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Connecting the Dots

The concept of "connecting the dots" is crucial in higher education, as it highlights the importance of diverse experiences and interdisciplinary learning. Often, students enter college or university with a specific major in mind, but it's through exposure to various subjects and activities that they discover their true passions and strengths. Each course, internship, and extracurricular activity represents a "dot" that contributes to their broader educational and personal development.

For example, a student majoring in computer science might take an elective in graphic design, not knowing how it will fit into their career. Later, this seemingly unrelated course might inspire them to develop user-friendly software interfaces, blending their technical skills with artistic sensibilities. Another student might engage

in community service, which fosters empathy and leadership, traits that are invaluable in any profession.

Higher education institutions play a pivotal role by providing a rich tapestry of opportunities for students to explore. Encouraging a mindset that values curiosity and flexibility enables students to see the interconnectedness of their experiences. This approach not only prepares them for specific careers but also equips them with the adaptability needed in an ever-changing job market.

Ultimately, connecting the dots in higher education is about trusting the process and recognising that every experience has the potential to shape one's future. It encourages students to be open-minded and to embrace the unpredictable nature of their educational journey, knowing that the connections will become apparent over time.

At DISTED College, we foster opportunities for students to connect these dots through formal classes, informal activities beyond the classroom, and numerous outreach initiatives.

Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair
President

连接成线

在高等教育中，“连点成线”的概念至关重要，因为它强调了多样化体验和跨学科学习的重要性。学生通常带着特定的职业目标进入大学或学院，但正是通过接触各种学科和活动，他们才能发现自己的兴趣和潜力。每一门课程、实习和课外活动都代表着一个“点”，这些“点”共同促进了他们更广泛的教育和个人发展。

例如，计算机科学专业的学生可能选修平面设计课程，尽管一开始并不清楚这门课与他们未来的职业有何关联。但后来，这门看似不相关的课程可能会启发他们开发用户友好的软件界面，将他们的技术技能与艺术感融为一体。另一个学生可能会参与社区服务，从而培养同理心和领导力，这些特质在任何职业中都是无价之宝。

高等教育机构在为学生提供丰富多彩的探索机会方面发挥着关键作用。鼓励学生树立重视好奇心和灵活性的态度，使他们能够看到自身经历的内在联系。这种方法不仅可以为学生从事特定职业做好准备，还可以培养他们在瞬息万变的就业市场中所需要的适应能力。

归根结底，高等教育中的“连点成线”在于信任这个过程，并认识到每一次经历都有可能塑造一个人的未来。这鼓励学生保持开放的心态，接受教育旅程中不可预测的特性，并相信这些联系将随着时间的推移变得明显。

在立达学院，我们通过正式课程、课外活动和各种拓展项目，帮助学生建立这些“连点成线”。

(Mandarin Translator, Ms. Tan Pei Shi, Lecturer, School of Business and Hospitality)



Discover DISTED Day



A Celebration of Learning and Adventure!

On June 10th, 2024, DISTED College hosted the Discover DISTED Day, an event designed to blend education with engaging activities, fostering camaraderie among students. This exciting day was packed with sessions and activities aimed at enhancing essential skills while providing a platform for students to connect and collaborate.

The day kicked off with a session titled "Essential Skills for Photographers," where students were introduced to the fundamentals of photography. This workshop covered everything from composition and lighting to camera settings, equipping aspiring photographers with the knowledge needed to capture stunning images.

After the photography session, students attended "Unlock Your Future: The Power of College Education." This inspirational talk emphasised the importance of higher education in shaping careers and personal development. During the session, students were invited to the front to share their thoughts on assigned topics, and they performed admirably.

Adding a twist of adventure to the day, students participated in a thrilling scavenger hunt. Armed with a list of clues, participants roamed the campus, deciphering hints and capturing photographs of the hidden items. This activity not only tested their problem-solving skills but also encouraged teamwork and creativity.

The final session, "App-tastic Adventures: Fun Basics of MIT App Inventor," introduced students to the world of mobile app development. They learned the basics of the MIT App Inventor platform and created a simple app to upload and share the photos taken during the scavenger hunt. This hands-on experience provided a glimpse into the realm of app development, sparking interest in technology and innovation.

The event concluded with a prize-giving ceremony, celebrating the efforts and achievements of the participants. Discover DISTED Day was a resounding success, leaving students with new skills, cherished memories, and a strengthened sense of community. The blend of learning and interactive activities made it a truly memorable event for all involved.

Seethai Subramaniam
Head, School of Computing and Engineering



Halal

Goes Global: A New Engine for Sustainable Growth?



Nur Aisya Najwa
Lecturer, School of
Business and Hospitality

The halal economy, encompassing products and services that comply with Islamic law, is booming. Forget just food - think halal cosmetics free of animal-derived ingredients, Islamic finance that avoids interest, or even Muslim-friendly tourism with prayer facilities and alcohol-free options. This sector, already valued at a staggering US\$7.7 trillion, is projected to surge further.

The economic impact of the halal industry is undeniable. Countries like Malaysia, a leader in halal certification, have seen significant gross domestic product (GDP) contributions from the halal industry. The potential goes beyond Muslim-majority nations. Broadening the range of halal products available in supermarkets and retailers can be a strategic move. By stocking halal-certified food and personal care items, businesses can not only better serve their existing Muslim customer base but also entice new ones.

Additionally, investing in innovation within halal logistics and certification processes presents an opportunity for businesses to excel. Developing proficiency in halal supply chain management and certification can position them as central hubs for halal exports to predominantly Muslim nations.

Halal products often prioritise ethical sourcing and sustainability, which resonates with a broader audience seeking conscious consumption. The future of halal lies in innovation. Fintech companies are developing Shariah-compliant financial products. We might even see the rise of "halal tech" - technologies adhering to Islamic principles, like AI solutions that avoid biases based on religion.

One thing is for sure! Halal is no longer a niche market. It has become a powerful economic force with the potential to shape a more inclusive and sustainable global economy. Students at DISTED College apply their economic knowledge to address transformative topics that are reshaping the world.

Upholding Academic Excellence at the 24th Asian Physics Olympiad



The ASIAN Physics Olympiad (APhO) is a notable event that gathers secondary school students from the ASIAN region to showcase their abilities in physics. It challenges students' theoretical and practical physics skills, encouraging a friendly rivalry and cooperation among participants from different countries.

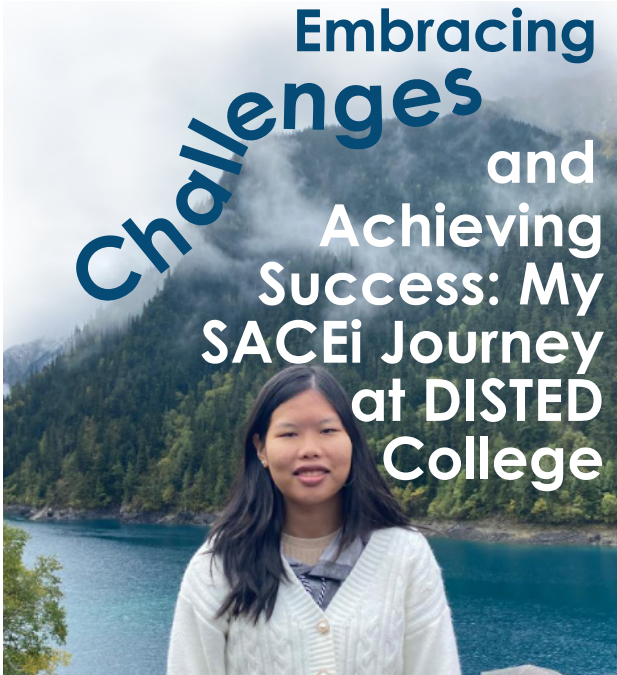
The 24th Asian Physics Olympiad (APhO) was successfully hosted by the Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), Kampar campus, in Perak, Malaysia, from June 3rd to June 10th, 2024. This marked a historic moment for Malaysia, as it was the nation's inaugural opportunity to host this prestigious competition. A total of 28 teams from 27 countries participated in the APhO 2024, showcasing the event's international appeal and significance in the field of physics.

Dr. Tan Fuyi, a Physics lecturer from DISTED College, was honored with the appointment as one of the markers and moderators for the event. Dr. Tan's extensive expertise and experience in physics were instrumental in ensuring the competition's academic integrity and fairness. His involvement underscores the commitment of our institution to contribute to the advancement of physics education and research on an international platform.

This competition is linked to a wider series of science Olympiads, including the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO), which is the highest level of international competition for individual students in the field of physics. Success in regional Olympiads such as the ASEAN Physics Olympiad can lead to students being selected to compete on behalf of their country at the IPhO.



Tan Fuyi
Senior Lecturer, School of
Pre-University Studies



DISTED College offers a diverse range of study paths tailored for high school graduates, each catering to different academic interests. I chose the SACEi programme for its one-year duration and balanced mix of assignments and examinations. Through research, report drafting, and presentations, I've gained valuable experiences that deepen my understanding of the study materials. Embracing these challenges has elevated my thinking to new heights.

To manage my assignment deadlines effectively, I meticulously organise my schedule, prioritising tasks to minimise procrastination. I believe that giving my best effort and seeking assistance when needed are fundamental to succeeding in SACEi. I am grateful to my lecturers for their unwavering guidance and support throughout my SACEi journey. I also extend my heartfelt appreciation to DISTED for awarding me a generous scholarship, which has enabled me to pursue my education here.

Renee Tay Jia Xin

Top ATAR Achiever in SACEi Northern Hemisphere Examination for April 2024



Unraveling the Mysteries of Psy- chological Resilience: Insights for Engaged Student Learning

Understanding psychological resilience enriches our personal lives and enhances academic success and student engagement within psychology. By integrating resilience into the curriculum, DISTED empowers students to develop effective coping strategies, foster supportive environments, and enhance their own academic success and personal well-being.

Resilience, defined as the ability to bounce back from adversity, is a multifaceted concept that intersects with various domains of psychology, including cognitive, social, and developmental psychology. In the context of student engagement, exploring resilience offers valuable insights into how individuals cope with academic challenges, stressors, and setbacks. By delving into factors such as coping strategies, mindset, and social support networks, educators can foster environments that promote resilience and enhance student learning experiences. Indeed, understanding resilience provides a framework for addressing issues like burnout and mental health concerns among students, ensuring their well-being remains a priority in educational settings.

From a broader perspective, resilience serves as a bridge between theory and practice in psychology, encouraging students to apply their knowledge to real-world scenarios. By examining case studies and empirical research on resilience, students gain a deeper appreciation for the complexities of human behavior and psychological processes. Ultimately, exploring psychological resilience not only enriches our understanding of human nature but also equips students with essential skills for navigating challenges both inside and outside the classroom. As we unravel the mysteries of resilience, we pave the way for engaged student learning and broader applications within the field of psychology.

Thiresyinie A/P Tamil Chelvam
Lecturer, School of Psychology

