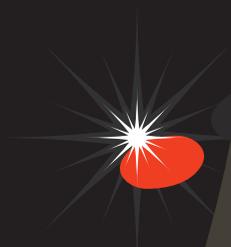


25 Years' Passion in Educating Minds

The Story of DISTED, Penang's Premier College



Commemorating 25th Anniversary of DISTED College

DISTED
Speaks & Sparks Your Future

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Foreword by Dr Koo Wee Kor

President and CEO
DISTED College

"Dr. Koo, please write a foreword for the DISTED 25th Anniversary Publication" so commanded Jaya, our lovely and bubbly editor-in-chief. You must also write a piece on all you want about DISTED, be interviewed and videoed", and with a hint of, be an ox, a horse and a monkey, all at the same time; the animal thing is all my own. "Here is some Panadol" she said. "Yes sir" I said.

It is with such spirit that DISTED embarked on this celebration of 25 years, which involved piling up activities and events, involving all constituents, that will culminate in this 25th Anniversary publication as well as the Commemorative and Recognition Dinner at the end of the year. My sincere pleasure and thanks to the

love, dedication and spirited devotion to duties of all those people, past and present, which make DISTED possible.

This is our first publication and I hope this inaugural edition will be the progenitor of many more to come.

DISTED is open to all students, at all levels and of all kinds of abilities. We provide an opportunity for young people, ask them to do their best and be their best; some, not asked, excelled all the same, thanks to them for elevating DISTED. Others elected to take up the challenge and in one way or another managed to make themselves competent, while others made do, bumbling through nevertheless. All in they recognized the importance of spending time in an institution, learning and playing, finding

their way into the future. Whatever they become, we will be proud to be part of their journey in life and would continue to nurture that bond that is so precious, and yet can so easily be forgotten if no action is taken.

The Success of DISTED owes largely to the community that gives its unrelenting support despite the many ups and downs that we have experienced. The students and their parents' confidence and trust in DISTED have given much encouragement and consolation in moments of trials and tribulations. The staff, with all their flaws and idiosyncrasies, have always risen above all else to give their best to the students. The Board of Governors, with their penchant for proper governance and financial sustainability, has given the College a wide berth to carry out its work. We want once again especially to thank the Wawasan Education Foundation, the Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust and other well-wishers who have given from their funds for teaching and education enhancement provided scholarship grants for our students.

There are many interesting stories in this 25 Anniversary publication. Many people have contributed to the many pages within, and many have given personal accounts of the College

history and memories, a combination of the old and new that blends well with our ethos of heritage outside and modern inside. I would like to express my sincere pleasure and thanks to all of them. My special thanks goes to Ms. Jayaeswari and her team of huskies, working hard but hardly noticed, to chase articles and deadlines and made such a wonderful publication possible.

Finally, our sincere thanks go to all the staff and students who have participated one way or another to make the 25th year celebration a success. Many of them have put in tremendous effort to write, video shoot, edit and done many other things that have left their marks in this commemorative publication.

Viva DISTED!



A Passion Ignited

DISTED College, Penang's very own first private tertiary institution, was founded by a group of 3 distinguished and committed Malaysian educationists comprising Tan Sri Emeritus Professor Gajaraj Dhanarajan, Dr Hulman Sinaga and Dato' Dr Sharom Ahmat.

It all began in early 1985 when they put together their enthusiasm and experience to ignite a passion for establishing a private educational institution.

The time seemed right as there was a popular and growing trend towards overseas education in the country.

The location too appeared fertile as all the private institutions offering split-location degree programmes and matriculation courses were in the Klang Valley.

They formed a company called DISTED Services Sdn Bhd in August 1985, where DISTED is the acronym for 'Distance Education', and the search began for suitable overseas partners with whom linkages could be made for advanced education.

By 1987, contracts were signed with 4 major institutions from 2 countries. Representing the North American region was the British Columbia Open University of Canada and from the

Australian continent were Adelaide College of TAFE, Murdoch University and the Warrnambool Institute of Advanced Education (now part of Deakin University).

During the incipient stage, DISTED Services served mainly as an instrument for offering off-campus courses. However, the interest of SPM and STPM school leavers brought on an ardent demand for on-campus learning.

Responding to the increasing demand for full-time study, an application was made to the Ministry of Education to start DISTED College, which was granted on 16 July 1987.

In January 1988, DISTED admitted its first cohort of full-time on-campus students to its bungalow building on Hargreaves Road with Dr Gajaraj Dhanarajan as its CEO until May 1989 when he accepted an invitation to join the Open University of Hong Kong.

In an interview with the DISTED Yearbook 1989 editorial board, Dr Raj, as he is more popularly known, shed light on the emergence of the college.

"The original intention of DISTED was to provide an alternate route to higher education for adults who could not get into universities, colleges or other places of higher education. The

opportunity for such people actually was even more limited than for Form 5 or Form 6 school leavers who were going on to higher education.

“That was in fact the principal reason for even calling the place DISTED, which is the acronym for ‘Distance Education’,” he revealed.

Nevertheless, it was a circumstances-alter-cases experience for DISTED in moving forward.

“We failed in that original objective because in 1986 we worked on the assumption that there were lots of distance education providers outside Malaysia in the UK, Australia and Canada. They were making available courses for adults at low prices such as AUD20 for a semester unit course.

We were planning something similar for Malaysia. However, some 13 months later by July 1987 the Australians were offering courses at AUD450 to AUD460 per semester. It meant costing somebody RM1,000 (at 1987 exchange rate) for 1 whole semester unit and for that person to graduate would require RM30,000.

So things went beyond our ability to control and there was no way we could have brought this down to make it easily available to working adults.

A prominent member of the college’s Board of Governors said to me: Look Dr Raj, don’t bother. Begin to plan forward to satisfy the needs of younger people. Potentially, they’re the leaders of this country.”

So DISTED changed its direction. Within 6 months we were able to turn our course from an adult-oriented college to that of a younger person’s.

How did DISTED go about forming collaborations with overseas institutions at that time?

“DISTED had the advantage of knowing a few persons who were reasonably well-known in the education arena, who in some ways had made some mark outside Malaysia. We also attended forums on educational issues and we put forward this idea individually and collectively.

“People began to show an interest in what we were planning. We talked to a number of institutions and finally chose 4 which we considered to have the potential to offer help to Malaysian students who are not very proficient in English,” Dr Raj shared.

From that change of direction, DISTED began its noble mission of bringing higher education for full-time study at an affordable price to young people in northern Malaysia. The college

pioneered the offering of the South Australian Matriculation and the British A-Level in Penang.

It also offered one of the first twinning programmes in Malaysia, working with the Warrnambool Institute of Advanced Education (now Deakin University Warrnambool Campus) to provide the opportunity for Malaysian students to gain an Australian undergraduate business degree. This eventually developed into the Deakin 3+0 Bachelor of Commerce which has become one of the most successful programmes conducted by the College.

Founding Mission Statement of DISTED

Aim

To be a premier post-secondary private educational institution in the state of Penang.

Mission

- To provide students from the various socio-economic backgrounds with equal opportunity to avail themselves of the educational offerings of the institution.
- To meet the educational and industrial training needs of the nation in general, and that of northern Malaysia and the surrounding region in particular.



Tan Sri Emeritus Professor Gajaraj Dhanarajan

The DISTED Founders

Gajaraj Dhanarajan

Tan Sri Emeritus Professor Gajaraj Dhanarajan is a former vice-chancellor of Wawasan Open University, former president of the Commonwealth of Learning, former deputy director of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Centre for Distance Learning (off-campus programme) and former director of the Open Learning Institute of Hong Kong (now the Open University of Hong Kong).

He joined the newly established Open Learning Institute of Hong Kong in 1989 as associate academic director, and served as director from 1991 to 1995. He was honoured in 1992 by the institute with the title of Professor, and then Emeritus Professor in 1995.

He holds BSc and MSc degrees from the University of Madras, a Diploma of Imperial College and an MSc from the Imperial College of the University of London and a PhD in Biology from the University of Aston in Birmingham.

From 1995 to 2004, he was president of the Commonwealth of Learning, an inter-governmental agency.

He is acknowledged as one of the world's leading advocates and experts on open and distance learning, for which he has served as a consultant for the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank and the Inter-American and Caribbean Development Bank.

**PEMBUKAAN RASMI KOLEJ DISTRIK
TUN DATUK DR. HAJI AWANG BIN**

**SMN, DUPN, SPMJ
15 HB APRIL 1989**



D OLEH PINANG HASSAN



Among the international development agencies that he has worked with are UNESCO, UNICEF, ILO, WHO, UNHCR, ITU and the International Federation of Red Cross Associations. Other development agencies that have used his experience include CIDA, DFID, AusAID and NZODA.

He holds honorary doctorates from 10 universities in the Asia-Pacific region, Europe and North America.

At the 45th USM convocation ceremony, the university's chancellor H.R.H. Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Ibni Al-Marhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Education to Dr Raj for his contribution as the leading pioneer of distance education.

As one of the world's leading advocate and expert on open and distance Learning, Professor Gajaraj has contributed to global discussion on the subject and further associated with the work of international development agencies.

Dr Raj is a soft spoken academician and a purposeful man, dedicating his life for education. He is very passionate with his crusade to provide an equal opportunity to education for everyone, young and old.

He is a man of wisdom and his astuteness flows to motivate others to better themselves. Dr Raj's gentle and fatherly stature is his trademark which is loved by all.

Sharom Ahmat

Dato' Dr Sharom Ahmat, a former president and CEO of DISTED, has more than 40 years of distinguished service in higher education in Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei.

In recognition of his services to higher education, the University of Sheffield (UK) conferred him the Honorary Doctorate of Letters.

Dato' Dr Sharom, a trained historian, received a first class honours degree from the University of Singapore (1962), MA in American history from Brown University (1963) and a PhD in South-East Asian history from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (1969).

He started his academic career as an assistant lecturer in history at the University of Singapore in 1963 rising through the ranks to become senior lecturer and deputy dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. In 1973 he became a professor of history and the dean of humanities at USM. In 1975 he was appointed the university's



VIDEO Dato' Dr Sharom Ahmat

first deputy vice-chancellor (student affairs), followed by portfolios in academic affairs (1978) and research and development (1980).

Based on his experience in all facets of university administration, he was seconded to Brunei in 1985 to assist in the establishment of the University of Brunei Darussalam. He spent 9 years in Brunei as an academic advisor at the University of Brunei. He returned to Penang in August 1994 and assumed the position of DISTED president in September that year.

Dato' Dr Sharom has played a leading role in the development and expansion of DISTED culminating with

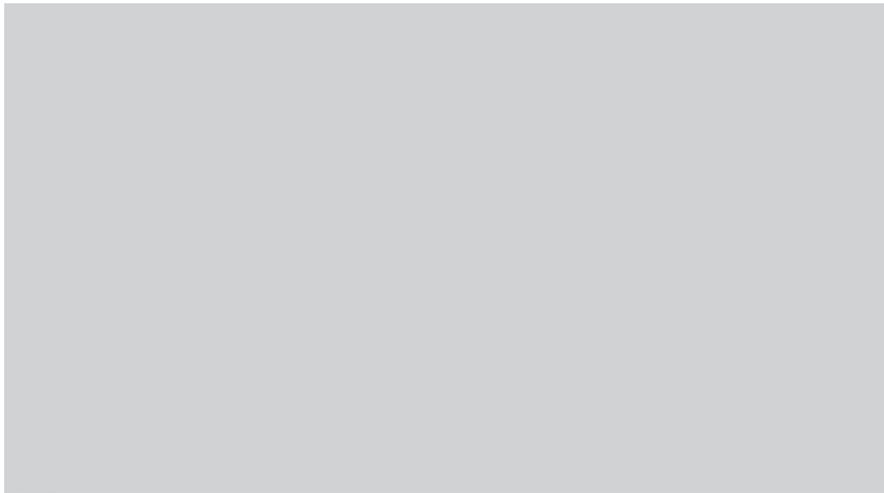
the opening of its own facilities, the Yeap Chor Ee Campus in 1995. He was committed to ensuring that DISTED delivered quality programmes in a caring atmosphere.

He advocates that educators need to be passionate in their profession as only with the enthusiasm and the love to teach can they make teaching and learning fun and effective.

Dato' Dr Sharom has a charming personality that leaves a lasting impression on everyone around him.

Hulman Sinaga

Dr Hulman Sinaga was the first principal and a former deputy vice-



 Dr Hulman Sinaga



president for academic affairs of DISTED. He is a former associate professor at the USM School of Education as well as the University of Brunei.

Dr Sinaga was a senior teacher at Sunny Hill School before leaving to the United States in 1968 under a Fulbright scholarship to study at Wayne State University where he received both his Master of Education and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. Upon his return to Malaysia, he joined USM as a lecturer.

In 1975 Dr Sinaga started working on a revised version of IMPACT (Instructional Management by Parents,

Community, and Teachers). The project was developed by a group of educators in South-East Asia to reverse the trend of conventional educational components with programmed instruction and learning, student and community volunteers and instructional supervisors to bring a wholesome approach towards learning and knowledge acquisition.

He worked closely with IDRC (International Development Center Research) and was appointed director for the Project InSPIRE (Integrated System of Programmed Instruction for Rural Environment).

Dr Sinaga is passionate about igniting the reading culture among teenagers. He stresses that the refined culture of reading is lost among youths these days and educators should take the responsibility of making greater efforts to stimulate and nurture the reading culture in young people.

He is a man who loves music and dedicates his life to community services. He has a heart that is gentle and loving with a fervor to educating all.



Reflections of a Founder

Tan Sri Emeritus Professor Gajaraj Dhanarajan, a founding father of DISTED, reiterates the fundamental noble mission of DISTED in educating young people:

DISTED was founded on 3 guiding principles:

1. A belief that all young people if given an opportunity and a caring learning environment can successfully meet the challenges of higher education.
2. A vision to make higher education accessible to as many young people in Penang as is possible at a minimal cost.
3. A mission to serve the purposes of higher education to mould young minds with learning and values of respect, tolerance and care for others including our fragile environment.

25 years later since its founding in 1987, it is important that we reflect

on those founding principles and as a community inquire if they still hold true for the college and higher education. 25 years have passed on like a blink but it is last century. Into the second decade of a new century, do those principles of 1987 have any value? A simple answer will be a resounding YES, as those principles reflect a good society.

But unlike 1987, Malaysia today is full of opportunities for higher learning for almost all young people regardless of their socio-economic background. Some of them have to pay a higher cost and others, especially those privileged enough to get into highly subsidized public institutions, at a much lower cost but there are opportunities for all.

Putting the cost issue aside, higher education is reachable for many but a caring learning environment is not. Private higher education, in our country especially, is motivated by the size of the bottom line and that means cutting costs and increasing returns.

DISTED to a great extent has not been overly driven by bottom lines though the pressure to be 'profitable' is always present. It is my hope that we

will continue the values of a caring learning environment, under the ownership of a charitable foundation committed to education.

The second principle of DISTED's vision to make higher education accessible to all, will require adjustments in this new century. The adjustments may mean relooking at 'higher education' and its purpose in our country. Our utilitarian environment demands that young people exit from higher education with skills to be economically productive.

The challenge for the college, under these circumstances, is in shaping the curriculum in a manner that does not make its graduates total 'robots' but citizens with skills and equally, a responsible sense of humanity. This is a demand that lecturers, more than others in the college community, must bring to their vocation.

The last of the principles is about our common humanity which has been there since the dawn of civilization and will continue to be there till the end of our civilization.

Valuing our environment, respecting others and helping all those who need help are values that DISTED has

promoted all these 25 years and as one of its 3 founders, my hope is for it to continue to do so. After all, higher education is about being a good human in a well functioning 'good society'.



On the Move to Permanent Campuses

From its beginning in 1987 at a bungalow on Hargreaves Road, DISTED made its sojourn to RECSAM and Kelawei Road before being housed in a permanent campus on Macalister Road 8 years later in 1995.

In realizing its own purpose-built campus, DISTED is indebted to an institution, the Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust, for its foresight in sharing resources to further education opportunities for the community, and to an individual, its former deputy chief executive officer Dato' Saleena Yahaya Isa, for galvanizing the

partnership between the college and the charitable body.

2 years later in 1997, the permanent campus was further expanded to a 5.5 acres site when the college acquired an adjacent piece of land where the library building is now situated.

In 2012, the college carved another expansion landmark when its School of Hospitality began operations in a brand new campus on China Street Ghaut in the heritage enclave of the UNESCO World Heritage City of George Town. In the same year the building of the new hostel began.



It is scheduled to be completed in late 2013 and by that time young and vibrant resident students will be introduced into the heritage enclave.

With the emergence of the new hospitality facility, the college now is made up of 2 campuses, the DISTED Yeap Chor Ee Campus and the DISTED Hospitality Campus.

DISTED at RECSAM (1988-1989)

Under the dynamic leadership of Dr Gajaraj Dhanarajan, the college's academic sector grew from the

British Columbia Open University distance education programme to Australian matriculation and twinning arrangements with Australia's Warrnambool Institute of Advanced Education (now part of Deakin University).

This promising growth of academic offerings meant that the original base on Hargreaves Road was inadequate, giving rise to a pressing need for the college to find more suitable premises.

A tenancy agreement was signed with SEAMEO RECSAM (South-East Asian Ministers of Education Organization, Regional Centre for Education in

Science and Mathematics) in February 1988.

SEAMEO RECSAM trains teaching staff from the ASEAN member countries as well as conduct pedagogical research and development in the field of science and mathematics.

However, the DISTED base at RECSAM in Gelugor was not sufficiently big enough.

Hence, although all academic activities were transferred there, the administrative unit of the college had to remain at Hargreaves Road.



DISTED at Kelawei Road (1989-1994)

By 1989, increasing student enrolments led to the urgent need to locate to bigger and better premises in order to provide centralized and enhanced services and facilities.

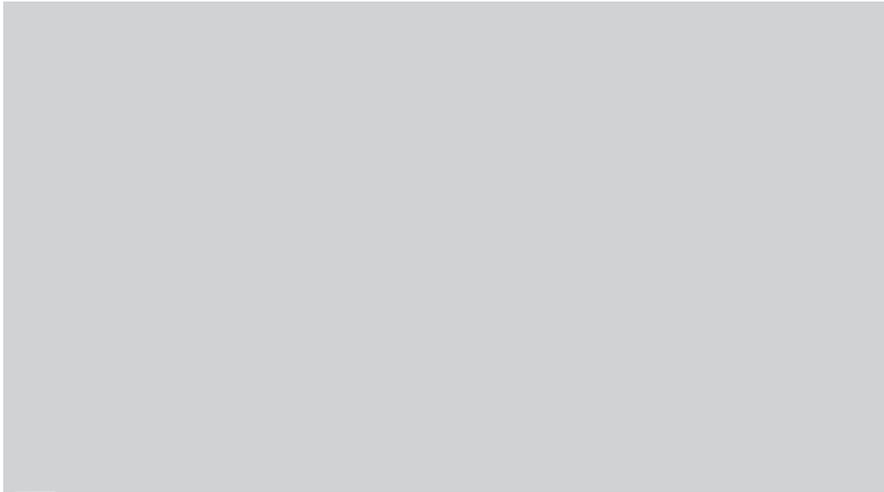
An intensive search for a new location ended when a tenancy agreement was signed with the Uplands School (now the International School of Penang in Batu Ferringhi) to sub-lease then St Joseph's Training College and school premises (which are now part of the high rise retail and luxury residential

park known as Gurney Paragon).

Extensive renovations were carried out and on 15 April 1989, the new premises were officially opened by then Governor of Penang Tun Datuk (Dr) Haji Awang Hassan.

The campus at Kelawei Road had classrooms that were fully air-conditioned and equipped with audio-visual systems.

In the computer lab, a range of microcomputers, printers and software were available for hands-on application in the areas of accounting, commerce, science and technology.



 Mr R Padmanathan

Two multi-purpose labs served the needs of the natural sciences students.

It had a comprehensive library that catered to the needs of students and staff. The library contained over 2,000 volumes of books in various disciplines with 3 librarians on hand to advise and assist students on referencing and information search.

The campus grounds had an all-purpose field where students could enjoy soccer, hockey, volleyball and field events.

Arrangements were made for students to play squash, basketball and

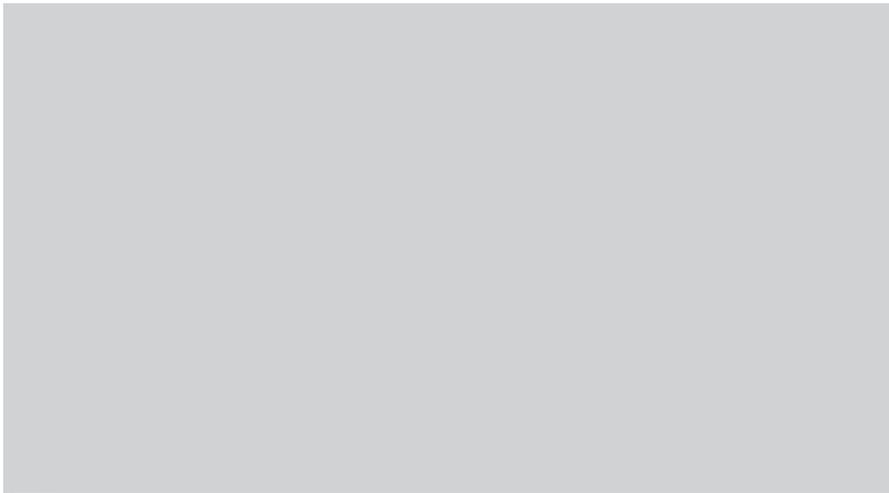
badminton in the local recreational centres.

The Kelawei Road campus, which was more than adequate in 1989, soon became increasingly cramped for any further expansion. Once again without doubt, there was the pressing need to relocate to new premises.

So, 5 years after moving to Kelawei Road saw DISTED, under the leadership of its principal then Mr R Padmanathan, enthusiastically preparing for yet another historic move - its relocation to the DISTED Yeap Chor Ee Campus on Macalister Road.



DIPTA



Dato' Seri (Dr) Stephen Yeap

DISTED Yeap Chor Ee Campus (1995-Present)

The DISTED Yeap Chor Ee Campus was the fruition of the vision of the college's founders and the late Towkay Yeap Chor Ee whose legacy included the Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust.

The involvement of the Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust resulted from its foresight to balance charitable acts with educational promotion.

DISTED, as a progressive college set up and managed by people who were educationists at heart and being the first Penang-based private institution of higher education to introduce the

university twinning concept in the northern region, was found to be a suitable channel to promote that particular objective.

The commitment to enter into a joint venture with DISTED was made in May 1991 and culminated with the signing of a formal agreement in August 1992.

The joint venture provided a permanent campus for the college known as the DISTED Yeap Chor Ee Campus in memory of the late Towkay Yeap Chor Ee, one of Penang's best known tycoon, banker and philanthropist.

In addition, to emphasize the twin vision of charitable work and educational promotion, the joint

venture also led to the provision of scholarships to deserving students with financial need.

The partnership empowered DISTED to further its mission to open up tertiary education opportunities at affordable cost to the widest student population.

A key member of the DISTED Board of Directors responsible for the realization of this new campus complex was Dato' Saleena Yahaya Isa, who subsequently became the college's deputy chief executive officer. She worked tirelessly behind the scenes to engage the involvement of the Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust.

Dato' Saleena (known as Ms Christina Lee Kooi Jong before her conversion

to Islam in 1966), originally a nurse at the Penang Hospital, is a well-known community leader and former educationist who was the principal of the pioneer deaf school in Malaysia, SMK Pendidikan Khas (formerly, the Federation School for the Deaf), from 1961 to 1987.

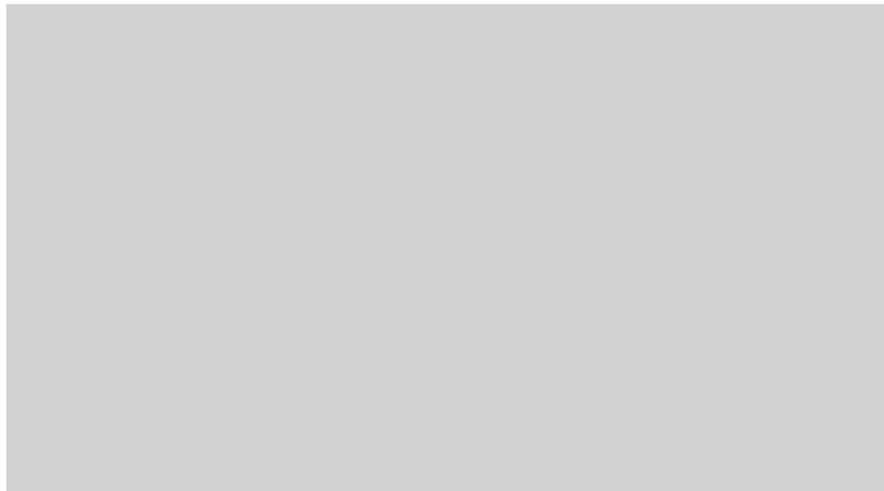
The efforts of Dato' Saleena and the college board members resulted in the historic signing agreement ceremony on 19 August 1992 at Shangri-La Hotel (now Traders Hotel), Penang, between the Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust and the college.

The ceremony was witnessed by Toh Puan Datin Seri Hajjah Siti Zainab Haji Bharuddin, the consort of then Governor of Penang.

Present at the event included DISTED Boards of Directors and Governors chairman Datuk Haji Mohamed Yeop Abdul Raof, DISTED deputy chief executive officer then Hajjah Saleena Yahaya Isa and trustee of the Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust Mr (now Dato' Seri (Dr)) Stephen Yeap Leong Huat.

Then Penang Chief Minister (now Tan Sri) Dr Koh Tsu Koon laid the foundation for the new campus in October 1993.

The campus official opening ceremony



 Dato' Saleena

was held on 8 April 1995 at the college hall and officiated by then Governor of Penang Tun Dato' Seri (Dr) Haji Hamdan Sheikh Tahir.

The new campus, originally with a gross built-up area of 50,000 sq ft, is located close to Pulau Tikus, a commercial suburb of Penang.

The new campus complex was built around an existing early 20th century double-storey bungalow building, whose dignified character and ambience lent itself well for conversion to institutional use.

The façade of the 1910 Anglo-Indian style vintage bungalow was renovated to preserve its old splendor while the interior had been converted into

administrative offices.

The gracefully restored house acts as the departure point for the adjoining new blocks whose architectural emphasis was on essence rather than exact reproduction of the original heritage building's features.

The adjoining 3-storey U-shaped extension was built to provide lecture and seminar rooms, academic staff room, science, computing and engineering labs, student facilities and other ancillary rooms as well as a multi-purpose hall that serves as an event and examination venue and indoor sports facility.

The needs of the disabled are also looked after with the provision of a lift,



wheelchair access ramps and special toilets.

While the imposing style of the bungalow-turned-administration block projects an atmosphere of establishment and institution, the new U-wing with its orderly structure is lighter and more open, very much in synergy with the needs of its present users.

The whole college is networked through a central hub that links computers in the college to the cyber world via broadband and WiFi.

The large college grounds, shaded by old trees, provide a tranquil and inspiring ambience and beckon the call of environment friendliness.

The architectural intention throughout had been to achieve a harmonious balance between the old and new buildings and the surrounding environment so as to create a tightly knit and integrated complex that could enhance student interaction and provide an atmosphere conducive to studying.

In 1997, with the expansion of programmes and student numbers, DISTED acquired a 1.4ha piece of land adjacent to the campus site which now houses the Learning Resource Centre (library building) and provides additional land for its long term needs.

Before 1995, DISTED's progress had been curtailed by limited facilities.

With the acquisition of its own campus, DISTED had the opportunity to make its mark in the educational arena and fulfill its dream of becoming a premier college.

The Yeap Chor Ee Campus, which can cater ultimately to 2,000 students, has enabled the college to expand the scope and variety of its academic programmes.

The Yeap Chor Ee Campus era witnessed the merger of DISTED with Stamford College Penang and the emergence of the Wawasan Education Foundation as the major shareholder of the college.

For a decade from 1999 to 2009, DISTED assumed the identity of DISTED-

Stamford College as a result of the amalgamation with Stamford College Penang.

Stamford College has been a household name in higher education in the country since the 1950's while Stamford College Penang was established in 1966 as part of the Stamford Group of Colleges to provide a wide range of professional courses.

The merger in January 1999 between the two most established and very well-known private colleges in Penang was a frontier milestone and a pioneering progenitor move for private colleges in Malaysia.

Nevertheless, parting of ways became inevitable when DISTED subsequently evolved as a not-for-profit educational institution under the ownership of the Wawasan Education Foundation whereas its merger partner Stamford College remained under the proprietorship of a public listed company.

The key difference in shareholder orientation resulted in the merger being dissolved in 2009 and the name of the college reverted to DISTED.

The Wawasan Education Foundation (originally known as the Gerakan Education Foundation) became the major stakeholder of the college on



VIDEO Dato' Dr Chin

1 November 2000 and took over the operations of the college on 2 January 2001.

Established on 21 March 2000 under the Companies Act 1963, the foundation is a charitable body funded by tax-exempted public donations to promote and advance education.

Its key objectives include fostering, developing and improving education for all kinds consistent with the National Education Policy.

It seeks to set up of scholarships and bursaries and render financial assistance in the form of interest-free educational loans to needy and deserving students so as to enable

them to pursue higher education.

The main donors of the foundation are the Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust, other charitable organizations and foundations, multinational corporations, companies, guilds, associations, the Gerakan Party members and supporters as well as members of the public.

The Wawasan Education Foundation appointed Dato' (now Tan Sri) Dr Chin Fook Weng, then a senator, as the new president and CEO of DISTED.

"The foundation chose DISTED primarily because of the college's premier position in Penang as a well-managed, caring and environmentally friendly institution whose founders were

educators at heart and who were motivated to spread education to a wider audience through distance learning,” Dato’ Dr Chin said.

“It runs the college as a charitable and non-profit institution that provides affordable, quality higher education and training leading to professional careers in commerce and industry.

“As such, DISTED is further strengthened and improved by its policy of ploughing back any profits for the development of human resources and infrastructure, and the provision of financial assistance to deserving students,” he explained when helming the college.

Dato’ Dr Chin consolidated the mission of DISTED under the foundation to cover a broad range of perspectives:

- DISTED is run as a not-for-profit institution with a heavy reliance on enhanced ICT facilities.
- As a non-profit college, DISTED ploughs back any profit to enhance the education and welfare of students through lower fees, enhanced ICT facilities and financial support.
- It strives to be a premier tertiary education that provides affordable, quality higher education and training which will enable its

students to move on to prestigious universities leading to professional careers in commerce and industry.

- It also aims to prepare foreign students for a successful study in degree programmes in Malaysia and abroad.
- DISTED shall ensure relevance and quality of its programmes of study.
- The college encourages and supports staff to pursue professional excellence in their work and continually upgrade their qualifications and skills.
- It continually improves the level and quality of support services to promote excellence in teaching and learning.
- It continually puts in place programmes and strategies to empower students to become independent, effective and successful learners, and contribute to the development of the individual intellectually, emotionally and spiritually.
- The college encourages and supports the organization of co-curricular activities and enhances the academic offerings and hones the professionalism of staff and students.

In 2004 DISTED entered into a management agreement with Global Education Management (GEM) that saw the appointment of Dato’ Dr Chong Eng Keat as the President of the College. It was under the stewardship of Dato’ Dr Chong that the College established a stronger academic and business foundation, building stronger processes and put in a plan to make the College more sustainable.

It was in this period of growth that the portfolios of the College programme offerings started to change. Programmes with Deakin University were phased out due to the constraint of costs. New partners were found in Staffordshire University of the UK for the business programmes, Multimedia University in Cyberjaya for Engineering and HELP University College for Psychology.

In 2009 the management agreement with GEM lapsed. Dr Koo Wee Kor was then appointed the President and brought the the plan for growth and quality to the current state of health with about 1200 students and 15 programmes on offer to young people who desired a quality education from Pre-University studies to degrees in Business, IT, Psychology and Hospitality.



DISTED Hospitality Campus 2012

Operational from January 2012, the new hospitality campus with state-of-the-art facilities for classroom learning and practical training is poised to provide excellent and industry-relevant hospitality education. The facilities in the campus include a contemporary-style restaurant, a bakery shop, professionally set-up food kitchen and bakery kitchen, a demo kitchen cum lecture theatre, a housekeeping mock-up room, classrooms, library and computer lab.

Located at 7 China Street Ghaut in Bangunan Wawasan, Penang, the campus was officially opened by Minister in the Prime Minister Department Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon on 28 April 2012. With its new campus, the DISTED School of Hospitality seeks to inject young people, study, work and life as part of the college's efforts to help in the rejuvenation of historic George Town to live up to its billing as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

With the fabulous facilities in the new campus, the School of Hospitality is set to reach greater heights beyond the 5-star excellence rating accorded by the Malaysian Quality Evaluation System for Private Colleges (MyQuest)

2010/2011 conducted by the Ministry of Higher Education.

DISTED School of Hospitality head Susie Khoo remarked: "The state-of-the-art campus facilities, coupled with experienced, dedicated and caring lecturers, up-to-date industry-focused curriculum and high academic quality, make DISTED School of Hospitality the smarter choice for a premier hospitality education. In the campus building, we've dedicated a corner known as the Wall of Industry Partners for international class hotels who are members of our Industry Advisory Panel to display their pictorial treasures and memorabilia, marking a mutual quest to train versatile workers and future leaders for the hospitality industry.

Like the DISTED Yeap Chor Ee Campus, the DISTED Hospitality Campus reaped its fortuitous building, which has great historical significance to Penang, from the legacy of the late Towkay Yeap Chor Ee. The hospitality campus building was originally called the Yeap Chor Ee Godown, later renamed Bangunan Behn Meyer and in 2010, Bangunan Wawasan. It used to be part of the row of striking colossal offices and godowns along China Street Ghaut during the heyday of Penang harbour at Weld Quay in the 1930s.

Commissioned by Towkay Yeap Chor Ee and designed by Messrs Stark & MacNeil, the buildings remain among the finest examples of a merchant house with accompanying warehouses. Their historical façade features classical elegance and monumental strength. Using modern construction methods, the new godowns were the first buildings in Penang to be built with ferro concrete or reinforced concrete.

The DISTED Hospitality Campus building was among the godowns used by Towkay Yeap Chor Ee for the dual purpose of a warehouse for his mercantile business and a secured facility for his valuable tin ingots.

In turning the building into the DISTED Hospitality Campus, much of its structure is preserved to retain the vestiges of its glorious past in the history of Penang.

Kaleidoscope of Course Offerings

The academic programmes offered by DISTED in its first 25 years are a spectrum of innovation and adaptation to stay in line with market demand and in tune with competition so as to sustain its quest to provide industry-relevant education at affordable costs.

The early years at the Kelawei Road campus saw the college focusing on classroom-based courses in the 3 main areas of pre-university studies, business and computing in collaboration with its overseas partners.

With the emergence of its permanent Yeap Chor Ee Campus on Macalister Road in 1995, DISTED sought to expand to the more capital intensive programmes of hospitality, engineering, computer science and multimedia besides diversifying its original core of courses.

The Yeap Chor Ee Campus era witnessed changes in strategic partnerships and programme orientation catering to the need for a broader range of courses and to adapt to market forces.

While many of the innovative efforts did not survive the test of time,

they remain a symbolic endeavour of significance in the college's history of course offerings and represent the foresights and the well-intended courage in risk taking by its management when treading uncharted study opportunities for the community.

The kaleidoscope of adaptations and changes in courses over a quarter of a century puts into perspective the endeavours and challenges encountered by DISTED as a single-campus private college in northern Malaysia in competing not only with its regional peers but also, in defying the powerful competition posed by much bigger educational institutions in the Klang Valley.

The evolving range of courses reflects the versatility and steadfastness of DISTED in keeping alive its flame of passion in educating young minds; a passion that has been galvanized as a community-minded not-for-profit venture since the taking over of its operations by the charitable Wasawan Education Foundation in 2001.

Courses at Kelawei Road Campus

The courses offered by DISTED in the early years leading to 1994 were intended to facilitate students in obtaining foreign undergraduate degrees at reduced costs by studying a part of the courses in Penang.

At the Kelawei Road campus, DISTED pioneered in northern Malaysia the advantages of gaining a foreign undergraduate qualification that involved completing a full programme locally or completing a major part of the tertiary education in Penang before transferring overseas.

Through DISTED, Malaysians could obtain identical qualifications as their counterparts who pursued the same degree wholly abroad in Australia, Canada and USA.

In addition, a foundation programme was also made available to SPM school leavers who needed an academic boost to cope with tertiary studies.

DISTED Foundation

The DISTED Foundation was not a university entry preparatory course per se but an academic enrichment programme to prepare students

to cope with the international pre-university courses of the South Australian Matriculation and A-Level.

The foundation was designed in consultation with the college's partners in Australia and Canada at that time.

It catered especially to students whose performance in the SPM examination was average and below to help them to develop the basic skills required to undertake a tertiary course conducted in the English medium.

The foundation sought to remedy the lack of English skills for academic work including difficulties in reading and comprehending in English, and the inability to write clearly and concisely in English.

On satisfactory completion of the programme, students with appropriate academic credentials had the automatic admission into the South Australian Matriculation or A-Level course.

South Australian Matriculation (SAM)

The South Australian Matriculation (SAM), which is recognized for entry into degree studies by tertiary institutions throughout Australia and overseas, takes a special place of

pride at DISTED as it is the pioneering and the oldest course conducted by the college that is still being offered today in collaboration with the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) Board.

When DISTED first introduced the SAM programme in Penang back in 1987, the college was linked with the Adelaide College in South Australia.

Besides obtaining direct guidance from the SAM administration board, then known as the Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia (SSABSA), DISTED too benefited from the expertise and experience of Adelaide College staff in running the matriculation programme.

There were 2 levels of SAM available at the Kelawei Road campus depending on a candidate's SPM results.

SAM Year 11 was open to students with SPM grade 3 with credit in English and passes in 3 subjects while direct entry into SAM Year 12 required SPM 5 credits with at least credit 4 in English or equivalent qualifications such as SPMV, O-Level and Senior Middle Three.

Initially, the SAM Year 12 subjects offered were Accounting, Economics, English as a Second Language, Malaysian Studies, Biology, Chemistry,



Physics, Mathematics 1, Mathematics 2 and Mathematics 1S.

The course was popular and the subject menu was subsequently established to comprise Accounting, Economics, English as a Second Language, Malaysian Studies, Legal Studies, History, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics 1 and Mathematics 2.

At that time, to obtain a full matriculation certificate, students were required to take at least 5 subjects in one examination sitting.

AEB A-Level Arts

The first A-Level programme ran by DISTED was from the UK's Associated Examining Board (AEB) catering to only arts stream students.

Subjects offered in the programme were Accounting, Economics, History, Law and Statistics.

Like SAM, the AEB A-Level provided the alternative pre-university qualification for SPM holders to gain an edge in university entry that was becoming increasingly more competitive.

Passes in 3 A-Level subjects, with evidence of competence in English, would enable students to seek

admission into an undergraduate programme locally and overseas.

British Columbia Open University Programme

The British Columbia Open University (BCOU), a constituent part of the Open Learning Agency of British Columbia in Canada, has a unique place in the history of DISTED.

It was the first and only Canadian university that DISTED has had twinning affiliation in the 25 years of the college's existence.

For a study pathway leading to an American or Canadian degree, DISTED favoured BCOU as the university's courses and degrees were recognized by almost all the universities and colleges in North America as well as their governments.

Furthermore, credits from BCOU were also transferrable to universities in Australia, United Kingdom and New Zealand.

The DISTED-BCOU linkage allowed Malaysians to study the first 2 years of the university's Bachelor of Arts in Administration Studies in Penang and continue for a further 2 years in institutions abroad.



Mr Himanshu Bhatt

To graduate, 120 credits equivalent to 40 subjects over 4 years of study were required. Students could transfer up to 60 of these credits (20 subjects) to most colleges and universities in USA and Canada.

Students of the BCOU split degree or credit transfer degree programme had a wide choice of North American universities to earn their undergraduate qualification.

At USA, they could seek to transfer to complete the final 2 years of studies at Indiana Institute of Technology, Indiana University, North Dakota State University, University of South Illinois, North Dakota University, University of Northern Illinois, University of Western Illinois, University of Western Michigan,

University of Wisconsin, University of South Alabama, Kent State University, University of Texas at el Paso and University of Denver.

Those heading for Canada could opt for University of Winnipeg, Wilfred Laurier University, University of New Brunswick, Bishops University, University of Ottawa, Laurentian University, University of Prince Edward Island, University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, University of Victoria B.C. and Capilano College B.C.

Murdoch University Programmes

One of the 2 maiden partners of DISTED from Australia was Murdoch University.

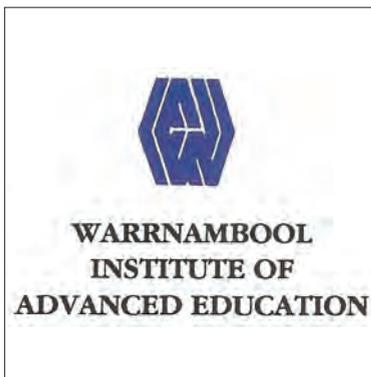
Starting July 1987, Murdoch University offered Malaysian students through DISTED its off-campus programmes of the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and the Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with Computing. It represented the first of its kind of a twinning degree via first a distance learning mode in Malaysia followed by a transfer arrangement to universities in Australia.

In the Murdoch University programmes, DISTED offered the first year of study which shared subjects of a generic nature.

On completion of the first year in Penang, students could apply for advanced standing into second year at Murdoch University as well as Warrnambool Institute of Advanced Education, Deakin University and Queensland University of Technology.

It had the flexibility for students to combine studies in computer science with studies in another discipline such as chemistry, education, mathematics, physics, psychology and mineral science.

The Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with Computing was designed to provide sound background knowledge of the most important and useful parts



of mathematics, statistics and computing.

It allowed students to combine their interest in mathematics with related subjects such as computer science, physics and economics.

WIAE and Deakin University Programmes

The most significant Australian linkage of DISTED was with the Warrnambool Institute of Advanced Education (WIAE) (now Deakin University Warrnambool Campus).

Warrnambool is a beautiful provincial city, 260km west of Melbourne. The city is situated on the coast that boasts of some of the world's most spectacular sceneries.

Malaysian students could commence their 3-year undergraduate studies at DISTED before transferring to WIAE for the final 1 or 2 years to obtain a Bachelor of Business, a Bachelor of Arts in Management Communication or a Bachelor of Social Science. This also represented one of the earliest twinning programmes in Malaysia.

Initially, the Bachelor of Business students had the choice of majoring in Applied Economics or Accounting.

The Bachelor of Business majoring in Applied Economics prepared graduates for employment in fields which required collection and analysis of data related to financial and economic matters.

The Bachelor of Business with Accounting specialism geared graduates to take their place in public practice, commerce and industry as professional accountants.

WIAE accounting major graduates were eligible to apply for Associate Membership of the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants (now CPA Australia). For full membership, the society required completion of a professional development programme and specified practical experience.

The Bachelor of Arts in Management Communication was recognized by the Public Relations Institute of Australia, and graduates of the course satisfied the educational membership requirements of the body.

The Bachelor of Social Science opened employment opportunities in tourism administration and promotion, school teaching, welfare administration, banking, trade, personnel and retail management.



Mr Mohan & Leena

In 1990, WIAE merged with Deakin University to become the university's Warrnambool Campus.

The amalgamation heralded the start of the DISTED-Deakin partnership which lasted for 2 decades and was noted for conducting the most popular Australian business degree programme in northern Malaysia.

Through the Deakin University Warrnambool Campus, DISTED continued to offer the 3-year Bachelor of Business with Computing as additional major choice to Applied Economics and Accounting.

The computing major was an interdisciplinary course which included computing as the main component.

It aimed to develop a common core of paradigms, skills and techniques necessary for information processing in a wide range of applications.

It was designed to meet the academic requirements of membership with the Australian Computer Society.

The Deakin University course offerings at DISTED were subsequently augmented to include the Bachelor of Science (Computing).

The science degree in computing encompassed major studies in computer science, information systems, mathematics, statistics and operations research, which could be taken in conjunction with units in electronics and communications.

The programme, recognized by the Australian Computer Society, was designed to prepare graduates whose interests lied in the application of computers and data processing, equipment to commercial, technical and scientific problems for positions in computer programming, systems design or computer centre management.

Vocational and Professional Programmes

For vocational and professional programmes, DISTED collaborated with the Penang Skills Development Corporation (PSDC), an industry-led skills training centre set up in 1989 and located within the Free Industrial Zones (FIZ) of Penang.

Offered in collaboration with PSDC, the Foundation Technical Skills and Specialized Technical Skills aimed at upgrading the skills of experienced production staff in FIZ firms who had Form 4 and Form 5 qualifications.

The Foundation Technical Skills also functioned as a preparatory course for those wishing to proceed to the UK's City & Guilds (C&G) Part I examination.

The Specialized Technical Skills course was crafted for those who needed to acquire new skills for promotion or who





wanted to prepare for the C&G Part II examination.

In the area of professional accountancy, the ACCA (UK) Sandwich Course was a tripartite venture of PSDC, the Malaysian Institute of Accountants and DISTED.

Conducted at DISTED for full-time and part-time study, the sandwich course was intended for school leavers who were sponsored by local firms to study for the ACCA professional accountancy qualification.

English Language Courses

To complement its core menu of twinning degree programmes, DISTED also offered English enhancement courses for study and work to students and working adults

It conducted the USA's Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Preparatory Course, a 2-month intensive programme to prepare students for higher studies in twinning programmes and abroad in English-speaking countries.

Introduced in 1993, the Cambridge Certificate in English for Business and Trade was designed for the clerical and technical staff of factories in the FIZ and other business organizations.

It sought to promote practical competency in the use of English in the workplace.

Courses at Yeap Chor Ee Campus

Of the courses that sprouted at the Kelawei Road campus, only 3, SAM, A-Level and the Deakin University business degree programmes, made it to the portals of the Yeap Chor Ee Campus which began operations in January 1995.

The other earlier courses had been discontinued in the streamlining and consolidation process to align with market demands.

After moving into the new Yeap Chor Ee Campus, DISTED re-strategized its course offerings to include homegrown diploma programmes for articulation into its twinning degree courses as well as for credit transfer arrangements with universities in Australia, New Zealand, UK and USA.

The Yeap Chor Ee Campus era saw significant changes in foreign partnerships, expansion of course portfolios following the merger with Stamford College Penang and establishment of new collaborative tie-ups with 2 nationally well-known



private higher education institutions namely, Multimedia University and HELP University. Stamford College brought with it partners like University Science Malaysia and American Hotel and Lodging Association.

Course expansion went beyond pre-university studies and business to engineering, hospitality, psychology, computer science, IT and multimedia and a short course in paramedical science.

PRE-UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

South Australian Matriculation (SAM)

At DISTED, SAM has withstood the test of time and challenging market forces to remain a viable programme until today.

While the number of subjects taken by students remains unchanged at 5 subjects, the subject menu has seen changes in terminology. For instance, Mathematics 1 and Mathematics 2 are now known as Mathematical Studies and Specialist Mathematics respectively.

Malaysian Studies and History were dropped from the subject listing

and new subjects were introduced comprising Economics, Information Technology Studies, Malay for Background Speakers and Psychology.

In 2011, the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) Board adjusted the weightage for coursework and examination in the SAM assessment system.

Coursework now accounts for 70% instead of the previous 50% of the final marks while the impact of the examination, which is set and marked by the SACE Board, has been reduced from 50% to 30% of the overall marks for a subject.

The greater emphasis on coursework invigorates the exciting experience and practical approach of SAM to learning through group classroom teaching, discussions, research projects and oral-aural activities, leading to students gaining not only academic knowledge but also, soft skills in communication, presentation and interpersonal relations.

Cambridge A-Level

In 1995, DISTED renewed its A-Level programme by adopting the variant governed by the University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE).

Since then the Cambridge A-Level programme, touted as the gold standard of pre-university qualifications, has remained a core pillar in the programme offerings by DISTED.

From 1995 to 2007, the college offered only the Cambridge A-Level Science programme.

It made a landmark history by being the first college in Malaysia to conduct the Cambridge A-Level on a fast-track route of 1 year, leading to cost savings and the opportunity of earlier entry into university for SPM holders.

Besides the 1-year intensive option, students can choose to complete the Cambridge A-Level Science in the regular pace of 18 months with choice of subjects in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

The Cambridge A-Level Arts programme was started in 2008 which now can be completed in 1 or 1½ years with choice of subjects in Accounting, Business Studies, Economics, Law, Mathematics and Psychology.

Like SAM, the Cambridge A-Level is a gateway to a degree course worldwide in Malaysia (private



universities and colleges), Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, India, the United Kingdom, the European Union, the United States, Canada and Russia.

Russian Pre-Medical Programme

DISTED carved a mark in the history of local higher education institutions in 2003 when it offered the first ever Russian Pre-Medical Programme specifically for students intending to take up medical, dentistry and pharmacy studies in Russia.

Conducted for a couple of years in collaboration with Russian Resources Sdn Bhd, the pathway led to degree studies at 2 renowned Russian universities, Nizhny Novgorod State Medical Academy and Volgograd State Medical Academy.

The 2 Russian universities offer the attraction of comparatively more affordable costs of study and their medical degrees are fully recognized by the Malaysian government and medical regulatory bodies.

In the fast track and intensive pre-medical programme, SPM holders undertook the UK's Cambridge Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level Science for 6 months from January to June at DISTED.

At the same time, they were taught short integration courses in sciences and Russian language to amalgamate the Cambridge AS Level Science with the Russian medical education system.

The students would then leave for Russia in July to undertake an additional 2-month intensive Russian language course prior to commencing their degree studies in October.

BUSINESS & ACCOUNTING EDUCATION

Deakin University Programme

The Deakin University business degree programme, by then called the Bachelor of Commerce, continued to flourish in the first decade since DISTED moved to the Yeap Chor Ee Campus.

The development of the programme brought about positive changes of flexible study modes and wider range of major options.

There was the 3+0 option of undertaking all the 3 years of study in Penang to obtain the Deakin University Bachelor of Commerce with major in Accounting, Management or Marketing.

Students who preferred to study the first 2 years at DISTED and the final year at Deakin University (known as the 2+1 option) had the choice of majoring in Accounting, Accounting Information Systems, Commercial Law, eBusiness, Finance, Financial Planning, Human Resource Management, Interactive Marketing, Management, Marketing or Quantitative Business Analysis.

In the 1+2 option, students were required to study the first year at DISTED and the remaining 2 years at Deakin University with major options in Accounting, Accounting Information Systems, Commercial Law, Business Information Systems, eBusiness, Economics, Finance, Financial Planning, Human Resource Management, Interactive Marketing, International Business, International Trade, Management, Marketing, Quantitative Business Analysis or Sport Management.

Another distinctive feature of the Deakin University business programme was the opportunity to study through the year-end break for students who did not wish to take the long holiday.

The intensive 'Summer Programme' (10 weeks from November to February) enabled students to take particular courses to accelerate progress or to make up for certain units.

DISTED GRADU

CELEBRATION
CEREMONY 2011



UTAS

Chia Zhi Yuan

*PhD Graduate of Business Administration
Faculty of Business Administration
University of Tasmania, Australia*

UTAS

Christina Wijaya

*PhD Graduate of Business Administration
Faculty of Business Administration
University of Tasmania, Australia*

As a twinning degree programme, the Bachelor of Commerce conducted at DISTED had salient features of quality assurance and keeping students in closer touch with the university.

The curriculum and syllabus, which had been developed to meet the needs of the professions and industry, was the same as that studied on campus at Deakin University.

The degree and testamur conferred were identical for both offshore students at DISTED and on-campus students in Australia.

Programme delivery was of high standards with visits from Deakin lecturers to conduct lectures and tutorials and counsel students apart from the provision of the University's high quality courseware.

Students at DISTED also had access to Deakin University's online network services and electronic learning resources via the Deakin Studies Online.

Despite its attractions of high quality, flexibility in study modes and industry recognition, the Deakin University Bachelor of Commerce eventually lost its edge locally due to high yearly increase in tuition fees by the university.

With a much higher cost of study making the programme increasingly uncompetitive in the local market, DISTED decided to phase it out and took in the final batch of students for the programme in 2007.

With the cessation of the programme, the 20-year long fruitful partnership with the Australian tertiary institution ended up in the treasure chest of the history of DISTED and the history of pioneering twinning programmes in Malaysia.

Staffordshire University Programmes

The discontinuation of the Deakin University Bachelor of Commerce programme marked a turning point in the quest of DISTED for an overseas partnership. The college no longer looked Down Under but instead sought to find a better pasture of collaboration with an UK institution.

In 2008, a new era of business degree studies at more affordable costs began at DISTED with the introduction of UK's Staffordshire University twinning programmes.

The collaboration now provides 4 specialisms for students to shape their business degree course to suit their needs and career aspirations.

They have the choice to complete the programme entirely at DISTED or with 1 or 2 years of study option in Britain at Staffordshire University to gain a BA(Hons) Accounting and Finance, BA(Hons) Management, BA(Hons) International Business Management or BA(Hons) Marketing Management.

Staffordshire University business degrees have pivotal advantages for students seeking a high quality career-driven qualification.

The university provides excellent British business degrees that are well-recognised in Malaysia and abroad for job opportunities in a wide variety of business areas.

The curriculum has been designed to be career-relevant based on Staffordshire University's strong and close links with industry and commerce.

There are quality control, supervision and validation visits by Staffordshire University to ensure that academic standards and integrity are maintained at appropriate levels in all aspects of teaching and learning.

Staffordshire University and their external examiners moderate all coursework and examinations conducted at DISTED. The university



too approves the final examination results.

The degree and testamur are conferred by Staffordshire University.

Business Diploma Programmes

In 1996, DISTED introduced its own Diploma in Business Studies and Higher Diploma in Business Studies, which were designed to provide a broad-based business education covering an extensive range of subjects that are crucial to the effective and efficient management and success of a business enterprise.

Besides articulating into the twinning business degree course conducted at DISTED, graduates of the diplomas were able to transfer with advanced standing to a number of link universities overseas in New Zealand, Australia, UK and USA to complete a business degree in 1 to 2 years.

The diploma courses, which were quality assured by UK's Staffordshire University, were designed to afford considerable time and cost savings in the quest for a business degree.

By implementing a full trimester system, students then were able to complete a normal 2-year Diploma in Business

Studies in 16 months, and the 3-year Higher Diploma in 2 years.

This meant that a student could gain a business degree within 4 years from SPM by completing the Diploma in Business Studies in 16 months before proceeding to the Deakin University Bachelor of Commerce at DISTED or a link overseas university for a further 1 to 2 years of study.

The first cohort of 67 students were presented with the Diploma in Business Studies on 5 July 1997 by then Penang Governor Tun Dato' Seri Dr Haji Hamdan Sheikh Tahir.

The pioneer batch of 55 students of the Higher Diploma in Business Studies graduated on 14 February 1998. They received their awards from Dr Toh Kin Woon, then Penang State Executive Councillor for Education, Economic Planning and Information.

To conform to the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) qualifications framework, the Higher Diploma in Business Studies was discontinued with the final group graduated in 2001.

The Diploma in Business Studies continues on which is now conducted over 2 years with the option of articulating into the second year of

the Staffordshire University business degree programme at DISTED or credit transfer to foreign universities to obtain a business degree.

ACCA Programme

At the Yeap Chor Ee Campus, the initial attempt to re-offer the UK's ACCA professional accountancy programme was through an alliance with Sunway College forged in 1988.

The ACCA programme in collaboration with Sunway College, which was the country's first joint venture between 2 local private colleges, was managed by DISTED Sowers Sdn Bhd, the now defunct associate company of DISTED which had extensive experience in conducting accounting and finance courses.

The first 2 years of the ACCA course was run at DISTED while the final year was done at Sunway College in Kuala Lumpur with a tuition fee discount of 5%.

The alliance was to encourage greater cooperation and coordination between local colleges to reduce duplication, wasteful competition and resultant loss in productivity and underutilization of physical, human and other resources.

Nevertheless, the DISTED-Sunway



ACCA collaboration was short lived due to insufficient market demand.

Years later in 2008, DISTED once again re-offered the ACCA programme along with its foundation, the Certified Accounting Technician (CAT), which is now part of the ACCA's Foundations in Accountancy (FIA).

DISTED still offers the ACCA course that opens doors to a world of careers in accountancy, finance and management including becoming a professional accountant of the highest standard. The CAT course is discontinued in favour of the new Diploma in Accountancy programme to be introduced in 2013.

BUSINESS, HOSPITALITY & TOURISM EDUCATION

Hospitality Programmes

The hospitality programme was brought over to the Yeap Chor Ee Campus in 1999 by Stamford College Penang during its merger with DISTED.

The Certificate in Hospitality Operations and the Diploma in Hospitality Management were franchised from the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AH&LA), whose members are leaders of leading international hotel chains such as Sheraton Hotel,

Holiday Inn, Marriot Hotel and Hilton Hotel.

The Educational Institute of AH&LA in Michigan, USA, has the world's largest resource and research centres for the lodging industry. The AH&LA programmes were gradually phased out and replaced with the college's own Certificate in Hotel Operations and Diploma in Hospitality Business Management.

The existing homegrown hospitality programmes allow the college to promote a hybrid curriculum combining both hospitality management and business management for wider job prospects, provide greater practical learning exposure to students and conform to the MQA qualifications framework.

Besides the accreditation of quality assurance by MQA, the DISTED hospitality education attained another hallmark of achievement when it was accorded a 5-star excellence rating by the Malaysian Quality Evaluation System for Private Colleges (MyQuest) 2010/2011 conducted by the Ministry of Higher Education.

Another salient development is that from January 2012, the hospitality courses are fully conducted at the brand new DISTED Hospitality

Campus on China Street Ghaut, which is equipped with the state-of-the-art facilities for classroom learning, practical training and and entrepreneur development training. By the end of 2013 the School would have new and modern accommodation as part of its facilities for practical and operational training. The School aspires to offer Staffordshire University's Tourism Management and Events Management at the Bachelor degree level in 2013.

The School hopes to recruit more students, inject them into the UNESCO heritage enclave of George Town, and to play its rightful role in the rejuvenation and regeneration of George Town.

HEALTH & PSYCHOLOGY EDUCATION

Health Programmes

In the mid-1990s, when paramedical science and nursing courses were unheard of in local private higher education institutions, even among the big private colleges in the Klang Valley, DISTED took the pioneering effort in facilitating the offering of courses in those areas of study.

DISTED and the Penang Medical Practitioners' Society jointly organized the Certificate in Paramedical Science programme conducted by experienced local medical professionals. It was the first of its kind in the country and was designed to provide non-professionals in healthcare institutions with knowledge and skills in basic medical sciences and medical office procedures towards achieving total quality management in health care delivery.

The course pioneer group of 29 students' participation came from private hospitals, private and industrial health clinics and other healthcare establishments such as nursing homes, graduated in July 1996. However the paramedical science programme ran for 4 years before it was discontinued in 1999.

On the other front, the collaborative efforts of DISTED and Australia's Edith Cowan University led to the provision of continuing professional education for health professionals

In 1997, DISTED made available to the local community the Edith Cowan University Bachelor of Nursing course, which was managed by the college's now defunct associate company, DISTED Sowers Sdn Bhd.

The distance learning arrangement,

was not a twinning programme. The curricula, distance education materials, assessment and accreditation of courses and on-site teaching staff were the sole responsibilities of Edith Cowan University while DISTED acted as an agent and provides local administrative support. As the response was not encouraging the offering lasted for only a few years.

In 2008, as a result of the collaboration with the local HELP University, DISTED began conducting the university's Bachelor of Psychology (Hons) programme.

Initially, the first year of the psychology degree programme was conducted at DISTED and followed by the final 2 years at HELP in Kuala Lumpur. With favourable demand for the course, beginning 2011 only the final year of study for the Bachelor of Psychology (Hons) needs to be completed at the host university.

The psychology students at DISTED are also able to transfer their credits to top universities in Australia, the UK, New Zealand and the USA which are linked to HELP.

HELP is an ideal and significant choice for strategic partnership in psychology as it has the distinction of conducting the largest undergraduate psychology

programme in the ASEAN region.

It will not only provide students in the northern region with a broader range of tertiary courses but also foreign credit transfer options at the same time. It will contribute to making Penang a centre of higher education to both regional and overseas students.

ENGINEERING EDUCATION

Engineering Programmes

In keeping with the Digital Age where electrical and electronic engineering is the cornerstone technology underpinning the ever-growing use of countless industrial and consumer goods, and that many MNC electronics companies are sited in Penang, the Silicon Valley of the East, DISTED made a few attempts to play a role in providing engineering education.

In 1997, it started to offer the 18-month generic Diploma of Higher Education in Engineering, which was designed and awarded by the University of Abertay Dundee in Scotland, one of United Kingdom's leading universities for industry.

Catering to pre-university students,



it originally led to the degree programmes in electronics, mechatronics and civil engineering conducted at the University of Abertay Dundee.

In 2000, the specializations pathway changed when the university re-structured its programmes where it ceased to offer engineering degrees and instead, began to conduct technology degree courses.

As such, holders of the Diploma of Higher Education in Engineering, with 2 further years of study in Scotland, had the choice of obtaining a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Electronics, Mechatronics or Civil Engineering at the University of Abertay Dundee or

transfer to the neighbouring University of Dundee to read a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Electronic and Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering or Civil Engineering.

With the eventual phasing out of the Scottish engineering programme in 2002, came the Multimedia University 1-year Foundation in Engineering and the 4-year Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) Electronics courses resulting from a partnership between DISTED and the university forged in 2004.

The programmes were fully taught in Penang at the college with close supervision and quality control by Multimedia University to ensure parity of academic standards.

“The addition was an important shift in DISTED’s strategy to introduce as more industry-relevant programmes to the college to support the industries and the changing human resource needs in the state and the country.”

It also was “very much in line with Penang’s drive to encourage both multi-national companies and local industries to move up the value chain and engage in more engineering design and development activities to complement the strong manufacturing base established over the past 30 years.”

However, as the programmes did not gain the momentum of demand, the Multimedia University engineering



programmes at DISTED were phased out in 2008.

DISTED too offered the Diploma in Electronic Engineering catering to students with 3 SPM credits.

The electronic engineering diploma sought to provide a strong foundation for working as semi-professionals or technicians in a variety of industries or progressing to degree studies in electronics engineering locally or abroad.

The engineering diploma was revamped and re-offered as the Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering beginning March 2012.

IT & MULTIMEDIA EDUCATION

Computer Science, IT and Multimedia Programmes

As the college aligned to industry relevance, DISTED seeks to contribute its part in addressing the continuing demand of the industry for skilled personnel in software design and IT applications by conducting computer science and IT courses.

It inherited the Diploma in Computer Science and IT and the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Bachelor of Computer Science (Hons) programmes from its merger with Stamford College Penang

in 1999. The smart partnership between USM and the college which was started to create more educational opportunities and encourage more Malaysians to obtain higher education beyond the boundary of the USM campus. The full degree programme had been implemented in January 1997, long before the Education Ministry coined the phrase '3+0' for private colleges.

The first batch of 14 3+0 computer science bachelor degree graduates received their scrolls on 10 December 2000 from then USM vice-chancellor Prof Dzulkiifi Abdul Razak.

The USM Bachelor of Computer Science (Hons) programme is no



longer offered by DISTED now but the Diploma in Computer Science and IT is still available but known only as the Diploma in Computer Science.

Data communications has become a significant field of study with the merging of computing and telecommunications technology involving multi-faceted data transmission ranging from broadband channels to microwave and satellite systems.

To assist students to take advantage of the bright career prospects as computing specialists in the booming electronic, ICT and multimedia industries, DISTED collaborated with Multimedia University to offer the

university's 3+0 Bachelor of IT (Hons) Data Communications in 2005.

However, the data communications degree course failed to take off as at that time, students seeking a computing qualification at DISTED preferred the USM computer science programme.

The existing Diploma in Business IT, another homegrown programme by DISTED, moulds computing expertise for the business enterprise by providing a sound understanding of the role of technology in business strategy, management and operations.

Students of the programme are able to articulate into the second year of the 3+0 UK's Staffordshire University

business degrees conducted at DISTED i.e. BA(Hons) Business Management, BA(Hons) International Business Management and BA(Hons) Marketing Management. In early 2013 an additional Staffordshire University BSc (Hons) Business Information System Management will be offered to the students.

For students with keen vocational preference for computer-based media production, starting March 2012 DISTED offers the Diploma in Creative Multimedia Production.

The course is aimed at moulding multi-skilled personnel with a thorough knowledge of interactive and digital media production techniques as



well as professional practical skills for working in creative and multimedia communications in art and design, entertainment, business, education and related fields in an increasingly digitally merged world.

The ample job opportunities in creative multimedia include being graphic designers, multimedia designers, web designers, print publishing designers, video editors, audio editors, modellers, 3D/2D animators and artists, games developers, TV, radio and educational creative content developers, digital filmmakers, advertising designers and marketing personnel.

LANGUAGE & GENERAL STUDIES EDUCATION

English Language Programmes

English proficiency course has been a staple offering by DISTED from its early period at the Kelawei Road campus to the present day at the Yeap Chor Ee Campus.

The English improvement programmes at DISTED cater to both local and foreign students who need better English skills for study, work and living.

For the purpose, DISTED still runs the

15-month Certificate in Intensive English and the English Enrichment Programme.

The English Enrichment Programme is available on a 4-week or 12-week segment to students intending to enhance their English proficiency and communication skills for different settings in study and living.

To help students acquire an international English proficiency qualification, the IELTS Preparatory Course is available at DISTED.

It is designed for improving English competency to an IELTS score acceptable for entry into universities in New Zealand, Australia and United Kingdom.

Shining Stars of DISTED

DISTED prides itself in offering high quality education that is delivered by qualified, experienced, dedicated and caring lecturers whose guidance and encouragement provides the impetus for students to achieve and excel academically.

This sacred mission of the college's lecturers to educate young minds to sparkle excellence in the architecturally aesthetic DISTED Yeap Chor Ee Campus, and now extending to the DISTED Hospitality Campus, is embodied in a poem written in August 1988 by then DISTED lecturer and Deakin University Bachelor of Commerce programme coordinator M K Mohanaadass.

Mission in DISTED

*The whites of the structure
On a bright sunny morning
Shines its grandeur and majesty
For long as its existence
In education it outshines*

*On any one day
At any range of humidity
It can boast of its harmony and
tranquility
Among the greens, the whites
Blend magnificently the freshness of
youth and their future*

*In the setting sun, the architectural
marvel
Reddens with blushes among the
tinted leaves
It is another day of active life
coming to take a break
And in the clasp of the setting rays,
the staff ponder of the day's events
In their desire to bring out more the
next new light*

*As the night slips in, the whites turn
to shades
Shades of whites laced with silver
and yellow silk
A replica of royalty and maturity
Found in abundance with the key
players of the college
Who in patience and presence of
mind molded the white clay
Into fine, new and vibrant young
generation*

The whole-hearted efforts of lecturers, supported by excellent programmes, infrastructure and educational partnerships, have produced students who shone a cut above the rest and blazed a glorious trail of distinctive achievements for DISTED.

Deakin University (Australia) Bachelor of Commerce

Sieving through the numerous high achievers of the Deakin University



Bachelor of Commerce programme that was conducted over 20 years at DISTED, 2 students, Tan Chin Tee and S Krishna N Srinivasan, stood out for their par excellence achievements.

The very bright Chin Tee did exceptionally well in his Bachelor of Commerce studies with highly impressive 21 high distinctions and 3 distinctions, and won coveted academic awards from the university and the international accounting firm Ernst and Young.

Deakin University conferred on Chin Tee the 2000 Bowater School Graduate of the Year (Undergraduate Studies), for which he received the prestigious Bowater Medal. He was the first international student to win the accolade.

The citation said the selection panel agreed that Chin Tee was a very articulate and confident graduate, and one who had an abundance of the attributes needed to be an ambassador for the Bowater School of Management and Marketing.

Chin Tee also won another prestigious award naming him the most outstanding third year computing student at Deakin University. He competed against more than 1,400 Deakin students to win the award

which was sponsored by the National Bank Australia.

In 1998, Chin Tee bagged the Deakin University Best International Student (Twinning Programme) Scholarship worth AUD4,000 for his final year of on-campus study in Australia.

He also won three academic prizes including an award from a global accountancy company for excellence in accounting studies:

- Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants (now CPA Australia) Prize for the Most Outstanding Student in First Year Accounting which carried a cash award of AUD500.
- Ernst and Young Prize for the Most Outstanding Student in First Year Economics.
- D Madden Memorial Prize for the Most Outstanding Student in Business Law.

S Krishna N Srinivasan performed very well in the Bachelor of Commerce and carved a niche as one of the top most high flyers of Deakin University graduates.

He completed the entire Deakin University degree at DISTED via the 3+0 study option.

Krishna's impressive array of brilliant achievements:

- Alfred Deakin Medal for Outstanding Academic Achievement naming him the top 10 graduating student of Deakin University among 5,500 graduates in 2001.
- Faculty of Business and Law - DISTED-Stamford Prize for the Most Outstanding Graduating International Student in the Bachelor of Commerce.
- Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants Awards for Excellence in Second Year Accounting and Third (Final) Year Accounting.
- Faculty of Business and Law - DISTED-Stamford Prize for the Most Outstanding Student in Systems Analysis and Design, Small Business Systems, Business Information Systems and Database Management Systems.
- Accountants Prize for the Most Outstanding Student in Second Year Accounting
- Pola Young, Chartered Accountants Edward Wild Prize for the Most Outstanding Student in Financial Accounting 1.



- D Madden and Co Memorial Law Prize for the Most Outstanding Student in Business Law.

Krishna was a recipient of the Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust scholarship for the Bachelor of Commerce and a Rakan Muda Ambassador to Canada.

In 2001, Mehrunishah Begum Bathusa Hamid beat some 1,250 Deakin University Bachelor of Commerce international students to win the university's most outstanding graduating international student in the Bachelor of Commerce.

After completing the college's Diploma in Business Studies, Mehrunishah moved on to the Bachelor of Commerce and completed the entire degree at the college via the 3+0 mode, specializing in marketing and management.

In 2008, when Deakin University introduced the new meritorious award of Bachelor of Commerce with Distinction, 5 DISTED students were among the inaugural recipients.

The university conferred the Bachelor of Commerce with Distinction on Aaron Tan Hsing Jian, Cheryl Ng Sze Mun, Lim Hooi Leng, Leong Chin Chin, and Lynette Ooi May Shen in recognition of their feat in achieving an average grade of distinction in their studies.

Aaron Tan was also the inaugural and 3-time consecutive recipient of the DISTED Honour Scholarships which were introduced in 2005 to reward students with outstanding achievement in semester examinations and active extracurricular involvements.

Hard work and the determination to excel culminated in apex honours for DISTED golden girl Alicia Lim Jia Ping.

She not only completed the Deakin University Bachelor of Commerce with Distinction in 2009 with majors in accounting and management but also, won the university's coveted Alfred Deakin Medal, which by then was awarded to the 8 most outstanding undergraduate students graduating each year from Deakin University.

In the span of 2 decades, Alicia was the second DISTED student to be bestowed the Deakin University top accolade. The other brilliant student who received the medal in 2001 was S Krishna N Srinivasan.



Staffordshire University (UK) Business Degrees

The first cohort of Staffordshire University business degree graduates from DISTED included 5 students with first class honours.

They were BA(Hons) Accounting and Finance graduates Agneslin Toh Mei-Yin, Oo Khong Tjin and Yeoh Chun Yoong, BA(Hons) Business Management graduate Fahima Thyiba and BA(Hons) Marketing Management graduate Teh Huey Ying.

The second cohort of graduates from DISTED had 4 students excelling with first class honours.

Graduating with the flying colours were accounting and finance major students Amy Lim Hui Ying and Ang Poay Lim, business management

major student Cheok Huey Ing and international business major student Cynthia Ng Yi Xyann.

Staffordshire University vice-chancellor Prof Michael Gunn presented the scrolls to the graduates at the university's Penang conferral ceremony held at the G Hotel on 27 November 2011.

University of Abertay Dundee (Scotland) Bachelor of Engineering

DISTED student Alvin Hong Ang Hai received a Bachelor of Engineering with Distinction in Mechanical Engineering from Scotland's University of Abertay Dundee and won outstanding performance prizes from 2 engineering professional bodies in the United Kingdom.

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) bestowed on him the Frederic Barnes Waldron Best Student Prize for being the best overall Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering graduate from the university. The IMechE award carried a cash prize of £100 and a certificate.

For attaining the best grade point average in the subjects of Manufacturing Systems and Business Functions, Alvin Hong was awarded the John Nicolson Low Prize by the Institution of Incorporated Engineers (IIE). The IIE prize comprised a cash award of £50 and a certificate.

Alvin Hong completed the university's Diploma of Higher Education in Engineering at DISTED before furthering his studies in Scotland to obtain the mechanical engineering degree.

In the same year, 2 other DISTED engineering twinning programme students at the University of Abertay Dundee, Ng Chin Boon and Lim Yean Shong, obtained the Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) degree in civil engineering with first class honours.

For being an outstanding third year student, he was awarded the John Currie Prize by the university and a scholarship worth £800 under the British-Malaysian Scholarship Scheme.

The 2 top achievers were among the pioneer batch of 7 students who left for Scotland in 1997 to complete their degree studies after completing the university's engineering diploma programme at the college.

Multimedia University (MMU) Engineering Programmes

Academic excellence was the hallmark of DISTED students who pursued the Multimedia University (MMU) Foundation in Engineering and the Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) Electronics.

From the inception of the programme in the college in 2005, in every trimester there had always been DISTED engineering students been placed on the MMU Dean's List.

The MMU Dean's List award was bestowed on students who excelled in a trimester examination with at least GPA 3.67/4.0.

During the four-year period until 2008, 30 students did the college very proud by attaining the honour totalling 120 times.

Of the lot, 6 outstanding students with MMU Dean's List status every trimester were Ivan Yeoh Li Chuen, Khor Li-Fen, Loo Wei Khee, Teng Wei Jian, Kelvin Tang Seng Ban and Lim Zhe Xi.

As for Ivan Yeoh, he completed the MMU Foundation in Engineering with a perfect CGPA of 4.0/4.0. He then went on to finish the first year of the MMU Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) Electronics programme at the college with a CGPA of 3.97. He then discontinued his degree studies an electrical engineering degree at Oklahoma Christian University in the United States on a USD80,000 scholarship given by the US university.

In 2010, bright engineering students Kelvin Tang Seng Ban and Christine Oo Tjin Voon secured competitive internships with National Instruments, a leading US manufacturer of industrial software and measuring instruments and a Forbes top 100 company for 11 consecutive years.

They were among the only 4 Malaysian students offered an industrial training opportunity in the US by the company that year.

Their work stint in the US was to fulfil the industrial training requirement in the degree course.

Loo Wei Khee and Tang Chee Hung obtained first class honours in the MMU Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) Electronics, with Loo achieving CGPA 3.80/4.0 and Tang 3.82/4.0.

They both received DISTED scholarships for the 4-year MMU engineering degree programme of which they were the college's pioneer cohort of students.

Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Bachelor of Computer Science (Hons)

In the history of the Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Bachelor of Computer Science (Hons) conducted at DISTED, Lim Chia Yean stood tall with excellent CGPA 3.78/4.0.

She had completed the DISTED Diploma in Computer Science and IT before going on to the USM computer science degree studies at the college.

Chia Yean, who upon graduation found a job as a research and



development software engineer with Agilent Technologies in Penang.

She was a DISTED Student Representative Council member for 2 years and the project leader for an IT camp for secondary school students. She is a recipient of the DISTED-Star Education Fund scholarship.

Other students who had excelled included Everett Chan Chee Wai with an excellent CGPA of 3.72/4.0 in 2003, Chong Yew Choon, with a CGPA 3.60/4.0, in 2002 while, a bright beauty queen, Jolene Lim Wei Li, graced the corridors of DISTED on a DISTED-Star Education Fund scholarship with CGPA 3.58/4.0 in 2008.

Cambridge A-Level

DISTED students had consistently achieved academic excellence of world-class standard in the internationally renowned Cambridge A-Level programme.

In the Cambridge A-Level Science 2000 November examination, shining bright were Jimmy Yeap Soon Yoong and Teo Jin Yao who each scored 5 straight As, the first such best achievement recorded by the college since starting the programme in 1995.

Jimmy Yeap went on to pursue an engineering degree at Monash University, Australia, and is now a senior engineer.

Teo Jin Yao, read a medical degree (MBBS) at the National University of Singapore and is now a senior registrar in surgery at Singapore General Hospital.

5 straight As scorer Goh Jo Ling emerged the first DISTED student to win a national top award in the 2004 Cambridge A-Level examination.

She received a University of Cambridge International Examinations Brilliance Award in Malaysia Award for being the top scorer in General Paper in Malaysia in 2004.

In the 2005 November examination, Chin Jun-Xing excelled with 5 straight As in the Cambridge A-Level Science and progressed to engineering and



business studies at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Yeoh Cheng Xun emerged the top scorer in Malaysia in General Paper in the June 2006 Cambridge Advanced Subsidiary (AS) examination.

The following year, Chee Beng Tatt was honoured as the national top scorer in General Paper in the 2007 June Cambridge AS examination.

Beng Tatt, who obtained 5 straight As in the Cambridge A-Level, furthered his

studies in pharmacy at the University of Tasmania in Australia.

In the 2008 June Cambridge AS examination, Ng Yon Hon triumphed as the first DISTED student to win a global award in the British pre-university course.

The University of Cambridge International Examinations placed Yon Hon, who eventually attained 5 straight As, as the world top achiever for AS Mathematics.

That examination also saw Lau Yen Chern being top in Malaysia for General Paper under its Cambridge Brilliance in Malaysia Awards.

Yen Chern's achievement marked the third consecutive year DISTED had groomed a top scorer in the country for General Paper.

Chuah Chian Yeong received, the good news of his scoring 4As in the Cambridge A-Level international examination, followed by a Malaysian

government full scholarship for further studies in Australia.

2 DISTED students attained brilliant achievements in the Cambridge A-Level 2010 June examination.

The University of Cambridge International Examinations placed Monil Tejani Kirti Kumar as the world top achiever for AS Mathematics and Loo Jen Leen as top in Malaysia for General Paper.

The success of Monil and Jen Leen marked the second time DISTED has groomed a world high flyer and the fifth time a national top scorer in the Cambridge A-Level, which has an international reputation as the gold standard of pre-university qualifications.

In the 2010 November examination, Ong Qi Jia bagged 5 straight As in the fast-track 11-month Cambridge A-Level course with the honour of being the first DISTED A-Level student to obtain 4 high distinctions (A*) in a row.

He achieved the par excellence results in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and General Paper and is now pursuing medical studies at the University of Newcastle in UK.

Chan Wai Yen became the second DISTED A-Level student to achieve 5 straight As with 4 high distinctions (A*) in the Cambridge A-Level 2011 June examination.

She scored the par excellence results in Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Further Mathematics and an A in General Paper and is now undertaking a degree in science at the University of Hong Kong.

Soon Wei Shyan too excelled in the Cambridge A-Level 2011 November examination with five straight As including 4 high distinctions (A*).

He achieved the outstanding results of high distinctions in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics and an A in General Paper and is now reading a medical degree at the University of Tasmania in Australia.

South Australian Matriculation (SAM)

1997 was an exceptionally good year of achievements in the South Australian Matriculation (SAM) for DISTED with 39 students scoring TER (Tertiary Entrance Rank) 80 and above.

14 of them attained TER 90 or better, ranking them among the top 10% of SAM high flyers in the world.

Choo Chui Lynn made a yet unchallenged mark of par excellence by bagging the maximum 6 As (she took 6 subjects instead of the typical 5) besides scoring TER 99.2 in the SAM examination.

That year too, DISTED students also won 5 SAM Certificates of Merit for achieving the perfect score of 20/20 in individual subjects.

The subject merit scorers were Choo Chui Lynn for English for Second Language Studies and Biology, Teoh Soon Beng for English as Second Language Studies, Rachael Khor Ai Ling and Celyn Goh Yi Chern for Malay Specialist.

Chui Lynn blazed a trail of academic excellence from being the top SAM student of DISTED to becoming the best pharmacy graduate of Western Australia's Curtin University of Technology.

Being a brilliant student, she won scholarships for her pre-university and undergraduate studies. DISTED awarded her a Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust scholarship for the SAM course. She was bestowed a Curtin University international student scholarship to undertake the pharmacy degree.



Chui Lynn consistently won the university's achievement prizes each year and made it to the Vice-Chancellor's List.

She added yet another milestone to her track record by graduating with a bachelor of pharmacy first class honours in 2002.

Her achievements as a scholar were recognised beyond the university campus. The Pharmaceutical Society of Western Australia awarded her the Alan McWhinney Memorial Prize for attaining the best aggregate in the 4-year pharmacy course.

Another very high TER achiever was Shamala Devi Balasundaram who attained TER 99.3 in 1988. She also scored 5 As and bagged 2 SAM

Certificates of Merit for perfect scores in Accounting and Economics.

In 2009, SAM students Jo-ey Toh Kar Yien (TER 91.25) and Lee Chang Thai (TER 94.60), who were ranked within the top 10% of outstanding SAM achievers in the world in 2008, won the JPA scholarships to study pharmacy at Nottingham University Malaysia and medicine at Monash University Malaysia respectively.

2009 SAM high flyer, Emilyn Teh She-Minn, whose mother Lucy Chin Soon Sim is the college's current School of Pre-University Studies programme coordinator, is continuing her blazing trail of academic and extracurricular achievements in the United States.

In SAM, she attained TER 95.70 and received a merit award from the Lord

Mayor of Adelaide for perfect score in the English as a Second Language subject.

At the Virginia Commonwealth University, Emilyn excelled in her mass communications and biology double major studies and was placed on the university's Dean's List of Fall 2010 semester.

She was also awarded the university's merit scholarship worth USD5,000 a year, which is the highest honour and recognition of achievement on campus.

Emilyn hosted her own radio show, Dream with Emilyn, as part of her involvement in WVCW, the university's independent student run radio station.

She sat on the university's Student Government Association



Appointments Committee, and Student Judicial Board (Hearing Panel), and was a member of the Pre-Law Society and the campus fashion organization GroupMODA.

She has transferred from the university and is currently reading a degree in applied economics and communication at Cornell University.

Ong Lin How attained Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR, formerly TER) 99.00, making him the top 1% of all SAM high flyers in the world that year. He is currently at the University of Nottingham Malaysia pursuing a degree in chemical engineering.

Diploma and Higher Diploma in Business Studies

DISTED had formal arrangements with University of South Australia (UNISA)

for the college's Diploma and Higher Diploma in Business Studies students to transfer with advanced standing to complete a business degree in 1½ to 2 years at UNISA.

4 outstanding DISTED Higher Diploma in Business Studies students received the University of South Australia (UNISA) School of Marketing scholarships. Angeline Ang Gaik Chin was awarded a full scholarship worth AUD16,500 covered full tuition fees for 3 semesters of study over 1½ years to obtain the Bachelor of Management majoring in marketing in 1999. She was chosen for the award based on her outstanding academic achievements and fine leadership qualities.

In the same year another recipient, John Kweh Teik Suan, obtained 10 high distinctions and 10 distinctions out of 20

papers taken at DISTED, was presented the award by Adelaide Mayor Dr Jane Lomax-Smith.

Angeline Ang Gaik Chin was awarded a full scholarship by UNISA to complete a business degree at the university.

Her scholarship worth AUD16,500 covered full tuition fees for 3 semesters of study over 1½ years to obtain the Bachelor of Management majoring in marketing.

Two other students, Choo Chui Tynn and Indonesian course mate Ing Likna received their UNISA School of Marketing scholarships in 2000 from Prof Lindsay Barker, UNISA School of Marketing head, on 9 December 2000. The scholarships are worth AUD9,000 each.



Chuah Pei Leng set a new record by attaining a par excellence CGPA of 4.9/5.0 in the Diploma in Business Studies 2001 graduating class, the highest score ever achieved since the inception of the programme in 1996.

She continued with the Deakin University Bachelor of Commerce conducted at the college and obtained a string of high distinctions in the programme.

Another international student that has done well is Yvonne Lunga from Zimbabwe.

She completed the Diploma in Business Studies with excellent CGPA 4.65/5.0, making her the best graduating student of the programme during the graduation ceremony on 6 March 2010.

Her outstanding performance earned her the academic achievement award worth RM1,500 sponsored by Australia's University of Tasmania (UTAS), of which she was the first recipient.

The initiation of the UTAS honour for DISTED top students is in recognition of DISTED as a proven reliable partner in Malaysia where the quality of the course and the success of the college's students in their studies at UTAS are evident.

Lee Yi Ting's excellent achievement in emerging as the 2011 top Diploma in Business Studies graduate with CGPA 4.83/5.0 earned her a similar accolade from UTAS, a credit transfer partner of the college.

At the college's 2012 graduation ceremony, Diploma in Business Studies top graduate Ong Zhi Yuan (CGPA 4.52/5.0) and Diploma in Hospitality Business Management top student Christina Widjaja (CGPA 3.60/4.0) received the UTAS achievement awards from the university's Faculty of Business dean Prof Gary O'Donovan.

CAT and ACCA

DISTED student Lim Han Khai emerged one of the top subject achievers in the world in the June 1999 Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) examination conducted by the ACCA (UK), one of the largest professional accountancy bodies in the world.

He scored 98 marks in Module A1 (Transaction Accounting) in the CAT examination, making him one of world winners in the sitting.

The college also achieved 100% pass rate in that CAT examination session.

In 2008, Rachel Lim Li Mae achieved world-class status in the CAT examination by emerging the CAT

World Prize Winner Second Place for outstanding cumulative score in 5 CAT advanced level papers.

In the 2010 December, she carved another mark of distinction in her ACCA professional accountancy examination at the college by attaining Malaysia first placing and world sixth placing in the ACCA F5 Performance Management subject.

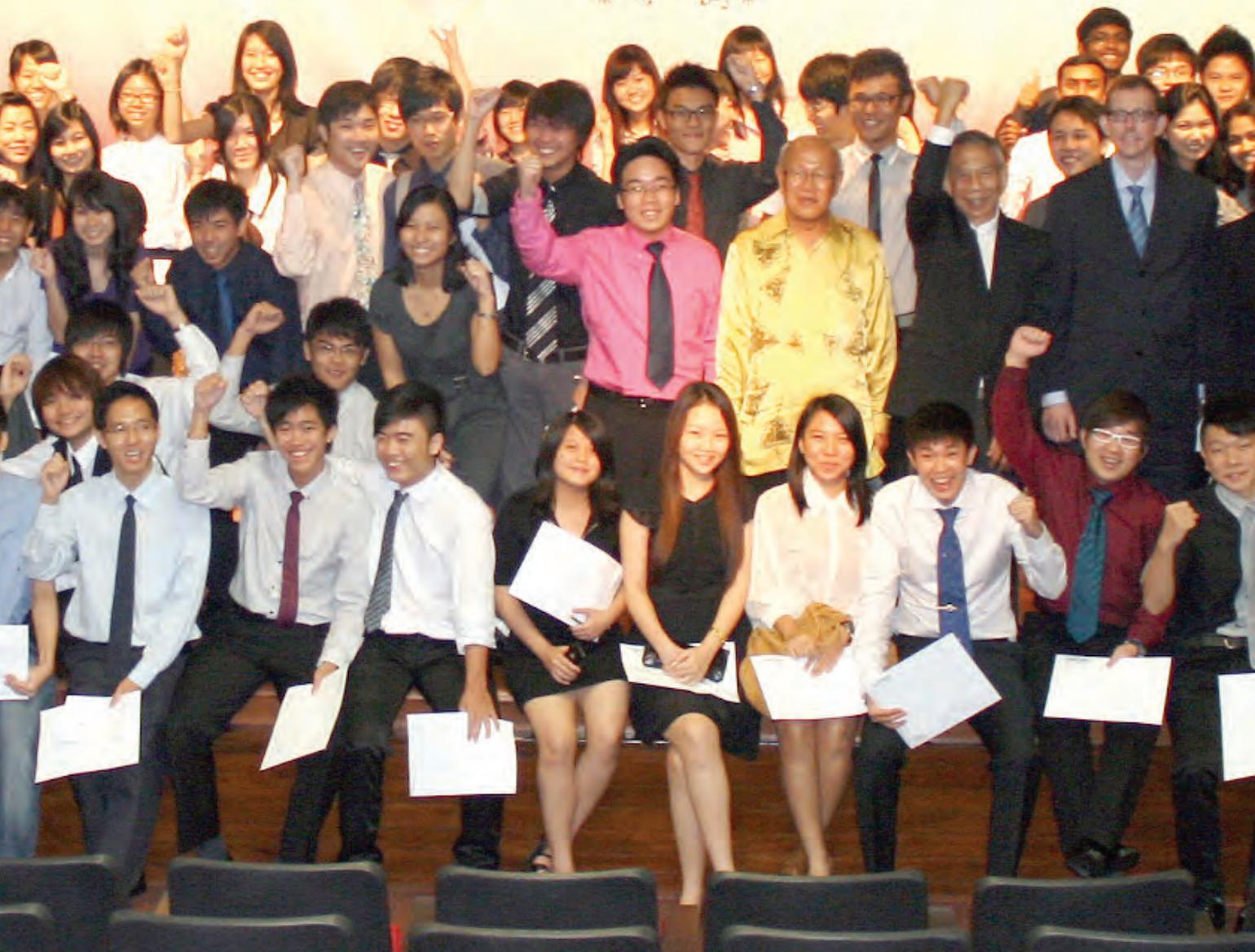
Leong Zhimin completed the CAT course at DISTED with national achievements in 2 subjects.

She won Malaysia first placing in paper T6 Drafting Financial Statements with a 100% score and paper T10 Managing Finances with a 96% score in the 2011 June CAT examination.

DISTED

Scholarships and Prizes Presentation

2 October 2011



Money Matters in Assisting Students

DISTED takes great pride in its financial aid schemes which have recognized and rewarded not only the academically talented but also, deserving students who are in financial need.

The financial assistance, which is based on merit encompassing both academic as well as socio-economic background of the recipients, is in tandem with the college's mission to encourage the development of a relevant, excellent and complete education leading to graduates with the desired attributes to serve industry and community.

Apart from its own funds, the DISTED financial assistance schemes have been consistently supported by the Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust following the forging of a partnership with the college in 1992.

The charitable trust started making financial aid contributions to the college in 1996, a year after the establishment of the DISTED Yeap Chor Ee Campus.

With the Wawasan Education Foundation taking over the operations of the college in 2001,

the charitable body has since become an additional significant source of funding for the college's financial help to students.

The financial assistance mission of the college heralds the benevolent spirit of the late Towkay Yeap Chor Ee to promote education to people from all walks of life particularly the needy students.

Turning to philanthropic interest in education, he established the Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust and the Yeap Chor Ee Endowment Trust just before his death in 1952.

His elegant mansion known as Homestead, and his China Street Ghaut properties were donated to the Wawasan Education Foundation in 2006, of which the former now houses the Wawasan Open University main campus and the latter the DISTED Hospitality Campus.

Towkay Yeap Chor Ee's many successes in life and his philanthropy will continue to inspire students who pass through the portals of DISTED.



TOWKAY YEAP CHOR EE

1867 - 1952

INSPIRATION TO SUCCEED

Trader, banker and philanthropist. A native son of Nam Ann, Fukien China.

His indefatigable energy and business acumen is a testimony to man's ingenuity to succeed.

This statue is donated by Trustees of the Estate of Yeap Chor Ee
in celebration of their grandfather's great grandfather's heritage and foresight

Dedicated November 28th, 2007

Financial Aid Schemes

Interest-Free Study Loans

The interest-free study loan scheme, with no collateral required, started in 1999.

The loans ranging from RM5,000 to RM20,000 for needy and deserving students were made possible through the partnership between the Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust and the college.

Eventually, the study loan facility was phased out in 2004 due to heavy write-offs in repayments which made the revolving loan fund unsustainable.

Bumiputra Student Scholarships

From 1998 to 2002, DISTED offered bumiputra students full tuition scholarships for the then 16-month Diploma in Business Studies programme. The scholarships were jointly sponsored by the Penang Malay Chamber of Commerce and the Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust.

The scholarship grant was officially launched by the Governor of Penang Tun Dato' Seri Dr Haji Hamdan Sheikh Tahir at the college on 6 October 1998.

The first 5 Penang Malay Chamber of Commerce-Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust scholars were Suriati bt Saad,

Shahrizat bt Mohd Hassan, Arbakyah bt Abdul Razak, Mariana bt Umar and Rokhiah bt Ismail.

Industry Engineering Scholarships

The industry too had supported the college's scholarship scheme by providing sponsorships to students who were pursuing the Foundation in Engineering and the Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) Electronics programmes conducted in collaboration with Multimedia University from 2005 to 2009.

The industry engineering scholarship sponsors and recipients were Action Industries (M) Sdn Bhd (Teng Wei Jian), Elsoft Research Bhd (Tung Chinway), Micro Modular Systems Bhd (Chan Kit Leong) and MQ Technology Bhd (Teh Je Sen).

Scholarships

The Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust scholarship scheme was set up in 1996 to help deserving students to further their studies at the college in pre-university, diploma and degree courses.

The purpose of the scholarship scheme for DISTED students originally was to recognize and reward SPM high achievers who had chosen to further their studies at the college and to

encourage them to strive for greater academic achievements.

The scholarships initially ranged from full to one-third tuition fee waiver depending on the number of As obtained by the students in the SPM.

From 2004 to 2009, DISTED was also a contributor to the Star Education Fund to provide scholarships for students to study at the college.

The evolvement of the financial aid schemes resulted in these scholarships being offered presently by DISTED:

- Wawasan Education Foundation Scholarships and Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust Scholarships for students with promising academic and leadership potential as well as deserving socio-economic background to pursue pre-university, diploma and degree courses.
- Merit Scholarships for SPM / O-Level achievers to take pre-university and diploma programmes.
- Degree Scholarships are open to bright and deserving students for pursuing undergraduate studies.
- Sports Excellence Scholarships to reward and encourage students with state-level sporting excellence to pursue higher education.

- Honour Scholarships which reward DISTED students who excel in semester examination with partial to full tuition fee waiver for the ensuing semester.

Financial Aid Awards to DISTED Students

1996 Awards

In 1996, Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust merit scholarships worth RM23,600 were given out to 13 students of the college.

1997 Awards

In 1997, 47 DISTED students received merit scholarships totalling RM151,270.

1998 Awards

At the scholarship presentation on 4 July 1998, then DISTED deputy CEO Dato' Saleena Yahaya said: "The merit scholarship awards for DISTED students this year amount to RM141,515."

The scholarships benefited 44 DISTED students.

1999 Awards

1999 saw financial aid worth RM176,045 offered to 41 DISTED students.

17 of the recipients were given merit scholarships totaling RM51,675. Five

DISTED

arships and Prizes Presentation

2 October 2011





for the inaugural bumiputra student scholarships worth RM50,000, twelve for the University of Dundee engineering students totalling RM52,020 while the other seven students obtained interest-free study loans amounting to RM22,350.

The engineering bursaries worth £850 each were for students transferring to the University of Dundee in Scotland to complete a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons). The bursaries were sponsored by the university, then one of the two UK engineering collaboration partners of DISTED.

2000 Awards

43 DISTED students received the Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust financial aid amounting to RM195,750 in 2000.

Of the amount, RM83,962.50 were merit scholarships for 18 students, RM41,917.50 bumiputra student scholarships for 7 recipients, RM26,520 University of Dundee engineering bursaries for 6 students and RM43,350 interest-free study loans for 12 students.

In addition, DISTED awarded an international student scholarship worth RM3,600 to Cambridge A-Level Science student Ripin Rosyani from Indonesia.

Cheah Saw Chin was awarded the

Malaysian Association of Private Colleges (MAPCO) Scholarship for the Diploma in Business Studies programme. The scholarship, worth RM10,000 in the form of tuition fee waiver, was sponsored by DISTED.

2001 Awards

In 2001, DISTED awarded scholarships and interest-free study loans totalling RM264,482 to 75 students.

46 of the students received merit scholarships totalling RM134,844.50, one for the bumiputra student scholarship worth RM10,162.50, seven for the University of Dundee engineering bursaries amounting to RM32,725 and the other 21 students obtained interest-free study loans totalling RM86,750.

2002 Awards

In 2002, DISTED awarded financial aid totalling RM172,840 to 59 students.

Of the amount, RM41,250 were merit scholarships for 43 students, RM40,580 bumiputra student scholarships for 4 recipients, RM59,160 University of Dundee engineering bursaries for 4 students and RM31,850 interest-free study loans for 8 students.

2003 Awards

In 2003, DISTED gave out financial



assistance totalling RM37,125 to 29 students.

The financial aid comprised RM25,375 merit scholarships for 27 students and RM11,750 interest-free study loans for 2 students.

Merit scholars who subsequently attained splendid academic results while at the college would be further rewarded with a RM6,000 scholarship for degree studies at the college or a RM3,000 scholarship for undergraduate studies at other local or foreign institutions.

2004 Awards

In 2004, 39 students benefitted from the merit scholarship awards totaling RM256,156.

Of the amount, RM154,426 were given out as merit scholarships to 36 students

and RM101,730 as full scholarships for 3 students under the inaugural DISTED-Star Education Fund Scholarships.

2005 Awards

In 2005, DISTED gave out a huge amount of scholarship totalling RM633,506 to 116 students.

The merit scholarships for SPM high achievers took up the largest chunk at RM402,776, which benefited 85 pre-university and diploma students.

The merit scholarship scheme attracted high calibre SPM students to DISTED that year with 34 of them scoring 10As and above.

Diploma in Business Studies student Aaron Tan Hsing Jian was the inaugural recipient of the honour scholarships which were introduced that year to recognize par

excellence performance in semester examination and active extracurricular involvement.

5 business and computer science diploma students received DISTED scholarships through the Star Education Fund totalling RM80,820.

In addition, 3 students were awarded degree scholarships amounting to RM123,950 to undertake the Multimedia University Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) Electronics and the Deakin University (Australia) Bachelor of Commerce at DISTED.

2006 Awards

The year 2006 saw DISTED giving out the biggest ever scholarship amount in its history totalling RM 1,366,648 to 188 students.

This amount was a 2-fold increase



compared to the previous year's awards of RM633,506 to 116 students.

That year's merit scholarships amounting to RM756,508 for SPM high achievers increased 88% compared to the previous year.

The 2006 merit scholarship scheme attracted high calibre students with 123 of the recipients scoring SPM 8As and above.

DISTED gave out scholarships totaling RM78,175 through the Star Education Fund to 4 students who were pursuing pre-university, business and computer science diploma, and electronic engineering degree studies.

The college gave out 10 degree scholarships amounting to RM521,965 for SPM and STPM students to take up the Multimedia University Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) Electronics programme at the college.

2 students who attained semester examination excellence were awarded the honour scholarships of tuition fee waiver for the ensuing semester.

2007 Awards

DISTED awarded scholarships totalling RM517,956 to 165 students in 2007.

143 of the students received merit scholarships worth RM335,454 to pursue pre-university, foundation and diploma courses.

The merit scholarship scheme attracted high calibre students with 90 recipients scoring SPM 8As and above.

14 scholarships worth RM104,000 were given out to engineering and business degree students.

Another 4 students received the DISTED-Star Education Fund scholarships amounting to RM63,800

to take up pre-university, business and engineering courses.

4 students who did exceptionally well in semester examinations were awarded the honour scholarships.

2008 Awards

In 2008, DISTED awarded scholarships totalling more than half a million ringgit to 244 students.

Of the RM547,094 scholarships the biggest chunk was for merit scholarships which benefited 226 pre-university, foundation and diploma students.

The merit scholarship scheme attracted high calibre students with 129 recipients scoring SPM 8As and above.

The scholarship direction has moved from merit-based to more need-based where needy and deserving students



are given twice the normal scholarship quantum.

That year, 6 students received the DISTED-Star Education Fund scholarships totalling RM56,000 to take up pre-university, hospitality diploma and business degree studies at the college.

DISTED also gave out 7 honour scholarships to reward students for semester examination excellence with tuition fee waiver for the ensuing semester.

2009 Awards

In 2009, 195 students received scholarships from DISTED totalling RM588,717.

The Wawasan Education Foundation and the Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust have contributed over RM3 million in the last 5 years to support the DISTED

scholarship scheme. The students have also received scholarships sponsored by some industrial companies.

The biggest chunk of the financial assistance that year was for merit scholarships totaling RM462,819 which benefited 182 pre-university, foundation and diploma students.

The merit scholarship scheme attracted high calibre students with 109 of the recipients scoring SPM 8As and above including Chin Da-Xing who attained 13As.

6 students were given degree scholarships worth RM55,000 to pursue the Multimedia University Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) Electronics and Staffordshire University business degree programmes at DISTED.

4 students received the DISTED-Star Education Fund scholarships totalling RM64,778 to take up engineering

foundation, business diploma, accountancy and Staffordshire University business degree studies at the college.

DISTED also gave out 3 honour scholarships to reward students for semester examination excellence with tuition fee waiver for the ensuing semester.

2010 Awards

233 students received financial awards amounting to more than half a million ringgit in 2010.

Of the RM589,993 scholarships, the biggest chunk was for merit scholarships which benefited 223 Cambridge A-Level, South Australian Matriculation, Certified Accounting Technician, Diploma in Business Studies and Diploma in Hospitality Business Management students.

The merit scholarship scheme attracted high calibre students with 120 of the recipients scoring SPM 8As and above.

Leong Guan Lian received a degree scholarship worth RM5,000 for the UK's Staffordshire University BA(Hons) International Business Management programme at DISTED.

2 students were awarded the sports excellence scholarships totaling RM3,450, SAM student Nicholas Stephen Pasqual for squash and his course mate Ho Hung Sheng for badminton.

Leong Zhimin was given a special scholarship worth RM12,000 to read the Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) qualification.

RM20,368 worth of honour scholarships were presented to 5 students.

It is note worthy that from the time the college moved into the Yeap Chor Ee Campus at Macalister Road in 1995 until now, scholarships worth about RM6 million have been given out to DISTED students.

2011 Awards

DISTED awarded scholarships totalling RM638,036 to 233 students in 2011.

Since 2001 the Wawasan Education Foundation, in partnership with the

Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust and the College, has contributed over RM7 million to DISTED, a non-profit institution, to promote education particularly by providing financial aid to students.

The biggest chunk of the financial assistance was for merit scholarships totaling RM574,418 which benefited 222 Cambridge A-Level, South Australian Matriculation, Certified Accounting Technician, Diploma in Business Studies and Diploma in Hospitality Business Management students.

The merit scholarship scheme attracted high calibre students with 127 of the recipients scoring SPM/O-Level 8As and above.

Vivien Lee Wei Ee and Low Zhi Chien were awarded the degree scholarships to study the UK's Staffordshire University business degree programmes and Por Ze Yin for the ACCA professional accountancy qualification, all amounting to RM15,925.

Of the 5 sports scholarship recipients who received a total of RM14,973, SAM students Neesha Menon and Dylan Teoh Ken excelled in tennis, Staffordshire University business degree students and brothers Samson Srinath and Simson Sivakanth in taekwondo, and Diploma in Business Studies student Yee Tianle in rifle shooting.

2 students were awarded the Wawasan Education Foundation scholarships amounting to RM28,000, Lim Meng Siew for Diploma in Business Studies, and Tan Ching Yee for the Diploma in Hospitality Business Management.

2012 Awards

In 2012, DISTED presented scholarships worth more than half a million ringgit to 186 students.

Of the scholarships totalling RM502,877.50. RM458,459.50 was for merit scholarships which benefited 175 pre-university, certificate and diploma students.

The other financial aids given out during the year were degree scholarships, sports excellence scholarships, Wawasan Education Foundation scholarships, Yeap Chor Ee Charitable Trust scholarships and honour scholarships.

Of the 3 sports excellence scholarship recipients with state and national achievements, Cambridge A-Level student Joselyn Loh Mae-Wei excelled in tennis, Cambridge A-Level student Ahmad Yazid Bajenid Mohamed Tawfeek in go-kart and pocket bike racing and Bachelor of Psychology (Hons) student Jasper Tan Si Kai in volleyball and wushu.



The Extra Mile Initiatives

DISTED goes the extra mile to empower students to have a holistic and meaningful education experience and a better start towards the career of their choice besides nurturing social and environmental responsibilities that promote purposeful and sustainable living and a thriving balance between society and the environment.

Through its INSPIRE, community CONNECT, Let's Go Green and eLearn initiatives, DISTED simultaneously drives industry relevant education, creates community caring culture, inculcates strong environmental responsibility and leadership, and builds a mindset of life-long learning in students, staff and the community.



The college embarks on a journey to educate and encourage the young generation to be conscious of their environment and to adopt a green lifestyle.

The aims of DISTED's Let's Go Green campaign are:

- To bring the academia and community closer, aligned in thoughts and actions towards environmental care.
- To sensitise and engage DISTED students and the community on environmental issues that affect us all.
- To help DISTED students to cultivate social responsibility with eco-green consciousness so as to learn, live, thrive and achieve in healthy and sustainable lifestyles and habitats.
- To create a culture of community commitment and eco-friendliness emphasizing love, respect, protection and care for the environment and nature.

Through the years DISTED has organised numerous activities to promote eco-sustainability and create its awareness among students.

Moulding green children

Some 70 children had a fun-filled time at DISTED learning to be environmentally friendly and eco-conscious in preserving the earth.



“As children are malleable and the future of our society, we should mould them be friends of the earth,” said DISTED lecturer Ravichandran Sellakannu who coordinated the Living Values Camp for the primary and lower secondary students.

“We like to give them an understanding of the scope and status of the natural resources so as to instill in them the respect for Mother Nature. The life skills approach is used in teaching them positive environmental values,” he said.

Exploring the wonders of nature

Experiential learning in biology can motivate students to better understand and respect Mother Nature.

“Coursework related to nature

encourages students to value the ecosystem,” said DISTED biology lecturer Angel Lai Ee May.

“By learning more about nature, they will realise the importance of conserving the environment and the natural resources,” she said.

Her biology students carried out group projects themed ‘Wonders of Nature’ as part of the coursework for their South Australian Matriculation course. Topics covered in the projects included natural beauty therapy, waterfalls, rainforests, bioluminescence, parasitism, human viruses and spices.

Promoting H2O-friendliness

DISTED held a 2-day holiday camp for primary school children which spurred

them to appreciate and conserve water resources as “Friends of Water”.

The DISTED H2O Camp participants visited the Penang Waterfall, which is the oldest source of treated water supply in Malaysia, to enhance their appreciation of water resources.

“Water is fundamental to life but is increasingly threatened by environmental degradation,” said camp coordinator Paulyn Yuen Poh Ling, who was then also DISTED marketing officer.

“Hence, this H2O Camp is intended to raise the children’s awareness on the issue and educate them on the need to preserve this precious natural resource through interactive and fun activities,” she added.



More forests, better climate

The contraction of tropical forests poses a threat to our environment particularly climate.

“Tropical countries like Malaysia lose a significant area of their forests each year,” said US forestry consultant Alberto Goetzl.

“Deforestation is the result of shifting and expanding agriculture, population increases and development, deficient environmental laws and illegal logging, and to a lesser extent, commercial exploitation,” he said.

“It contributes to environmental damage, pollution and global warming. About 17% of carbon issues in the world, such as the greenhouse gas emissions, can be attributed to deforestation,” said Goetzl, consulting

economist to the American Forest & Paper Association.

Goetzl was speaking on deforestation and climate change at DISTED in conjunction with his 2-week road trip to Malaysia.

Eco-green applications

The Nature Rocks! Let’s Go Green! event, organized by DISTED South Australian Matriculation (SAM) students, promoted the exploration and use of eco-green applications of natural products.

Demonstrations included making biodegradable plastic with everyday items, extracting colours from plants for dyeing t-shirts, using fruits for homemade facial masks, using worms for decomposition process and

showing the effects of global warming on the sea level.

There were also talks, exhibigames and quizzes on ecosystems and environmental conservation at the expo held at the college.

Recycle to keep our world green

One good way that all of us can contribute to making a greener world is to recycle our household waste.

“Recycling is a 2-prong strategy that helps to reduce waste that can pollute our environment and at the same time, conserve our diminishing natural resources. To go green, let’s start by practising recycling at home and our institution of study,” said DISTED hospitality student Lee Hui Ying.

Lee was the project leader of



a marketing coursework called W.W.W. (Why Waste World) that was undertaken by a group of DISTED students pursuing the Diploma in Hospitality Business Management.

“Our project is to encourage students and staff to go green for the good of the environment and build a sustainable lifestyle for us and future generations. We’ve a good start in our green campaign as we managed to convince our college’s cooperative store to adopt the ‘No Plastic Bag’ practice,” she said.

Promoting cleaner and greener Penang to students

DISTED extended its support to the Cleaner Greener Penang School Bus Campaign, which is the latest step taken by the Penang state government to inculcate care for the environment in school children.

The initiative involves publicizing the state’s green exhortations, besides the messages of the advertising sponsors, on school buses. The campaign, a collaborative effort between the state government and the Penang school bus operators association, saw DISTED taking up advertising sponsorship for 2 school buses.

“We’re pleased to join hands with state government in this endeavour as part of our corporate social responsibility and in tandem with the DISTED Let’s Go Green project which promotes environmental care leading to sustainable lifestyles,” said DISTED marketing manager Jane Goh Mei Ping.



The INSPIRE programme drives industry-relevant education to promote graduate employability with the following mission:

- To ensure the courses offered are industry-relevant.
- To equip graduates with well rounded skills, knowledge, value and industry experience such that they are ready to join the industry.
- To service the industry through knowledge sharing, recruitment and collaboration.

Many captains of industry had shared their inspiring experiences and wisdom during their industry insight talks for the college’s students.



Career success tips

Right after completing Form 5, Goh Cheng Ean started working as a temporary employee with Citibank Malaysia while studying part-time for an IT course. She excelled in her career at Citibank where she became the national sales champion, manager, department head and today, a vice-president and the northern region head with an MBA and the Certified Financial Planner qualification.

“A strong passion for work and determination to succeed are key factors for career success,” Goh said during a lunch meeting with DISTED business students.

“Wanting to succeed is a strong motivation. Aim high, move forward and don’t look back,” she told the students.

“Also, be prepared to make sacrifices to achieve your career goals,” she said adding that “I work long hours and even during the weekends. But I enjoy working; it’s like going shopping!”

She also shared her experiences in the sales line, hiring personnel and working in the corporate world particularly in a major international bank.

Career advancement skills

Job satisfaction should be the key consideration when choosing a career.

“Get a job that you really enjoy doing. The good feelings in turn will motivate you to excel in your career,” said Suresh Chandra, Intel Malaysia site controller.

“Also, invest in yourself. Work in different areas and learn different

roles. Pick up new knowledge and skills along the way,” he said during a lunch meeting with DISTED students.

Suresh gave the students a better insight into the ‘future skills’ which would stand them in good stead in the challenging work environment.

“Those who have worked in different countries and in multiple roles will have considerable advantage working for multinational companies,” he said.

“Be business savvy, for which a good reading habit is a key. If you’re an engineer, understand the economic value of technology,” Suresh said.

“Cultivate a deep knowledge in a specific area, for instance, materials science. Be a master of one area but knowledgeable too in many other fields,” he advised.



Engineering career success

For brighter future prospects, students should also develop personal qualities while in the paper chase for degrees.

“Paper qualifications can be a passport to employment. But what ultimately makes or breaks a person’s career is what the person is,” said Hor Chan Wye, AIA Malaysia district manager and senior group consultant.

“The ability to speak confidently and communicate effectively is part of the success story,” he said.

Apart from communications skills, he said, courage and resilience would be important for facing the challenges in the working world.

Hor encouraged the students to take active part in team sports such as football and volleyball as part of the training for future success.

“A business organisation is like a sports team where teamwork is a key to success. Participation in team games helps you to cultivate the team spirit,” he explained.

He advised the students to have “a vision for your future, upgrade your skills along with changing times and be results-oriented”.

Career in entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship offers an exciting opportunity for self-employment and self-reliance but it is a challenging career with pitfalls.

“Doing your own business gives you personal freedom and control over your time. You can run things your way and make changes along the way,” said Dr Tan Seow Hwee, founder and president of Values First Consulting Sdn Bhd.

He said technopreneurship, particularly in software, would be a promising venture.

“Due to the rapid changes in society and industry, there’ll always be opportunities for software business,” Dr Tan said, citing Microsoft, Google, Skype and e-Bay as examples.

Prior to starting his own business in 1997, Dr Tan had worked as an engineer in Singapore, USA and Malaysia including at Walt Disney Imagineering in California and Intel Technology, Penang.

A specialist in factory automation and equipment integration, Dr Tan also deals in computer integration manufacturing products and industrial electronics.

To deal better with the harsh realities of running a business, he advised the



students to equip themselves with the right knowledge, skills, insights and values.

“In deciding on a business, begin with where your passion is. Start with what you know best,” he said.

“Life is more than work and money. Lead a balanced life and have a strong spiritual grounding. Put your family first – they’re the last people to leave you in times of crisis,” he advised.

Flying high in life

Life can be great and full of excitement if one has a positive outlook and keenness to learn.

“Life is precious, so make the best out of it. Live life to the fullest,” said Lee

Hock Siew, Singapore International Airlines (SIA) district sales manager of Penang.

“Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is still a mystery. What’s important is today and how you use it to enrich your life,” he said.

“To succeed, it’s not enough just to work hard. You need to adopt and adapt new skills. Mix around with people to get more ideas,” he said.

Right after completing his secondary education, Lee started working with SIA but continued to study part time. He now holds an MBA and the UK’s Chartered Institute of Marketing diploma.

“I’m only a simple person who keeps on going, learning and doing to

achieve my aims in life,” said Lee who has been in the air transportation industry for some 35 years.

Accountants in high demand

Accountancy students can look forward to good job prospects when they graduate.

“There’s a great shortage of qualified accountants in the country due to our booming economy. By 2020, we need 60,000 accountants,” said Adelenia Lestari Chong, then Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA) Penang branch chairperson.

“In accounting, you need to have a good analytical mind to use financial data to improve business. Accountants too need to uphold themselves in integrity and ethics,” said Adelenia



who has vast exposure to industries such as property development, retail, hotels, trading and infrastructure.

“Besides acquiring technical knowledge,” she said, “you need to develop your communication and people skills.”

“Employers don’t want just book worms even if you’re a straight A student. Jobs are about people and so, you’ve a definite advantage if you can interact well with good soft skills,” she explained.

“Do mingle around and get involved in organising events while still in college to hone those skills. Such activities will also add value to your resume,” said Adelena, who is the co-founder and a director of L M Y Corporate Services Sdn. Bhd.

People connection is vital

Getting connected with the right people is a key avenue to career advancement and business prospects.

“Target networking, that is building relationships with the right people, is important in life. It’s the end all and be all of your future career success,” said Danny Goon Siew Cheang, managing director of investment holding company, Kennedy Burkill and Company Bhd.

“People can help you to get your job done, if you get to know them and make them feel good about you,” he advised.

“Don’t be afraid to meet people, see them in the eye and speak to them with confidence,” said Danny, who is also a professional accountant, an approved company auditor and an

independent non-executive director of two public listed companies.

“Like all other skills, you can enhance your ability to interact with people through practice,” he said.

“Also, you should be willing to take up responsibilities and carry them out well with quality,” he added.



The community CONNECT programme seeks to nurture a caring community culture by bringing the academia and community closer, aligned in thoughts and actions towards self-directed community care.

By taking part in CONNECT activities, students have great opportunities to live and learn a life of adventure,



creativity, independence and leadership as well as to thrive and achieve significance in knowledge for the service of society and the nation.

The initiative's aims are:

- To sensitise DISTED students to environmental, social and scientific issues that affect us all.
- To sensitise and engage the community on issues faced by young people.
- To help DISTED students to cultivate social responsibility as well as to learn, live, thrive and achieve in more meaningful ways.
- To create a culture of community commitment emphasizing respect for things, establishments and occasions.

DISTED students and staff have joined hands with the community in promoting the aims of the CONNECT programme through various activities.

DISTED Day 25th anniversary celebration

It was a triumphant celebration of pride and esprit de corps, laced with fund-raising activities for a charitable organization, at the DISTED Day commemorating the 25th anniversary of DISTED College.

Held on 8 September 2012, the occasion was fantastic for the college staff and their families, students and their parents, to rejoice in the 'we're family' spirit the silver jubilee of the college in educating young minds to support the human capital needs of the nation.

Joining them in the jubilation were 2 of the college's founding fathers Tan Sri Emeritus Professor Gajaraj Dhanarajan and Dr Hulman Sinaga, its former president and CEO Tan Sri Dato' Dr Chin Fook Weng, its former deputy CEO Dato' Saleena Yahaya Isa and its directors including Wawasan Education Foundation and DISTED chairman Dato' Seri (Dr) Stephen Yeap Leong Huat.

"For 25 years, DISTED has thrived on the confidence of the community and the strengths of its programmes, staff and student care. It has expanded to 2 campuses, the DISTED Yeap Chor Ee Campus on Macalister Road and the new DISTED Hospitality Campus on China Street Ghaut.

"The tree planting ceremony held on DISTED Day and the anniversary



banner with colourful handprints of students symbolise our love and pride for the college and affirmation of collective efforts to see it scale to greater heights," said Tony Toh Chi Eng, the college's student services department and the event's organizing head.

DISTED president Dr Koo Wee Kor remarked: "This celebration is in recognition of the contributions of our college's founders, past and present directors and staff."

Staff and students sold food and drinks in support of the charity deed including Dr Koo who himself baked 6 high protein white breads for sale.

DISTED Day organizing team member and lecturer Jayaeswari Sangaralingam noted: "All proceeds from the fund-raising efforts during

DISTED Day will go to a charitable institution."

Walking against the Big C

110 DISTED students and staff took part in the Relay for Life to promote cancer awareness and to show solidarity with cancer victims at the Penang Municipal Park.

"This year, we've the largest number of students joining in the community event since its inauguration in 2005," said DISTED lecturer Tan Siew Gaik.

"We also managed to garner about RM4,000 to contribute to the anti-cancer cause," she said.

"Their enthusiastic involvement is in line with the college's community CONNECT initiative which seeks to nurture social responsibility and create

a caring community culture," Tan said.

The Relay for Life 2008 gathering was jointly organised by Penang Hospice Society and the National Cancer Society of Malaysia whereby throughout the night, the participants took turns to walk around a circle of lighted candles in memory of those who had died from cancer.

Helping Myanmar cyclone survivors

DISTED staff and students chipped in to help the Cyclone Nargis victims in Myanmar.

They contributed a total of RM1,000 to the donation campaign organized by DISTED staff association, known as the Social, Motivational and Recreational Team (SMART), with the support of the college's student services department.

"We're doing our bit to support the cyclone disaster relief efforts undertaken by the international community," said then SMART president Josephine Chan le Lyn.

Business of good deed

DISTED business studies students organised a charity food fair and an excursion to show care and do a good deed for the community.

The two projects raised a total of RM4,000 in proceeds from which RM1,000 each was donated to the Tzu Chi Foundation, Children's Protection Society, Rumah Charis Old Folks Home and SPCA Penang.

At the food fair, the students sold a variety of food and drinks which are popular with young people such as pizza, hot dog, spaghetti, french fries, pastry and fruit juice.

Touching hearts with Chinese art

'Life's a Rainbow' displayed 46 artworks of 14 Malaysian Chinese brush artists.

The sale of the paintings was in aid of cancer patients and all purchases were tax exempt. The week-long Chinese painting charity exhibition was held at DISTED was organized by the

National Cancer Society of Malaysia Penang Branch in collaboration with the college.

The fund-raising exhibition benefited the Hospice At Home Programme, a community project of the society's Penang branch.

"The Hospice At Home Programme has been providing free compassionate care for cancer patients since 1992. Last year, 660 patients were provided with care," said Dato' Seri Dr T Devaraj, National Cancer Society of Malaysia Penang Branch CEO and medical director.

The exhibition was officially opened by Loke Gim Tay, Flame Lite (S) Pte. Ltd. managing director and Singapore Chung Ling Alumni Association president, who donated RM20,000 to support the community care programme.

Loke said: "It's heartening to see 2 community-minded institutions, DISTED and the cancer society, joining hands with good-hearted artists to promote charity for the Penang community."

The charity art exhibition saw 14 community-minded artists in Penang raking in RM66,750.



eLearn

The DISTED eLearn thrust is to create an active learning environment and a meaningful learning support for students and at the same time, promote the evolving paradigm shift to learning by anyone, anywhere, anytime.

It is a mindset transformation to nurture self-directed learning by providing an ever-growing learning repository, and an active and lively 7/24 learning environment with reliance on insatiable human basic capacity for learning and a deliberate shift towards enhanced ICT facilitation to bridge the desired graduate outcomes.

The eLearn landscape presents opportunities to empower students in learning-centric approaches and to explore innovations in technology-enabled, student-centred and lecturer-facilitated learning.

DISTED utilizes Moodle as its e-learning platform which facilitates the delivery of lessons and sharing of learning and teaching experiences on problems and solutions encountered.



VIDEO Dr Koo Wee Kor

The President's Musing: The Way Forward

DISTED president Dr Koo Wee Kor shares his interesting encounters with the evolving education sector and his inspiring thoughts for DISTED in moving forward:

My story is necessarily a personal account and not a learned piece. It is a recollection and reflection, from both clear and faded memories, not dressed in any framework or ideology, but merely a brief account, interspersed with musing and rambling about human emotions, enthusiasm, frustrations idealism and friendships.

I met Dato' Dr Chong Eng Keat, the immediate past president of DISTED, many years ago when we were both PhD students in the Australian National University. We seldom talked about our studies, but shared instead life's fun, jokes and enjoyed humanity around us. As was practical, we shared drudgery, taking turn to cook with 2 other PhD students. Occasionally, we bludged food from everybody else.

EK Chong was then quite an accomplished tennis player still harbouring hope for improvement while I was a novice who never held a tennis racket in my whole

life till then. But as luck would have it, we shared a tennis coach, more because of costs, and for me as well an escape from the drudgery and at times, the disappointments of PhD student blues when research was not going the way I liked. For only a short period of time, mainly because of the expensive coaching, I learnt tennis more than I imbibed physics. That was good, in a way.

We came back to USM and we played squash, a much more even contest then. He then went off to INTEL while I continued my assault in the academia.

It was during my 16½ years in USM that I came to know various personalities who eventually permeated the expanded tertiary education landscape in Malaysia. In particular, it is both a pleasure and privilege to know Dato' Dr Sharom Ahmat, Tan Sri Dhanarajan, Dato' Dr Ratnalingam, Tan Sri Chin Fook Weng, Dato' Dr Wong Tat Meng, Dato' Syed Ahmad, Tan Sri Dzukifli and the many others who have populated the highest echelons of both public and private tertiary education establishments locally.

It was fun then with the interplay of a large flora of people, activities and ideals. Later, we went different ways to seek and develop our needs and wants, carving out niches that might or might not mean much to everybody else. We worked hard and we played hard, sometimes things and events, boosted careers, sometimes they overtook ambition, forced changes and sometimes tragically closed minds.

All was well in USM. In the decade of 80s, I worked hard on my physics, struggled with people, systems, students and all that I could notice. I went through many changes, some I liked and some I did not. In the later years, I struggled with myself. I left USM in 1996.

I plunged into the brave new world of private education, joining a private college and immediately confronted a landscape that was fraught with raw enthusiasm, expertise and sometimes ignorance. It was short in academic governance but was willing, energetic and ready to take up the slack and neglect in the tertiary education sector.

At that time, private education institutions were generally looked down upon by the public institutions.

However, the trans-national education in the guise of twining, credit transfer, external degree and professional qualifications found strong following from youths seeking alternative education opportunities.

In those few short years I had come to know BC Tan, Tan Yew Sing, Lee Fah Onn and other personalities who have contributed to the private tertiary education scene and from whom I learned and unlearned many things.

The shortcomings of the national education system, coupled with economic crises, had prevented many students from getting a university education. The sharp and discerning investment in private tertiary education naturally boosted the industry to dizzy heights. The active and dynamic private thrusts, together with new education legislations, firmly put Malaysia in the forefront as an education innovator. Terms like 1+2, 2+1 and later 3+0 programmes became household names.

In those days people retired at 55 and the public universities were letting people go. Some should retire but others, still relatively young and very rich in experience and knowledge, began to permeate the private institutions. They began to

smoulder the institutions with old and new concepts of higher education institutions.

Induction of academic governance and quality assurance into the private institutions generally transformed them into new creatures that had become both attractive and relevant especially to the urban population. More importantly, the institutions gained in quality and became self-sustaining. The private institutions had started well.

Tertiary education was booming as young people sought training and qualifications, originated from foreign sources but conducted fully locally at relatively low costs, as a passport to maintaining social status and mobility. Soon enough about half of the young people pursuing higher education were found in the private sector.

While the West had already come to the realization that public funded tertiary education was unlikely to be able to cater for a large proportion of the youth cohorts, the Malaysian government took longer. It actually spent more on public tertiary education, keeping very much to the traditional methodology and formula in keeping hopes up in the search for excellence.

As the private institutions progressed with vitality, managing costs and quality aggressively, it was then common for the public sector institutions to look at courses conducted by the private colleges with suspicion, often with a smugness that begged the question of how these upstart institutions with sparse resources and support are able to attract the large numbers of young students.

It is clear that during those intervening years innovation in education began to slip from the grip of the public institutions as the rise of private institutions took hold in educating the young. While the private institutions churned out industry relevant and job ready graduates, the public institutions are engaged in fulfilling nationalistic agenda, and inadvertently churned out excessively reality challenged graduates that fill the ranks of the unemployed.

At the same time, the national education system has begun to spiral into the centre of a social and political firestorm. Anger about the efficacy of education as a saviour of knowledge aggregation, of civil society and of more mundane employability of graduates, has unified interest groups spanning from the most uninitiated

of parents to the most preppy and the most learned of the ivory towers occupiers.

There were frustrations expressed on the intransigence of the government's handling of the effectiveness of the attendant education system. Grouses on the escalating costs with no sign of higher value-add as well as the increasing debts of graduates have made headlines. It is pressing enough for all of us in the higher education establishments to take a more emphatic look, take some actions, and if not, to make frightful preparation for the likely high school graduates to come.

Apart from the clash of accessibility, quality, sustainability and costs for higher education, the continuous search for profitability and sustainability of education institutions are often the manifestation of much deeper problems that are irritating during good times and dangerous during bouts of economic or political crises, given our country's multi-racial backdrop

There are as many to-dos and not-to-dos, if we are serious in spending our time and effort to make a difference for the future of our young people, nation building aside. Chief among the

many is to re-affirm our commitment to the vocation and purpose of education and to focus our energy on the core issues of aggregating knowledge, developing desired human attributes and respect for others.

We must banish the urges of spraying all and sundries into our curriculum and instead focus our attention on core knowledge, skills and new pedagogy approaches to cause effective learning for the future. We must re-value the many over-emphasised demands for perks and liberties for everybody, along with it the assumption that the institution will cure itself of all afflictions and illnesses. The average Malaysian academics are mesmerized by the hope value of their paper qualifications, the self-indulgent and sometimes false assumptions of the superiority of their skills and experience, and the presumptions of the invulnerability of the institution.

The irony is that many academic staff in their peculiar sense of their self-worth of their job reject new pedagogy approaches to learning and accountability for the outcome of their effort.

Concepts like performance indicators from the perspectives of the learners,

academic governance and quality assurance, changing behavior of learners and the international trends and shifts in measurement standards, changing roles of the stakeholders, student-centric and technology-enabled pedagogy approaches have often been taken casually. The problems are compounded by the deliberate dismissal of governance and quality superstructure based mainly on the reluctance to accept personal accountability, responsibility and transparency of the whole learning process.

Is there a possibility of failure by the institution administration in transmitting these concepts to the staff? Is it because of an overestimation of the capacity of staff to understand the needs and the requirement for the change? Or is it a case of an egalitarian blindness to the doing just the daily chores of the tasks of teaching that the higher purpose of education has been forgotten?

Is it a lost shared cause that a rift has appeared and growing in the value system in education that is leading us down the path of confrontation of ownership of responsibility and accountability among stakeholders in the many attempts to make the

institution, staff and students included, to be more accountable to each other?

Are our institutions good enough? Do students feel shortchanged by the institutions and the teachers within?

Are the hours spent with the teachers stimulating and giving scope for self-improvement? Are the staff not paid enough? Is it because productivity is not enough or there is not enough revenue? How to improve both? Are the institutions dysfunctional because of all these? Do the teachers have enough impact in their area of expertise? Do lecturers get fixated on counting the hours spent with the students or do they actually trawl the knowledge bin to create more learning opportunities for their care? Do they worry whether the students ever learn and show improvement after their classes? Do they critically assess their approaches to help the students to regain the ability in critical thinking or analytical reasoning after their stint in the college?

Is it a lack of knowledge, commitment, professional competencies or personal struggle with the daily demand of life that has made everyone loses sight of the purpose why we are here to do what the business of education

demand of us? Are these factors leading us to a personal struggle with undue concerns about benefits, welfare and remuneration such that we have clouded our commitment of spending our life work for the purpose of education?

Many of us often have personal grievances and often painted pictures of greener and better pastures elsewhere, sometimes to ourselves and sometimes to others. It is ironic that while faulting the resident systems and practices, we neither wish to participate in building a native quality governance system, and vigorously dismiss new pedagogy approaches suitable for causing learning to occur in the students' minds.

It needs to be said that better systems and places for quality and well-being do not reside elsewhere but in the hearts of everyone; we are ourselves responsible and accountable for the quality and status we choose.

In such current sad situation, the institution and the public are the losers. The consequence is dire.

As the number of tertiary institutions ballooned disproportionately and outgrew needs and utility, public confidence and financial constraints

began to erode the popularity of the colleges. Increasing apathy and introduction of technology and psychology in pedagogy approaches to meet the changing learning style of the young are shaking colleges to their foundations. The youths' embrace of the internet is changing the rules while the college community fights to understand the reality and the widening gap for the learning process.

Our first instinct is to hold our breath, purse our lips and wait for this storm to pass. But the storm is not going to pass. Higher education in Malaysia faces a stark reality: either adapt to a rapidly evolving world of delivering value at the lowest costs or face a future of futility when we cannot afford the money nor the time. It is surely better to rethink our career commitment, to reform than to have a hostile future that will suck all the life out of us.

DISTED must recognise this. We must understand that the beginning of wisdom is not choosing what to do but just as important choosing what not to do. We will meet with our demise because we have outlived our usefulness, and fail to meet the demand of the learning requirement of a changed community. Reform is needed not so much in the curriculum

but a realization of the need to choose high value endeavor than high load endeavours. Any successful endeavor requires the right orientation of the indomitable human spirit.

On this 25th anniversary of the college, I must say that DISTED has done well, just after a bad spell of weak financial performance. Many have contributed, and we all should know our worth in this renaissance of sorts. The ensuing euphoria and self-indulgence, over confidence plus some missed steps may yet prove the Achilles heel to the sustainability of the institution.

The crisis of accessibility, quality and rising costs is coming. All approaches will eventually converge to a scenario of changing mindsets to reach as many students and as low a cost as possible, while keeping the quality intact.

The learning environment that mimics a real classroom with actual face-to-face interaction can still be retained I think, both physically and virtually, in judicious proportions. It is possible for the teacher to spend normal hours at work and yet reach hundreds, if not thousands of students.

We may have to do many things differently. Teachers may decide

on the curriculum, what they want student to know, institutions as a whole make materials available while teachers design tests to see whether the students have learnt. Teachers will be guides at the side than the sage on the stage.

Focusing on teaching undergraduates is the way forward. We have to get rid of complacency, esoteric and expensive programmes, lower the costs of operation and do something that will not allow DISTED to end in failure.

The future is there for us to see and to take.

The Founders

Tan Sri Emeritus Professor Gajaraj Dhanarajan

Dato' Dr Sharom Ahmat

Dr Hulman Sinaga



Present Board of Directors

Dato' Seri (Dr) Stephen Yeap Leong Huat
Chairman

Tan Sri Dr Chin Fook Weng

Tan Sri Emeritus Professor Gajaraj Dhanarajan

Mr Chia Loong Thye

Mr Loo Choo Teng

Mr Ooi Teng Chew





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