

Online Classroom Talk for School of Computer Alumni Sharing Session

29 December 2020 - The Technology and Information System (SECP 1513), School of Computing, University Technology Malaysia (UTM), had organized and hosted Online Classroom Talk program on 29th December 2020 (Tuesday) from 10.00 a.m. till 11.00 a.m. via Cisco Webex as shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: E-banner of Online Classroom Talk

The welcoming speech by Dr. Johanna Ahmad as the moderator of the program had highlighted the aim of the talk is to motivate and inspire the undergraduate students during this COVID19 pandemic by the sharing work experience from the alumni. The program began with a warm welcome and introduction of speakers and also the moderator of the program. Then, the speakers share their own journey on how they manage to get their job now.

The first speaker, Mr. Tan Yong Keong from Micron Semiconductor Asia had given the advice that in order for you to get a job, you need to improve your technical skill and soft skill. He said that he improved both the skills by attending competition during his university life and also work as a freelancer. He also shared some questions that will be ask by the company during the interview section.

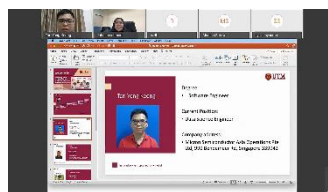


Figure 2: Intro for Speaker 1

The second speaker is Mr. Mohamad Zamarul Akmal bin Mohd Hussin from PPG Coatings (M) shared his journey to get the current job is different from the first speaker. He said that his current company is same as his intern company. He pointed out the view to have a data manage software for his company to have better data management comparing to manually manage by staff during his internship and this makes his supervisor noticed him and recommend him to the company.



Figure 2: Intro for Speaker 1

The third speaker is Miss Batrisyia Binti Azman Shah from TM One shared that she has the same experience with the second speaker to continue her internship job as her current job. She said that this is because her manager appreciates for her efforts which accept the nobody handles project makes her to have the chance to continue to work in the same company.



Figure 2: Intro for Speaker 2

The question and answer session started with advice and tips from UTM alumni. Qistina stated that it is a need to upgrade one own's skill in excel and phyton, do many practices, do not wait and ask people. She emphasized that we should not limit ourselves as there's a lot of thing to be learned, a lot of people to meet up with and also uncountable new things to be joined. Zamarul on the other hand exclaimed that we should learn new technology skill and improve soft skills. He also mentioned that we should also be an easy going person so it is easier to carry on discussion with our teammates and join new programs.

Right after that, the participants asked on how to improve programming skills, where Tan Yong Keong, or what Johanna have reffered him as YK, answered that practice makes perfect and it is better to go to a website that can provide better resources to help the practice. Other than that, he also mentioned that when programming, one should think of doing it as a full fledged software, not as an individual, isolated program.

Not only that, there are also questions about confidence, on how to increase and boost one's own confidence. YK stated that confidence can be trained, even from presentation or a talk. It seems that others also vouched for his claim. Zamarul suggested to join a lot of programs, volunteer to talk about ideas and present and also talk more with other people. Qistina said that everyone should enjoy the study life in order to speak more and do a lot of projects that will expose oneself to many new opportunities.

The participants also asked about the difference between study life and career life, where Zamarul preferred his sturdy life more as he can enjoy it. This is because he can have

more free time, especially on the semester break where he can do part time jobs. He also emphasized that if we messed up in study life, it won't affect as much as in career life because it will affect your future career and possibilities. He then advised that it is vital to minimise one's own's fault and imperfections.





"How about CGPA needed for a job interview?" was one of the questions asked. Johanna claimed that in private sector, they focused on skills rather than academic results whereas for government sector have academic requirement as she has experience in both situations. Qistina and Zamarul both exclaimed that private sector did not focus on CGPA, but rather attitude and speaking skills.

One of the participants questioned about the need of succeeding in a competition where YK stated that it is okay to lose as if we cannot win the competition, we will win the experience. For Johanna, she mentioned that efforts and willingness is what matters while for Qistina, it will provide an exposure on how good you can work in team. Qistina answered that in order to stay motivated you have to do what you love. "Everyday you learn new things, not everyone gets this chance," Zamarul added.

After that, a person asked about does a company treat interns as a slave. This was directed to Zamarul as he is in internships. He denied it, claimed that his company treated him nicely as friend and staffs. He even vouched that he might have the highest salary and he emphasized that we can even demand. He also advised that by doing interns, you can get any experiences but if you get overworked, it is vital to tell the supervisors.

The last questions that was asked is about their first years of their university life experience. Qistina mentioned that despite not remembering most of it, she joined many programs and got to know with her classmates and friends. YK also stated that he made friends and started participated in competitions. He also mentioned to make friends in other faculties. Zamarul on the other hand said that he blended in and got to know his lecturers and the classes in buildings.

Based on the meeting, we have learnt many new things from the alumni that in career, not only academic skills are required, rather soft skills and also communicating skills are a need in these days. Other than that, the meeting also opened up many possibilities for us to focus on improving ourselves let it be confidence or motivated. In terms of weaknesses, as the meeting is carried online, the accessibility might be problems for some people and it is not as enjoyable to be compared with usual physical meeting. Most of us learned that in order to succeed in this course, we need to have the compassion and dedication for it to stay motivated.

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