ASIAN UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCE
SCHOLARS AWARD PROGRAM
REPORT
2018-2020
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As Secretary of the Asian Universities Alliance (AUA), I have the honor to present to you the first AUA Scholars Award Program Report 2018-2020.

The AUA is a university alliance established in 2017 by 15 founding members from across Asia. The mission of AUA is to “jointly address regional and global challenges, specifically related to higher education and economic, scientific and technological development, by strengthening collaboration among member institutions.” AUA acknowledges and promotes shared identity and values in working towards this mission.

The AUA Scholars Award Program (AUASAP) was launched in March 2018 under the category of Scholar Mobility in the first AUA Framework 2017-2020. The AUASAP was established with the purpose of increasing the mobility of scholars among the AUA member universities. It is open to all faculty members and researchers of AUA universities. The Award facilitates scholars to visit another overseas AUA university for a period of two weeks to enhance research exchange and collaboration between peer academics across the Asian region, and deepen bilateral collaboration between AUA members. Over the first two years, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020, 88 scholars have received Awards.

As we enter the third year of the AUASAP, it is an important time to reflect not only on the achievements of the program thus far, but to highlight areas for improvement as we strive to achieve long-term sustainability and operation of the program. Although the current data set of two years is somewhat limited, trends such as inequity in the participation of certain AUA member universities and gender parity in the distribution of Scholars Awards are already becoming evident. While this report aims to publicize the program and its outcomes, it is also the intention of the AUA Secretariat to utilize and build upon the information gathered here to shape and reshape the future progress and growth of the program.

AUA strives to be a leader in higher education collaboration and set a regional and global example for the multitude of benefits that can arise from deeper and closer academic linkages between our member universities. The AUASAP so far has provided a platform for establishing new ties between academic peers in different universities in different countries; as well as reigniting and supporting existing partnerships between scholars across AUA member universities. The benefits of this program are not confined merely to the scholars and the host professors who take part, but extends to the students, lab technicians, university administrators and all those who form part of a university’s ecosystem. Some of the outcomes of the AUASAP include the establishment of new joint activities such as summer schools and conferences, contributions to research articles and books, guidance and mentoring of PhD candidates, joint applications for research funding and institutional reform.

I invite you to explore the results of the AUASAP from 2018-2020 in the report ahead.

Thank you.

Dr. ZHANG Chuanjie
AUA Secretary
Introduction

In 2018, AUA launched the AUA Scholars Award Program (AUASAP), a flagship project aimed at boosting international research linkages and academic advancements. By facilitating AUA members to host scholars from other member universities for a duration of two weeks, AUASAP provides a steadfast platform for meaningful academic exchanges and synergy between the 15 AUA members.

The AUASAP has allowed AUA member universities to conduct comprehensive research activities, establish academic cooperation and enable visiting scholars to participate in a range of activities, from offering courses and delivering lectures to conducting research and field study. While AUA greatly emphasizes the need for academic exchanges and knowledge transfer among Asia’s leading universities, increased learning of Asia’s rich and diverse cultural heritage is also an important part of the shared experience. Scholars and experts serve as cultural ambassadors for AUA’s long term vision of promoting academic exchanges and mutual understanding. As Asian economies progress and cultivate unique expertise through programs such as the AUASAP, the AUA is poised to be a trendsetter in Asian and global higher education.

The AUASAP has quickly become a huge hit among scholars of member universities, owing to the unique academic and cultural exposure the AUA Scholars bring back to their home universities. In its second year of operation (2019-2020), the AUASAP received more than 100 applications, with 60* scholars selected to carry out their visits to host universities in a diverse range of fields ranging from physics and bioengineering, to political science and education. In the first year of the program (2018-2019), 29 AUA Scholars received the Award, using the opportunity to expand perspectives in the classroom and initiate conferences and research collaborations with other AUA member universities.

As the AUASAP becomes increasingly competitive in the coming years, we are confident that this will become the starting point of long term, deep rooted and more frequent academic interactions between AUA members, and Asian scholars in general. With the success of the program thus far, AUA looks forward to more exchanges and improvements in the research capacity of Asia’s leading higher education institutions.

*The full quota of 60 Awards was granted; however, due to a scheduling issue one awardee had to renounce his Award, bringing the total to 59.
List of Participating Universities

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<th>Location</th>
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<td>UM</td>
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<td>UoC</td>
<td>Colombo, Sri Lanka</td>
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<td>UTokyo</td>
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<td>University of Yangon</td>
<td>UY</td>
<td>Yangon, Myanmar</td>
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List of Figures and Tables

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<td>Table 2.</td>
<td>Exchange of AUA Scholars among Members 2018-2019</td>
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About the Report

The AUASAP is operated and managed by the AUA Secretariat. All the data presented in this report was gathered from the application and summary materials submitted to the AUA Secretariat by awardees of the program in the first two years of the program: 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. All the data contained herein is true and correct to the best of the provided information.

The time frame for visits in the first year of the program was between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019. It will be referred to throughout the report as Year 1. The time frame for visits in the second year of the program was between 1 June 2019 and 31 March 2020. It will be referred to throughout the report as Year 2.

In certain cases, in order to incorporate all corresponding disciplines into related groups, specific labels have been given. For example, the Engineering label represents Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, etc. The Science & Technology label represents Computer Science, Biochemistry, Physics, etc.

Information of AUA Scholars, including their home and host universities and summaries of visits, can be found in the second half of the report.

Notes

- Home University refers to the university at which the candidate is either a full-time faculty member or researcher.
- Host University refers to the university which the AUA Scholar has visited or will visit.
- As per the application guidelines (see Appendix 1), part 3b states:

‘Candidates shall schedule their academic visit between 1 June 2019 and 31 March 2020, i.e., the first day of the visit is no earlier than 1 June 2019 and the last day of the visit is no later than 31 March 2020.’

All visits had been originally scheduled to take place within the time frame stated in the guidelines. However, due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the validity of 10 Scholars’ visits which were due to take place in early 2020 have been extended. These AUA Scholars’ application data has been included for the year 2019-2020; however, the summaries of their visits will feature instead in next year’s report.
Overview of AUASAP 2018-2020

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Fig. 1: Overview of AUASAP 2018-2020

AUA Scholars by Home University

Fig. 2: AUA Scholars by Home University 2019-2020

Fig. 3: AUA Scholars by Home University 2018-2019
Asian Universities Alliance Scholars Award Program Report 2018-2020

AUA Scholars by Discipline

Fig. 4: AUA Scholars by Discipline 2019-2020

Fig. 5: AUA Scholars by Discipline 2018-2019
**AUA Scholars by Title**

Fig. 6: AUA Scholars by Title 2019-2020

Fig. 7: AUA Scholars by Title 2018-2019
AUA Scholars by Host University

Fig. 8: AUA Scholars by Host University 2019-2020

Fig. 9: AUA Scholars by Host University 2018-2019
Gender Diversity of AUA Scholars

Fig. 10: Gender Diversity of AUA Scholars 2018-2020
Who Went Where?

Table 1: Exchange of AUA Scholars among Members 2019-2020

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<th>THU</th>
<th>UAEU</th>
<th>UI</th>
<th>UM</th>
<th>UoC</th>
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Table 1: Exchange of AUA Scholars among Members 2019-2020
Who Went Where?

Table 2: Exchange of AUA Scholars among Members 2018-2019

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# AUA Scholars 2019-2020

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*Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, these candidates have extended the validity of their visits.
“During my visit to University of Yangon (UY), I gave several lectures and talks at the Department of Industrial Chemistry and engaged at length with graduate students and teachers. I visited a number of departments and had a meeting with the Rector of UY, Prof. Pho Kaung.

I learned a lot from the teachers and students about Myanmar and the university. I gained in-depth understanding of UY’s teaching activities in chemistry and industrial chemistry, and research related to natural product chemistry, biomass processing and utilization, renewable energy, and water treatment science. Although the scientific research is still at the preliminary stages and the research equipment is insufficient, faculty and graduate students have demonstrated good quality research capabilities.

Establishing international academic cooperation with the Dept. of Industrial Chemistry was most valuable to me. I have more understanding about the department and the desires of teachers and students to reform and develop higher education and teaching in Myanmar. One of the highlights of the visit include Prof. Soe Soe Than’s application to visit the Department of Chemistry at Tsinghua University through the AUA Scholars Award Program 2020-2021.”

- Prof. HE Dehua

“"The AUA Scholars Award Program helps to strengthen capacity building for faculty, staff and students. Prof. He demonstrated his expertise and shared experience with faculty and students. We received many benefits, such as learning about chemical reaction kinetics, nanomaterials, catalysis, biomass conversion, and other related research.”

- Prof. Soe Soe Than
**Schedule of visit**

**Week 1**
- Meeting with faculty members of the Department of Industrial Chemistry.
- Participation in master students’ seminar.
- Delivering a lecture on “Reaction Kinetics I”.
- Delivering a lecture on “Reaction Kinetics II”.
- Discussions with students and teachers.
- Introduction to Tsinghua University.
- Tour of teaching labs.
- Attending the new student enrolment ceremony and celebration activity.
- Visiting University of Yangon’s Research Center; Meeting Prof. Ye Chan.

**Week 2**
- Giving a talk on “Biomass Conversion”.
- Giving a talk on “Methane Conversion”.
- Giving a talk on “CO2 Conversion”.
- Delivering a lecture on “Nano-science and Nano-materials”.
- Delivering a lecture on “Porous Materials, Mass Transfer, Diffusion, Adsorption and Catalysis”.
- Discussions with students and teachers.
- Introduction to Tsinghua University’s Department of Chemistry.
- Meeting with University of Yangon’s Rector, Prof. Pho Kaung.
- Farewell party; Discussion about international cooperation and exchange.
“During my academic visit to National University of Singapore (NUS) under the AUA Scholars Award Program, my host Prof. Pakorn Kanchanawong and I shared and exchanged knowledge in various areas, including the curriculum of bachelor degree programs, academic systems, student exchange programs, student activities, organization of multidisciplinary programs, grant source and management, direction of research, etc. This knowledge is very valuable for me to create a roadmap for the development of a Biomedical Engineering Program at Chulalongkorn University (CU).

I also visited many laboratories and saw the professional management of several labs and research groups. I gained experience on advanced biomedical technologies, such as 3D printing, medical robotics, artificial intelligence, and many innovations that have been released into the market. I attended the “Biosensors and Medical Devices” class and learned new teaching techniques. Another highlight of my visit was establishing research collaboration with some research groups. We discussed sharing data and resources to improve the research quality.

My visit to the Department of Biomedical Engineering at NUS through the kind support of Prof. Pakorn Kanchanawong and other professors, achieved the outcomes as expected. The research network and academic collaboration between CU and NUS have been strengthened as a result of this visit.”

- Asst. Prof. Juthamas Ratanavaraporn

“The AUASAP has been very valuable in enabling extensive interactions between our respective institutions. I am pleased to learn that this has been a very productive and educational visit for both Prof. Ratanavaraporn and the NUS side. In terms of specific outcomes, in addition to the initiation of research collaboration, an agreement has been made to co-organize a winter school in biomedical engineering to be held in Bangkok, Thailand in January 2020.”

- Assoc. Prof. Pakorn Kanchanawong
Schedule of visit

**Week 1**
- Visiting Advanced Robotics Center.
- Visiting Mechanobiology Institute.
- Visiting Tissue Repair Lab.
- Visiting Nanomedicine & Nanorobotic lab.
- Meeting with Prof. Raye Yeow (Advanced Robotics Center).
- Meeting with Prof. Dean Ho (Head of Biomedical Engineering Department).
- Meeting with Prof. James Goh (Former Head of Biomedical Engineering Department).
- Meeting with Prof. Toh Seow Lok (Former Deputy Head of Education & Student Life; Vice-President of Biomedical Engineering Society (Singapore); Chairman of IFMBE Education & Accreditation Committee; Secretary of IFMBE Asia-Pacific Working Group).
- Meeting with Prof. James Kah (Nanomedicine & Nanorobotic lab).

**Week 2**
- Visiting Institute of Health Innovation & Technology (iHealthtech).
- Visiting the NUS Tissue Engineering Programme (NUSTEP), Life Sciences Institute.
- Meeting with Prof. Li Jun (Deputy Head, Education & Student Life).
- Meeting with Prof. Pakorn Kanchanawong (Principal Investigator, Mechanobiology Institute).
- Attending lecture on “Biosensors and Medical Devices” delivered by Prof. James Kah.

Prof. Ratanavaraporn with host Prof. Kanchanawong

Prof. Ratanavaraporn during a visit to the Institute of Health Innovation & Technology at NUS

Prof. Ratanavaraporn with Prof. Dean Ho, Head of Dept. of Biomedical Engineering, NUS
During this visit to Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay), various activities were undertaken including interactions with several faculties at the Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering (BSBE). There were also a number of meetings with deans of various departments, staff at the International Relations Office and other departments such as the Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship and the Department of Chemistry.

I visited the National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health, hosted by Dr Deepak Modi. I interacted with different scientists and PhD students working on various aspects of reproductive sciences and went on a tour of their animal house.

I visited the core central facilities at BSBE and observed the working of bio-atomic force microscopy, scanning probe confocal microscope, spinning disc confocal microscope and flow cytometry, and discussed with students about bioinformatics.

I also gave a lecture entitled “An Overview of the Biochemistry Department, King Saud University, Riyadh and the Research Activities in the Department”.

Overall, most of the proposed goals were accomplished during the visit. My interaction with the faculty and students working on bioinformatics and enzyme mechanisms was very interesting. I would like to suggest a reciprocal visit of the host Prof. Swati Patankar to King Saud University, to identify areas of collaboration. The visit could be a longer duration in order to have hands on experience with a few techniques being used here.”

- Prof. Nikhat Jamal Siddiqi

“We had an excellent visit from Prof. Nikhat Siddiqi to IIT Bombay. She interacted with many members of the campus community, including students, faculty, deans and technical staff. She gave us a nice overview of KSU and the strengths there. We have decided to use our professional interactions that were forged during her visit, to further pursue whether there are possibilities for research and teaching collaborations between the two institutions.”

- Prof. Swati Patankar
Schedule of visit

Week 1
- Meeting with host professor, Prof. Swati Patankar (Dean, International Relations).
- Attending a lecture by Dr. Rajesh.
- Visiting the lab and meeting the Head of the Department of Biosciences, Prof. Rohit Srivastava.
- Meeting with MSc student.
- Visiting the lab for the culture of malarial parasite.
- Meeting with Prof. Milind Atreya, Dean for Industrial Research & Consultancy Center.
- Meeting with Prof. Prasenjit Bhaumik. Discussions on:
  - Catalytic mechanism of glutamate dehydrogenase activity
  - Mechanism of plant aspartic proteases.
- Meeting with Prof Balaji Petety on Bioinformatics.
- Meeting with Prof Shamik Sen about the PhD admission process at IIT Bombay.
- Meeting with International Relations Office staff.
- Meeting with Mrs Poymi Bhatt, CEO, Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship.
- Visiting the microscope unit to see Transmission Electron Microscope.
- Visiting Biomedical Engineering & Technology Incubation Center (BeTIC).
- Attending a lecture by PhD student Shamjit Kaur.
- Delivering a lecture in BSBE department entitled “An Overview of the Biochemistry Department, King Saud University, Riyadh and the Research Activities in the Department”.
- Visiting the common instrument facility for biophysics.

Week 2
- Visiting central facilities located at BSBE:
  - Bio-atomic force microscopy
  - Scanning probe confocal microscope
  - Spinning disc confocal microscope.
- Visiting the lab of Prof. Balaji; Discussions with students about bioinformatics.
- Visiting National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health hosted by Dr. Deepak Modi.
- Learning the technique of flow cytometry.
- Live demonstration of flow cytometry identifying dendritic cells.
- Visiting lab of Prof. Bhaumik to discuss Bioinformatics.
- Farewell visit to lab of Prof. Patankar; Meeting with the staff and students of her lab.
The visit was a wonderful experience and I very much appreciate the time and support given by the Host Professor Dr. Arief Udhiarto and faculty members. During the visit to Universitas Indonesia (UI), I had several fruitful meetings with scholars from the Faculty of Engineering and had the opportunity to visit their research laboratory. There were also opportunities to visit the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering and their Research Center. During the visit, I received an explanation of research carried out in the Department of Electrical Engineering, especially from the Nanodevice Research Group.

There were discussions on several research topics related to photonics, energy and medical applications based on organic material. One of the research topics carried out by Dr. Udhiarto on the development of organic light emitting diode has the potential to be applied to my current research. Through the discussion with Dr. Udhiarto and other department members, several research topics have been identified for collaboration.

In order to promote the collaboration activities, we have planned to hold joint conferences, online research meetings and short-term student exchanges. I am expected to take responsibility for collaboration activities between the Faculty of Engineering at Universiti Malaya and UI. Thus, this academic visit has helped to achieve the anticipated outcomes to foster the development of research collaboration between two institutions.”

- Dr. Mohd Faiz Mohd Salleh

“Dr. Salleh was involved in our regular research meetings and shared his thoughts which were very useful for the future of our research. He has actively communicated with electrical engineering lecturers and several professors from other departments. He has been involved in academic and research activities and joined sports activities in the afternoon which strengthens relations with UI lecturers.”

- Dr. Arief Udhiarto
Schedule of visit

Week 1
- Meeting with the management of the Faculty of Engineering.
- Laboratory Visit 1: Power Plant Simulator and Scientific Research Educational Cooperation Center.
- Research Discussion 1: Discussion with host professor.
- Facility and Lecture Visit 1: Smart Classroom and Electronic Device Lecture.
- Research Discussion 2: Discussion and meeting with Nano Device Research Group.
- Laboratory Visit 2: Visit and discussion on MEMS related research.
- Research Discussion 3: Discussion related to organic material for photonic device.
- Laboratory Visit 3: Nanodevice Laboratory.
- Research Discussion 4: Discussion related to material research in UI.
- Laboratory Visit 4: Metallurgical and Materials Engineering Laboratory.

Week 2
- Meeting with professors and department members.
- Research Discussion 5: Discussion related to antenna and propagation research.
- Laboratory Visit 5: Telecommunication and Radar Research Laboratory.
- Campus tour.
- Research Discussion 6 & 7: Discussion related to research and further collaboration.
- Meeting with researcher from Department of Mechanical Engineering.
- Final meeting with department members.
Asst. Prof. Moureq Alotaibi

**Home Uni:** King Saud University (Dept. of Pharmacology and Toxicology)
**Host:** Dr. Basel al-Ramadi
**Host Uni:** United Arab Emirates University (Dept. of Medical Microbiology and Immunology)
**Date of Visit:** 10-28 Nov 2019

I had the opportunity to be exposed to several research projects at Dr. Ramadi’s lab. The cell culture unit was very organized and his postdoctoral fellow Dr. Shooja was discussing with me the techniques, policies and data they have generated. I found Dr. Ramadi’s lab running at a high standard as they have a weekly meeting to catch up on the latest updates and lab results. The experience in his lab was great as I have been exposed to many techniques I have not done or seen before such as histopathology.

Dr. Dina Azhgaliyeva

**Home Uni:** National University of Singapore (Energy Studies Institute)
**Host:** Prof. Zhumabay Bakenov
**Host Uni:** Nazarbayev University (Dept. of Chemical Engineering)
**Date of Visit:** 16-29 Jun 2019

I benefited from visiting NU’s National Laboratory of Astana by learning about new innovations in energy storage. I accessed data at the NU library which I did not have access to at my institution. Together with NU post-doctoral researchers and an NU faculty member, we produced an outline, collected data and identified a target journal and time frames for two papers. I also discussed about collaborative research grants with two NU schools. One grant proposes the establishment of an international interdisciplinary research centre at NU in collaboration with NUS and other institutions.
Visiting Dr. Tencomnao’s lab was very valuable in learning many new technologies and discussing with people in the lab. As a result of this visit, three of Dr. Tencomnao’s students will visit my lab for a 6-month period to continue their project related to cell signalling and protein translocation. The relationship developed by this visit will contribute to research progress in both labs.

It was an impactful 16-day trip where I provided several workshops on ‘Service Learning’ and ‘Sustainable Development Goals 2030’ to teachers, lecturers and support staff as well as undergraduate, master and doctoral students. I also got invited to give a guest lecture to over 70 students from the Master of Science in Service Management. They were adult students from all over Sri Lanka and I learned a lot from them.
Asst. Prof. Darkhan Bilyalov

**Home Uni:** Nazarbayev University (Graduate School of Education)

**Host:** Dr. Husaina Banu Kenayathulla

**Host Uni:** Universiti Malaya (Faculty of Education)

**Date of Visit:** 14-26 Oct 2019

I conducted interviews with eight faculty members from different schools as part of my comparative research project on institutional service and societal engagement across six Asian universities. I delivered a workshop titled ‘Helpful Free Tools for Research and Studies at the Graduate Level’ to master and doctoral students, and a research presentation on ‘Faculty Societal Engagement: The Findings of a Nationwide Study of Academics in Kazakhstan’.

Prof. Chin-Sung Chang

**Home Uni:** Seoul National University (Dept. of Forest Sciences)

**Host:** Assoc. Prof. Ikeda Hiroshi (right)

**Host Uni:** The University of Tokyo (The University Museum)

**Date of Visit:** 7-20 Jul 2019

This visit not only promotes the data published through the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), but also greatly encourages academic advances in the field of biodiversity informatics. I obtained more than 4,000 photos (less than one-third of the total data) and will make them available through the GBIF web services before 2020.
Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake

**Home Uni:** University of Colombo (Dept. of Demography)  
**Host:** Prof. WANG Youqiang  
**Host Uni:** Tsinghua University (School of Public Policy and Management)  
**Date of Visit:** 14-25 Oct 2019

I delivered two lectures at Tsinghua University and Peking University on population aging focusing on Sri Lanka. This opportunity allowed me to share my experiences with the faculty and students and receive valuable feedback. The AUA Scholars Award Program has given me a chance to collaborate with some of the best academics in the region. We have started discussing some important future research projects related to migration in China and Sri Lanka.

Assoc. Prof. Jung-Hwa Ha

**Home Uni:** Seoul National University (Dept. of Social Welfare)  
**Host:** Assoc. Prof. Bussarawan Teerawichitchainan  
**Host Uni:** National University of Singapore (Center for Family and Population Research)  
**Date of Visit:** 8-22 Jan 2020

The main project that I worked on during my visit was the cross-national comparison research on the impact of childlessness in five Asian countries (Korea, China, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar). I presented my work on the reciprocal relationship between social support and health using US data and another work on cognitive decline and social participation using Korean data. I received many invaluable comments from so many people and I really appreciated them.
I had an opportunity to give a lecture to students from the International Master of Public Health and am very happy to learn that many of them appreciate the knowledge I shared with them. I also learned how lectures are conducted at THU – this is an experience that I can bring back to share with my colleagues and top management at UM.

My main research project on ‘STEM Data Analytics in Demand-Driven Decision Making: The Impact on STEM Education’, constituted the majority of my work during the visit. I had the opportunity to give a seminar presentation at the department entitled ‘A Selective Review of Robust and Sparse Estimators in Linear Regression Models’, sharing a review of the progress made in regression models, including robust models.
Assoc. Prof. Siti Zubaidah Ismail

**Home Uni:** Universiti Malaya (Dept. of Shariah and Law)  
**Host:** Assoc. Prof. Heru Susebyo  
**Host Uni:** Universitas Indonesia (Faculty of Law)  
**Date of Visit:** 21 Jul-4 Aug 2019

My prime activity was to discuss a research project entitled ‘The Abolition of Death Penalty in Malaysia and Indonesia’. My host was able to organize a very interesting round table discussion with a few lecturers to discuss activities for this project and how to get financial assistance. I also gave a talk on how to prepare a manuscript for international journals. The interaction enabled me to understand the problems facing UI’s faculty with publishing papers in international journals.

Asst. Prof. Shaohai Jiang

**Home Uni:** National University of Singapore (Dept. of Communications and New Media)  
**Host:** Prof. Xu Jing  
**Host Uni:** Peking University (School of Journalism and Communication)  
**Date of Visit:** 14-27 Jul 2019

My main responsibility was teaching the ‘Europe-China Dialogue: Media and Communication Studies Summer School 2019’, co-organized by PKU and University of Lugana, Switzerland. I delivered two lectures, participated in one roundtable discussion, and offered comments and assistance to students’ individual research. I also helped PKU to organize an international conference by creating a call for papers in both Chinese and English and scheduling and inviting international scholars to attend this conference.
Asian Universities Alliance Scholars Award Program Report 2018-2020

Asst. Prof. Ardak Kashkynbayev

Home Uni: Nazarbayev University (Dept. of Mathematics)
Host: Prof. Fathalla Ali Rihan
Host Uni: United Arab Emirates University (Dept. of Mathematical Sciences)
Date of Visit: 8-22 Dec 2019

The aim of the visit was to collaborate with Prof. Rihan, a world-leading expert in fractional calculus and its applications to mathematical biology in fractional-order infectious disease models. I also had a chance to discuss possible joint projects on mathematical biology with Prof. Abdessamed Tirane. The visit was productive and we fully achieved our anticipated outcomes.

Prof. Azizuddin Khan

Home Uni: Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences)
Host: Prof. Filiz Polat
Host Uni: Nazarbayev University (Graduate School of Education)
Date of Visit: 17 Jun-4 Jul 2019

The goal was to develop long term collaboration with NU and understand inclusive education in a cross-cultural context for disabled children. NU has a strong research base in inclusive education and good research facilities. In the first week, I taught Kazakhstani teachers a course on ‘Psychology and Education’. I also delivered a lecture on ‘Mood, Optimism and Prospective Memory in Medical Adherence: An Experimental Investigation’.
Assoc. Prof. Yoonhee Kim

**Home Uni:** The University of Tokyo (Dept. of Global Environmental Health)  
**Host:** Prof. Ho Kim  
**Host Uni:** Seoul National University (Dept. of Public Health Science)  
**Date of Visit:** 19 Feb-1 Mar 2020

During my visit to SNU, I gave a lecture entitled ‘Publish a Paper to EHP: Sharing Experiences’, to the graduate students and postdocs in the host professor’s lab. We discussed how to build an efficient system from data management to journal acceptance. I also shared some useful tips for an international collaboration strategy, including communication skills and multi-country data analysis.

Prof. Woojin Lee

**Home Uni:** Nazarbayev University (Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering)  
**Host:** Assoc. Prof. Toru Wakihara  
**Host Uni:** The University of Tokyo (Dept. of Chemical System Engineering)  
**Date of Visit:** 9-22 Jun 2019

The main purpose of this visit was the development of a synthesis procedure of novel zeolite supported metallic catalysts for the conversion of CO$_2$ to useful hydrocarbon based chemical compounds and treatment of environmental contaminants. There were fruitful research results which will be summarized, described and published in significant international research journals soon. This visit definitely brought mutual benefits.
I joined some experiments regarding novel methods for embryo transgenesis through somatic cell nuclear transfer cloning techniques. I gave two seminars to the graduate students of Dr Lee’s lab on ‘Novel Methods for Improving ARTs and Stem Cells Isolation in Animals’, and ‘Technical Points and Challenges in Stem Cells Culture’. I had the opportunity to culture some cells with the aid of a time-lapse camera, a facility which we do not have in our lab in KSU. I had the opportunity to join four trials of experiments regarding oocytes and transgenesis that will help me during my current project at KSU.
Asian Universities Alliance Scholars Award Program Report 2018-2020

Assoc. Prof. Mohd Faizul Bin Mohd Sabri

Home Uni: Universiti Malaya (Dept. of Mechanical Engineering)
Host: Prof. Zhumabay Bakenov
Host Uni: Nazarbayev University (Center for Energy and Advanced Material Science, National Laboratory Astana)
Date of Visit: 18-31 Aug 2019

I had an excellent experience learning alongside outstanding researchers. During the visit, we established an interest to collaborate in the area of thermoelectric research. We are working to collaborate in this area where UM has some expertise and facilities for thermoelectric characterization. In addition, I am looking for the opportunity to apply for some research funding so that we will be able to kick-off some collaboration activities.

Dr. Nuruol Syuhadaa Mohd

Home Uni: Universiti Malaya (Dept. of Civil Engineering)
Hosts: Prof. Amritanshu Shriwastav & Prof. Suparna Mukherji
Host Uni: Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (Dept. of Environmental Science & Dept. of Engineering)
Date of Visit: 1-15 Dec 2019

I gave a presentation on ‘An Overview of Universiti Malaya, Malaysia’, to faculty members, and ‘Wastewater Management System in Malaysia: A Case Study’, to postgraduate students. A highlight of the visit was attending the PhD defense of one of Prof. Mukherji’s students and discussing with Prof. Shriwastav on the possibility of research collaboration in the future.
Prof. Eric Nelson

Home Uni: The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Dept. of Humanities - Philosophy)
Host: Prof. Siby K. George
Host Uni: Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences)
Date of Visit: 6-17 Jan 2020

I had extensive discussions with my host Prof. George, another faculty member and with three postgraduate students about continental European philosophy, and discussed the dissertation projects of the latter. I delivered three lectures that covered the topics of ‘Knowledge in the Buddhist Philosopher Vasubandhu’, ‘Heidegger and Aesthetics’, and ‘Comparative Philosophy Concerning the Interpretation of Buddhism in the works of Hegel and Schopenhauer’.

Dr. Boon Kwee Ng

Home Uni: Universiti Malaya (Dept. of Science and Technology Studies)
Host: Prof. Masaru Yarime
Host Uni: The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Division of Public Policy)
Date of Visit: 2-15 Feb 2020

There are many lessons which the program at my institution can learn from HKUST’s Master of Public Policy. For instance, courses on quantitative analysis and public policy analysis are important to provide the students with strong analytical skills for their career development. I shared my previous and on-going research activities as well as publications with the host professor in the areas of inclusive development, social innovation and grassroots innovations.
Dr. Mohamadariff Othman

**Home Uni:** Universiti Malaya (Dept. of Electrical Engineering)  
**Host:** Assoc. Prof. Hamsakutty Vettikalladi  
**Host Uni:** King Saud University (Dept. of Electrical Engineering)  
**Date of Visit:** 1-15 Nov 2019  

During the visit, I had extensive discussions and sharing sessions with Dr. Hamsakutty on a research study on radio frequency energy harvesting. As a result of the visit, I will appoint Dr. Hamsakutty as co-supervisor for my PhD student and will draft a grant proposal under his guidance. I gave a technical talk on dielectric antenna to the department members and postgraduate students. I used this platform to share my research expertise and promote research collaboration between KSU and UM.

Dr. Donnie Adams Paramasivam

**Home Uni:** Universiti Malaya (Faculty of Education)  
**Host:** Dr. Dhirapat Kulophas  
**Host Uni:** Chulalongkorn University (Faculty of Education)  
**Date of Visit:** 24 Jul-9 Aug 2019  

Research meetings and emails with Dr. Dhirapat were instrumental in finalising the purpose of the research visit. Extensive discussion on the research methodology, sampling, instrument items development and validation were all accomplished as planned. Further discussion was held on future research collaboration between our faculties of education on expected research outputs of the project such as publications and conference proceedings. I also had the opportunity to share my experience and expertise on getting journals indexed into Scopus databases.
Mr. Choky Risda Ramadhan

**Home Uni:** Universitas Indonesia (Faculty of Law)  
**Host:** Assoc. Prof. Helena Whalen-Bridge  
**Host Uni:** National University of Singapore (Faculty of Law)  
**Date of Visit:** 15-26 Jul 2019

I did extensive research on anti-corruption policies in some ASEAN countries. The availability of literature in the NUS library was valuable for my research. I also had the opportunity to meet and discuss with an investigator and prosecutor who handle corruption cases. This provided me with a deeper understanding about law enforcement for corruption cases in Singapore.

Mr. Jyh Wee Sew

**Home Uni:** National University of Singapore (Center for Language Studies)  
**Host:** Dr. Samsur Rijal Yahaya  
**Host Uni:** Universiti Malaya (Dept. of Malaysian Languages and Applied Linguistics)  
**Date of Visit:** 13-28 Jul 2019

During the visit, I worked on a paper titled ‘Teaching Noun Classifier in Malay as Foreign Language’, which was submitted to the Electronic Journal of Foreign Language Teaching. I also delivered a talk entitled ‘Education Linguistics Reflections on Teaching Noun Classifiers in Malay’. The visit offered me a conducive academic environment to revise my drafts. It also offered me an opportunity to network with senior academic staff.
I presented my clinical proteomics work in front of Prof. Starling Emerald and his lab members and discussed different workflows involved in performing LC-MS/MS based quantitative proteomics. Prof. Starling also presented his various ongoing projects on diabetes and showed me some very high quality molecular and clinical research data generated by his group. This helped us to discuss potential collaborative projects on diabetes proteomics.

The academic visit strengthened the collaboration between Prof. Zhu and me. It also deepened my understanding of mirror-image biology. In our collaboration, we plan to build ‘Plug-and-Display’ platforms based on SpyTag and SpyCatcher to manufacture a new chiral vaccine. In this academic visit, we have shared our progress and discussed how to move forward. The AUA Scholars Award has played a key role in facilitating such interactions and collaboration.
Asian Universities Alliance Scholars Award Program Report 2018-2020

Assoc. Prof. Durvudkhan Suragan

Home Uni: Nazarbayev University (Dept. of Mathematics)
Host: Prof. Baoxiang Wang
Host Uni: Peking University (School of Mathematical Sciences)
Date of Visit: 9-12 Dec 2019

During the stay, I gave talks at the School of Mathematical Sciences, attended research seminars and regularly met with Prof. Wang to discuss joint research. Prof. Wang has a large research team at PKU mostly comprised of master, PhD and postdoc students. I think communication and scientific discussions with these young researchers were some of the most valuable parts of the visit.

Ms. Maria Tambunan

Home Uni: Universitas Indonesia (Dept. of Fiscal Administrative Science)
Host: Prof. Ji-Hyun Yoon
Host Uni: Seoul National University (School of Law)
Date of Visit: 6-28 Jul 2019

Besides receiving practical information for my research, I benefited from the myriad rich resources at SNU’s library. As a result of my visit, I have begun writing an article entitled ‘Transfer Pricing and Business Restructuring on Manufacture Industry: A Study from Korean MNEs and Indonesia Subsidiary on Polycorporative Network Perspective’.
The purpose of this visit was to have discussions on potential research and academic and industrial collaborations in advanced LED materials synthesis, fabrication and applications. I also explored start-ups opportunities, co-publications in high impact journals and co-submission for research grants and funding in China and Malaysia.

I was honoured to have given two invited research presentations at the MOA Orthopaedic Research SIG and TESMA Seminar Series, and at the Second Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine Postgraduate Research Symposium 2019. I shared my work with many extracellular vesicles (EV) enthusiasts, many of whom are embarking on EV research in their projects.
Asst. Prof. Mariza Tsakalerou

**Home Uni:** Nazarbayev University (School of Engineering)  
**Host:** Prof. Kumudinei Dissanayake  
**Host Uni:** University of Colombo (Faculty of Management and Finance)  
**Date of Visit:** 2-16 Feb 2020

I collaborated with Dr. Dissanayake on a common project on the ‘Adoption of Green Practices by Manufacturing Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) in Kazakhstan and Sri Lanka’. The goal is to compare and contrast the current green practices in SMEs of Central and South Asia through the examples of Kazakhstan and Sri Lanka, and develop policy recommendations to help them achieve sustainable (green) performance.

Assoc. Prof. Parinda Vasa

**Home Uni:** Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (Dept. of Physics)  
**Host:** Prof. Kaoru Yamanouchi  
**Host Uni:** The University of Tokyo (Dept. of Chemistry)  
**Date of Visit:** 24 Jun-10 Jul 2019

During the visit, we had several fruitful scientific discussions on various aspects of ultrafast and intense laser science. These discussions were most valuable as they helped in understanding the preliminary data we obtained from the experiments and also formed the basis of future experiments and collaboration. I also delivered lectures on active plasmonic, which was very well received by undergraduate and graduate students at UTokyo.
Dr. WANG Yi

**Home Uni:** National University of Singapore (Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health)  
**Host:** Dr. Sorapop Kiatponsan  
**Host Uni:** Chulalongkorn University (College of Population Studies)  
**Date of Visit:** 6-22 Jun 2019

I learned several important things during the visit, such as the differences between academia oriented and policy oriented research. I broadened my understanding on how academics from other disciplines approach topics such as the cost of raising children and fertility decisions. During the visit, I was able to interact with local researchers and build connections. I learned a lot about Thailand’s socioeconomic status and healthcare policies.

Asst. Prof. Ying Wang

**Home Uni:** Tsinghua University (Dept. of Psychology)  
**Host:** Prof. Keumjoo Kwak  
**Host Uni:** Seoul National University (Dept. of Psychology)  
**Date of Visit:** 17 Nov-1 Dec 2019

Prof. Kwak and I are planning to do some cross-cultural studies to investigate whether autism spectrum disorder (ASD) differs from typical observers in their visual and motor perception, and the relationship among visual sensitivity, motor ability and literacy acquisition in the two countries. We also aim to collaborate together with another professor to launch some intervention programs for ASD children’s literacy (reading and writing), and the language development of children with visual or motor impairment.
Assoc. Prof. Jing Xu

**Home Uni:** Tsinghua University (Dept. of Mechanical Engineering)  
**Host:** Prof. Kyu-Jin Cho  
**Host Uni:** Seoul National University (Dept. of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)  
**Date of Visit:** 4-22 Aug 2019

The visit had four main academic activities: investigating developed bio-inspired soft robots and reading the corresponding published journals; operating the experiment equipment and fabricating robot parts; joining the group seminar and discussing with students; discussing future collaboration with Prof. Kyu-Jin Cho, including writing joint proposals, exchanging students from our labs and collaborating on research.

Assoc. Prof. Ning Yan

**Home Uni:** National University of Singapore (Dept. of Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering)  
**Host:** Prof. Jun Li  
**Host Uni:** Tsinghua University (Dept. of Chemistry)  
**Date of Visit:** 1-10 & 16-24 Jul 2019

Prof. Li and I discussed in detail how to continue an existing collaboration on polyoxometalate stabilized single-atom systems, targeting to get the descriptors for single-atom catalysts in CO oxidation, and initiated a new collaboration on photo-catalysis for amino acid synthesis. At least one joint publication is expected to be submitted in 2020 and the collaboration will certainly not stop there.
Assoc. Prof. Ting Zhu

**Home Uni:** Tsinghua University (School of Life Sciences)
**Host:** Asst. Prof. SUN Fei
**Host Uni:** The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Dept. of Chemical and Biological Engineering)
**Date of Visit:** 28 Jul-10 Aug 2019

In addition to our joint experiments, during this visit I gave a seminar on ‘Building Mirror-image Biology Systems’. By attending the doctoral dissertation defence of Prof. Sun’s students, I have become familiar with the training model of HKUST. Thanks to the AUA Scholars Award Program, the academic visit enhanced the collaborations between two universities, playing a key role as a facilitator of interactions.
# AUA Scholars 2018-2019

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“During the academic visit, I did a comprehensive analysis of the demographic, tumour background and treatment profiles of the Malaysian Prostate Cancer (M-CaP) Registry. The results demonstrated that 56.2% of prostate cancer in Malaysia was found at stage IV and 83% of them were diagnosed at Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) levels above 10 ng/ml. Comparing this with the Japanese Prostate Cancer (J-CaP) Registry, Japanese prostate cancer patients were diagnosed at an earlier stage with lower PSA levels. For instance, only 14% of Japanese prostate cancer patients were diagnosed at stage IV. Half of the Japanese patients had a PSA level below 10 ng/ml at diagnosis. We have sought evidence that the primary treatment for stage I prostate cancer in Japanese patients was prostatectomy, whilst a third of the Malaysian stage I patients opted for active surveillance. In addition, we re-evaluated and modified the J-CAPRA (Japan Cancer of the Prostate Risk Assessment) scoring system to increase its generalisability to other Asian prostate cancer patients including in Malaysia.

The highlight of the visit was the daily morning discussion session I had with Prof. Haruki Kume and Prof. Hideyuki Akaza. I would first share with them the analysis done on the previous day and we would discuss the work and its future direction. I felt humbled and fortunate to be working with both experts in the field of prostate cancer. I was also given the opportunity to present my findings to Japanese pharmaceutical companies in raising their awareness of the extent of the advanced prostate cancer burden in developing countries such as Malaysia.

I truly enjoyed working with my Japanese colleagues and I was impressed by their positive working attitude. Everyone is self-disciplined, independent and committed to their responsibilities. My experience in UTokyo wouldn’t have been the same without them. I believe I have achieved beyond my personal goals and sincerely hope that this research collaboration flourishes in the next six months.”

- Dr. Jasmine Lim

“Dr. Jasmine Lim stayed at our department and at Prof. Akaza’s lab for about two weeks. She was interested in prostate cancer and she investigated differences of PSA screening, patients’ profiles, diagnosis, and treatment strategies between Malaysia and Japan. She worked very hard and offered many constructive suggestions and we learned more about south east Asia. We think that the AUA Scholar Award Program will play an important role in international exchange in the scientific fields.”

- Prof. Haruki Kume
Schedule of visit

Week 1
- Defining the research questions and priority variables for statistical analysis.
- Data cleaning and transformation.
- Regression analysis of prognostic factors, disease characteristics, treatment patterns for prostate cancer of J-CaP and M-CaP study groups, alone and in combination.

Week 2
- Results interpretation and further sensitivity analyses as appropriate.
- J-CAPRA scoring system reclassification for metastatic prostate cancer patients.
- Presentation and discussion of the research findings to the group.
- Planning of the future direction of this work and manuscript preparation.
“Peking University School and Hospital of Stomatology is one of the largest dental hospitals in the world. I visited Peking University Shenzhen Hospital, one branch of Peking University Hospital in Shenzhen, and Peking University Hospital of Stomatology in Beijing. During my stay in Shenzhen, I discussed with Prof. Yang, Chairman of the Oral Center, about the application of various implants and their technology. I delivered a special lecture entitled ‘The Pathogenic Role of SS Autoantibodies in Salivary Gland Dysfunction’, in Shenzhen Hospital.

During my stay in Beijing, I visited the Digital Engineering Lab, Operation Theater and Central Lab in Peking University School and Hospital of Stomatology, and the Department of Pathophysiology and Core Research Lab in the medical campus of Peking University. I met many faculties working in both schools including Host Professor Prof. Guang-Yan Yu and many others, and discussed with them about cutting edge research and the education system of Dentistry. All centers and labs I visited were well organized by faculties and operators, and they are doing top grade research in the dental field.

I also visited the wards of oral surgery and observed diverse salivary gland diseases. I attended a seminar entitled ‘Seminar on Salivary Gland Disease and Salivary Research’. There were many interesting topics and I could learn about new research trends and technology in China. In this seminar, I also talked about ‘Current Status of Studies on Dental Research in Seoul National University’.

This visit achieved more outcomes than anticipated and we plan to do some collaborative work between our two universities.”

- Prof. Kyungpyo Park

“Prof. Park visited Peking University Shenzhen Hospital and presented on long-term systematic studies on Sjögren syndrome during a seminar there. He visited a lot of clinical departments, research labs and discussed with our colleagues on further collaboration. In our special seminar on salivary gland diseases and saliva research, he gave us an excellent lecture introducing the research activities in Seoul National University and offered constructive comments on the presentations by young doctors and graduate students.”

- Prof. Guang-Yan Yu
Schedule of visit

**Week 1**
- Visiting Peking University Shenzhen Hospital.
- Discussion on new dental research trends with Prof. Yang, Chairman of the Oral Center.
- Delivering a special lecture on “The Pathogenic Role of SS Autoantibodies in Salivary Gland Dysfunction”.
- Discussion on the possibilities of SS autoantibodies as one of the diagnostic biomarkers in various autoimmune diseases.

**Week 2**
- Visiting the Dept. of Pathophysiology and Core Research Lab.
- Discussion on “How to be a Good Mentor to Graduate Students”.
- Visiting National Center for Digital Dentistry in Peking University Hospital of Stomatology.
- Visiting Department of Oral Surgery; Observing various operation cases in oral maxillofacial area.
- Visiting Central Lab of Peking University Hospital of Stomatology.
Dr. Waleed Khalil Ahmed

**Home Uni:** United Arab Emirates University (Dept. of Mechanical Engineering)

**Host:** Prof. Dr. Yarub Al-Douri

**Host Uni:** Universiti Malaya (Nanotechnology and Catalysis (NANOCAT) Research Center)

**Date of Visit:** 31 Mar-13 Apr 2019

During my stay in the NANOCAT Center, I was invited by the Director to present a lecture highlighting my research in the field of recycling waste carbon fibre, entitled ‘Recycling of Carbon Fibre Reinforced Plastics (CFRP) Waste to Produce Non-Structural Components.’ I also visited the facilities available in the Center and other research facilities of the university. The visit was successful by all means and standards.

Prof. Dr. Yarub Al-Douri

**Home Uni:** Universiti Malaya (Nanotechnology and Catalysis (NANOCAT) Research Center)

**Host:** Dr. Waleed Khalil Ahmed

**Host Uni:** United Arab Emirates University (Dept. of Physics)

**Date of Visit:** 12-27 Jan 2019

The second week of my visit focused on testing, measuring, characterizing and analyzing nanoparticles using XRD, AFM, UV-vis including discussion, explanation and interpretation of results. From the visit I established potential future collaborations with different academics and researchers to jointly apply for international research grants, organize joint scientific events and publish joint papers.
Prof. Chaw Chaw Sein

**Home Uni:** University of Yangon (Dept. of International Relations)

**Host:** Assoc. Prof. KURAMOTO Ryosuke

**Host Uni:** The University of Tokyo (Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia)

**Date of Visit:** 13-24 Nov 2018

One important outcome was learning about UTokyo’s administrative system. I met with the Dean, professors, PhD students and researchers at IASA. The meeting provided me with information on the administrative system, recruitment of staff and researchers and the student selection system. I will use this knowledge for the implementation of a master plan for my university.

Dr. Gaoqiang Chen

**Home Uni:** Tsinghua University (Dept. of Mechanical Engineering)

**Host:** Prof. Amitava De

**Host Uni:** Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (Dept. of Mechanical Engineering)

**Date of Visit:** 11-24 Feb 2019

The primary purpose of this visit was to develop a joint research plan for fundamental understanding of friction stir welding. We decided to check for China-India bilateral calls for joint projects between our two universities which could provide sufficient funding to make collaboration easier. I had focused and exciting discussions on the research work with Prof. De, other faculties and the PhD students.
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Assoc. Prof. CHING Yern Chee

**Home Uni:** Universiti Malaya (Dept. of Chemical Engineering)

**Host:** Prof. CHUNG Tai-Shung Neal

**Host Uni:** National University of Singapore (Dept. of Chemical Biomolecular Engineering)

**Date of Visit:** 3-14 Sep 2018

Through this visit I advanced my research in membrane technology by approaching needed faculties, unique data and international scholars. I gained international experience in teaching and research supervision, broadened my research perspectives and established international academic links with overseas peers.

Prof. Mohd Azlan Hussain

**Home Uni:** Universiti Malaya (Dept. of Chemical Engineering)

**Host:** Prof. Paisan Kittisupakorn

**Host Uni:** Chulalongkorn University (Dept. of Chemical Engineering)

**Date of Visit:** 6-23 Jan 2019

During the visit I attended the Process Systems Engineering Asia Conference where I presented a keynote talk on ‘Process Control Engineering – Past, Present and Future Directions’. I also attended the International Advisory Committee Meeting as the representative from Malaysia, discussing the organization of future conferences related to Process Systems Engineering in Asia. This visit has certainly been very important for me to strengthen my collaboration in terms of co-supervision of postgraduate students, acting as external assessors and publishing papers together with Prof. Kittisupakorn.
Prof. Jas Laile Jaafar

**Home Uni:** Universiti Malaya (Dept. of Educational Psychology and Counselling)
**Host:** Assoc. Prof. Tjut Rifameutia Umar Ali
**Host Uni:** Universitas Indonesia (Faculty of Psychology)
**Date of Visit:** 14-28 Dec 2018

Apart from field work and research discussion with the host professors, I had the opportunity to share my knowledge of writing a research proposal with a few PhD students. The two weeks visit to Universitas Indonesia was very fruitful. I had full cooperation from the Faculty of Psychology, especially Dr. Tjut Rifameutia and Dr. Bagus who were very supportive and encouraging.

Dr. Jaime Jacqueline Jayapalan

**Home Uni:** Universiti Malaya (Dept. of Molecular Medicine)
**Host:** Prof. Sanjeeva Srivastava
**Host Uni:** Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (Dept. of Biosciences and Bioengineering)
**Date of Visit:** 4-15 Mar 2019

I joined most of the activities that were carried out by the team members of the Proteomic Laboratory, including sample preparation, experiments, data analysis and result interpretations. I also participated in the Big Data, Bioinformatics and Proteomics Workshop and took part in an interactive hands-on session on Artificial Neural Networks and advanced bioinformatics analyses.
Our group was interested in producing prebiotics found in human breast milk, fermented soybean products and oleobiochemicals derived from palm oil. We discussed and agreed on our future collaboration in constructing gut microbial cell factory as a probiotics platform or disease control platform. This can be further developed by Prof. Chang as designed bacteria (E.coli and Lactobacillus) for therapeutic purposes such as human infectious diseases, metabolic diseases, immune disease and cancer therapy. We really appreciate that the AUA Scholars Award Program could give us a very nice opportunity and became a catalyst to boost up our research activity.

During the visit, I delivered a series of presentations based on my research and teaching experience in the UAE, which brought new and local perspectives to Chinese scholars and students in understanding the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its impact in the Arab world. I have been collaborating with Prof. Li Zhang since March 2018, including working on a co-authored research paper on BRI.
I gave a lecture in an attempt to see if my theory that literary component analysis could be accepted as a useful comparative study tool by Germanic scholars with similar cultural backgrounds. The Japanese scholars agreed with my approach and encouraged my trials. My academic visit was an encouraging experience which benefitted me and hopefully my Japanese colleagues as well as their students.

Prof. Jihong Lee

I gave a seminar on a paper titled ‘Taxation and the Coase Conjecture’, and received many valuable comments from researchers at NU which will help improve the quality and scope of the paper. I interacted on a daily basis with local researchers, learning about their research and teaching projects. There could be overlapping interests for future collaboration.
Based on the talk I delivered on cognitive science of learning, Prof. Park and I discussed possible ways of collaboratively extending my current research on educational psychology. Prof. Park’s commitment towards both research and education has radically inspired me to embrace new ways of thinking about the many educational issues and problems that we face today.

Assoc. Prof. Tsz Cheung Leung

Home Uni: United Arab Emirates University (Dept. of Linguistics)
Host: Asst. Prof. Theeraporn Ratitamkul
Host Uni: Chulalongkorn University (Dept. of Linguistics)
Date of Visit: 6-18 Jan 2019

I delivered a seminar talk in the area of Cantonese syntax and language change. The visit helped to foster potential research collaboration in the area of Thai linguistics with professors at Chulalongkorn University. During a meeting with the host professor Prof. Ratitamkul, we explored the possibility of research collaboration, especially in the area of comparative linguistic research in Thai and Cantonese (and possibly Mandarin Chinese). I also had the opportunity to discuss with the MA student who Prof. Ratitamkul supervises in the area of sentence processing in Thai. Overall the visit has achieved my anticipated outcomes, namely to foster the possibility of research collaboration with professors in Chulalongkorn University.

Assoc. Prof. Stephen Wee Hun Lim

Home Uni: National University of Singapore (Dept. of Psychology)
Host: Prof. Jooyong Park
Host Uni: Seoul National University (Dept. of Psychology)
Date of Visit: 12-29 Nov 2018

Based on the talk I delivered on cognitive science of learning, Prof. Park and I discussed possible ways of collaboratively extending my current research on educational psychology. Prof. Park’s commitment towards both research and education has radically inspired me to embrace new ways of thinking about the many educational issues and problems that we face today.
Prof. LING Tau Chuan

Home Uni: Universiti Malaya (Faculty of Science)
Host: Prof. LIU Zheng
Host Uni: Tsinghua University (Dept. of Chemical Engineering)
Date of Visit: 29 Oct-10 Nov 2018

“I was very impressed with the high standard of research and teaching facilities and the discussions with young lecturers from the host department. I believe we could collaborate in the area of enzyme catalysis work and research of intensification of enzymatic hydrolysis of lignocellulose and integrated operation.”

Dr. ONG Hwai Chyuan

Home Uni: Universiti Malaya (Dept. of Mechanical Engineering)
Host: Prof. ZHANG Hai
Host Uni: Tsinghua University (Dept. of Energy and Power Engineering)
Date of Visit: 29 Oct-10 Nov 2018

“I got to know the professors and researchers in THU where we have a common research interest in biomass and biofuel energy. We discussed some potential collaboration opportunities in areas of common interest, e.g. staff and student exchanges and joint applications for international grants.”
Dr. Donnie Adams Paramasivam

**Home Uni:** Universiti Malaya (Faculty of Education)

**Host:** Prof. Kenryu Nakamura

**Host Uni:** The University of Tokyo (Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology)

**Date of Visit:** 20 Feb-6 Mar 2019

The visit to The University of Tokyo’s Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology (RCAST) was both an eye opener and valuable one. The purpose of my visit was to first develop a computer game module using the Kinect sensor embracing the concept of Embodied Learning Technology. However, I was immersed with the many types of assistive technology currently available in Japan and how these technologies could be adapted in Malaysia, with it’s costing, availability and test results. The visit has enabled me to learn and gain comparative knowledge on Special Needs Education and children with disabilities in the Japanese and Malaysian school systems, test current state of the art assistive technologies and establish future international academic links between RCAST and Universiti Malaya.

Mr. Mohammed Sajidullah Rafi

**Home Uni:** United Arab Emirates University (Khalifa Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology)

**Host:** Prof. Dr. Jennifer Ann Harikrishna

**Host Uni:** Universiti Malaya (Center for Research in Biotechnology for Agriculture (CEBAR))

**Date of Visit:** 26 Nov-7 Dec 2018

The labs in CEBAR were well equipped for molecular and plant tissue culture works and I was introduced to the highly talented research team. During my stay in Prof. Dr. Jennifer’s lab, I was trained to edit a gene using CRISPR-Cas9 system. My stay at CEBAR has certainly made me more enthusiastic to work on CRISPR gene-editing in my lab at UAEU.

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Dr. Pavadee Saisuwan

**Home Uni:** Chulalongkorn University (Dept. of Linguistics)  
**Host:** Assoc. Prof. Mie Hiramoto  
**Host Uni:** National University of Singapore (Dept. of English Language and Literature)  
**Date of Visit:** 11-24 Jan 2019

“The most valuable parts of my visit were the opportunities to work closely with the host professor and to attend the ‘Linguistic Diversity in Singapore’ symposium. Assoc. Prof. Hiramoto was very supportive and assisted my research project on masculinities constructed on public advertising signs in Bangkok. The opportunity to have a profound discussion with her helps me develop my research with more confidence.”

Dr. Azzuliani Supangat

**Home Uni:** Universiti Malaya (Dept. of Materials Science)  
**Host:** Dr. Vivi Fauzia  
**Host Uni:** Universitas Indonesia (Dept. of Physics)  
**Date of Visit:** 5-18 Nov 2018

“Both institutions benefited from deeper understanding on fundamental experiment issues that relate to properties of organic materials. An ISI-cited publication is expected to be produced in the next year, with contributions from both institutions. Undergraduate and postgraduate students from UI will be sent to UM for a one-month research exchange and UM and UI have also agreed to co-supervise research students.”
Dr. Endah Triastuti

**Home Uni:** Universitas Indonesia (Dept. of Communication Studies)
**Host:** Prof. Yoonhee Kang
**Host Uni:** Seoul National University (Dept. of Anthropology)
**Date of Visit:** 5-16 Nov 2018

Prof. Yoonhee helped me to establish argument and focus in my research. Her expertise in gender and language helped me to narrow down my research and writing process. She also encouraged me to publish in a number of international journals. Additionally, my research themes overlapped with a graduate student; the contextual difference helped us both to discuss our own research holistically.

Assoc. Prof. WAN Yuerong

**Home Uni:** Peking University (School of Foreign Languages)
**Host:** Prof. LEE Cheuk Yin
**Host Uni:** National University of Singapore (Dept. of Chinese Studies)
**Date of Visit:** 18 Sep-6 Oct 2018

My academic visit to NUS was based on my research field (Southeast Asia National and Regional Studies) and the research topic of NUS Wan Boo Sow Research Center for Chinese Culture (Southeast Asia and China’s ‘Belt and Road Initiative’). Highlights of my visit were learning how Singapore builds national values and national identity and understanding the reasons for harmonious multicultural coexistence.
Prof. WU Jiewei

**Home Uni:** Peking University (School of Foreign Languages)  
**Host:** Asst. Prof. Sejin Koo  
**Host Uni:** Nazarbayev University (School of Humanities and Social Sciences)  
**Date of Visit:** 19 Aug-2 Sep 2018

I delivered a lecture entitled ‘Understanding the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)’. I conducted academic exchanges with Prof. Koo on ‘China Image’ in Kazakhstan, China-Kazakhstan relationship, and the international impact of the BRI. I also interviewed students to understand the direct impression Kazakhstan society has on the ‘China Image’, and the expectation of the relationship between China and Kazakhstan. The field study activities increased my intuitive understanding of Kazakhstan and expanded my international academic vision. If given the opportunity, I would like to recommend the AUA Scholars Award Program to other professors and receive international scholars to Peking University as a host professor.

Assoc. Prof. XIA Lu

**Home Uni:** Peking University (School of Foreign Languages)  
**Host:** Dr. Theerawat Theerapojanee  
**Host Uni:** Chulalongkorn University (Faculty of Arts)  
**Date of Visit:** 1-15 Jul 2018

I had in-depth exchanges with relevant professors and scholars, and learned about the teaching of Chinese language, culture and literature in Thai universities. I conducted interviews with many writers, poets and artists, and understood the dissemination and influence of contemporary Chinese literature in Thailand which was the focus of my visit.
Dr. YAP Teng Teng

Home Uni: Universiti Malaya (Dept. of Malaysian Languages and Applied Linguistics)
Host: Prof. Dong Xiufang
Host Uni: Peking University (Dept. of Chinese Language and Literature)
Date of Visit: 4-18 Nov 2018

“During my visit to HKUST, I became interested in Prof. Hong’s newly opened course on film and world politics. I became engrossed with the HKUST campus facilities; the university is a forerunner in globalization academically and otherwise. Prof. Hong kindly offered her Fridays entirely so as to share her own thoughts in teaching politics to undergraduate students over the weekdays. I found it enchanting that she and I had something in common when it comes to teaching politics in class by taking advantage of visual and digital resources. We exchanged thoughts and ideas on utilizing digital resources, especially films, in class.”

Prof. Okyeon Yi

Home Uni: Seoul National University (Dept. of Political Science and International Relations)
Host: Asst. Prof. Ji Yeon Hong
Host Uni: The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Division of Social Science)
Date of Visit: 11-30 Mar 2019

“My main aim was to develop an understanding of the latest research on Chinese linguistics especially on morphology and syntax as theoretical methods used by the professor and her research group. Based on our communication, we have engendered new knowledge and discoveries and promoted the development of a globally-engaged linguistics workforce.”
Ms. Rozalina Zakaria

**Home Uni:** Universiti Malaya (Photonics Research Center)
**Host:** Assoc. Prof. Cuk Imawan
**Host Uni:** Universitas Indonesia (Dept. of Physics)
**Date of Visit:** 1-20 Aug 2018

I found the workshop on Research of Physics very useful as they have a femtosecond laser for nanoparticles fabrication utilizing laser ablation in liquid. The presenters in the workshop were good speakers in their fields of laser and femtosecond laser. I found out this was a good start for me to collaborate with researchers from this institute as they already collaborate with UI. The main objective was achieved as we found an appropriate research topic for further collaboration each year.
AUA Scholars Award Program Application Guidelines (Excerpts)

1. General Information

a) AUA Scholars shall research/lecture/study at the host university for a minimum of 10 working days.
b) AUA provides a total of 2,000 USD grant to each AUA Scholar.
c) A maximum of 60 applicants will be granted the AUA Scholars Award each year.

2. Benefits to AUA Scholars

a) AUA Scholars will have the opportunity to broaden research perspectives and establish/maintain international academic links with their overseas peers.
b) AUA Scholars may have the opportunity to advance their research by approaching needed facilities, unique data, or leading scholars.
c) AUA Scholars will gain international experience in teaching and research in a new academic environment.
d) AUA Scholars will receive a total of 2,000 USD grant (including tax and bank charges generated from the recipient’s side) and a certificate after the visit.

3. Eligibility of AUA Scholars

This award is open to scholars who meet the following requirements.
a) Candidates must be employed as full-time faculty members or researchers of an AUA member. This award is open to scholars of all disciplines and research areas.
b) The academic visit shall be no shorter than 10 working days. Please kindly note:
   - A working day means a weekday that is scheduled with academic activities.
   - Arrival or departure days are not considered as working days.
c) Candidates shall have a detailed visit plan, which is approved by the host professor. The host professor shall be a professor or researcher employed by the host university.
d) Candidates’ research/lectures/study shall be based at the host university.