

First edition a success

Inaugural Biometric School receives good feedback from participants

KUCHING: The first edition of Biometric School 2012 (www.biometricschool.org) which took place in the city with about 20 participants from Malaysia, Iran, and Algeria was considered a great success.

It was sponsored by two non-profit academic bodies: Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and International Association of Pattern Recognition (IAPR).

The lectures were delivered by nine established researchers in the field namely Prof Jaihye Kim from Korea (Touchless Fingerprint Recognition and Biometrics & Privacy Protection), Prof Davide Maltoni from Italy (Fingerprint Recognition: State of the Art and Novel Developments); Dr Karthik Nandakumar from Singapore (Fusion Strategies and Template Security in Biometric Systems), and Dr Norman Poh from the United Kingdom (Novel Research Directions in Multimodal Biometrics: Incorporating Quality, Cohort and Client-dependent Information).

The week-long intensive course from Jan 9 to 13 also featured Dr Zhenan Sun (China) on Iris Recognition: State of the Art, Issues and Challenges; Dr Terence Sim (Singapore) on Face Recognition in Challenging Conditions, Facial Pre-processing, Learning and Inference; Dr Andrew Teoh (Korea) on Biometric-key Computation, Prof Kar-ann Toh (Korea) on Linear and Advanced Classifier Design for Biometric Systems, and Prof Michael Wagner (Australia) on Speaker Recognition and Forensics.

The course offered participants the latest development in biometrics, covering such topics as face, fingerprint, iris and speaker recognition, as well as multimodal biometric and cryptosystems.

Apart from regular lectures, there were also two hands-on tutorials and a poster session that took place in the evenings.

The social activities included a trip to the Sarawak Cultural Village.

One feature of the school that was different from a conventional meeting was the location.

The school was held at a rainforest resort, about 40km from the city, where the accommodation and lecture room were blended into the forest.

For many, this was their first experience.

According to participants' feedback, the event was a great opportunity



Good course: The first edition of Biometric School 2012 participants which took place in Kuching last month was conducted successfully.

to get connected with the biometrics research community and most importantly was to get accurate and the latest information on the subject matter or modality used in the research.

They found presentations by the keynote speakers very informative and interesting while the hands-on workshop session was very useful to give clearer understanding of certain topics.

They said the location was very beautiful, excellent in services and the speakers or presenters were well-prepared.

All respondents said that they would attend the event again and Kuala Lumpur was suggested as the venue for the next edition.

The organising committee was grateful for the financial support of PatternAnalysis, Statistical Modelling and Computational Learning

(PASCAL2), an EU-funded network of excellence with a focus on machine-learning; United Technology (M) Sdn Bhd, a technology consulting company who promotes training on biometrics through IEEE Certified Biometrics Programme (IEEE CBP); and, Advanced Computing Academy for awarding scholarships to postgraduate research students with limited financial support.

UCSI University's Pre-U Day on Feb 18 and 19

KUCHING: UCSI University Sarawak Campus is holding its Pre-U Day on Feb 18 and 19 to offer the public an opportunity to learn more about its GCE A-level programme.

Intake for the programme is now in progress.

With 10 years of experience in conducting the Edexcel GCE A-level programme, the campus has remained as the leading GCE A-level provider in the state.

It has produced hundreds of alumni pursuing degree programmes locally and universities all over the world. Most of them have completed their studies and many are now working as doctors, engineers and pharmacists.

Instructors also hold important roles in inspiring and influencing students' achievements.

They believe in long-term learning of the content and development of skills such as communication, collaboration and coordination.

The Pre-U Day at the Jalan Tun Jugah campus is open from 10am and 5pm.

Visitors are welcomed to tour the campus to view the laboratory and other facilities.

Students and parents will be able to interact with the course counsellors and to meet the professional academic staff to learn more about their programmes.

For more information call +6082-455 255 or email askswk@ucsi.edu.my.

Institute to host sessions on production of 1Malaysia rubber clone

KUCHING: DLT Institute will be conducting two separate talk sessions – from 9am-12 noon and 2pm-5pm – at Mega Hotel in Miri on Feb 11, which will be the starting events for the institute's outreach programme this year.

About 200 participants are expected to attend the talk, themed "Expert@ Talks on the Production of 1Malaysia Rubber Clone", which will primarily focus on the up-to-date technologies or "know-hows" of producing high-yield rubber planting materials. Processes involved in the cloning of the 1Malaysia Rubber Clone (RRIM3001) will be discussed in great detail by the experts, including member of the Malaysian Rubber Board, Dr Elli Luhat.

Fee for the talk will be RM150 per participant for each session. Registration for both sessions begins at 8.30 for the morning session and 1.30 for the afternoon session.

For further enquiry, contact the organiser at 013-805 0501 or 013-818 2977.

DBKU's Quintet Plus to perform this Sunday

KUCHING: The Musical Sundays event at the Sarawak Museum Bandstand at 4.30pm this weekend will feature Quintet Plus of Kuching City North Commission (DBKU).

The group was formed on Nov 1,

2011 by Datuk Bandar Abang Abdul Wahap Abang Julai, who is himself a music lover and a member of a band when he was in the police force.

DBKU Quintet Plus is made up of Stephen Yerima Adam, who is the

band leader and lead guitarist; Abdul Sa'ee, rhythm guitar; Mohd Yazid Bustamam, bassist; Abang Safian Abang Narawi, percussionist; and Mohamad Bakri, backing guitar. The lead singer is Awang Adlan Awang Bujang.

The band will entertain the crowd with Latin music and hits from the 60s such as *Fly Me To The Moon*, *Girl from Ipanema*, *Quizas, Besame Mucho* and *Sway*. They will also perform songs composed by Tan Sri P Ramlee.

IPW to hold preview of UTM accounting programme

KUCHING: Institut Perdagangan Wawasan (IPW) will hold a preview starting from 9am-6pm on Feb 11-12. The institute is offering prospective students a basic certificate-level programme in business accounting,

and provide training to candidate to be qualified and meet the standards required by Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) Space Professional Diploma In Accounting and Finance for further progression to top profes-

sional programmes.

To be more effective, the size class will be small with 15 people per class to allow better interaction between lecturers and students.

The IPW will be offering an early-

bird enrolment discount for a limited time only. Those keen to register for the coming preview should contact Jong or Yap at 014-994 0531, 016-865 4188, 012-882 4891 or 082-458 310.