Newcastle teams tackle issues

FOR three days, a group of the best and brightest students from all around the globe were gathered together in Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed) to tackle some of the most pressing global issues today.

Organised by NUMed students, the event known as the Newcastle International: change-makers of Tomorrow (NICOT), united the student bodies from all three Newcastle University campuses in Singapore, London and Malaysia through the formation of cross-national and campus groups.

Each international team of students worked together to design solutions to international issues through interdisciplinary collaborations.

Students were assigned to solve international issues that are aligned with the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which the global community is hoping to achieve by the year 2030.
The student bodies from all three Newcastle University campuses worked together to design solutions to international issues.

This year, the organisers of NICOT decided to focus on three issues namely inequality in access to education, racism in view of refugees, and the over-manufacturing of plastics. These issues were viewed to be important and relevant to all three countries involved in the competition. Participants were first challenged to brainstorm innovative and effective methods to overcome these complex global issues as part of a multinational team before submitting their proposals.

The finalists were then invited to NUMed for the three-day final competition to present their solutions to a panel of judges in the most efficient manner possible through a short and concise three-minute elevator pitch.

NICOT organising committee president and NUMed student Irfan Ikhtar said: “NICOT provides a platform for participants to network with the students from the other campuses.”

“This allows them to build bridges and overcome cultural differences and in turn help them become more culturally aware, an objective we have in line with globalising the participants.”

In addition, it also challenges participants to be more open, critical and creative of their own ideas, especially in terms of finding solutions to issues, said Irfan.

Set up in 2009, NUMed is the first fully-owned international branch campus of Newcastle University, UK, in Johor, Malaysia, that offers undergraduate degrees in Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

There are also opportunities for postgraduate studies.

NUMed draws on the legacy of Newcastle University, UK.

The university is internationally renowned for being one of the best British universities for medicine, offering world-class medical education to students from more than 120 countries.

TAGS / KEYWORDS:
Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia