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DISCOURSE

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- **Think** Pink and Learn How Early Detection Can Save Lives This Breast Cancer Awareness Month

The DISTED Photography Club's first sunrise outing at Penang Hill, brought together students and lecturers to capture dawn's beauty, enjoy nature, and foster camaraderie over photography and scenic exploration.

Sunrise Photography Outing at Penang Hill: A Memorable First Adventure for DISTED Photography Club

Remarks


 from the
President

Congratulations to the DISTED Photography Club on a memorable first sunrise photography outing at Penang Hill! This outing highlights the unique value of projects like these, which go beyond classroom learning. They offer students and lecturers the chance to step outside traditional settings, allowing everyone to explore their creativity, practice hands-on skills, and grow personally. As we gathered to capture the beauty of dawn over Penang Hill, we were reminded of how these experiences deepen our connection to our craft and each other.

Such projects are invaluable for developing skills like adaptability as we work with changing light and natural landscapes. They foster camaraderie, bringing students and faculty together in shared excitement and discovery, building bonds beyond the classroom. These experiences also enhance our connection to nature, inspiring us to appreciate and preserve the beauty around us.

I am proud of each participant for embracing this opportunity enthusiastically and openly. This event has strengthened our passion for photography and enriched our community spirit. Let this outing be a stepping stone to more adventures where we continue to grow, learn, and create memories together. Here's to future projects that unite us, nurture our creativity, and keep the spirit of exploration alive!

Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair
 President

Cover
Story

Sunrise Photography Outing at Penang Hill: A Memorable First Adventure for DISTED Photography Club

On October 19th, 2024, the DISTED Photography Club (DPC) organised a sunrise photography outing at Penang Hill. The event was open to all college members, and a total of 25 students participated, accompanied by three lecturers from the School of Engineering and Computing—Mr. Zaki Zakaria, Mr. Luqman Aliff, and Ms. Khairul Nisa.

The group gathered at Penang Hill Lower Station at 6:00 a.m. and purchased tickets for the funicular service to Penang Hill Upper Station, taking advantage of the RM5 sunrise rate. By 6:30 a.m., they boarded the funicular and began their journey up the hill.

Members were encouraged to bring their own photography equipment, whether cameras or smartphones, to capture the sunrise. As the first light of dawn broke over Penang Hill, excitement filled the air. Participants eagerly set up their devices, ready to capture the stunning skyline as it transformed into a vibrant display of colours. The sunrise bathed the landscape in warm hues, bringing Penang to life and illuminating the faces of everyone present.

The group then, embarked on a nature walk around Penang Hill. The cool weather made the day perfect for exploration, with laughter echoing through the trees as they followed scenic paths. Along the way, they encountered playful monkeys swinging from tree to tree, friendly dogs wagging their tails, and curious cats roaming among the flowers. The group made their way to Kopi Hutan, a cozy café nestled within the lush greenery of Monkey Cup Garden, where they took a well-deserved break and enjoyed a few drinks.

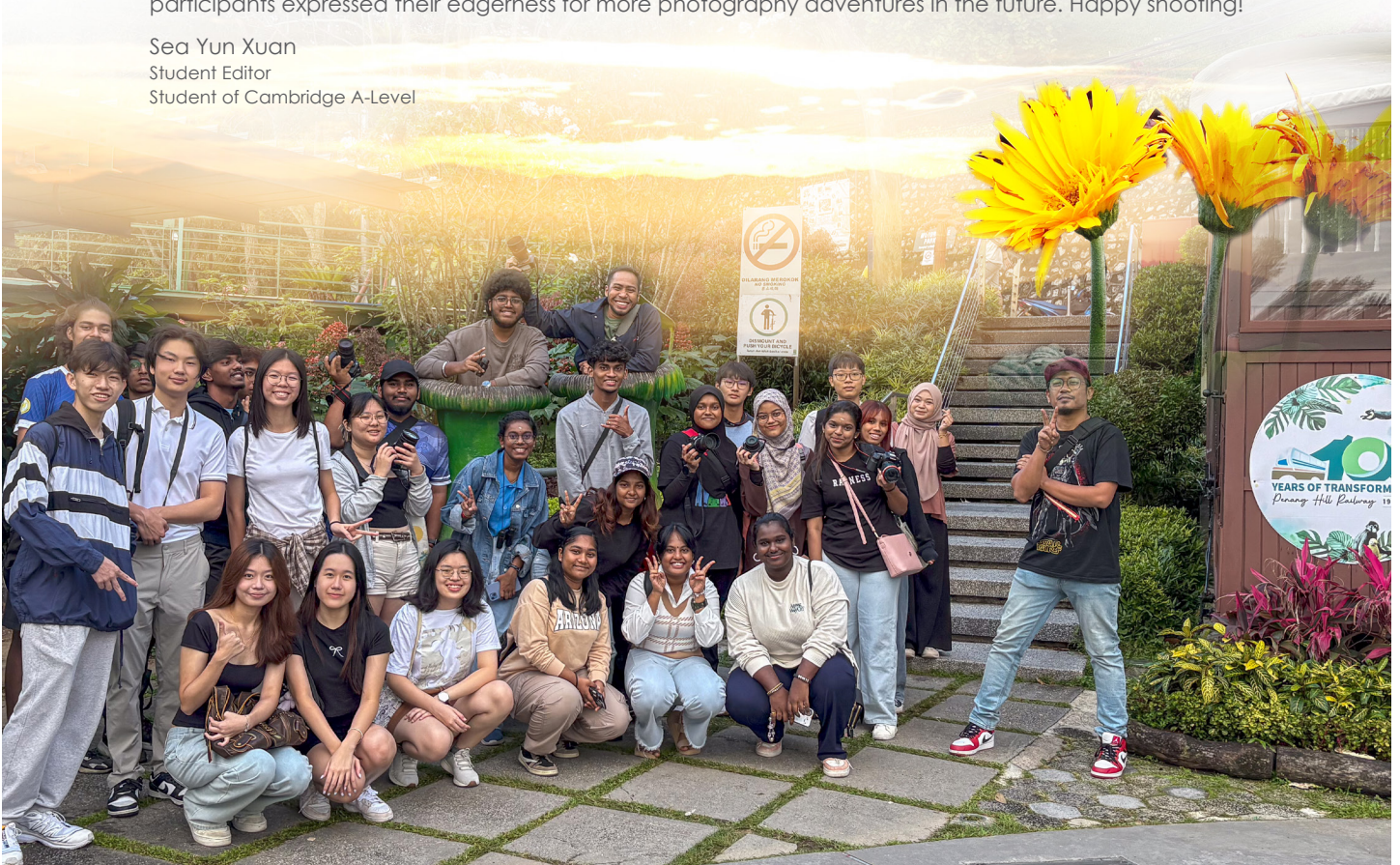
As the outing concluded, the participants felt a deep sense of satisfaction. The beauty of the sunrise not only enhanced their appreciation of nature but also strengthened their passion for photography. Through shared experiences and engaging discussions, members forged closer relationships.

To cap off the day, several group photos were taken to commemorate the success of the DPC's first outing. The club extended its gratitude to the committee members who organised the event, and the participants expressed their eagerness for more photography adventures in the future. Happy shooting!

Sea Yun Xuan

Student Editor

Student of Cambridge A-Level



Synergy Between IT and E-Commerce: A Foundation for Innovation and Growth

The rapid advancement of information technology (IT) has significantly contributed to the growth of e-commerce. Technological innovations have transformed e-commerce—from a niche activity into a global industry—making online buying and selling more accessible and efficient. As part of their e-commerce course, Foundation in Science students at DISTED have applied their learning to develop posters showcasing their start-up business ideas. These students must utilise the knowledge gained in lectures to launch and manage their own online stores. The introduction of technologies like HTML and secure socket layer (SSL) encryption facilitated the emergence of online stores and secure online transactions during the early stages of the internet. Students also recognise the reciprocal relationship between e-commerce and IT, acknowledging how e-commerce has driven IT innovations. To meet the growing consumer demand for faster, more secure, and personalised shopping experiences, IT has developed increasingly sophisticated technologies. In short, e-commerce and IT continue to evolve side by side, fuelling each other's growth and innovation.

Nurul Annisa Binti Azhar

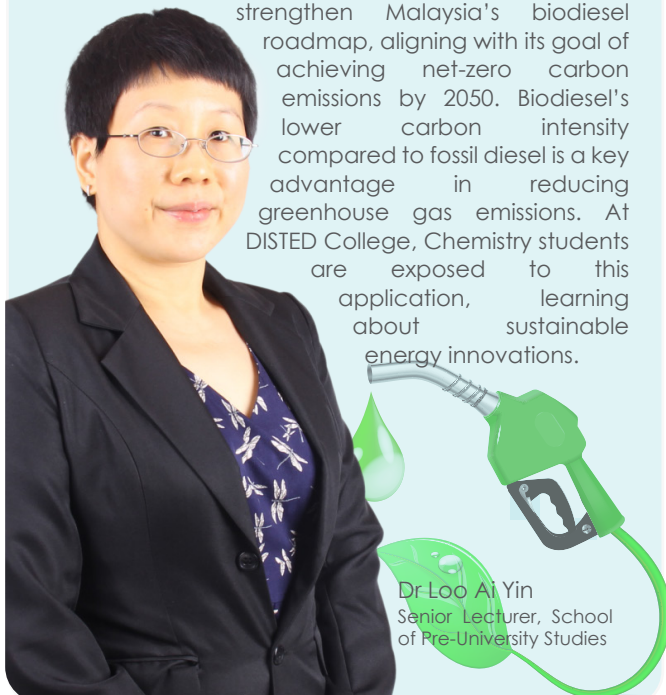
Lecturer, School of Computing and Engineering



Advancing Sustainable Energy: Malaysia's Biodiesel Potential and Policy Shift

Biodiesel and ethanol are prominent biofuels globally, but Malaysia focuses solely on biodiesel production due to limited feasibility for ethanol. With abundant palm oil resources, biodiesel offers Malaysia a path to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Previously, heavy diesel subsidies made biodiesel less attractive due to its higher production costs. However, as subsidies have been lifted, biodiesel is now cost-competitive with fossil diesel, priced at around RM3.35 per liter. The government's introduction of the B20 program, which mandates a 20% blend of palm-based biodiesel in diesel for transportation, supports a shift toward cleaner energy. This policy provides a chance to

strengthen Malaysia's biodiesel roadmap, aligning with its goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Biodiesel's lower carbon intensity compared to fossil diesel is a key advantage in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. At DISTED College, Chemistry students are exposed to this application, learning about sustainable energy innovations.



Dr Loo Ai Yin
Senior Lecturer, School of Pre-University Studies

Essential Skills for Effective Project Management

In today's dynamic business landscape, project management is essential for achieving organisational goals, as projects often involve complex tasks and cross-functional collaboration. Effective project managers are highly valued, especially with technological advancements driving rapid change. Key skills include strong interpersonal abilities, which are critical for assembling the right team, fostering motivation, and ensuring smooth communication. Managing stakeholder expectations, resource negotiation, and conflict resolution are also vital for project success. At DISTED College, students acquire both theoretical and practical project management skills by engaging in real-world business projects. This hands-on approach not only strengthens their technical and strategic abilities but also prepares them to meet workplace challenges effectively. By graduation, they possess the project management expertise needed to excel in their careers, giving them a competitive edge in the job market. Practical experience in project management thus proves invaluable as students transition into professional roles.

Elaine Chan
Senior Lecturer,
School of Business & Hospitality





Educational Visit to SPRM Penang: Students Gain Insight into Anti-Corruption Efforts and Public Integrity

On 6th November 2024, 29 students and three lecturers from DISTED College visited the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (SPRM) in Penang for an insightful educational experience. The highlight was a session led by Tuan Delvider Singh, an officer with over 20 years of service, who provided an in-depth overview of anti-corruption strategies, the commission's challenges, and real-life case studies highlighting the role of integrity in governance. Students actively participated in discussions, gaining a better understanding of law enforcement complexities and exploring career paths in public integrity and ethical practices. Additionally, they toured significant SPRM facilities, including the OKT (Orang Kena Tahan) detention area and the Investigation Audio Room (Kontí Penyiasatan), guided by Investigation Officer Puan Atikah. This visit offered students a unique perspective on the critical work involved in upholding ethics and transparency in Malaysia.

Noriah Kallanjiam
Lecturer, School of Language and Communication

Think Pink and Learn How Early Detection Can Save Lives This Breast Cancer Awareness Month



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time to spotlight a disease that affects millions globally. Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women and one of the leading causes of death. In Malaysia, one in 19 women is at risk, underlining the importance of awareness and early detection. Early detection drastically improves survival rates, with nearly 90% surviving Stage 1 but less than 25% at Stage 4. High-income countries see 9 out of 10 breast cancer patients surviving beyond 10 years, while in Malaysia, only 5 out of 10 reach this mark, mainly due to late detection and limited treatment access. Let's remember, it's never too early to prioritise health. Regular self-examinations and encouraging others to stay vigilant about breast health can save lives. This month, let's take action to support one another and raise awareness, reinforcing the critical message: early detection is key.

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Lecturer & Counselor, School of Psychology

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