

# D S C O U R S E

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## DISTED and the 50 Year George Town Adelaide Sister City Celebration

DISTED College has played a pivotal role in strengthening the George Town-Adelaide sister city relationship, fostering cultural and educational exchange.

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### Remarks from the President

The George Town—Adelaide Sister City relationship is immensely important for a college like DISTED, fostering a rich exchange of cultural, educational, and economic benefits. This partnership provides our students with unparalleled opportunities for international exposure through programs like the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) International. It enhances the academic experience by facilitating student and faculty exchanges, joint academic programs, and collaborative research, broadening our educational horizons and standards.

Additionally, this relationship strengthens our global network, enabling DISTED to collaborate with esteemed institutions like the University of Adelaide. Such alliances not only raise the college's academic profile but also ensure our students receive a world-class education, making them more competitive in the global job market and a source of pride for our institution. With the merger of the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia to form Adelaide University, the opportunities for DISTED students to continue their higher education journey are greatly enhanced.

Overall, the George Town – Adelaide partnership embodies the spirit of international cooperation and cultural exchange, promoting a more inclusive, innovative, and resilient academic community that can benefit DISTED College.



Prof. Dr.  
Vikneswaran Nair  
President

**Cover  
Story**

## DISTED and the 50-Year George Town – Adelaide Sister City Celebration



On August 10, 2024, the 50th Anniversary of the George Town—Adelaide Sister City Relationship was celebrated at the Penang Institute, organised by the Penang Island City Council (MBPP). The event was graced by Adelaide Lord Mayor, Honourable Jane Lomax Smith, and Penang Mayor, Dato' Ir. Rajendra P. Anthony. It concluded with a grand dinner featuring cultural performances showcasing Penang and Malaysia's rich heritage.

The sister-city relationship between George Town and Adelaide, established on December 8, 1973, has deep historical roots dating back to British colonial origins. This connection originates from the bond between George Town's founder, Francis Light, and Martina Rozells, and their son, Colonel William Light, who founded Adelaide. The relationship was formalised through the efforts of South Australia's Premier Don Dunstan and Penang Chief Minister Tun Dr. Lim Chong Eu, with significant contributions from Dunstan's fiancée, Penang-born Adele Koh.

Over the years, this relationship has facilitated numerous cultural exchanges, economic cooperation, and mutual understanding. Key initiatives have included cultural programmes such as art exhibitions, music and dance performances, and culinary events highlighting each city's unique heritage. Educational institutions in both cities have developed partnerships that include student and faculty exchanges, joint academic programmes, and collaborative research, enriching educational experiences in both George Town and Adelaide.

DISTED College has been a key player in nurturing this relationship. As a pioneer in offering the South Australian Matriculation programme since 1987, later renamed the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACEi) International, DISTED has enabled students to articulate into various universities in Australia and beyond. This collaboration ensures students from Penang receive a high-quality education that meets international standards.

DISTED's advanced standing arrangement with the University of Adelaide for the Foundation, Diploma in Computer Science, and Psychology programs further strengthens the relationship with South Australia. Under the StudyAdelaide programme, Dr. Tan Sze Hooi of DISTED travelled to Adelaide to experience the education and lifestyle opportunities it offers.

Through its active involvement, DISTED College has solidified the bond between the two cities, exemplifying the enduring value of international cooperation and cultural exchange. This partnership serves as a model for global partnerships, promoting sustainable development, shared prosperity, and collaboration in building inclusive, innovative, and resilient communities.

Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair  
President





## Enhancing Web Design Skills: A Workshop on Creating Websites with Wix

In today's digital era, web design proficiency is invaluable for students, enhancing technical skills, creativity, and critical thinking. Recognising this, an engaging workshop titled "Website Designing with Wix" was hosted on June 25th, 2024, for e-Commerce course participants from DISTED's Foundation and Diploma programme. The hour-long workshop aimed to equip students with essential web design skills. The session introduced website design fundamentals and the importance of a user-friendly platform like Wix for simplifying web development. Key design principles, including layout, color schemes, and user experience, were discussed. A live demonstration of the Wix interface guided students through selecting and customising templates, with external resources provided for further learning. The interactive workshop encouraged students to share their experiences, fostering a collaborative learning environment. Overall, it successfully blended theory and practice, leaving students better equipped to tackle web design challenges with confidence and creativity.

Kaushalya A/P Tinakaran  
 Lecturer, School of Computing & Engineering



## Career Pathways in Auditing: Understanding the Roles and Demands of Internal and External Auditors

In Malaysia, the demand for internal and external auditors remain strong, with external audit demand often higher due to the broader range of entities requiring regulatory compliance and transparency. Internal auditors focus on evaluating internal controls, assessing risks, and ensuring regulatory compliance within an organisation. In contrast, external auditors independently examine financial statements to provide opinions on their accuracy, crucial for stakeholders like investors and regulatory bodies. The roles require different skills: internal auditors need strong analytical abilities and a deep understanding of risk management, while external auditors require critical thinking, judgment, and knowledge of accounting principles. Accounting students must understand these differences to make informed career choices. At DISTED, our accounting programmes aim to develop students into proficient auditors, equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge for successful careers.

Tong Pei Sun  
 Senior Lecturer, School of Business and Hospitality



## DISTED Welcomes Dr. Beatrice Loo of Xiamen University Malaysia

DISTED College recently welcomed Associate Professor Dr. Poh Theng (Beatrice) Loo from Xiamen University Malaysia. Dr. Beatrice, an alumna of Taylor's University, was previously a student of Prof. Vikneswaran Nair. She holds a PhD in Hospitality and Tourism from Taylor's University, Malaysia. Dr. Beatrice lectures in Marketing Management, Consumer Behaviour, Services Marketing, and Services and Relationship Marketing at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and has extensive teaching experience in hospitality-related courses. In addition to her academic role, Dr. Beatrice has worked as a consultant for food and beverage companies, including chain restaurants. She conducts online consultations, training, and workshops quarterly for entrepreneurs, focusing on planning and managing food and beverage business start-ups, running and managing business and service operations efficiently, and planning, managing, and evaluating marketing and sales aspects.

## Empowering Global Education: A Recap of the 'GO! Overseas Education Fair' at DISTED College

On August 5, 2024, DISTED College, in collaboration with AUG Student Services, hosted the 'GO! Overseas Education Fair' at the Heritage Hall. The event attracted students interested in pursuing tertiary education abroad, featuring prominent Australian universities like The University of Sydney, UNSW Sydney, and The University of Melbourne, alongside local institutions such as Taylor's University and Monash University Malaysia. The fair allowed students to engage directly with university representatives, clarifying doubts about education and career pathways, and gaining valuable insights into admission requirements, tuition fees, and student grants. The concise prospectuses provided by each university made it easy for students to absorb essential information, while interactive sessions with representatives further enhanced the experience. Overall, the event was a success, motivating students to explore their ambitions of studying overseas with a clearer understanding of their educational options.



Sea Yun Xuan  
 DISTED Discourse Student Editor  
 Student of Cambridge A-Level

## Engaging and Inclusive Sports Games for Children with Special Needs

On August 17th, DISTED Psychology students and members of the Boys' Brigade volunteered at a special needs children's sports day organised by the Penang Shine Like Stars Association at the DISTED Heritage Hall. The event provided an enriching opportunity for volunteers to connect with the children and foster an inclusive environment. Activities were tailored to accommodate various abilities, ensuring that every child could participate and enjoy the day. Volunteers guided and encouraged the children, promoting teamwork, social interaction, and self-confidence. The psychology

students gained valuable real-world experience, deepening their understanding of inclusivity and compassion. The supportive efforts of volunteers, organisers, and participants made the event a memorable success, emphasising the importance of community support and creating a joyful experience for everyone involved.

Teoh Ker Hsin  
 Programme Lead, School of Psychology



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the  
**FULL**  
 article

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