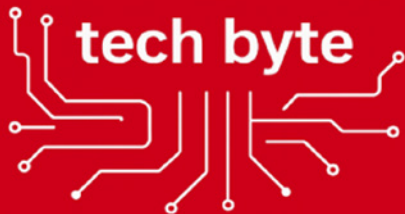




UNIMY

tech byte



Cover Story

UNIMY 4th Convocation Ceremony 2025: Celebrating Outcomes, Honouring Excellence

A monthly e-Newsletter of the University Malaysia of Computer Science & Engineering

UNIMY

e-Newsletter

Editorial Team

Advisors:

Prof. Ts. Dr. Salwani Mohd Daud &
Thillai Raj T. Ramanathan

Editor:

Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair

Issue Contributors:

Krishna Rajagopal
Dr. Selina Dang
Jaslyn Kaur
Dr Pourya Nikfard
Dr Noor Azizah Atdenan
Dr Lina Tio
Dr Fairuz Amalina
Assoc. Prof. Dr Salamiah Muhd Kulal
Nittiya Priya A/P Vasuthevan
Ts Muhammad Syahmie Shabarudin
Prof. Ts. Dr. Salwani Mohd Daud

Design:

Mohd. Azahari Mohd. Salim (Supervisor)
Siti Aisyah Hasbolah

Distribution: Mithila Narendran

UNIMY Education Sdn. Bhd.

Company Registration Number: 200501001375
(678420-U)

MOHE Approval Number: DUO40(B)

Address: Level 1&2, Block 2, VSQ@PJ City Centre,
Jalan Utara, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor D.E.

URL: www.unimy.edu.my

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From the Editor's Desk

Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair

Editor / Deputy Vice Chancellor, UNIMY

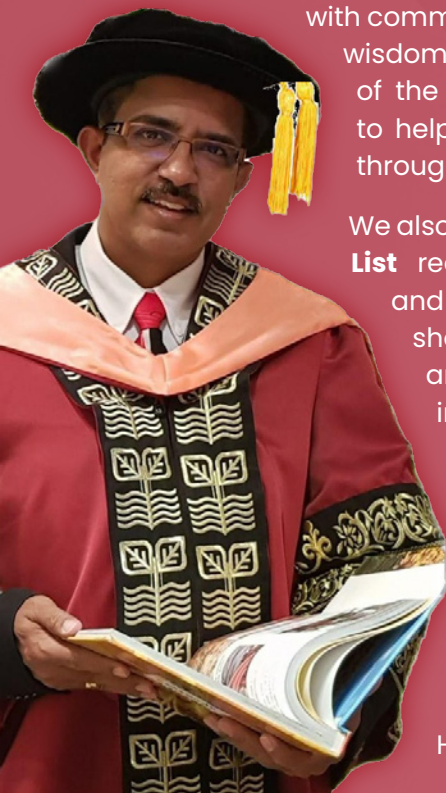


This issue of **Tech Byte** is anchored by a defining moment for the university—**UNIMY's Convocation**—where achievement is made visible, not only through awards, but through the collective work behind every graduate, which include persistence from students, guidance from lecturers, and the quiet efficiency of teams who keep the institution moving.

From this milestone, the issue turns to the questions shaping higher education now. Via our **Trailblazer** event, we feature articles by our esteemed speakers who examine how trust is built (and broken) in a digital environment, through cybersecurity awareness, responsible AI use, and clearer institutional decision-making. Further, in this issue we have interesting articles on an easy-to-grasp explanation of how RSA (key exchange), AES (fast encryption), and SHA-256 (integrity checking) work together to secure data sent over the internet. In addition, there is also a summary of a few talks, namely how universities (including UNIMY) should prepare for AI by redesigning teaching, assessment, operations, and governance in an ethical and inclusive way; a short recap of a keynote address arguing that AI can advance ecotourism and rural tourism only if it is co-designed with communities, governed ethically, and anchored in local wisdom to deliver SDG outcomes; and a brief account of the lecture on Unreal Engine and photogrammetry to help students digitize and present cultural heritage through interactive multimedia.

We also celebrate performance and progress: the **Dean's List** recognises academic excellence; the **Mauritius** and **China Trip** stories and **student/staff feedback** show learning that travels beyond the classroom; and the **AppliedHE Asia ranking** situates UNIMY in a wider regional conversation about quality and outcomes. Further, we share UNIMY's partnership with **Alibaba Cloud** to give students direct access to real cloud infrastructure and industry-aligned learning pathways

Let this issue be both a reflection and a prompt, to keep raising the bar for what a technology university should deliver. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.



UNIMY 4th Convocation Ceremony 2025: Celebrating Outcomes, Honouring Excellence

Dr Noor Azizah Atdenan

Registrar, UNIMY



UNIMY's 4th Convocation Ceremony, held on Saturday, 20 December 2025 at the Omnia Auditorium, Menara BAC, marked the University's formal recognition of academic achievement and the transition of graduands into the UNIMY alumni community.

Convocation is, by design, both ceremonial and substantive. It is not simply a celebration of completion, but a public affirmation that the University stands behind the standards, outcomes, and competencies represented by each qualification conferred. This year's ceremony brought together graduands from across UNIMY's academic units – postgraduate studies, computing and digital technology, engineering, business technology, creative multimedia, and foundation studies – reflecting the breadth of talent being developed within a distinctly tech-forward institutional mission.

For this convocation ceremony, UNIMY recorded **176 graduates** across programmes spanning **Foundation, Diploma, Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD** levels. Importantly, these figures represent graduates from **December 2023 to November 2025** and therefore should be read as an institutional graduation profile over time rather than a headcount of who necessarily walked the stage on 20 December.



Within this period, the strongest graduate numbers came from programmes aligned to national and global demand areas, most notably **Diploma in Information Technology (Cyber Security)**, alongside core computing and software pathways. The overall trend is also clear: **107 graduates in 2025**, compared to **61 in 2024** and **8 in December 2023**, signalling a maturing graduation pipeline and growing throughput across UNIMY's programme portfolio.

The convocation programme followed the established sequence of academic processions, formal declarations, conferment of awards by academic unit, followed by awards presentation and the valedictory segment – culminating in alumni induction and closing declarations. This structure matters as it reinforces that convocation is both a rite of passage and an institutional checkpoint, where achievement is validated through public conferment and governed processes.

A convocation's credibility is not only in the number of scrolls conferred, but also in how clearly it distinguishes excellence. UNIMY recognised outstanding graduands through several major categories, including the Chancellor Award, Vice Chancellor Award, Distinction Awards, Foundation awards, and the Valedictorian.

Chancellor Awards:

Bachelor 2024: Hanisah binti Zainuddin (B. Computer. Sc. with Hons.)

Bachelor 2025: Darwisyah Afiqah binti Razaidi (B. Computer. Engr. with Hons.)

Diploma 2024: Muhammad Nazhan bin Noor Alaudin (Dip.IT (Cybersecurity))

Diploma 2025: Phoebe Ng Xin Yue (Dip.IT (Cybersecurity))

Vice Chancellor Awards:

Bachelor 2024: Tan Boon Ping (B. Comp. Sc. with Hons.)

Bachelor 2025: Ahmed Saeed Ahmed Al-Sharabi (B. Software Engr. with Hons.)

Diploma 2024: Eng Yi Ching (Dipl. IT)

Diploma 2025: Nur Alya Maisarah binti Mohd Saiful (Dipl. IT (Cybersecurity))

Foundation Excellence:

Best Student Award 2024 & Best Achievement Award 2024: Muhammad Luqman bin Mohammad Nazri (Foundation in Computing & Engr.)

Best Student Award 2025: Hud Ilyasa bin Muhammad Amrizar (Foundation in Computing & Engr.)

Best Achievement Award 2025: Mir Amaan Mohammad (Foundation in Computing & Engr.)

Valedictorian:



“My experience taught me that success isn’t about never being afraid or never falling behind, but about showing up anyway. Whether tired, unsure, or overwhelmed, I learned to keep going. The challenges I faced, especially during my cybersecurity and computer science studies, strengthened my determination and shaped my mindset for the future. As I move forward, I aim to continue growing in both technology and personal development, building a meaningful career, contributing to the tech field, and creating opportunities that uplift others, while carrying the same spirit of perseverance instilled in me at UNIMY.”

Hanisah binti Zainuddin (B. Computer. Sc. with Hons.)

These recognitions are more than ceremonial. They set a visible benchmark for what the institution values: sustained performance, disciplinary competence, and the ability to complete demanding programmes with distinction. When done well, awards also create institutional memory – stories that future cohorts measure themselves against.

To the Class of 2024/2025, and to all graduates recognised across the graduating period, congratulations. The scroll is the symbol; the real work is what comes next.



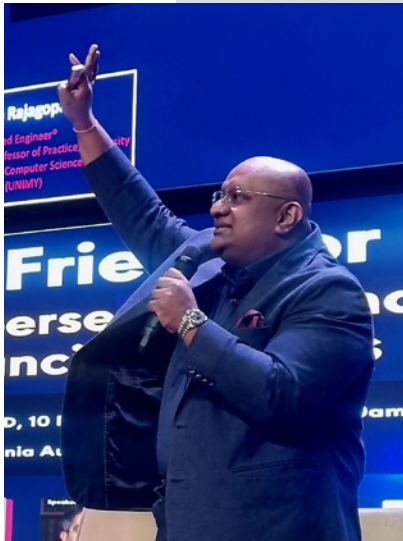
AI: Friend or Foe? Key Insights from UNIMY's Cybersecurity and Financial Threats Forum

Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair
Deputy Vice Chancellor, UNIMY & Editor



UNIMY's Omnia Auditorium at Menara BAC was abuzz on 10 December 2025 for "AI – Friend or Foe: Cybersecurity and Financial Threats", organised by UNIMY and the Student Representative Council under the BAC Education Group. The forum united experts from cybersecurity, finance, policy, and sustainable development to examine how artificial intelligence is redefining both digital risks and financial safety.

Opening the session, **Krishna Rajagopal, Founder & CEO of AKATI Sekurity and UNIMY Adjunct Professor of Practice**, outlined the 2025–2026 cyber threat landscape. He warned that AI has drastically lowered the entry barrier for sophisticated attacks, ranging from deepfakes and Ransomware-as-a-Service to supply-chain compromises and insider threats. He projected that 2026 will see faster, autonomous attacks and greater legal risks from unmanaged AI. His prescription: identity-first defence, quantum-ready encryption, and stronger AI governance to ensure AI serves protection rather than exploitation.



Dr Selina Dang, licensed financial planner at Coreplus Advisory and author of SCAM, brought the issue closer to home. She revealed that scams now cost the world over USD1 trillion, with 73% of Malaysians scammed in the past year. Using AI, criminals create authentic messages, voices, and videos. She introduced her STOP-THINK-PROTECT framework and shared verification tools from Bank Negara Malaysia, the Securities Commission, and the Royal Malaysian Police (Semak Mule). Her central advice: respond swiftly within the "golden hour" after a scam attempt.

UNIMY SRC President Jaslyn Kaur, emphasised that while AI enhances detection, it also enables smarter phishing and adversarial attacks. She differentiated cybersecurity frameworks (NIST CSF, ISO/IEC 27001) from policies (access control, incident response, data protection) and linked them to Malaysia’s legal landscape – PDPA 2010 and the Cyber Security Act 2024. Implementation gaps, she noted, persist due to cost, outdated systems, and low awareness. Jaslyn urged a culture of compliance across organisations and individuals.



UNIMY’s Senior Lecturer, Dr Pourya Nikfard widened the discussion to AI’s role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He cautioned that weak, fragmented data limits AI’s potential in tackling inequality, environmental stress, and governance gaps. Showcasing examples (smart river management and AI-driven waste control) he called for international collaboration, AI talent development, and investments in AI for social and environmental good. He closed with a reminder: “AI is no longer a concept; it’s an operating reality.”



Moderated by student **Osama Radi Al Asime**, the forum ended with lively discussions on how individuals can safeguard themselves and promote ethical AI use. The collective message was clear – AI will deepen its role in cybersecurity and finance. Through awareness, regulation, and responsible innovation, society can ensure AI becomes a trusted ally, not a hidden adversary.

Note: Details of each of the presentations are captured in the subsequent pages.

Ghosts in the System: The Cyber Risks Organisations Must Face in 2026

Krishna Rajagopal

Founder & CEO, AKATI Security and Adjunct Professor of Practice, UNIMY



Cyber threats in 2025 revealed a clear pattern where attackers are accelerating faster than most organisations can respond. As we enter 2026, the divide between offensive capability and defensive readiness continues to widen. Cybercrime is now a global industry with the characteristics of a legitimate enterprise, which include automation, structured operations and scalable attack models. Ransomware groups provide dashboards, affiliate programmes and even customer service, allowing intrusions to be executed with remarkable speed and precision.



Artificial intelligence (AI) was the single biggest force reshaping the threat landscape last year. Attackers use AI tools to harvest personal information, generate flawless messages and launch thousands of personalised attacks instantly. Voice cloning has triggered a dramatic rise in vishing attacks, yet many organisations still train staff using outdated phishing examples. The shift is stark. Social engineering is no longer manual but it is automated, hyper-personalised and nearly undetectable to the untrained eye.

Malware-based attacks have also faded. Nearly 80% of intrusions in 2025 were malware-free, relying instead on “living off the land”, where attackers using legitimate system tools and stolen credentials. Antivirus systems see nothing unusual because technically, nothing malicious enters the environment. Identity is now the true perimeter.

AI systems themselves are emerging as targets. Attackers have begun poisoning training data, manipulating autonomous agents and tricking AI tools into running harmful commands. Without human oversight, independent audit and trusted data pipelines, AI can become an internal vulnerability rather than a defence asset.

2026 PREDICTION THREAT LEVEL: CRITICAL 04 // LEGAL EXPOSURE
STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE FORECAST

DEATH BY AI

From "Software Glitch" to "Gross Negligence"

WHAT TO WATCH

LITIGATION SURGE

Product Defects: AI errors will no longer be seen as "bugs"—they will be litigated as dangerous product defects.

Executive Risk: C-suite leaders will face personal liability for unmanaged AI safety failures.

2,000+ Claims: Predicted surge in lawsuits involving physical harm or discrimination by autonomous systems.

VECTOR: LEGAL PROBABILITY: HIGH

PREPARE NOW

DEFENSIBLE GOVERNANCE

Explainability: "The AI did it" is not a defense. You must explain how and why a decision was made.

Human-in-the-Loop: Mandate human approval for any AI action that affects physical safety or rights.

Forensic Logs: Keep immutable records of decision paths to prove you weren't negligent in court.

STATUS: RECOMMENDED PRIORITY: IMMEDIATE

Cloud environments have also become attractive attack surfaces. Compromised API keys allow adversaries to quietly hijack cloud compute resources by training their own models or running high-cost workloads that organisations only discover when the bill arrives. Usage alerts, key rotation and strict quotas are now basic survival practices.

Key Trends Leaders Must Not Ignore

- **442% increase in AI-driven vishing attacks** due to synthetic voice cloning.
- **79% of intrusions** used no malware at all, relying on stolen identities.
- **Breakout times shrinking to seconds** with agentic AI expected to lead 2026 attacks.
- **Quantum risk rising** where attackers stealing encrypted data now to decrypt later.
- **Deepfake impersonation surging**, undermining trust in video calls and biometrics.

A Simple View of the 2026 Threat Shift

PAST THREATS	TODAY'S THREATS	EMERGING 2026 THREATS
Malware	Identity Theft	Autonomous AI Attacks
Email Phishing	AI-Generated Lures	Quantum Decryption Risk
Perimeter Breaches	Cloud Compute Theft	Deepfake Identity Crisis

Looking ahead, 2026 will likely be defined by machine-speed attacks. Autonomous AI agents capable of planning, adapting and executing multi-step intrusions will outpace human response times. Organisations must treat AI agents as “non-human identities,” monitor their behaviour continuously and maintain kill switches to halt unexpected actions.

Quantum threats are also maturing. Adversaries are already harvesting encrypted information today, anticipating that future quantum computing will break existing encryption. This makes long-lived sensitive data like health records, legal archives, state secrets, especially vulnerable. Early adoption of post-quantum cryptographic (PQC) standards is essential.

Nation-state activity is becoming more visible and more disruptive. Attacks increasingly target power grids, water infrastructure and transport systems. No organisation can defend alone. Collective defence networks, coordinated governance and crisis simulations must become standard practice.

The bottom line is the “ghosts in the system” are real, but so are the solutions. Resilience now depends on agile governance, transparent AI oversight, strong identity controls and a willingness to adapt rapidly. The organisations that thrive in 2026 will be those that act before the next crisis forces their hand.



AI Friend or Foe: Cybersecurity and Financial Threats

Dr. Selina Dang

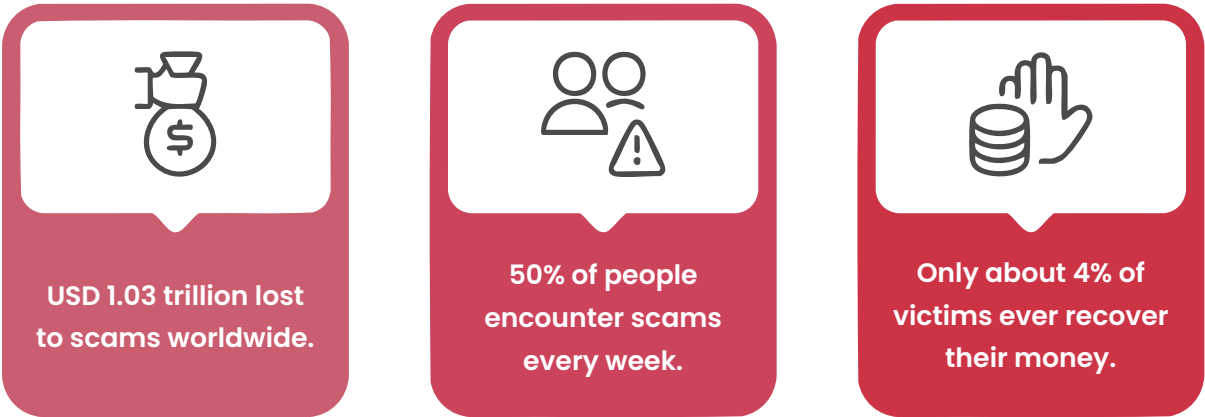
CFP®, IFP®, ACC

Licensed Financial Planner, Coreplus Advisory Sdn Bhd

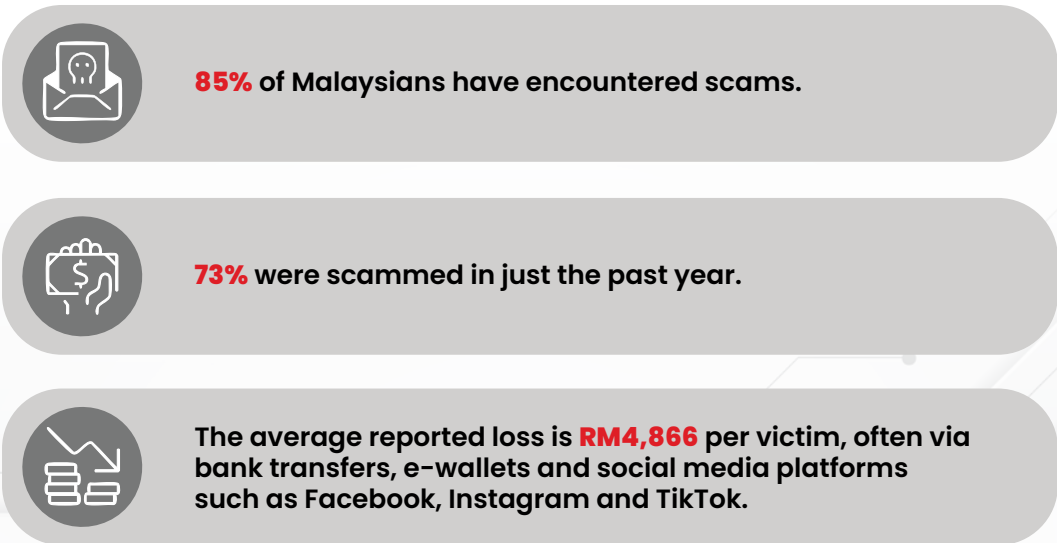


Scams are no longer at the fringe of our financial system but they sit at the centre. Every day, millions of people are targeted and many lose hard-earned savings. This article explains how AI has become the scammer’s favourite weapon, and what ordinary Malaysians can do to defend themselves.

The global scam crisis at a glance showed an alarming state:



Malaysia is not spared. The *State of Scams in Malaysia 2025* report shows:



AI supercharges scams in three powerful ways. First, it produces polished communications via emails, websites and messages that look flawless and professional. Second, 24/7 AI chatbots that can chat with hundreds of potential victims at once. Third, deepfakes and voice cloning that convincingly mimic CEOs, public figures or even loved ones on video or voice calls.

Even AI-assisted scams still leave clues. Classic red flags include “too good to be true” promises, urgency and pressure to act now, unsolicited offers, requests for upfront fees and emotional manipulation. On top of these, AI-specific warning signs that appear include slightly off-sync lips and audio, strange lighting or distorted backgrounds in videos, text that is perfectly grammatical but strangely generic, and online profiles with “too perfect” testimonials or AI-generated photos.

To stay safe, use a simple mental checklist:



Pause. Don't send money or data when in doubt.

Verify the request using official channels, not the contact details in the message.



If you suspect a scam, act fast. Call your bank, trigger kill switches where available, and report to the authorities.

Proactive digital hygiene also matters, example using multi-factor authentication, strong and unique passwords, limit what you share online, segregate financial roles in businesses and always demand transparency around investments and transfers.

Malaysia offers robust verification resources you can use before acting. These include Semak Mule (PDRM/CCID), Bank Negara’s Financial Consumer Alert List, and the Securities Commission’s Investor Alert List, Investment Checker, Digital Initiatives and List of Licensed Intermediaries and registered Digital Asset Exchanges. Additional references from FIMM and Bursa Malaysia, together with global sites such as scamadviser.com, urlscan.io and haveibeenpwned.com, can further strengthen your checks.

If money has already left your account, the first hour, which is the “golden hour”, is critical. Call the NSRC 997 hotline immediately, contact your bank to freeze transactions and file reports with CCID/PDRM, Securities Commission or Bank Negara Malaysia, depending on the case. Change passwords and keep screenshots and records of all communications and transactions.

Ultimately, remember that AI will keep evolving, and so will scams. But informed, vigilant and empowered users can tilt the balance. If it sounds too good to be true, it still is especially in the age of AI.

Guarding Malaysia's Digital Future: Why Strong Cybersecurity Frameworks Matter in the Age of AI

Jaslyn Kaur

President, UNIMY Student Representative Council (SRC) 2025/26



Strong cybersecurity frameworks and policies are no longer optional but essential for Malaysia. Recent data shows a 78% increase in ransomware attacks in Q4 2021 alone, alongside growing incidents of data breaches, phishing, malicious code and malware. These attacks are not just technical issues; they translate into real financial and social harm, with estimated losses of RM1.22 billion. This exposure reveals protection gaps and shows why organisations must adopt structured, enforceable cybersecurity strategies to safeguard citizens, organisations and critical infrastructure.



A central theme is the double-edged nature of artificial intelligence (AI). On the positive side, AI strengthens defence through faster threat detection, automated response and better vulnerability management. However, the same technology also empowers attackers: it enables highly convincing phishing via deepfakes, scalable automated attacks and new adversarial vectors. In short, AI is everywhere, and AI-powered threats are rising. This makes it even more important that our frameworks and policies keep pace with technological change.

To respond effectively, organisations need both cybersecurity frameworks and cybersecurity policies. A cybersecurity framework is a structured guideline or best-practice checklist that helps organisations understand what to secure, how to secure it and how to respond when incidents occur. Well-known examples include the NIST Cybersecurity Framework, ISO/IEC 27001, Bank Negara Malaysia's requirements and sectoral frameworks such as RMIT. These frameworks provide a common language and systematic approach to risk management, making security more predictable, auditable and improvable over time.



Cybersecurity policies, by contrast, are the internal “laws” of an organization where official rules and guidelines that define what people must do and how they must behave to keep systems and data secure. Their purposes include reducing cyber risks (such as breaches, ransomware, fraud and unauthorised access), protecting sensitive information and ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. Typical policies include Access Control, Data Protection, Acceptable Use, Incident Response and Network Security policies. Together, these provide structure for prevention, detection, response and recovery.

However, implementing frameworks such as Zero Trust Architecture (ZTA), NIST CSF or ISO/IEC 27001 is not without challenges. Common obstacles include lack of awareness, high implementation costs, perceived complexity, resource constraints, legacy systems and sometimes weak regulatory enforcement. If these are not addressed, organisations face higher vulnerability, financial and reputational losses, regulatory non-compliance and business disruption.

ISO/IEC 27001 stands out as a globally recognised standard that helps organisations establish an Information Security Management System (ISMS) using the Plan-Do-Check-Act model. For Malaysian organisations, it enhances trust, reduces risk, supports PDPA compliance, strengthens resilience and provides competitive advantage. Complementing this is the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) 2010, which sets seven principles—such as Notice and Consent, Security, Retention and Data Integrity—to govern how personal data is collected, processed and stored, with significant penalties for non-compliance.

Finally, the Cyber Security Act 2024 marks an important policy milestone. Coming into force on 26 August 2024, it focuses on National Critical Information Infrastructure (NCII), requiring critical agencies to conduct periodic risk assessments, security audits and comply with defined cybersecurity standards. Together, these frameworks and policies form the backbone of Malaysia’s response to rising digital threats in an age where AI can be both our strongest defence and our most formidable adversary.

AI and Data Quality in Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals

Dr Pourya Nikfard

Senior Lecturer (AI & Software Engineering), UNIMY



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a global commitment to achieving a more equitable, resilient, and environmentally secure future by 2030. The SDGs are not merely aspirational statements; they are measurable targets that rely heavily on the availability and quality of national data. Without accurate, timely, and comprehensive datasets, no country can meaningfully assess its progress or design effective interventions.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Malaysia’s performance in the 2025 Sustainable Development Report reflects this challenge clearly. While the leading nations like Finland, Sweden, and Denmark, demonstrate strong coherence between policy ambitions and data-driven implementation, Malaysia ranks 84th globally. This position is not a reflection of lack of commitment, but rather the cumulative result of several systemic issues that continue to impede our SDG advancement.

A primary concern lies in persistent inequality, particularly the rural–urban divide. Essential services such as water supply, digital connectivity, and financial access remain unevenly distributed. Although absolute poverty has declined, the rise of relative poverty, driven by increasing living costs, signals underlying vulnerabilities that must be addressed to meet SDG 1 and SDG 10. Environmental indicators present another significant challenge. Heavy reliance on landfills, recurring water shortages, and growing plastic pollution in rivers and oceans point to structural gaps in waste management and environmental governance, affecting SDGs 6, 11, 14, and 15.

However, the most critical barrier is the quality and completeness of national data. Many indicators remain unreported or inconsistently captured, especially in sectors such as energy consumption, transport emissions, health spending, and education investment. Fragmented reporting systems, limited interoperability between agencies, and weak federal–state coordination impede Malaysia’s ability to track progress reliably. When data gaps exist, progress cannot be measured accurately, and policy adjustments become guesswork rather than strategy.

This is precisely where AI, Big Data analytics, and IoT can provide transformative value. Around the world, intelligent systems are strengthening countries’ capacity to monitor environmental conditions, optimise resource use, and detect emerging risks. China’s smart river management platforms, for example, integrate sensors and predictive analytics to support water security. Microsoft’s Project Natick demonstrates how reimagining data infrastructure can reduce environmental impact while improving operational efficiency. Technologies such as WasteShark and Clearbot illustrate how AI-powered robotics can support real-time environmental cleanup in waterways. These international examples show what is possible when technology and sustainability goals are aligned.

For Malaysia to accelerate SDG progress, three priorities are essential. First, international collaboration to learn from global best practices; second, national talent development to build a workforce capable of designing and maintaining intelligent systems; and third, targeted investment in AI-driven solutions that improve data quality, strengthen governance, and enhance environmental management. We must recognise a fundamental truth that AI is no longer a concept; it is an operating reality.



Dean's List Awards Ceremony: Celebrating the Heart of Academic Excellence at UNIMY

Dr Noor Azizah Atdenan

Registrar, UNIMY



It is with immense pride and heartfelt joy that I reflect on our recent Dean's List Awards Ceremony, held at the Omnia Auditorium, Menara BAC. This event was far more than a simple formality; it was a vibrant, joyful testament to the dedication, discipline, and intellectual brilliance that defines our student community. This ceremony was dedicated to recognizing the exceptional students who achieved Dean's List standing (GPA \leq 3.50) across September 2023, May 2024, September 2024, and May 2025 cohorts.



As the great philosopher Aristotle once wisely said: ***"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."*** May you all continue to cultivate these powerful habits of success!

The trend in our recipient counts gives us great optimism for the future. I am delighted that the total recognitions rose sharply to 108 in May 2025, marking the strongest showing across the period. This upward trajectory is a strong indicator of a strengthening academic pipeline, demonstrating that more of our students are meeting and surpassing the demanding GPA threshold. This momentum is driven by key programmes such as the Diploma in Information Technology (Cybersecurity) (DCY), Bachelor of Computer Science (BCS), Bachelor of Software Engineering (BSE), and Foundation in Computing & Engineering (FCE).



Furthermore, the academic quality within the Dean's List group remains robust, with the average GPA consistently hovering around 3.73 to 3.76. We saw a remarkable increase in top performers (GPA 3.85–4.00), rising from 18 in Sept 2023 to 34 in May 2025. And to our seven students who achieved a perfect 4.00 GPA in both May 2024 and May 2025, your dedication is truly inspiring.

Beyond the applause and the photographic memories, this ceremony serves a larger, profound purpose. It reminds us of all that the culture of high performance at UNIMY is being built brick-by-brick, semester after semester. This culture is a joint effort: it requires the consistent efforts of our students and the unwavering guidance of our dedicated lecturers.

To every successful student, I extend my warmest and most sincere congratulations. You have earned this moment through countless hours of hard work, curiosity, and resilience. To our respected Lecturers and Faculty, thank you. Your dedication is the foundation upon which these dreams are built. Your mentorship is the unseen force that makes this excellence possible.

May your academic success at UNIMY be the confident first step in that grand adventure. May you always carry this commitment to excellence forward, and may your future endeavors be filled with continuous growth and innovation. Wishing you all continued success, health, and happiness.



Beyond Borders: UNIMY Students and Faculty Connect Skills, Culture and Future Partnerships in Shanxi, China

Dr Lina Tio

Director of International Marketing, UNIMY



From 22 to 29 November 2025, a UNIMY delegation successfully completed an academic mobility programme in Shanxi, China, hosted by two partner institutions: Shanxi Vocational Mechanical & Electronic College and Shanxi Finance and Taxation College. The programme brought together nine students across UNIMY programmes, accompanied by three staff members, creating a balanced blend of technical learning, cultural exposure and institutional engagement.

The delegation was led by Prof. Dr. Habibollah Bin Haron (Head of Research, Innovation, Commercial, and Entrepreneurship Department), Ts. Muhammad Syahmie bin Shabarudin (Acting Dean, School of Creative Multimedia), and Dr. Lina Tio (Director of International Marketing). Participating UNIMY students include: Chhin Malyna [Bachelor of Multimedia (Interactive Media) with Honours], Ryan Lee-Panjalingam Malyna [Bachelor of Multimedia (Interactive Media) with Honours], Shayne Lee Wei Shen [Diploma in Interactive and Digital Media], Krish Prakash Chandnani [Diploma in Game Development], Kesshindren a/I Arunmaran Diploma in IT (Cybersecurity)], Muhammad Nabil Fikri bin Jeferi Din [Bachelor of Computer Engineering

(Hons)], Mohammad Iqmal Aiman bin Mohammad Khir [Bachelor of Computer Engineering (Hons)], Wilney Manuel Coney [Bachelor of Computer Engineering (Hons)] and Muhammad Aiman bin Ramli [Bachelor of Computer Engineering (Hons)].

The journey began with a high-speed train ride from Taiyuan Airport to Shanxi, offering students a firsthand view of how infrastructure and mobility shape daily life and economic activity. At Shanxi Vocational Mechanical & Electronic College (Donghu Campus), learning quickly shifted from observation to hands-on practice. Students participated in technical workshops on coil-winding techniques and electronic components used in CCTV systems. Another standout activity was silk cloth printing, linking traditional craftsmanship with contemporary design thinking which was particularly meaningful for multimedia and creative learners.

Academic exchange sessions added depth to the experience. The host institution shared perspectives on big data, robotics and multimedia innovation, while UNIMY's multimedia leadership presented creative developments in game design and digital media, sparking active discussion on how skills and industry expectations are converging across borders.



At Shanxi Finance and Taxation College, the programme broadened into culture and applied digital practice. Students took part in calligraphy and traditional paper-cutting, attended presentations on emerging technologies, and visited museums, historical temples and the Monkey King Temple, reflecting on how the Wukong narrative continues to shape film and game adaptations. A guided tour tracing media and data storage evolution, from cassette tapes and compact discs to flash drives and cloud technologies, reinforced how quickly digital systems, and the competencies needed to navigate them, have advanced.

A major highlight was the visit to the college's live-streaming and social media production centre. With nearly ten specialised rooms for content production, editing, broadcasting and digital marketing, the facility demonstrated how platforms such as Douyin are used for professional live broadcasting and audience engagement at scale.

The programme concluded with bilateral meetings that promoted future collaboration, including Train-the-Trainer programmes, expanded student and staff exchanges, and joint mobility initiatives. Shanxi Vocational Mechanical & Electronic College also expressed interest in sending lecturers and staff to UNIMY in 2026. The delegation additionally visited Chaoxing Xuexitong to learn how large-scale e-learning ecosystems support blended learning, assessments, content management and student engagement.

Overall, the Shanxi mobility programme strengthened global perspectives, deepened cross-cultural understanding, and opened practical pathways for long-term collaboration and applied innovation.

Beyond Borders: Four Student Voices from Taiyuan and Shanxi

Four UNIMY students recently returned from an exchange programme in Taiyuan and Shanxi, China from 22–29 November 2025. Across campuses, workshops, heritage sites, and shared meals, their reflections show one common thread: learning travelled far beyond the classroom, shaped by people, place, and culture.



Taiyuan & Shanxi: Tech, Temples and Taste

“Over one week in Taiyuan and across Shanxi, I experienced a striking mix of modern innovation and deep history. City travel stood out as the streets were unusually quiet because so many vehicles are electric, a sharp contrast with home. Traffic, though, demanded full focus, especially with fast-moving e-bikes at busy junctions. Communication was manageable; when my Chinese ran out, Google Translate stepped in, and the warmth of locals did the rest. The temples were a highlight, in the sense that they were well preserved, well organised, and made easier with guide-audio earpieces even in crowds. Shopping challenged my assumptions with good quality at fair prices. And the food was rich, generous, and unforgettable, especially the powerful, fermented Shanxi vinegar. The trip felt less like sightseeing and more like understanding how technology, culture, and hospitality intersect”

Wilney Manuel Coney
Student of Bachelor of Computer Engineering (Hons)



China Exchange: A Blend of Learning and Culture



"Our eight-day exchange in Shanxi offered a meaningful mix of academic exposure and cultural discovery. After arriving in Taiyuan, we took a bullet train to Changzhi and began classes at Shanxi Vocational and Technical College of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, followed by sessions at Shanxi Vocational College of Finance and Taxation in Taiyuan. We joined real classroom activities, which gave us a clear view of teaching styles and student life. Outside class, workshops in paper cutting and Drifting Lacquer brought tradition to life through hands-on practice. We visited Jinci Temple, the Shanxi History Museum, and a scenic park, each adding depth to what we were seeing across the region. Meals were a daily highlight, often Halal-friendly, overflowing with dishes that reflected genuine hospitality. Evenings at street markets and malls rounded out the experience. It was a trip that strengthened friendships and connected learning to the real world"

Mohamad Iqmal Aiman

Student of Bachelor of Computer Engineering (Hons)





Bridging Machines and Culture: My China Summer Camp



“My China Summer Camp was the kind of experience that pulls you in from day one. We started at Taiyuan University, a rural in setting, but packed with advanced machinery like automated and 6-axis CNC systems. As someone with a Mechatronics background, I couldn’t stop watching how the engineering side operated. Sitting in lectures and seeing students in their element made the learning feel real, not staged. What surprised me most was the strength in the arts as well. As an art major, I learned practical poster design techniques and got hands-on with 3D modelling and posing using Cinema4D. The best part was collaborating with local students to build a 3D scene, as it felt natural, even across language and culture. Later in Shanxi, the pace shifted with more energy at night, more cultural depth during the day. We learned about history and artefacts, joined cultural nights like paper cutting and gold art, and visited temples that made me appreciate how seriously tradition is protected. I’d go back in a heartbeat”



Ryan Lee-Panjalingam
Student of Bachelor of Multimedia (Interactive Media) with Honours

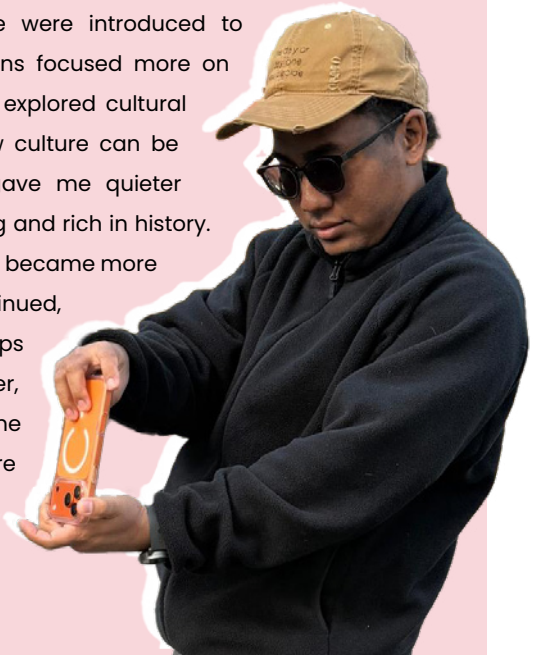
Shanxi Exchange: Culture Through Creativity



"My trip to China blended light learning with cultural exploration and meaningful connections. In Changzhi Vocational Technical College, we were introduced to workshop environments and basic equipment, but the lessons focused more on product marketing and simple design. One standout session explored cultural promotion through plush toys, an idea that showed me how culture can be carried in everyday products. Temple visits in Changzhi gave me quieter moments to reflect; each site felt different, but all were calming and rich in history. In Taiyuan, at Shanxi Finance and Taxation College, the activities became more hands-on and exchange focused. The plush-toy session continued, and I enjoyed how teamwork helped bridge language gaps with local students. A museum visit tied everything together, helping me connect what we saw in the cities and temples to the region's broader story. I left feeling grateful, inspired, and more aware of how creativity and culture bring people together"

Muhammad Aiman bin Ramli

Student of Bachelor of Computer Engineering (Hons)



Together, these stories show what mobility programmes can do at their best, which is to build confidence, widen perspectives, and create friendships across borders, while reminding us that the most lasting lessons often come from shared experiences, not just scheduled sessions.

AI and the Future of Universities: Building an AI-Ready Institution

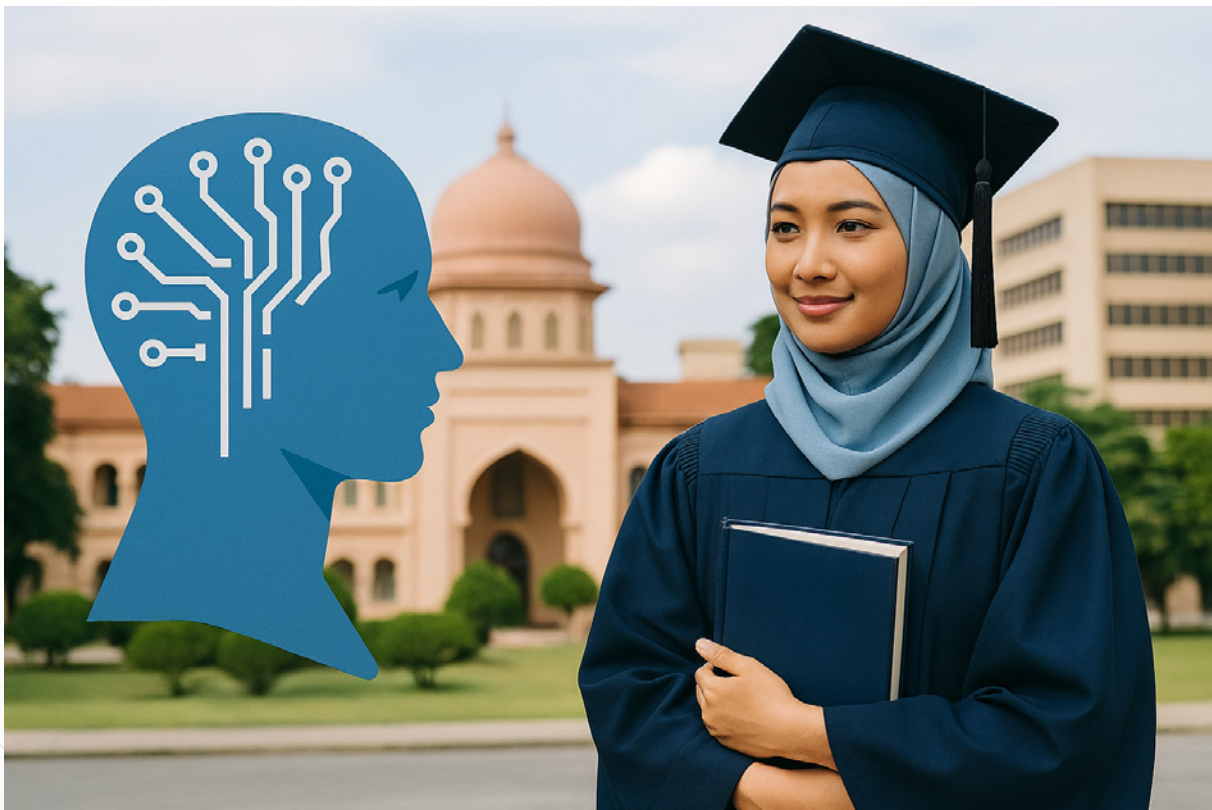
Prof. Ts. Dr. Salwani Mohd Daud

Vice Chancellor, UNIMY



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a future concept—it is actively reshaping higher education today. Across universities worldwide, AI is transforming how we teach, learn, assess, and manage institutions. This shift requires not just technological adoption, but a strategic, ethical, and human-centred approach to becoming truly *AI-ready*.

In teaching and learning, the role of academics is evolving from content delivery to that of learning designers, mentors, and critical facilitators. AI now supports routine tasks such as generating baseline learning materials, personalised practice, and formative feedback. This enables academics to focus on higher-order thinking, creativity, problem-solving, and meaningful engagement with students. For learners, AI enables personalised, adaptive, and flexible learning experiences — providing 24/7 support, tailored feedback, and multiple learning pathways that suit diverse abilities and backgrounds.





Assessment is undergoing one of the most significant transformations. In an era where AI can generate essays, code, and reports in seconds, universities must move beyond outcome-based evaluation. AI-ready universities emphasise authentic and process-based assessment, including project work, reflective journals, oral defences, version tracking, and transparent AI-usage declarations. These approaches preserve academic integrity while preparing students for real-world professional practice.

Beyond the classroom, AI-ready universities integrate AI into institutional operations. AI-driven student support systems, learning analytics, early-warning mechanisms, and administrative automation enhance efficiency, responsiveness, and decision-making. Importantly, this digital transformation must be supported by strong governance frameworks, robust cybersecurity, ethical AI policies, and responsible data management.

An AI-ready university is also inclusive by design. AI has the potential to widen access to education for B40 communities, rural learners, and students with special needs through personalised learning, multilingual support, assistive technologies, and low-bandwidth or offline solutions.

At UNIMY, the conversation around AI is not merely about technology adoption, but about institutional readiness for the future. A truly AI-ready university combines advanced digital infrastructure, AI-literate staff and students, innovative curricula, ethical governance, and strong industry collaboration – ensuring that graduates are not only capable users of AI, but critical thinkers, ethical leaders, and future-ready professionals in a rapidly evolving world.

Note: This write-up is based on a talk series presentation by Prof. Ts. Dr. Salwani Mohd Daud, entitled, "AI dan Masa Depan Universiti: Revolusi Pengajaran, Pembelajaran dan Penilaian", at the Siri Bicara Ikram Academia ke-27 on 12 December 2025.

AI and Local Wisdom for Sustainable Ecotourism: UNIMY Keynote at ICMR 2025

Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, UNIMY / Editor



UNIMY strengthened its regional research footprint as Co-Host of the 8th International Conference on Multidisciplinary Research (ICMR) 2025, organised by Universitas Serambi Mekkah (USM), Aceh, and held virtually on 18–19 December 2025 under the theme “Artificial Intelligence and Local Wisdom Synergy for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).”



Representing UNIMY as one of the keynote speaker, I delivered my talk on the topic, “Artificial Intelligence and Local Wisdom Synergy for Sustainable Ecotourism and Rural Tourism.” Ecotourism and rural tourism can drive inclusive livelihoods and conservation across Southeast Asia, but only if local wisdom, community agency, and biodiversity integrity remain central. As AI rapidly enters tourism, it is reshaping how destinations are marketed, managed and experienced.

A distinctive element of my address was on my view of decision support in environmental management and tourism. I traced my experience through progression from early rule-based expert systems to today’s AI, for future-ready destination governance, showing

how codified expert knowledge can guide users toward more consistent decisions. I referenced my prior work on structuring ecological knowledge to strengthen environmental reporting, and on web-enabled tools that assess ecotourism sites against safety, health, environmental quality, and compliance requirements.

Building on this foundation, my keynote advanced a clear proposition that AI can strengthen rural and nature-based tourism (through visitor flow prediction, biodiversity monitoring, and heritage interpretation) only when tools are co-designed with communities and governed ethically. Local wisdom was framed as place-based ecological knowledge, land-use practices, rituals, and heritage ties to nature, forming the core of stewardship

and resilience. When sidelined, tourism risks cultural commodification, benefit leakage and environmental degradation.

For Malaysia and the wider region, practical implications were set out to invest in digital infrastructure and data literacy; embed transparent data and benefit-sharing governance; and prioritise AI adoption that serves sustainability goals rather than short-term promotion. This orientation helps detect greenwashing signals and protect destination carrying capacity.

My closing message was direct. AI is a tool, not a hero or villain. Its legitimacy in tourism will be judged by whether it supports, enhances, and respects local wisdom while delivering equitable community benefits and measurable progress toward the SDGs.



Through the Glass Tunnel: How RSA, AES and SHA-256 Keep Your Data Safe

Dr Fairuz Amalina

Dean, School of Computing and Digital Technology, UNIMY



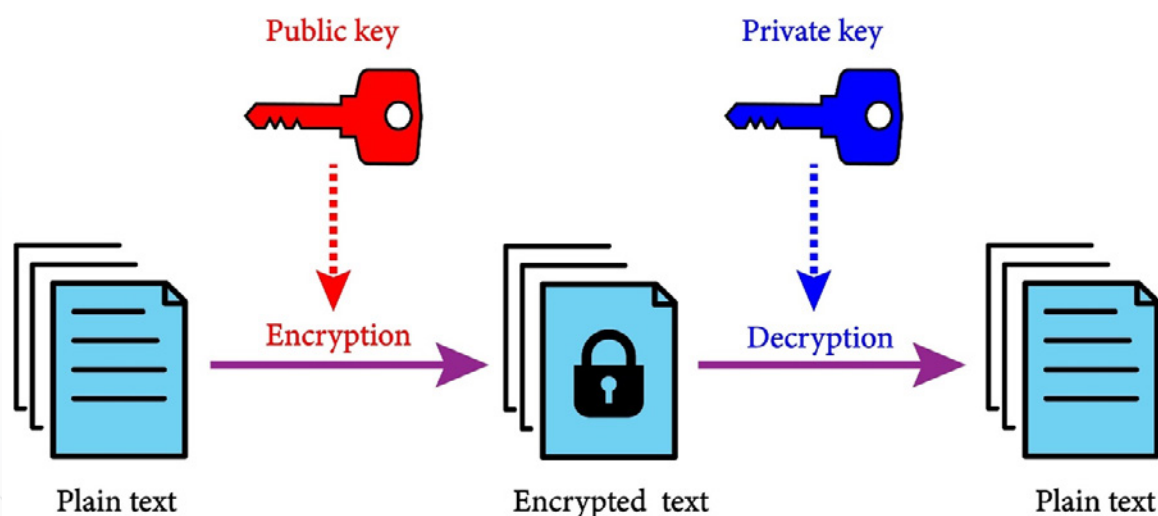
Imagine the internet not as a cloud, but as a long tunnel made entirely of glass. Every time you send a password, a credit card number, or a private email, it travels through this tunnel. Standing outside the glass are millions of people which include hackers, spies, and bots, watching the traffic go by. They can see everything.

To survive this, we don't try to hide the tunnel. We assume the bad guys are watching. Instead, we use three mathematical miracles to turn your data into noise.

RSA: The Impossible Handshake

You want to send a secret code to your bank. But you can't just shout it through the glass tunnel; the hackers will hear it. You've never met the bank in person, so you haven't agreed on a secret language yet. How do you whisper a secret to a stranger in a crowded room without anyone else hearing? In 1977, three geniuses at MIT known as Rivest, Shamir, and Adleman solved this with a brilliant paradox.

Imagine the bank sends you an open padlock (the public key) through the tunnel. The hackers see the padlock, but they don't care as it's just an empty lock. You put your secret message inside a strongbox, snap the padlock shut, and send it back.



Now, the hackers are stuck. They have the box, but they can't open it. They can't even pick the lock because the math required to reverse-engineer the key would take a supercomputer millions of years. Only the bank has the key (the private key) to open that specific padlock. RSA is heavy and slow. We don't use it for the whole conversation. We only use it once, right at the start, to safely exchange the "keys" for the next step.

AES: The High-Speed Blender

RSA is safe, but it's mathematically exhausting. If you tried to watch a Netflix movie encrypted with RSA, your computer would freeze trying to do the math. We need speed. Once RSA has safely exchanged the secret key, we switch to AES (Advanced Encryption Standard).

Think of your data (an image, a text, a video) like a perfectly assembled jigsaw puzzle. AES takes that puzzle and puts it into a high-speed industrial blender. It chops the data into blocks, shuffles the rows, swaps the columns, and substitutes pieces based on complex rules designed by Belgian cryptographers Daemen and Rijmen.

To a hacker looking through the glass tunnel, your data looks like static which is pure, random noise. But because you and the bank now share the same key (thanks to RSA earlier), your computer knows exactly how to run the blender in reverse. AES is the workhorse. It is so efficient that it's baked into the hardware of your smartphone. It's the "military-grade" encryption you hear about in movies.

SHA-256: The Digital DNA

The hackers realize they can't read your message. So, they get spiteful. They decide to intercept your file while it's in the tunnel and change a few bits, turning "Pay \$100" into "Pay \$1,000,000." How do you know the file you received is the exact one that was sent?

Enter SHA-256 (Secure Hash Algorithm). Before sending a file, the sender runs it through a mathematical grinder that spits out a unique string of characters which is a "fingerprint." If you send the text "Hello," the fingerprint looks like this: 185f8db...

If a hacker intercepts the file and changes a single comma, the mathematics cascade (the "Avalanche Effect") and the resulting fingerprint changes completely to something like: 9a7cf2...

When your computer receives the file, it runs the math again. If the fingerprint it calculates matches the one on the label, we know the data is pristine. We don't "decrypt" a hash. It's a one-way trip. It is simply the ultimate lie detector test for data.

At UNIMY, we go beyond definitions. We train you to apply RSA, AES and SHA-256 in real systems (TLS, apps, APIs and cloud) through hands-on labs, secure coding practice, and attack-informed testing, so you can implement encryption and integrity correctly and explain the guarantees (and limits) with confidence.

UNIMY Recognised in AppliedHE Asia Rankings 2026

Prof. Ts. Dr. Salwani binti Mohd Daud

Vice Chancellor, UNIMY



AppliedHE™

UNIMY is pleased to announce its placement at 130 in the AppliedHE All Asia Private University Ranking 2026, marking an important step in the university's journey towards regional recognition. This ranking evaluates private universities across Asia on teaching and learning, graduate employability, research and innovation, community engagement, internationalisation, and institutional reputation.

For a technology-focused, applied university like UNIMY, this recognition reflects the relevance of its industry-aligned programs and its commitment to preparing students for the evolving workforce.

Being included among Asia's ranked private universities signals growing visibility beyond national borders and reinforces confidence among students, parents, employers, and international partners. It also provides useful insight as UNIMY continues to strengthen partnerships, enhance graduate employability, and develop its role as a regional player in applied computing and emerging technologies.

Within Malaysia, this ranking complements national benchmarks such as the SETARA "Competitive" rating and the MYRA framework, highlighting steady progress in teaching, research, governance, and graduate outcomes.

This recognition is a reflection of UNIMY's ongoing efforts and commitment to delivering practical, future-oriented education. It encourages the university to continue building on its achievements and advancing toward greater regional and global impact.



UNIMY x Alibaba Cloud Partnership: From Cloud Theory to Production-Grade Practice

Devakumar Robert William

Senior Executive



UNIMY has partnered with Alibaba Cloud to give students direct access to real cloud infrastructure and industry-aligned learning pathways, so cloud competence is built through deployment and testing—not only classroom exposure.



For students, the partnership provides practical resources that typically sit behind commercial paywalls. Students can access free cloud servers for project builds, prototyping, and testing, alongside structured learning through Alibaba Cloud Academy (180+ online courses). The pathway is strengthened with certification opportunities, including the Cloud Engineer Associate and selected specialty credentials, enabling students to graduate with verified skills that employers recognise.

For academic staff, the collaboration includes Train-the-Trainer support from Alibaba Cloud experts, ready-to-use teaching materials that can be integrated into relevant modules, and a dedicated server for teaching (one year). This supports consistent lab delivery, repeatable assessments, and a more authentic learning environment for cloud-related subjects.

In practice, many graduates enter the market having studied cloud concepts but without having deployed workloads on production-grade platforms. This partnership narrows that gap by embedding hands-on experience earlier in the student journey—supporting stronger portfolios,



better technical confidence, and improved employability outcomes in cloud, data, cybersecurity, software engineering, and related fields.

Further details on student access, course integration, and certification routes will be shared through the relevant schools and programme teams.

Strengthening Quality and Partnership: UNIMY Visit to PML Mauritius

Assoc. Prof. Dr Salamiah Muhd Kulal
School of Business & Technology, UNIMY



Nittiya Priya A/P Vasuthevan
Lecturer, Head of Programme, Diploma in Cybersecurity,
School of Computing and Digital Technology, UNIMY



From 9–14 November 2025, we represented UNIMY to conduct an academic work visit to PML Mauritius, our franchise partner. The purpose of the visit was to complete a comprehensive academic quality audit covering compliance, teaching and learning (T&L), assessment systems, programme delivery, and partnership development.

Across four campuses (Rduit, Montagne Blanche, Rose Belle, and HQ Ebène) we reviewed facilities, laboratories, student support services, governance processes, and documentation integrity. At Rduit, the audit confirmed that core infrastructure and learning spaces were aligned with UNIMY’s franchise requirements, while also identifying opportunities for stronger digital integration in selected modules. At Montagne Blanche, the team observed Teaching and Learning delivery and examined assessment governance, including exam storage and vetting processes. The review found that exam security and



CLO–PLO attainment documentation were well established, with a recommendation to separate Quality and Examination functions to strengthen oversight.

A key academic outcome emerged at Rose Belle, where programme discussions concluded with agreement to integrate Applied AI and Ethics in Using Applied AI into curriculum development, alongside a push to reduce reliance on final examinations and expand project- and innovation-based assessment approaches. This direction is expected to enhance student creativity and support improved performance through more authentic evaluation methods.

At HQ Ebène, strategic meetings with senior leadership, strengthened the partnership roadmap for 2026. Priority commitments include increased internship and employment placement quotas, flexible entry pathways via the PML Certificate route, and the joint launch of a Malaysia–Mauritius TechTalk Series to deepen cross-border industry engagement.



When Code Meets Culture: Digitizing History at Shanxi Finance and Taxation College

Ts Muhammad Syahmie Shabarudin
Dean, School of Creative Multimedia, UNIMY

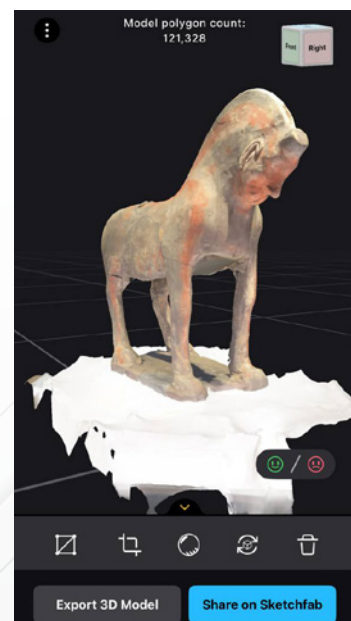


Can a video game engine preserve a thousand-year-old history? This was the central question during my recent academic visit to the Shanxi Finance and Taxation College, China. While the institution is rooted in financial and social sciences, the applicability of Creative Multimedia tools in preserving and presenting cultural heritage provided a fascinating ground for cross-disciplinary learning. The goal of my visit was to demonstrate how interactive media can transform static history into living, breathing experiences.

The first workshop I conducted, Interactive History in UE5, explored the narrative potential of the Unreal Engine. We discussed the shift from “passive observation” in museums to “active participation” in digital spaces. I guided the students through the workflow of creating interactive historical scenes where users can explore reconstructed ancient sites. We tackled the challenges of environmental storytelling using lighting, sound, and interactive triggers to guide a user through a historical narrative without the need for heavy text. It was a revelation for many that the same tools used to build Fortnite are now being used to teach history and preserve cultural identity.

The engagement deepened with the second session on Reality Capture (Photogrammetry). This technical workshop focused on the meticulous process of digitizing physical artifacts. We covered the end-to-end workflow: from taking overlapping photographs of a subject to processing the point cloud data and generating a textured 3D mesh. We discussed how this technology is critical for preservationists who need to archive statues, artifacts, or architecture that may be at risk of erosion or damage.

The students at Shanxi Finance and Taxation College displayed an impressive aptitude for these creative technologies. Seeing them apply these digital tools to their own rich cultural context was a highlight of the trip. This exchange highlighted a vital truth that Creative Multimedia is not just about entertainment; it is a universal toolset that empowers us to protect, visualize, and share our collective history with the future.



The Cybersecurity Power Play: A Boardroom Guide to Digital Defense

If you sit on a board, lead a business unit, or sign off on budgets, this book is written for you. *The Cybersecurity Power Play: A Boardroom Guide to Digital Defense* reframes cyber risk as a leadership responsibility and offers practical, plain-language strategies to help decision-makers stay ahead of ransomware, AI-enabled attacks, and high-impact breaches.

Authored by **Krishna Rajagopal, Founder and Group CEO of AKATI Sekurity**, the guide is grounded in real-world experience and is designed to help leaders turn cybersecurity from a vulnerability into a competitive advantage. Notably, Krishna also serves as an **Adjunct Professor of Practice UNIMY**, bringing frontline, current-practice thinking directly into the classroom and, by extension, into this boardroom-ready playbook.

What the book is trying to do (in practical terms):

- **Translate security into board language.**
- **Explain the threat landscape with concrete examples.**
- **Provide decision tools a board can actually use.**
- **Emphasise the human and organisational layer.**

The book is written for the current and aspiring board members and senior executives, and the book also works as a broad overview for any leader who needs to understand cyber risk at organisational level.

Purchase the book via the following link:

- <https://www.amazon.com/Cybersecurity-Power-Play-Boardroom-Digital/dp/BOFFZHKIMX>
- https://books.google.com.my/books/about/The_Cybersecurity_Power_Play.html?id=s2qf0QEACAAJ&redir_esc=y

