

Weekly  
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**DISTED DISCOURSE**

**DISTED**  
COLLEGE  
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As we approach the festive season, **DISTED Discourse**, our beloved weekly publication with an impressive milestone of **95 issues** since its inception on **24th February 2023**, will take a well-deserved **two-week break**. The next issue will return, refreshed and insightful, on **10th January 2025**. The Management of DISTED College wishes everyone a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2025**, filled with joy, peace, and unforgettable moments. Thank you for your support, and see you in the new year!



## Asia Pearson Test of English (PTE) Partners Summit 2024

The Summit celebrated collaboration, recognised achievements, and unveiled exciting initiatives for the future of English language learning in Asia.

### Week's Best Titles

- Asia Pearson Test of English (PTE) Partners Summit 2024
- Wrapping up 2024, Welcoming 2025 Pearson's PTE
- Transform Your 2025: The Art of Intentional Goal Setting
- Empowering Education Through Ethical AI Usage
- It's Year-End, and Appraisal Season is Here!
- Discover the True Meaning of Christmas: A Season of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love
- Welcoming Our New Team Members to the Finance, ITMS Department & School of Business & Hospitality
- Celebrating Excellence in Visual Arts and Academic Achievement!
- DISTED Science Club Appreciation Lunch: A Celebration of Science and Collaboration
- Colloquium 2024: Inspiring Minds and Advancing Psychology



### Remarks from the President

Prof. Dr.  
Vikneswaran Nair  
President

I was privileged to attend the Asia PTE Partners Summit 2024 on 12th December 2024 in Kuala Lumpur. At the prestigious event, DISTED College was honoured for its decade-long Partnership Award and recognised as a member of the PTE Elite Partner Programme.

As we reflect on the growing importance of English language proficiency in shaping academic and professional success, the Pearson Test of English (PTE) has emerged as a vital tool in equipping students with the skills needed to thrive in an interconnected, globalised world. At DISTED College, we recognise the value of PTE in empowering students to access opportunities in higher education and beyond.

For years, DISTED has been committed to nurturing talent and preparing students for the demands of a competitive international landscape. Our collaboration with Pearson has allowed us to integrate world-class tools and resources into our curriculum, ensuring that our students achieve the required proficiency and gain confidence and the ability to communicate effectively in diverse contexts.

PTE goes beyond language assessment; it represents a gateway to growth and achievement. It gives our students the credentials to pursue global aspirations in academia or the workforce. At DISTED, we are proud to be part of this transformative journey, supporting learners in achieving their goals through quality education and strong partnerships. DISTED College remains dedicated to fostering excellence, innovation, and collaboration as we move forward. Together with initiatives like PTE, we continue to empower students to reach new heights and contribute meaningfully to the world.

Cover  
StoryAsia Pearson Test of English (PTE)  
Partners Summit 2024

On December 12, 2024, the Asia PTE Partners Summit 2024 was held at the Sentral Ballroom, Hilton Kuala Lumpur, bringing together partners, educators, and stakeholders from across the region. Hosted by Pearson Tests of English (PTE), the event celebrated the year's achievements and was a platform to outline strategic plans for 2025. DISTED College was honoured with the 10 Years of Partnership Award and recognised as a member of the PTE Elite Partner Programme.

The evening commenced with a cocktail reception, allowing attendees to connect, share experiences, and build meaningful relationships. This was followed by keynote addresses from prominent speakers, including Giovanni Giovannelli, President of English Language Learning at Pearson, who emphasised the importance of partnerships in advancing English language proficiency. Matthew Lampkin, Director of PTE Asia, reflected on the program's 2024 successes and presented strategies for 2025. Guy Perring, Regional Director for Etio, and Hon. Phil Honeywood, CEO of the International Education Association of Australia, offered valuable insights into global education trends and the international education landscape.

A key highlight of the event was the launch of the "Beyond PTE" initiative, showcasing Pearson's commitment to supporting students' academic and career journeys through innovative tools. The Awards Ceremony honoured the outstanding achievements of top-performing PTE partners across Asia, followed by a sumptuous dinner that fostered camaraderie among attendees. Liz O'Neill, Senior Director of Product Management, shared updates on new initiatives and resources designed to empower partners and enhance their ability to support students worldwide.

The Summit celebrated 2024's achievements and reaffirmed Pearson's dedication to innovation and partnership, leaving attendees inspired and ready to embrace the opportunities of 2025.

Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran  
Nair  
President



DISTED President, receiving the Award from Ms. Cheah Su Ming, Senior Key Account Manager, PTE Academic (Malaysia)





## Wrapping up 2024, Welcoming 2025 Pearson's PTE

“Pearson PTE has cemented its reputation as a leading English language testing provider at DISTED, achieving remarkable milestones in 2024. With over a decade of excellence, Pearson PTE offers a diverse range of assessments, including the renowned PTE English exam and GenericVUE corporate exams. This year witnessed significant growth in test participation, reflecting the rising demand for standardised English testing to enhance career prospects. Focused on improving facilities and the test-taking experience, Pearson PTE has become the preferred choice for students and professionals alike. As 2024 concludes, Pearson PTE's commitment to delivering exceptional services and resources remains steadfast, positioning it as a key player in the educational landscape. Looking ahead to 2025, the brand aims to expand its offerings further, ensuring every test taker is equipped for success.

With optimism and dedication, Pearson PTE anticipates a future of continued growth and achievement at DISTED.”



Noriah Kallanjiam  
Lecturer, School of Language  
and Communication

## Transform Your 2025: The Art of Intentional Goal Setting

“To make 2025 a year of clarity, focus, and meaningful achievements, embrace intentional goal setting with a clear plan. Goals should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound (SMART). This method turns aspirations into actionable steps. For example, instead of saying, “I want to be healthier,” reframe it as, “I will exercise for 30 minutes, five times a week, for the next three months.” Breaking larger goals into smaller, manageable steps makes them less daunting and creates momentum. For instance, writing a book can begin with outlining chapters, followed by writing 500 words daily. Flexibility is key—setbacks are inevitable, but they don't mean failure. Adjust your approach when needed, and avoid being overly critical of yourself. Celebrate progress along the way, no matter how small, as every step forward builds confidence and motivation. Recognising your achievements, such as completing a task or hitting a milestone, reinforces your commitment. Start 2025 by asking what you truly want to achieve. Create an intentional vision, break it into actionable steps, and commit to steady progress. Goal setting isn't about pressure; it's about empowering yourself to design the life you want. Success comes from consistent effort, so take the first step today.”



Siti Nur Ayunie Binti Zawawi  
Lecturer, School of Language & Communication





## Empowering Education Through Ethical AI Usage

“Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming education by enhancing teaching and learning experiences. AI aids in information gathering, customising lessons, and providing timely feedback on assignments. Interactive applications offer students platforms to improve knowledge, writing skills, and other competencies. However, ethical considerations and a balanced approach are crucial for its effective use in classrooms. At DISTED College, AI is treated as a complement to critical thinking and creativity, not a substitute. Tools like ChatGPT, Grammarly, and language translation apps support students in brainstorming ideas, refining writing, and tackling complex topics. Educators also use AI to design engaging, personalised lesson plans. Still, verifying the accuracy of AI-generated content is essential. Over-reliance on AI can hinder the development of independent research and creative thinking. Copy-pasting AI content without adaptation risks plagiarism. A balanced approach encourages innovation and accountability, fostering an educational environment that values both technology and critical skills.”

Seethai Subramaniam  
Head, School of Computing and Engineering

## It's Year-End, and Appraisal Season is Here!

“As the year ends, appraisals become a key focus for organisations, including DISTED College, offering an opportunity to motivate, engage, and inspire employee growth. A fair appraisal process starts with clear expectations, aligning goals and key performance indicators (KPIs) to ensure objective and meaningful assessments. Balancing constructive feedback with recognition of achievements, particularly those significantly impacting the organisation, creates a motivating and positive experience. Specific examples should replace vague critiques to provide actionable and fair feedback. Appraisals should also be a two-way conversation, allowing employees to share challenges, successes, and aspirations, fostering mutual understanding and trust. Most importantly, appraisals should emphasise growth, concluding with actionable steps that encourage continuous development. By adopting a transparent, empathetic, and balanced approach, appraisals can empower employees and drive progress, transforming the process into a constructive and rewarding experience for all.”



Vilashini Kandaiah  
Lecturer, School of Pre-University Studies

## Discover the True Meaning of Christmas: A Season of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

“Christmas, celebrated on December 25th, is often marked by gift exchanges, Santa Claus, parties, and holidays. However, its deeper essence lies in the celebration of Jesus Christ's birth, embodying hope, peace, joy, and love—virtues that enrich life beyond material gifts. Hope offers light in dark times, reminding us that challenges will pass and inspiring faith in brighter days. Peace, amidst the chaos of modern life, invites us to pause, practice understanding, and prioritise others, fostering inner calm. Joy, rooted in gratitude, thrives beyond fleeting happiness, offering cheerfulness even in difficult circumstances. Love, the greatest gift, goes beyond emotion, manifesting in selfless actions that bring lasting fulfillment. This Christmas, let these virtues fill our hearts and homes. May they inspire us to live the spirit of Christmas daily, embracing its true meaning as a season of transformation and profound connection.”

Tan Sue Lin  
Deputy Head, School of Business and Hospitality





## Welcoming Our New Team Members to the Finance, ITMS Department & School of Business & Hospitality

We are pleased to introduce Siti Sumaiyah and Ashley Lew Xi Min, who have recently joined the Finance Department at DISTED College. We are also delighted to introduce Lim Hao Zhi, who has recently transitioned from an IT Intern to a valued IT Support Team member at DISTED College's ITMS Department. Welcome also goes to Sharizan Binti Abdul Rashid, the new lecturer from the School of Business & Hospitality, an ACCA-qualified professional with over 20 years of experience in finance and auditing. Their skills, knowledge, and enthusiasm will surely be an asset to our team!

Ashley joins DISTED as a Trainee in the Finance Department. With a Bachelor's Degree in Law, Ashley brings a fresh and unique perspective as she explores the dynamic world of finance. Ashley is passionate about bridging her legal expertise with practical finance knowledge, making the most of this opportunity to deepen her understanding of financial processes. Beyond her role in the Finance Department, Ashley is also embarking on an exciting teaching journey, where she will share her knowledge of Business Law with DISTED students. Ashley views her time at DISTED as a meaningful step forward: *"This opportunity allows me to explore new horizons, contribute to the college community, and develop both personally and professionally."*

Ashley Lew Xi Min  
– Finance Trainee

Siti Sumaiyah is excited to be part of the Finance Department at DISTED College. She brings confidence, dedication, and valuable experience to her role after completing her Bachelor's Degree in Management and Organisation at USM. DISTED is her fourth professional role as she continues pursuing her passion for finance. She believes, *"Managing finances wisely is not a difficult task, but rather a series of simple decisions made every day."*

Siti Sumaiyah  
– Finance Department

Hao Zhi began his journey with DISTED College as an intern, where he showcased remarkable enthusiasm, dedication, and a passion for technology. His outstanding performance during the internship paved the way for this continued role, where he now assists and guides the college faculty with IT-related endeavours. As IT Support, Hao Zhi actively maintains and enhances the college's technological infrastructure while gaining valuable hands-on experience in IT operations. His transition reflects both his commitment to professional growth and the value he brings to the DISTED community. Hao Zhi sees this opportunity as a stepping stone to broaden his horizons in IT during his degree studies and to specialise in areas that align with his strengths and interests. He remains eager to tackle new challenges, refine his skills, and support DISTED College's mission to foster an innovative and harmonious study environment.

Lim Hao Zhi  
– ITMS Department

Sharizan, an ACCA-qualified professional with over 20 years of experience in finance and auditing, brings expertise in teaching and industry trends to equip students for the evolving finance profession. Passionate about learning, she balances her life with reading, hiking, and cooking, enriching her teaching style and student connections.

Sharizan Binti Abdul Rashid  
– School of Business & Hospitality



## Celebrating Excellence in Visual Arts and Academic Achievement!

We are thrilled to share the fantastic results from the SACE Southern Hemisphere! DISTED SACEi student, Hliang Hnin Ei, has been recognised as Malaysia's Highest Achiever in Visual Arts - Art—a remarkable accomplishment highlighting her incredible talent and hard work. A heartfelt congratulations to Hliang Hnin Ei and her lecturer, Ms. Khairu Nisa, for their dedication and excellence. You've made us all proud! Additionally, we are proud to announce that the highest ATAR score among DISTED students in this round is an impressive 82.9! These achievements reflect the high standard of teaching and dedicated mentorship at DISTED, where students are guided to unlock their potential and achieve excellence.

Geong Chooi Peng  
Head, School of Pre-University Studies

## DISTED Science Club Appreciation Lunch: A Celebration of Science and Collaboration

“The DISTED Science Club celebrated its members' enthusiasm and commitment with an appreciation lunch on December 13th. The event reflected on the knowledge gained through classroom lessons in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, which provided a foundation for experiments and fostered innovative thinking. Members applied classroom concepts in activities like exploring chemical reactions and creating colorful salts through hands-on experiments. These experiences enhanced their understanding of science, developed critical thinking, and built teamwork skills, bridging the gap between academic learning and practical applications. The lunch celebrated past achievements while inspiring members to approach future challenges with creativity and collaboration. It reinforced science as a dynamic field connected to everyday life and highlighted the impact of the club's activities on peers and the broader community. Former president Lee Wei Yi expressed gratitude for the support and encouraged the new committee to continue the club's legacy of exploration and contribution.”



Kaitlyn Khoo  
Student Editor, DISTED Discourse  
Former Member, DISTED Science Club

## Colloquium 2024: Inspiring Minds and Advancing Psychology

The Colloquium 2024 at DISTED College began with an engaging speech by Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair, highlighting the importance of curiosity and collaboration in knowledge advancement. A faculty sharing session followed, featuring Ms. Syahirah Farwin on World Men's Mental Health, Ms. Teoh Ker Hsin on Statistics, Ms. Thiresyinie Tamil Chelvam on Presentation Skills, and Ms. Thevanai Indra Sellappan on Self-Introduction and Self-Awareness.

Thesis presentations, divided into FYP C (VIVA) and FYP B (Oral Defense) categories, showcased students' analytical skills and creativity, offering valuable feedback and refinement opportunities. Creativity shone through the PSY317 Short Film Screenings and PSY322 Video Showcase, captivating the audience with artistic interpretations of psychological concepts.

Attendees reflected on the enriching experience, emphasizing the value of connecting, sharing ideas, and fostering passion for psychology. Open to all, the event reaffirmed its role as a hub of inspiration and growth.

Syahirah Farwin  
Lecturer & Counsellor, School of Psychology



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