

■ HEROES OF 2008

# You inspire me



**Mandy Johnson,**  
British Council Malaysia director

I CAN'T imagine anyone not being moved or inspired when they hear United States president-elect Barack Obama speak.

He is like a breath of fresh air in a stale political arena.

He has a vision for the world, and the role of the US in it, which places cultural relations at the core of international relations.

He recognises the value of listening and discussing issues to reach a settlement, which is a great improvement on his predecessors' approach.



**Peter Ng,**  
UCSI University president and vice chancellor

PROFESSOR Kim W. Chan, Blue Ocean Strategy co-writer and Fellow of the World Economic Forum, has been a constant source of inspiration and a personal and professional mentor.

UCSI adopted his principles to shape its identity and approach. A meeting with him in 2006 sparked a partnership that led to the formation of the UCSI Blue Ocean Strategy Regional Centre, which will be the regional hub for promoting BOS tenets.

His impressive track record, and unshakeable belief in the calibre of UCSI have inspired us collectively — and myself specifically — to aim for the stars.



**Dr Volker Wolf,**  
Goethe-Institut Malaysia director

I AM inspired by Institut Terjemahan Negara Malaysia director Mohd Khair Nqadiron because of his tireless promotion of Malaysian carteralist Lat in Germany this year.

His team was successful in its cooperation with a German publisher during the presentation of Lat's book in the language.

He is focused on his vision and integrates his theoretical and technical competencies within a practical and diplomatic manner.

His acknowledgement of the contributions of others is also a trait I admire. I admire him for his completeness, humane talents and character.



**Elizabeth Lee,**  
Sunway University College and Sunway Group of Colleges executive director

BEING a teacher, first and foremost, I look at other great educators, the greatest of whom, to me, is Jesus Christ.

I learnt to teach using analogies like Christ told parables. Now and then, I use Christ's examples as they make sense and still apply to modern-day living.

What Christ "speaks" of are based on good-for-eternity values, from which we can draw tremendous wisdom.

He had an answer for every question, a prescription for any situation and a solution to every problem.



**Professor Datuk Aminah Ayob,**  
Universiti Perguruan Sultan Idris vice chancellor

PROFESSOR Datuk Tunku Ismail Mat Jui was the dean of Universiti Sains Malaysia's School of Education in the 1980s.

He was fair and a friend to his staff. But he was strict when it came to work.

As a vice chancellor now, I model my leadership style on him, particularly the way he boosted morale among his staff and carried himself.

He gave me a lot of responsibilities because he believed that the more you do, the more you learn.



**Professor Datuk Nik Mustapha R Abdullah,**  
Universiti Putra Malaysia vice chancellor

MAK Engku was the eldest on my father's side. She was a strong woman yet poised and elegant. I am deeply saddened by her death.

As I settled down and started my own family, I couldn't help but ask myself "What would Mak Engku do?" I encountered a problem.

Mak Engku was the matriarch of the family. I often sought her advice.

As I settled down and started my own family, I couldn't help but ask myself "What would Mak Engku do?" I encountered a problem.



**Professor Datuk Dr Sharifah Hapsah Syed Hasan Shahabuddin,**  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) vice chancellor

WARGA UKM — students, academics and administrative, technical and support staff — inspired me the most this year.

They demonstrated the UKM spirit as the national university, dedicated to nation-building and the promotion of national identity through Bahasa Malaysia, while striving to be one of the world's leading universities. Because of them I am determined to provide the best physical, social and psychological milieu for working, learning and innovating.



**Professor Datuk Zaini Ujang,**  
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) vice chancellor

THE person who inspired me the most is UTM Board of Directors chairman and former Chief Secretary to the Malaysian Government Tan Sri Halim Ali.

A soft spoken former chief diplomat, Halim has challenged me to transform UTM from "good to great", from a top local technical university to a global player.

It's a tall order but something I aspire to realise. His advice, often said in a casual manner, is thought provoking and inspiring.



**Professor Tan Sri Dzulkifli Abdul Razak,**  
Universiti Sains Malaysia vice chancellor

MY father Datuk Abdul Razak Abdul Hamid continues to inspire me with his humility, honesty, hard work and "heart work" (the intangibles such as spirituality, harmony and avoiding hypocrisy).

This 83-year-old survivor of the 1945 Hiroshima atomic bombing teaches me that by being humble, one will always be in a learning mode.

His philosophy continues to be a guide to the way of life that we have lost.



**Professor Datuk Ghauth Jasmon,**  
University of Malaya (UM) vice chancellor

AMONG the responsibilities of being UM's 10th VC is to lead the university to new heights.

Prophet Muhammad has convinced me that nothing is impossible. He was appointed the Messenger of Allah at 40 to lead not only a tribe but all humankind.

He was the seal of all Prophets, a husband, a father, a general on battlefields, a leader, a religious scholar and an adviser. He was trustworthy, wise and truthful, among other traits.