



UBD Alumni Update

DECEMBER
2022

VOL 1

News and updates from the Office of Alumni Relations & Advancement
University Brunei Darussalam



UBD Alumni GiveBack | Pg3



National Youth Day Awards
Receipents |Pg 8



UBD Alumni Talks Series |Pg 5



A Message from Our Vice – Chancellor



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Alhamdulillah Rabbil 'Aalamiin
Wassalatu
Wassalamu 'ala Sayyidina Muhammad
Wa'ala
Alihi Wa-sahbihi Ajma'een.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi
Wabarakatuh.

Alhamdulillah, I am delighted to introduce to you the newly launched Office of Alumni Relations and Advancement, (OARA) newsletter, UBD Alumni e-Newsletter. The main objective of this newsletter is to promote close relations between the University and its alumni by informing our alumni of the latest updates on OARA and to keep you in touch with new developments and events throughout Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam, and the Chancellor of UBD, in his Titah during the Grand Finale? of the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of UBD, 15th October 2011 has acknowledged his hope for the University's alumni to contribute back anything to the university and the community in general.

The UBD alumni community has over 30,000 members across more than 800 countries, demonstrating its global reach and influence. UBD's OARA aims to strengthen and maintain mutual relations with our alumni as well as act as a platform for alumni to contribute to the University and the country as a whole, aligning with Brunei's Vision 2035 as well as UBD's vision of National Relevance, Global Impact.

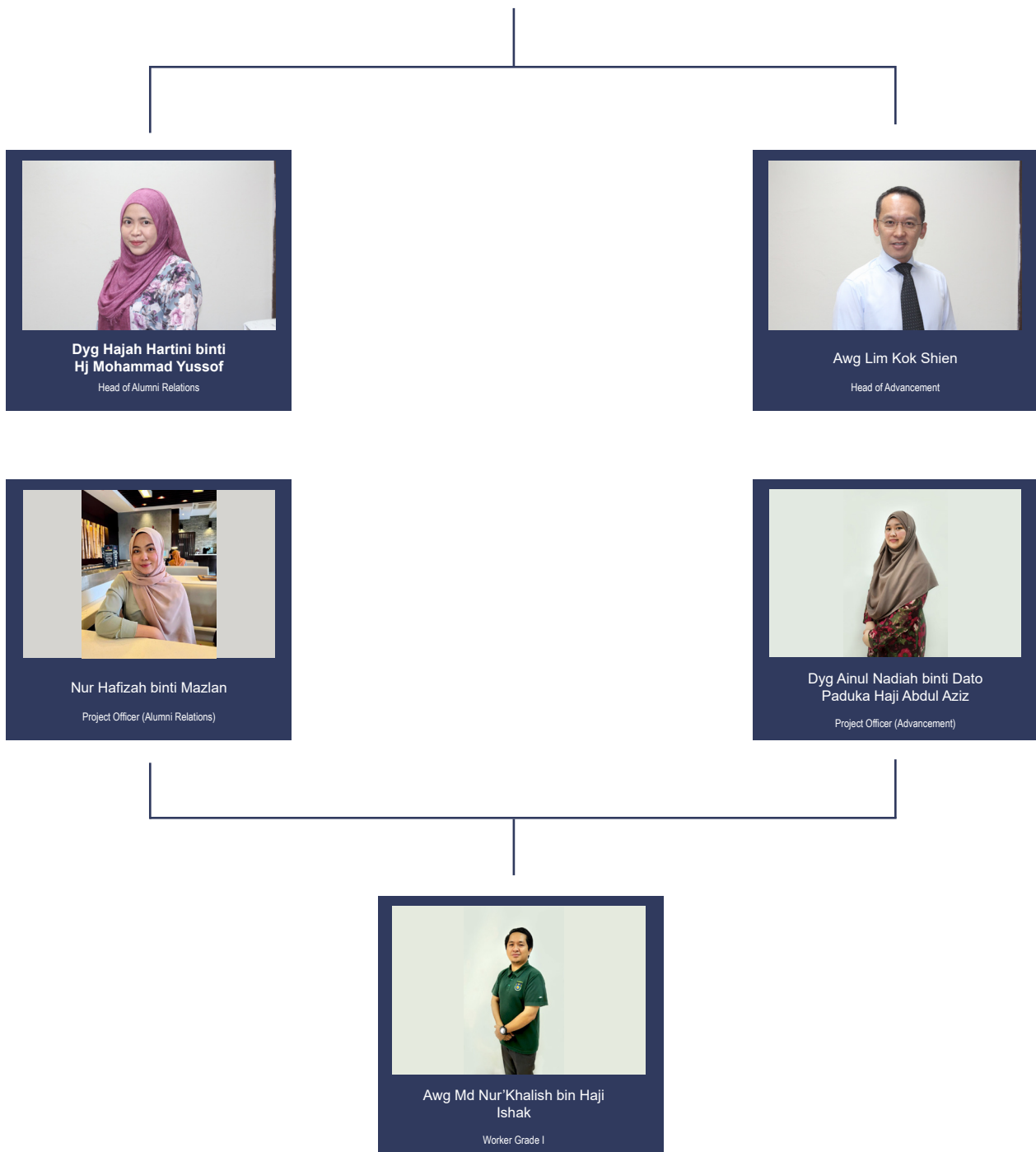
In shaa Allah, UBD through OARA will continue to deliver many events in a physical or online manner to provide a platform for UBD to connect with the UBD community globally. UBD will also be introducing one international alumni chapters for the year 2022, and any interested alumni are welcome to join.

I hope you will enjoy reading the very first edition of the OARA e-Newsletter.

Wabillahi Taufiq Wal Hidayah Wassalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakaatuh.

OARA Organisational Structure & Team Members

Assistant Vice Chancellor Corporate and Administration



UBD Alumni Highlight

I graduated from UBD as Class of 2005 with a Certificate in Lower Secondary Science and later pursued Master of Management, graduating as Class of 2020. In seek of a challenge and with determination, I accepted a job offer as a teacher at the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah School. From there, I made myself involved in youth and NGO volunteering, and advocating for HIV/AIDS awareness.

The best memory I have of being a student in UBD is the bond that I shared with my course mates and those from other programmes at the university.



Awang Iswandy Bin Ahmad
Alumni Representative Alumni Brunei Darussalam,
class of 2005 and 2020

The biggest lesson that I took away from my study in UBD is that no matter where you go for your studies, what matters the most is our attitude towards our studies, and what knowledge obtained from our schooling years we use in our adult life. Lecturers of UBD has also played a role and giving their best to teach the students. A fond memory of mine would be the support I received from the Assistant Registrar (AR) of UBDSBE at that time, where he advised and assisted me in continuing my Masters, where I almost decided to call it quits due to my commitment as a member of the Legislative Council.

“You Can Have Everything, But Only One Thing At A Time”

In March 2020, when Brunei was hit with COVID -19, I immediately contacted Sukarelawan Belia asking where I can come in and support. Unfortunately, I was unable to volunteer due to the risk it carries, and at that time my son was barely one year old. Nonetheless, I played my part by following advices from authorities, instruction to stay at home and adhere to all SOPs. I do applaud those who did their part in fighting COVID-19; frontliners and members of the public who took heed of the advice in doing their part to stay at home and follow SOPs. I would take this opportunity to thank everyone who has played their part to fight COVID-19- “together we will emerge stronger”.



UBD

Four members of UBD alumni received the National Award in Maldives for their great achievements. The individuals from Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education (SHBIE) attained exceptional distinction in completing studies at MQA rank 10.

Congratulations to Dr Fathimath Nishan, Dr Mariyam Shareefa, Dr Aishath Waheeda and Dr Visal Moosa.

The National Award for Special Achievement was conferred to 11 recipients this year presented by President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih at the special ceremony held at Republic Square on 6 October 2021 to mark Maldives' National Day.

Philanthropist Mr Kelving Pong, UBD Alumni Class of 2018 donates to UBD Botanical Research Centre



Mr Kelvin Pong and Family in front of The Pong Endangered Species Garden

Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) alumnus Kelvin Pong Ming Onn marked a key milestone, leading by example and creating a pathway for alumni philanthropists to give back to the university.

An agreement with UBD was reached to contribute funding for the development, teaching and research of UBD's Botanical Research Centre (UBDBRC). At the moment, UBD has established research groups in several areas including Biodiversity, Energy Studies, Islamic Studies, Herbal, Catalyst, Sensor Technology, Tourism, International and Comparative Education (ICE), Precision Genomic Medicine (PGM), Bioinspiration, Optoelectronic Device, and Biosensors, Halal Science and Detection Research.

To date, UBD has filed 60 patents and some of which have resulted in commercialisation, such as the licensing of a patent on anti-bacterial and anti-fungal photo-catalytic coating to Smart Coating Technologies (B) Sdn Bhd, and with Pahaytc Sdn Bhd on the characterisation of the local *Aquilaria* or "Agarwood".

The arrangement was signed by Kelvin Pong Ming Onn, a Chartered Financial Consultant who also graduated from UBD with a Master Dayang Hajah Anita Bin Nurul Zahrina binti Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Aziz, Vice-Chancellor of UBD at Simpung Herbal Cafe, located at UBD's campus.

For his initiative in giving back to the university a garden at UBDBRC has been named "The Pong Endangered Species Garden" where research on endangered species is conducted.



Mr Kelvin Pong and UBD outside Simpung Herbal Cafe

UBD Plantastique Day Gathers Flora Enthusiast



Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) hosted the first "UBD Plantastique Day", an event aimed to encourage giving back to the university by contributing plants through the "Give a Plant to University". In addition, the event was also held to promote the UBD Botanical Research Centre (UBDBRC) and Simpur Herbal Café to the public.

UBD Plantastique Day was co-organised by the Office of Alumni Relations and Advancement (OARA) and UBDBRC, with the support of Simpur Herbal Café and UBD School of Business and Economics Student Council.

A total number of 43 plant hobbyists attended the event including UBD staff, students, alumni and the general public. The highlight of the event was the "Plant Swap" activity where plant owners swapped their plants while sharing their knowledge on plants and gardening.

UBD alumni Salmiah Hj Sabtu and Hjh Siti Hawa Hj Saban were the most enthusiastic participants of the day, donating a sizeable number of plants to the UBDBRC. Some of the donated plants included local herbs which can be studied in the near future.

Participants were then treated to a group tour to the UBDBRC, home to several hundred species of plants. Apart from conducting research activities, UBDBRC is also engaged in education and outreach activities, showcasing their in-house collections of medicinal plants and exchanging ideas with alumni and public on forest conservation. Local plant as well as food and beverage vendors were invited to the event.



UBD Plantastique Day Participants

The event concluded with networking among the alumni and participants at the Simpur Herbal Café. UBD Plantastique Day hopes to strengthen the ties between alumni, members of the public and the university by cultivating a mutually beneficial relationship, including opportunities for creative collaborations.

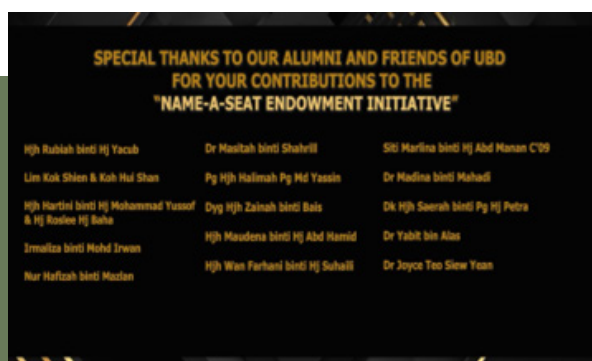
UBD Name-A-Seat Initiatives

To celebrate the 34th Convocation of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), Pesta Konvo UBD 2022 kicked off on 11th August 2022 with a showcase of innovative and environmental technology projects by students and alumni at the newly officiated Arts Centre.

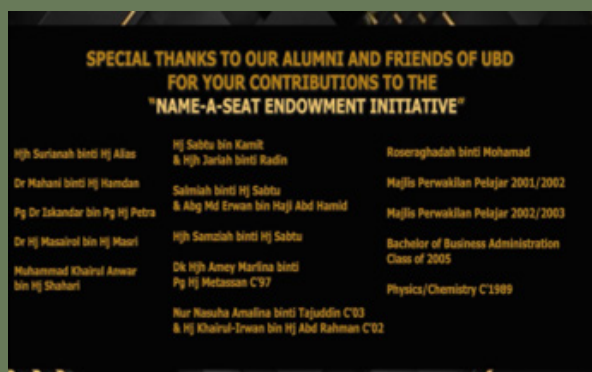


The festival was officially launched by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda (Dr) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Pro Chancellor of UBD. His Royal Highness also officiated the Pro Chancellor's Arts Centre and UBD Mini Gallery. The ceremony was attended by Vice Chancellor of UBD, Dr Hazri Haji Kifle, principal officers, prominent officials from government agencies and international students.

Organised by the Student Affairs Section and UBD Students' Association (PMUBD) with the assistance from the Office of Promotion and Events Management (OPEM), this year's Pesta Konvo theme "Integrating Nature and technology for a More Sustainable Future" highlighted inter-disciplinary research projects with a focus on technology and the environment. The students and alumni showcased projects aimed at reducing energy consumption, temperature reduction, monitoring clean ground and surface water, optimising solar energy systems as well as a study on monitoring the dynamic behaviour of a bridge.



Among other events held in conjunction with the Pesta Konvo, UBD also convey a special thanks to UBD Alumni and Friends of UBD for their contributions to the 'Name-A Seat Endowment Initiative'. Endowment is a fundraising campaign that facilitates the growth and development of the university, assisting its teaching and learning, high impact research, social responsibilities and student development. Contribution for Name-a-Seat endowment initiative can be made by scanning the QR code and submitting the form. Should you have any inquiry, please do not hesitate to contact the OARA team.



UBD Alumni Talk Series



Mr Kelvin Pong presenting in the first UBD Alumni Talk Series

The UBD Alumni Talk Series is aimed at giving speakers the opportunity to showcase their business or job scope and they have the opportunity to share their working experience with the students, or any employment career opportunities. The series of talks promotes a culture of giving back to the university; allocating speakers' time to inspire others and supporting UBD in terms of increasing student employability by sharing essential information.

Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) hosted the first UBD Alumni Talk Series event facilitated by the Office of Alumni Relations and Advancement (OARA) on 7th March 2021.

Titled 'From Science to Business: Journey from UBD Graduate to Financial Planner', the talk was delivered by UBD alumnus, Mr. Kelvin Pong Ming Onn, a graduate in BSc Biological Sciences and BA Economics.

The second UBD Alumni Talk Series in July 2021 titled "A Career With Green Peace of Mind", the talk was delivered by UBD alumna, Siti Norasyidah Hj Kariya, who graduated from UBD with a degree in Biological Science in 2009 and Master of Management in 2015. She started her career as a Research Assistant in UBD and later kicked off her career as

Senior Environmental Consultant in Brunei Shell Petroleum Sdn Bhd.



Dyg Siti Norasyidah presenting in the second UBD Alumni Talk Series

Dyg Siti Norasyidah is also the founder of EnEvo Sdn Bhd that looks after the waste issue in Brunei Darussalam. With more than 10 years of working experience, Siti Norasyidah is an expert in Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), Environmental Aspects and Impact Identification and Risk Assessment, Development of Environmental and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) and Environmental Auditing.

The UBD Alumni Talk Series hopes to strengthen the ties between alumni and the university by cultivating a mutually beneficial relationship, maintain the loyalty of the alumni and create limitless opportunities for their creative contribution to the university.

UBD Alumni Talk Series



Pg Khairi presenting in the third UBD Alumni Talk Series

The third UBD Alumni Talk Series event on Tuesday, 19th July 2022 facilitated by the Office of Alumni Relations and Advancement (OARA).

The talk titled “Finding Your Way in Digital Entrepreneurship” was delivered by UBD alumna, Pengiran Khairi bin Pengiran Haji Metussin, Managing Director of Mindtrex Academy Sdn Bhd. Pengiran Khairi graduated from UBD with a degree in Business Administration in 2012. With more than 10 years of experience in Digital Education in Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia, Pengiran Khairi believes in the potential of big data, personalised outcome analysis and mobile or online-based learning as the future of modern education across all market segments in Brunei Darussalam and globally.



Mr Syazwan bin Hj Suni presenting in the fourth UBD Alumni Talk Series

The fourth UBD Alumni Talk Series titled “Aquaponics, Closer to Home” the talk was delivered in a dialogue session by UBD Alumnus, Mr Syazwan bin Haji Suni, Co-founder of S&R Aquafarm. Mr Syazwan graduated from UBD with a Master in Economics in 2013. He started his career as an Internal Audit Officer, and currently working with BIACC Sdn Bhd as a Senior Internal Audit Officer. Since 2011, Mr Syazwan has been actively studying and experimenting a modern farming method known as Aquaponics. In 2016, Mr Syazwan co-founded S&R Aquafarm with his father Haji Suni bin Haji Sulaiman.

Aquaponics is a combination of both aquaculture and hydroponics systems, whereby nutrients from the fish are used as organic fertilizer for the plants to grow. S&R Aquafarm has been servicing cafes and hotels in Brunei Muara and Kuala Belait districts by supplying freshly grown aquaponics produce. S&R Aquafarm has also been awarded locally, through Shell Livewire Brunei Business in 2019 as the Most Innovative Enterprise and third place in Sustainable Business.

The session was attended by UBD staff, UBD alumni, current UBD students as well as students from several institutions and schools including Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), Kolej Universiti Perguruan Ugama Seri Begawan (KUPUSB), Politeknik Brunei and Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE). The session concluded with an interactive activity and Question and Answer session.

UBD Startup Centre (USC)



UBD Startup Centre (USC) is an incubation centre for UBD alumni and graduating students to allow the opportunity to turn entrepreneurial ideas into successful multidisciplinary startup ventures. USC hopes to provide a platform and the ecosystem for startup growth within the university through collaborations between other alumni or current students from multidisciplinary backgrounds and interests. This initiative also aims to rekindle UBD research project ideas with the intention of elevating them further towards commercialization in line with the university's vision.



Startup members incubating under USC will be able to access UBD resources such as a workspace within the university, academic experts, UBD patents, entrepreneurial training, and mentorship. Our entrepreneurial training and mentorship are customised to each startup depending on their needs to develop further, from turning a concept to an idea or expanding an existing business.

Located at the Student Affairs Building, UBD, USC office and workspace is exclusively accessible for startups who join as USC members. For more info on USC or to join, please do not hesitate to contact us at startupcentre@ubd.edu.bn

UBD Mentorship Programme



The UBD Mentorship Programme is a collaborative effort between Office of Alumni Relations and Advancement (OARA) with UBD Centre of Networking, Employment and Career Training (UBD CoNECT). It is a 6-month programme during which a mentor assists his or her mentee(s) in career exploration as well as helping to form beneficial lifelong networks. Mentors are matched with mentees according to agreed-on objectives and communicate either face-to-face or online.



On 03rd September 2022, Office of Alumni Relations and Advancement (OARA) and UBD CoNECT conducted 'Meet your Mentors and Mentees Session' at Executive Room 1, ILIA Building.

Through this session both mentors and mentees will be given a briefing from the respective facilitator's office, on the objective, vision and mission of the UBD Mentorship Programme 2022/2023. For UBD Mentorship Programme session 2022/2023, there are 11 UBD Mentors consists of UBD Alumni, Friends of UBD and Corporate Professional

For UBD Mentorship Programme session 2022/2023, there are 11 UBD Mentors consists of UBD Alumni, Friends of UBD and Corporate Professional, and 11 UBD Mentees consists of current UBD students and UBD Alumni who need guidance from UBD Mentors on their career journey.

Incufest x UBD Entrepreneurs Week



Assistant Vice Chancellor (Innovation & Enterprise) with UBD Alumni Entrepreneur

Entrepreneurship Village (EV), Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) in collaboration with the Office of Alumni Relations and Advancement (OARA) organised the “IncuFest (Incubation Festival) x UBD Entrepreneurs Week” at the Student Centre of UBD from 14th to 17th November, 2022.

The “IncuFest x UBD Entrepreneurs Week” acts as a platform for student startups to showcase their businesses and innovative concept ideas to the public. From the August 2022 intake of the Discovery Year (DY) Incubation programme, 32 students from multi-disciplinary backgrounds showcased their business ideas in the entertainment, retail, food & beverages and services categories. The student startups underwent training in building entrepreneurial mindset and various skillsets through a series of workshops and activities to help develop their entrepreneurial projects during the semester.



Also participating in the four-day event were 5 well-established UBD alumni entrepreneurs. These alumni act as role models to current student startups; by illustrating entrepreneurship as a possible post-university pathway, as well as by sharing their knowledge, experience and wisdom in sustaining their businesses. Alumni of UBD, especially those businesses which are strategically aligned to the strengths and technical focus areas of UBD, may also join the UBD Startup Centre (USC) to incubate their businesses.

UBD Research Project in line with Brunei Vision 2035



Universiti Brunei Darussalam, UBD would like to invite any interested alumni or individuals to participate as research assistant, participant or funder for the upcoming research projects.

National Survey on Bruneians' lifestyle, health, quality of life and 'happiness'

(Kajian kebangsaan gayahidup, kesihatan, dan kualiti hidup dan kebahagiaan)

Information and knowledge in this area are imperative to assist policy-making in various domains, particularly in improving public services, infrastructure planning, and social support programs. Assessing and improving indexes related to the quality of life and wellbeing are imperative to the overall success of the nation-building initiatives.

Survey on youth financial literacy and its impact on personal financial management *(Kajian literasi kewangan dikalangan golongan belia, dan pengaruhnya terhadap pengurusan wang peribadi)*

Financial savvy youths are more equipped to avoid various problem associated with financial difficulties, invest wisely for the future, and assist others. Surveying the subject matter helps offer a holistic view of the current financial literacy among youths, available support, and services in developing the knowledge and skills, essentially to offer a working framework to increase awareness, understanding, and skill in youths' personal financial situation management.

Exploratory and Feasibility on one-stop recycle and reuse program in Brunei

(Kajian awal dan kebolehlaksanaan program kitar-semula dan guna-semula berpusat di Brunei)

Advanced waste management is inevitable to a clean and healthy environment for the community and achieving the National sustainable development goals. Research in this area is essential to uncover the current waste management system's challenges and design an advanced feasible waste management system for the nation.

National workplace survey on safety and health *(Kajian kebangsaan keselamatan dan kesihatan tempat kerja)*

Information and assessment on workplace safety and health will help policymakers to focus on critical areas vital in improving health and safety amongst employees, which ultimately benefits the national productivity outlook.

Any interested alumni / individuals can
send an e-mail to
office.research@ubd.edu.bn or contact
+673 246 0922/23 ext 2128.

UBD Alumni Promoted to Full Professorship

Professor Ampuan Dr Haji Brahim Ampuan Haji Tengah

Bachelor of Arts in Education, Class of 1989

Professor Ampuan Dr Haji Brahim Ampuan Haji Tengah joined UBD as a tutor in 1989, and gradually rose up to Lecturer, Senior Lecturer and Associate Professor. As an expert in Malay literary studies, Professor Ampuan Haji Brahim has published over a hundred publications including five academic books, and five creative works.



His exemplary service has been recognised with state decorations including PIKB (1997), SMB (2012) and SNB (2017). His proudest career achievement was being bestowed the National Excellent Teacher Award by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam in 2015. In 2005, he received the Southeast Asia Write Award.

His distinguished academic reputation has gained him membership in the Southeast Asian Literary Council (MASTERA), as well as the literary association ASTERAWANI.

Throughout his long service in UBD, Professor Ampuan Haji Brahim has served as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS), and Director of the Academy of Brunei Studies (APB) and the Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddien Centre for Islamic Studies (SOASCIS).

Professor Dr Haji Awang Asbol Haji Mail

Bachelor of Arts, Class of 1989

Professor Dr Haji Awang Asbol Haji Mail started as a trained teacher in Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam Secondary School (SMJA), who upon graduating with a First Class Honour Bachelor's degree, was appointed as a tutor in the Department of History in FASS.

Specialising in Brunei history, Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB) and Malay Civilisation, Professor Haji Asbol has published numerous journal articles, book chapters and books, including *The History of Education in Brunei 1950-1985* (2005) and *The History of the 19th Century Bruneian Sultanate* (2011).



He has also been commissioned by various government agencies, including the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, and the Brunei History Centre to write and compile special publications. Professor Haji Asbol was Deputy Director of APB.

UBD Alumni received National Youth Day Award 2022



Pg Haji Ahmad Fadillah Akbar bin Haji Sellahuddin

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology & Anthropology,
Class of 2013

Pengiran Haji Ahmad Fadhillah Akhbar bin Pengiran Sellahuddin was the recipient of the Excellent Youth Service award during the National Youth Day Awards 2022 and received the Queen Young Leaders Award in 2018. He is the co-founder of Projek Bina Ukhwah and Projek Feed which are dedicated to help the underprivileged families by building better homes and living environment for them.

After he graduated in 2013 he experienced difficulty to find a permanent job despite of many job interviews.

It took him 5 years of doing many part-time jobs and freelancing before he managed to get a permanent job. He got his inspiration to set up his own community projects: Projek Bina Ukhwah and Projek Feed from his first community service for community outreach program under the Discovery Year in UBD. In this program, he was involved in community service at the water village where he was assigned to do family empowerment and economic development project for the community. This particular program taught him to think of the best community service projects that can give an impact to the community. He believes that Discovery Year Program in UBD serves as a balance point with academics where students can go out of campus and explore the vast and valuable experience.

Dr Mohammad Hilmy Baihaqi bin Hj Awang Yussof

Bachelor of Science, Class of 2012

Dr. Mohammad Hilmy Baihaqi bin Haji Awang Yussof was one of the Excellent Youth award receivers during the Brunei Darussalam's National Youth Day Awards 2022. He is the Head of Strategic Planning Unit, the Professional Development Unit at Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), and Stakeholders' Public Relations Officer.

His interests in da'wah began when he was a student at UBD studying Mathematics and Physics. In 2019, he represented UBD to speak for the Hijrah forum for the higher education organized by KUPUSB. He is active in giving weekly talk at mosques, managing social activities and services and has submitted his work for publication in the internationally ranked journals. He really valued the leadership of UBD which emphasized taking opportunity to gain knowledge, doing research abroad and taking advantage of the expertise available for the development of the people and the nation. Hence, he advised students to be wise in terms of time management. He highly regarded his previous lecturers from FOS, SHBIE, and SOASCIS whom he owed to for his achievements in academic. His advice for the students to know themselves and identify the field they are interested in and to become determine to be an expert in any area of specialization for it is a vital factor in contributing to the development of the nation as it moving towards achieving Vision 2035. He also called out the Muslim students to do any work with the correct intentions for the sake of Allah the almighty.



Office of Alumni Relations & Advancement



Office of Alumni Relations & Advancement (OARA) serves as an administrative office that manages and updates the status of UBD Alumni after their graduation for our database from the very first cohort, graduation class of 1989. Its scope of work includes maintaining a lifelong connection between the UBD alumni and the university through a programme of events, networks, collaborations and exclusive privileges.

OARA also provides a platform for promoting and stewarding UBD Endowment Fund to support a range of needs including foundation bursaries for students (UniBridge), university infrastructure and facilities, and various research projects. Its objective is to generate Alumni Endowment Fund which will be utilised for sustainable projects which can benefit the following generation.

DISCOVER UBD MAGAZINE



Scan QR Code to view the latest Discover UBD Magazine!



UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION!

Have you moved, got a job or change your phone number? The Office of Alumni Relations and Advancement want to know! Please help us keep your records updated!

Please drop us an email at office.alumni@ubd.edu.bn or complete the form using the Qualtrics link below or scan the QR code provided:



<https://tinyurl.com/UBDAumni>

Follow us on:



www.facebook.com/UBDAumni



[instagram.com/UBDAumni](https://www.instagram.com/UBDAumni)



[LinkedIn.com/UBDAumni](https://www.linkedin.com/company/UBDAumni)