

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING ALUMNI SHARING SESSION: INSPIRING WORK EXPERIENCE AND COVID19 PANDEMIC CHALLENGE

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Cisco Webex, December 29: On 29 December 2020 (Tuesday), the course, Technology and Information System (SECP1513), School of Computing, UTM had organised an alumni sharing session from 10am until 11am via Cisco Webex.

The moderator, Dr Johanna Ahmad, who is a senior lecturer in school of computing, UTM, started the opening statement by welcoming 3 speakers, who are Tan Yong Keong (Data Science Engineer in Micron Semiconductor Asia), Mohammad Zamarul Akmal bin Mohd Hussin (Data Engineer in PPG Coating (M)) and Batrisyia Binti Azman Shah (Social Media Data Analyst in TM One). The sharing session is supposed to be 4 speakers, but 1 of them is absent. Shortly after the welcoming, Dr Johanna Ahmad allowed the speakers to introduce themselves. Throughout the sharing session, Dr Johanna Ahmad had asked several questions and were answered by the respective speakers.

The first speaker, Tan Yong Keong graduated in 2019 as a software engineer and he is currently working in Micron Semiconductor Asia as a data science engineer for about one and half years. During his university life, he participated in a lot of competitions and gained a lot of experience and soft skills. Besides, he was honoured with the Chancellor's Scholarship Award in his 63th graduation in UTM. After graduation, he seeks for some job on job-seeking websites and even doing freelancer jobs. He also shares that as a fresh graduate student, some common questions will be asked by the interviewer are your contribution to the last year project and competition you involved.

His current project is about factory loading optimisation which one have to optimise the current demand based on the current tools availability. The data science tools he often used to gather and process data is NumPy. He says that before learning new programming languages, one should have a good understanding of the concept used by every programming language. He says that one can improve programming by practising their coding skills in the website called LeetCode and 'practise makes perfect'. He also says that to love programming, one should instead take it as creating something new (software or apps) that will solve the real-world problem.

The second speaker, Mohamad Zamarul Akmal Bin Mohd Hussin graduated in 2020 as a data engineer and he is currently working in a multinational company as a data science engineer for about six months. During his university life, he was involved in several programmes and gained experiences and soft skills by volunteering himself to be exposed to others. After graduation, his supervisor acknowledged his skills and he got absorbed as a permanent staff in his industrial training company because he was being proactive and exposing himself by providing some great ideas and opinions.

During the internship, he said the company treated him very professionally such that the company treated him like a friend or a staff member. Sometimes when he got a task that was not related to his studies, he would notify the supervisor to consider changing the tasks to his related studies. His current company was handling a project about big data. Even though he said he didn't learn enough about that in his university's life, he still contributed because he said not everyone gets this chance. Last but not least, he left us with two tips on how to survive during internship. First, we must learn new technical skills by taking any online courses or joining training programmes. Next, we must improve our soft skills.

And the third speaker, Qistina Batrisyia Binti Azman Shah graduated in 2020 as a data engineer and she is currently working in TM One as a Social Media Data Analyst for about one-year internship time. During her university life, she has joined a lot of programs that lead her and her team to presents, and exposed herself that make her gained experiences and soft skills.

During the internship, she joins a lot of real-life projects and she shows good results and skills during that time, from there her supervisor wants her to join TM One after she's done with her internship to continue the project after graduation. Her current project was a Social media project that's on the marketing side that she also does on her internship. As a permanent staff member in her current company since the internship, She's giving some advice for us to do during our internship. First, one should be proactive. And Second, is not to limit ourselves by learning something new.

At the end of the sharing session, there is a Q&A session and the speakers answer the questions asked by the participants. The answer shared by the speakers is included in the content above. During the sharing session, there is some strength and weakness to be stated. The strength of this talk is that through the sharing session, the participants are now having more insight about how their life will be in the future as a programming-related job and they will choose the path more wisely. In contrast, the weakness of this talk is that, as 3 speakers usually respond to a question asked by the moderator, the talk shared by second and third speakers are often similar to the first one, which results in the same information.

On behalf of the organisation, we would like to appreciate the moderator, speakers as well as the participants for joining this Alumni Sharing Session. We wish that through this sharing session, participants will have more knowledge about the future life as programming, and include themselves in any sort of activities to gain experience and soft skills which will be useful during work.