



**VCEPU**

VICE CHANCELLORS'  
COUNCIL FOR  
PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

***ANNUAL REPORT***

2024

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### ***FINANCIAL REVIEW 2024***

# ***MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN***

The year 2024 marked a pivotal moment for the higher education sector, driven by the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) and other transformation technologies. These global shifts have underscored the urgency for universities to remain agile, adaptive, and visionary. At the Vice-Chancellors' Council for Private Universities (VCCPU), our efforts throughout the year were firmly anchored in our vision to elevate Malaysia as a global hub for quality private higher education. Guided by our mission to foster collaboration, advocate for progress, and champion excellence among our member institutions, we undertook several strategic initiatives.

In pursuit of this, VCCPU has actively engaged with key authorities and stakeholders in the Malaysian higher education ecosystem. We held productive discussions with Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS), with a special focus on strategies to enhance Malaysia's appeal as a preferred education destination. As part of our forward-looking internationalization efforts, we are prioritizing targeted outreach to the Indian market in 2025, while exploring new opportunities across ASEAN, with Thailand identified as a strategic partner for regional growth.

We also engaged in constructive dialogue with the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), addressing critical issues concerning programme accreditation, quality assurance, and the evolving standards in academic offerings. These conversations are central to our commitment to raising academic quality and institutional accountability across the private university landscape.

A highlight of our 2024 engagements was our collaboration with the Academy of Sciences Malaysia in organizing a one-day Higher Education Talk. Themed around "The New Horizon on Science, Technology, Innovation & Economy (STIE): A Strategy to Enhance Higher Education in Malaysia," this event brought together thought leaders and academic



**Prof Mushtak Al-Atabi**  
Chairman of VCCPU

stakeholders to explore future-ready strategies that will enhance Malaysia's competitiveness in the global knowledge economy. We were honour to host Prof. Emerita Datuk Dr. Asma binti Ismail, a distinguished molecular biologist and academician, whose insights offered invaluable perspectives on the future of higher education in the STIE era.

Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to strengthening the private higher education ecosystem in Malaysia. Our collective efforts with member universities, government agencies, and strategic partners will continue to drive innovation, resilience, and inclusive excellence.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all VCCPU members, partners, and stakeholders for your continued support and dedication. Together, we are shaping a dynamic, future-ready, and world-class private higher education sector that reflects Malaysia's aspirations and global potential.

# OVERVIEW

## Who We Are



The Vice Chancellors' Council for Private Universities (VCCPU) was launched on 21 February 2019 at Dewan Zaa'ba, Putrajaya. It was formed with strong support from the Malaysian Ministry of Education (MOE) then and now, the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE). VCCPU acts as a consultative platform for private universities to share ideas, experiences and resources with regards to higher education and the role of private universities. Issues that affect private universities will be reviewed and addressed collectively, as part of the effort to enhance higher education in this country. VCCPU also provides an important bridge to MOHE and other relevant agencies to reach out to private universities with the aspiration to further develop the private higher education sector in Malaysia.

## Ambitions

### Strengthening Connections

To bridge the gap between private and public tertiary education sectors by fostering relationships to make tertiary education more accessible to all walks of life.

### Building Confidence

To position VCCPU as a reliable one-stop consultative platform for the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) and other relevant agencies on matters pertaining to the development of tertiary education in Malaysia.

### Enabling Sustainable Development

To nurture holistic learning and a research environment that supports the development of knowledge and talent needs in Malaysia, the region and the world.



# **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS 2023/2024**



**Prof Mushtak Al-Atabi**

*Provost, CEO and  
Vice Principal,  
Heriot Watt University*

**6 June 2023 - Present**



**Prof Dato' Sr Dr Omar  
bin Osman**

*Vice-Chancellor and CEO, DRB  
Hicom University*

**6 June 2023 - Present**



**Prof Dr. Azmawani  
Abd Rahman ,S.I.S., FASc**

*President and CEO,  
Putra Business School*

**6 June 2023 - Present**



**Prof Datin Paduka Samsinar  
Md Sidin**

*Vice-Chancellor,  
University Tun Abdul Razak-  
UNIRAZAK*

**6 June 2023 - Present**



**Prof Zita Mohd Fahmi**

*Vice-Chancellor,  
Quest International University*

**6 June 2023 - Present**



**Prof Adeeba Kamarulzaman**

*Vice-Chancellor,  
Monash University Malaysia*

**6 June 2023 - Present**



**Prof Dato Dr. Mazliham  
Mohd Su'ud**

*President and CEO, Multimedia  
University- MMU*

**6 June 2023 - Present**



**Prof Dr. Lily Chan**

*Chief Executive and  
Vice-Chancellor,  
Wawasan Open University*

**6 June 2023 - Present**



**Prof Dr. Jason Robert  
Fitzsimmons**

*Vice-Chancellor,  
MILA International University*

**6 June 2023 - Present**

# ***EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS 2023/2024***



**Ir Prof Lau Hieng Ho**

*Pro Vice-Chancellor and CEO,  
Swinburne University of  
Technology*

**6 June 2023 - Present**



**Prof Emeritus Dato Seri Dr  
Mohamed Mustafa Ishak**

*Vice-Chancellor,  
Perdana University*

**6 June 2023 - June 2024**



**Prof Emerita Datuk Ts Ir Dr  
Siti Hamisah Tapsir**

*UCSI University*

**6 June 2023 - Present**



**Prof Joseph Lee Yu Kuang**

*Vice-Chancellor,  
INTI International University*

**6 June 2023 - Present**



**Prof Ir Dr Ewe Hong Tat**

*Vice-President,  
Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman-  
UTAR*

**6 June 2023 - Present**

# ***THE YEAR IN REVIEW***

In 2024, the Vice-Chancellors' Council for Private Universities (VCCPU) strengthened its role as a leading consultative platform for Malaysia's private higher education sector. Over the course of the year, more than 20 key initiatives and engagement activities were undertaken, ranging from ministerial consultations to stakeholder dialogues with the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), and Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS). These efforts ensured that the perspectives of private universities were consistently represented in policy formulation, programme accreditation, and internationalisation strategies.

VCCPU also convened four major events, including the Annual General Meeting (4 June), Executive Board Members Meeting (26 February), and strategic visits to MQA (6 September) and EMGS (8 November). A key highlight was the Higher Education Talk, jointly organised with the Academy of Sciences Malaysia on 2 May, which brought together experts to deliberate on the role of Science, Technology, Innovation and the Economy (STIE) in shaping higher education.

Beyond policy engagement, VCCPU members contributed to national discourse on higher education through five media features in outlets such as The Star and Free Malaysia Today, amplifying the Council's thought leadership on research impact, AI in education, and student development.

Collectively, these initiatives reflect VCCPU's commitment to advocacy, collaboration, and quality enhancement across the private higher education ecosystem, positioning Malaysia more strongly as a global hub for education.

# MEMBERSHIP 2024



# PUBLICATIONS & PRESS STATEMENTS



## Focus on research impact, not quantity

Interviewee: Prof. Mushtak Al-Atabi

The Star, 17 March 2024

News Ref: <https://vccpu.org/focus-on-research-impact-not-quantity/>

## Find your purpose, students told

Interviewee: Prof. Mushtak Al-Atabi

The Star, 24 March 2024

News Ref: <https://vccpu.org/find-your-purpose-students-told/>



## Help students find their 'magic', says varsity chief

Interviewee: Prof. Mushtak Al-Atabi

The Star, 7 May 2024

News Ref: <https://vccpu.org/help-students-find-their-magic-says-varsity-chief/>

## Balancing academic integrity and AI

Interviewee: Prof. Mushtak Al-Atabi

The Star, 7 May 2024

News Ref: <https://vccpu.org/balancing-academic-integrity-and-ai/>



## Take inspiration from Vietnam to boost Pisa scores, says varsity chief

Interviewee: Prof. Mushtak Al-Atabi

FMT, 17 March 2024

News Ref: <https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2024/04/30/take-inspiration-from-vietnam-to-boost-pisa-scores-says-varsity-chief>

# ***INITIATIVES & ACTIVITIES***

## **5 January 2024**

Jemputan Ke Program Pelaksanaan Strategi Kementerian Pendidikan Tinggi 2024

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## **12 January 2024**

Jemputan Ke Majlis Landasan Tahun Baharu Kementerian Pendidikan Tinggi Tahun 2024

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## **16 January 2024**

Permohonan Input Bagi Inisiatif Way-Forward for Private Higher Education Institutions: Education as An Industry (2020-2025)

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## **29 January 2024**

Invitation to the Digital Skills TVET Launch in Conjunction with "Dialogue with the Minister of Higher Education on the Future Direction of Malaysian Higher Education Institution"

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## **29 January 2024**

Prof Mushtak Al-Atabi - Pelantikan Sebagai Ahli Pasukan Petugas Kebangsaan Pemudahcara IPTS Sebagai Industri (PEMUDAH IPTS) Tahun 2024 – 2025

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## **13 February 2024**

Maklum Balas Bagi Cadangan Semakan Semula Akta Institusi Pendidikan Tinggi Swasta 1996 [Akta 555]

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## **7 March 2024**

Undangan Mesyuarat Pertimbangan Permohonan Bantuan Sara Hidup Dan Yuran Pengajian Pelajar Palestin Di Institusi Pendidikan Tinggi Malaysia

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## **8 March 2024**

Permohonan Ulasan Terhadap Draf Garis Panduan Permohonan Pengambilan Dan Pengurusan Pelajar Antarabangsa Yang Mengikuti Pengajian Secara Open and Distance Learning Di Institusi Pendidikan Tinggi Malaysia Melalui Education Malaysia Global Services

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## **18 March 2024**

Jemputan Untuk Menghadiri Sesi Latihan Sistem e-IPTS: Tatacara Penggunaan Modul Ijazah Kehormat

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## **23 April 2024**

Jemputan Sebagai Panel Mesyuarat Pembentangan Penubuhan Naik Taraf Dan Penubuhan Cawangan Institusi Pendidikan Tinggi Swasta (IPTS) Bilangan 2/2024

# ***INITIATIVES & ACTIVITIES***

## **16 & 17 May 2024**

Jemputan Ke Program Pembangunan Dan Pemantapan Kepimpinan Bersama Institusi Pendidikan Tinggi Swasta (MyLEADER)

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## **5 June 2024**

Mesyuarat Penyelarasan Festival of Ideas (FOI) Kementerian Pendidikan Tinggi Tahun 2024

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## **20 June 2024**

Jemputan Sebagai Panel Mesyuarat Pembentangan Penubuhan Baharu, Penubuhan Naik Taraf dan Cawangan Institusi Pendidikan Tinggi Swasta (IPTS) Bilangan 3/2024

Penubuhan Naik Taraf: German Malaysian Institute (GMI)

Penubuhan Baharu IPTS bertaraf Kolej:

1. Malaysian Academy of Might Skills Sdn. Bhd.
  2. Canary Education Sdn. Bhd.
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## **24 June 2024**

Mesyuarat Libat Urus Pengukuhan Landasan Hala Tuju Pendidikan Tinggi 2024 Bersama Institusi Pendidikan Tinggi Swasta (IPTS)

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## **30 July 2024**

Jemputan Sebagai Panel Mesyuarat Pembentangan Penubuhan Baharu, Penubuhan Cawangan Dan Naik Taraf Institusi Pendidikan Tinggi Swasta (IPTS) Bilangan 4/2024

Penubuhan Baharu: Kolej UNIUTAMA

Penubuhan Naik Taraf: German Malaysian Institute (GMI)

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## **1 October 2024**

Jemputan Ke Majlis Anugerah Khas Yb Menteri Pendidikan Tinggi: Reka Bentuk Kurikulum Dan Penyampaian Inovatif Tahun 2024 (AKRI 2024) & Perasmian Bulan Akademia Peringkat Kebangsaan Tahun 2024

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## **8 October 2024**

Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Pemandu Pasukan Petugas Kebangsaan Pemudahcara IPTS Sebagai Industri (PEMUDAH IPTS) Tahun 2024

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## **9 October 2024**

Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Pemandu Pasukan Petugas Kebangsaan Pemudahcara IPTS Sebagai Industri (PEMUDAH IPTS) Tahun 2024

# EVENTS BY VCCPU

## VCCPU Executive Board Members (EBM) Meeting No. 1/2024 26 February 2024



## Higher Education Talk by Academy of Science Malaysia (ASM) 2 May 2024

**VCCPU** VICE CHANCELLORS' COUNCIL FOR PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

HIGHER EDUCATION TALK BY THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE MALAYSIA

**THE NEW HORIZON ON STIE:**  
A STRATEGY TO ENHANCE HIGHER EDUCATION IN MALAYSIA

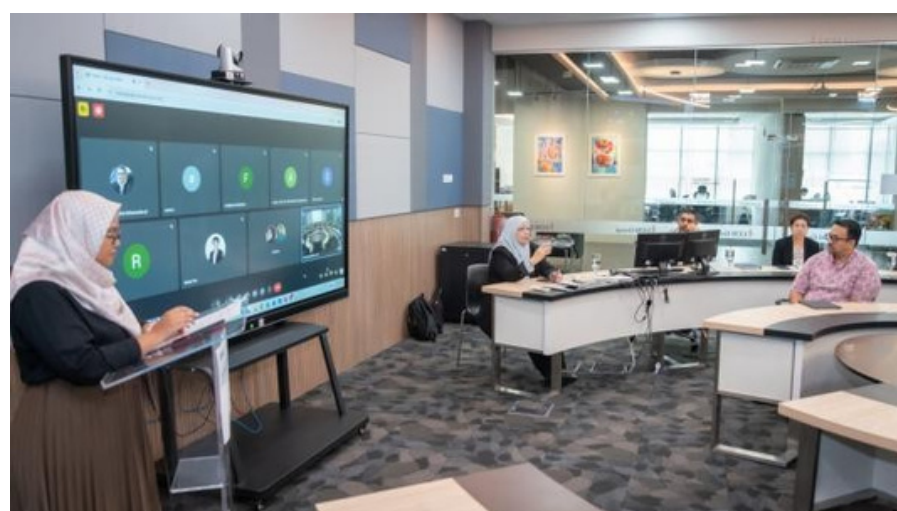
**THURSDAY** | 10 AM - 12 PM  
02 MAY 2024 | UCSI UNIVERSITY

**REGISTER TODAY!**

SCAN BELOW

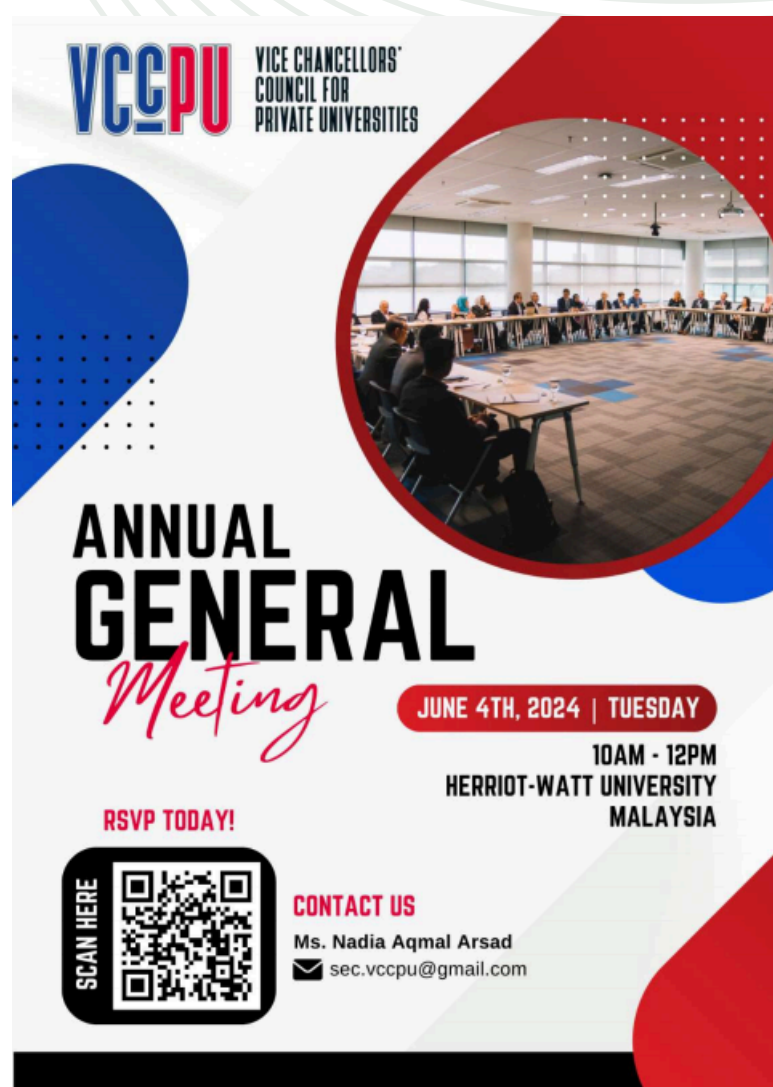
OR CONTACT:  
MS. NADIA AQMAL ARSAD  
sec.vccpu@gmail.com

**PROFESSOR EMERITA DATUK DR ASMA ISMAIL, FASC**  
ACADEMY OF SCIENCE MALAYSIA



# EVENTS BY VCCPU

## VCCPU Annual General Meeting 4 June 2024



## VCCPU visit to Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) 6 September 2024



# EVENTS BY VCCPU

## VCCPU visit to Education Malaysia Global Services (EMGS) 8 November 2024



# REFLECTION

## Malaysia: A Nation at the Crossroads

In a 1993 study titled 'Ripe for Rivalry: Prospects for Peace in a Multipolar Asia' published by the American political scientist Aaron L. Friedberg in the Journal of International Security, the author argued that Asia appeared to be more likely than Europe to be the 'cockpit of great-power conflict.' Concluding that in the long run, 'Europe's past could be Asia's future.'

Three decades later, reality has proved otherwise.

Since the 1990s, Europe has experienced several conflicts in Bosnia, Croatia, Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia, Georgia, and Ukraine. In the same period, there was no major conflict in Asia, even though the countries there lacked the interconnectedness their European counterparts enjoyed.

But what explains this relative peace in Asia?

Kishore Mahbubani, the Singaporean diplomat and geopolitical expert who served as Singapore's permanent representative to the UN for more than a decade and president of the United Nations Security Council between 2001 and 2002, answers this question:

'The simple answer is that Asia benefits from a culture of pragmatism, as demonstrated by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which emerged as a successful regional organisation at the end of the Cold War. While ASEAN welcomed Vietnam, an erstwhile adversary for many of its members, Europe consistently excluded its erstwhile adversary, Russia, from significant binding regional arrangements. Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal of 'a common house for Europe' was effectively rebuffed.'

Mahbubani seems to recognise an alternative style of leadership that Asian wisdom may contribute to geopolitical skillsets, where societies prioritise building trust through relationships and connections. Many predict that the twenty-first century will be an Asian century, basing this argument on the economic growth indicators.

This year, as Malaysia celebrates its 68<sup>th</sup> Independence Day while holding the ASEAN chairmanship, the country has an opportunity to reflect and showcase this ethos. Malaysia embodies the core qualities that define Asia's pragmatic approach to peace: prioritising harmony, enabling collaboration, nurturing mutual trust, and fostering shared purpose.

As the world struggles with environmental challenges, geopolitical conflicts, and societal setbacks, the above traits are more than desirable values; they are competitive advantages, particularly when leveraged with Malaysia's other strengths, including:

- 1. A highly educated and culturally diverse population and workforce;**
- 2. Strong economic fundamentals;**
- 3. Growing attractiveness for technology development and investment;**
- 4. A reputation as a safe meeting ground for East and West;**
- 5. Recognition as a global education hub.**

Taken together, these attributes position Malaysia to act as a model nation, one that thrives not by force or dominance, but by building bridges in a fractured world. Few countries are as well-placed to showcase how cultural wisdom and pragmatic leadership can contribute to global stability.

# ***REFLECTION***

## **Malaysia: A Nation at the Crossroads**

To realise these opportunities, educational institutions in Malaysia, especially universities, will need to further embrace the role of developing not only competent professionals but also, first and foremost, purpose-driven leaders who can foster a shared sense of purpose and mutual trust that enable human collaboration.

Of course, Malaysia is not without its challenges. The middle-income trap remains stubborn, inequality is rising, and an ageing population looms large. Yet these obstacles should not obscure the remarkable achievement of preserving peace and unity while continuing the journey of development.

As the world deals with opportunities and challenges of AI and confronts turbulence and fragmentation, Malaysia stands at a crossroads. By leaning into its strengths and amplifying its Asian wisdom, it can help show the way toward a more collaborative, humane, and balanced global order.

Merdeka. Happy 86<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Malaysia.



# ***Financial Review*** ***2024***

# BALANCE SHEET

Particulars	As at 31st Dec 2024	As at 31st Dec 2023	As at 31st Dec 2022
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Office Equipment Accum Dep	-	-	-
Furniture & Fixtures	-	-	-
Furniture & Fixtures Accum Dep	-	-	-
Softwares and Applications	-	6,625.00	-
Softwares and Applications Accum Depreciation	-	(3,408.36)	-
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	-	3,217	-
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash in Hand	-	-	-
Malayan Banking Berhad	77,889.20	63,490.20	65,953.50
Sundry Debtors	-	-	-
Annual Membership Subscription Fee Receivable	44,000.00	30,000.00	17,000.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	121,889.20	93,490.20	82,953.50
<b>Total Assets</b>	121,889.20	96,706.84	82,953.50
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Other Creditors	-	-	-
Provision for Taxation	-	-	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	-	-	-
<b>Net Asset / (Liabilities)</b>	121,889.20	96,706.84	82,953.50
<b>Funded by</b>			
Accumulated Profit & Loss B/F	93,490.20	82,953.50	47,974.00
Current Profit & Loss	28,399.00	13,753.34	34,979.50
<b>Total Accumulated Profit &amp; Loss</b>	121,889.20	96,706.84	82,953.50
	121,889.20	96,706.84	82,953.50

# INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

Particulars	FYE 31st Dec 2024	FYE 31st Dec 2023	FYE 31st Dec 2022
<b>Income</b>			
Annual Membership Subscription Fee	42,000.00	39,000.00	35,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>42,000.00</b>	<b>39,000.00</b>	<b>35,000.00</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Bank Charges	-	28.00	20.50
Depreciation	-	3,408.36	-
Audit Fee	-	-	-
Secretarial Fee	-	-	-
Taxation Fee	-	-	-
Legal Fee	-	-	-
Refreshments	3,375.00	7,796.30	-
Salary, Allowances, Bonus	8,000.00	2,000.00	-
Photography	-	3,000.00	-
Editorial & Creative Services	-	7,000.00	-
Printing & Stationeries	-	-	-
Software License & Subscriptions	2,226.00	2,014.00	-
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>13,601.00</b>	<b>25,246.66</b>	<b>20.50</b>
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>28,399.00</b>	<b>13,753.34</b>	<b>34,979.50</b>
<b>Net Profit / (Loss)</b>	<b>28,399.00</b>	<b>13,753.34</b>	<b>34,979.50</b>

# ***ACKNOWLEDGEMENT***

The secretariat would like to express its warmest gratitude and appreciation to all parties who have supported and contributed towards the success of the Annual General Meeting.

# VCCPU

VICE CHANCELLORS'  
COUNCIL FOR  
PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

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