

NEWS TODAY

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Inspiring Work Experience and Covid-19 Pandemic Challenge

School of Computing Alumni Sharing Session

JOHOR BAHRU - On 29th December 2020, the Technology and Information System, School of Computing had organized a sharing session for the students that are taking the Technology and Information System course. The sharing session with title “Inspiring Work Experience and Covid-19 Pandemic Challenge” had been held through Cisco WebEx Meeting platform for all the students. Dr. Johanna Ahmad was the moderator of the session and there were three UTM alumni which were Qistina Batrisyia binti Azman Shah, Mohamad Zamarul Akmal bin Mohd Hussin, and Tan Yong Keong as the speakers for the sharing session to share their work experiences.

All of them are fresh graduate from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) and have degree in Science Computer. The session only took one hour which started from 10.00am until 11.00 am. Although the duration is short, a lot of information had been shared by the former students of UTM.

This sharing session had been held for the students to achieve a few objectives. The main purpose of this talk is to expose the students to the work experience especially for the fresh graduates. This talk provided the student about the experiences of the career from each of the speakers when they had graduated and got a job

related to their courses. Students get to know their position for their job and what they do during their current job. From their experiences, students had gain a lot of important information including the tips of getting hired for fresh graduate in the middle of pandemic, tips on how they got their job, and how to improve the skill which include the soft skill and technical skill. The other purpose of this talk is to share the challenges that had been faced in their career. All of these experiences had been shared by the speakers and a lot of information can be noted down for the student.



The speakers of the talk were former UTM student which are Tan Yong Keong, Mohamad Zamarul Akmal bin Mohd Hussin, and Qiestina Batrisyia binti Azman Shah and the moderator were Dr. Johanna Ahmad.

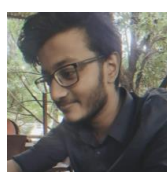
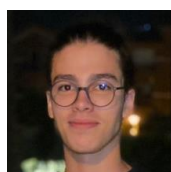
The sharing session started on 10.00 AM by introducing the speaker one by one. All of them are former students of School of Computing, UTM. Each one of them has a secure job after they had graduated in 2019. Qistina Batrisyia is currently working as social media data analyst, Tan Yong Keong as a data engineer and Mohammad Zamarul Akmal, a data engineer. They also shared on how they got their job. According to the speakers, to get a job, one must be a proactive person besides having a good academic background during the study year. "I got this offer by being proactive. I try to expose myself by giving ideas and opinions", said Zamarul during the talk. This will attract the company to hire the fresh graduate to work with their company. From Zamarul and Qistina, they also shared that they got their job by getting the recognition by giving ideas to improve the system. Besides, they also shared a few tips on how to get hired for fresh graduate in the middle of pandemic which is to learn and understand the technical skill by joining online courses and training programs which is very important in this field and also to improve the soft skill such as teamwork and communication. "I think you guys can practice your programming skill in LeetCode, one of the website that provides free coding or programming skill test and exercise." said Tan Yong Keong. Students also got new tips on how to improve their programming skill from Tan Yong Keong which is to always practice and understand deeply the topic. Before ending the session, the speakers also advised the student to keep motivated for their studies and careers which will become helpful for the students in the near future.

REFLECTION (Muhammad Hafizzul bin Abdul Manap) – 1) From this sharing session, I have identified a few strength and weakness of the talk. The strength of the talk is it will help the students to plan their career path wisely. This talk also gives exposure for the students on the work experience once graduated. For the weakness, I find it is really difficult to do this talk online as there were not a lot of interactions between students and speaker. The speakers couldn't answer all the questions one by one besides this talk only an hour long. 2) I have learnt a lot from this talk which is to always fill you with knowledge especially working in the science computer field, a lot of programming languages needed to be learnt to assure all the task and projects finished properly. I also learned that not only academic is important, but soft skill such as communication and team working also important in career life.

REFLECTION (Savero Fajri Sutiono) - From the talk with UTM alumnus, I got much information about life after college like for the interview, the life in the industry, and many more. There are several more strengths in this talk which are the alumnus very welcoming and nice when answering a question, they gave a lot of useful information. However, there is still a weakness, in my opinion, some of the alumni-only give information based on what they were asked, it looks like they were not confident. Overall this talk is very useful for me and for my friends I hope I could implement it in the future.

REFLECTION (Abdulrahman Ahmed Rafat Abdelhamid) - In my opinion, this talk benefited me a lot, by exposing me to the work experience. The speakers also taught me about some of the challenges that they faced in their careers, and how to choose a suitable position in my future job, or how to get hired in the first place. Also, they shared with us, based on their experience, some ways to improve our soft skills and technical skills.

REFLECTION (Ibtesham Ahmed Promit) - From the talk with UTM alumnus, I learned a lot of information about interviews, industry, workplace etc. It is based on mainly life after graduation. They also shared a few tips about how to get hired for a new graduate in the midst of a pandemic, which is to learn and appreciate professional skills by entering online classes and training programmes that are really important in this area, and also to develop soft skills such as collaboration and communication. My impression of the pandemic has changed a lot over the year. As time passed, I knew that I was among the people who were fortunate enough to find better places to study and have the services that most of them don't have. It's a chance to learn and get higher education.



1. Muhammad Hafizzul bin Abdul
2. Savero Fajri Sutiono
3. Abdulrahman Ahmed Rafat Abdelhamid
4. Ibtesham Ahmed Promit