Vol. 4. Issue 5. 27 Oct. 2023

"DISTED
College
Celebrates
31st
Convocation
and Paves the
Way for a
New Era in
Education"

Highlights

- "DISTED College Celebrates 31st Convocation and Paves the Way for a New Era in Education"
- Tracing The Legacy:
 The Chronicles of DISTED
- Dance of Life at DISTED:
 A Journey Through Time

立达学院庆祝第 31届毕业典礼, 开创教育新纪元 I had the honour of presiding over the 31st Convocation Ceremony of DISTED College, which took place on October 28, 2023, at the Auditorium of Wawasan Open University. This momentous occasion not only celebrated the college's 36th Anniversary but also represented a remarkable milestone in its rich history.

In my address, I highlighted the exceptional graduates and the institution's commitment to preserving its founder's traditions while providing transformative educational experiences. I also outlined the college's strategic vision, including maintaining its esteemed reputation, robust scholarship programmes, and exciting new partnerships with institutions like HELP University, RMIT University, Heriot-Watt University, etc. The inauguration of the immersive learning hub, CoL²abz, was a significant highlight, positioning DISTED College at the forefront of embracing the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The Class of 2023 achieved outstanding success, with 25 per cent of Degree students earning First Class honours. The college's dedication to academic excellence was evident in its outstanding performance in Pre-University studies, namely the Cambridge A-Level and the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) International. DISTED College received the highest "Competitive" rating under the Malaysian Quality Evaluation System for Private Colleges (MyQUEST) for 2022.

Honourable Tan Sri Dr. Koh Tsu Khoon, Chairman of Wawasan Education Foundation and the distinguished speaker at the event shared wisdom and emphasised the endless possibilities of education. Ms. Ong Hui Chin, the Valedictorian for the Class of 2023, inspired us with her personal journey.

Reflecting on this occasion, I am proud to be associated with DISTED College. This institution honours graduates' achievements and sets the stage for a promising future. With an alumni network of over 15,000 individuals, there is no doubt that the Class of 2023 will make a significant and positive impact in their respective fields.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023!

Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair President 院长

我有幸参加了 2023 年 10 月 28 日在宏愿开放大学礼堂举行的立达学院第 31 届毕业典礼。 这个重大活动庆祝了学院成立 36 周年,也是学院历史上的一个重要里程碑。

在我的演讲中,我重点介绍了优秀的毕业生,以及学院在提供变革性教育体验的同时,保留其创始人传统的承诺。我还概述了学院的战略愿景,包括保持学院的良好声誉、健全的奖学金计划,以及与HELP大学、RMIT大学等机构所建立令人兴奋的新合作伙伴关系。沉浸式学习中心CoL2abz 的启用是一大亮点,它使立达学院站在了迎接第四次工业革命的最前沿。

2023 届毕业生取得了优异成绩,其中25% 的学位学生获得了一等荣誉学位。学院在大学预科学习和与 SACE International 合作的创新学科方面的表现,充分体现了学院对学术卓越的执着追求。立达学院在2022年马来西亚私立学院质量评估系统(MyQUEST)中获得了最高的"竞争力"评级。

宏愿教育基金会主席、尊敬的丹斯里许子根博士作为主讲人,与大家分享了教育的智慧,并强调了教育的无限可能性。 2023 届毕业生代表王荟晶女士用她的个人经历激励了我们。

回想起这次经历,我为自己能与 DISTED 学院合作而感到自豪。这所学院表彰毕业生的成就,并为充满希望的未来奠定基础。2023 届校友人数超过 15,000 人,他们将对各自领域产生积极影响。

祝贺 2023 届学生!





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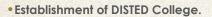
Tracing The Legacy: The Chronicles of DISTED

1985

•The brainchild of three educationists - Tan Sri Professor Emeritus Gajaraj Dhanarajan, Dr. Hulman Sinaga and Dr. Sharom Ahmat - formed DISTED Services Sdn Bhd. The name DISTED is the acronym for Distance Education, which suited the original intention of the trio - to provide adults an alternate route to tertiary education. Due to the high costs of tertiary courses abroad, the trio soon had to alter their direction to cater to the youth.

1987

 Contracts were signed with the British Columbia Open University, TAFE South Australia, Murdoch University and the Warrnambool Institute of Advanced Education to provide off-campus courses to Penangites. Within the same year, DISTED College was registered with Malaysia's Ministry of Higher



Education.

• DISTED Introduces the South Australia Matriculation (SAM) programme.

1988

•DISTED took in its first cohort of students inside a bungalow at Hargreaves Road in George Town. The lack of space forced the college to relocate to RECSAM within the suburb of Gelugor, and then to the St. Joseph's Novitiate at Kelawei Road (now part of Gurney Paragon).

1989

• Official opening of Kelawai Road Campus

•DISTED enters into a formal agreement with the Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust to expand on tertiary education opportunities.



1997

•The campus was expanded to include the Crosby Hall.

1998

• Signing Ceremony of **DISTED-STAMFORD Merger** MOA

1999-2009

Amalgamation to form DISTED-Stamford College





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2004

• DISTED signs MOA with HELP University, to offer the Bachelor of Psychology (Hons) programme.

2006

• DISTED signs MOA with Staffordshire University, UK and offer 3+0 UK degree programmes locally.

2012

•DISTED College's shares were entirely acquired by Wawasan Open University, Hospitality programme moved to China St. Ghaut

2012/13

•DISTED College was awarded a five-star rating in the Quality Evaluation System (MyQUEST) Malaysian 2012/2013

2014

- DISTED signs MOA with Pearson, UK.
- DISTED receives the ISO:2008 certification. Endorsed as BTEC Approved Centre offering BTEC Higher National Diploma.
- •DISTED Signs MOU with Toyohashi University of Technology, Japan
- DISTED Student Residence, SPACE, is officially launched.

2015

•DISTED College was awarded a five-star rating in the Malaysian Quality Evaluation System (MyQUEST)

2016

• DISTED signs MoU to signify the start of partnership with I-Shou University, Taiwan for the Taiwan Transfer Program

2017

- •DISTED celebrates the 26th Convocation and the first cohort of Diploma graduates who earn the Dual-Award diploma from both DISTED as well as the Higher Diploma (HND) from Business & Technology Education Council (BTEC), UK.
- DISTED upgraded to ISO9001:2015 certification.

2018

• DISTED, through LiFE Academy, signs MoU to signify the start of partnership with Penang Chefs Association & Malaysian Association of Hotels, Penang Chapter.

2020-2021

- Covid-19 Movement Control Order
- Work from home and hybrid teaching

2022

• DISTED signs MOU with Taylor's University to provide pathways for CAL, SACE, Foundation and Diploma Programmes

2023

- DISTED signs MOA with HELP University to offer 6 degree programmes
- DISTED signs MOA with Herriot-Watt University Malaysia
- Unveiling of CoL²abz, Immersive Learning Hub at Crosby





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Dance of Life at DISTED: A Journey Through Time

As I lay sedated, my mind drifted, still haunted by the loss of my eye to a relentless cataract. Through the swirl of mists of time, this eye has seen students. Sitting under the trees at the Kelawei Road campus of DISTED College, a student was presiding over the revision of Accounting having intellectual discussions with other students. Her dedicated father dropped her off before going to work. They lived on the mainland.

A burst of excitement shattered the silence as students gathered around our ex-principal, learning the art of fine dining for their overseas adventures. Cutlery adorned a table, ready to transform them from awkward ducklings into poised swans before they took their first flight.

As I watched in fascination, a pungent smell erupted into my senses. It smelled like rotten eggs. Hydrogen sulfide. Students concentrated on the chemicals that they had dropped into the test tubes. Somebody tried to light the Bunsen burner, a frown creasing the forehead. He eventually succeeded. I was relieved that no one managed to blow up the place accidentally.

Bright lights. The eye surgeon asked me to look at him. My eyes squinted to avoid the glare. I was back in DISTED. It was a brilliant sunny day. We were

> busily planting cinnamon trees. How fast they grew. The tips of their leaves were a lovely rose colour. Each school planted one tree along the parking space in front of the Yeap Chor Ee campus. It gave us a sense of ownership of the place, and we undertook to cherish the students under our care.

We were team-building in Thailand. Music floated in the air. We danced gaily to the rhythm. Abandoned to the joyful spirit of the moment. Educators learning to live and let go.

Then, the sound of familiar marching took over. Graduating students floated into the ballroom, elegantly dressed, collecting their scrolls in timeless regalia of graduations and throwing their mortar boards in jubilation as the proceedings ended.

Suddenly, I was awaken. The nurse said it was dangerous to stop breathing as I heaved a deep breath. The surgeon, too, let out a relieved sigh after telling me that it was done. I have a new eye. A new eye that will give me a fresh perspective on the dance of life at DISTED.

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