



UTM
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA

ALUMNI SHARING SESSION

General Information of The Talk

The talk was about sharing of experiences by alumni in the job field and challenges faced during COVID-19 pandemic. The talk covers tips and tricks to obtain experiences before entering society to be able to land a good job, pointing the students to the right path and the good practices that should be followed. It gives students some guidance about how to secure our job and managing it while motivating students of software engineering to always keep learning along the way to success. Students will be encouraged to improve their skills and confidence which are the characteristics valued greatly by the industry.

Panel Members and Moderator

- Dr Johanna Ahmad
Senior Lecturer, School of Computing UTM
- Tan Young Keong
Data Science Engineer, Microm Semiconductor Asia
- Mohamad Zamarul Akmal bin Modn Hussin
Data Engineer, PPG Coatings (M)
- Batrisyia Binti Azman Shah (B)
Social Media Data Analyst, TM One

Purpose of the Talk

The meeting was an experience sharing event by some alumni of UTM who are currently in their professional life serving in different companies. The meeting was mainly purposed to help the freshers that is the first semester students and let them know about the job field – the dos and don'ts for getting a better job. It also lets the students gather knowledge about the practical work field and learn what leads one to be the best at his /her job.

Summary of The Talk

The hour-long meeting provided with real-life experiences and suggestions on how to complete the university life with good grades and get promising jobs afterwards. The present alumni put their experiences, ideas and views on present job field

(requirements, procedures etc.). For instance, Tan Yong Keong, a fresh UTM graduate who was also honoured with the chancellor award shared his story of getting the job after

graduation. He shared how he used to participate in various competitions and gained vast professional and presentation skills which also includes freelancing that gave him immense technical skills as well. These skills let him through the interview resulting in an internship in Vitrox. He also shares how he passed the technical assessment through coding skills since he was a fresh graduate and had no past job experience. Then Alumnus Zamarul had a different story to share. He shared how he got employed as a permanent staff in his industrial training company by proposing ideas and opinions on creating monitoring dashboard during his internship since his company had loads of data coming in every day. His such proposals brought him the title of a permanent staff even after his employment getting frozen. Finally, the 3rd Alumnus of the event, Qistina came up with her part which included how she gained full-time employment at the company she was doing her internship. She was offered the job by her supervisor for her hard work and relentless effort that included her gathering the social media data and interpret those into a dashboard for the clients which was then used to improve their branding.

Chronological Order of the Talk

The talk started with an introduction session. The moderator, Dr Johanna Ahmad asked three-panel members to introduce themselves. The panel members acknowledged themselves to be holding positions in the Data Science related field. The session is followed by self-introduction of Dr Johanna Ahmad herself.

The session soon was followed by an interviewing session lead by the moderator, Dr Johanna Ahmad. Some of the highlights:



1. How to Secure our Career?

Always try to gain relevant experiences by participating in competitions and events. Engage in freelancing to gain useful technical skills, and always be committed in internships. During internships, be proactive by providing ideas and opinions which the company might find interesting and therefore absorb us as permanent staff.

2. How to Improve our Employability?

We must be proactive and engaged in studying new technologies from time to time. Do not simply limit ourselves and refuse to learn.

As a fresh graduate, we must focus on enhancing our technical skills as well as soft skills. Online courses and training programs are widely available which will provide us with newfound hard skills. Also, communication skills and teamwork play a major role since we will be working as a team in the company.

3. How to be Enthusiastic and Confident

Practice makes perfect. The only way to get good in programming is to practice frequently. To be enthusiastic, think it as creating something instead of purely programming, and how our creation might make an impact on the community.

To gain confidence, engage ourselves in activities that require us to present our project ideas. Do volunteer to help others, and be brave to speak up more.

Open-ended Q&A Session of the Talk

Question: Is CGPA important for getting a good job?

-CGPA must be maintained at a certain level to not be filtered by the selection process of the company. However, instead of relying solely on CGPA, technical and soft skills must also be focused.

Question: How do you stay motivated in IT field?

-Love for the job can motivate you to do better. Every day we learn new thing and keep motivating ourselves that not everyone gets this chance. Be excited about new projects and how can it impact our society.

Reflection

Soh Jun Wei: Overall, the talk was very insightful and informational. The invited alumni were perceptive and were able to convey their experiences and views very well to the audience. In the talk, the questions raised by the



moderator, Dr Johanna Ahmad were relevant and straight to the point. In my opinion, however, the talk could be improved by utilizing more visual elements using slides to aid the audiences.

My main takeaways from the talk are, to succeed as a software engineer, we cannot just focus solely on our academic. Technical skills and soft skills are just as equally important. A lot can be learnt from participating in competitions and being proactive in helping others as well as voicing out our ideas.

Md Samiul Hasan Sayad: From the talk, I gain much information that will help me in future. Dr Johanna Ahmad asked a lot of question about engineering which is helpful for me. From the talk, I know about how I can make my engineering study easier and how I will get a good job.



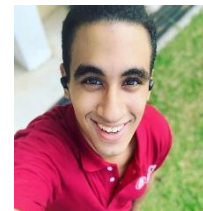
In my study and job, I need to be proactive and don't limit myself to learn about my study materials. I also need to gain technical skills such as soft skills. I need more active on my work so that I can do better in future. I need to be competitive in my study and share my ideas and opinions with others.

Mir Tamzid Hasan: To me, the talk was an informative one. The participant alumni provided us with real-life experiences that I believe will help us in the long run. Though the talk gave us with so much info and suggestions it could have been a bit better if the punctuality was maintained.



The lesson I got from the talk is During my university days I should be developing my skills by participating in different competitions rather than just being cocooned to academics and running after grades in order to ace in the work field as well.

Youssef Hesham Khairat: As a student in the university the talk was very inspiring. I got much information from the participant alumni. They give us a real example of how our life is going to be after university. They give us good information which will help us in university life and carrier life.



After the talk, I inspired that I should be more active. I must keep learning; Even I did some mistakes I should learn from it. I should get more experiences to talk help me by giving me the most important skills which I must improve it in university life