

# Bridging Gaps: TAR UMT's Bold Move Towards Academia-Industry Synergy, Reveals Dr Wee

KUALA LUMPUR: In a significant stride towards intertwining academic research with industry practice, Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong, chairman of the TARC Education Foundation board of trustees, emphasized the critical need for industry players to collaborate with universities.

This approach, according to Dr Wee, is crucial for the commercialisation of products and is set to bridge the gap between industry and academia effectively.

Highlighting the event at Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology's (TAR UMT) InnoGratitude Day 2024, Dr Wee pointed out that Malaysia's current research and development (R&D) spending relative to its GDP is considerably low. He advocated for an increase in investment in R&D and called for industries to initiate more collaboration with universities to harness the latest technologies and elevate knowledge.

Envisioning Future Collaborations In his speech, Dr Wee laid out the importance of industry collaboration in the growth trajectory of TAR UMT, as outlined in its ambitious 10-year roadmap. The university aspires to become a leader in innovative academiaindustry collaborations, a vision celebrated during the InnoGratitude Day with the unveiling of the Academia Enterprise Partnership logo.

The event also saw Dr Wee presenting awards to 83 industry partners, acknowledging their vital role in fostering innovation and practical solutions relevant to the industry. Enriching Educational Experiences Dr Wee further elaborated on how collaborations between academia and industry not only produce tangible solutions but also enrich students' educational experiences. Exposure to real-world problems and industry best practices through these partnerships equips students with industry-ready skills and opens up potential career pathways.

This aligns with TAR UMT's Beyond Education philosophy, which emphasizes all-rounded development focusing on relevant experiences and skills. Future Aspirations and Collaborations During the closing remarks, Prof Dr Lee Sze Wei, president of TAR UMT, expressed optimism for establishing more collaborations in the future to elevate the university to new heights.

Echoing this sentiment, Dr Wee, in a post-event Facebook message, highlighted a successful collaboration with Technology Visionary Sdn Bhd, one of the university's varied industry partners. This partnership, among others, exemplifies TAR UMT's commitment to playing a pivotal role in the socio-economic development of the country through meaningful academia-industry synergies.

From its humble beginnings as a community college in 1969 to achieving full-fledged university status in 2022, TAR UMT's journey reflects its enduring dedication to education and innovation.

Through such collaborative efforts, TAR UMT is set to forge a path towards shaping a future where academia and industry not only coexist but thrive together, making substantial impacts in nation-building and beyond.

