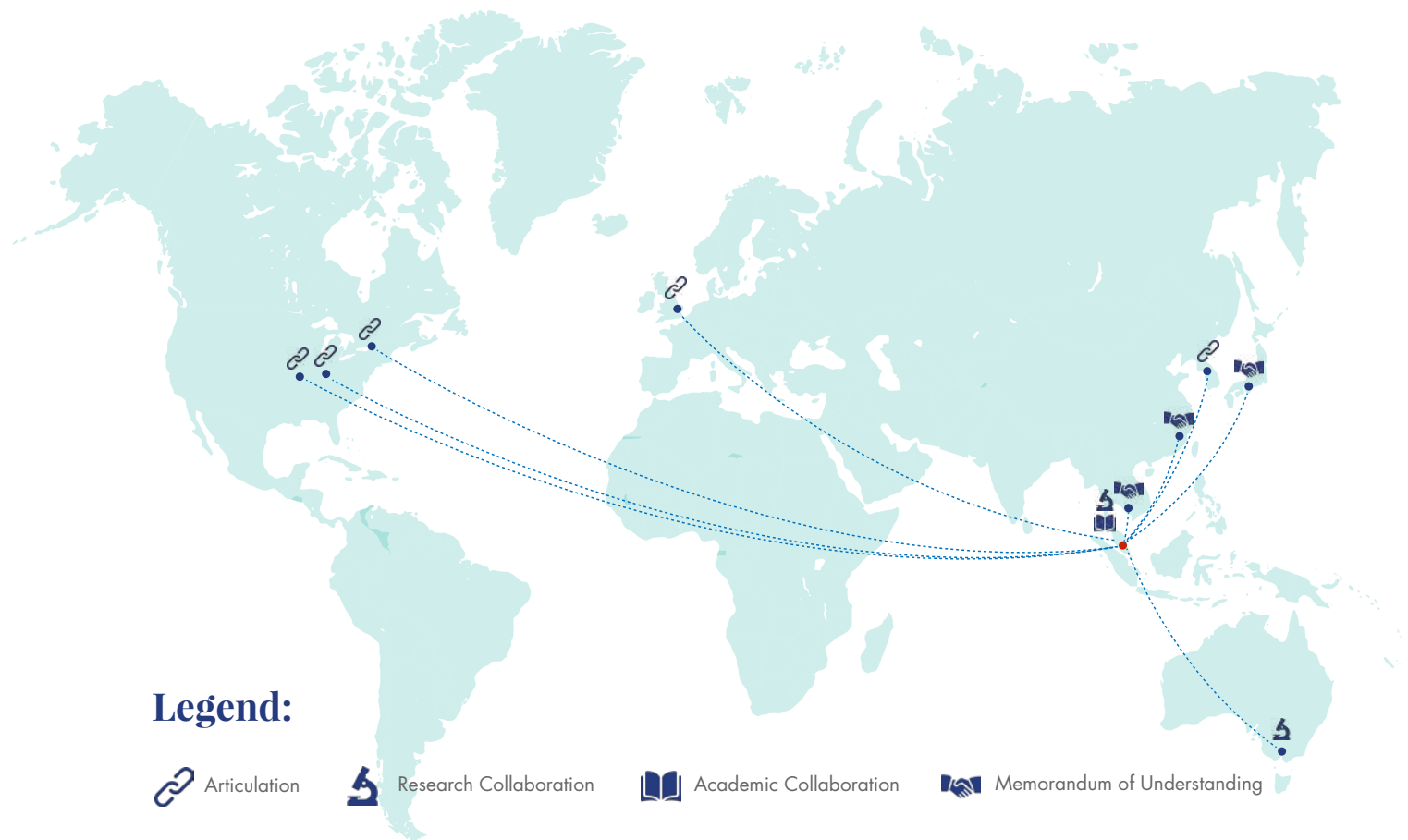


## Sir Alan Fersht FRS

Sir Alan Fersht FRS, Honorary Jeffrey Cheah Distinguished Professor, has been awarded the Copley Medal of the Royal Society of London. The Medal, established in 1731, is the oldest scientific award in the UK, and 52 winners have won the Nobel Prize. Amongst the recipients are Albert Einstein, Louis Pasteur and Stephen Hawking. Sir Alan was Master of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge when an agreement was signed between Caius and Sunway.



# Working in Partnership



## New Partnerships Forged

Institution	Country	Partnership Activities
Kyoto University	Japan	Memorandum of Understanding
Northwest Missouri State University	United States	Articulation
State University of New York at Oswego	United States	Articulation
The University of Melbourne	Australia	Research Collaboration
The University of Utah Asia Campus	South Korea	Articulation
University of Cambodia	Cambodia	Memorandum of Understanding
University of Essex	United Kingdom	Articulation
Universiti Malaya	Malaysia	Research Collaboration Academic Collaboration
University of Missouri- St. Louis	United States	Articulation
Xiamen University	China	Memorandum of Understanding



# Senior Appointments

## New Senior Hires

- **Professor Teo Kok Lay**  
Associate Dean  
School of Mathematical Sciences  
Date of appointment: 04 May
- **Professor Tan Sri Dato' Sri Dr Noorul Ainur Mohd Nur**  
Professor of Practice  
Jeffrey Sachs Centre on Sustainable Development  
Date of appointment: 01 June
- **Dr Hendry Ng Han Swee**  
Director of Graduate Studies  
Jeffrey Sachs Centre on Sustainable Development  
Date of appointment: 01 July
- **Mr Jeffvinder Singh Sandhu**  
**Rusbal Singh**  
Head - FutureX Talent  
Date of appointment: 03 August
- **Professor Khatijah Bt Abdullah @ Lim Geok Khim**  
Head - Department of Nursing  
Date of appointment: 19 October



# New Adjunct and Visiting Professors

## Jeffrey Sachs Centre on Sustainable Development

- **Professor Dr Jeffrey D. Sachs**  
Honorary Distinguished Professor  
01 March 2020 – 28 February 2023

## School of Healthcare and Medical Sciences

- **Professor Nils Sven Bertil Pettersson**  
Honorary Professor  
01 June 2020 - 31 December 2021
- **Dato' Dr Tunku Muzafar Shah**  
Adjunct Professor  
01 July 2020 – 30 June 2023

## School of Science and Technology

- **Ms Gigi Martha Wang**  
Adjunct Professor  
01 August 2020 - 31 December 2021
- **Mr Thomas Gai Tei Tsao**  
Adjunct Practice Professor  
01 October 2020 - 31 December 2021
- **Dr Sivapalan Vivekarajah**  
Adjunct Professor  
01 August 2020 - 31 December 2021
- **Dr Virginia Cha**  
Adjunct Professor  
01 August 2020 - 31 December 2021

## Sunway University Business School

- **Ms Chan Wan Siew**  
Adjunct Practice Professor  
15 June 2020 - 14 June 2022
- **Mr Muhammad Nazri Muhd**  
Adjunct Practice Professor  
25 June 2020 - 24 June 2023
- **Dr Cheah Kok Hoong**  
Adjunct Practice Professor  
01 January 2020 - 31 December 2021
- **Mr Wong Kong San**  
Adjunct Practice Professor  
01 September 2020 – 31 August 2023
- **Mr K.Vithyatharan V Karunakaran**  
Adjunct Practice Professor  
01 December 2020 – 30 November 2023

# Investing in the Future

## Sunway Campus Library

The COVID-19 pandemic greatly impacted libraries around the world in 2020 and the Sunway Campus Library was spared no less. The Library had to close from March and only re-opened after two months in May. Although hours were shortened after re-opening to safe-guard the health and well-being of its users, virtual and digital services expanded.

As the world embraced the new normal, so did the Library. The following were some of the strategies employed.

### 1. Eliminating nonessential processes and resources

The e-collection formed the core collection, with priority given to e-resources like e-textbooks and e-databases.



### 2. Building resilience through integration of technologies with speed

The Library's homepage was totally revamped to become the "virtual front door" through which virtual library services were provided to users. Librarians provided online assistance through "Ask a Librarian" as well as via the telephone. Personal consultation and online workshops were introduced, and adoption of asynchronous modules, like online tutorials, were created for self-learning users.

### 3. Redesigning Library Space

Following strict social distancing guidelines, the Library had to close group study and discussion facilities and re-arrange furniture to ensure users were spaced one metre apart from each other. The number of seats was drastically reduced from 1,300 to 755. Mandatory wearing of face-masks was enforced. Entry into the Open Shelf Collection was controlled, and items returned were quarantined for 24 hours before being shelved.

## Total Library Membership

as at  
31 December 2020



**5,859**  
Students



**258**  
Academics



**181**  
Administrative Staff

## Library Entries



**2.2 mil**  
2019

**78%**  
**468,838**  
2020

## Physical Loans



2019

**58%**  
**13,667**  
2020

In response to the pandemic, the Library transformed all its physical services to the online mode. In addition to that, 168 online workshops were offered to 4,900 students, orientation and user education were carried out using videos (obtained 2,134 YouTube views) and online tutorials.

The Sunway Institutional Repository registered a cumulative total of 1,150 staff publications from the University. In spite of the many changes implemented in 2020, the Library successfully passed its SIRIM Surveillance Audit for ISO9001:2015 in the month of July.

## Facilities

University expansions continued in 2020 with a facelift to the Porte Corchere and an upgrade to the Cafeteria on the ground floor of the university building. On level one, the art gallery was refurbished with lighting and sound-proof flooring. Additional space was created for a second post graduate research lab on level three while the School of Arts received a brand-new Radio Station on level

nine. All stairwells leading up to the topmost floor (level 12) were repainted and beautified so staff could use the steps when the lifts got too crowded. An additional Nursing room was also created on level seven for nursing mothers.

Around the campus more learning spaces were created at the roof top terrace of the Graduate Centre and the observation deck.





## Sustainable Campus

A huge part of 2020 saw students studying online and university staff working from home. With much of the campus left unutilised, it was the perfect time to work on renovations and upkeep. In line with the University's sustainability efforts, a large portion of the campus saw new fixtures and fittings that complied with environmentally friendly building standards.

Lighting in and around the campus was switched to energy-saving LED lights. The University also replaced a number of appliances to more energy efficient ones. These include changing all air-conditioners to inverter split units; changing all refrigerators to energy-efficient ones; installing timers on boilers to reduce energy consumption as well as installing motion-triggered lights along corridors.

Water-efficient sanitary fittings were also installed in washrooms to minimize water consumption. These include the installation of bidets, self-closing tap system for hand-basins as well as mechanically controlled valves for urinal bowls.

The campus was also landscaped with draught-tolerant flora and wall plants.

Being part of the Sunway Group, Sunway University also adopted the water treatment plant in Sunway South Quay to supply water to its campus. The treated lake water is used for potable purposes.

# Prizes, Awards & Achievements



**Professor Datin Dr Chia Yoke Chin**, the Head for Department of Medical Sciences won Gold Prize for Oral Abstract Presentation at the Korean Society of Hypertension Conference held virtually.



**Professor Teo Kok Lay**, Associate Dean from School of Mathematical Sciences was awarded John Curtin Distinguished Emeritus Professor in recognition of distinguished service and commitment to academia and leadership in the mathematics discipline at Curtin University, Australia.



Sunway University Team B became the 1st runner-up in 2020/2021 CFA Institute Research Challenge – Local Finals. The team comprised BSc (Hons) in Actuarial Studies students **Matthew Goh Sek Foong**, **Gabriel Ng Zhu Liang** and **Nicholas Cheong Yeow Hoe** together with **Nikolas Adiprasetya** from BSc (Hons) in Accounting and Finance.



Teams mentored by **Mr. David Chong Boon Hean**, became the Champion and 3<sup>rd</sup> runner-up in the HSBC Malaysia Business Case Competition 2020.

The Champion Team was made up of students **Silas Roberts** (BSc (Hons) Financial Economics), **Lim Boon Toong** (BSc (Hons) Financial Analysis), **Nikolas Adiprasetya** (BSc (Hons) in Accounting and Finance) and **Bernice Chia Shi Le** (BSc (Hons) Global Supply Chain Management).

The 3<sup>rd</sup> runner-up team consists students **Khor Win Win** (BSc (Hons) Financial Economics), **Rachel Tan Kar-Lynn** (BSc (Hons) Financial Analysis), **Carmen Chong Jia Ming** (BSc (Hons) in Accounting and Finance) and **Chean Zi Yan** (BSc (Hons) Global Supply Chain Management).

The Champion Team representing Malaysia obtained 4<sup>th</sup> place (runner-up) and also won the 'Best Video' category at the HSBC/HKU Asia Pacific Business Case Competition 2020.





BSc (Hons) Financial Analysis students **Tan Ji Wei**, **Chong Hyu Hong** and **Lau Hui Fong** became Top 2 National Champions of CFA Society Malaysia's University Ethics Challenge 2020. The Sunway University Team was led by **Dr Jason Lee Kian Tek**.



Sunway University students **Alicia Tay Xin Jie**, **Chai Rhe Yeng** & **Christina Megan Liew Jun Min** (BSc (Hons) Culinary Management), **Amanda Cheah Pui Mun**, **Tsen Jun Yan** & **Ruknuddin Rosman** (Diploma in Culinary Arts), and alumnus **Syabella Sinatra** & **Pang Jin Yong** (BSc (Hons) Culinary Management) together with students from other institutions won Gold for Restaurant of Nations and Silver for IKA Buffet at IKA/Culinary Olympics 2020.



Lecturers, **Dr Eliza Berezina** and **Elaine Yong** from Department of Psychology won the Best Presentation Award at the 4th International Conference of Education and Multimedia Technology 2020 (ICEMT 2020).



**Muhammad Fahad Khan**, PhD in Computing (By Research) student supervised by **Professor Yau Kok Lim** won the Best Paper at 10th IEEE International Conference on Control Systems, Computing and Engineering (ICCSCE 2020).



MSc in Computer Science (By Research) student, **Rehan Shahid**, won 1st Prize in the AI Hackathon for building AI solution to combat COVID-19 pandemic organised by Skymind, Malaysia.



**Sheldon Chong** and **Alina Wong**, students of BA (Hons) Digital Film Production won the Jury Award at the UNIMAS 16th Mini Film Festival, for their short film 'With Love, Elaine. (2020)'.





**Teh Poh Leng** and **Boon San Sann** (Diploma in Graphic and Multimedia Design students) won the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize and 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up respectively in the Angpow Design Competition 2020 organised by the Hanzi Chinese Association in collaboration with Bank of China. BA (Hons) Design Communication students **Zainab Ahmed Adeem** won 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up and Best Creative Award, while **Kong Shi-Hui** won Most Likes in Social Media and Winner of RM888 Gold Plated Souvenir from Bank of China.



Diploma in Performing Arts students, **Koo Shao Hang**, **Lee Jin Jye**, **Lee Kah Er**, **Low Yee Choy**, **Mitrani Wong Hansern** and **Woo Cheek Lam** won 1<sup>st</sup> Prize for the Ripple Mobile Creative Content Contest 2020.



Senior Lecturer, **Dr Andrew Filmer** from Department of Film and Performing Arts was one of the excellent presenters at the 4th International Conference of Education and Multimedia Technology 2020 (ICEMT 2020).



Senior Lecturer, **Janice Wong Shiao Foong** from Centre for American Education won the Best Presentation at the 8th International Conference on Communications and Broadband Networking 2020 (ICCBN 2020).



Senior Teaching Fellow, **Devandran Apparasamy** from the Centre for American Education won the Best Pre-Recorded Video Award at the 1st International Conference on Biomass Utilization and Sustainable Energy 2020 (ICoBiomaseSE 2020).




Senior Teaching Fellow, **Dr Janitha Nadarajah** from the Centre for American Education won the Best Paper at the International Conference in Business, Economics, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Management 2020 (ICBESM 2020).

# SUNWAY UNIVERSITY DU025(B)

Owned and governed by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation

Registration no : 200701042913 (800946-T)

No. 5, Jalan Universiti, Sunway City, 47500 Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia

 +6 (03) 7491 8622

 [info@sunway.edu.my](mailto:info@sunway.edu.my)

 <https://university.sunway.edu.my/>

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Department

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Raja Amirul Azizi Raja Amir

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Erin Ng Yip Ching