

Weekly DisCourse

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Highlights

Implementing the T-Shaped Competency Model in Higher Education

From Campus to Community

Embracing Autism: DISTED College's Commitment to Inclusivity and Support

Desalination: Addressing Water Scarcity Through Applied Chemistry

Transformative Internship: Wen Yi's Journey at Robert Bosch Malaysia

Salt Turns into Colours at DISTED Science Club Coffee Talk

Implementing the T-Shaped Competency Model in Higher Education



The T-shaped competency model is a progressive educational framework that fosters both deep, specialised knowledge (the vertical bar of the "T") and broad, interdisciplinary skills (the horizontal bar). This model equips students with the adaptability and versatility necessary in today's interconnected professional environments.

DISTED College has long adopted this model by incorporating several strategic steps. First, curricula are designed to offer deep expertise in specific areas while also incorporating courses that broaden students' perspectives in related fields. This ensures that students gain specialised skills and the ability to apply knowledge across various disciplines.

在高等教育中实施 T 型人才培养模式

近期，纽约大学营销学教授兼成功的企业家斯科特·加洛韦 (Scott Galloway) 在接受 CNBC "Make It" 采访时强调，讲故事仍然是年轻专业人士，特别是大学生的一项重要技能。加洛韦强调，尽管人工智能技术迅速发展，但有效沟通的基本能力仍然至关重要。

加洛韦的建议对准备就业的学生来说尤为重要。他指出，虽然沟通平台可能会不断发展，但讲故事的核心技能——令人信服地表达和展示观点——将永远具有价值。故事涉及撰写和口头表达能力，以及有效地使用数据、信息图表和视觉效果来增强演示和论证。

因此，各个学科的学生都必须磨练自己的讲故事技能，才能在任何专业领域脱颖而出。要谨慎使用 ChatGPT 等人工智能工具，因为技术的本质和所需技能的潜在变化可能会

导致这些工具的不可预测性。反之，应将重点放在发展特定领域的深厚专业知识上。学生可以通过成为某一个领域的权威，并将这一专业知识与强大的沟通技能相结合，可以显著提高他们的市场竞争力和成功率。

Networking and mentorship opportunities are essential for broadening students' understanding of their field. Institutions can facilitate this by organising guest lectures and workshops and forming partnerships with industry leaders, helping students explore diverse career paths and build valuable professional networks.

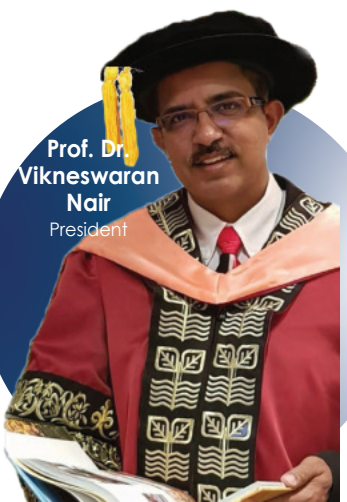
Integrating technology into learning processes allows students access to various disciplines and expertise, further expanding their knowledge base. Finally, continuous improvement through regular feedback and reflective learning helps students refine their skills and stay adaptable to new challenges.

By implementing the T-shaped competency model, educational institutions can more effectively prepare students for complex careers, fostering a workforce that is not only highly skilled in specific areas but also proficient in collaborating across various domains.

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在当今信息饱和的世界里，这些见解对学生来说至关重要，因为能够清晰、引人入胜地传达自己的想法和工作精髓，才能在充满活力的就业市场中脱颖而出。

(Mandarin Translator, Ms. Tan Pei Shi, Lecturer, School of Business and Hospitality)



Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair
President



From Campus

to Community

On February 17, 2024, a group of students from DISTED embraced the spirit of volunteerism by dedicating their time to volunteer at the Penang Animal Sanctuary Society (PASS), located in Taman Metropolitan, Relau, Penang. PASS, established in 2003, operates as a non-profit organisation with a mission to provide shelter for stray and abandoned animals. A total of 11 students from the School of Computing participated in this event as part of their social service project, under the supervision of lecturer Ms. Khairu Nisa.

This experience provided the students with a first-hand understanding of the complexities involved in running and managing an animal shelter. Beyond the satisfaction of contributing their time and energy to a meaningful cause, the volunteers also undertook a fundraising campaign, successfully collecting a total of RM479.80. These funds were utilized to procure essential supplies for the animals, including kibbles and rice.

"Working with a team of dedicated volunteers brought to light the significance of teamwork and camaraderie. Each member contributed unique skills and perspectives, and fostering an



inclusive environment became a key focus. I learned the importance of active listening, resolving conflicts diplomatically, and celebrating both individual and collective achievements. Nurturing a positive team dynamic was crucial to sustaining motivation and enthusiasm," says Ooi Ker Min, the project's group leader.

The volunteer experience at PASS not only broadened the students' skill set but also instilled a profound sense of responsibility and compassion. As these students continue their academic journeys, the lessons learned through volunteerism will undoubtedly serve as a cornerstone for their personal and professional development, shaping them into conscientious and socially aware contributors to society.

Khairu Nisa Bt Wazir
Lecturer, School of Computing and Engineering

Embracing Autism: DISTED College's Commitment to Inclusivity and Support



April is not only Autism Awareness Month but also the time for the vibrant activities of the Autism Acceptance Campaign 2024, organised by the Penang Shine Like Stars Association. At DISTED College, we proudly support both initiatives, advocating for understanding, acceptance, and support for individuals on the autism spectrum.

Our dedication to supporting individuals on the autism spectrum is evident through our active involvement in key events such as the Autism Runway Showcase and the Autism Press Conference. The presence of DISTED President, Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair, at the press conference underscores our commitment to raising awareness and advocating for autism acceptance. Engaging with media, community leaders, and stakeholders, Dr. Nair shared invaluable insights on the significance of inclusivity and understanding for individuals with autism. This demonstration of leadership reflects DISTED College's unwavering dedication to promoting a more inclusive and supportive environment for all.

We are also involved in the Autism Runway Showcase, empowering children with special needs to express themselves and celebrate their talents. This event fosters a sense of value, respect, and empowerment within these children, ensuring they feel recognised and appreciated.

At DISTED College, we believe in the power of education and advocacy to create positive change. By collaborating with organisations like the Penang Shine Like Stars Association, we strive to promote greater understanding, acceptance, and support for individuals with autism. Together, we work



DISTED President with YB Daniel Gui, State Exco for Youth, Sports & Health

towards a more inclusive world where everyone is celebrated and embraced.

Let us join hands in celebrating the diversity and strength of individuals with autism as we pave the way towards a brighter, more inclusive future for all members of our society.

Teoh Ker Hsin
Lecturer, School of Psychology

Desalination: Addressing Water Scarcity Through Applied Chemistry

Desalination, the process of removing dissolved mineral salts from water, plays a pivotal role in addressing the global demand for potable water. With over 300 million people relying on desalination plants, its significance cannot be overstated. The primary methods employed in this process are thermal distillation and reverse osmosis.

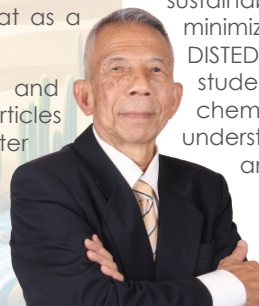
Thermal distillation involves heating saline water to the point of vaporisation, with the vapour then condensed and collected as pure water. This method is prevalent in regions like the Middle East, where freshwater resources are scarce and energy sources, particularly petroleum, are abundant and affordable. However, thermal distillation generates substantial heat as a by-product, contributing to its energy-intensive nature.

In contrast, reverse osmosis utilises semi-permeable membranes and pressure to separate dissolved ions, molecules, and suspended particles from water. By exerting pressure to overcome osmotic pressure, water is forced through the membrane, leaving behind contaminants. While reverse osmosis is generally considered more energy-efficient than thermal distillation, it requires significant energy inputs.

Desalination offers a promising solution to water scarcity, tapping

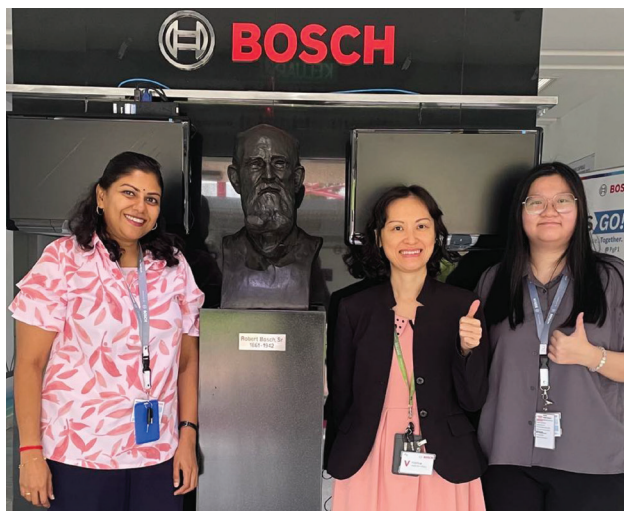
into the vast reserves of seawater to augment traditional freshwater sources. Despite its benefits, challenges persist. The energy intensity of desalination, coupled with its high costs, presents obstacles to widespread adoption. Furthermore, the environmental impact of desalination cannot be overlooked, with concerns surrounding salt disposal and heat release affecting marine ecosystems.

Nevertheless, desalination remains a critical aspect of water treatment, with over 20,000 facilities worldwide dedicated to transforming seawater into freshwater. Continued research and innovation aim to address these challenges, seeking to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of desalination processes while minimizing their environmental footprint. At DISTED Pre-University studies, chemistry students are exposed to these applied chemistry concepts, preparing them for understanding and addressing the challenges and opportunities in water treatment.



Dr. Teo Soon Beng
Principal Lecturer, School of Pre-University Studies

TransFormative



On March 11, 2024, an educational visit was organised at Robert Bosch (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd for International Business Management student Wen Yi and her supervisor Ms Hemalata. Throughout her internship, Wen Yi was a trainee under a Human Resource Data Management Analyst, managing employee requests and complaints and processing monthly payroll. She honed her skills in Excel and SAP (Systems Applications and Products) to manage data efficiently.

Despite initial hurdles, Wen Yi actively sought advice and rectified procedural and communication mistakes, evolving to handle responsibilities independently. She credits her growth in problem-solving and communication to the continuous support and feedback from her colleagues and supervisor.

Her supervisor lauded her work ethic, describing Wen Yi as a crucial team member who tackled tasks with confidence and passion. Her precision in data management played a significant role in efficiently processing payroll for the entire staff in Malaysia.

Wen Yi's internship journey exemplifies her admirable attitude and performance, enhancing her readiness for a successful career in International Business Management. Her achievements during the internship, supported by her supervisor's commendations, illustrate the transformative power of practical experience in shaping promising talents.

At DISTED, our diploma and forthcoming degree programmes, in collaboration with HELP University, aim to cultivate students' essential knowledge, skills, and positive attitudes towards their professional futures.

Tong Pei Sun
Senior Lecturer, School of Business and Hospitality

Internship: Wen Yi's Journey at Robert Bosch Malaysia

Salt Turns into Colours at DISTED Science Club Coffee talk



Lee Wei Yi, President of the DISTED Science Club and Cambridge A-Level student delivering his talk.

In the expansive domain of chemistry, an array of elements, molecules, and compounds enthrall us with their kaleidoscope of colours, intricate structures, and fascinating properties. Among these compounds are the captivating insoluble salts. Speaker Lee Wei Yi, President of the DISTED Science Club, had the privilege to delve into this subject on March 20th, providing insights into their formation. Participants eagerly engaged in hands-on activities, producing a spectrum of colourful salts, including white, blue, and yellow varieties.

Wei Yi guided participants through various methods of producing these mesmerising compounds, such as neutralisation, double displacement reactions, and the reaction of acids with metals or their oxides. For example, combining Lead (II) Nitrate with Potassium Iodide resulted in a flashy bright yellow salt through double displacement. Another reaction involved Copper (II) Nitrate mixed with sodium hydroxide, yielding a striking dark blue precipitate of Copper (II) hydroxide. The immersive activity underscored the precision and ingenuity required in crafting insoluble salts.

Each technique of forming these salts reveals the intricate interplay of ions and molecules,



paving the way for creating these ionic compounds. Insoluble salts serve essential roles beyond scientific curiosity, aiding in laboratory tasks such as pigment and drug purification. While this activity merely scratches the surface of experimentation and scientific inquiry into these salts, it ignited participants' curiosity about the beauty and marvels of these compounds.

As the exploration of colourful insoluble salts concludes, the DISTED Science Club endeavours to foster curiosity and discovery in participants' scientific journeys. Just as these compounds unveil their uses and benefits in the chemical realm, the club aims to inspire further exploration and appreciation for the wonders of science.

Kaitlyn Khoo Rui Ern
Student Editor (DISTED Discourse), Student of Cambridge A-Level