

Weekly

DISTED

COLLEGE

Discourse

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DISTED: Moving Forward



“ Greeting to all. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this inaugural issue of DISTED DISCOURSE, the official weekly newsletter of DISTED College. As we begin the 2023 academic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the challenges we have faced over the past few years and celebrate the resilience and perseverance of our community.

The past few years has been unprecedented, and we have all had to adapt to new ways of teaching, learning, and working. Despite the challenges, our College and the supporting community, has remained strong. I am incredibly proud of how we have all come together to support one another during these trying times.

2023 is our time to Reset, Restart and Reboot DISTED as we work to move the College into a new chapter, stronger than ever. As we look forward to the new academic year, we have a lot to be excited about. We welcome on board our new Chief Executive, Dato' Lim Si Boon, who will bring us a new direction for the growth of DISTED not only in Penang but extended to other states in Malaysia. Our academic staffs have been working hard to develop new courses and programmes that will help our students thrive in a rapidly changing world. Coming out of 3-years of COVID, our infrastructure is a bit 'tired'. Hence, we will continue to invest in our facilities and infrastructure to ensure that our campus remains a state-of-the-art learning environment.

Finally, I would like to encourage all members of the College and the supporting community to take an active role in shaping the future of DISTED College, a premier Penang brand. Your ideas and feedback are crucial to our success, and we welcome your input at any time. We are open to any collaborations with the industry and institutions that can add value to our programmes and students. As the saying goes, “We are better, together”.

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Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair
President

This Week Highlights

- **DISTED: Moving Forward**
- **Conversation With The Head of Academic Affairs**
- **Launch of FIS. Why choose DISTED FIS?**
- **High Achievers of CAL & SACEi Programme**
- **Industry Relevant Computing and Business Programme**
- **Psychology Outreach Programme**
- **News/Events Snippets**



↑ Visiting Student from Thailand – Inter Discovery Camp

Conversation With The Head of Academic Affairs



As DISTED College continues its transformation journey, the academic team has been busy improving and developing new programmes for 2023. The Diplomas in Business Studies, Business IT, and Computer Studies have been revamped to be more industry relevant. These programmes are structured to include rapidly changing innovations in the industry. They include field trips, community linkages, company collaboration and many more. We will continue our efforts to enrich our students and future students.

DISTED College will offer the new Foundation in Science programme in our April intake. We are excited to launch this programmes that will provide the pathway for students in biological / health sciences, engineering / physical

sciences and computing to continue their bachelor's degree at leading universities in Malaysia and abroad.

The academic team at the College are also brainstorming to determine new programmes that can be developed from the existing schools. The new programmes include Certificate in Information Technology, Diplomas in Mechatronics Engineering, Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, Financial Technology, Digital Business, Supply Chain Management, Biotechnology, and Psychology.

The academic team constantly strives to provide high teaching and learning standards in classrooms. Our lecturers believe that students' ambitions will be accomplished through DISTED's pathways and the guidance of a highly educated, experienced and dedicated team

Dr. Lum Li Sean
Head of Academic Affairs

DISTED Launches Foundation in Science (FIS)

DISTED College received approval from the Ministry of Higher Education to offer the FIS programme in its April 2023 intake. Studying the FIS programme provides students with valuable skills and knowledge. It can be an excellent starting point for pursuing further studies or a career in a science-related field, which includes health sciences (medical, pharmacy, nursing, etc.), engineering, computing, and other sciences. FIS

programme can build a solid academic foundation for the students who intend to pursue their degree; expose students to a range of science fields to allow students to make informed decisions about their future studies and career aspirations; improve their problem-solving and analytical skills; and increase their career opportunities in science-related fields that have become more and more important.

The FIS programme at DISTED College

allows students to choose between the biological and health science stream and the physical sciences stream. 42% of DISTED staff teaching pre-university programmes are qualified with a PhD and have many years of experience. Students who complete the FIS at DISTED can progress to many universities in Malaysia and abroad

DISTED COLLEGE

- Bioinformatics
- Biomedical
- Biotechnology
- Computing Science
- Data Science
- Dental Surgery
- Dental Technology
- Digital Business
- Engineering
- Environmental Science
- Forestry Science
- Health Science
- Mechatronics
- Medical
- Nursing Science
- Obstetrics
- Pharmacy
- Physiotherapy
- Sciences
- Software Engineering
- Technology



Congratulations To All Top Achievers and Graduating Students For Cambridge A Level Students (Oct / Nov 2022 Exam)

DISTED College is proud to showcase their routinely produced A-Level Top Achievers in 2022 at the recently concluded exams. The College is incredibly proud of the student's achievements. Their success is our shared success and is highly motivating. Consistently, the College has produced

high-achieving students.

For the Oct/Nov 2022 exams for CAL, **100%** of students who took A2 subjects **passed Accounting, Economics, English Language and Further Mathematics**. From this group of students, 50% scored A* for Accounting

and 50% scored A and A* for Further Mathematics. Similar result was also obtained for AS subjects with 100% passes for Biology, Further Mathematics and Physics. 67% scored A for Further Mathematics

Cambridge A-Level HIGH ACHIEVERS

(OCT/NOV 2022)

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| CHOW VEN YAN | A*, A*, A*, A |
| OOI XINSHENG | A*, A*, A*, A |
| KANG YEONGSEO | A*, A*, A* |
| CHEW JIA QI | A*, A*, A* |
| ANUSHA BALA SIGAR | A*, A*, A |
| GOH XIN YI | A*, A*, A |
| LOH YI QIAN | A*, A*, A |
| TEO YU DONG | A*, A, A, B |
| CHARMAINE GAN SHAN MIN | A*, A, A |
| ENG JIEU SZE | A*, A, A |
| ZACHARY ROHAN DOSS | A, A, A, B |
| RACHAEL KAM LE ZHOU | A*, A*, B, B |
| AQIRA ERIN ZIYI CLARK | A*, A, B, C |
| OOI KE XIN | A, A, B, B |
| JOASH TJUNG YHEEN RHAO | A, A, B |



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“One thing about DISTED that I think is special are the helpful attitudes of the lecturers. From my experience, I've found all of them to be accommodating, amicable and rather amusing. You get the impression that they are truly there to help you do better. I would especially like to thank Ms. Jenny, my English Language AS Lecturer, who helped me immersely in an extremely short amount of time. I owe a big part of this award to her, and I hope this atmosphere continues to thrive in the future.”

Kang Yeong Seo

Cambridge International AS Level High Achievement - English Language

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Making Computing and Business Programme Relevant to the Industry



All DISTED Diploma programmes in computing and business are up to date with the industry's requirements. They include programmes such as Computer Science, Creative Multimedia Production, Business IT, Business Studies, and Accountancy. The programmes are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure that students are learning skills that are in demand by employers.

Specific steps that are taken to make computing and business programmes more relevant to the industry include (1) Conduct regular industry research: Academic staff teaching in the

programmes stay up-to-date with the latest trends, technologies, and best practices in the computing and business industry by their continuous interactions to understand the needs of employers and ensure the curriculum reflects those needs; (2) Collaborate with industry professionals: The associated schools collaborate with industry professionals to develop course materials and teach classes. Industry Professionals are invited to speak to students, and participate in mentorship programmes, or provide internships; (3) Offer practical experiences: Both the business and computing programmes provide practical experiences that simulate real-world situations, such as case studies, team projects, or hands-on experiences with the latest technologies, and use real-world examples to illustrate abstract concepts; (4) Develop an industry advisory board: Every programme at DISTED have created an industry advisory board made up of industry professionals to provide guidance on curriculum development, technology trends, and job market conditions; (5)

Emphasize soft skills: The programmes at DISTED teach students the importance of soft skills, such as communication, teamwork, and critical thinking, which are essential for success in any industry and are highly valued by employers; (6) Continuously evaluate and improve: The quality department at DISTED ensure all programmes are continuously assessed for its effectiveness and make the necessary changes to ensure that it remains relevant and up-to-date.

Some industry partners collaborating with DISTED include DELL, Sunshine Corporation, Plenitude Berhad, Teleperformance, Plexus, Jabil, Intel, PYDC and Osram. Many big names like MDEC, Digital Penang, and Hilton have indicated their wish to collaborate closer with DISTED in all our programmes. By taking all these steps, the computing and business programmes at DISTED can prepare students for the workforce better and ensure that they have the skills and knowledge that employers are looking for.

Outreach Work Strengthen Student Outcomes in DISTED Psychology Programme

The outreach work in DISTED's Psychology Degree is an essential component of developing good student outcomes because it helps students to connect with resources, build relationships, and gain practical experience in the field. The outreach work in the programme is important as it can provide access to a wide range of resources to these students, including information about internships, job opportunities, and research projects. Students who have access to these resources while carrying out the outreach work are more likely to be successful in their academic and professional careers.

DISTED's outreach programmes can also create opportunities for students to build relationships with their lecturers, professionals in the field, and fellow students. These relationships can provide students with mentorship, support, and networking opportunities that can help them to achieve their goals. Further, the outreach programmes often provide students with practical experience in the field through internships, research projects, and other opportunities. This experience can help students to develop the skills they need to be successful in

their careers and to apply what they have learned in the classroom to real-world situations.

Lastly, the student can enhance their learning by applying what they have learned in the classroom to real-world situations. This can help students to better understand the relevance of what they are learning and to develop a deeper understanding of the subject matter. In summary, the DISTED's Psychology programme outreach work is essential for developing good student outcomes because it provides students with access to resources, helps them to build relationships, provides practical experience, and enhances learning. These benefits can help students to achieve their

academic and professional goals and to become successful in the field of psychology.

There are several activities carried out by the Psychology programme at DISTED throughout the years. The outreach programs such as "Mental Health-Connecting Communities" which involved government bodies, and "Discovering Psychology: The Psych Games" which involved high school communities. Aside from that, there are community services including mural arts and serving the homeless; publication-related activities including a colloquium and research publications.

↓ Communities Services – Mural Arts





DISTED Town Hall Meeting

The College held the first Townhall meeting for Year 2023, with DISTED College management, staff, and educators. The President, Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair, and new CEO, Dato' Lim Si Boon, shared their plans to transform the College as we move forward to develop better programmes and activities that will guide our students to be successful

◀ The President, addressing the staff at the Town Hall

RMIT visit and collaboration



↑ From Left to Right: Dr. Lum Li Sean (Head of Academic Affairs, Dr. Peng Yew Wong (RMIT), Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair (President) and Ms. Tan Siew Luang (Registrar)

Dr. Peng Yew Wong, Senior Lecturer from the School of Property, Construction and Project Management, RMIT has visited DISTED to explore potential collaboration to add on our existing Articulation Partnerships. Besides providing quality education to our students at DISTED, we care to collaborate with world class Universities to provide the Degree pathway for our students. We will keep DISTED Community posted as we progress towards successful collaboration.

DISTED's New Library



◀↑ DISTED's new library open spaces

DISTED's new cosy library is opened to the students since 7th Feb. 2023. The new library is linked to all our distal resources including to the Wawasan Open University (WOU) library. The library includes various corner for students to have their discussions, in open spaces or closed-door rooms.

Lion Dance & CNY Celebration



DISTED College welcomed a prominent visitor earlier on February 1st, 2023. On campus, we performed the lion dance. The lion dance is said to ward off misfortune and bring wealth to the area in conjunction with the Chinese New Year Celebration. The lion is a representation of strength, knowledge, and superiority in Chinese culture. At

Chinese festivals or important events, people do lion dances to ward off bad luck and ward off evil spirits. The Lion Dance is done in order to bring luck and prosperity for the coming year. Once more, Gong Xi Fa Cai and enjoy the remainder of your Chinese New Year!

◀↑ Lion Dance & CNY High-Tea

