

INSPIRING WORK EXPERIENCE & COVID19 PANDEMIC CHALLENGE

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Technology and Information System (SECP1013), School of Computing has organized an alumnus sharing session which talk about work experience and pandemic challenge via Cisco Webex. The moderator consists of Dr. Johanna Ahmad, senior lecturer School of Computing UTM, Qistina

Batrisyia binti Azman Shah, Mohammad Zamarul Akmal bin Mohd Hussin and Tan Yong Keong.

Securing job

Tan Yong Keong or better known as YK said he love to participate competitions and he gained achievements from those



Losing and winning are not important. Losing is winning in terms of experience, new skills, and new environments. -Tan Yong Keong-

competition as the participation enhances his technical skills. These experiences help him to get his job. For Zamarul, he got offered by his internship company as a permanent staff. He mentioned that he gave opinions actively and proposed a support dashboard during his internship. He also learned new technical skills through online courses. He thinks these efforts helped him to get the offer.

The other alumni, Qistina is also get a job in her internship company. She said it is very important to show our efforts in the project during our internship. She showed efforts and engaged in social media project during her internship and these help her to get offered.

Learning new programming languages

According to YK, he learnt new languages that hasn't been taught in class by understand the concepts of the language. On his point of

view, he said that learning new language is not about memorizing the concepts and codes, but it is actually understanding the concepts and implement it. He also did a lot exercises regarding the language in the free time to improve his understanding level. He told that learning new language is crucial to fulfill projects in the future.

Tips to increase chance of getting hired

Qistina said to increase the chance if getting hired, we need to improve our technical

skills. For example, data engineering students should excel in spreadsheet and Python. Be proactive do not limit ourselves from learning new things.

Zamarul added we can also join online courses and any training programs available. He also added high soft skills like communication skills and teamwork skills are one of the important things that can help getting hired.

Tips to improve programming skills and love programming

Dr. Johanna told YK that one of her students is having difficulties on programming and asked him how he overcome it during his studies. YK answered, he practices on programming skills a lot and do more exercises that he gets from internet. He has the mindset of creating something new that can help the community, and that makes him love and mastered programming skills.

Gaining confidence

Alumni Zamarul advised that someone can improve their confidence by exposing new ideas. He said that we should volunteer in presenting ideas and group projects to the

clients. Not only that, actively participating in activities or games which is related to talk in front many people or present ourselves will help us to gain confidence.

In the perspective of Qistina, she gained and improved her confidence by joining in many programs that need to present and share ideas to everyone. She said that confidence come when we speak up more without shy.

YK mentioned that he participated in many competitions which is need high level of commitment. This is because, when we engage with any competition, we will believe in ourselves and give full effort to win it. So, it will help us to gain more confident.

University life vs career life

The main difference is on free time and responsibility. The speakers said that they are enjoying university life better than career life, as when studying in university, they have a lot of free time compared to career life. After working, their free time is only available during lunch time, on weekends or public holiday, compared to university life, they have

semester break, and they can even take a part time job. They also mentioned that the responsibility become higher in career life because they need to undertake the responsibility if they make mistakes and it may cause the loss of job opportunity. They said they need to manage problems and things better to reduce the possibility of making mistakes.

Reflections

After listening to the sharing of the alumnus, we realized we need to improve ourselves on both soft skills and hard skills actively during our university life, but not muddle along the years in study life. We also should give efforts in every activities and project involved to get experiences.

Besides, we need to find other alternatives to learn new things that has not been taught in class by joining online class or extra co-curriculum activities. Since the talk is from fresh graduate alumnus, it is good for new students to get inspired and motivated from their seniors and be successful like them.



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