

## OPEN DAY

15-16, 22-23  
Mar'25

10am - 4pm

340, Macalister Road,  
Penang  
(Heritage Campus)

### Week's Best Titles

- ❑ DISTED College Strengthens Leadership with Appointment of Global Experts to Board of Advisors
- ❑ Inspiring Young Minds: Cultivating a Winning Mindset for Secondary School Success
- ❑ Integrating ESG into Accounting: Beyond Compliance to Strategic Sustainability
- ❑ Experiential Learning in Child Behaviour Observation
- ❑ Inspired by Innovation: DISTED Students Gain Insights at RINTIS 2025 Exhibition
- ❑ Matt Clarke's Visit to DISTED College: Strengthening Ties and Exploring New Opportunities

## DISTED College Strengthens Leadership with Appointment of Global Experts to Board of Advisors

DISTED College appoints global leaders Shaun TL Tan and Ooi Joon Leong to its Board of Advisors, leveraging their expertise in finance, IT strategy, and supply chain to enhance governance, industry alignment, and student success.



### Remarks from the President

Dato' Lim Si Boon  
- Interim President

### Excellence and Relevance at DISTED College

I am truly grateful to my colleagues and students for their dedication in supporting and promoting DISTED at the Malaysian Education Fair (MEF) on 8-9 March. We also appreciate the students and parents who visited our booth and engaged with our counsellors. If you missed us at MEF, join our Open Day at the DISTED College Campus on 15-16 March.

We have been actively reconstituting the College Advisory Boards to ensure our programmes remain relevant and innovative. We welcome new members to our Boards of Industry/Advisors and continue building strong connections with partner universities and industries. In the coming weeks, we will share updates on these efforts and introduce the distinguished individuals joining our Boards.

The Student Representative Council (SRC) nomination process is underway, with new members to be elected by the end of March. I encourage students to step forward, contribute, and enhance the DISTED experience for your peers and the wider community.

To our alumni, we would love to reconnect, hear your stories, and feature your memories at DISTED. Reach out to us at [Registrar@disted.edu.my](mailto:Registrar@disted.edu.my).

We look forward to welcoming you to our Open Day this weekend!



# Cover Story

## DISTED College Strengthens Leadership with Appointment of Global Experts to Board of Advisors

DISTED College has appointed global leaders Shaun TL Tan and Ooi Joon Leong to its Board of Advisors, leveraging their expertise in finance, IT strategy, and supply chain to strengthen governance, enhance industry alignment, and support student success. Shaun, previously based overseas, has now settled in Penang, while Ooi, a Penang native and alumnus of St. Xavier's Institution, brings local insights to the board from his global experience. Additional members of the Board of Advisors will be introduced in the coming months.

**Mr. Shaun TL Tan**, a seasoned executive with over 25 years in finance, risk management, and cross-border governance, brings a wealth of experience from leadership roles at Manulife, AIA, and GE Capital. Renowned for architecting Manulife's Global Finance Shared Services (300+ teams, \$13M annual savings) and steering digital transformation initiatives, Shaun's expertise spans operational scaling, crisis leadership, and IT strategy. His multilingual proficiency and board roles at Mechmed Ltd and Kingston Property Ltd position him to advise DISTED on aligning curricula with evolving financial and technological sectors, enhancing governance frameworks, and fostering industry partnerships for student internships and real-world projects.

**Mr. Ooi Joon Leong**, Partner Emeritus at A.T. Kearney Inc., leverages over 30 years of experience in management consulting, specialising in supply chain optimisation, organisational transformation, and sustainable business practices. As the former Managing Director of A.T. Kearney's Kuala Lumpur office and Head of Asia Pacific Operations Practice, Ooi has led operational excellence initiatives for clients across telecommunications, energy, and consumer industries. With an academic background spanning top global institutions—holding an MBA from Columbia University, a Master's in Engineering from Stanford University, and a Bachelor's degree in Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)—he combines technical expertise with strategic insight. His guidance will support DISTED in strengthening institutional capabilities, integrating industry-relevant skills into academic programmes, and fostering collaborations with multinational enterprises to enhance graduate employability.

Both advisors will focus on enhancing DISTED's governance processes, bridging academic offerings with industry needs, and cultivating partnerships to elevate student experiences. Their insights will be pivotal in modernising programmes, integrating ESG principles, and fostering innovation in teaching methodologies. Their global perspectives and sector-specific expertise will accelerate DISTED's mission to deliver future-ready education.



Mr. Shaun TL Tan

Mr. Ooi Joon Leong



## Inspiring Young Minds: Cultivating a Winning Mindset for Secondary School Success



On February 17, 2025, DISTED College lecturers Ms. Teoh and Ms. Tan delivered a motivational talk, "Embarking on Your Secondary School Journey: Developing a Winning Mindset for Success," to Form 1 students at Union High School. The session began with an ice-breaking activity to foster engagement. Ms. Teoh introduced "Unlocking a Whole New World: Growing, Learning, Thriving with 5 Winning Attitudes," emphasising self-discovery and the power of a positive mindset using Erikson's theory. Ms. Tan shared her personal journey, "A Dazzling Stage," highlighting how she found her passion for teaching. She recounted guiding struggling students, including the "Four Naughty Boys," to gain confidence through a Malay speech contest. The session concluded with a "Wishing Wall" activity, where students wrote their aspirations, symbolising their commitment to growth. The talk inspired students to embrace their secondary school journey with confidence and resilience.

Chermaine Cheah Ming  
 Student of Bachelor of Communication (Media Studies) (Hons)



### Integrating ESG into Accounting: Beyond Compliance to Strategic Sustainability

“ The recent CPA Australia ESG Business Presentation underscored the growing significance of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors in business. First coined in 2004, ESG has gained traction due to climate change, regulatory pressures, and shifting market expectations. Dr. David Teh (CPA, CA) highlighted sustainability as a strategic opportunity, not just a compliance requirement. Traditionally focused on financial reporting, accountants now play a broader role in ESG integration. They develop reporting frameworks, assess risks like supply chain disruptions, and align businesses with global standards such as IFRS S1 and S2, which mandate sustainability disclosures from January 2024. In Malaysia, ESG adoption is vital as the government targets net-zero emissions by 2050. Agencies like MIDA and SME Corporation Malaysia support businesses through tax incentives and ESG readiness tools. At DISTED, our accounting programmes equip students with industry-relevant expertise to navigate ESG-driven business landscapes effectively. ”

Tong Pei Sun  
 Senior Lecturer, School of Business and Hospitality



### Experiential Learning in Child Behaviour Observation

In an Emotional and Behaviour Management class for the Bachelor of Psychology (Hons) programme, students engaged in hands-on learning by observing my two young children, aged five and three. This real-world exercise allowed them to apply theoretical concepts by tracking behaviours, identifying developmental milestones, and formulating an Individualised Education Plan (IEP). Live observation provided insights into spontaneous behaviours, social interactions, and emotional responses, offering a richer learning experience than textbooks alone. Students documented attention patterns, frustration tolerance, and problem-solving strategies, analysing intrinsic and extrinsic influences on behaviour. A follow-up discussion encouraged reflection and collaboration on IEPs, reinforcing the need for tailored interventions. This experiential approach bridged theory with practice, enhancing students' analytical and critical-thinking skills. By engaging in real-world assessments, they gained valuable insights into child development and behaviour management, preparing them for future roles in education, psychology, and related fields.

Indra Sellappan  
 Lecturer, School of Psychology



## Inspired by Innovation: DISTED Students Gain Insights at RINTIS 2025 Exhibition



On 15th January 2025, students from CMT402 [Desktop Publishing] and CAD406 [Computer-Aided Drawing and Digital Typography] visited RINTIS, the final-year project exhibition at Universiti Sains Malaysia's School of Art. The visit aimed to inspire students by exposing them to innovative projects in multimedia design, animation, visual arts, and interactive media. Students engaged with exhibitors, gaining insights into project development, time management, and problem-solving. Final-year students shared experiences, emphasising consistent effort, collaboration, and early planning. The visit provided a benchmark for DISTED students' own projects, highlighting the importance of research and technology integration. Overall, the experience equipped students with valuable knowledge and motivation to excel in their final-year projects. Observing the dedication and creativity of USM students reinforced the importance of strategic planning and perseverance, ensuring a meaningful learning experience.

Luqman Aliff Bin Abdul Rashid  
Programme Lead, School of Communication &  
General Studies



## Matt Clarke's Visit to DISTED College: Strengthening Ties and Exploring New Opportunities

On March 5th, 2025, Matt Clarke, Business Development Manager from the SACE Board, visited DISTED College to strengthen collaboration. The visit included a Management Meeting where Clarke and DISTED leaders discussed education market challenges, strategic plans, and marketing efforts to attract more students. They also explored ways the SACE Board could enhance DISTED's operations. A key focus was Student Recruitment, with Clarke supporting initiatives to boost enrolment in the SACE programme through events and outreach. His visit reinforced the commitment to expanding DISTED's appeal and improving recruitment strategies. The visit marked a productive step in fostering a stronger partnership between SACE Board and DISTED College, paving the way for future initiatives. DISTED has been successfully conducting the SACE International programme since 1987. The programme is your gateway to university studies worldwide. It provides the pathway to a broad spectrum of undergraduate studies including medicine, pharmacy, dentistry, engineering, biotechnology, computer science, law, business, mass communications and other programmes.

Geong Chooi Peng  
Head, School of Pre-University Studies



## DISTED Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd

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**FULL**  
article

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