FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...

Greetings! By now you would have realised how serious Taylor's is in its pursuit towards a full-fledged university. The timely appointment of Professor Dato' Dr. Hassan Said as Vice Chancellor and President of Taylor's University College (TUC) and the restructuring of the organisation at both TUC and Taylor's College, has further strengthened our ambition.

From 22 to 26 June 2009, we successfully organised the inaugural Taylor's Research InFocus. More than 500 staff (13% of whom attended more than one day) attended the 5-day event. Throughout the week, top notch speakers from both the public and private institutions of higher education in Malaysia reiterated the importance of research and publications in the life of an academician and for Taylor's to climb the ladder to become a top ranked university in the region.

A university is a learning community, charged with the noble task of expanding and preserving the collective knowledge and wisdom of the human species. Part of our job as an academic is to expand these frontiers via teaching; as a natural corollary, research becomes an equally important part of our job. Through teaching, we train both the next generation of researchers and more broadly the next generation of global citizens. Neither is more important than the other, nor can the two be fully separated.

We have to face the fact that good research is also a prerequisite for good teaching – since good teaching is much more than simply the transfer of an identified body of knowledge. Many students who are inspired to go on to graduate school can trace that decision to a faculty mentor whose research captivated them. Similarly, good teaching also sets the stage for good research. It is often only when we have to communicate our ideas, whether to our colleagues or to our students, that we clarify them sufficiently in our own minds to comprehend the way forward.

Certain accolades in our world are reserved for those who are good at research, but not teaching – and conversely for those who are good at teaching, but not research. But a faculty position as an academic at a university is certainly not one of them. Hence, the syndrome, "Publish or perish" is applicable. But at the same time, "Teach well or perish" is equally important.

Cheers
Vic Nair

ENGINEERING INDUSTRIAL AWARDS 2009
Solar Water Purifier Inventors Win Top Honours

Five engineering projects by Taylor's School of Engineering students won top honours at the inaugural Engineering Industrial Awards 2009 held at Taylor's University College on Friday, 17 April 2009.

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