



YAYASAN
KHAZANAH

Newsletter

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From the Editor's Desk

Dear Scholars,

We all in YK came back to our office on 3rd of January. I took the usual route driving through the DUKE and NKVE highways and was amazed by the number of vehicles on the road. It looked as if people wanted to be out in the open making their ways to places that they went to almost religiously pre-pandemic days, wanted to be go back to the earlier days where colleagues gathered for breakfast before office-hours started, where meetings were now convened physically.

It's difficult to believe that things started to get back to normal as I opened my laptop on my office table, half-expecting that I was no longer required to attend the meeting on 'Zoom'. Suddenly, it struck me that normalcy had started to kick in and things which I used to do for the past 2 years were no longer happening. It seemed that after over a year of isolation, I had really forgotten how to act. I am sure many people probably feel that way, too. I now realized that all the things I had done online, working through the days clad in either pyjamas or active wears slowly fading into the horizon.

I needed to come to term with what's happening now and to prepare myself for the transition. The truth is we can never go back to before. Some forms of adjustments need to take place and we need to be adaptive. As we have experienced with the Delta and Omicron variants, things could change in the blink of an eye. Hence, we need to be ready to pivot.

The past years had left us with many lessons, most of which were riddled with tragedy, pain and disappointment. But amidst the chaos, a light came through bringing with it rays of hope. Learn from the past mistakes and appreciate the things that we usually take for granted. Take this chance to grow and be more appreciative of what's around us. Keep tab of all the important lessons learnt.

My dear scholars, don't go back to that 2019 way of life. Let's all continue to be appreciative, continue to seek change and growth, and continue to be hopeful. On a personal note, the hope that I have for all of you is to always remember to be grateful – despite all the challenges and setbacks, we at YK continue to support our scholars in all endeavours. We are grateful for the responsibility to nurture the next generation of talents and we are hopeful that the future of the country would be in the good hands of such leaders who are coming out from our very own stable, insyaallah.

'Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness' – Desmond Tutu

Sincerely,

Intan

Head, Yayasan Khazanah

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Arpita Bhattacharjee

Bachelor of Electronics and
Telecommunication Engineering

Multimedia University

“Hope is the Dream of a Soul Awake”: we should not lose our faith in what we desire or dream to achieve. Thus, our hope will keep us moving ahead towards our goals. I always believe “Hope” is that single word that has the power to transform a person’s life into what they have imagined. If the hope is not there, we will have no reason to fight against all the odds, no aspiration, no goals. Hope makes us believe that whatever we do will eventually happen no matter what. Yes, it is hope which keeps us going in life, gives us strength, and inspires us to try again.

The reason why “Hope” is such a big word to me is that every time I fail in a venture or despaired or disheartened, it is hope

and only hope that sustains me, teaches me to strive to seek, to find, and not to yield. One day I wanted to give up because I thought maybe I was not worthy of anything and everything seemed difficult for me to deal with. Then I understood, my dream was fading, I was getting out of my goals, and I was having all those negative thoughts because I stopped hoping. Finally, I felt there was no reason to give up because hope is always there no matter how the dark or dangerous conditions and also right there is hope to strengthen my faith in the ultimate success. We all know that the dawn is waiting at the end of the night. No one can claim in the world that they never suffered failures, problems, pains, hardships because these are common occurrences in our life. Of course, it’s hard to bear the pain unless we can hope that a bright future is waiting for us.

“Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.” Hope has the ability to get us through anything we go through in our life. Hope is something that comes with the perception of things that you can’t feel unless you have it for yourself. I strongly believe that one word can change the life of a human being if that person is determined about sketching that one word into their heart.



Haziqah Qasdina binti Abdul Ha’ak

Year 13

Marlborough College Malaysia

Hope. I’m pretty sure everyone knows what it means. If you’re a BTS fan, you might be thinking of J-Hope and his catchphrase, “I’m your hope, you’re my hope, I’m J-Hope.” If you’re a normal person, you’ll be thinking of that feeling and desire of achieving something or trusting that something you wished could happen would happen. I remember the moment I was applying for Bestari Scholarship when I was 14. A few days after sending my application and completing the IQ tests, my friends and I were slapped with rejection letters. Our hopes were crushed. Completely. But still, I took that sign to start anew, to be completely sure that my place was in the government boarding school, and I was not going to let the rejection become the sole reason I’d stop chasing my dreams. That rejection letter actually acted as a push for me to strive harder and better at my previous school.

But it turned out that it was sent out by mistake to all applicants, and I actually got the scholarship. I jumped out of joy.

Now, with Covid-19, it’s tiring and painful to keep on hoping for life to be back to normal again. “It’s only gonna last for a year,” they said. 2020, 2021 and now 2022, our faces are still covered with masks hoping that the creatures smaller than the air particles would not infect us. Healthcare workers are burnt out. Many have lost their families, their sources of incomes, and their hope. Yet, there is still light at the end of the tunnel. We could see the past achievements of scientists and healthcare workers overcoming diseases like tuberculosis, polio, etc. And with the current technological advancements, what’s stopping us from continuing to hope for the best, to always be thinking that, this too, shall pass, like everything that had been in the past. Of course, economically, it would be hard to recover from the huge recession, but we can take it slow.

Easy for me to say this, as though the world is filled with rainbows and colours. I need to admit that this pandemic was not easy for me to go through. Being online doing the IB Diploma was more challenging than what I had expected.

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My mental health was deteriorating and I lost the motivation to study as much as I did during IGCSE years. I thought I would not be able to achieve all my goals that I have always wanted to achieve. For example, going to a university in the States. But, as I continued my research, I found out I actually have a second chance. My academic performance is not everything that would matter in their university admission. I could do my best in writing essays that would showcase me the best. Thank you Khazanah

for providing help with that, and for giving me the chance to stay hopeful. And thank you Allah for the ability to make Duas.

Now, I just hope my dreams will become realities, and you should too.



Cheng Xin Miao

Bachelor of Law

Universiti Malaya

What does one think when the word 'hope' comes to mind? For Albert Einstein, he quoted, 'learn from yesterday, live for today, and hope for tomorrow'. Evidently, hope is what anchors you to move forward in life, the lighthouse in the midst of your dark times, and the reason for making you anticipate the life you wish for would come true. In this sense, hope sounds innocently simple, something which everyone should know of, but reality is that life is not a bed of roses, and hope is slipping away through our fingers without us realizing it.

There is nothing to be ashamed of in admitting that there are depressing moments in life, but the question is how you should deal with them, and this is where 'hope' steps in. With hope, instead of just wallowing in self-loathing and dread, we will be able to bravely look at our fears in the eye, to change our mindset from 'this is impossible to fix' to 'I'm sure there is a way to get through this'. Hope allows us to set our eyes upon the silver lining in every cloud, giving us the strength to wake up every morning, knowing that there may still be problems to counter, but it can be overcome with time, for there is light at the end of every tunnel. For instance, when I was applying for the Yayasan Khazanah scholarship, I was initially overwhelmed with the numerous bright and intellectual youths who were also vying for a place in this prestigious community, and nearly lose hope by falling into

the mentality of 'why would YK select me? Who am I to compete with all these amazing students?' Looking back, it is with utmost confidence that credits should be given to hope and hard work, for it is hope which forced me to look on the bright side, to pep-talk myself into believing that my limit is beyond the sky and push myself further to achieve what I hope for. Hope did not disappoint, for I am now blessed to be part of this wonderful community which gave me the opportunity to grow and enhance myself to become the person I hope to become.

Despite being blessed with knowing the importance of hope, it would however be ignorant to assume that others are also similarly equipped with this gift, for everyone deals with hardships in life differently. For some, hope will dwindle due to trauma from broken family environments, stress, peer bullying and the lack of opportunities provided to take a fresh new step towards a brighter future. In fact, suicidology had revealed that hopelessness played a big part in contributing to suicidal thoughts. It is here where society should step in to share our warmth of hope to others who need it, to lend a listening ear or give a helping hand to reignite the flame of hope within the other person. We cannot guarantee a future free from obstacles, but what we can guarantee is that with hope, we shall be able to let go of the burdens of remorse we carry on our backs and move on with a lighter heart. In short, never lose hope, for hope drives you on to pursue better opportunities in life, to be more optimistic, and subsequently, we may be able to live out the fantasy of the future we have in mind after all.

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Wee Jia Shing
Mathematics / Financial Actuarial

UCLA

Despite, Not Because

Have you ever stared at your palms and wondered if those squiggly lines hold your destiny or are they merely biology? Looking at my own, I'm realizing that these lines sprawl across my palms like map lines, with my unsightly calluses anchoring the roadmaps of my life's journey - the highs, the lows and everything in between. As a kid, whenever Chinese New Year rolled around, we would go house-visiting and Mom would proudly show off my palms to my relatives. After all, both my palms had 断掌 (duàn zhǎng) — in Chinese Palmistry, a single definitive line straight across the palm that 'foretells' great destiny for a man. Ever since Mom learnt of this from her friend who was a Palm-Reader, she would randomly hold my hands and beam in pride, convinced that I was destined to achieve great things, certain that my success was written in the stars. So I did. Throughout Primary School, when my peers were playing Angry Birds after school, I was memorizing my Syarahan script in preparation for the National Competition. While my friends were hanging out at each other's houses, I was working through problem sets to prime myself for Math Olympiad Competitions. Although I partially bought into Mom's conviction that I was 'meant for success', I worked as hard as I could because I couldn't risk losing out. I couldn't risk breaking my 'destiny' and shattering Mom's belief that I was on track to success. And the hard work always paid off when I saw Mom's proud smile from the crowd below the stage. The general trend continued in the early years of High School. I fought hard to be elected into leadership roles and worked tirelessly to prepare myself for competitions. However, as I progressed through High School, the time came for life to start throwing curve balls at me. Hard work wasn't enough anymore. Success wasn't set in stone anymore. During my SPM year, although my peers were confident that I would secure the Valedictorian award and they patiently assured me that my CV indicated that I was the favorite among the candidates, I missed out. My academic performance also started to take a sharp nose dive when Dad was diagnosed with leukemia and eventually passed on. For the first time in my life, I saw doubt in Mom's eyes. After all that has happened, she couldn't bear to expect me to push myself further. I started thinking, perhaps, I wasn't meant for greater things after all. Perhaps, I could only play the best hand based on the cards I was dealt. And perhaps, I wasn't meant to be dealt the Royal Flush.

If I wanted to pursue an education overseas and achieve my dream of becoming an actuary, I had to secure a scholarship. Now that we lost our family's breadwinner, I couldn't expect Mom to fork out decades worth of her frugally saved retirement money to fund my education. The situation I was placed in didn't allow me to opt out. My back was against the wall and I knew that the only way out was to move forward, to find a way to roll with the punches and deal with the curve balls. That was when I realized I wanted this to be an 'Despite' story, not a 'Because' story. Despite all the curve balls, despite how harsh life may be, I want to come out on top, to come out the other side a better person. I refuse to make Dad's passing a reason, and worse still, an excuse for not making it in life. I wanted to show that he did a great job in teaching me to be a man and to take responsibility for my outcomes, instead of blaming it on my circumstances. So I reshuffled my cards. Performing well on SPM and catching up on academics meant that I needed to compartmentalize my emotions and focus on my studies. My calluses came from picking up my slack around the house and helping with the chores, alleviating some burden off Mom since she had to drive me to school, tuition and everything else that used to be a two-person job. At the same time, as the only child at home since my sister was working out of state, I made sure to keep Mom company and ensure that she didn't feel alone at home. In that one year, with Mom and my sister's support, I managed to turn my Ds and Es around and achieve straight As in SPM, eventually securing Yayasan Khazanah's Global Scholarship programme to pursue my education in the United States. During my YK interview I still remember Mr Kamarul and Pn Intan asking me to promise that I would call home everyday if I was boarding in KYUEM or staying abroad. While I continue to work hard to ensure that YK's investment in me will pay off for Malaysia, for now, I can only show my appreciation by keeping my promise to Mr Kamarul and Pn Intan to this very day. Perhaps, hope comes from taking destiny in your own hands. It's not about 断掌, or what is written in the stars. If we are able to take responsibility for our successes just as much as our failures, we learn that everything that doesn't go our way is merely another chance to write a 'Despite' story. As long as we open our eyes to a new day, it isn't the final chapter yet. We still have the power, potential and privilege to write our own story, to steer the ship around and tell the world that you made it despite the curve balls that came your way. My callused hands may be hard on the eyes and jarring to the touch, but they tell my story. In the limelight when I make small achievements, they ball up in fist and assure me that my hard work paid off. In the darkest of times when all else seems lost, they wipe my tears and tell me to tough through the toil and to keep having hope. And hopefully, they'll touch lives in the future. This is why I always introduce myself with a handshake. Shake my hand, and you'll know my story.

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Name: *Muhammad Syafiq bin Nor Azmi*

Programme: *Khazanah Watan Scholarship Programme*

University: *Universiti Malaya*

Current Role / Organisation : *Senior Executive, Payments Network Malaysia*

Q: *Tell us a little about your background and why you decided to apply for the Khazanah scholarship?*

A: *Both my parents are educators from the public education sector. Growing up in a household of teachers, we always emphasized that education is the only way forward to improve our socio-economic standing and serve the country. However, studying in a university situated in the heart of Kuala Lumpur incurs a lot of expenses for a mere student like me. I decided to apply for Yayasan Khazanah during my first year in University of Malaya. I felt the need to find my own initiative to lessen the burden of my parents financially, so I decided to apply even though I find it very competitive to secure a spot as a scholar*

Q: *How has the scholarship helped you? Were there any other forms of support besides the usual monetary scholarship?*

A: *The best thing about Yayasan Khazanah is the support they provide for all the scholars. You will go through multiple events such as the YK Scholars Development Program, YK Leadership Conference and YK Forum. The environment within the scholars itself is very positive. I had the chance to meet and become friends with one of the most talented and ambitious group of students in the country. And that itself provided a lot of opportunities and allowed me to be involved in multiple projects and volunteering gigs.*

Q: *What is your current role?*

A: *I am currently a Senior Executive under The Stakeholder Engagement Department, Payments Network Malaysia (PayNet)*

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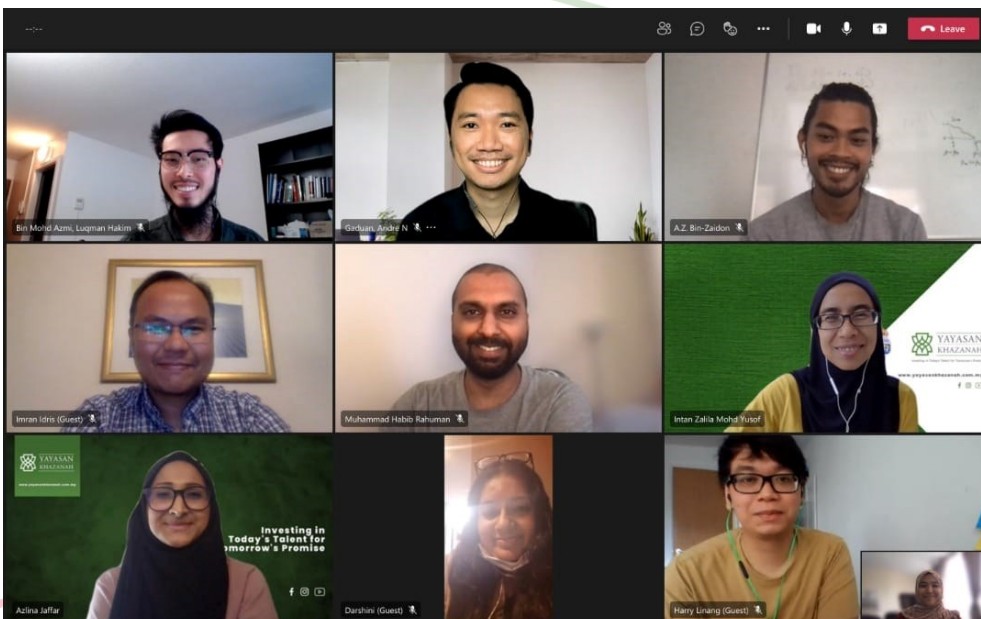
Q: *Given the current economic climate, how important do you think education is in securing a job and staying ahead of other potential candidates?*

A: *Formal education is indeed a requirement for securing a job out there. Try browsing some websites like Job Street or LinkedIn. Most job openings require you to pass a certain amount of CGPA just to apply. Your CGPA plays a huge role to secure yourself a seat for the job interview. But to secure the job itself, you will need more than your grades. Go join an NGO, volunteer with a non-profit, build an app, work with societies and enter a competition – anything to build your soft-skills differentiate you with the rest. The key here is a balance between academics and your extra-curricular activities.*



Q: *Do you have any advice for school leavers out there?*

A: *There is a lot of resources and videos on the internet you can explore. Its always a good idea to research what you can expect from a course, the career pathway and scholarships available. Speaking of scholarships, be very mindful of the deadline to apply. My advice is you should prepare a good resume, list down your achievements in school and brush up your English!*

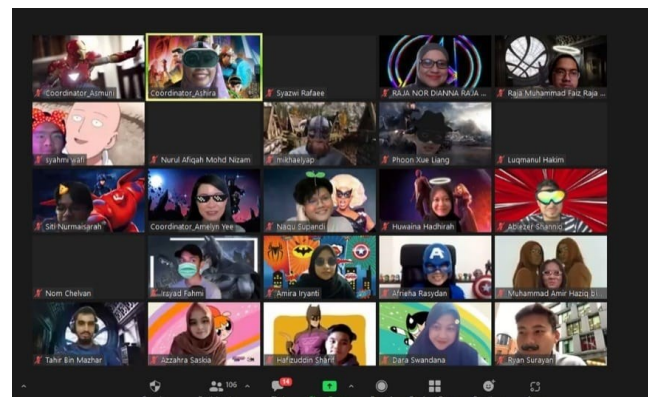
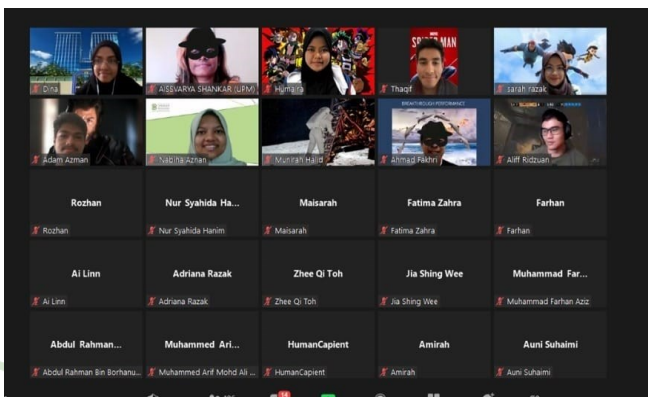
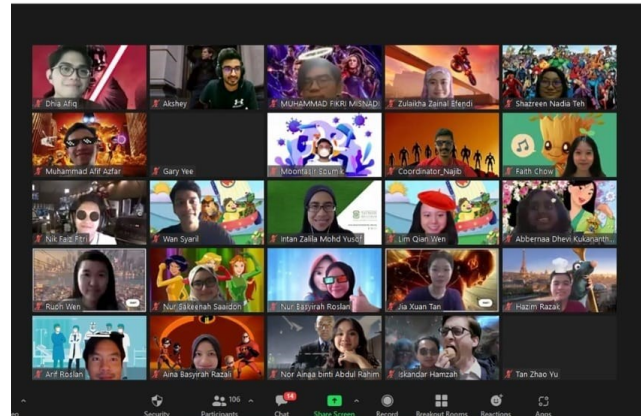
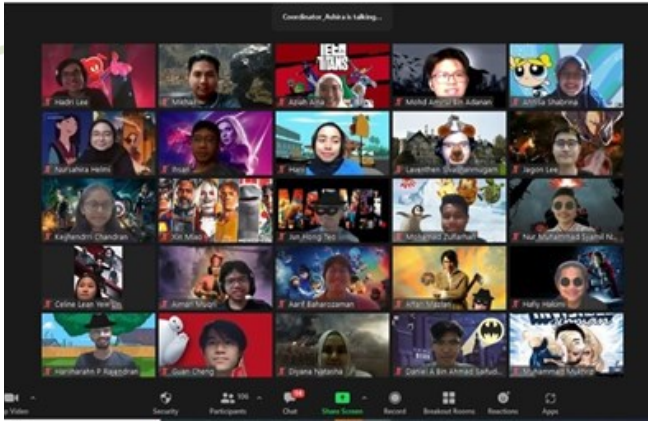


Activities
&
Happenings

It's always a great pleasure to engage with our scholars especially those pursuing PhD. Each of them with unique research, challenges and passion.

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Yayasan Khazanah Premier Scholars Programme, or most commonly known as YKPSP, is a special designed programme for all groups of Yayasan Khazanah scholars; Bestari, Undergraduates and Postgraduates. The main intention of this programme is to supplement their academic knowledge with leadership abilities to prepare them as future leaders of their generation.



Khazanah Scholarship Alumni Association ("KSAA") inaugural fireside chat with our alumnus, Syed Malek Faisal who spoke on Malaysia's renewable energy outlook. Syed Malek has over 20 years of experience in the automotive industry, electric mobility sector and renewable energy. He is currently the Head of Business Development for PETRONAS New Energy.

