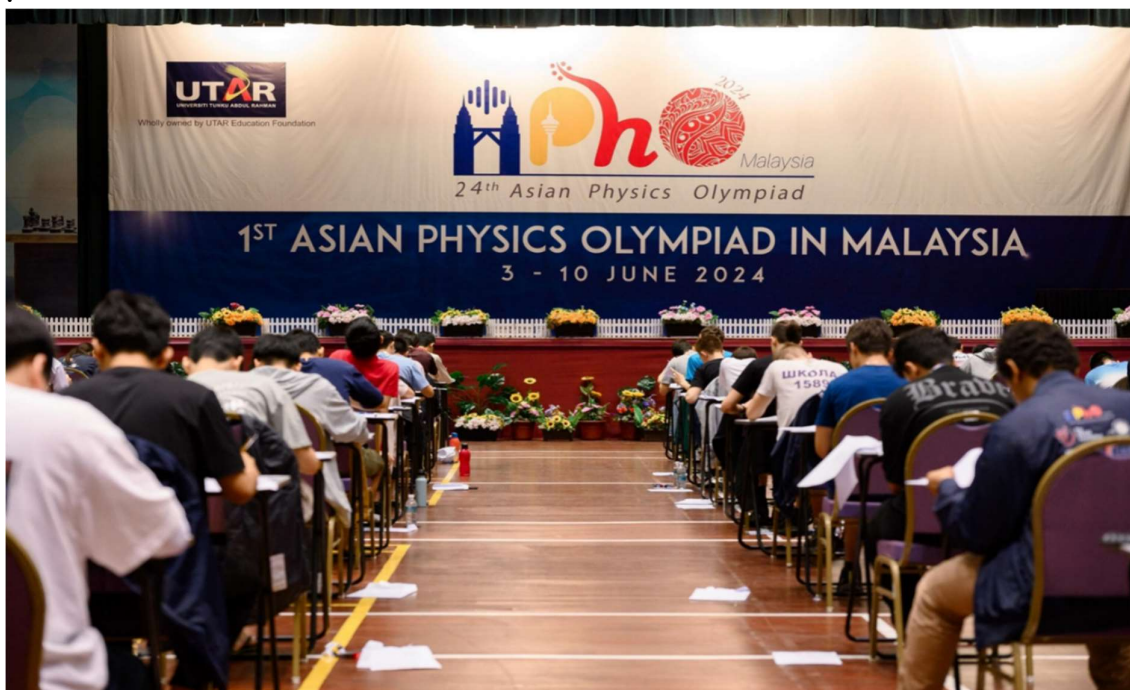


Head Foundation Singapore and UTAR and TAR UMT Malaysia

One of the important functions of AETDEW is to act as a bridge between AETDEW Fellows and their organisations for them to collaborate for mutual benefits. AETDEW President Dato Lee Yee Cheong played the matchmaking role in connecting AETDEW Fellow Lim Yu Book, Governing Board member of Head Foundation* Singapore with AETDEW Fellow Professor Ewe Hon Tat, President of University Tunku Abdul Rahman UTAR Malaysia and AETDEW Fellow Professor Lee Sze Wei, President Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology Malaysia TAR UMT for HEAD Foundation sponsorship of UTAR and TAR UMT programs as below. AETDEW Fellows are encouraged to contact Lim Yu Book for possible collaboration with Head Foundation Singapore.

“As part of The HEAD Foundation’s vision of improving lives in Asia through quality education and healthcare, the Singapore-based non-profit organisation is keen to work with like-minded partners in the region. The Foundation supports initiatives that empower future leaders and changemakers, or address gaps in the education and healthcare sectors.

This includes our sponsorship of the Asian Physics Olympiad 2024 organised by Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR). Held in June, the international competition gathered young physicists from 28 countries which served as a platform to discover scientific talents and encourage international cooperation



The Foundation is also supporting Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology's (TAR UMT) quantitative study on the learning application Sekolah Enuma Indonesia's (SEI) effectiveness in improving the literacy (Bahasa & English) and numeracy skills among early childhood learners in Indonesia. Three of our grantees had agreed to participate in the assessment which comprise a six-month intervention period. The study will also collect qualitative feedback from students, teachers and school principals to identify potential areas for enhancement. This follows the Foundation's efforts in working with partners in Indonesia to roll out SEI across the country.



On the healthcare front, the Foundation also provided support for UTAR to run a study on the safety and efficacy of *Tuina* in managing chronic lower back pain. This trial will be run in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, following the independent trials conducted at the Mayo Clinic, Singapore General Hospital, and The First Affiliated Hospital of Jinan University. By supporting such research projects, the Foundation hopes the clinical data will allow *Tuina*, a holistic and non-invasive treatment, to be recommended as a mainstream intervention in hospitals, if proven effective.”



***The HEAD Foundation** is an International Charitable Organisation, registered with the Commissioner of Charities in Singapore in 2013. It was set up to carry out philanthropic works in education but later extended its remit to include healthcare to improve lives in Asia, particularly in the less developed parts of Southeast Asia.

“Education breeds confidence. Education breeds hope. Hope breeds peace”. These words from the Chinese sage Confucius are as relevant today as they were first written 2.7 millennia ago. Thus, when The HEAD Foundation was first set up, education was at the core of our mission. HEAD then stood for Higher Education for Asian Development. Over the years our mission has expanded to encompass other aspects of education. The role of education in fostering social and human capital and economic development is well documented. Examples abound from Singapore to China, from Korea to Hong Kong. Since 2018 The HEAD Foundation has expanded its mission to also cover Healthcare from an East-West perspective. The intrinsic value of good health for a better quality of life is self-evident. The importance of a healthy population for social-economic growth and development is also well documented. The Head Foundation support projects and programmes which directly or indirectly result in the most positive impact on the largest number of beneficiaries. The Head Foundation support early childhood education as it is critical to ensure children start off their education journey with a strong foundation. STEM education is another area of their focus. Students with a good grounding in STEM subjects have the foundation for vocational training that improves their employability.

