

TAR UMT has 'galloped' a long way

KUALA LUMPUR: Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology (TAR UMT) will continue expanding access to education, especially for students from under-privileged families, says Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong.

What began as a modest endeavour has since grown into a distinguished university producing graduates who contribute meaningfully to society, both locally and globally, said the MCA president.

Reflecting on nearly six decades of expanding access to quality education, Dr Wee, who is the chairman of the TARC Education Foundation board of trustees, said Feb 24 marks 57 years since the then Tunku Abdul Rahman College opened its doors to its first cohort of students in 1969.

"The institution's journey reflected the strength, courage and unity that defined its founding.

"On this significant occasion, we gather not only to reflect on our rich history but also to honour the values and vision that have shaped us into the institution we are today," he said in his speech to mark Foundation Day celebration at the university yesterday.

Founded as Tunku Abdul Rahman College in 1969, the institution was upgraded to Tunku

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Abdul Rahman University College (TAR UC) in 2013 before attaining full university status as TAR UMT in 2022.

"TAR UMT, a non-profit institution, has produced more than 300,000 graduates since its establishment in 1969," he said.

Drawing a parallel with the Year of the Horse, Dr Wee said: "In Chinese culture, the horse represents strength, energy and a relentless drive towards success. This spirit perfectly mirrors the journey of TAR UMT.

"Our founders worked with the strength and courage of a galloping horse to establish an institution dedicated to high-quality, affordable education for all Malaysians."

He also highlighted Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's recent visit to the university, during which he commended TAR UMT's commitment to academic excellence anchored in humanitarian values.

He noted that the Prime Minister had emphasised the need for universities to produce graduates who are not only intel-



Fostering excellence: (Front row, starting second from left) Yew, Tan, Mah, Dr Wee, Liow, Chong and other special guests posing for a group photograph with the audience during TAR UMT's 57th Foundation Day. — IZZRAFIQ ALIAS/The Star

lectually capable but socially conscious – a principle that aligns with TAR UMT's "Beyond Education" philosophy.

"This is what TAR UMT's philosophy is all about," Dr Wee said, adding that many alumni have gone on to become industry leaders while remaining grounded and committed to serving society.

He also paid tribute to the wider TARCian community – faculty, staff, alumni and students – saying their dedication has sustained and strengthened the insti-

tution's mission over nearly six decades.

"The dedication of our faculty and staff has given life to the Beyond Education dream.

"Our alumni's footprint proves the efficacy of our philosophy, and our students will continue to carry the 'Beyond Education' spirit forward," he said.

Calling for unity and continuity, Dr Wee urged the TAR UMT community to honour its heritage while working towards a stronger future.

"Let us celebrate our unity, honour our heritage, and continue working towards a promising future," he said.

Also present during the event were TAR UMT members of the board of trustees – Datin Paduka Tan Siok Choo, Tan Sri Liow Tiong Lai, Datuk Dr Mah Hang Soon and Datuk Seri Yew Teong Look – and TAR UMT board of governors member Datuk Chong Sin Woon, former TAR UMT board of trustees member Tan Sri Fong Chan Onn and other guests.