

TAR UC Team Proves Financial Prowess



TAKING part in competitions to test their subject-matter expertise has become the norm among students keen to prove themselves. For Ng Poh Yi, Cheah Zhi Yu, Tan Jen Zhong, Peggie Wong Pei Chi and Kieran Lim Shen Jie from Tunku Abdul Rahman University College (TAR UC), their team participation at the CFA Institute Research Challenge 2021/2022 has propelled them to advance their skills further.

Recently crowned champions at the local finals, the Bachelor of Finance and Investment (Hons) students are one of the top two teams representing Malaysia at the Asia-Pacific sub-regional finals of the competition, which starts today.

At the challenge held annually, participating teams are required to research a designated publicly traded company, prepare a written report on that company and then, present their findings to a panel of judges comprising CFA charterholders who are investment professionals.

“Doing a detailed research and performing a valuation of the company required in-depth equity analysis skills and knowledge. So it was a steep learning curve for us to try to apply what we had learnt in classes.

“The main challenge was to apply real-world practical knowledge that we lacked. To overcome that, we spent time reading real market analyst reports and listening to podcasts.

“We also distributed the tasks to each team member according to our strengths in different areas,” said team leader Poh Yi in a recent press release of their journey to the local finals where five out of the 29 participating teams from 18 universities had been selected to compete.

Poh Yi said participating in a competition such as the CFA Institute Research Challenge helps her to achieve her objective of improving herself. “I heard that it is very challenging and that motivated me to take part in it to prove to myself that I could do it, and also to evaluate myself in terms of my knowledge and skills against students from other universities,” she said.

“It helps that my team members are as motivated as I am. We frequently had brainstorming sessions and kept encouraging each other not to give up as the competition was very demanding. Each team member played their role well and produced high quality work,” she added.

Having senior lecturer Wang Ah Yong as their advisor has given the team a boost in morale, Poh Yi said. “He has been our pillar of strength and he inspires us greatly. He kept reminding us to be confident and have the mindset that we are good enough to win and to never feel inferior in terms of knowledge and skills when competing with others.

He also guided us in our presentation, and question and answer sessions,” she shared. The winners of the sub-regional competition will be announced by March 30. They will then advance to the regional finals of the competition, which will culminate in one team being crowned global champion at the global finals.