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JEBAT Si Maine Coon

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A SNAPSHOT OF PhD FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT-GROUP ACTIVITIES

By:

¹Dr Wan Anisabanum Salleh, ²Jazira Anuar

¹Faculty of Business and Management, UiTM Cawangan Terengganu

²Faculty of Hotel and Tourism Management, UiTM Cawangan Terengganu

Producing staff with PhD in UiTM could be viewed as part of UiTM2025 Strategic Plan indicating the indirect commitments of the university to high-quality teaching and research. This indicates that the quality training of the academic staff reaches the highest level of education in their areas of expertise. In line with the UiTM strategic plan, the PhD Fellowship Support Group took the challenge by conducting three activities in 2020. The focus of the activities was to give moral support, motivation, and guidance on the right techniques and tips to lecturers to complete their PhD journeys.

The first sharing session was virtually conducted on 20th May 2020, Wednesday. Though the initial plan was to have a face-to-face sharing session among all the lecturers, due to the pandemic situation and the Movement Control Order (MCO) imposed by the government, the plan had to be deviated to the fully virtual sharing session. Dr Fatimah Zainab from the Faculty of Business and Management was the one who led the first PhD Fellowship Support-Group activity in 2020. She shared her experiences by gracefully highlighting the secrets of her success and ways she used to defeat all the obstacles that have stood on her path during her PhD journey. The session was very inspiring as the topic focused on challenges in data-collection issues. It was attended by 78 participants who are lecturers from several campuses and many potential

PhD candidates from industry.

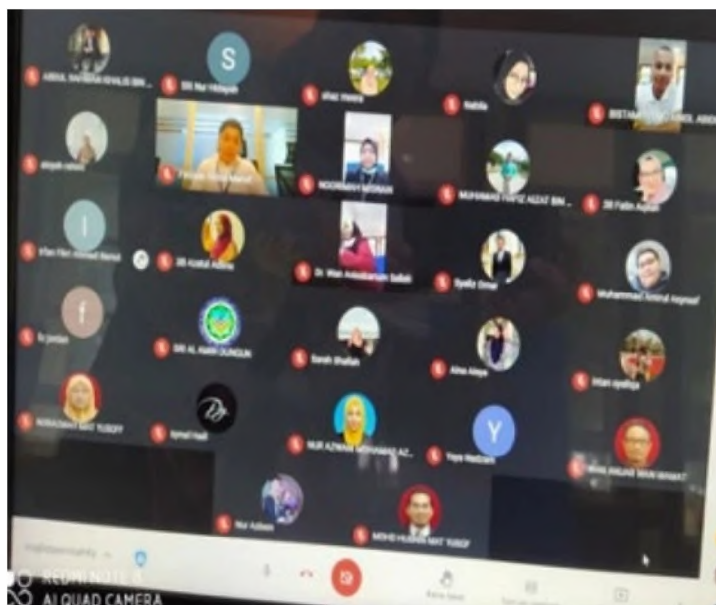
In the meantime, the second sharing session was conducted on 11th June 2020, Thursday, by Dr Zuriyati Ahmad from the Faculty of Business and Management. There were 60 participants attending this event virtually. Probably, this is the advantage of technology, especially at difficult times during the pandemic condition. Emphasising the challenges of data collection, the sharing session was indeed a success. A majority of the participants gave positive feedback on the useful tips that they could use them for their studies. This is because PhD requires a full commitment of several years of an individual's life, thus, maintaining the endurance and momentum is very challenging. In addition, the third sharing session was conducted on 24th August 2020, Monday, by Dr Mohd Aziz Aris from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering. This last session was unique as it was conducted hybrid (a face-to-face session at Dewan Anggerik and a virtual session via Google Meet). It was attended by 89 participants, including 9 committee members. Dr Mohd Aziz Aris has won a prestigious award for his PhD thesis and earned the Best Researcher Award in the Academic University Awards (AAU) 2020 UiTMCT recently. During the session, he embarked on the "Right Research Starts from the Right Reading". He also highlighted that a research issue is a subject matter, which means that we should know what our expertise is. During the session, Dr

Mohd Aziz Aris delivered his speech eloquently and inspired all the participants.

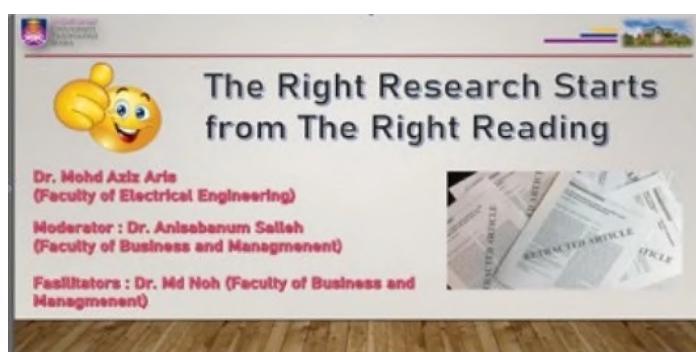
Overall, the sharing sessions organised by the PhD Fellowship Support Group could be seen as a great initiative to spur motivation and encouragement, especially among the lecturers, to complete their PhD journeys. More activities are being organised in 2021.

Till we meet again in the next edition.

Stay calm and keep on writing!



One of the virtual sharing sessions



One of the speaker's PowerPoint slides: Dr Mohd Aziz Aris



The hybrid sharing session



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