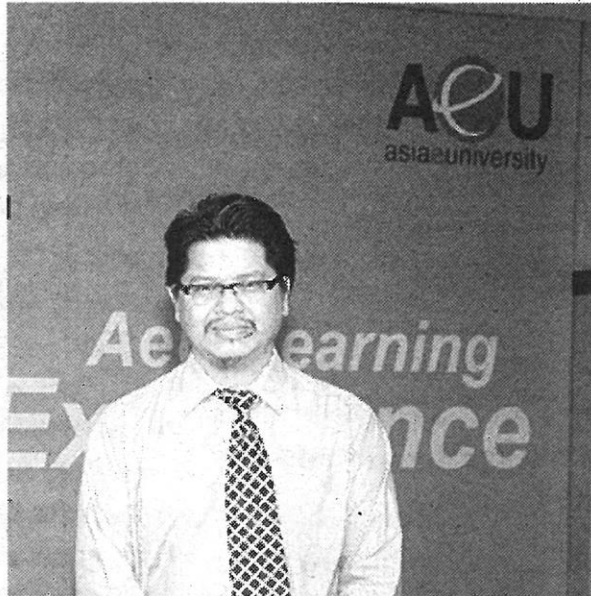


On the pulse...



Dean of AeU's School of Information & Communication Technology **Professor Dr Syed Malek Fakar Duani Syed Mustapha**

ASIA e University (AeU) is no stranger to innovation, and the School of Information and Communications Technology (SICT) reflects that. In a field that is transient in nature, there is a constant need to keep up-to-date on bleeding-edge technology and also to provide proper education to students.

"Being in a fast-paced industry has its own challenges," says Professor Dr Syed Malek Fakar Duani Syed Mustapha, Dean of AeU's School of Information & Communication Technology. "That's the reason why we're constantly staying on top of our game—to provide the best education we can."

There is much effort spent on making sure quality is always top notch. Professor Syed mentions that standardisation is the first step taken to ensure quality education. For a university that has a significant amount of branches, it has to make sure that the education provided is of similar attribute regardless of the place of study. Next is having a good standard of procedure. This means making

sure that the services provided on paper are also reflected in the education. Then there is the human factor and office politics, which Professor Syed strives to make as comfortable as possible for staff and students alike. Last but not least is keeping abreast on the information and demands of the IT industry.

There are master's and doctorate programmes offered in AeU. The master's programme allows adult learners to familiarise themselves with IT knowledge regardless of their current standing in the field. This master's in ICT management programme bridges the gap between IT and business knowledge, and helps working professionals to be able to keep up with the constant evolution of technology in business. There is also a doctorate in ICT programme that covers a wide range of knowledge in which the research approach can be taken from social scientists or computer scientists' perspectives. This course helps students attain more elaborate knowledge of IT, giving them a deeper well of knowledge to draw from. All the courses are MQA recognised and will serve to provide graduates with good professional options.

The unique benefit of studying in AeU is the quality of their supervisors who are equipped with high academic achievements and extensive industry experience. AeU offers education through a part-time or full-time basis and the university offers flexibility to change study modes halfway through the programmes.

Professor Syed believes in having multiple areas of knowledge, stating that he tries finding ways to connect his knowledge of IT and geography to apply in real life. He goes on to say that IT can be used in business, engineering, or even art. He concludes by saying that it is still not too late for Malaysia to be a leader in the ICT industry, and that the school will try to be one of the contributors in that pursuit.