



ICEM INTERNATIONAL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE REPORT

Prepared by

Research and Ethics Committee (REC)

October 2021

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1. Conference Summary

International College of Engineering and Management (ICEM) has organized the second virtual international undergraduate research conference on 03 and 12 October 2021. The conference was first advertised through the conference website to students and researchers in different countries. Figure 1a & 1b shows the homepage of the conference website and members of the Research and Ethics Committee (REC), respectively. Alternatively, a poster, shown in Figure 2, was used to announce the conference to the students and staff in different institutions to submit a paper. Once all the keynote speakers were confirmed with the subject of interest to all participants and attendees, a poster was prepared by the Digital Marketing Department of ICEM to publicize using different available platforms. Figure 3 shows the poster used to advertise the conference via social media, including ICEM webpage and Instagram. The advertisement was also made via email from the Dean Office to different institutions in the Sultanate of Oman.

On a broader scale, it can be viewed that the conference has served as a platform for undergraduate students of primarily graduating classes to present their research findings from their final year projects. Students from engineering and management fields, predominantly from the department of Petroleum Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Health, Safety, and Environmental Management (HSEM), Fire Safety Engineering, Fire Safety Management, Mechanical (Well) Engineering and Facilities Management have taken part in presenting their work in this conference. Our renowned keynote speakers from Malaysia, India, Oman, and Bangladesh have also shared their experience and presented on topics mainly outlined and targeted to address key research inputs to students and researchers from different countries. The first day of the conference was scheduled for the keynote address on 03 October 2021. In contrast, the second day, which was rescheduled due to Cyclone Shaheen hitting the coastline of Gulf of Oman on 03 and 04 October 2021, was utilized for the students' presentation on 12 October 2021. Engineers and graduating students have presented their research works, which were insightful for the current final year students at ICEM to address the research gaps in their respective fields. The conference panels have also evaluated the work presented to select the best presenter. This is highlighted in this report along with attendees' feedback for a better experience in the next conference that the college intends to organize in the current academic year. Further details on the conference are also discussed in this report.



a)



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b)

Figure 1. ICEM conference website: a) homepage and b) REC members.



الكلية الدولية للهندسة والإدارة
International College of
Engineering & Management

ICEM 2nd Virtual International Undergraduate Research Conference 2021

**03-04 OCTOBER
2021**

**International
College of
Engineering and
Management,
Muscat, Oman**



IMPORTANT DATES



Conference Topics

Participants are invited to submit their original and unpublished work in the following research areas:

- ❖ Petroleum Engineering
- ❖ Mechanical Engineering
- ❖ Health, Safety and Environmental Management
- ❖ Fire Safety Engineering/Management
- ❖ Facilities Management



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Figure 2. Poster circulated with students and staff for a submission of a paper.

ICEM 2nd Virtual International Undergraduate Research Conference



Prof. Ir. Dr. Shaharin A. Sulaiman, Univeristi Teknologi PETRONAS, Malaysia
Topic: Clean Energy Opportunities in Tropical Countries



Professor Dr. Ling Shing Wong, Dean, INTI International University Malaysia
Topic: The Journey to Become a Scientist.



Prof. Dr. T V V L N Rao, Madanapalle Institute of Technology & Science, India
Topic: An Overview of Research Presentation Skills



Dr. Ftwi Y. Hagos, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman
Topic: Publishing in Impact Factor Journals



Dr. Alima Aktar, North South University, Bangladesh
Topic: Women in Academic Research



03-04 October 2021



9:00 am -1:00 pm



Microsoft Teams
<https://shortest.link/1714>



International College of Engineering and Management, Muscat, Oman



الكلية الدولية للهندسة والإدارة
International College of Engineering & Management



icemsocial

Figure 3. Poster used to advertise the conference via social media. (Source: Digital Marketing Department, ICEM, 2021).

2. Biography - Keynote Speakers

2.1. Prof. Ir. Dr. Shaharin A. Sulaiman

Shaharin Anwar Sulaiman is a Professor at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP), Malaysia. He holds B.Sc, M.Sc and PhD degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the USA and the UK. He was a Mechanical Engineer in YTL Corporation prior to joining academics. At UTP he was Director of Mission-Oriented Research group for Hybrid Energy Systems from 2009 to 2017. His research interests include air-conditioning, biomass energy, solar photovoltaic, combustion, and flow assurance. He has

published more than 190 journal articles and 15 books on various engineering research topics. One of his latest books is Clean Energy Opportunities in Tropical Countries (Springer).

2.2. Professor Dr. T V V L N Rao

T V V L N Rao received PhD in Tribology of Fluid Film Bearings from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi in 2000, and MTech in Mechanical Manufacturing Technology from the National Institute of Technology (formerly known as Regional Engineering College) Calicut in 1994. Rao's current research interests are in Tribology, Lubrication, Bearings, Machining, and Manufacturing. He has authored (and co-authored) over 120 publications till date. He has secured (as PI and Co-PI) several research grants from the Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia and a research grant from The Sumitomo Foundation, Japan. Rao is a member of Editorial Board (2022) in Tribology & Lubrication Technology (TLT). He is a member of Guest Associate Editors in Journal of Engineering Tribology, Industrial Lubrication and Tribology, Tribology - Materials, Surfaces & Interfaces, Arabian Journal for Science and Engineering. Rao is an executive member (2015-2021) of Malaysian Tribology Society. He is a member of Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers, Malaysian Tribology Society and Tribology Society of India. He is also a reviewer of reputed journals associated with tribology and manufacturing. Rao is currently Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Madanapalle Institute of Technology & Science. Prior to joining MITS, he served as Research Associate Professor at SRMIST (2017-2020), Visiting Faculty at LNMIIT (2016-2017), Associate Professor at Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (2010-2016), and Assistant Professor in BITS Pilani at Pilani (2000-2004, 2007-2010) and Dubai (2004-2007) campuses.

2.3. Prof. Dr. Ling Shing Wong

Wong is a Professor in INTI International University, Malaysia. He graduated from the National University of Malaysia (UKM) in 2010 with a Ph.D. in Environmental Science. He is a dedicated teacher who embraces student-centric approaches in his teaching, providing blended learning and gamification learning experiences to his students. He is a passionate researcher with diversified research interests- development of biosensors for environmental application, discovery of new reporter groups for bioindicator, developing new photosynthetic

microbes culture technology, and exploring new usage of agricultural biomass are on the top of the list. He is currently Editor-in-Chief for INTI Journal, and extends his service as editorial member in several international journals. To date, he has published more than 100 scientific articles. Wong is the current president of Einstein Research Academy (2019 - 2021), senior member of the Institute of Research Engineers & Doctors (theIRED), senior member of Asia-Pacific Chemical, Biological & Environmental Engineering Society (APCBEEES), member of Persatuan Sains Analisis Malaysia, member of Persatuan Pembangunan Sensor Malaysia, and university representative of Malaysian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He won many innovation awards including a bronze medal from Malaysia Technology Expo (MTE), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2006, a gold medal from International Invention, Innovation & Technology Exhibition (ITEX), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2008, a gold medal in Product Design Competition (PRODEC) in 2013, a silver medal in International Innovation Festival (Innofest) in 2014, finalist of National Outstanding Innovator Award in 2015, a silver medal in Private Higher Education Invention and Innovation Contest (PERINTIS) in 2016, a silver medal in International Invention & Innovation Competition 2017, and a silver medal in Malaysia Technology Expo (MTE) in 2021. Recognizing his contribution to the university, INTI International University awarded the Vice Chancellor Award for Innovative Teacher and The Most Promising Young Researcher to him in 2016. He has been appointed as Interim Dean of Faculty of Health and Life Sciences from 2018 to 2019. He is currently Dean of the Faculty of Health & Life Sciences.

2.4. Dr. Ftwi Y. Hagos

Dr. Ftwi Yohannes Hagos is an academician and researcher currently working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, College of Engineering in Sultan Qaboos University. Before joining SQU, he served as Senior Lecturer in the College of Engineering and Research Fellow at the Automotive Engineering Centre, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, Malaysia from 2014-2020. He received his PhD degree from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS, Malaysia, in January 2014. He received his Master of Engineering degree from the Mechanical and Production Engineering Department, Delhi College of Engineering, Delhi University, India in 2005. He received his B. Sc. Degree (hon) from Mechanical Engineering Department, Faculty of Technology, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia in 2001. He has served as a lecturer from 2005 to 2009 and later as Assistant Professor from 2009 to 2010 in the Mechanical Engineering Department, Mekelle

University. During his service at Mekelle University, he has assumed different academic and administrative posts for the department and the university. He has published more than 70 articles in international scholarly journals and conferences. He has also supervised 2 PhD and 2 Master thesis (by research), 7 Master thesis (mixed mode), 1 Masters by coursework dissertation, 48 undergraduate final year projects, and four final year diploma projects. His area of specialization is internal combustion engines, thermo-fluids, and energy. His research interests are in the field of internal combustion engines, combustion, modeling and simulation, optical diagnostics applied to combustion and flow, thermo-fluids, renewable energy, energy resource assessment, and automotive engineering. He is CEng and a Member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE), UK. Besides, He has served as a member of an editorial board for the American Journal of Energy Engineering, International Journal of Renewable and Sustainable Energy and Journal of Energy and Natural Resources from 2014 to 2018. He is also an editorial board member for Biofuels Journal and Branna Journal of Engineering and Technology (BJET). From January 2015- October 2020, he served as an Associate editor-in-chief for the Journal of Mechanical Engineering and Science (JMES). Currently, he is serving as an Associate Editor in The Journal of Engineering Research [TJER] - SQU journal.

2.5. Dr. Alima Aktar

Dr. Alima Aktar is an assistant professor in Human Resource Management at the School of Business and Economics, North South University Dhaka, Bangladesh. Before joining North South University, Alima has had research and teaching experience from the University of Asia Pacific and Independent University Bangladesh. She has over 7 years' experience in the design and analysis of large Human Resources Management studies including employee engagement, occupational Safety and Health, and organizational commitment. Another key research interest of Alima is in organizational behavior and Green HRM practices. She has supervised several undergraduate and postgraduate students. Alima is a recipient of several scholarly awards and serves as an editorial board member of The International Journal of Human Resource management. Alima has also reviewed several Scopus indexed journals including Journal of Management development, Sage open, international journal of sociology and social policy.

3. Conference Programme

Tables 1 and 2 show programmes for the first and second day of the conference held on 03 and 12 October 2021, respectively. Members of the Research and Ethics Committee (REC) were the panel members for the students' presentation, as shown in Table 2.

Table 1. Programme for the first day of the conference.

Time	Programme
09:00-09:03	Participant Login
09:03-09:05	Recitation from the Holy Quran - Hani Al Saadi
09:05-09:15	Opening Remarks Dr. Yingkui Zhao , Dean Dr. Rami Hamad , Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs (ADAA)
09:15-09:55	Keynote Address Title: <i>An Overview of Research Presentation Skills</i> Keynote Speaker: Professor Dr. T V V L N Rao , Head of Mechanical Engineering Department, Madanapalle Institute of Technology & Science, India
10:00-10:40	Keynote Address Title: <i>The Journey to Become a Scientist</i> Keynote Speaker: Professor Dr. Ling Shing Wong , Dean, INTI International University, Malaysia
10:40-11:20	Keynote Address Title: <i>Clean Energy Opportunities in Tropical Countries</i> Keynote Speaker: Professor Ir. Dr. Shaharin A. Sulaiman , Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS, Malaysia
11:20-12:00	Keynote Address Title: <i>Women in Academic Research</i>

	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Alima Aktar, North South University, Bangladesh
12:00-12:50	Keynote Address Title: <i>Tips for Publishing in Impact Factor Journal</i> Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ftwi Y. Hagos, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman

Table 2. Programme for the second day of the conference on 12 October 2021.

No.	Name	Title	Time	Panel Member 1 (Moderator)	Panel Member 2
1	Manar Al Rawahi	Study on occupational Health Effects due to mercury concentrations in oil and gas workers	09:00-09:10	Dr. Girma T. Chala	Anoop
2	Najla Al Balushi	A study on the impact of heat stress on the performance of workers in Oil and Gas industry in Muscat, Oman.	09:10-09:20		Dr. Sreejaya
3	Sara Al Mashafi	Health Impacts of Occupational Hazards on car maintenance Workshop Workers. A case study of an undisclosed area in Mabaila	09:20-09:30		Azza
4	Ethaar Al Ajmi	Study of extreme heat Stress of temperature and its impacts on construction worker	09:30-09:40		Dr. Sreejaya
5	Raqiya Al Balushi	Predictive model for compressibility of waxy crude oil under cooling mode- An Artificial Neural Network Approach	09:40-09:50		Anoop

6	Samah Jaihad Al Ashkar	Comparative study on the performance of vertical wind turbine	09:50-10:00		Alex
7	Shaheerthana Suresh	The role of engineering in combating climate change	10:00-10:10		Dr. Raju
8	Amwaj Ali Ahmed Amrin	Risk Assessment of Operations and Maintenance activities in Reverse Osmosis Plant	10:10-10:20		Dr. Girma
9	Wasin Saleh Mahmood Al Zadjali	Performance based study of smoke control system in an atrium using CFD	10:20-10:30	Dr. Raju	Dr. Girma
10	Kee Jian Fa	Study on Recent Progress of Overhead Crane	10:30-10:40		Alex
11	Mohammed Al Balushi	Thermal Conductivity of Copper for Flow Assurance of Waxy Crude Oil	10:40-10:50		Anoop
12	Shahla Al Balushi	Study of Hand and Finger Injuries in DAFAK Oil and Gas Fields located in Al Wasta Governorate	10:50-11:00		Anoop
13	Suresh Akshith	Mechanical solution to prevent solidifications of heavy crude oil after extraction	11:00-11:10		Alex
Break					
14	Ahmed Mubarak Khamis Al Saigh	Assessment of smoke movement from various story's/heights in case of fire in high-rise building	11:20-11:30	Victor	Alex
15	Said Al Balushi	Biomechanical analysis of Mud Mixing operator in rigs	11:30-11:40		Dr. Raju
16	Sathurshan Suresh	A study on development of an aftermarket	11:40-11:50		Anoop

		turbocharged vehicles			
17	AlHaitham AlKalbani	Effects of nanoparticles on the rheological properties of water-base mud.	11:50-12:00		Dr. Khan
18	Atika AL-Muhrrmi	Evaluation of Knowledge, attitude, and practice of medical staff towards biomedical waste in Ibri hospital	12:00-12:10	Azza	Dr. Khan
19	Yousef Abdallah Ahmed Shatawi	The Feasibility of Rooftop Solar Panels in Seeb Area	12:10-12:20		Dr. Sreejaya
20	Ruwaah Yahya Mohamed Al Hinai	Causes and Effects of Poor Communication in Construction Projects	12:20-12:30		Anoop
21	Amer Al Jabri	A Study on Artificial lifting and Beam Pump	12:30-12:40		Dr. Khan
22	Nasser Saif Saim Al Abri	Fire risk assessment of a real-time scenario using ALOHA application.	12:0-12:50	Alex	Dr. Khan
23	Husam Saud Al Bartamani	Investigative study on performance of leaf springs in heavy duty trucks	12:50-13:00		Dr. Sreejaya
24	Abdul Rahman Abdullah Nasser Al Nadabi	A study on accident prevention and first aid knowledge among parents of preschool children in Oman	13:00-13:10		Anoop
25	Abdul Rahman Khalfan Obaid Al Naaimi	Investigative study on Casing Failure during workover operations	13:10:13:20		Victor

4. Opening Remarks by Dr. Yingkui Zhao, Dean

The college's Dean, Dr. Yingkui Zhao, made the opening remark (See Figure 4). In his comment, the dean talked about the importance of the undergraduate conference in promoting research culture as it offers students the opportunity to present their research findings and results. In addition, he stated that such a platform avails students with the opportunity to collaborate and learn from each other. He also addressed the college's achievements in recent times regarding the students and staff publication and potential patents from a student project. Finally, the dean discussed the college's intention to set up a research strategy that will help promote students' research and that of staff. He enthused that this will also enhance the staff's ability to supervise students and keep them up to speed with current research trends. He further stated that the college intends to key into Oman's vision 2040 of a research culture, which will bring development and growth ahead.



Figure 4. Dr. Yingkui Zhao, Dean (right) and Prof. Dr. Rao (left).

5. Keynote Address at ICEM Conference

Prof. Dr. Rao delivered the first keynote speech. Prof. Rao is a Professor from Madanapalle Institute of Technology & Science India (See Figure 5). His keynote speech dwelled on the “Overview of research presentation skills”. He emphasized the importance of presenting research papers at conferences. Rao stressed that conferences offer scholars an opportunity or platform to meet people and collaborate with them; it provides an opportunity to get feedback

from others on how authors can improve papers. Prof. Rao also highlighted how conference presentations help researchers network. He stated that “the audience need to be shown only the nitty-gritty of the research during conference presentations as there will be no need to go into complexities”. He further recommended the need not to overrun timings when making presentations.

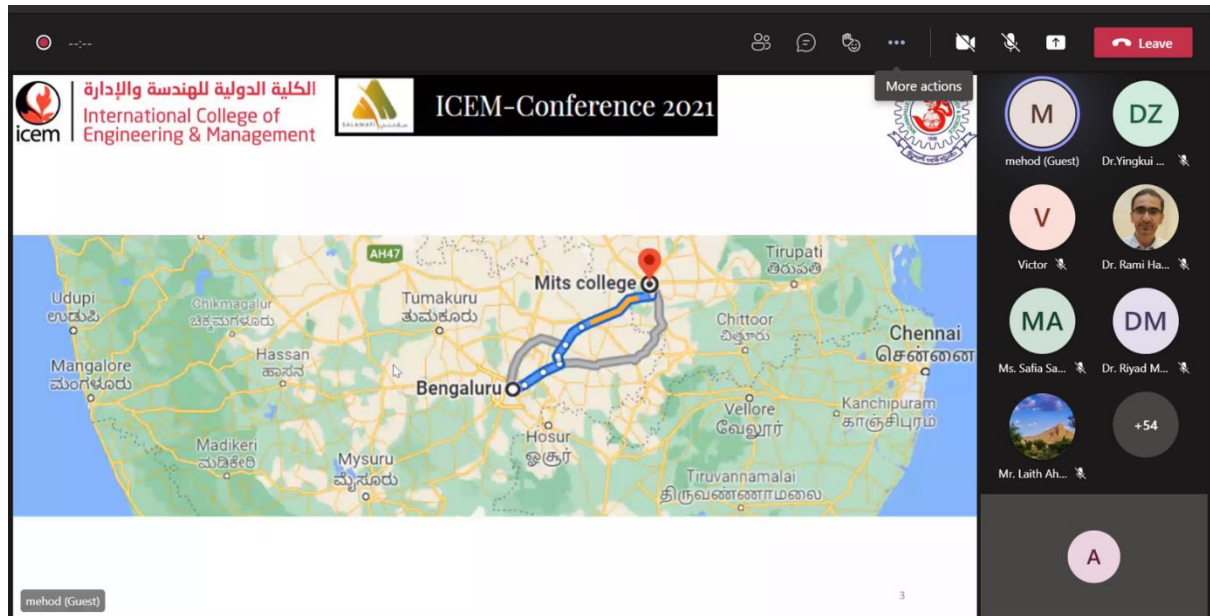


Figure 5. Presentation by Prof. Dr. T V V L N Rao.

Prof. Dr. Ling Shing Wong presented the next Keynote address titled “Journey to become a scientist (See Figure 6). Prof Wong is a Dean at INTI International University Malaysia. His speech centred on skills required to become a scientist and why scientists are relevant to society. He discussed some stereotypes and misconceptions about a scientist from the community and reiterated the need for students to work hard to break scientific barriers. Wong also shared his current research work on Organisms for pollutant mining and stated its practical importance in the environment.



Figure 6. Prof. Dr. Wong of INTI International University.

The next keynote speech titled “Clean energy opportunities in tropical countries” was delivered by Prof. Ir. Dr. Shaharin Sulaiman from the department of mechanical engineering, Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS, Malaysia (See Figure 7). His discussion, among other noteworthy points, unravelled some similarities and differences in the demography and socio-economy of tropical countries; hence, they are characterized by some undesirable features, including a high level of infectious diseases and insufficient energy poverty. Shaharin, however, stated that despite the challenges, tropical countries have outperformed the rest of the world. He further surmised that this performance does not resonate with the performance from R&D as data revealed that tropical countries are far behind with regards to R&D. Shaharin emphasized that due to a growing vision by tropical countries to achieve desirable growth and the negatives associated with global warming, the energy demand of these nations have increased. However, these demands come with their associated environmental problems, hence most tropical countries are moving towards cleaner environment with energy sources from solar photovoltaic cells, wind energy and biomass.

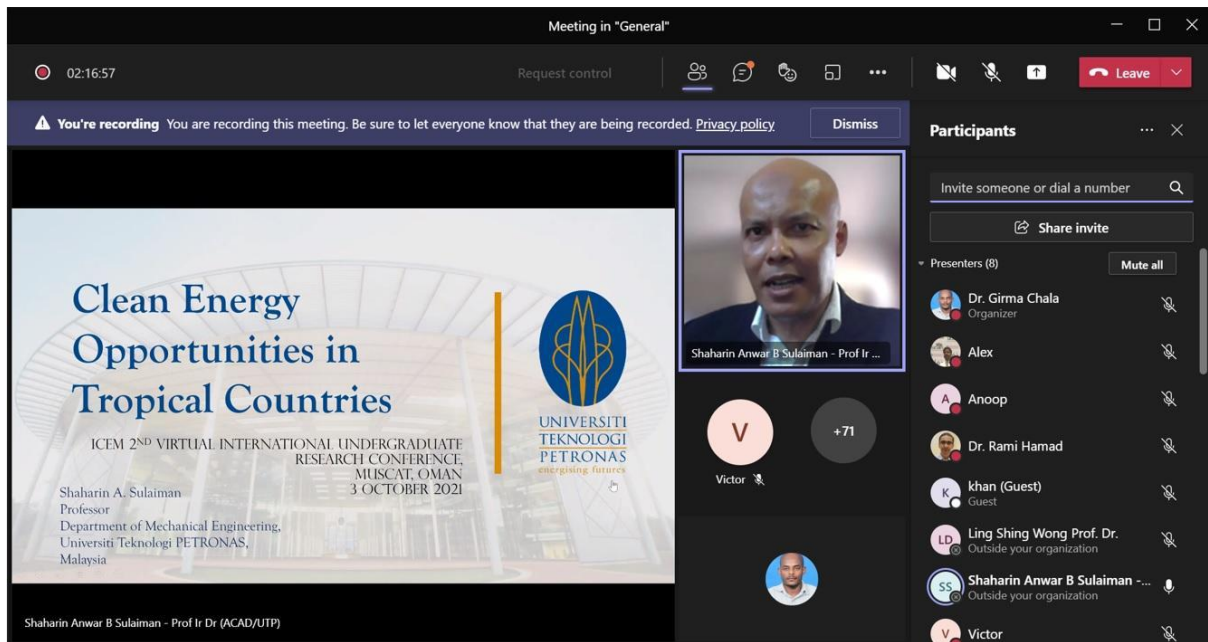


Figure 7. Prof. Ir. Dr. Shaharin A. Sulaiman, University Teknologi PETRONAS, Malaysia.

Dr. Alima Aktar presented the fourth keynote address. Dr. Alima is an Assistant Prof from North South University Bangladesh. Her speech focused on Women in Academic research (See Figure 8). She talked about different challenges women face in Academics and why the women gender has not been able to keep pace with her male counterpart. Alima also stressed the overarching benefit the community will derive when women are encouraged to engage in research. With evidence from ILO data, Dr. Alima revealed a gap between contributions made by women and the male gender within GCC nations. She enthused that institutions can bridge this gap through behavioral modifications towards women, developing policies that support work-family life balance such as affordable education for females. In addition, she encouraged the need for women to have domestic support from families.



Figure 8. Dr. Alima Aktar, North West University, Bangladesh.

The final keynote address was delivered by Dr. Ftwi Hagos. Dr. Ftwi is an Assistant Professor from Sultan Qaboos University, Oman. His speech dwelled on Tips for Publishing in Impact Factor Journals (See Figure 9). In his speech, he educated the audience with reasons why the manuscript could be rejected early, and how authors can respond to the reviewer’s comment following a manuscript submission. Dr Ftwi also highlighted some reputable journals where authors can publish their valuable contributions. He then mentioned the review process manuscripts are subjected to before they are published.

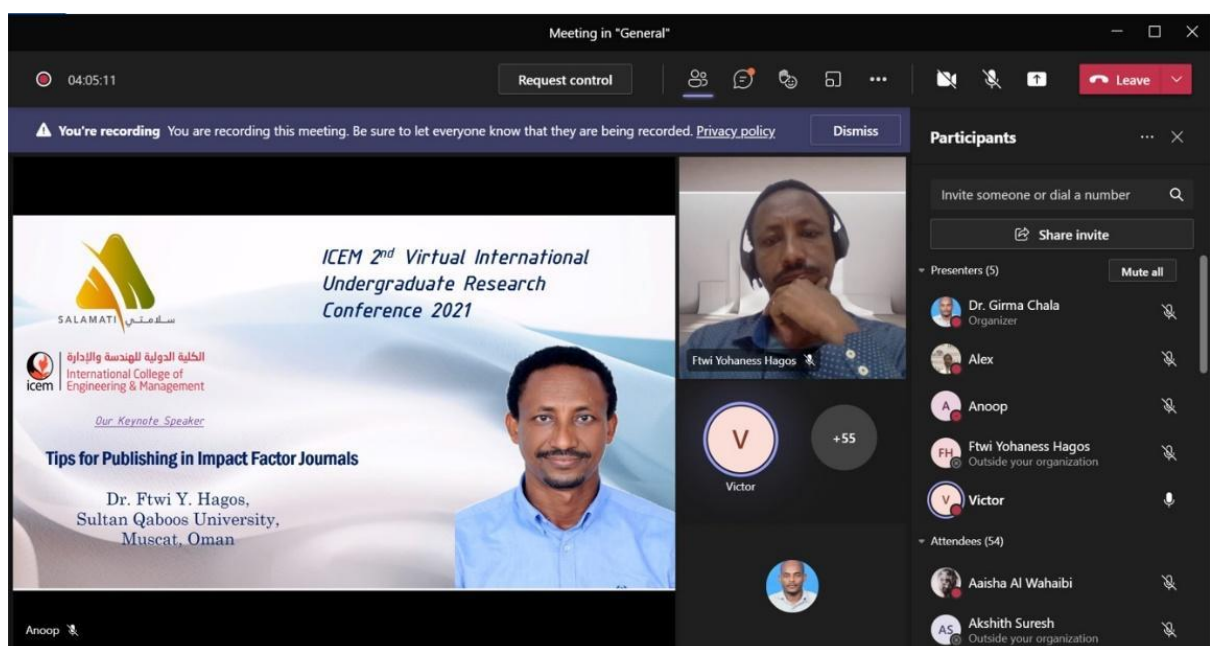


Figure 9. Dr. Ftwi Y. Hagos, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman.

6. Selection of Best Presenter from Students

Following the students' presentation on 12 October 2021, the evaluation team collected the marking sheets from all the panel members, which were then consolidated for finalizing the results. Undergraduate students from Oman and other countries presented their work at the research conference. The marking scheme and presentation schedule were communicated to the panel members in advance through the REC chair. The evaluation team verified the attendance of the participants in the online research conference; moreover, the sessions were fully recorded for the documentation purpose. The scoring was calculated based on the subject knowledge, presentation skills and responses to the questions asked. The evaluation team consisting of members of different departments met on 20 October 2021 at 11:00 am to finalize the results. The total score was calculated, and details are provided in Table 3, in which the students are shortlisted based on their presentation. Figure 10 shows the details in pie chart.

Table 3. Shortlisted Candidates.

No.	Name	Affiliation	Topic	Average Score	Remark
1	Kee Jian Fa	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Malaysia	Study on Recent Progress of Overhead Crane	8.97	1
2	Amer Al Jabri	Daleel petroleum, Oman	A Study on Artificial lifting and Beam Pump	8.76	2
3	Suresh Akshith	INTI International University, Malaysia	Mechanical solution to prevent solidifications of heavy crude oil after extraction	8.66	3
4	Sathurshan Suresh	INTI International University, Malaysia	A study on development of an aftermarket turbocharged vehicles	8.66	3

The average marks from the subject knowledge, presentation skills and response to the questions indicated that Mr. Kee Jian Fa has scored the highest and is awarded as the best presenter at the ICEM second virtual international undergraduate research conference. Figure 11 shows the certificate for the best presenter award.

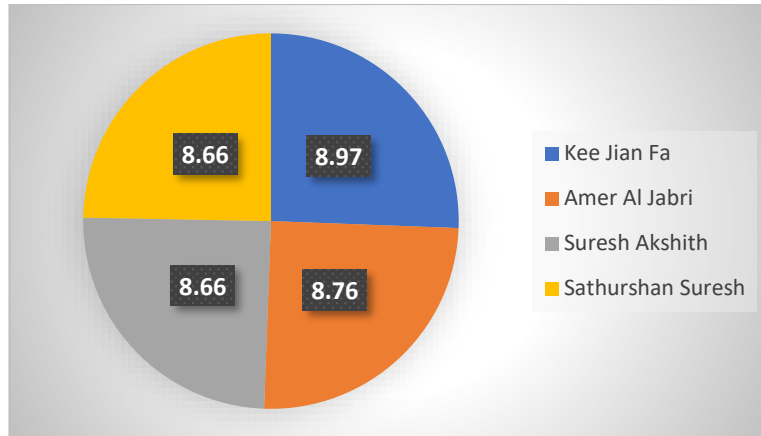


Figure 10. Selected candidates.



Figure 11. Certificate for Best Presenter Award. (Source: Digital Marketing Department, ICEM, 2021).

7. Feedback from Attendees

As part of getting feedback from attendees of the ICEM conference, the Research and Ethics Committee members have prepared five questions as shown in Table 4. To enhance conference quality for the next academic year, a survey or feedback link was sent to attendees and staff. Various questions believed to be relevant to enhance the conference experience were asked for the analysis. Feedback was received during the first day of the keynote address with the motive of knowledge sharing on the relevant topics within the interest of students and staff. It was also received during students' presentation, which was rescheduled for 12 October 2021 due to cyclone Shaheen affecting internet access at many places and making participants challenging to join the conference. The analysis was focused on the feedback received from both students and staff. Feedback satisfaction in percentage was then calculated and depicted in Figure 12.

It was observed that satisfaction of overall questions was around 85.3%, which shows the online conference enhanced research understanding of the participants and attendees. As in Table 4, the material was presented in an organized manner; this was reflected in the feedback satisfaction rate received for the conference, which stood at 88.0%. Furthermore, with a feedback satisfaction rate of 89.3%, it can be seen that the second virtual international undergraduate research conference (IURC-21) was well placed within the allotted time though there were a few inconsistencies in this regard. Based on the feedback survey, members of the Research and Ethics Committee (REC) will soon schedule a meeting to discuss and prepare an action plan to address the drawbacks and achieve a greater heights of the next undergraduate conference at ICEM. The feedback provided would be fully considered in the next conference to make the event a convenient platform for students to share their research findings.

Table 4. Feedback questions and responses.

No.	Questions	Feedback Satisfaction (%)
1	The undergraduate research conference 21 enhanced my understanding of research	85.3
2	The presenter/facilitator had a good understanding of the topics	84.0
3	The material was presented in an organized manner	88.0

4	The program was well placed within the allotted time	89.3
5	The level of the event was appropriate	81.3

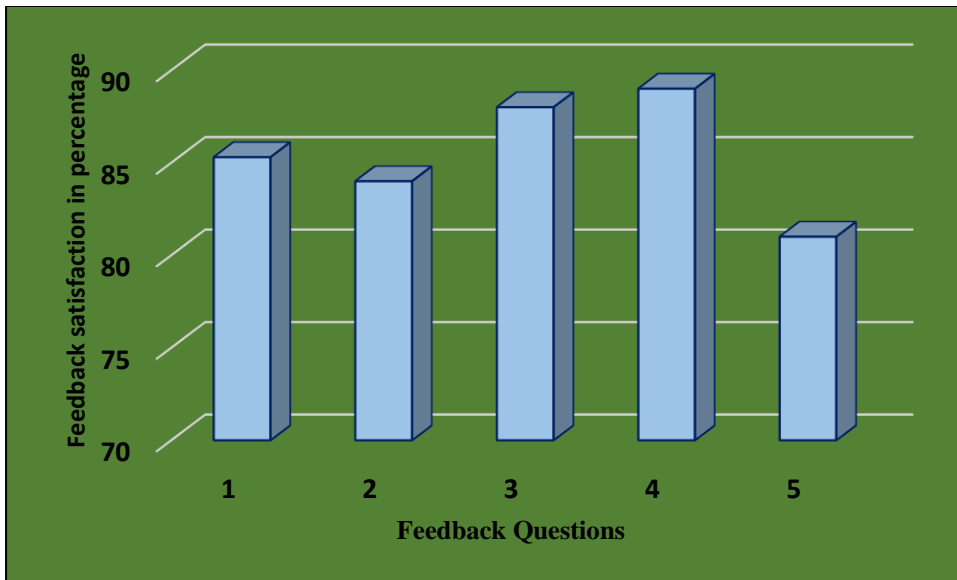


Figure 12. Feedback satisfaction.