

TAR UC's Golden Girl



AN accounting fresh graduate from Tunku Abdul Rahman University College (TAR UC) shows she has what it takes to shine outside her core focus area. Fresh from her victory at the national round, Tan Seh Er continued her streak of excellence at the grand final of the International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL) Asia Digital Challenge 2021, where she was tested on her data analytics knowledge. Held virtually on Sept 7, it saw her competing with other national winners from the AsiaPacific region, and claiming the Gold Award under the Business Track (Tertiary) category.

The win came as a surprise to her as based on her evaluation of her own performance, she said she had only expected to take home the Silver Award. “When all the Silver Award winners were announced, I was quite disappointed that my name was not called,” she shared in a TAR UC press release dated Sept 20.

“Winning the Gold Award was totally unexpected,” she said. To prepare for the grand final, Tan, who was one of the Gold Prize winners at the national round, relied on her resourcefulness to look for materials that would help improve her understanding of data analytics, a subject which was new to her.

“Although the e-textbook provided by the ICDL Foundation was sufficient to study in preparation for this competition, I still went online to search for more examples and gather more information on topics which were unfamiliar to me. “Most of the time, I was able to get precise information and it helped me understand the topics better,” she shared.

Having just entered the workforce as an audit associate, the Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) graduate found that her studies at TAR UC, coupled with the exposure and skills she had picked up from joining the competition, had equipped her for the role.

“The computing skills I learned during my studies, as well as those covered in the ICDL modules, are very useful, and this knowledge helps me complete my work faster,” she said. She added that the computer skills certification programme offered by the ICDL Foundation assists learners in building personal competency in using a computer and common computer applications.

“Being efficient in my daily tasks is important. Therefore, having the skills and knowledge to use various Microsoft Excel functions such as VLOOKUP, Advanced Filter and Pivot Table is really an asset. “I also had the opportunity to learn how to utilise Microsoft Power BI, a data visualisation tool which I believe will come in handy in my current job and in the future,” she said.

Held over six months, the fourth edition of the ICDL Asia Digital Challenge drew 500 contestants from nine territories across the Asia-Pacific region. The competition was aimed at fostering practical digital skills, such as emerging technologies, data analytics, design, and the use of office application tools, required of various professionals in the workplace today and the future.

Tan is the second student from TAR UC to have advanced to the grand final and the first to have won a Gold Award at that stage. In the 2018 edition, another TAR UC student Wong Yik Han, who had emerged as the national champion, went on to win a bronze medal at the grand final, held in Bangkok, Thailand

