

All set to take on the world

THE achievements of 1,057 students graduating from various undergraduate and post-graduate programmes at Sunway University were celebrated at a ceremony.

They were from the School of Arts, School of Healthcare and Medical Sciences, School of Science and Technology, School of Hospitality, School of Mathematical Sciences and Sunway University Business School. These included nine graduates with Master's degrees and six with the Doctor of Philosophy degrees respectively.

Congratulating the graduates, Sunway University chancellor Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah said they have reached an important milestone in life.

"To the families, all of us at Sunway University share your pride in celebrating this memorable day.

"We believe that fortune favours the prepared mind. We hope the skills and qualities you have acquired in your time here will provide a strong foundation for your future success," he said in his speech.

Cheah who is also Sunway Group founder and chairman, said that education offers the best route out of poverty, a conviction he came to when he was growing up in Pusing, Perak.

"I witnessed the impact of poverty on families and how it closed off avenues for advancement, especially in education, for many of my childhood friends.

"This belief led to my determination to do all that I can to make quality education accessible to as many deserving young Malaysians as possible.

"As soon as I was able to, we established the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation (JCF) to help create a better society. I endowed all of my equity in the Sunway's educational institutions to the foundation, in perpetuity.

"The gift is worth more than RM1bil. Through the JCF, I hope to provide our children with opportunities for quality education for a better future for all," he said.

The foundation has awarded more than RM402mil in scholarships to date, he said, adding that another RM65mil is being given out this year.

Another core mission of the JCF is to advance knowledge and promote excellence in education.

"In this context, we have established partnerships and collaborations with world-renowned institutions.

"In fact, we have just launched the Future Cities Research Institute (FCRI) at Sunway University," he said.

The research institute, he added, is a col-

laboration between Sunway University and its long-standing partner, Lancaster University in the United Kingdom.

The FCRI will complement the work of the Jeffrey Sachs Centre on Sustainable Development at Sunway University.

"Sunway University has now been ranked among the top universities in the world. "Despite our relative youth, we are now on the world university rankings list.

"It is a proud moment for us and it demonstrates our determination to deliver the best we can to our students.

"We will continue to strive to make Sunway University a leading global institution which you will be proud to call your alma mater," said Cheah.

Sunway University is ranked 751-800 in the *QS World University Rankings 2020*.

Cheah advised the graduates to give back to society in whatever way they can.

"A fulfilled life is a life filled with purpose and meaning. And a purpose for all of us is about living a meaningful life and helping society," he said.

The valedictorian for the morning session was Sharifah Aliah Syed Alwi Alhabshi who graduated with first class honours in Communication. In her speech, she used the Rubik's Cube as a metaphor to explain the stages of her university years and how she finally placed all the pieces together.

"As soon as we step out the front door, we move on to the next stage of life," she said. She is now working at an international advertising agency.

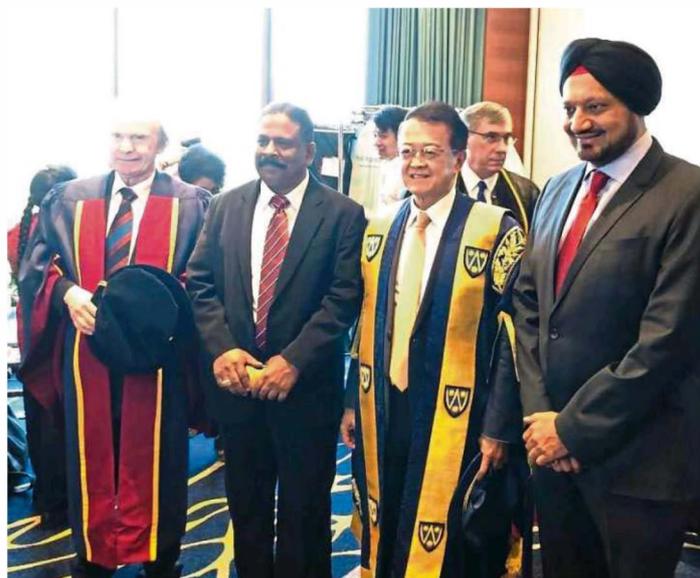
Chan Huei Huei who obtained first class honours in Marketing, was the valedictorian for the afternoon session. During her speech, Chan, a customer insight executive, thanked her family members and the lecturers for their constant support during her time at the university.

Graduates received their scrolls from Cheah and Sunway University pro-chancellor Prof Tan Sri Dr Lin See-Yan in the afternoon and morning session respectively.

Representing the Lancaster University to award the graduating class with scrolls was its chancellor Alan Milburn. Its pro-vice-chancellor (Engagement) Prof Dame Sue Black was also present.

Thirty graduates got the Jeffrey Cheah Scholastic Awards.

Also present were Sunway University Jeffrey Cheah distinguished professor Prof Jarlath Ronayne, former Penang police chief Datuk Seri A. Thaveegan and former Securities Commission Malaysia chairman Tan Sri Ranjit Ajit Singh.



(From left) Prof Ronayne, Thaveegan, Cheah and Ranjit at the graduation ceremony.

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