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INSPIRING WORK EXPERIENCE & COVID19 PANDEMIC CHALLENGE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

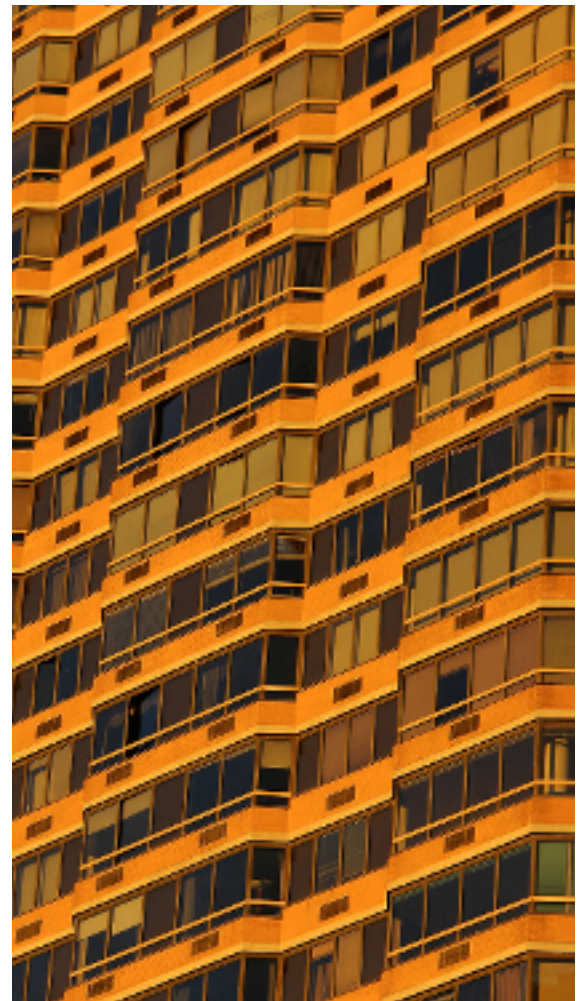*IF WE HAVE SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN A LONG WANTED LIST TO DO, NOW IT IS THE TIME TO LEAP ACROSS THE*

On 29th December 2020, a sharing session entitled Inspiring Work Experience & Covid19 Pandemic Challenge was held with students from School of Computing UTM. Due to Covid-19 situations, this session was conducted online through Webex online conferencing.

With Dr Johanna Mohammad as moderator, alumni from School of Computing have been invited to share their experience to the students. First speaker is Tan Yong Keong, currently holding a position as Data Science Engineer. Second speaker is Qistina Batrisyia, works as Social Media Data Analyst and the last speaker is Mohamad Zamarul Akmal, with a position as a Data Engineer.

Purpose, what happen in order, talk content summary.

The purpose of this sharing session is to give exposure to students about how to get a job that we want after graduating, build up some confidence during the lessons and or the job interview, stay motivated, be able to prioritize what is needed, and so on. The small size of the session allows students to communicate during Q&A slots.

The session is started by a warm greeting from Dr Johanna and they introduce themselves briefly one by one. Initially, the session is supposed to have four speakers, but one speaker cannot join for unavoidable reasons. *Cont...*

PURPOSE, WHAT HAPPEN IN ORDER, TALK CONTENT SUMMARY.

Initially, the session is supposed to have four speakers, but one speaker cannot join for unavoidable reasons.We have been informed that all the speakers managed to get a permanent job after graduation. Hence, the first question issued is "How to secure a job within a short time". Tan answered that he participated in a lot of competitions during his study where he also improved and gained new skills as long as experiences. He also pointed out that he got his internship interview during one of the competitions he attended previously. It is different from Zamarul who managed to secure his position from internship to permanent position, by giving ideas or opinions.

CONTINUOUS EFFORT IS THE KEY TO UNLOCKING OUR POTENTIALANALY

QISTINA SHARED THAT SHE ALWAYS SHOWS HER EFFORT TO JOIN A PROJECT. DURING HER INTERNSHIP, SHE SUCCESSFULLY PROPOSED HER OWN IDEA FOR A NEW PROJECT.

For the second round, we asked the speakers to give their tips to increase chances of getting hired. As said by Qistina, we need to excel in programming languages such as Python and seek a solution if we ever don't know how to start a project. She also highlighted that we should not limit ourselves in learning a new thing. Suitable with the current pandemic, Zamarul suggested us to learn new skills through online courses on websites. He also advised us to improve our soft skills by blending with other people to communicate and build our teamwork skills.

Aside from that, they also gave us some tips to gain confidence. Tan mentioned that confidence actually can be trained by joining competitions where confidence is very needed in order to beat the competitors. Similarly, Zamarul and Qistina encouraged us to join a lot of programs. From there, we can share our ideas together with other people. Qistina also added that instead of becoming a shy person, we should try to speak more so that we can feel confident.

The last question asked was about the difference between study life and career life. From his view, Zamarul concludes that study life is something that we can enjoy rather than career life. During study, we only focus on our grades that if we make mistakes, it only affects our grades and we can fix it again. Different from career life, a single mistake can affect our future to get a new job. Therefore from now, we

Strengths that we can see from this talk is that suitable speakers are chosen. All the invited speakers did not have a very huge age gap with students, making it easier for us to communicate with them. We also can see that the organiser has a good time management by successfully finishing the sharing session within allocated time. This talk is very useful for students because the conversation itself involves encouraging, listening, and a lot of information about what we should do and not to do which could guides the students to be more innovative, wise, courageous, more, and have a good manner as well as personality that is suitable for working in certain fields.

"From this sharing session, we motivate ourselves to always be a proactive student. In order to get our dream, we should not create a limit when we have not tried it first but instead, we need to challenge ourselves with new things. It is okay if we failed it because failure is the best teacher.

Based on the speakers' speech , we see how our past experience can help us in the future. As first year students, we should build our experiences by joining various activities or competitions. In this way, we can improve our soft skills, expand our circle of friends and gain new knowledge."

have to discipline ourselves by minimizing our mistakes during study life.

One of the highlighted questions asked during the Q & A session is about CGPA. It is true that CGPA plays a huge role to be employed but soft skills also can higher the chance of getting hired. This is because when working, we are involved in a team and require soft skills to communicate. Zamarul shared that he learned technical skills in online courses and paid to get the certificate to attach in his resume. Although it costs money, it is worth it because employers nowadays are looking for employees with many skills.

From his working experience,he said working in a private sector they don't look at our CGPA as well, because during his internship, his friends have a good CGPA but perhaps because lacking of communication skill they didn't get it. He learn the technical skills in online courses and attach it in his resume.
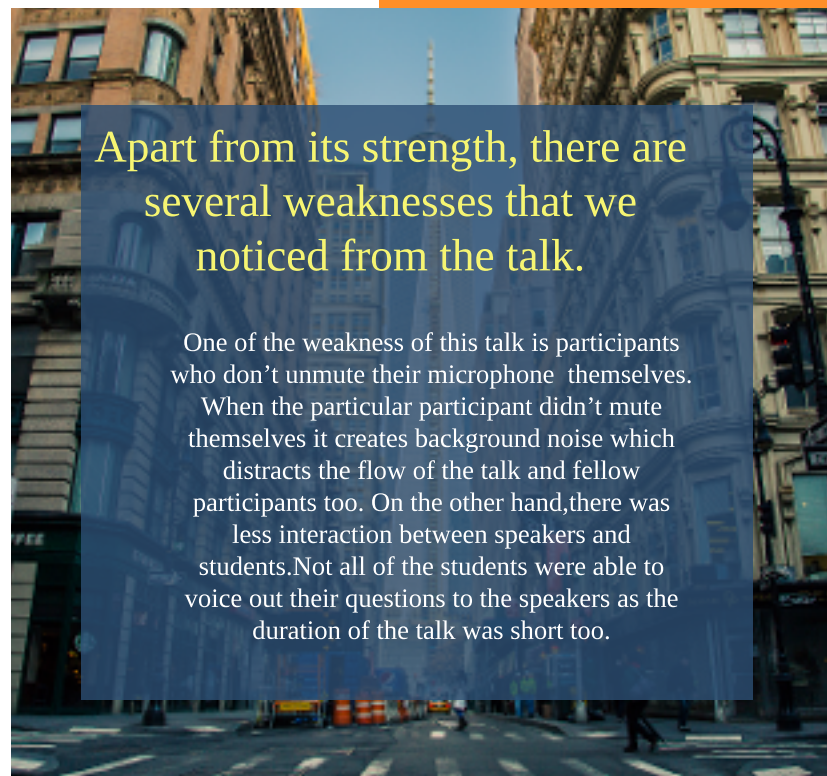
He also concluded that after we graduate there is a chance that we won't get a job related to our course. Yes, for example,Zamarul is working as a data engineer which matches his course intake but some of his friends who shared same course with him are doing AI engineer. It's not a big deal at least you have the knowledge on how to do it and have the basic concept.

We can conclude from his first year university life experience that we need to know our lecturers,friends,our campus very well.He also said that its better to still learn general subject so we can change the subjects later.

Apart from its strength, there are several weaknesses that we noticed from the talk.

One of the weakness of this talk is participants who don't unmute their microphone themselves. When the particular participant didn't mute themselves it creates background noise which distracts the flow of the talk and fellow participants too. On the other hand,there was less interaction between speakers and students.Not all of the students were able to voice out their questions to the speakers as the duration of the talk was short too.