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Hello, Connections magazine readers!

I’d like to extend a warm welcome to the sixth issue of Connections, the Newcastle Australia IHE Business Club magazine, which is now accessible online. This issue, unlike the previous five, contains stories set against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite these muddled virtual and face-to-face narratives, the NAIHE Business Club continued to host and engage in events and activities that enabled them to maximize their potential beyond what they learnt in class.

The group dynamics, as well as the constraints imposed by virtuality, will indeed serve as a laboratory for them to practice becoming a more reasonable response leader and team member in the future. These experiences also aided them in developing a more balanced personality and inspired them to continue learning about their unique strengths and weaknesses throughout their education and lives. Individuals’ component of themselves that enables them to create a fulfilling job based on their qualities and passions.

The sixth issue reveals a wide range of creative abilities possessed by all business club committee members. Despite all the challenges, they were able to complete their tasks on time and showcase their works in this magazine. Thank you to all 2020 – 2021 BC committee members, including ex-Presidents and Secretaries, as well as others in the committee structure, Rushil Khera, Bhupen Batra, Akshita Bhasker, Wang Jianxin, Sriharini Madhavan, Jiang Yiting, and Liu Yingyu, for their dedication in enabling the publication of this issue. Additionally, I am delighted to announce that the University of Newcastle (UON) has improved its quality yet again, climbing positions in the QS global world ranking. The UON is now ranked 197th among the world’s top 1000 universities.
Hello, everyone. I'm Junxiong from UON MBA, and I'm the president of the business club for the two trimesters of 2021. I am really privileged to be in such a position to communicate with more peers, to uncover the shining aspects from them, and to check my own inadequate, which is also a huge task for me. Getting to know peers from different cultural backgrounds has also been really beneficial to me from the start. This is a beautiful and amazing experience. I strongly advise you to study at the Newcastle Australia Institute of Higher Education (previously UON Singapore). Students studying business can gladly join our large family; whether it is for your future resume or school experience, it will be extremely beneficial. It will teach you soft skills that you would not be able to learn in a classroom setting!

Hello, my name is Huang Yunshi, but you can call me Cecilia if you prefer. My major was MBA, and I graduated from UON in May. As a former vice president of the UON Business Club, I can say without a doubt that the most memorable time of my campus life was spent with the UON Business Club.

During my time with the club, I tried a variety of new experiences. We competed in the 2021 ICSB competition, promoted our club to freshmen at orientation, and so on. I believe that if you do not join the Business Club, it is difficult to gain such amazing experiences as I did. You will have more access to experienced mentors like Dr. Rita, as well as more like-minded students, if you join the UON Business Club. Don't be shy, and don't be afraid to join the UON Business Club!
Thin Nandar Soe from Yangon, Myanmar, here. I've been at Newcastle University since I was a bachelor's student and am now an MBA graduate. Joining a business club was a significant step for me; learning about and connecting with the community has broadened my knowledge. Because members come from a variety of cultural backgrounds, and communication has developed a strong international reach, it has aided me in gaining a global perspective as secretary. It enhances the learning environment for my professional and personal development. I consider myself fortunate to be one of them, and I am grateful to all of my colleagues and leaders. Participating in this experience will greatly benefit your future.

LIN YU YUAN

As the marketing manager of a business club at the university of Newcastle, I find that every day is very fulfilling. Our business club competed in a competition to select potential companies during our tenure. During the competition, we learned how to evaluate whether a company has potential and how to learn more interesting ideas through team communication. As a marketing manager, I was in charge of how to promote during the process. This taught me a variety of methods for promoting products.

In addition, I've made a lot of new friends through the business club. The business club, in my opinion, not only allows us to learn more about useful business knowledge and experience, but it also enriches my university life. The communication and activities with the other members of the group also made me happy, so I believe this experience will have an impact on my future life.
LI DAN

Hello there. My name is LiDan, and I am originally from China. My previous bachelor’s degree in international business was obtained from the University of Newcastle. I’ve been a member of Business Club for almost a year, and my role is event manager. This platform provides me with more opportunities to develop relationships and socialize in the future. I also learned how important teamwork is and how to improve my communication skills. Thank you to all of the teammates and leaders!

LIU JIA YING

Hello, I’m Liu Jiaying from Xinjiang. Now I am an MBA student at UON. Previously, I studied at PSB Academy in Singapore, from language to bachelor's degree. My four years here have made me more self-reliant. This year’s study in Singapore will help me clarify my goals, broaden my perspectives, and enrich my thoughts and life. So I joined our UON/NAIHE Business Club as an assistant marketing manager. Our students can use the business club to develop their leadership and entrepreneurial skills. We can learn from books and theories, but also get more practice than regular students. Although the epidemic has caused us many problems, and we come from different countries and cultures, associations have strengthened our bonds, and our activities will continue. We all came here to finish the work we enjoy, and these experiences will become my most valuable assets in my future life and work. This makes everyone appreciate their work in the community, and we hope more students will join us!
Hello, everyone! My name is Chen Hao, and I’m from the Chinese province of Jiangsu. I am currently a UON/NAIHE undergraduate student and the Assistant Marketing Manager at Business Club. In this family, the business club has seen many talented students and excellent teachers. Because I am a newbie with many deficiencies in both social communication and problem solving, being a member of this club is my first challenge for this year. Meanwhile, I believe I will be able to use this courage to face new challenges in the coming days. In particular, I can learn a lot of soft skills and make a lot of nice friends in this club. I am honored to be a member of this club and believe that this time will help me mature as a person. I also hope that more students join this wonderful big family and have a great time.

Hi, I’m Tangxinyu, a self-driven, career-driven individual who loves to live life to the fullest. My MBA is from the University of Newcastle in Singapore, a world-renowned university with highly qualified faculty and talented students. The UON/NAIHE Business Club organises various activities to learn about future career prospects from experts in various fields. Every day is a learning day, and the Business Club was no exception. Being a member of the club gave me a lot of knowledge and experience. Now I have more opportunities to network, support and collaborate with other clubs. Working with other students and staff members to learn, improve, and contribute when needed was a rewarding experience for me this term. This year’s team has been great to work with; everyone has their own unique talents to contribute, providing a platform to improve my communication, leadership, networking, and other employability skills.
MA XIAOUJUN

Hi, everyone. This is Ma Xiaojun from Qinghai, which is located in the west northwestern part of China. It is a wonderful land for me where I can enjoy my horsing while surrounded by beautiful nature. I moved to Singapore to study in 2018 and am currently in my first year of a bachelor's degree programme. As a new member of the UON/NAIHE Business Club, I am grateful for the opportunity to join this wonderful family. I will do my best to fulfil my role as Assistant Events/PR Manager and work with the team members to create wonderful memories for our future and to devote myself to our club.

LIN SHENGJUN

Good day mate! I'm Lin Shengjun from Guangdong. I am an MBA student at UON/NAIHE. I am the event manager for the Business Club. We started participating in activities a few months after joining the Business Club. This club has people from different countries and cultures, so I was excited and nervous to join. Like the Business Club, I had previously joined other clubs, but they were all for the same country. These activities brought us together quickly, and everyone contributed. For fun, we frequently promote our events via social media. Attending events also allows us to share our ideas via social media or in person, which helps the event run smoothly. Business Club also teaches us how to interact with others and become a better businessperson. In short, Business Club can help you get a job after graduation. In general, I am thrilled to join this big family!
WEBINAR ON PREPARING FOR JOB COVID19 EDITION

The UON Singapore Webinar on Job Preparation, Covid-19 edition took place on 16th September 2020. This was the first time the UON/NAIHE Business Club hosted a virtual career information session. This virtual session was designed to give students valuable insight into the types of materials they should prepare in order to gain a competitive edge when applying for jobs in the world of work. This event featured Mr. Mark Leong, Executive Vice President of Maybank Singapore, who shared extremely valuable insights into the most sought-after hard and soft skills that employers look for in a prospective candidate or new hire, particularly during these difficult economic times. These types of events are beneficial in that they provide students a forum for reworking their personal profiles and charting their new routes. The occasion was worthwhile.
The UON/NAIHE Business Club offers introductory classes in "R" programming as one of its initiatives. The following is what Akshita (former secretary of the business club) and Bhupen (former president of the business club) had to say: "Large organisations are utilising Business Analysts to decipher their generated data and derive actionable insights as the world moves toward big data. Thus, the company can forecast and prescribe effective measures, as well as determine the best or most efficient outcome by utilising these findings and insights ". This argument prompted them to offer basic classes on "R" Programming every week. This language is extremely useful when working with large data sets and creating graphics. Students had to download the R programming language from https://rstudio.com/products/rstudio/download/ before coming to class. This event's goal is to give young minds the skills they'll need in the future to tackle big data issues. Being a member of the University of Newcastle Business Club has numerous benefits and opportunities.
A virtual orientation for the new UON/NAIHE students (T2-21) was held on August 31, 2021, and was organised by NAIHE and Business Club committee members. The session was led by Dr. Vahid Biglari, and then the Business Club took the stage. Thanks to President of our Business Club’s President, Wang Junxiong and the entire Business Club committee, this event was made possible. It was Junxiong’s turn to talk about Business Club, and he encouraged everyone to join so they could gain some real-world work experiences. Business Club gives students the opportunity to work in a diverse team while also discovering their strengths and developing their skills. It was a very useful gathering.
The International Council for Small Business (ICSB) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to small business management education. The Council was founded in 1955 in the USA on the belief that entrepreneurship is required to stimulate a dynamic and growing economy.

The ICSB's February Funding Competition was held on February 27th, 2020, and the UON Singapore/NAIHE Student Business Club took part. Student and alumnus start-up teams are looking for funding at this event. Customer value proposition (CVP) and supporting documentation proving viability will be considered when evaluating start-ups. The Business Club made an attempt to submit its own Business Proposal but was unsuccessful due to stiff competition from around the world. Despite the negative outcome, the students gained confidence from their ability to collaborate and design a business model with a unique CVP.
We invited Ms. Rui Ma to participate in a dialogue on 28 May 2021 so that UON/NAIHE students can interact directly with industry leaders and explore the practical application of their training and abilities while also solidifying their classroom knowledge. The dialogue broadened students’ vision of possibilities and instilled confidence in them as they choose a career and define their personal goals in the digital transformation during this live dialogue session. Ms. Rui Ma has fifteen years of experience in technology and finance, ranging from seed stage to pre-IPO investing in the United States and China, respectively. She founded Tech Buzz China in 2018 to educate and consult investors, funds, and entrepreneurs on the products, strategies, and trends of Chinese technology companies. She previously worked as an investment partner at 500 Startups and spent a decade in Silicon Valley and China in private equity and mergers and acquisitions roles at the Raine Group, Morgan Stanley, and Merrill Lynch. Rui earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the University of California, Berkeley, as well as additional degrees from Tsinghua, INSEAD, UIUC, and Harvard University. The session was indeed extremely productive and inspirational for everyone who attended.
NAIHE BUSINESS CLUB, SINGAPORE
2020-2021

I LOOK AHEAD