



INSIGHT

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STARTING FEBRUARY WITH LOVE

February at the University of Technology and Entrepreneurship (UTE) began with warmth, kindness, and meaningful connections as students came together to celebrate Valentine's Day in a special way. Rather than focusing only on romantic love, our campus embraced a broader message — sharing appreciation, gratitude, and positive energy among friends, classmates, and teachers.

At the entrance of the university, welcoming decorations and festive Valentine's ornaments set a cheerful tone for the day. Student were greeted by heart-themed decorations and a friendly atmosphere that

reminded everyone that UTE is not just a place for academic learning but also a community where relationships and support matter.



The highlight of the activity was a “Valentine’s Message Wall.” Students were invited to write heartfelt notes on colorful sticky papers and post them on a board dedicated to spreading kindness. Throughout the day, the board quickly filled with messages of encouragement, appreciation, and friendship. Some students wrote thank-you notes to their lecturers for their dedication and support, while others shared positive messages with their classmates and friends.

Many messages reflected the strong sense of community within UTE. Students expressed gratitude for teamwork, friendship, and the support they receive during their academic journey. A few notes included motivational quotes and uplifting words, reminding everyone to stay respectful, kind, and supportive of one another.

The activity also created an opportunity for students from different programs to interact and connect. Groups gathered around the message wall, reading notes, sharing smiles, and adding their own messages. The atmosphere was lively and full of laughter as students captured the moment with photos and enjoyed the simple act of spreading positivity.



As we begin the month of February, this Valentine's celebration reminds us that kindness and gratitude are powerful forces that bring our community closer together. At UTE, love is expressed through respect, collaboration, and encouragement—values that continue to inspire our students every day.

UTE MEDIA CLUB: EQUIPPING STUDENT CREATIVES

Another exciting highlight this month comes from **the UTE Media Club**, where creativity and technical skills come together to support student storytelling on campus. The club recently shared insights into the **essential gear every student creator should have to shoot like a professional**, inspiring many students interested in photography, videography, and digital media.

Through a visual showcase, the Media Club introduced their **Top 6 essentials for content creation**, emphasizing that while creativity begins with the person behind the camera, the right tools can significantly enhance the quality of production. Among the key items featured were **professional cameras, tripods, external microphones, and LED video lights** —equipment that helps student creators produce clearer visuals, stable shots, and high-quality audio.



The activity also served as a learning opportunity for students who want to explore media production. Members of the club explained how each piece of equipment contributes to better storytelling. For example, a **tripod provides stability for smooth shots, an external microphone improves sound clarity during interviews or presentations, and LED lighting ensures subjects are well-lit even in indoor or low-light environments.**

Beyond simply displaying equipment, the post encouraged students to think like content creators by asking them which gear they would bring first when preparing for a shoot. This interactive approach sparked discussion among students who are passionate about photography, filmmaking, and social media content creation.

The **UTE Media Club** continues to play an important role in building creative skills among students. By sharing knowledge, demonstrating equipment, and encouraging collaboration, the club helps students gain practical experience in media production—skills that are increasingly valuable in today’s digital world.

FINAL EXAMINATION WEEK

*As February comes to an end, the UTE campus is entering one of the most important periods of the academic semester—**Final Examination Week**. After weeks of lectures, assignments, group discussions, and project work, students are now preparing to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have developed throughout the term.*



To support students during this crucial time, UTE shared an encouraging message reminding everyone to stay confident and focused. The message emphasizes that exams are not only a test of knowledge but also an opportunity for students to reflect on how much they have learned and grown during the semester.

*The university has also released **important examination guidelines** to ensure a smooth and fair process for all students. Students are reminded to **arrive at least 30 minutes before the scheduled exam time** to allow enough time for preparation and verification.*

They are also required to **bring their student ID, laptop, and any necessary examination materials.**



Because many exams use digital assessment systems, students are advised to **ensure their laptops are tested with the required secure exam browser (SEB) software** in advance. Preparing devices beforehand helps prevent technical issues and allows students to focus fully on their exams.

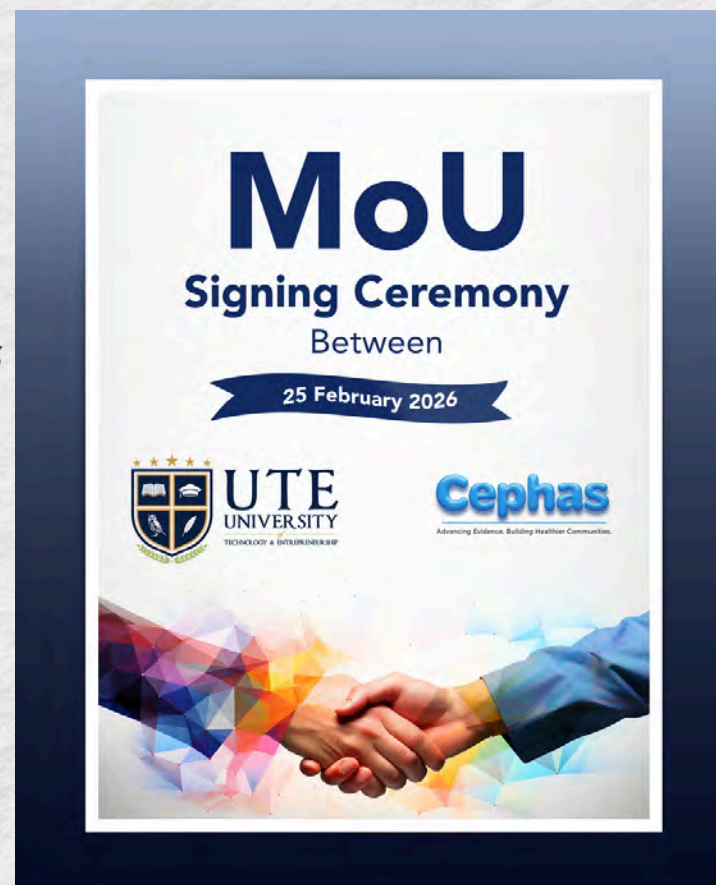
To maintain academic integrity, the university also reminds students that **mobile phones, smartwatches, and unauthorized materials are strictly prohibited during examinations.**

While exam week can be challenging, it is also a moment that highlights students' dedication, perseverance, and commitment to their studies. Across the campus, libraries, study areas, and classrooms are filled with students reviewing notes, discussing topics with classmates, and preparing for their final assessments.

STRENGTHENING RESEARCH THROUGH STRATEGIC COLLABORATION

*UTE is also proud to announce an important step forward in its commitment to research and innovation through a new partnership with **CEPHAS Health Research Initiative Inc.** This collaboration represents a significant milestone for the university as it expands its role in advancing academic research and global knowledge sharing. Through this partnership, **UTE and CEPHAS** will work closely on **joint research initiatives, scientific collaboration, and academic capacity development.** The collaboration will support activities such as research projects, grant applications, scientific meetings, training certificates, and professional workshops designed to strengthen research skills among faculty members and students.*

*One of the key goals of this partnership is to **support the publication of scholarly research in high-impact international journals.***



*By combining expertise from both institutions, **UTE** researchers and students will have greater opportunities to participate in research projects that contribute to global academic discussions in areas such as digital health, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The partnership will also provide mentorship opportunities for **UTE** students, allowing them to gain valuable experience in research design, data analysis, and academic writing. These experiences are essential for preparing students who aspire to pursue advanced studies or careers in research and innovation.*

*In addition, **UTE and CEPHAS** plan to work together on the development of academic programs and research-focused training, helping to build stronger research capacity within the university and support Cambodia's growing innovation ecosystem.*

*This collaboration reflects **UTE's** broader vision of becoming a research-driven university that connects education, technology, and entrepreneurship with real-world impact. By partnering with organizations such as **CEPHAS**, **UTE** continues to expand opportunities for students, faculty, and researchers to contribute to meaningful discoveries and global academic advancement.*

*Together, **UTE and CEPHAS** are taking an important step toward strengthening research excellence, promoting innovation, and increasing the university's presence in international scholarly publications.*

*Partnership with **Polytechnic University of the Philippines** UTE continues to strengthen its international collaborations with the signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** with the **Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP)**. This exciting partnership marks another important milestone in UTE's mission to expand global learning opportunities and build strong academic networks across the region.*

*The agreement between the **University of Technology and Entrepreneurship (UTE)** and **Polytechnic University of the Philippines**, one of the Philippines' leading public universities, focuses on enhancing educational cooperation, academic exchange, and collaborative learning initiatives. Through this partnership, both institutions aim to create meaningful opportunities for students and faculty to engage in cross-cultural academic experiences.*

One of the key highlights of the collaboration is the development of student exchange programs, which will allow students from both universities to experience studying in a different academic environment. These exchanges will help students broaden their perspectives, gain international exposure, and develop valuable global competencies that are increasingly important in today's interconnected world.

In addition to student mobility, the partnership also opens doors for joint academic activities, knowledge sharing, and potential collaborative research initiatives. Faculty members from both institutions will have opportunities to exchange ideas, share expertise, and work together on projects that enhance teaching and learning.



*As **UTE** continues to expand its international partnerships, collaborations with respected institutions like **Polytechnic University of the Philippines** help strengthen the university's academic ecosystem and create more pathways for students to grow, learn, and innovate.*

OPINION

Moving the Desks: How a “Gallery Walk” Can Fix the Writing Class

By Mr. Sind Somonind, Department Coordinator, UTE



For many students, writing class is scary. Usually, the teacher stands at the front and talks about rules, grammar, and vocabulary. At the end of the hour, students are told to practice writing and wait for the teacher to fix their mistakes.

It is a boring cycle that makes students feel like robots. But in my experience, writing shouldn't just be about following rules. It should be about creativity and working together.

*Recently, I tried something different in my class of twenty students. Instead of a long lecture on how to write a "research abstract" (a summary of a report), I turned the lesson into a game called a **"Gallery Walk."***

First, I broke the students into groups of four. To make it fun and less stressful, I let them give their groups silly names. This small change made everyone laugh and relaxed the room.

When students aren't afraid of making mistakes, they learn much faster. The groups had 25 minutes to write their own titles and abstracts. I didn't tell them who should lead or who should write; I let them decide their own roles. This gave them autonomy—the power to manage themselves. They weren't just learning to write; they were learning how to work in a team.



When the time was up, we turned the classroom into an art gallery. Every group taped their work onto the walls. Then, the students walked around the room like they were in a museum. They read what other teams wrote and gave a "star" to the ones they liked best. The only rule was that you couldn't vote for your own team.

The change in the room was amazing. Students who usually sat quietly were suddenly standing up and talking. They weren't just writing to get a grade from me; they were writing so their friends could understand them. They became both writers and critics.

This simple activity showed me that we don't need fancy technology to improve a class. We just need to change how we work. By moving the desks and letting students talk to each other, a "daunting" writing task becomes a fun challenge.

If we want students to be great communicators, we have to stop treating the classroom like a one-way street. We should treat student work like art in a gallery. When students feel like they have a voice, they don't just finish the assignment—they take pride in it.

Sind Somonind

REFLECTION AFTER CLASS

Finding a Moral Middle Path for the Cambodia-Thailand Border Conflict

By Asst. Prof. Mut Somouen and Ms. Sam Sreynith

Moral Philosophy challenges us to look beyond the surface of daily events and engage with the fundamental principles that govern national existence. While the world often demands rapid pragmatic responses to crises, philosophical inquiry forces us to grapple with losses that cannot be measured by material metrics alone. The recurring tensions along the Cambodia-Thailand border, specifically the standoffs in contested temple zones, provide a profound ethical case study in managing the clash between a fundamental duty to the state and a broader responsibility to humanity.

A critical analysis of this situation requires looking at Deontology, the framework positing that morality is rooted in duty regardless of consequences. From this perspective, a state has a categorical imperative to protect its territorial integrity as a matter of principle. For many Cambodians, sovereignty represents a heritage built on the survival of our land and its historical significance. Defending our territory and the sacred sites it holds is seen as a non-negotiable obligation to our ancestors. Under this view, any compromise under external pressure is not merely a loss of land but a failure of the state's primary moral contract to protect its citizens' rights and the treasures they cherish.

“Each ethical framework provides a different lens through which we view the border. Real-world leadership is the art of combining duty with the weight of consequences.”

However, Utilitarianism offers a vital counter-balance by focusing on societal impact. The Utilitarian asks what action creates the greatest good for the greatest number of people. In the context of the border conflict, we must confront the heavy human costs including the displacement of border communities, the economic disruption of local trade, and the devastating physical damage to schools, Buddhist monasteries, and ancient temples. The Utilitarian would argue that if defending every inch of land through military escalation increases overall misery, prioritizing peace is the more ethical path.

Peace in this context is not a sign of surrender but a calculated moral choice to prevent certain misery and protect the human capital and cultural foundations of the nation's future.

The most practical path forward lies in Virtue Ethics, particularly the Aristotelian concept of the Golden Mean which involves finding the balance between extremes. This philosophical approach is enriched by Buddhist perspectives on Metta (loving-kindness) and Ahimsa (non-violence), which remind us that true strength is found in the protection of all sentient beings and the avoidance of unnecessary suffering. Similarly, Confucian ethics emphasize the importance of social harmony and the moral integrity of those in power, requiring leaders to behave in a way that remains consistent with the high responsibilities of their office.

For national security, this middle path is "Restrained Sovereignty," an approach that avoid both aggressive nationalism and passive indifference. This reflects the official stance of the Royal Government of Cambodia, which has consistently pursued a dual-track strategy of firmly defending territorial integrity while prioritizing peaceful diplomacy and international law. The government's efforts through the Joint Boundary Commission (JBC) demonstrate a commitment to resolving tensions through technical demarcation rather than force. This requires Practical Wisdom (Phronesis), which is the intellectual capacity to apply ethical principles to complex, real-world situations.

Rather than following rules blindly, wisdom allows leaders to discern the right timing and the right degree of action to act with courage and compassion.

As we reflect on these frameworks, it becomes clear that modern citizens are moral stakeholders in these decisions. To navigate ongoing tensions, leadership must treat diplomacy and international law not as fallbacks but as the highest exercise of national power. Sovereignty and peace are not mutual enemies because they are the two pillars of a thriving nation. A country is only truly sovereign when it possesses the strength to protect its land and the wisdom to protect its people. Ultimately, the most important borders to navigate are not the lines drawn on maps with ink, but the ethical boundaries we set for ourselves where our duty to our territory meets our profound restraint for human life.

Disclaimer

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THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF UTE'S JOURNEY!

As we continue to rise and innovate, we are grateful for every member of our community, students, faculty, staff, and partners who shape UTE in to a hub of excellence and entrepreneurship. Let's keep building the future together!



STAY CONNECTED

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