

A partnership worth celebrating

SUNWAY College celebrated its 20th year of partnership with Victoria University (VU) of Australia recently at a gala dinner held at the Sunway Lagoon Resort & Spa.

Among those who attended the event were Sunway Education Group member of the board of directors Puan Sri Dr Susan Cheah; Sunway Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) (Education and Healthcare) Dr Lee Weng Keng; VU deputy vice-chancellor (Engagement & Commercial) Prof Duncan Bentley; Sunway Group senior general manager (Group Branding Marketing and Communication) Jane Poh; Sunway College head (Australian University Programme) Greeja Hemalata De Silva; VU head (MBA) Dr Hendry Ng Han Swee; VU Foundation vice-chancellor Prof Jarlath Ronayne; Sunway International School executive director and Sunway College director (Pre-University) Cheng Mien Wee; and Sunway Education Group chief financial officer Ng Kok Cheng.

Sunway Group and Sunway College founder and chairman Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah and Susan are alumni of VU, the former being instrumental in establishing a relationship between Sunway College and VU in 1987. Sunway College is one of the education pioneers offering twinning programmes in Malaysia and the VU Bachelor of Business degree programme is the longest standing twinning programme in the country.

Dr Lee commended VU for its contribution over the last 20 years towards the growth of Sunway Education Group which turned 27 in 2014.

The Sunway Education Group, being a pioneer twinning programmes provider in Malaysia, provides Malaysians the options of obtaining a foreign university degree locally.

Dr Lee added that the government granted Sunway Education Group permission to conduct "3-0" degree programmes in 1999, thus giving students the ability to earn a highly accredit-

ed foreign qualification without the high cost of living overseas.

The VU MBA programme at a postgraduate level was launched in 2004.

The VU undergraduate and postgraduate programmes nurture graduates into alumni who are successful in various industries.

Prof Bentley commended Jeffrey, Sunway Education Group and Sunway University senior executive director Elizabeth Lee, and Prof Ronayne for their vision of providing an international education for young Malaysians and attributed the success of VU Malaysia to these individuals.

"The Sunway-VU collaboration has overcome challenges and innovated to respond to markets and regulators. It is a team effort driven by the dedication and commitment of people working together across borders," said Prof Bentley, adding that the alumni and students stood as a testament to the power of education to transform lives.

"As we look back on our journey we remember not the buildings, not the programmes, but the people: our classmates, our teachers, leaders and mentors," he said.

VU Australia will hold its centennial celebrations in 2016 and Prof Bentley hopes that the university and Sunway College will continue to work together for the next 80 years to celebrate a centenary of partnership.

VU at Sunway College has expanded tremendously. From 40 enrolled students in 1994, to date it has more than 2,200 VU Bachelor of Business graduates and more than 400 VU MBA graduates - the first VU-Malaysian graduation ceremony was held in 2001.

The gala dinner saw more than 300 current students, alumni, staff, invited guests as well as key personalities from both Sunway and VU celebrating the 20th Anniversary. It was also a night of appreciation for those who had walked with Sunway College and VU in the 20 year journey.



20 years and counting: (From left): Poh, De Silva, Dr Ng, Dr Lee, Susan, Prof Bentley, Prof Ronayne, Cheng and Ng.

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