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# *Inspiring Work Experience*



## *Covid-19 Pandemic Challenge*

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Tuesday, December 29, 2020

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# HEADLINE

### **Introduction and Purpose of the Talk**

Lim Yeu Chen

**SKUDAI** – Three alumni from UTM who are now successful in their careers have given a sharing talk to UTM's undergraduates. The purpose is to inspire students in School of Computing and also to give tips on how to prepare for careers.

### **About Tan Yong Keong**

Lim Yeu Chen

**SKUDAI** – An alumna who graduated in Software Engineering, has been working as a Data Science Engineer for one and half years. Yong Keong enjoyed participating in various competitions during his study life. Thus, he got the exposures to the new skills and experiences as well as reinforcing his professional technical skill and self-confidence through these competitions and his freelance jobs. He got the job offer from the company in one of the competitions.

Yong Keong is working in a semiconductor manufacturing company, so his job is mostly in the loading optimization in the factory.

Besides, he will gather the data and optimize the market demand based on the current factory tools' availabilities. He gathers and processes the data by using some well-known data science tools. He mentioned that though he has to use different programming languages to fulfill the projects, he can conquer this challenge by understanding and mastering the concepts.

Yong Keong also shared his ways to improve the programming skill. 'Practice makes perfect', he quoted this as the best way to improve the skill. For example, he said that there is a website that provides free programming tests and exercises. He always thinks that he is creating something that can tackle with the real-life problems and contribute to the society. It is how he fosters his interest in programming and also his approach to keep motivating himself.

### **Qistina Batrisya Bt Azman Shah**

Nor Fadli bin Ahmad

**SKUDAI** – An alumna who graduated in Data Engineering has been working as a Social Media Data Analyst for almost one year. She got her job from her internship. During internship, she and her group showed a lot of effort to join the project. When she does the project, her supervisor asked her to join TM and further her project. She currently is doing the same project as her internship. Her project is social media project. She needs to gather all social media information and interpret that info into dashboard. From the talk, she also provided some tips to increase chance to be hired. First, we need to be proactive, means when we are given a task, don't wait until somebody tell you how to do and don't wait until somebody tell you what to do. Second tip is don't limit yourself because in a company, there are a lot of thing to be learnt.

The last word from Qistina batrisya before the talk end is “befriend and have fun, don’t stress yourself and enjoy you study life”

### **Mohamad Zamarul Akmal bin Mohd Hussin**

Afaf Azman

**SKUDAI** – Mr. Zamarul was graduated in June 2020 with a degree in Data Engineering. He currently works with PPG Coatings (M) Sdn Bhd in Shah Alam, Selangor as a Data Engineer. Mr. Zamarul said that he got absorbed to be a permanent employee by his industrial company which is the company he works for currently. During his internship, Mr. Zamarul had proposed to create a monitoring dashboard that can monitor all jobs at once by using a single click which is a support dashboard. Then, this proposal became his Final Year Project (FYP). He gave two tips that students need to enhance during this pandemic which are learn new technical skills and improve soft skills. Throughout this pandemic, students can take online courses for free in LinkedIn Learning, Code Camp and EDX.

From learning online courses, we also can join a training program and it can be attached to our resume for further use. Finally, Mr. Zamarul advises to try to discipline ourselves by minimizing our mistakes, students can ask their lecturer or senior if they have any doubt in order to prevent doing more mistakes.

### **Summary of the Talk**

Afiq Aizzat

**SKUDAI** – From this sharing session, we can sum up the points from each speaker quite briefly. From Tan Yong Keong, we can know that it’s crucial to know a set of skills if we want to pursue a career related with software engineering and in this case, it’s mastering a variety of programming languages. From Qistina Batrsiya, we can know the importance of taking internships during our study and also we want to increase our chance of being hired, we’d need to start being proactive. Lastly, from Mr. Zamarul, we need to take advantages of this pandemic to learn a lot of online courses which are available for free which would look good on your resume.

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Reflection:

**Lim:** The talk is beneficial to the undergraduates as the speakers’ experiences can be a reference to them, however, there are a lot of unknown factors that influence the speakers’ achievements such as their efforts, mentalities, etc., which cannot be transferred to the juniors verbally. Throughout the talk, I have a clearer vision of my future after I had graduated. I aspire to be a specialist in Computer Science and explore the unknowns in this scope which will take our country a big step forward in technology. I will keep enhancing myself with all the fundamental elements in order to outstand in a crowd.

**Fadli:** One of weakness of the talk is the Q and A session could not hold properly. Most of student could not ask their question due to time restriction. The strength of the talk is it provide a lot of information for us about our vision in the future. What I get from the talk is now I know how to survive and what I need to do in university life.

**Afaf:** This talk is like an eye opener for a rookie that are still contemplating their next step in life. The speakers had shared their student life experiences and what they did in order to become successful where it can be a guide for undergraduate students. But the speakers are still fresh graduate students which means they are still new to careers life so they cannot share more of details in work experience. From this talk, I learned that I need to participate in various competitions in order to gain knowledge, information and skills. Therefore, this talk inspired me to give my best in study if I want to be a successful student.

**Afiq:** In my opinion, the strength of this talk is since the speakers were once in our place, they could understand us better and give the appropriate and realistic approaches to overcome the obstacles meanwhile the weakness is they don’t utilize the powerpoint slide. From this talk, the most important thing I learn is to seek opportunities in every situation and in this case, Covid-19. I also get motivated to work on my hard skills and soft skills to brace myself for career in the future.