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Reflecting on 2024 and Aspiring for 2025

DISTED College celebrates transformative achievements in 2024 and looks ahead to 2025 with a focus on excellence, sustainability, and innovation.

Week's Best Titles

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- Nature's Palette: Exploring the Art and Sustainability of Natural Dyes
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- Innovating Career Paths: DISTED Hackathon 2024 Empowers Student Creativity



Remarks from the President

Prof. Dr.
Vikneswaran Nair
President

As we look ahead to 2025, I am filled with optimism about the opportunities that lie before us. Building on the solid foundation we laid in 2024, we will continue to pursue excellence in education, innovation, and community engagement. DISTED College is uniquely positioned to be a beacon of quality and transformation in Penang, and our plans for the coming year reflect this vision.

Our focus in 2025 will centre on three key priorities: revitalising our brand, regaining loyalty, and ensuring sustainability. We will enhance our course offerings to meet evolving industry demands, refine our teaching methodologies to deliver exceptional results, and expand our outreach nationally and internationally. At the same time, we will deepen ties with alumni and community stakeholders to foster a sense of shared purpose and mutual growth.

Innovation remains a cornerstone of our strategy, as we embrace technology to improve learning experiences and administrative processes. Additionally, we are committed to resource optimisation and exploring new revenue streams to ensure long-term viability.

As a united and dynamic team, we will navigate challenges and seize opportunities to solidify DISTED College's position as a leading institution. Let us step into 2025 with confidence, determination, and the shared goal of shaping a brighter future.

Cover
StoryReflecting on 2024 and Aspiring for
2025

As 2024 draws to a close, it is a fitting time to reflect on DISTED College's accomplishments and chart our aspirations for 2025. This year has been transformative, marked by efforts to rebuild strengths, solidify foundations, and progress toward our vision of becoming Penang's premier institution serving industry and community needs.

In 2024, our students and staff achieved remarkable success across various domains. Our SACEi top student attained an impressive ATAR score of 83.65%, with 14% scoring above 80%, 28% above 70%, 52% above 60%, and 83% receiving an ATAR score. The top subjects with an average score above 50% were for Language Studies, English as an Additional Language, Physics, Psychology and Arts. Our CAL students for 2024 were as impressive, with 33% of the students scoring A*/A across multiple subjects with top performing subjects in Accounting, Psychology, Further Maths, Maths, Chemistry, General Paper, Maths, and Physics. 43% of our students scored A*/A in Maths and Sciences. For our Tracer Studies, more than 80% of our Diploma and Degree students are employed or continuing their studies in 2024.

For the Convocation Class of 2024, 113 students graduated; 50 with a Bachelor Degree and 63 Diplomas. At the Pre-University completion of studies event, 78 of them received their completion letters. 13 students were offered full scholarships from our generous sponsors. The Foundation in Science programme also received full MQA accreditation, reinforcing our commitment to academic excellence.

We expanded our offerings with new degree programmes in collaboration with HELP University, including Accounting, Marketing, and Communication (Media Studies), with IT (Data Analytics) set for January 2025. Additionally, we launched DISTED's Diploma in Mass Communication in 2024.

Infrastructure enhancements, such as a state-of-the-art Multimedia Studio and renovated labs, elevated our learning environment. Students contributed to meaningful initiatives like establishing the national-level "Kelab Penyayang" and showcased creativity at the Excite Hackathon 2024. Notably, 84% of our academic staff hold postgraduate qualifications, with 17% possessing PhDs.

DISTED's partnership with Pearson's PTE and British Council's IELTS registered 619 and 506 students respectively for 2024. Further, DISTED Discourse released an impressive 50 issues of its weekly newsletter in 2024.

Looking ahead to 2025, our focus will include enhancing course offerings, teaching quality, and alumni engagement while prioritising sustainability through resource optimisation and alternate revenue streams. Together, we will step into 2025 with confidence and determination to achieve even greater heights.

Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair
President





To share or not to share: Tackling Fake News in Malaysia

“The problem of fake news has escalated on social media platforms, threatening societal harmony and well-being in Malaysia. Platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, and Telegram have become hotspots for sharing unverified information. Examples include fake news on COVID-19 vaccines, 5G technology, scams, and disasters, causing panic and confusion. Fake news often spreads by presenting altered or inaccurate information as legitimate, evoking strong emotions to mislead people. In today's digital age, many, especially youth, rely on social media for news, making them susceptible to conspiracy theories due to a lack of media literacy. Although AI tools can help detect fake news, they struggle with the complexity of misinformation, leading to serious consequences like health crises, financial losses, and social tensions. To combat this, educational institutions like DISTED College include media literacy in their programmes. Courses such as Mass Communication in the Digital Age and Digital Journalism equip students with critical thinking skills to identify misinformation and foster a well-informed society.”

Nadia Jefri
Head, School of Communication and
General Studies

Discovering Psychology: A Day with Form 5 Students

On 1 December 2024, DISTED College's School of Psychology hosted Form 5 students for an engaging introduction to psychology. The session aimed to ignite interest by showcasing core psychological concepts through interactive demonstrations. The students explored three intriguing areas: Electroencephalography (EEG), sand therapy, and art therapy. At the EEG station, they learned how this technology measures brain activity, with lecturers explaining its role in studying mental processes like focus and relaxation. In the sand therapy session, students discovered how this therapeutic approach fosters emotional expression by creating safe, symbolic representations. Lecturers highlighted its value in supporting emotional well-being. The art therapy station demonstrated how creative expression enhances mental health. Through examples, students learned how colors and artistic elements communicate emotions and alleviate stress. This event encouraged curiosity about psychology, showcasing its role in understanding human behavior



and inspiring potential future psychologists among the participants.

Teoh Ker Hsin
Programme Lead, School
of Psychology

Nature's Palette: Exploring the Art and Sustainability of Natural Dyes

Natural dyes, derived from plants, insects, and minerals, have been used for centuries to colour textiles and food. Recently, they have gained popularity as a sustainable alternative to synthetic dyes, which often harm the environment by releasing toxic substances into water bodies and damaging ecosystems. Natural dyes are biodegradable, environmentally friendly, and have a smaller carbon footprint, with sources like indigo, madder, turmeric, and cochineal offering vibrant and eco-safe colours. While synthetic dyes are more colourfast and easier to use, natural dyes connect users to tradition and sustainability, offering unique, earthy tones that align with eco-conscious lifestyles. Despite challenges such as time-intensive processes and fading colours, natural dyes are increasingly embraced for their environmental benefits and aesthetic appeal. This growing interest has inspired the SACEi Southern Hemisphere students (Class of 2024) to explore nature's colour palette through their Investigation Folio, combining science, tradition, and creativity to champion sustainable practices.

Dr. Kam Yew Chee
Senior Lecturer, School
of Pre-University Studies



Beyond the Books: How DISTED's Accounting Program Transformed Learning in 2024

In 2024, DISTED College's Accounting programme took learning beyond the classroom, providing students with diverse opportunities to develop practical skills and embrace social responsibility. Students visited Taiping's Antong Coffee, Spritzer, mushroom, and charcoal factories, gaining valuable industry insights. Hands-on training at McMillan Woods and ZW Packaging further bridged classroom theory with real-world applications. Experiential activities included the Urban Wetland Explorace at the Botanical Garden and a greening initiative at SJKC Yeok Hua, fostering environmental awareness. Their commitment to community service was evident in their volunteer work at Pusat Pendidikan Autism Pulau Pinang, highlighting their dedication to inclusivity. Leadership and teamwork were honed as students served as emcees for college events, such as the Deepavali lunch celebration, and competed in the National Inter-Varsity Accounting Quiz (N-IVAQ) 2024. Through these initiatives, DISTED's Accounting programme continues to shape well-rounded, socially conscious graduates ready to excel in 2025 and beyond.

Adznida Md Daud,
Lecturer, School of Business and Hospitality



Innovating Career Paths: DISTED Hackathon 2024 Empowers Student Creativity

The DISTED Hackathon, held online over four weeks in October, challenged students to design a subject-based career exploration site. Partnering with Creador Foundation, the event aimed to enhance the user-centred design of their Schola website, focusing on career-matching for secondary students. Two teams engaged in weekly tasks: user research, prototyping, and testing. Week 1 involved qualitative research, followed by surveys in Week 2. In Week 3, findings were transformed into user stories and web designs, culminating in prototyping during Week 4. The students



created an interactive prototype matching careers to multiple subjects, featuring elements like a drag-and-drop beaker and a fun "No Results" page. Judges praised their innovative user flow, branding consistency, and empathy-driven navigation. Participants described the experience as rewarding, gaining skills in user research, prototyping, and teamwork. This hackathon showcased DISTED's commitment to fostering creativity and preparing students for real-world challenges.

Seethai Subramaniam
Head, School of Computing and Engineering

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