

# UK Malaysia University Consortium (UK-MUC) Newsletter

December 2023 - March 2024

## THE CONSORTIUM ACTIVITIES

### The Consortium celebrates another year of success at British Council East Asia Education Week 2024



British Council East Asia Education Week 2024 took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The four day event saw 300 in-person and 150 online delegates from across the sector gather for the East Asia Agent Conference, followed by the ThinkTNE Forum on day two, UK-Malaysia Higher Education Roundtable on day three and finally the Study UK Alumni Awards Malaysia on Thursday evening.



UK-MUC Co-Chair, Dr Julia Wang, was honoured to be invited to join the opening plenary panel at the ThinkTNE forum, themed Progressive Partnerships in Transnational Education. Together with Prof. Paul Van Gardingen, Prof. William Lee HKU SPACE, Prof. Mike Shipston and Prof. Rick Bennett exploring academic engagement, the panel discussed the challenges involved, how we can improve quality and progress together. The keynote speech was given by Prof. Datuk Ir. Ts. Dr. Siti Hamisah Binti Tapsir, Vice Chancellor UCSI University, providing a comprehensive account of the development of the TNE landscape in Malaysia, emphasising

the role that TNE has played in raising the capacity of local education providers. The second day wrapped up with a campus visit to Sunway University campus - one of Malaysia's TNE success stories and UK-MUC Associate Member.



The UK-Malaysia Higher Education Roundtable and Partnership Showcase themed 'Reinvigorating Partnerships and Building Ambition' took place on 28 February 2024 - a British Council led initiative that embodies our shared commitment to fortify and renew the vibrant educational ties between the UK and Malaysia. Professor Jin Wang, UK-Malaysia University Consortium Chair, LJMU gave an excellent presentation providing an overview of UK Malaysia University Consortium Highlights. The session 'Celebrating UK-MY Institutional Partnerships: Highlighting achievements, Sharing Learnings', moderated by Prabha Sundram, Head of Education, Malaysia, British Council, featured two panels 'Enhancing Employability' and 'Addressing Global Challenges' showcasing some of our UK Malaysia Partnership Catalyst Grant Projects:

- i-Digitics: An International Partnership for Graduate Digital Future Work Skills in Data Analytics (LJMU/UTM/UPM)
- Health Professionals/STEM Graduates Without Borders: Engineering Employability and Career Mobility into Academic Programmes Through Capacity Building (University of Surrey/UNIMAS)
- Partnership for Innovation in Employability (PIE) Programme for Women in STEM (Cardiff Metropolitan University/University of York/UM/University of Malaysia Pahang, Kuantan, Universiti Teknologi MARA)
- The Entrepreneurial University Programme (University of Suffolk/Universiti Malaya)
- Promoting Global Health in a Linguistically Diverse Population: Connecting Health Professionals, Education and Society (UEA/UKM/SEG)

Dr Julia Wang, Consortium Co-Chair, LJMU, presented a useful outline The UK-Malaysia University Consortium: Moving Forward (2024-2027) and had the honour to meet with the Deputy Minister of Higher Education Malaysia YB Datuk Ts. Mustapha Sakmud, Her Excellency Ailsa Terry CMG, British High Commissioner to Malaysia, alongside BC Malaysia Director Jazreel Goh and Head of Education Prabha Sundram, marking a pivotal moment in our mission to reinvigorate partnerships. the afternoon concluded with a Networking Reception.



**UK-MUC Moving forward meeting on 21 February 2024**

Malaysia, Dr Jazreel Goh. This agreement also highlights UMPSA's commitment to contributing expertise beyond the academic field, including contributions to society, especially empowering women in STEAM-H and promoting media literacy and information. This partnership will open new avenues for academic and social collaborations between the two universities, promoting innovative and sustainable solutions e.g. K-Malaysia STEM Labs' collaboration for dual PhD and TVET programmes.

**Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony**



King's College London (KCL), Universiti Malaya (UM) and Taylor's University partnership signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 1 December 2023.

**UMPSA, CMU Strengthen Cooperation In Robotics and STEM Technology**



Cardiff Metropolitan University and Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah (UMPSA) successfully sealed a five-year partnership on 16 January 2024 at the Le Meridien Hotel in Putrajaya. As one of the British Council funded PIE for Women programme outputs, the partnership aims to strengthen cooperation in the fields of robotic technology and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and increase learning opportunities among students. The Vice-Chancellor of UMPSA, Prof Datuk Ts Dr Yuserrie Zainuddin, presented the agreement which was signed by the Director of Eureka Robotics Cardiff Metropolitan University, Dr. Eysin Chew, accompanied by and STEM Coordinator, Dr Chow Siing Sia, and witnessed by the Chairman of the UMPSA Steering Committee, Datuk Seri Abdul Razak Jaafar, and British Council East Asia Hub - Country Director

**UK-MUC Attend UK-Jiangsu World Class University Consortium (UKJS) AGM**



Dr. Julia Wang was invited to introduce the UK-MUC to the UK-Jiangsu World Class University Consortium (UKJS) at their AGM held at the University of Liverpool in December 2023. Jointly spearheaded by the British Council, Universities UK and the Jiangsu Provincial Department of Education, the Consortium draws its impetus from the Chinese government's 'World-Class Universities and First-Class Disciplines' initiative, which seeks to develop several of its institutions into world-class universities. Established in 2017, UKJS was awarded a British Council Going Global Partnership Grant in 2021 under the with the objectives of Enabling research, Internationalising higher education and TVET institutions, Strengthening higher education and TVET systems and Enhancing student outcomes. Dr. Wang highlighted the potential for sharing knowledge and best practice between sister consortiums, as

well as extending UK-MUC collaborations in the wider ASEAN and Far East.

[Link to UKJS website.](#)

## Embedding Entrepreneurship and Accelerating Innovation through Partnership



King's College London (KCL) hosted a hybrid UK-Malaysia University Partnerships Catalyst Grant Symposium on Friday 1 December 2023. The keynote speech was given by Ms Prabha Sundram, Head of Education, British Council Malaysia and Dr Maria Garraffa, University of East Anglia (UEA) presented on behalf of the UK-MUC. During the morning session, updates from other Catalyst Grant projects were given on ***Embedding Entrepreneurship and Accelerating Innovation through Partnership*** by King's College, Universiti Malaya and Taylor's University, ***i-Digitics: An International Partnership for Graduate Digital Future Work Skills in Data Analytics*** by Dr Matt McLain and Mr Philip Rothwell (LJUM), ***Health professionals/STEM graduates without borders: engineering employability and career mobility into academic programmes through capacity building*** by Dr Robert Lawrence, University of Surrey, ***The Entrepreneurial University Programme*** by Ms Emma Wakeling, Ms Amy Carpenter University of Suffolk and Mr Deepak Semwal, Change School Limited and Dr Garraffa also shared details of her partnership project, ***Promoting global health in a linguistically diverse population: connecting health professionals, education, and society*** with the National University of Malaysia SEGi University, Malaysia and Ha Noi National University of Education, Vietnam.

For further information, please contact Dr Lian Liu:

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## Final Workshop of Network4training&Research Marks Successful Collaboration between UK and Malaysia

LJMU played host to the final workshop of Network4training&research - a collaborative capacity building network for training and research for rails and seaports Infrastructure industry development aligned with SDGs. The

workshop, held under the UK-Malaysia University Partnership Grants initiative, saw the convergence of key stakeholders from academia and industry to review updated outputs, prepare final project deliverables and reports, and explore opportunities for further collaboration between the UK and Malaysia.



It was attended by representatives from LJMU, Universiti Malaysia Perlis, Universiti Malaya, and Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka, highlighted the significant strides made in aligning project activities with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Participants engaged in discussions aimed at maximizing the impact of the network's efforts on sustainable infrastructure development, particularly in the rail and seaports sectors. A highlight of the event was the presence of esteemed guests, including Prof. Jin Wang, Chair of the UK-Malaysia University Collaboration (UK-MUC) Secretariat, and Prof. Michael Riley, Director of the School of the Built Environment at Liverpool John Moores University. Their insights and expertise added valuable perspectives to the discussions, emphasizing the importance of international partnerships in addressing global challenges such as infrastructure development and sustainability.



The workshop provided a platform for knowledge exchange and networking, fostering closer ties between the participating institutions and laying the groundwork for future collaborations. As the project nears its conclusion, stakeholders expressed optimism about the lasting impact of the Network4training&research initiative on enhancing capacity and driving innovation in the rail and seaports infrastructure sectors, both in the UK and Malaysia.

For further information, please contact: Dr Michaela Gkantou

[m.gkantou@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:m.gkantou@ljmu.ac.uk)

## COLLABORATIVE MOBILITY ACTIVITIES



### Latest UK-Malaysia Going Global Partnerships Student Mobility Awards

Six new grants were recently awarded to support collaborative projects between the UK-MUC member institutions for developing innovative and sustainable student mobility initiatives that enhance student outcomes and competencies for participants from the UK and Malaysia. The overarching objective of UK-Malaysia Going Global Partnerships Grant for Student Mobility 2023 is to support lead institutions from the UK and Malaysia to develop innovative and sustainable student mobility initiatives. Congratulations to all the successful partners:

#### STAR-DGX: Sustainable Transdisciplinary Approach for Resilient Digital Global Exchange

UK partner: Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU)

Malaysia partner: Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)

Lead contact: Dr Julia Wang

#### Inspiring and Building Capacity for Sustainability Research Through Hybrid Cross-Institutional Student Mobility Events

UK partner: Bournemouth University

Malaysia partner: Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)

Lead contact: Dr Alastair Morrison

#### Building Sustainable Futures and Businesses Through Students: Future Leaders Cultural Exchange

UK partner: University of Suffolk

Malaysia partner: Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)

Lead contact: Professor Gurpreet Jagpal

#### Just Net Zero

UK partner: Coventry University

Malaysia partner: Universiti Malaya (UM)

Lead contact: Jovie Pebrihandono

#### Understanding Southeast Asia: Global Health as an Intercultural Tool

UK partner: University of East Anglia

Malaysia partner: Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)

Lead contact: Dr Maria Garraffa

#### Understanding Southeast Asia: Global Health as an Intercultural Tool

UK partner: University of Nottingham

Malaysia partner: International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)

Lead contact: David Ouchterlonie

### Collaborative Mobility Activities Funded by PIE II Programme

In February 2024, EUREKA Robotics Centre, Cardiff Met University and Malaysia undertook various mobility activities.



1. Research Mobility by Dr. Norhamizan binti Hamzah, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Malaya; Lead of Robotics Unit, E-Health, Universiti Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC). Dr Hamizan delivered her first STEM-workshop to underprivileged communities at Cardiff Met on the 10 February 2024.



2. Research Mobility by Associate Professor Ir. Dr. Nur Azah Binti Hamzah, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Universiti Malaya. Prof Dr Azah shared her STEM Workshop experience as one of the founder of "Let's go to Mummies' Lab" at UM STEM Centre.

For more information, please visit the Let's got to Mummies's [YouTube channel](#).

EUREKA Robotics Centre will visit Universiti Malaya Medical Centre in May 2024 to meet up Dr Hamizan and Prof Dr Azah again!



Visit to Welsh Parliament for policy impact inspiration & Robotics demo at EUREKA Robotics Centre during CNY.



Joint visit of Department of Business & Trade and UM; Dr Chew brought the UM delegates to visit the Welsh Parliament and Welsh Women's Peace and Health inspiration: <https://www.wcia.org.uk/peace-heritage/womens-peace-petition>

3. MoA signing ceremony between Universiti Teknologi MARA and Cardiff Metropolitan University. This partnership represents a wonderful opportunity for students and researchers from both sides to access a broader pool of knowledge and expertise, including a EUREKA Nexus Lab and Dual-MPhil/PhD programme:



4. International Science Partnership Fund (ISPF) research grant bidding and PIE project meetings between EUREKA Robotics Centre and UMK-UPSI and UM:



5. Graduate employability / future work skills: **Women placement and robotics development at EUREKA Robotics Centre (Jan 2024)** by Dr Mian Zi Tee (funded by PIE I programme) and Dr Nan Jiun Yap (co-funded by UM), Faculty of Medicine, UM; supported by Professor Yvonne Lim, Associate Vice Chancellor Universiti Malaya (Global Engagement)



Introduction to legendary Universiti Malaya and the only Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, UM by Dr Yap.



UM's Colleagues presented their expertise to underprivileged communities (Youth) in Cardiff.

**Forthcoming UK-MUC Activities and Opportunities**

- BEng and MSc students from Cardiff School of Technologies, Cardiff Metropolitan University to conduct Student Short-term Mobility funded by Taith and Cardiff Met Going Global to visit USIM, UPSI and UMMC, led by Dr Esyin Chew.
- 10 students from Cardiff Met to visit Malaysia (partnering universities who signed MoAs) and China (Peking University and Shenyang Technology University) in summer 2025, funded by Taith programme.
- EUREKA ISPF for ECR – watch the space in April/May for vacancy opening at <https://www.cardiffmet.ac.uk/jobs>

- Dual-PhD mobility funded by PIE II programme-British Council have been offered to UiTM and USIM to develop dual-PhD programme with Cardiff Met.
- Collaborative agreements: final stage of MoA reviewing with Universiti Malaya and early stage for Cardiff Met to develop partnership with UPSI and UMK.
- Sustainability: Inspired by Professor Zuhaina Haji Zakaria's visit (Dean of Graduate Institute, UiTM) to Cardiff Met in last Nov 2023, EUREKA Robotics Centre contributed for £1,000 to commence "SMART EVP: 1 Eco-EUREKA member 1 VegePot" to start another Smart Agriculture+" project from Easter to facilitate well-being and sustainable healthy vegetables for staff and students' lunches.

For further information, please contact Dr Esyin Chew: [echew@cardiffmet.ac.uk](mailto:echew@cardiffmet.ac.uk)

**COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP, EDI AND INNOVATIVE PEDAGOGY**

**Collaborative Teaching of MEK 628 (Robotic Technology) following Delegation Visit**



Dr Frederic Bezombes, Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) and Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr. Norashikin M. Thamrin Norashikin M. Thamrin, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) met in May 2023 during the EUREKA Robotics Centre/Cardiff Metropolitan University and Malaysian delegation visit to the Faculty of Engineering and Technology (FET) on 23 May 2023 led by Dr Esyin Chew. This led to a joint live webinar delivered to staff/students of the School of Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering, UiTM on 29 November 2023, entitled "Sensors and Robotic Applications". The students found Dr Frederic's presentation to be insightful and enjoyable, they posed many questions and thanked him for patiently addressing each one. Dr Frederic and Prof. Norashikin look forward to working together again in the near future. The webinar can be viewed on [YouTube](#) (*link opens in new window*).

For further information, please contact Dr Frederic Bezombes: [fbezombes@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:fbezombes@ljmu.ac.uk) and/or Assoc. Prof. Ir. Dr. Norashikin M. Thamrin Norashikin M. Thamrin: [norashikin@uitm.edu.my](mailto:norashikin@uitm.edu.my)



**Experiential Learning and Competency-Based Education Landscape (EXCEL) Workshop**



On 23 January 2024, Dr. Wan Zuhainis, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) led this Educational Transformational Workshop, which was very well received and attended by 31 UK-MUC Members from UK and Malaysia universities. Experiential Learning and Competency-Based Education Landscape (EXCEL) is a framework developed by Dr. Wan in collaboration the Academic Excellence Division, Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) Malaysia and is aimed at transforming academic programs to produce lifelong learners, innovative adept entrepreneurs, creative practitioners and change-makers. EXCEL aims to address the imminent issues of graduates’ skill mismatch and skill gaps. It focuses on providing learning experiences that are nested in the community and immersions in the industry. Through the implementation of this framework, students of higher education institutions will be given the opportunity to indulge in meaningful research and pave their own learning pathways.



Dr Wan provided an informative overview of current and future student/graduate skills requirements and the key changes in recent years. She also gave a useful outline of the EXCEL framework and the four cores of Industry Driven Experiential Learning (IDEAL), Community Resilience

Experiential Learning (CARE), Research Infused Experiential Learning (REAL), and Personalised Experiential Learning (POISE). Dr Matt McLain, Senior Lecturer in Education and Professional Learning in the School of Education, LJMU shared his recent experiences of embedding EXCEL within ‘*Digitics : An International Partnership for Graduate Digital Future Work Skills in Data Analytics*’. This UK-MUC Catalyst Grant project between Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) is an interdisciplinary team who meet online and in person to develop an online learning community on the topic of data analytics in education. The Project Policy Framework supports alignment with the EXCEL and JISC frameworks across the universities with a focus on creating an international, authentic online learning environment for ongoing development of digital capabilities and critical reflection on their implementation. Members also gained useful insights into the National Dual Training System (NDTS) established by the Ministry of Human Resources Malaysia (MoHR).



**Empowering Marginalized Communities: The KECEKAPAN Entrepreneurial Training Collaboration**



The KECEKAPAN: Key Entrepreneurial Cognitive Education & Knowledge Advancement Project Network between University of Glasgow (UofG), University of Aberdeen (UoA), Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) and Consortium Members from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)-lead, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Universiti Malaya (UM) have developed an entrepreneurial bilingual training programme that embeds gamification software has been developed with transformative pedagogy to stimulate growth and to advances an entrepreneur mindset for the marginalised communities. There were a minimum of 20 learners of which 10% are from a disadvantaged background, 20% are female, and 10 are learners with special abilities. The hands-on training on four learning modules was held from August 2023 until December 2023 at different locations including Penang, Perak, Kuala Lumpur and Johor, Malaysia. These transdisciplinary approach in the four modules included psychology, sociology, organisational behaviour, strategy, international business, innovation, marketing, and entrepreneurship is also aiming for participants employability and future work landscapes.

For further information, please contact Prof. Narimah Samat: [narimah@usm.my](mailto:narimah@usm.my)

**KECEKAPAN: Towards A New Age of Collaborative Learning**



Lead applicants for the UK-Malaysia University Partnerships Catalyst Grant, University of Glasgow (UoG ) and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) with partners from University of Aberdeen (UoA) , Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and Universiti Malaya (UM) recently worked together on a project that focuses on the innovation in higher education and developing mindset. The programme contributes to the realisation of its objective for the advancement of quality teaching, learning, research and university systems through people development with shared expertise between the UK and Malaysia. The collaboration between the UK and Malaysia-based universities and other associated organisations for this project aims to initiate a partnership on innovative entrepreneurial education, research, and programmes in the future.

The project addresses the thematic area of academic programme transformation through innovative pedagogy, competency-based curriculum, and digitalisation. The project adopts a growth mindset curriculum design through gamification with the focus on building competencies and skills that will demonstrate aspects of sustainable competency-based education. It also implements an experiential learning approach by incorporating industry-specific roles in the curriculum design and development to enable learners to acquire the following skills – communication, teamwork, collaboration, complex problem solving, critical thinking, cognitive flexibility, leadership, creativity, innovative and entrepreneurial skills.



The group met physically in Malaysia in December 2023 and organized KECEKAPAN Training Programme which features a one day workshop that was organized at four different participant locations. Prior to that, a 12 weeks online training programme was organized from September/October to December 2023. Among the topics covered include;



- Entrepreneurship fundamentals
- Basic accounting and finance
- Mindset; growth, competitive risk-taking, and impact on decision-making
- Empowerment and disempowerment
- Innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship
- Social entrepreneurship and cultural sensitivity
- Marketing and social media
- Business ethics
- Entrepreneurial game to advance participant's mindset

employability for health professionals and operationalising it into curriculum;

- Expansion of research study to the wider network.

For further information, please contact Prof. Kamalan Jeevaratnam: [k.jeevaratnam@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:k.jeevaratnam@surrey.ac.uk)

### Embedding Experimental Learning in Marketing: USM and LJMU Collaborative Teaching



Dr Salmi Mohd Isa, from Universiti Sains Malaysia, invited as a guest speaker in L4 Core Module in Liverpool Business School, Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) entitled *'Neuromarketing on Branding'* on Monday 12 February 2024. Participants of the class included 294 students of BSc. Business Management. Embedded Experimental Learning (EEL) is the application of theory and academic content to real-world experiences within module curriculum, pedagogy, and assessment contributing to the preparation of students for the workplace and society overall. This collaborative mobility and teaching activities, present the development of the collaboration between USM and UK institutions along with sharing evidence-based practices for the development of EEL and institution internationalisation strategy.



For further information, please contact Prof. Narimah Samat: [narimah@usm.my](mailto:narimah@usm.my)

For further information, please contact Prof. Abdul Latiff Ahmed: [alba@ukm.edu.my](mailto:alba@ukm.edu.my)

Health Professionals/STEM Graduates Without Borders: Engineering Employability and Career Mobility into Academic Programmes Through Capacity Building



On 30 November 2023, the project team held an academic focussed workshop in Kuala Lumpur on Global Mobility and Employability for Health Professionals attended by 55 participants. This was full day event with two interactive workshops and a Consensus report is to be published from panel forum held to be published as an invited opinion piece in an indexed journal on education.

Future activities are planned for 2024 maintaining the sustainability of the collaboration:

- Academic focused workshop in Bangkok, Thailand in 2024;
- Academic focussed workshop in Guildford, UK in 2024;
- A stakeholder focus group event with UK-MUC members in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2024 identifying local context on characteristics for mobility and

## COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

### Designing an Online Course on Learning Analytics for Educators: Preliminary: Insights from a Scoping Review



The i-Digitics team from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) were invited to present their collaborative paper at the 31st International Conference on Computers in Education. Organized by the Asia-Pacific Society for Computers in Education (APSCE), ICCE 2023 was held 4-8 December 2023, in Matsue, Shimane prefecture, Japan. They outlined the project to develop graduate digital future work skills in data analytics and described the review activity carried out to guide the collaborative development of content for an online 'Data Analytics Course for Educators in Malaysia and the United Kingdom'. Future plans to review the quality of the courses in relation to the depth, scope and complexity of the learning they promote were described. This paper will be submitted to Elsevier for inclusion in Scopus. Proceedings of the main conference will also be submitted to Thomson Reuters for inclusion in the Conference Proceedings Citation Index and are available [online](#) (*link opens in new window*). The paper is currently available via [LJMU Research Online](#) (*link opens in new window*).

Shih, J.L. et al. (Eds.) (2023). *Proceedings of the 31st International Conference on Computers in Education. Asia-Pacific Society for Computers in Education*. Asia-Pacific Society for Computers in Education.

### Potential Construction Industry Research Collaboration



On 27 October 2023, representatives from CREAM (Construction Research Institute of Malaysia) and CIDB (Construction Industry Development Board) visited the

School of Civil Engineering & Built Environment, as part of their benchmarking for the development of CIDB's Facilities Management Strategic Plan. They met with Professor Mike Riley, Dr Fiona Borthwick and Dr Steffen Heinig to discuss best practice, accreditation and training, and policy and regulations for FM in the UK. They also discussed some potential research collaboration.

### Student and Staff Perspectives on Employability and Global Mobility in Higher Education

As part of the KECEKAPAN activities, a separate research project was also conducted as part of this Catalyst Grant project with the study aims:

1. What value do health professional students and academic staff place on employability and global mobility training as part of university curricula?
2. What are important employability and global mobility characteristics for health professional subjects?
3. How do perceptions of these important characteristics vary between students and academics?

By understanding the perceptions of the importance of global mobility and employability from the key stakeholders, universities can then make informed decisions about how much of an emphasis to place on teaching these skills in their curricula. Furthermore, global mobility and employability characteristics cover a broad range of potential skills, and it is therefore essential to understand which specific skills are deemed the most important by the key stakeholders so the most appropriate and impactful teaching can be arranged. This was done in collaboration with UK-MUC partners University of Surrey, UNIMAS and Chiang Mai University). The study is now concluded and is a paper is currently being written for submission to a journal.

For further information, please contact Prof. Kamalan Jeevaratnam: [kjeevaratnam@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:kjeevaratnam@surrey.ac.uk)

### Network4Training&Research Team Explore Collaborative Opportunities at Liverpool Port



A research team from Network4training&research, a collaborative capacity-building network focusing on rail and

seaport infrastructure development aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recently visited Liverpool Port as part of their efforts funded under the UK-Malaysia University Partnership Grants initiative. The objective of the visit was to update previous research findings related to the Network4training&research project and explore opportunities for collaboration between the UK and Malaysia in the field of port infrastructure development. Led by representatives from Liverpool John Moores University, Universiti Malaysia Perlis, Universiti Malaya, and Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka, the research team engaged in discussions with key stakeholders at Liverpool Port. The visit provided an opportunity to exchange insights and gather firsthand data on port operations, infrastructure, and management practices. A special highlight of the visit was the presence of Jon Hassett, Deputy Port Director of Mersey Docks & Harbour Company, who welcomed the research team and provided valuable insights into the operations and challenges faced by Liverpool Port. Mr. Hassett's expertise and industry knowledge added significant depth to the discussions, facilitating a deeper understanding of the practical aspects of port infrastructure development and management.



During the visit, the research team also discussed potential areas of collaboration between UK and Malaysian institutions in addressing common challenges and advancing sustainable port development practices. These discussions centred on leveraging expertise and resources from both countries to drive innovation, improve efficiency, and promote environmental sustainability in the port industry. The visit to Liverpool Port served as a crucial step in advancing the objectives of the Network4training&research project, providing valuable firsthand insights and fostering closer collaboration between academia, industry, and government stakeholders. As the project progresses, stakeholders remain optimistic about the potential for meaningful collaboration to contribute to the advancement of sustainable port infrastructure development, both in the UK and Malaysia.

For further information, please contact Dr. Michaela Gkantou: [m.gkantou@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:m.gkantou@ljmu.ac.uk)

**Coventry University Group's Singapore Hub Hosts First Trilateral Innovation Partnership Conference**



The future of innovation was at the centre of discussion as Coventry University Group hosted its first Trilateral Innovation Partnership Conference in Singapore. The Group's Singapore Hub, supported by the Department of Business and Trade and the Science and Innovation Network, organised a two-day event, that brought together senior representatives from industry, academia and various government and statutory boards to discuss the issues facing innovation in business and industry, in sustainability and in research.



More than 50 participants from across the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries and the UK attended the conference at Eden Hall, the residence of the British High Commissioner in Singapore and at JEN Singapore Tanglin by Shangri-La.



## COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

### Call for nominations - UK-Malaysia Education Institutional Partnership Award 2024



The British Council are delighted to invite UK and Malaysia institutions with strong UK-MY education partnerships to submit nominations for the UK-Malaysia Educational Institutional Partnership Award 2024. The UK-Malaysia Educational Institutional Partnership Award 2024 is an award category by the British Council in partnership with the British Malaysia Chamber of Commerce as part of the prestigious Business Excellence Awards. The Institutional Partnership Award was conceptualised to honour a UK higher or further education institution that has partnered with a Malaysian organisation to deliver significant impact in the last 5 years and contributed exceptional results and value-creation to the education sector in Malaysia, capitalising on the best of UK & Malaysia expertise through a seamless partnership.

Last year, Reading University attained this award for its partnership with University Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) in implementing Nutrigenetics and Nutrigenomics Research and Training Unit (N2RTU) which resulted in a cross-border linkage between the UK and Malaysia on capacity building, industrial linkages, student mobility programmes and to identify ground-breaking results to aid Malaysia overcome the obesity epidemic. Lancaster University was named the winner of the award in 2022 for their partnership with Sunway University in establishing the Future Cities Research Institute (FCRI) as well as for their multidimensional partnerships in creating jobs and encouraging knowledge transfer, which benefits both Malaysia and the UK over a longer-term.



The Awards Gala Dinner will be held on 21 May 2024 at Sunway Resort Hotel in Kuala Lumpur and are a great opportunity for British higher and further education institutions to celebrate and share their great success stories and partnership journey with Malaysian institutions/organisations. For more details on the eligibility criteria and to submit your nomination, please visit UK-

Malaysia Education Institutional Partnership Award 2024 (cognitoforms.com)

The closing date for submission has been extended to **12 April 2024, 11.59 pm (MYT)**.

If you need more information, please contact [Prabha.Sundram@britishcouncil.org](mailto:Prabha.Sundram@britishcouncil.org) or read more about the Business Excellence Awards 2024 at <https://businessexcellenceawards.bmcc.org.my/>

### Call opens for British Council International Collaboration Grants 2024



The International Collaboration Grants are now open for the second time. This £1 million grants programme supports the creation of new cultural collaborations between UK artists, arts professionals and organisations and their peers around the world. The Grants encourage new bilateral and multilateral partnerships, providing funding to enable organisations to make and develop creative artwork with their international peers, and help individual artists find innovative ways of collaborating. Applications must demonstrate genuine international collaboration and deliver explicit benefit to participating UK artists and organisations and their international partners. Projects can address any theme and applicants are asked to share their approach to diversity, inclusion and environmental sustainability in the delivery of their project. Available grants range between £25,000 and £75,000 and are now open for application. Visit the website for further details:

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/arts/international-collaboration-grants#Downloads> (link opens in new window).

### Calls for Papers

#### 2024 IEEE 13th International Conference on Engineering Education (ICEED)

Authors are invited to submit full papers describing original research to The 2024 IEEE 13th International Conference on Engineering Education (ICEED 2024), which will convene in Kanazawa, Japan from November 19th -20th, 2024. The conference is organized under the auspices of the IEEE Malaysia Education Society, with co-organization by the Engineering and Technical Research Group (EnTER), School of Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering, Universiti

Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and technical co-sponsorship by Kanazawa Institute of Technology (KIT). ICEED 2024 offers a unique platform for scholars and practitioners to tackle the most pressing challenges in engineering education.

**Important Dates**

- Submission Deadline (Full Paper): 1st May 2024
- Notification of Acceptance: 30th June 2024
- Early Bird Registration Deadline: 15th September 2024
- Final Paper Submission Deadline: 15th October 2024
- Final Registration Deadline: 15th October 2024
- Conference Date: 19th – 20th November 2024

Share your innovative research and engage in lively discussions with leading experts. Gain fresh perspectives, forge valuable connections and contribute to advancing the field. Submit your work and be part of a vibrant community pushing the boundaries of engineering education. Conference content will be submitted for inclusion into IEEE Xplore as well as other Abstracting and Indexing (A&I) databases. Submission instructions can be found online:

<https://enter.uitm.edu.my/iceed/submission/> (link opens in new window)

**2024 IEEE International Conference on AeroSystems Engineering, Technology & Applications: "Integrating Smart Farming and Food Security for a Sustainable Future"**

The IEEE Industrial Applications / Industrial Electronics Joint Chapter Malaysian Section is proud to organize the second 2024 IEEE International Conference On AeroSystems Engineering, Technology & Applications (AGRETA 2024). AGRETA 2024 to be held on 7 September 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Local presenters are required to present their papers face to face during the event. International participants can choose either virtual presentation or face to face presentation. Conference content will be submitted for inclusion into IEEE Xplore as well as other Abstracting and Indexing (A&I) databases. Visit the [website](#) for further information (link opens in new window).

**CALL FOR PAPER**

**ICEED 2024**  
2024 IEEE 13th International Conference on Engineering Education  
19 - 20 November 2024  
Kanazawa, Japan

**HYBRID CONFERENCE**

The 2024 IEEE 13th International Conference on Engineering Education (ICEED) is to be held in Kanazawa, Japan from 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024. ICEED 2024, a hybrid conference, will be organized by IEEE Malaysia Education Society and co-organized by the Engineering and Technical Research Group (EnTER), School of Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia, and technically co-sponsored by Kanazawa Institute of Technology, Japan.

**TOPIC OF INTEREST**

- Accreditation and evaluation
- Engineering Education Reforms
- International Recognition of Qualifications
- New Technologies in Engineering Education
- Industry and Education Collaboration
- Globalization in Education

- Changes and Challenges in Engineering Education
- Distance learning, methods, technologies, and assessment
- Outcome-Based Education
- Linking Academic Knowledge with the Industrial Needs
- Women in Engineering Education

- Research and development in Engineering Education
- Quality Assurance in Engineering Education
- Education in Applied Sciences
- Education in Social Sciences
- Education in Life Science
- Computer and Web based software

**PUBLICATION**

The Proceedings of ICEED 2024 may be eligible for inclusion in the IEEE Xplore® Digital Library, once they meet the requirements of an IEEE quality review.

**WEBSITE**

**CONTACT US**

**ICEED2024 Secretariat**  
School of Electrical Engineering,  
College of Engineering,  
Universiti Teknologi MARA,  
40450 Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia  
email: [enter@uitm.edu.my](mailto:enter@uitm.edu.my)

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Submission Deadline  
(Full Paper): 1st May 2024

Early Bird Registration Deadline:  
15th September 2024

Final Registration Deadline:  
15th October 2024

Notification of Acceptance:  
30th June 2024

Final Paper Submission Deadline:  
15th October 2024

Conference Date:  
19th – 20th November 2024

**ORGANIZER**

**Technical Co-Sponsor**

**AGRETA 2024**

"Integrating Smart Farming and Food Security for a Sustainable Future"

Hybrid Conference

2024 IEEE International Conference on Agrosystem Engineering, Technology & Applications | 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

The IEEE Industrial Applications / Industrial Electronics Joint Chapter Malaysian Section is proud to organize the second **2024 IEEE International Conference On Agrosystem Engineering, Technology & Applications (AGRETA2024)**. AGRETA 2024 will be held on 7th September 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

AGRETA 2024 is looking for papers on the following topics within the Electrical Engineering context:

- ✓ Precision & Smart Agriculture
- ✓ Industrial Electronics & Applications in Agriculture
- ✓ IoT, Sensors & Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture
- ✓ Food Security, Waste Management & Sustainable Technology
- ✓ Agriculture Mechanization, Automation & Drone Technology
- ✓ Remote Sensing & Geographic Information System (GIS)
- ✓ Non-Destructive Testing Methods in Agriculture
- ✓ Other related topics

**PUBLICATION**

All presented papers will be submitted for inclusion in IEEE Xplore and possibly indexed by Scopus.

**website**

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Submission Deadline: 31st March 2024**  
Notification Deadline: 1st May 2024  
Registration & Camera-Ready Deadline: 30th June 2024  
Conference Date: 7th September 2024

	Normal Registration	Student Registration	Attendee
Local, IEEE Member	RM 1050	RM 900	RM 400
Local, Non-IEEE	RM 1100	RM 1000	
International, IEEE	USD 430	USD 380	USD 100
International, Non-IEEE	USD 480	USD 430	

For more details, please visit AGRETA 2024 website  
<https://www.agreta.org/>

**Organizer**

**Conference Friend**

**OTHER NEWS**

**Malaysian-UK Alumni Celebrated by British Council**



UK-MUC Members were delighted to attend the British Council Study UK Alumni Awards Malaysia 2024 on February 29, which was the final event of East Asia Education Week 2024. The significant impact Malaysian-UK alumni have made on their professions, societies, as well as home and host countries, was celebrated by awards recognising alumni across four broad categories - Science and Sustainability, Business and Innovation, Culture and Creativity and Social Action. The sixth edition of the awards was held as a gala dinner celebration in Kuala Lumpur.



**UK-MUC highlighted in BMCC’s Guide to UK-Malaysia Education Excellence**



Her Excellency Ailsa Terry CMG officially launched the British Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (BMCC) Education Excellence Guide, signifying a renewed commitment to enriching the educational landscape between our nations. This

inaugural issue is aimed at supporting Malaysia's ambition to become a global education hub, offering valuable insights and guidance for those pursuing education excellence between the UK-Malaysia. The Guide emphasizes that with greater support from stakeholders, flagship initiatives such as the UK-Malaysia University Consortium can become an enabler of growth to drive UK-Malaysian higher education collaborations (p.9).



During the British Council Higher Education Roundtable Day in KL on 28 February, Dr Julia Wang, Co-Chair of UK-MUC met with Her Excellency, YB Datuk Ts. Mustapha Sakmud, BC Malaysia Director Jazreel Goh and Head of Education Prabha Sundram, marking a pivotal moment in our mission to reinvigorate partnerships. Jazreel Goh, Director Malaysia and Head of East Asia Insights Hub, British Council, said ***“The Study UK Alumni Awards matters to the British Council...a reminder of what we can achieve when we work collaboratively and bring our individual inspiration and creativity together. We can change people’s lives for a better and build a brighter future for everyone.”***

“With greater support from stakeholders, flagship initiatives such as the UK-Malaysia University Consortium established through the British Council’s Going Global Partnerships programme can become an enabler of growth to drive UK-Malaysian higher education collaborations in academic development, research and innovation, student and academic mobility, and boost investment opportunities in international education.”

## Malaysian Government Addressing the Skills Mismatch in Graduate Employment

The Malaysian government recently announced that it is working on aligning fresh graduates' skills with industry needs amid an ongoing mismatch in the employment market, according to reports. Human Resources Deputy Minister Datuk Mustapha Sakmun recently said that while there are many job opportunities in Malaysia, the qualifications of jobseekers are not matching the demands of the industry. Officiating at MyFutureJobs X MADANI Students' Universiti Teknologi MARA 2023 Career Carnival on 24 November 2023, he stated: *"We understand the industry's needs. Our goal is to minimise the number of job vacancies that do not align with the certificates, diplomas, or degrees holders and avoiding mismatches. That's our focus"*.

## Liverpool John Moores University Awarded Matrix Standard for High Quality Employability Services



The quality of careers advice and guidance offered by LJMU has earned the university a prestigious charter mark. The matrix Standard is owned by the Department for Education and used by hundreds of organisations to benchmark their services. Assessors from the organisation visited LJMU over three days in late November to evaluate evidence about current provision and goals for the future. The Student Futures programme was commended in the strong strategic and operational links with professional networks, employers and agencies, with specific reference to work-based learning and employment. Angela Standish, Head of the Careers and Employability at LJMU, said: *"We're delighted to have received this accreditation, which gives independent endorsement of the quality of service we offer daily to current students and graduates. We are committed to staying at the forefront of careers guidance, adapting to the evolving needs of our students and the ever-changing job market"*. Find out more about the matrix Standard: <https://matrixstandard.com/> (link opens in new window).

## UK-MUC Members receive funding from round seven of Research England's flagship UK Research Partnership Investment Fund

Congratulations to King's College London (UKRPIF investment: £10 million) and the University of Nottingham (UKRPIF investment: £14 million) who have both received UK Research Partnership Investment Fund (UKRPIF) funding to create new, world-class, international research

centres. The projects start in April 2024 and funding will run until March 2025.

**The UK Smart Trials Development Hub**, led by King's College London will create a research facility to accelerate understanding of the biology of heterogeneous disease and enable equitable development of therapies to treat each patient. The facility will house state-of-the-art experimental data and artificial intelligence-driven techniques to define characteristics of individual patients' diseases. This innovative approach enables accurate predictions of which patients will benefit from existing and new therapies, critical for designing efficient, cost-effective and inclusive clinical trials. In addition to funding from Research England, this opportunity was made possible by co-investment from Guy's & St Thomas' Charity, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Bruker Corporation, Teledyne Photon Machines, GSK, AstraZeneca, UCB and Apollo Therapeutics. The Smart Trials Development Hub will be housed in Guy's Hospital, part of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, and open in Spring 2025. This Trust cares for some of the most ethnically diverse communities in the UK.



**The Zero Carbon Translation Centre** for Powering Future Transport, led by the University of Nottingham will accelerate disruptive propulsion solutions for heavy transport applications (aerospace, marine, trucks, off-road, rail) where full battery electric power is not viable. It will build on the university's internationally leading capabilities in electrification, hydrogen and manufacturing. The investment will enable testing of novel powertrains, including cryogenic electrical machines and systems fuelled by liquid hydrogen and other green fuels. It will also create advanced manufacturing capabilities to allow rapid market introduction of the latest research into decarbonised transport solutions where battery electric power is not viable. The project has already secured more than £70 million in funding from public and private investment. The facilities will offer open access and space for industry collaboration, placing UK science into a globally leading position in a significant market. At the same time, they strengthen the university's position as part of a national network of research, infrastructure, and skills development, while also enhancing regional impact. Professor Chris Gerada, lead for strategic research and innovation initiatives at the University of Nottingham, said: *"Our research strengths, together with today's investment from UKRPIF, accelerate our shared vision to*

create world-class facilities, build strategic partnerships with industry, stimulate investments in the UK, and drive economic growth". Visit the [website](#) for more information ([link opens in new window](#)) or contact Danielle Hall - Media Relations Manager - Faculty of Engineering: [danielle.hall@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:danielle.hall@nottingham.ac.uk)

### £1 billion doctoral training investment announced

The UK's biggest investment in engineering and physical sciences doctoral skills has been announced by Science, Innovation and Technology Secretary Michelle Donelan. The investment in the 65 Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs) totals more than £1 billion. This investment includes an additional £135 million for CDTs, which will start in 2025. CDTs have a significant reputation in training future UK academics, industrialists and innovators who have gone on to develop the latest technologies. More than 4,000 doctoral students will be trained over the next nine years, building on EPSRC's long-standing record of sustained support for doctoral training, with more than 1,400 companies, higher education institutions, charities and civic organisations taking part. The CDTs will support leading research in areas of national importance, including critical technologies - 8 CDTs are led by UK-MUC Members:

**EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Advanced Engineering for Personalised Surgery and Intervention**, led by Professor Sebastien Ourselin, King's College London: A centre led by King's College London which will train researchers in advanced engineering for personalised surgery, such as micro-surgical robots, AI-assisted surgery, digital surgical twins creating virtual replicas of patients' anatomy to inform surgeons about how to tailor procedures, and chemical techniques which allow for surgery 'without the knife'.

**EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Resilient Chemistry: feedstock to function (CDT-F2F)**, led by Professor Peter Licence, University of Nottingham: A centre led by the University of Nottingham aiming to drive down the environmental impact of chemicals manufacturing which so many sectors and products rely on, from pharmaceuticals and fragrances to adhesives and lubricants, to create sustainable, circular processes to drive decarbonisation.

**EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Compound Semiconductor Manufacturing**, led by Professor Peter Smowton, Cardiff University: A centre led by Cardiff University will lead research to improve the design, manufacture and environmental sustainability of semiconductors, which are crucial to so many current and future technologies such as 6G wireless, high-capacity data storage and electric vehicles.

**EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Data-Driven Healthcare (DRIVE-Health)**, led by Professor Richard Dobson, King's College London.

**EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Fusion Power**, Led by: Professor Roderick Vann, University of York.

**EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Algebra, Geometry and Quantum Fields (AGQ)**, led by: Professor Tara Brendle, University of Glasgow.

**EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in "Diversity led, mission-driven research"**, led by: Dr Marie Muellenbroich, University of Glasgow.

**PSRC CDT in Future Open SecuRe NeTworks**, led by: Professor Rahim Tafazolli, University of Surrey.

**EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Net Zero Maritime Energy Solutions**, led by Professor John Bridgeman, University of Liverpool in collaboration with Liverpool John Moores University: The Centre for Doctoral Training in Net Zero Maritime Energy Solutions (NOMES) will develop a cohort of 51 highly trained researchers, skilled in the identification, understanding, assessment, and solutions delivery for pressing environmental challenges in offshore and maritime energy industries. NOMES researchers will pursue new, engineering-centred, multidisciplinary research to address three important offshore net zero challenges currently facing the North West and the UK:

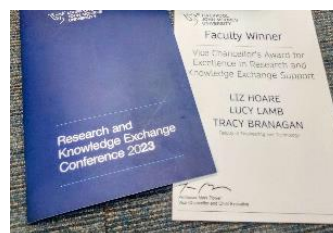
- 1: Generating offshore and marine environment renewable energy (offshore wind, tidal, wave, hydrogen, floating solar)
- 2: Addressing the short- and long-term environmental impacts of offshore and marine environment renewable energy generation, distribution and storage.

Visit the [website](#) for further information ([link opens in new window](#)).

### LJMU Alumni Malaysian Chef wins Asia's Best Vegan Chef Award in Tamil Nadu, India



UK-MUC Alumni and Malaysian chef, Kalidevan Murugaya, popularly known as Chef Dave, was honoured with the title Asia's Best Vegan Chef with Creative Influence at the Asia Awards (AA) 2023 in Trichy, Tamil Nadu, India on Sunday 3 December. The event, associated with online research council World Research Congress, recognised over 50 entrepreneurs across various fields. Dave holds a Degree in Tourism, Leisure and Hospitality management from LJMU, a Masters of Business Administration from University of Wales Trinity Saint David and in 2021, gained his Diploma in vegan cooking.



### LJMU Research and Knowledge Exchange Conference 2023

The UK-MUC Secretariat support team, Lucy Lamb, Tracy Branagan and Liz Hoare were honoured to



receive the Vice Chancellor's Faculty Winner Award for Excellence in Research and Knowledge Exchange Support within the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at LJMU in

December. The Award recognises members of staff/teams at LJMU who have made exceptional contributions in Research and Knowledge Exchange (RKE) during 2023.

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## UK-MUC SECRETARIAT CONTACTS

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