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It was without a doubt a great honour to be appointed as one of the candidates chosen for a 2-week attachment at the South Central University for Nationalities (SCUN) in China under the Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) internationalisation programme. Bearing a responsibility equal to that of acting as ambassador of UMP, Dr. Chin Sim Yee was tasked to find out collaboration opportunities by getting familiarised to SCUN's research and postgraduate studies management systems, infrastructure and facilities – and subsequently to bring to fruition the strategic networking between SCUN and UMP.

SCUN is an established university founded by the government of China for its minority groups. The university has set up a few key laboratories in the Hubei Province and is active in arranging its international student exchange programme with other universities worldwide, making the institution a potential strategic partner of UMP.

During the two-week attachment, Dr. Chin was attached to the College of Chemistry and Materials Science. Several fruitful activities were organised during her stay there including discussion sessions with the management team of the College. She had lively exchanges of information regarding issues on student-staff ratio, staff work load, curriculum, student affairs, as well as research and postgraduate studies management. Further she had the opportunity to visit all laboratories used for teaching, learning and research including the College's key laboratory for analytical chemistry as well as catalysts and materials. The key laboratories are equipped with various advanced equipments for catalyst and material

RESEARCH COLLABORATION WITH SCUN CHINA



The management team of the College of Chemistry and Materials Science, SCUN

characterisations which are operated by the experienced lecturers with assistance by postgraduate students in areas of troubleshooting. It was truly inspiring that all the lecturers are given a research laboratory to start up their research work.

In view of the wide-range equipments in their labs, a joint research project with the topic related to hydrodeoxygenation catalysis was proposed during the meeting with a research group of the Fischer-Tropsch Synthesis Catalysis, as a starting point of collaboration between SCUN and UMP. It was heartening that immediately after the proposal, a postgraduate student from SCUN was selected to adopt this research title. With the synergy and complementary efforts of experts from both SCUN and UMP in the field of chemistry

and chemical engineering, this project is expected to reach not only to the levels of research and development, but also towards commercialisation activities.

Dr. Chin signed off by saying that future collaborations in the area of postgraduate students' joint supervision, students' attachment, appointment of external examiners and research, development and commercialization in the field of catalysis and environmental engineering are essential to strengthen the relationship between SCUN and UMP. Through the staff attachment program, the practices and achievements especially in research, development and postgraduate studies can be benchmarked with SCUN and subsequently escalate the effort to elevate the ranking of UMP.