University holds its 4th Professorial Lecture

UNIVERSITI Tun Abdul Razak (UNIRAZAK) held the 4th lecture in its Professorial Lecture Series recently at its Razak Campus.

Organised by the university’s Research and Publications Department, the lecture featured Professor Dr Cheah Kooi Guan, Dean of the Graduate School and was officially opened by Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Mahyuddin Mohd Dahan, Deputy President (Academic and Research).

As an academic institution, UNIRAZAK shoulders the responsibility to educate not only students but also the general public and to serve the academic community.

With this in mind, UNIRAZAK produces a variety of high-quality educational events and seminars that add to the body of knowledge that is currently available.

The Professorial Lecture Series in particular is designed to celebrate the achievements of UNIRAZAK’s academic staff who have achieved professorship, and to continue its tradition of contributing leading information to society.

Professor Cheah’s lecture was titled ‘Early Commercial Banks in Malaysia: Rise, Decline & Metamorphosis’, and attracted various UNIRAZAK academics and students as well as academics from other institutions of higher learning, staff from commercial banks, and research institutions.

Adopting the evolutionary economics approach, Professor Cheah explained some of the events and processes that took place in the development of early Malaysian commercial banks.

He explained that these banks, set up predominantly by prominent local Chinese tycoons to serve distinct dialect group interests, arose out of the local Chinese community’s needs for financial intermediation and the inadequacy of the then existing foreign banks in meeting this need.

Professor Cheah also examined Malaysia’s socio-economic progress and development after its independence, and the factors contributing to the decline of these early banks.

Finally, using three cases of the transformation of these early banks, he highlighted that the institution lives on, despite changes in names and ownership.

Professor Cheah concluded the lecture by making pertinent and thought provoking observations and lessons learnt from the history of these early local banks.

Professor Cheah specialises in the economics of banking and has authored five books and a number of research papers on the Malaysian financial system.

The Institute of Bankers Malaysia commissioned the translation of two of his books from Bahasa Malaysia to English for use in professional banking examinations conducted by the institute.

He has conducted specialist training programmes for financial institutions including Bank Negara Malaysia, Institute of Bankers Malaysia, and commercial banks.

He has also undertaken consultancy projects for international agencies, multinational corporations and consulting firms and is currently a member of the Corporate Governance Research Group at Birmingham University, UK and a member of the Institute of Certified Management Accountants, Australia.

He also sits on the panel of Institut Kajian & Latihan Integrasi Negara (IKLIN), Jabatan Perpaduan Negara.

Professor Cheah has appeared numerous times on RTM TV programmes, and is frequently consulted in newspaper interviews on economic, social and current issues and developments.

Universiti Tun Abdul Razak’s Professorial Lecture Series provides monographs of its lecture to all attendees, and is open to the public. For more information or to register for the next lecture free of charge, please email rapd@pintar.unirazak.edu