Annual Review 2014
Since the establishment of Monash University Malaysia sixteen years ago, the campus has evolved into a fully-fledged comprehensive private university with over 6,700 students from 70 different countries. Students receive an outstanding Australian university education at Monash Malaysia, which prepares them to become global citizens and future leaders in their chosen careers. In 2014, we graduated 1,190 students and they join our alumni of 9,000 graduates who are employed in Malaysia and around the world. The campus continued to support two-way student mobility in 2014, with 236 students taking up exchange opportunities at Australian campuses or many of our partner universities.

As Monash’s largest off-shore campus, Monash Malaysia has established a platform in the region for high quality research and education in a relatively short period of time. The quality of teaching and learning, as measured by the Malaysian Qualification Agency’s SETARA assessment system, was again ranked as Excellent in 2014. To support the planned expansion of taught masters programs, a contemporary teaching and learning facility for graduate and professional studies was opened and plans to upgrade the campus learning environment are taking shape.

Likewise, our research profile continues to improve. On the Malaysian Research Assessment (MyRA), based on the unaudited score, the campus is expected to maintain a 4-star rating in 2014. Supporting research capacity building, the campus further enhanced its research infrastructure, with the opening this year of new world-class laboratories for medicine, engineering, science and pharmacy, along with extensive investment in additional research equipment.

Our seven schools continued to achieve outstanding results in 2014. Engineering introduced its civil engineering program, completing the full suite of engineering disciplines at Monash Malaysia. Science continued to build its genomics research platform, opening up this facility to new industry contacts. Pharmacy obtained full accreditation for its undergraduate program and was established as a new school. The School of Business, as part of the wider Faculty of Business & Economics, received AACSB accreditation, along with AMBA accreditation for its new MBA program. Medicine opened its world class anatomy laboratory, complete with new Smart Tables providing the latest learning technologies. Information Technology facilitated the country’s first Intelligent Medicine Symposium in collaboration with Institut Jantung Negara (National Heart Institute) and Agensi Inovasi Malaysia (National Innovation Agency Malaysia). Arts & Social Sciences established the new General Studies program, successfully integrating it into the campus.

External engagement continues to be a major focus for the campus. The growing appeal of our graduates to industry has resulted in numerous new internship opportunities being created in 2014, with 750 students placed in over 250 companies. In addition, there has been renewed effort to engage with our alumni and build lifelong relationships that are mutually beneficial. We were delighted to welcome several prominent alumni onto our School Advisory Boards in 2014 and to speak at our graduations. Many examples of how our staff and students are excelling in research, teaching and industry engagement, can be found in this review. Thank you to colleagues, students, alumni and all our stakeholders for contributing towards the success of Monash Malaysia in 2014. Malaysia will continue to be a dynamic and competitive transnational higher education setting in 2015, but with your support we will continue to make a difference in Malaysia and the region through our high quality teaching, research and engagement.

Prof Helen Bartlett
President and Pro-Vice Chancellor
Monash University Malaysia
Welcome
Monash University was established in Melbourne in 1958 and was named after Sir John Monash, an outstanding Australian engineer, military leader and public administrator. In the past half a century, we have built a strong international reputation in research and scholarship, and made extraordinary contributions to fields such as nanotechnology, drug development and discovery, stem cell science, and a determined list that continues to grow.

At the invitation of the Malaysian government, Monash University arrived in Bandar Sunway, Selangor, to become the first foreign university branch to operate in the country. The campus, also the first Monash campus to set up outside Australia, was established through a long-standing partnership with the Sunway Group.

Today, Monash University has presence in four continents, with an unwavering vision to promote education par excellence worldwide.

Monash is a university of progress and optimism with ambitious plans. The institution takes it upon itself to tackle the big questions and produce solutions to the challenges of the future.

Our goals are clear: to be the best university within the Asia-Pacific; to be a truly global university, both physically and intellectually; and to be among the strongest research universities in the world.

About Monash Malaysia

Established in 1998 as a joint venture with Sunway Education Group, Monash University Malaysia is one of Malaysia’s most respected universities. We are Monash University’s global footprint in the Asian region, carrying with us the distinction of being the Malaysian constituent of a premier research intensive Australian university ranked among the top 100 universities in the world and a member of Australia’s prestigious Group of Eight (Go8). From humble beginnings, Monash Malaysia has grown in stature and is now recognised as a leader in the international higher education sector in Malaysia.

As an independent, self-accrediting University, we attract students not just from Malaysia, but from all over the world. Over 6,700 students representing around 70 nationalities are currently enrolled at Monash Malaysia and enjoy a quality academic experience.

Monash Malaysia offers a range of specialist undergraduate and postgraduate courses through its seven schools: Arts & Social Sciences, Business, Engineering, Information Technology, Medicine & Health Sciences, Pharmacy, and Science. Courses are directly linked to the human resource needs of Malaysia and the region. All our courses are accredited in Malaysia and Australia, ensuring an education that is locally relevant and internationally recognised. With a Monash degree, our graduates, who are globally engaged and industry driven, are able to pursue rewarding careers in both the public and private sectors across the region.

We are located 30 minutes south of Kuala Lumpur, one of Asia’s most commercial, dynamic, exciting and culturally diverse capital cities. Our students have access to inexpensive, clean and secure accommodation, a range of international cuisine, and enjoy a cosmopolitan lifestyle in a multi-cultural environment.

Our faculty members are a mix of locally and internationally recruited academics with extensive teaching, business and industry experience. They bring years of knowledge gained from research in their respective fields into the classroom, providing students with a stimulating academic environment. Class size is small, allowing lecturers to cater to students’ individual needs.

Since its inception, Monash Malaysia has built a reputation for quality, credibility and integrity, and is held in high esteem by our students, alumni, industry and government. We are committed to maximising the potential of everyone in the global community we serve, seeking to develop well-rounded individuals who embrace challenge and change. We encourage critical thinking to help discover new ideas, reveal new perspectives and devise solutions. We maintain a long and proud tradition of excellence in education, combined with liberal values of enquiry, providing a fertile environment for bright young minds to flourish, and life-long opportunities for those wishing to enhance their education and career.

Our hunger for leading discoveries and thirst for new knowledge are embedded in the University’s coat of arms, the emblem which reflects the Monash identity. Flying proudly beneath the shield is a banner carrying the words Ancora Imparo (“I am still learning”), a quote attributed to Renaissance icon Michelangelo.

This motto states our mantra towards lifelong excellence and reminds us that the search for knowledge never ends.

We are fired with a restless ambition that pushes us to do things better, to set new benchmarks and to break new ground. In order for our students and staff to positively impact their communities and the world, we must equip them and inspire them – so they can be agents of change.
A brilliant year

MONASH UNIVERSITY

RANKED IN THE TOP 1% OF WORLD UNIVERSITIES

- 70th in the QS World University Rankings 2014 – 2015
- Top 150 world universities according to the Academic Ranking of World Universities 2014

MONASH UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

765 staff from 35 countries

- 333 Academic staff
- 97 Professors and Associate Professors
- 432 Administrative staff

6,139 undergraduate students (90.9%)

- 265 postgraduate coursework students (3.9%)
- 353 postgraduate research students (5.2%)

1,889 international students (28%)

4,868 Malaysian students (72%)

RM8.09mil external research funding

RM16.61mil scholarships awarded (2014)

RM64.60mil scholarships awarded (2004 – 2014)

GROUP OF EIGHT AUSTRALIA

Member of GO8, a coalition of Australia’s most prestigious universities

MONASH IS ACTIVE ON FOUR CONTINENTS

MONASH SOUTHERN AFRICA

Prato Centre, Italy

3 INTERNATIONAL CENTRES

IITB-Monash Research Academy, India

Southeast University-Monash University Joint Graduate School, China

SETARA 2013

Rated Tier 5 Excellent under SETARA 2013 assessment

On student population statistics:
1. A student may be enrolled in more than one course in 2014. In such cases, the student will be counted against every course in which they were enrolled. 2. Statistics include students from non-award courses and study abroad programs. 3. Statistics exclude students with course attempt status “Discontinued”. Source of data: Kronos Student Course List, Callista
Statistics are updated as at 31 Dec 2014
Monash Malaysia’s proud journey

1960s
Monash University Australia led the way in welcoming students from Southeast Asia, many of whom were from Malaysia.

1988
A training program was started with Sunway College, Malaysia.

June 1991
The first group of training program students graduated in Kualalumpur. This was the first Monash University graduation ceremony to be held outside Australia.

1992
The Monash University Council agreed to establish Monash University’s first offshore campus in Malaysia.

1996
The Private Higher Education Institutions Act was passed, paving the way for the establishment of foreign branch campuses in Malaysia.

1998
Monash University Australia led with Sunway College, Malaysia. A twinning program was started.

1999
20 September, 2001
First graduation ceremony to be held in Malaysia.

2001
Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Haji Muhammad Najib Tun Haji Abdul Razak, then the Malaysian Defence Minister, was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Laws by Monash University Australia.

2002
Enrolments increased to 1,300 students.

2003
Higher Degree by Research programs were introduced. Enrolments increased to 2,400 students.

2004
The School of Medicine and Health Sciences was established. The first two cohorts of students from years 2003 and 2004 were placed in Victoria, Australia, for their studies.

2005
Prof Merlyn Liddell assumed position as Pro Vice-Chancellor of Monash University Malaysia.

2006
The School of Medicine and Health Sciences achieved high level of quality education provided to students in Malaysia.

2008
First Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree awarded to Ms Eunice Lim of the School of Business.

2009
Achieved Tier 5 “Excellent” for the Malaysian Qualifications Agency’s (MQA) Rating System for Higher Education Institutions (SETARA).

2010
The First Cohort of 39 Medical students graduated from the School.

2012
A brand new Monash 1 building for the Clinical School Johor Bahru was fully operational, providing teaching and research facilities for academic staff and students.

2013
Welcomed new Pro Vice-Chancellor & President, Prof Helen Bartlett.

2014
The School of Pharmacy received full accreditation for its four-year Bachelor of Pharmacy program from Lembaga Farmasi Malaysia (the Pharmacy Board of Malaysia).

The School of Graduate and Professional Studies (GPS) was launched to cater to the needs of postgraduate coursework students and students pursuing executive education.

The inaugural Sir John Monash Distinguished Public Lecture Series was launched with the first speaker, Prof Datin Dr Wong Wing Thye.

Lee Siang Hn became the first Monash Malaysia student to receive the Malaysia-Australia Scholarship award.

New buildings 4 & 5A opened and house one of the largest civil engineering labs in the country. Total student population climbed to over 6,100.

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New buildings 4 & 5A opened and house one of the largest civil engineering labs in the country. Total student population climbed to over 6,100.
Based on unaudited score on MyRA, the campus is expected to maintain a Tier 4 rating in 2014. This was made possible thanks not only to the dedication of our researchers, but also with the support of high impact partnerships formed with various government agencies and industry players from Malaysia and beyond.

Some notable collaborations this year involved research and/or sponsoring partners from the Prime Minister Department’s Economic Planning Unit, the Selangor state government, Selangor State Investment Centre, the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers, Islamic Development Bank, Telekom R&D, Collaborative Research in Engineering Science & Technology, World Health Organisation, Glaxo-Smith Kline, and the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute of the United Kingdom.

The University also demonstrated thought leadership with the introduction of the Sir John Monash Public Lecture Series, aimed at promoting public engagement in key issues relevant to the development of the region.

Awards and Fellowships

Demonstrating our culture of excellence, Monash Malaysia’s academic staff and students have continued to excel on both national and international platforms, winning a range of awards and recognitions, including:

- Malaysia’s Top Scientist Award (Academy Sciences Malaysia) – Prof Ishwar Parhar (JCSMHS)
- Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition Monash University champion – Tridib Saha (Engineering PhD student)
- Youngest PhD degree recipient in the country (Malaysian Book of Records) – Dr Hue Seow Mun (School of Science)
- The Australian Government’s 2014 Endeavour Research Fellowships – Sarawathy Venkatsraman (JCSMHS); Dr Nagasundara Ramanan, Ramalakshmi Subbarayalu, and Catherine Chang (School of Engineering); and Kong Li San (JCSMHS; recipient of Endeavour Executive Fellowships)
- Jeffrey Cheah Travel Grants for Southeast Asia studies to Harvard University – Prof Gamini Herath and PhD student Emilly Liew Jie Ying (School of Business)
- Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (MPIEA) research fellowship in Leipzig, Germany – Farhang Aghakhanian (JCSMHS PhD student)
Research Highlights 2014

In line with our passion to not only educate but also to make a difference, significant progress has been made in research through the campus’ six multidisciplinary platforms.

Visible Light Communications (VLC) and Related Technologies

The Light Emitting Diodes (LED) industry is a million-dollar market with an increasing popularity in the average modern life. Listed as a key economic area in the Malaysian Government’s Economic Transformation Program, a growth in the industry would inevitably beckon the development of cutting-edge technology.

In Monash Malaysia, a state of the art research environment has been created as part of the development of a high quality intelligent lighting research facility – the first such comprehensive lighting research environment in Malaysia to support optoelectronic innovation environment.

Industry partners
Centre for Collaborative Research in Engineering, Science and Technology
Telekom Research and Development Sdn Bhd
ItraMAS Corporation

Researchers
Assoc. Prof Rajendran Parthiban
Dr Masuduzzaman Bakaul
Dr Vineetha Kalavally
Dr Mohamed Hisham Jaward
Prof Jussi Parkkinen (External)
Dilukshan Karunatilake
Joshua Han Nah Yew
Fahad Zafar

A Manual for Estimating the Economic Burden of Seasonal Influenza

Seasonal influenza is an acute viral infection, a serious public health problem that can cause severe illness and death in high risk populations. The Global Influenza Program (GIP) under the World Health Organisation (WHO) has commissioned Monash Malaysia to develop a manual and toolkit to guide information collection, which in turn will facilitate policy makers to make informed and evidence-based decisions to combat seasonal influenza in the society. The project was completed and submitted to the WHO for review on 31 August, 2014.

Industry partners
World Health Organisation

Researchers
Prof Nathorn Chaiyakunapruk
Dr Surachai Kotirum
Dr Anthony Newall (School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW Australia)

Towards Stronger Vector Control

The number of cases and deaths caused by dengue viruses (DENV) reached an all-time high in 2014, with a staggering 108,698 dengue cases reported nationwide. Dengue deaths were also on an upward trend. Our researchers, who have been studying vector control strategies since 2011, responded to the worrying situation with the discovery of novel mosquito midgut-DENV interacting proteins during infections in mosquitoes (Aedes aegypti). These mosquito midgut-DENV binding proteins will be used to formulate new strategies for vector control, including the production of chimaeric multiple antigenic vaccines for human against mosquito midgut proteins.

Industry partners
Ministry of Higher Education

Researchers
Assoc. Prof Dr Sharifah Syed Hassan
Tham Hong Wai
Dr Vinod RMTB
Dr Bimo Tejo

(University Putra Malaysia)
(University Sains Malaysia)
Neurobusiness to Understand Consumer Behaviour

Neurobusiness is a tool that employs core neuroscience principles of how the brain and the central nervous system works, to measure body function and direct behaviour to better understand individual decision making. The Neurobusiness Laboratory provides the platform for researchers to apply neuroscientific and behavioural methods to understand economic and consumer behaviour.

High-tech equipment, including an eye-tracker to detect changes in the eye, are used in the research processes. More advanced neuroimaging and behavioural experimental equipment are targeted to be added gradually to this facility to expand research in this field.

Researchers
Assoc. Prof Motoki Watabe
Assoc. Prof Alexandre Schaefer

MyKISS Project

Our researchers from BRIMS have discovered and introduced a biotechnology method to greatly improve aquaculture yield using the kisspeptin peptide in fish. After spending close to a decade in laboratory research, the MyKISS field studies took off in 2013 with financial support from the Agensi Inovasi Malaysia, an agency under the Prime Minister’s Department.

The results showed that MyKISS has successfully increased the maturation rate of fish by using the inner-functioning of the fish’s brain. This would enable farmers to harvest more in a shorter period. A peptide production facility is set to be established in Monash Malaysia in 2015 to greater expand this project with the support of an international industry collaboration.

Researchers
Prof Ishwar Pathar
Dr Takashi Kitahashi

Expanding the Barcode of Life with Genomics

Monash Malaysia’s researchers have developed new genomics techniques and sequenced more than 100 mitochondrial genomes and over 50 bacterial genomes. The genomics facility have attracted five international collaborations and the achievements are documented in over 50 publications.

These projects undertaken by the facility supply a genetic database of key species in Malaysia, Australia and Vietnam, which could lay the groundwork for the implementation of conservation policies and assessment of potential risk in biotechnological applications. Their success would position the Monash Malaysia genomics facility as a leading centre for biodiversity-related and microbial genomics research in Malaysia and the region.

Industry partners
Malaysian Genomics Resource Centre
Australian Institute of Marine Science
Australian Research Council Linkage Projects
Vietnam Fisheries College
Rochester Institute of Technology Dean’s Research Initiation Grant

Researchers
Dr Gan Han Ming
Prof Chris Austin
Prof Sadequar Rahman

Studying Knowledge Content in Key Economic Sectors in Malaysia Phase III (MYKE III)

In May 2014, Monash Malaysia was commissioned by the Malaysian Government to undertake a third phase in the project to assess the state of knowledge content in key economic sectors in the country.

Under the MYKE III, Monash Malaysia would develop a more robust and informative model to assess the knowledge intensity of Malaysian firms, and provide advise on the policies and strategies that will enable firms to move up the global innovation value chain.

Industry partner
Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister’s Department

Researchers
Prof Pervaiz K Ahmed
Prof Mahindhiran M Nair
Prof Christina Lee
Assoc. Prof Santha Vaithilingam
Dr Teh Pei Lee
Dr Au Wee Chan
Dr Afkar Q.S. Hilles

Researchers
Assoc. Prof Motoki Watabe
Assoc. Prof Alexandre Schaefer

Industry partners
Malaysian Genomics Resource Centre
Australian Institute of Marine Science
Australian Research Council Linkage Projects
Vietnam Fisheries College
Rochester Institute of Technology Dean’s Research Initiation Grant

Researchers
Dr Gan Han Ming
Prof Chris Austin
Prof Sadequar Rahman
Teaching and Learning
Innovation
Awards

Research-led curriculum and educational innovations provide Monash Malaysia academics and students a creative teaching and learning environment that enrich the learning experience and also achieve top SETARA and D-SETARA ratings (educational quality assessment instrument by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency).

The campus Education Office supports this goal through its two units, namely the Education Management and Quality Assurance and Compliance units. The Education Management Unit provides leadership on improving quality of teaching and ensures that the campus’ teaching and learning policies are aligned with the Australian Qualification Framework (AqF) and the Malaysian Qualification Framework (MQF). The Quality Assurance and Compliance Unit provides oversight of new course application and renewal processes and ensures that they comply with AqF and MQF requirements.

2014 Excellence Award for Best Practice/Innovation in International Education (International Education Association of Australia) – Dr Melanie Ooi and Dr Kuang Ye Chow (School of Engineering)

2014 National Teaching Aid Competition – Bronze winner – Dr Chew ESYIN, Dr Jojo Sze-Meng Wong, Dr Zare Mohamed Reza and Dr Anuja Dharmaratne (School of Information Technology)
Teaching and Learning
Highlights 2014

Across multidisciplinary platforms, a number of education innovations have been implemented to enrich the Teaching and Learning experience.

Anatomy Smart Tables and Multicast Streaming to the Remote Rural Lab

The Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences introduced a series of hands-on synchronous real time tele-learning of anatomy practical through smart tables and multicast streaming was conducted. It was carried out over two semesters simultaneously across the Medical Anatomy and Pathology E-learning (MAPEL) Laboratory, Bandar Sunway campus and Segamat precinct involving around 130 students, a clinical anatomist, five lecturers and four technical personnel. The experience has enhanced the skills competency of multiple learners engaged in co-located but remote collaborative practice of the same skills, with real time feedback from a local anatomy lecture.

This pioneering innovation emphasises blended learning at Monash Malaysia by using cutting-edge applications powered by the Google peering technology – a feat that supercedes the simpler teleconference facilities through:

- High-definition quality images
- Multiple camera systems for multi-casting of live anatomy specimens and models
- 3D e-resources
- Simultaneous local and remote practical collaborative learning

An Immersive Experience Using Virtual Laboratories

Many have argued that an immersive experience is beneficial in games and industrial simulation but there was limited research on how immersive learning may enhance engineering higher education. A typical engineering student’s learning experience is maximised in laboratories with hands-on experience using engineering tools, components and equipment. This setting, however, is limited to time, space and cost.

Researchers from the School of Engineering responded to this need by investigating immersive experience with simulation-based virtual laboratories. A comparison was made between the efficacy of purpose-designed virtual laboratories with humanoid avatars over the traditional paper-based methods in conveying instructions for laboratory exercises. The results revealed strong motivation and interest from students for virtual laboratories.

The research concluded that the success of an immersive experience lies in the thoughtful pedagogical design between the virtual laboratory and actual laboratory experiences. The study concluded that: immersive engineering laboratories are a double-edged sword that can enhance pre-learning experience but may also disrupt the actual laboratory experience, if no transformational pedagogy is designed.

Researchers
Dr Vineetha Kalavally
Khoo Boon How
Joseph Chan
Green Steps at Monash Malaysia

Developed in 2000 by the Monash Sustainability Institute, this award-winning program was recently introduced at Monash Malaysia to train change agents with knowledge and skills to create innovative sustainability solutions at the university and workplace. The inaugural Green Steps @ Uni program saw 15 students from different disciplines selected for training on various aspects of environmental sustainability and to propose relevant solutions in five on-campus projects. These students are now among 800 others in Australia and the United Kingdom who have successfully undergone the program.

The Green Steps @ Work program is expected to be rolled out for Monash Malaysia staff in 2015.

Professional Practice Suite

The new Professional Practice Suite (PPS) is the first of its kind in Malaysia to aid hands-on teaching of contemporary, primary-care pharmacy subjects. The environment is conducive to interactive and multimedia-based learning.

In contrast to traditional laboratory settings, each PPS can adapt to changing teaching styles and emphasis. The flexibility of the PPS space allows emerging professional practices to be taught as they develop. Because of this ability, a new pharmacy practice education model has been created, underpinned by a three-point base of pedagogy-driven curriculum development, thoughtful space design and appropriate teaching technology.

Among the key features of the PPS:
- Two large, flexible tutorial rooms with computer facilities
- Eight consultation suites for development of professional consultation and assessment skills
- Video cameras to record and review counselling performances
- Social learning space for informal work groups

Library’s Enhanced Role in Academic Liaison

Teaching information and research skills has long been integral to the academic library role. This encompasses library orientations, tutorials, training in the use of electronic resources, information literacy classes, and collaboration with academic staff in the design and delivery of course-integrated instruction.

In response to faculty’s changing needs and expectations, the Library established a formal Academic Liaisons Unit whereby each Academic Librarian is assigned to a specific school to promote library resources and provide professional expertise and knowledge. A key component of the Academic Liaison model will be the partnerships formed with schools, Education Management and academic staff to deliver skills development programs that foster teaching and learning outcomes.

When Socrative Tool Meets Clickers

This pilot project has investigated the enhanced learning and teaching experiences with the blended use of Clickers and Socrative tool. Preliminary innovative results, such as large classroom engagement, fun game-based learning, quick automated marking, lively interaction, personalised and immediate assessment and feedback with mobile devices were shared in the 2014 National Teaching Aid competition. Disruptive experience, such as administrative effort and technological support (Bring Your Own Device or BYOD and WIFI issues) were also reported.

The findings submitted by the School of Information Technology was awarded with the Bronze Prize in the competition. The four researchers – Dr Chew Esyin, Dr Jojo Sze-Meng Wong, Dr Zare Mohamed Reza and Dr Anuja Dharmaratne – will further pursue this project in 2015.
Advancing Industry and Alumni Engagement
Alumni Relations

There are over 9,000 Monash Malaysia alumni to date, with most of them currently residing in Malaysia, followed by Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Singapore and Australia. Great effort has been made to develop a valued relationship with our alumni in the country and the region.

Many Monash Malaysian alumni are already demonstrating outstanding leadership in their respective fields, impacting communities wherever they are. Jason Khong (Bachelor of Computer Science, 2008) is changing the national smartphone app development industry through his company, Apptivity Lab, which produces iPhone and iPad mobile applications. Jihye Choung (Bachelor of Communication, 2008) maximises opportunities wherever she is. She started out with a Korean private education institution, earning 10 times the salary of her peers. She then went on to being the chief researcher in the Korean Embassy in Sri Lanka, and now learning Russian while doing her PhD in energy security in Russia.

In November, an alumni business leaders’ dinner was organised for the University’s most prominent graduates. This networking dinner was held at the Hilton Hotel, Petaling Jaya, in conjunction with Vice-Chancellor Prof Margaret Gardner’s inaugural visit to the Malaysian campus. Also in attendance were Chancellor Dr Alan Finkel AO, Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia H.E. Rod Smith and members of the senior management of Monash University.

Other successful alumni networking events were held in Colombo, Sri Lanka (July), and Dhaka, Bangladesh (August), as part of the Monash Malaysia Open Day held in these cities. Over 50 alumni attended the event in Colombo, where an industry panel shared their perspectives on making the most of career opportunities in Sri Lanka.

In August, Monash University won the Malaysia-Australia Alumni Council (MAAC) Go-Kart Challenge for a record ninth consecutive time, beating teams from a dozen other Australian universities. This year’s win was particularly special as it was dedicated to the late Brandon Lim (B.Business, 1996) who captained the go-kart team in previous years but was tragically killed in a road accident in early 2014. Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia H.E. Rod Smith presented a special trophy to Monash University in memory of Lim’s success.

Inbound mobility from Monash South Africa and international partner universities, as well as Study Abroad participants also recorded growth, with significant inroads in Europe.

“Travelling is one of the best part of an exchange program – I met many other travellers, went to beautiful places, experienced different cultures, heard stories that I could not imagine before, and learnt about history right where it happened. Taking the exchange program is one of the best decision I have made in my life. I would highly recommend students to take the exchange program because it was not only fun, but also allow us to learn about different cultures and mindsets.”

Aldo Alfonso
Bachelor of Business and Commerce, Monash University Malaysia
Exchange Student to Maastricht University, The Netherlands (2014)

Student Mobility

Participation in the campus’ international mobility program increased further in 2014, with 236 students travelling to Australia, South Africa, Canada, United Kingdom, Turkey, Japan, Netherlands, and USA. Inbound mobility from Monash South Africa and international partner universities, as well as Study Abroad participants also recorded growth, with significant inroads in Europe.
Events and Graduations

2014 was a busy year for campus events which saw Monash Malaysia staff and students hosting over 700 events. In April, the campus hosted the largest graduation ceremony to date with three sessions hosted for 683 graduands. Distinguished speakers were invited to grace these ceremonies, namely, Dato’ Sri Nazir Razak, Group Chief Executive, CIMB Group; H.E. Rod Smith, Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia; and Tan Sri Dato’ Dr M. Jegathesan, former national Olympian and renowned medical doctor.

Two graduation ceremonies in November graduated an additional 507 students. Sunway Group’s Group Chief Executive Officer for Education and Healthcare Mr Lee Weng Keng, who was conferred the Doctor of Laws honoris causa, delivered a graduation address in one of the ceremonies. Ms. Zainah Anwar, founder and Executive Director of Sisters in Islam, delivered the address in the second ceremony.

Employment and Career Development

The Industry Engagement Strategy 2014 – 2015 was developed to better coordinate the campus’ external engagement, including strengthening the existing Employment and Career Development (ECD) data by identifying priority relationships for the campus and the schools. The appointment of an Industry Engagement Manager in November has been key in steering this forward.

A revamped Internships and Careers Fair was held this year with a record 3,197 visitors and included representatives from 45 companies, 19 career talk sessions and three workshops.

In October, the University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Hong Leong Bank, in which the public-listed financial institution agreed to offer 10 internship placements for Monash Malaysia students. This new partnership was pioneered by Hong Leong Bank Chief Financial Officer Ms Foong Pik Yee, a Monash alumna who trusted in her alma mater to pilot the bank’s placement program.

Such partnerships continued to reflect the confidence of global employers in the quality of our graduates. In the annual 2014 Global Employability University Ranking, polled by the French Human Resources consultancy, Emerging, and German polling institute, Trendence, Monash University was voted the best university in Victoria and second in Australia from which to hire graduates by global recruiters. On a wider perspective, Monash graduates were placed at a respected 33rd position in the world in the survey.

The survey was concluded based on the views of 4,500 major company managers and recruiters in 20 countries. In assessing what employers were looking for in university systems around the world, employability was the number one criterion for 37.1% of the respondents – and Monash Malaysia is proud that our graduates are highly regarded on this scale.
Some outstanding student achievements

2014

**Pfizer Academic Excellence Award**

This prestigious award recognises students who are all-rounders, excellent academically and possessing the characteristics and soft-skills relevant to industry.

Four of our students from the School of Pharmacy received this award.

**Shell Eco-Marathon Asia 2014**

Our School of Engineering student team defeated 105 teams from 15 countries across Asia and the Middle East to emerge champions in the Prototype Alternative Diesel Fuel category, the Shell Helix Tribology Award, and was crowned the best Malaysian team.

**Chemical Engineering Design Competition**

Our Chemical Engineering students emerged champions in this annual competition organised by the Chemical Engineering Technical Division of the Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM).

**2014 District 73 International Speech Contest**

Business Commerce student Aaron Ng Ji Yeon won first place at the contest held in Melbourne, Australia.

**Australia-Malaysia ‘Towards 2020’ Undergraduate Scholarship**

Engineering student Lee Siang Hin was one of two students awarded in the first series of this scholarship.

**Malaysian Shorts Film Screening**

School of Arts and Social Sciences student Sheril A. Bustaman won the Audience Choice award for her film, Come Hell or High Water, which was also screened at the Thai Short Film and Video Festival.
Clinical School Johor Bahru
Contact us

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