

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

They come from across the world

ASIA e University (AeU) recently held its fourth convocation ceremony at Putra World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur. Graduates from around the world, several ambassadors and representatives from foreign embassies, particularly from the 33 Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) countries, attended the event.

More than 1,200 graduands received their scrolls and celebrated their success with their families and friends.

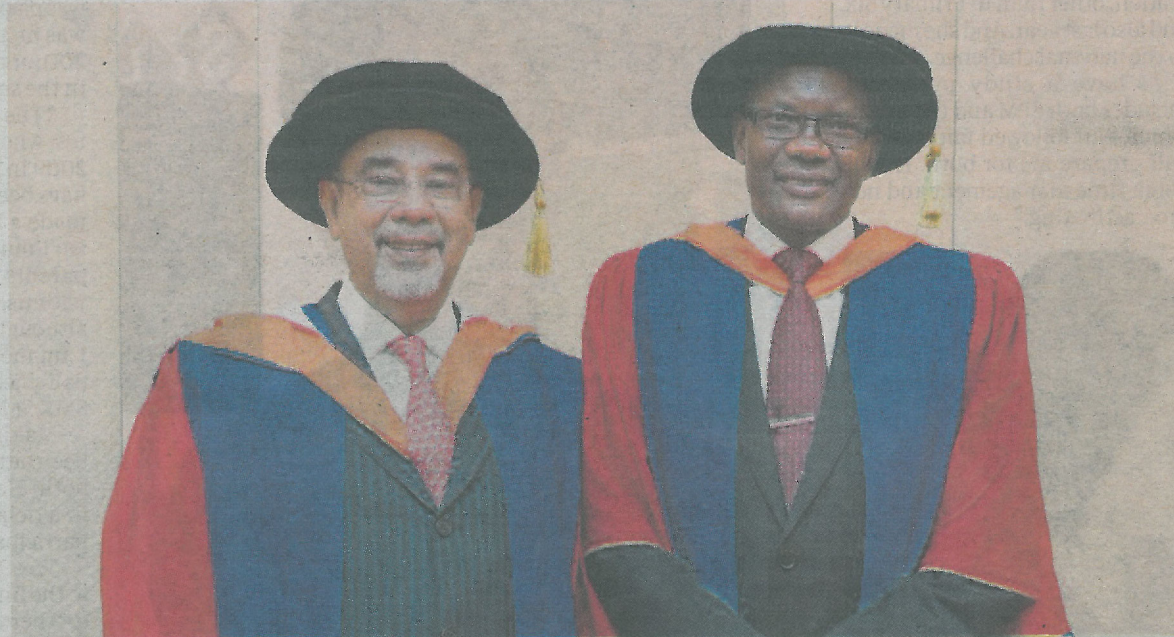
Twelve of them received their Doctor of Philosophy, two received their Doctor of Business Administration, 177 master's, 126 bachelor's, 21 graduate diplomas, 820 executive master's and 44 professional bachelor's degrees.

Of these graduands, about 300 were from Namibia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and other ACD countries.

Among the highlights was the conferment of Doctor of Philosophy degree on Namibian Education Minister Dr David Richard Namwandi.

Namwandi has received awards for advancing higher education systems in Namibia. He believes in equality and quality education for Namibians.

Born in Okapya village, in the Ondangwa District Oshana Region,



AeU PhD recipients **Tan Sri Dr Syed Hamid Syed Albar** (left) and **Dr David Richard Namwandi**.

Namibia, Namwandi, at the age of 60, was elected as a member of National Assembly and appointed as deputy minister of education in 2010.

He was also a central committee member of the ruling Swapo Party in

Namibia. He was appointed minister

Higher Education as the chairman of Accreditation and Quality Assurance Committee; as well as the vice-chairperson in the Vice-Chancellors and Rectors Forum.

He is the founder of the first and

only fully accredited private university, the International University of Management (IUM), in Windhoek, Namibia.

Established in 1994, IUM has a student population of 8,500 in five satellite campuses in the country. He served as its chairman and vice-chancellor until his appointment as deputy minister of education.

He has received awards and recognitions for his contributions locally and globally.

Among the credits earned are the Education Leadership Award at the World Marketing Summit, Malaysia (2013), the Outstanding Contribution to Education Award by the Central Bank of India, Mumbai, India (2012); and the International B-School Leadership, Educational Excellence Award, Le Matinal, Mauritius (2011). Accordingly, he is also the chairman of the Namibia National Commission for Unesco.

He has been a PhD student with AeU since 2007. His thesis, "Implementation of the Southern African Development Community Protocol on Education and Training and its Impact on Economic Development: A Case Study of Namibia and Zimbabwe", studied the

→ Turn to Page 9

Give yourself a chance to pursue PhD

→ From Page 4

reasons behind the failure to implement the Southern African Development Community Protocol on Education and Training (SADC-PET).

This study reveals the significant factors that hampered the implementation of SADC-PET, despite its goals of developing a comparable and harmonised education, and training policies in SADC countries.

He is convinced that AeU's Doctor of Philosophy programme has boosted his learning aptitude and knowledge about Asia, the Saharan and Sub-Saharan regions and beyond.

He said researchers would be intellectually stimulated by the findings of his study, in carrying out similar research in the remaining 13 SADC-countries.

"The programme has changed my outlook in life. I learnt a great deal during my study at AeU, particularly about the research in education administration.

"Throughout my learning years, my family has been my supporter.

"The key words for PhD study are, always give yourself a chance to pursue a lifelong learning experience, and to find a balance between your work, study and family.

"The outcomes may be more than meet the eyes. It may change the way you like it, like it did to me. I will continue to be a good ambassador for AeU.

"I will encourage my fellow students to do the same. AeU has moulded and shaped us academically, so now it's our duty to ensure that the name and reputation of this institution is greatly enhanced."

Another Doctor of Philosophy recipient at the event was Tan Sri Dr Syed Hamid Syed Albar. Syed Hamid, who has been a student at AeU since 2011, believes that the PhD degree has given him a better intellectual insight, and is an achievement that he did not expect at the age of 70.

His thesis, titled "National Interest in the Foreign Policy of Malaysia: The Mahathir Era (1981 to 2003)", showed how Malaysia was allowed to play a leadership role among the South-South countries, Ummah and eastern

Asia, including Asean. His research findings indicate that domestic factors had influenced the foreign policy of Malaysia.

As a provider of open and distance learning universities in Asia, AeU provides working adults with the opportunity to further their studies from diploma to postgraduate level through a flexible mode of learning.

AeU is a collaborative multinational university instituted under the auspices of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), supported by 33 member countries.

Established in 2007, AeU has grown to become one of the leading providers of open and distance learning (ODL) in Asia. As an ODL institution, AeU's focus is to provide accessible and affordable higher education for all.

AeU has garnered awards such as the Brand Laureate Awards 2010 for "Best Brand in Education — e-Education," and the Asia Pacific Entrepreneurship Awards 2010 under the "Most Promising Entrepreneur" category. Additionally, in 2012, the University was announced as "the best ACD Project" during the ACD Meeting in Kuwait.

It offers more than 40 academic programmes at all levels through the five academic schools: School of Management, School of Education & Cognitive Science, School of Information & Communications Technology, School of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, and School of Graduate Studies.

All programmes are internationally benchmarked, approved by the Malaysian Education Ministry and accredited the Malaysian Qualifications Agency.

In addition, AeU academic programmes are recognised by several ACD countries as well as non-ACD countries.

The university offers more than 200 executive and professional programmes through the School of Professional & Executive Education and School of Technical Education, Engineering & Re-skilling.

Apart from its main campus, AeU has established a network of learning centres nationwide. These centres are located in major cities and towns, and rural areas.

For details, visit www.aeu.edu.my