Year 2011 has come and gone in a breeze. How has Taylor’s University fared in their pursuit to become successful in their research agenda? Well, there were many accolades that we bagged for 2011 but the mother of all these accolades must surely be the RM9 million grant received for our Responsible Rural Tourism Project. This success has indeed further propelled the research focus at Taylor’s University in general and the School of Hospitality, Tourism and Culinary Arts in particular. The confidence that the Ministry of Higher Education has in Taylor’s University to award such a mammoth project to us certainly speaks highly of the capabilities of the university.

In this final issue of INSIGHT 2011, a record 30 research conference papers that were presented by the academic staff of Taylor’s across the globe are abstracted. Indeed, this clearly has shown that the number of staff active in research has grown significantly over the years. Three landmark journal publications from the new School of Education, School of Business and School of Hospitality, Tourism and Culinary Arts are presented in this issue. A high quality ‘coffee-table’ book on architecture entitled, ‘Mission Schools of Malaya’, authored by an academic from Taylor’s School of Architecture, Building and Design, was published by Taylor’s Press. Bravo to all of them for this truly great achievement.

The second batch of the 2011 recipients of the Taylor’s Research Grants Scheme (TRGS) totaling RM110, 463 has been announced. Indeed the quality of the research proposals is improving and the competition for the limited grants is intense. I hope that those who were not successful do not feel dejected. It is not that your proposal was not up to mark, it is just that there were too many excellent proposals to choose from. Try again for 2012 and also seek out external grants from the government or the industry.

Also featured in this issue is the major event that was organised successfully by Taylor’s School of Hospitality, Tourism and Culinary Arts – the 5th THE-ICE (International Centre of Excellence in Tourism and Hospitality Education) International Panel of Experts Forum 2011 and the 2nd Graduate Research Colloquium in Hospitality and Tourism. To add icing to the event, two of the three papers co-authored by Taylor’s academics and postgraduate students won the best paper award at the event.

Year 2012 will continue to be another eventful year as far as research and development is concerned. Our focus will be to excel in the SETARA and MyRA rating that will position Taylor’s University as a provider of high quality education.

Cheers and Happy New Year 2012.

Assoc Prof Dr Vikneswaran Nair
Director, Research & Development
vicky.nair@taylors.edu.my