

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Seminar
services
research
conferences
lectures workshops dialogues



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Conferences, Workshops, Forums, Talks and Research

Introduction

SDI

was established on 2 November 1995. It is registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital under the Companies Act, 1995, Malaysia. As an autonomous non-profit research institute, it is entrusted to undertake inter-disciplinary research on pertinent development issues related to the state and nation for policy inputs to the government and private organisations/clients.



Objective

The principal objective of SDI is to provide independent and objective inputs to complement the policy and decision making process in Sarawak.

The specific objectives are to :

- ▶ Undertake interdisciplinary research for policy inputs to the government and other clients;
- ▶ Provide an avenue for professionals and other practitioners to discuss, exchange views and opinions facing the state and nation through conferences, seminars, workshops, dialogues and lectures;
- ▶ Disseminate information, knowledge and findings to the public through both formal and informal channels; and
- ▶ Network with other institutions with similar interests, in and outside Malaysia to facilitate the flow of information and knowledge.

The priority focus areas are :

- ▶ Public Policy
- ▶ Development Studies
- ▶ Socio-economic Studies

Vision



To be a leading research institution in the region



Mission



To offer comprehensive professional research services that provide valuable inputs to planners and policy makers



To offer professional management services for conferences/ seminars and generate reports and recommendations for public policy input and knowledge oriented publications



To contribute to and complement the policy and decision making process in Sarawak

Chairman's Statement



As Sarawak continues its efforts to transform into a high income state by 2030, challenges are still aplenty such as bridging the information gap between the public sector and the general public, the rural and urban divide, availability of basic facilities and infrastructure for the people in the interior, tackling social issues and concerns, rising costs of living, development and empowerment of youth, and the aging population.

These were some of the issues deliberated by SDI through its activities like Brown Bag Talk series, public talks, roundtables, forums and conferences organised. Under the SDI's Brown Bag Talk series, members presented and discussed on the '*Socio-economic Situation of the Penan Communities and the Direction for Development of the Communities*', '*Urban Issues: Drawing Insights from Research*', and '*Moral Reasoning of University Students: Findings and Insights according to Gender and Levels*'. SDI also organised its inaugural Public Policy Forum on Rising Costs of Living to gather feedback and input on the issue from relevant stakeholders. There were genuine

concerns among the public on this issue prior to the implementation of the GST.

A significant milestone event organised was the Workshop on *Reinforcing DevCom for Sarawak's Economic and Social Transformation*. Development Communication (also currently referred to as Communication for Development) has been a focus of AZAM and SDI since the mid-80s. This first training for government officers aimed to introduce ComDev principles and approaches and the various stages in designing a strategic ComDev plan and its implementation. SDI collaborated with the University of the Philippines Los Baños where the DevCom concept originated, in organising the workshop and through this collaboration the participants were given the first opportunity to utilize the 'Communication for Rural Development Sourcebook' published by FAO Rome in 2014. Feedback from the participants consolidated the need for better communication training for government planners and implementers to achieve greater success with government projects and programmes. As expectations from the general

public rise, the government needs to meet these expectations through better communication and service delivery systems.

Sarawak is also working on a State Social Transformation Framework spearheaded by the Social Development Council, Ministry of Social Development. SDI assisted the council in organising the Social Transformation Conference and Facilitated Workshop to seek further input for the proposed framework and pillars and identify key issues and priorities for action. Follow up roundtables will be organised to fine tune the framework.

Youth development and empowerment continued to be a focus under SDI and Yayasan Perpaduan Sarawak's programmes. Partnering with a local youth group, The Champions, SDI and YPS organised six Empowerment Series, which aimed to empower and inspire youth through talks on current issues covering topics such as tertiary education, sexuality & you, depression, Gen Y and parent-child relationships. These talks provided the much needed platform and opportunity for the youth to discuss amongst themselves and seek advice from the experts on the subject matter deliberated. It was highlighted that many of the youth depend on informal channels such as the internet and their peers for information and support, and less on their family. These talks also provided the links to the relevant organisations for the youth to seek further information if needed.

Sarawak has long been recognised as a 1Malaysia model for its ethnic and intercultural harmony and unity. Together with 1Malaysia Foundation and other local institutions, Sarawak youth were invited to showcase their local cultures and engage with their peers in Peninsular Malaysia. Interactive sessions such as discussion on intercultural understanding and acceptance, interfaith harmony, and role of media in promoting unity were among the activities conducted to foster greater understanding and unity among the youth.

In research, SDI completed the 'Socio-Economic Survey for Kedaya Telang Usan, Miri Agropolitan Project' commissioned by the Miri Resident's Office, and the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Awareness Programme commissioned by the Information and Communication Technology Unit (ICTU), Chief Minister's Department. SDI also conducted in house two surveys on 'Gen Y' and 'Sexuality and You' among the youth who participated at YPS and SDI's programmes. These surveys were carried out to gauge youth's perception on employment, family values, social network and expectations. The survey on 'Sexuality and You' touched on sources of information, perception on pre-marital sex, attitude towards sex and discussion on sex.

There were a number of new activities organised in 2014 to foster greater discussion and input and these were made possible with staunch support from the SDI Board of Directors, members of Thinking Working Groups, SDI members and corporate members. I sincerely appreciate their voluntary contribution and hope this unceasing support will continue. To our other stakeholders such as government agencies, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, regional and international partners, and of course the local media, thank you for your continuous support. I also would like to applaud the hard work done by the Secretariat of SDI. Although faced with numerous challenges, they managed to persevere and achieve what we have set out to do for 2014. For that I wish to congratulate them on their steadfast commitment and teamwork.

On behalf of SDI, my most sincere gratitude and appreciation goes to His Excellency Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud for his patronage and unwavering support towards SDI for almost two decades. Our heartfelt thanks also go to the Chief Minister, YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Adenan Haji Satem for his kind support.

Thank you.



Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Datuk Amar Haji Mohamad Morshidi Abdul Ghani
Chairman of Sarawak Development Institute

Board of Directors



From left to right

YBhg. Datu. Dr. Penguang Manggil
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Ministry of Local Government and Community Development

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(Director)
Director
Information and Communication Technology Unit

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(Director)
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Ministry of Land Development

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Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Modernisation of Agriculture

Not in the photo



YBhg. Datu Ik Pahon Joyik
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Tourism



Dr. Abdul Rahman Deen
Director
Workforce Development Unit
Chief Minister's Department

Thinking Working Groups

Development Studies

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Mr. Joseph Blandoi
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Mr. Jiram Sidu
Consultant

Public Policy

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Haji Ismuni**
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▼
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*Director
Workforce Development Unit
Chief Minister's Department*

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Socio-Economic Studies

CHAIRMAN

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Women Entrepreneurs'
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Prof. Dr. Spencer E. Sanggin
*Senior Lecturer
Faculty of Social Sciences
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak*

Mr. Muazamir b. Jili
*Deputy Director
Department of Youth and Sports
Malaysia*

Secretariat



From left to right (1st row)

Rosalind Wong, Evelette Robin, Lelia Sim, YBhg. Datu Aloysius J. Dris, Nur Asmida Arzmi, Patricia Nayoi, Kamaruddin Sajeli

From left to right (2nd row)

Tang Tze Lee, Alan Teo, Abdul Khalik Putit



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abdul Mutalip bin Abdullah

*Lecturer
Faculty of Social Sciences, UNIMAS
Visiting Senior Research Fellow*

Conferences, Workshops, Forums & Talks



Chill Out

Every Sunday, Kuching Amphitheatre

Chill Out was organized every Sunday in 2014 from 5 pm to 6.30 pm at the Kuching Amphitheatre whenever weather permits. In addition to children's games and activities, special observation activities were organized in conjunction with Chinese New Year, International Women's Day, Easter Sunday and Gawai Dayak. During the special observation days, related information and goodies were distributed to promote a greater understanding on the event or festival. Peanuts and oranges were distributed during Chinese New Year, roses were given during International Women's Day, Easter egg hunt was organised for Easter Sunday, carnations were given during Mother's Day and traditional delicacies were distributed during Gawai Dayak. These were done to add additional cheer and promote goodwill among the families enjoying their quality time at the amphitheatre on the respective weekend.

Chill Out was organized with the aim to promote a healthy lifestyle by encouraging families and youth to utilize the parks and green lungs for recreational activities and spending quality time with families and friends. It was started in 2013.





Talk on Possible Degradation of Rural Areas due to Depopulation and Aging in Sarawak: Examination based on Similar Observations made in Rural Areas in Kochi, Japan

5 March 2014, AZAM Conference Room

The talk on 'Possible Degradation of Rural Areas due to Depopulation and Aging in Sarawak: Examination based on Similar Observations made in Rural Areas in Kochi, Japan' was presented by Dr. Ichikawa Masahiro from the Faculty of Agriculture, Kochi University, Japan. Since 1993 when Dr. Ichikawa was undertaking his Masters, he started to conduct research on the change of land-use and livelihood of the Iban under the influence of socio-economic changes in Miri division, Sarawak. From 2002 to 2008, he worked for the Research Institute for Humanity and Research (RIHN), Japan and conducted a study on the ecosystem services to the indigenous people in Sarawak. In 2009, Dr. Ichikawa was transferred to the Kochi University and started a research study on migration from rural to urban areas and rural changes in Sarawak as well as in Kochi, Japan where depopulation and aging are observed to be severe.

In the olden days of Sarawak, most of the population were living in the rural areas due to involvement in agricultural activities and harvesting of forest resources. In recent decades, however, migration from rural to urban areas had increased tremendously and population in the urban areas had overtaken that in the rural areas. In rural areas, traditional livelihood activities, such as swidden agriculture, hunting and collecting jungle produce have become inactive. Some of the cultural practices of the longhouse community such as conducting collaborative work are dying due to lack of manpower.

In Japan, migration of young people from the rural to urban areas started in the 1960s which is much earlier than Sarawak. Today depopulation and aging issues are very

severe in the rural areas. As a result of that phenomenon, farmlands and planted forests are not managed and abandoned, collective ceremonies such as religious ceremonies, weddings and funerals cannot be held; and expertise and knowledge on agriculture and forest uses have been lost. Rural communities have been degraded and some had already become extinct.

The Japanese government, recognising the economic gap between the rural and urban areas in the 60s, worked towards developing the rural areas to be on par with the urban areas through infrastructure development, opening up industries and introducing new agricultural products and modern methods to motivate farming activities. In addition, the country was also trying to bring in processing industries and tourism into the interior. The local government also worked on adding value to local products. Currently, it is embarking on a policy of inviting urban-rural migrants by subsidising their cost of living in the rural areas.

Dr. Ichikawa stressed that government policy plays an important role to spur the economic and population growth in the rural areas while minimising out-migration. This includes investments in infrastructure and technology. He mentioned that Sarawak still has high economic value of land and its rural development is progressing. The higher biodiversity in the state means that there are lots of natural resources to be utilized. He advised the state to constantly monitor its rural-urban migration trend as the progressing economic growth would influence out-migration. The talk was attended by about 50 participants from the public and private sectors and members of media.

SDI'S BROWN BAG TALK

The Brown Bag Talk is organised on a bimonthly basis for SDI members and guests to discuss relevant and current issues pertinent to the State. The objective of the talk series is to provide a platform for knowledge sharing among SDI members and generate input for the development of the State. Three Brown Bag talks were held in 2014.

► Socio-economic Situation of the Penan Communities and the Direction for Development of the Communities

3 April 2014, AZAM Conference Room, Kompleks AZAM

The first Brown Bag talk was delivered by Mr. William Chang, who has been an active member of SDI since 1999. He is also a committee member of SDI's Socio-economic Studies Thinking Working Group (TWG). The talk focused on the Penan's socio-economic situation based on findings from a number of studies such as the Project Management Unit (PMU) Studies under Sustainable Forest Management System for the Forest Department Sarawak in 2008; Murum HEP SEIA Study in 2008-2009; and Baram HEP SEIA Study in 2012-2014. He presented socio-economic information on their education, employment, sources of food and income. The presentation generated a lot of discussion highlighting the challenges in working with the communities especially when the resources are constrained. One of the issues highlighted was the lack of sustainability and follow through programmes by the implementing agencies. It was also acknowledged that it was difficult to implement new programmes or projects due to the culture of the Penan communities. One of the recommendations was to recognize their strengths especially their attachment to the environment and provide them with adequate access to the forest and work related to this nature. This is where their traditional knowledge can be tapped to support the management of protected areas and to support their livelihood. More than 25 participants attended the talk comprising SDI's members and individuals from relevant organizations.



► Urban Issues: Drawing Insights from Research

13 October 2014, DBNA Headquarters

The talk was delivered by Ms. Aishah Edris, Executive Secretary of Social Development Council and a member of SDI's Thinking Working Group for Socio-economic Studies. She presented on the findings from numerous studies undertaken by the Social Development Council since 2003 until 2014. Most of the studies were conducted only in Kuching while others covered major towns such as Sibu, Bintulu and Miri. The studies on urban services, housing and environment, urban poverty and public safety examined the social, economic and environmental implications of these urban issues. The findings and recommendations of the studies are still pertinent and significant and need to be further looked into for adoption by relevant agencies and for further research to be conducted.

► Moral Reasoning of University Students: Findings and Insights according to Gender and Levels

10 December 2014, AZAM Conference Room, Kompleks AZAM

The talk was delivered by Dr. Shanthi Nadarajah, Senior Lecturer, Centre for Language Studies, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). Her study was conducted involving 165 university undergraduates where she examined the differences between male and female students in regard to their responses on ethical behavior. She found that females are more ethical compared to males but over time, changes are observed with more females willing to cheat in exams for example. Another finding is the students irrespective of gender remain aware of core values but they will take advantage of situations when presented with the opportunity. She concluded that the need for Malaysians to acquire greater technological skills within the shortest time possible and education for employment rather than knowledge and enlightenment may have contributed to the poor core ethical values. Moral education thus should include discussions on appropriate behavior, responsibility, diversity, education, academic honesty and self-awareness and be interwoven with other mainstream courses/programs and made into a practice for all. The talk was attended by about 30 participants from the local colleges and universities.



EMPOWERMENT SERIES

The focus of the empowerment series is to create a platform for knowledge sharing and to provide information on current issues and interests through sharing by youth leaders in their respective fields such as social and youth hub, unity and harmony issues, marriage and family values, entrepreneurship, career planning, education, etc. The objectives of the Empowerment Series are to provide continuous and sustainable exposure via empowering & inspiring talks by knowledgeable and accomplished individuals, to spark a burning passion in young people to strive towards becoming better individuals, and advocates of positive change in the community and to provide a social avenue for young people to connect, learn and grow with one another.

► 1st Empowerment Series: Tertiary Education: Dream or Dilemma

9 May 2014, Citadines, Upland Kuching

The first ES was presented by Ms. Priscilla Hiu, a career guidance consultant of Gracia Management Sdn. Bhd. and a certified behavioral consultant who shared on Tertiary Education: Dream or Dilemma? looking at issues faced by university students while pursuing their tertiary education. For some students, it may be a dream, but it is also a dilemma for some because of a lack of interest in the courses they are taking. This happens either because of pressure from parents, conditions set by scholarships, and courses offered by universities where they were placed. Thus, students may experience mixed feelings about their future and the road to take. Ms. Hiu shared on how they can make the best of such a situation and why it is not the end of the road and how to determine their future through the right attitude towards life and work. Most of the participants found the session useful and they opined that it is an important topic for all students to know prior and during their studies. More than 45 students from the different universities and colleges in Kuching namely UiTM, UNIMAS, UCSI University, Executive College, Tun Abdul Razak Teacher's Training Institute, and Swinburne University of Technology attended the talk.



► 2nd Empowerment Series: Sexuality & You: Myths and Realities

20 June 2014, 9th Floor, Crown Towers, Pending

On 'Sexuality & You: Myths and Realities', Madam Rahmah Nicholls, Project Manager for Sarawak AIDS Concern Society (SACS), covered issues and concerns related to sexual responsibility, sexual understanding and knowledge among the youth, sexual myths and facts, peer pressure on sexual relationship and others. There were many questions raised by the youth on safe sex, sexual transmitted diseases and contraceptive methods. A brief survey was conducted to gather feedback on their source of information and access to information. The youth listed the internet as their main source of information and that they openly discussed about this subject with their peers. From the survey conducted, half of the youth has an open attitude towards pre-marital sex; indicating the need to educate them properly on the impact of pre-marital sex. About 50 students from the different universities and colleges in Kuching attended the talk.

► 3rd Empowerment Series: Understanding Each Other: Parents & You

11 July 2014, Function Room 1, Level 9, Crown Towers

The topic 'Understanding Each Other: Parents & You' was presented by Madam Teoh Poh Yew who is a dynamic and creative educator who firmly believes that everyone can be creative. She is a very experienced international trainer in the fields of creativity, mathematics education and Training of Trainers' programmes.

Madam Teoh shared her knowledge and experiences regarding parent-child relationships on understanding each other, knowing that each individual is unique and improving communication skills. She also touched on the importance of love, family and relationships. A number of the youth shared their frustration and feelings when they are not accepted by their families, are misunderstood, and the difficulties faced when communicating with their parents and family members. The talk was attended by about 40 youth from the local universities and colleges in Kuching.



► **4th Empowerment Series: Gen Y: What They say about You**

29 August 2014, Bing! Coffee, Level 1, Jalan Padungan, Kuching

“Gen Y: What they say about you” was presented by Madam Lelia Sim, General Manager of SDI. The talk shared findings from several studies conducted on youth and also the general perception on the youth. The studies covered areas like youth’s expectation when they start working, types of job that they look for, working environment, types of bosses, salary versus job satisfaction, etc. A brief survey was conducted with the participants who attended the session.

The findings from the participants showed they prefer flexi working hours, jobs that contribute back to the society, are confident with their skills and ability to go through with daily living, family and friends are important to them, spending money makes them happy, like teamwork working environment, social network is important but do not want to be noticed and have low interest in politics.



► **5th Empowerment Series: Sexuality & You: Myths & Realities 2**

26 September 2014, Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak Campus

Sexuality & You: Myths and Realities 2 was conducted at the Swinburne Campus featuring Madam Rahmah Nicholls, Project Manager for Sarawak AIDS Concern Society (SACS) and Dr. Philip Goh, gynaecologist at Borneo Medical Centre and President of the Federation of Reproductive Health Associations, Malaysia and the Sarawak Family Planning Association.

The session covered similar issues and concerns as in the first sexuality series. Questions from the youth were mainly on the different types of contraceptives and its impact on the reproductive system, sexually transmitted diseases and other sexual related matters. This series was attended by more than 180 students from Swinburne University and other colleges/universities in Kuching.



► **6th Empowerment Series: Depression**

24 October 2014, Bing! Coffee, Level 1, Jalan Padungan, Kuching

The talk was presented by Madam Gill Raja, senior lecturer from the Faculty of Social Sciences, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). This topic was covered as depression is known to be a psychological and health issue faced by many young people today. The session attracted more than 60 students from the different universities and colleges in Kuching. The speaker shared on the symptoms of depression and how to identify them, the treatment and support available to help overcome depression. A number of the youth who were open enough about undergoing depression at some stage of their lives, shared their experience and how they coped by listening to music and playing online games.





Public Policy Forum on Rising Costs of Living

19 May 2014, AZAM Conference Room, Kompleks AZAM

The forum on 'Rising Costs of Living' featured 3 panelists who spoke on the current policies, issues, views and recommendations to face the rising costs of living. The panelists were Dr. Mohammad Affendy Bin Arip, Dean and Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Economics and Business, UNIMAS; Mr. Alexander Averon Anak Suwin, Senior Assistant Director, Ministry of Domestic Trade, Cooperative and Consumerism Sarawak, and Mr. Andrew Lo, Chief Executive Officer, Sarawak Bank Employees Union. Dr. Abdul Rahman Deen, SDI Board Director and Director, Workforce Development Unit, Chief Minister's Department was the moderator for the forum.

The general aim of the public policy forum was to provide a platform for experts and relevant stakeholders to inform, share, debate and discuss on various issues related to public policies in the State. This particular forum aimed to shed light on current issues and concerns related to price hikes which have subsequently led to rising prices of consumer goods and products and ultimately cost of living. The three panelists presented their analysis and perspectives on the issue touching on the causes and contributing factors such as consumer price index, average real wage growth, disparities in wages, market competition, cost of products, etc. and the role of MTDC with regard to enforcement. The topic of GST was also briefly explained by the MTDC panelist.

The discussion during the forum was centered on the need to reduce the impact of rising costs on the business community, market and public. For the business community, the government was urged to step in and facilitate businesses to ensure fair competition, enforce the acts and laws on all parties to avoid bias and monopoly, and to review and amend certain policies such as on the density of houses per acre and the requirement to build low cost houses under projects that exceed a certain acreage. Suggestions were also made to empower citizens to be whistle-blowers, not to focus on creating new laws but to start thinking about the lack of manpower issue for enforcement. One of the recommendations to deal with the manpower issue is to start with smart enforcement. The forum was attended by more than 20 individuals from community associations, business chambers, relevant government departments and non- governmental organisations.





Workshop on Reinforcing DevCom for Sarawak's Economic and Social Transformation

12-14 August 2014, Imperial Hotel, Kuching

The 2½ days workshop was attended by 67 participants from 31 government agencies. Its objectives were to foster a commitment to Development Communication and its approach; to alert participants to the crucial need for DevCom in project planning and implementation; to equip participants with the knowledge and methodology in developing communication frameworks for development projects; and to expose participants to case studies on formulating the appropriate communication strategies for varied development projects with the aim to improve and enhance the success of these projects.



The trainers, Dr. Cleofe Torres and Dr. Ma. Stella C. Tirol from the University of the Philippines Los Baños conducted the training and covered topics on Competencies Required of Development Communicators/Development Officers, Developing Communication Strategy Designs for Development Projects/Programmes - The Essentials, and Case Studies on Successful and Failed Projects: How DevCom made a Difference.

Workshop participants had to work in groups to develop a Communication Strategy Design for a Public Development Project – Case Study in Sarawak. Local case studies covered included resettlement projects, environmental and conservation issues and crime and unemployment. Divided into seven groups, the participants produced skeletal Strategic ComDev Plans for the specific projects identifying the primary stakeholders intended behavioral objectives to be pursued; key message content to be crafted; media/channel and communication approach to be employed; and the monitoring and evaluation indicators to be used.

The participants were also given the first opportunity to utilize the 'Communication for Rural Development Sourcebook' published by FAO Rome in 2014, and sent to SDI to be used as a guide during the training. The trainers conducted a pre and post training survey among the participants, and the feedback was highly positive with most participants finding the training useful as it enhanced their knowledge and competency on the different phases of communication planning which involve identifying and understanding stakeholders/target communities; message and content development, problem solving, research, and the development of a strategic communication plan.

The workshop received financial sponsorship from Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd, Sarawak Energy Berhad, LCDA, Human Resource Development Unit, Chief Minister's Department, Ministry of Modernisation of Agriculture, State Planning Unit, SALCRA, and SEDC.



Roundtable on Your Say – Narcissism & You

16 August 2014, 360 Urban Resort @ Hock Lee Centre, Kuching

The Roundtable on Your Say series was organised with the objectives to engage the youth in discussing current issues and in voicing their views and thoughts on the issues; and to raise their level of awareness and understanding on the issues concerned. 30 youth from local colleges and universities attended the roundtable.

This roundtable aimed to provide a platform for youth to share and discuss their views on narcissism; its relation to online social networking and whether it is a cause for concern; to hear youth's perspective on whether social media and smartphones/tablets is an 'addiction' that have shut them out and affected their capacity to empathize and for social interaction; and to propose possible strategies to mitigate the extent of narcissism among young people.

From the discussion, it was found that there is a mix of opinions among the youth on whether narcissism is a cause for concern and there is uncertainty as well on whether it has risen due to social media. Some of the youth feel that all humans have innate narcissistic behavior, hence as long as it is within control; it is not a cause for concern. Most, however, do not think social media and smartphones/tablets is an 'addiction' and that their ability to interact and empathize is not affected by them. There were some who found it hard to differentiate between addiction and necessity as being digital natives, they treat electronic gadgets as an essential part of their life. They were able to see the many positive uses of the social media and the need to not go overboard in 'seeking attention'. They also pointed out that parents need to bring up their children in the right way so as not to encourage narcissistic behavior and affect their ability to empathize with others. Family based education thus needs to change to build better individuals. They proposed that there should be more awareness creation among parents and youth on this issue in order to reduce the negative effects of narcissism.

Sarawak Harmony – Truly Malaysia Conference

13-14 September 2014, Pearl International Hotel, Kuala Lumpur

Sarawak Harmony – Truly Malaysia Conference was organised by Yayasan Truly Malaysia in collaboration with Angkatan Zaman Mansang (AZAM) Sarawak and supported by Sarawak Development Institute, Islamic Information Centre Sarawak, Gerakan Perpaduan dan Integrasi, UNIMAS and Tun Jugah Foundation.

The objectives of the conference for the programmes are building bridges for national unity, engaging youth to be champions of unity and harmony, and sharing Sarawak's harmonious multi-cultural society for a unified and progressive Malaysia. The 1½ days event was attended by almost 400 youth from high schools and universities.

SDI under its collaboration with YPS and The Champions facilitated a breakout session on intercultural understanding and acceptance, and also showcased its activities with youth through a mini exhibition. During the event, two brief surveys on Gen Y and Unity were also conducted where about 80-140 forms were returned on the two topics. On the whole the event achieved its objectives in sharing Sarawak's experience on multicultural harmony particularly through the breakout sessions on interfaith harmony, role of media in promoting unity, social unity through sports, dance, music & arts, intercultural understanding and acceptance and social responsibility (volunteerism). These were evident from testimonials shared by some of the participants at the end of the event.





Social Transformation Conference and Facilitated Workshop 2014 – ‘Setting Directions’

30 October-1st November 2014, Regency Rajah Court Hotel, Kuching

The Social Transformation Conference and Facilitated Workshop 2014 was organized by the Social Development Council, Ministry of Social Development Sarawak in collaboration with SDI. The key aim of the conference was to bring about the meeting of the minds to re-examine societal development in the current light of the government's economic transformation plan and the new economic model; and what course of action to take to achieve the desired social transformation outcomes.

The objectives of the conference were to seek further input for the proposed social transformation framework for Sarawak; to define the scope of the pillars of the proposed framework and identify key issues and priorities for action; and to enhance and refine the proposed structure for operationalizing the social transformation framework.

The 2½ days conference and workshop was attended by 146 policy makers, social scientists, community leaders, NGOs and youth where paper presentations touched on the different pillars of social transformation in relation to policy, education, youth development, family, tradition & cultural sustainability, urban poverty, local government & community development, technology & media and civil society. The workshop discussion on the different pillars generated recommendations, strategies and action plans for the respective pillars. Roundtables were proposed as a follow up to go in-depth into the workshop recommendations, strategies and action plans to finalize the framework for social transformation for Sarawak.



SDI 18th Annual General Meeting

27 September 2014, Sadong Room, Grand Margherita Hotel, Kuching

The 18th Annual General Meeting was attended by 24 members including 8 proxies. During the meeting, both the Chairman and Deputy Chairman called on all members to contribute wherever possible in terms of ideas and feedback on the programmes and activities planned and organized by SDI. There was also a call to revive the spirit of supporting SDI as in the past through relevant projects and programmes.

Research



Socio-Economic Survey for Kedaya Telang Usan, Miri Agropolitan Project

The Final Report was submitted to the Resident's Office Miri in December 2014. The survey covered 8 villages with a total of 416 doors supporting a population of 2,276 people. Overall, the survey found that the area under study is suitable for an agropolitan project as it met the required criteria such as a rural area with low composite index, high incidence of poverty and land available for economical agriculture plantation. The villages proposed to be the pioneers for the project are Long Peluan and Long Beruang.

Generally, poverty is a perennial problem in the area and this is not surprising considering that the area is rural and very remote coupled with the fact that most of the inhabitants comprising Kelabit, Saban, Kenyah and Penan are subsistence farmers, and lack skills to better themselves. On the whole, about 51.6 percent of the survey area's households are hardcore poor (162 households) earning below RM570 per month. The survey found that apart from the big physical developments which benefit the general populace, not much direct impact on individual households can be discerned. Some assistance provided seems to be uncoordinated. Due to the remoteness of this area, people have lack of alternatives on type of economic opportunities that they can be involved in. There were attempts made to rear livestock but lack of knowledge, support and supply of young animals have dampened their efforts.

The study proposed that the agencies involved in giving assistance to the area double up their efforts and conduct outreach activities to identify those who require assistance. Though a number of agricultural projects have recently been implemented or are proposed in the area such as high yielding rubber plantations, inland fisheries and livestock projects, it is recommended also that such projects be extended to the rest of the villages in the study area. There is also a need to improve and upgrade the current basic facilities and infrastructure in the area.

On the whole, the study area has potentials for economic development. The inhabitants have the desire to learn as well as the willingness to acquire new skills and this is the biggest asset that they have. Where possible, economic projects to tackle poverty issues need to be introduced step by step focusing first on the needs at the level of individual households, and gradually progressing to the needs of groups of households and finally the whole community; from simple farming activities and slowly to bigger and more sophisticated projects.

Gen Y Survey

The survey was conducted during 'The Truly Malaysia – Sarawak Harmony Conference' held on 13-14 September 2014 in Kuala Lumpur.

The survey interviewed 136 youth participants at the conference. There were 20 questions covering youth's aspiration in the labour market, socially and financially as well as their political and cultural norms.

The survey concluded that Generation Y of Malaysia has a confident and progressive labor mindset, preferring flexible work hours, but is quite realistic about wage expectations. They are also self-giving showing a high spirit of volunteerism. They want different lives compared to that of their parents but only about half are certain they have the everyday skills and ability to get them through life. Similarly, Gen Y places importance on sociability and sees the importance of large and diverse social networks. Their affinity with the arts is clearly shown through their response that dreams and fantasies are their motivators and create the realities in their lives. Though living in a rather competitive environment, more would choose collaboration over competition to achieve results.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Awareness Programme

The survey was completed in July 2014 and the report was submitted to the Information and Communication Technology Unit (ICTU), Chief Minister's Department. The main objective of the survey is to evaluate consumer satisfaction in relation to the online services that the government provides and use this as a baseline for future references. The survey covered a total of 322 online users and 512 non-online users. For non-online users, the survey was conducted at the four identified payment counters and booths at DBKU, MBKS, MPP and the General Post Office Kuching. As for the online-users, the questionnaire was made available to them through the email notification by ICTU.



The survey found that the backgrounds of the online users are almost identical to that of the non-online users, (i.e., most live in the MBKS area, are relatively young at 26-45 years old and Malays). Most are educated salaried workers and have monthly incomes of between RM1,500.00 to RM5,000.00.

Based on the findings and analysis, the survey summarizes that most online users are aware of the e-Government services but the nature of these services determine their popularity amongst these online users. For instance, e-Recruitment has the highest rate of awareness amongst almost half of the respondents due to the importance of this particular service for job seekers, while only 15.0 percent are aware of e-Library. Although most of the respondents are regular online Paybills Malaysia users, many are not aware of the other e-Government services available. For example, 75.8 percent of these online users have not heard of e-Booking and 73.3 percent have not heard of e-Library. Their awareness of these services generally comes from friends and the internet. The findings seem to show that these online users are mainly only aware of the e-payment service. Among those who are aware of some of the services, the three biggest excuses given for not using them are the ease of paying over the counter, poor quality of internet access and uncertainty about security. Despite the last two reasons, a fair number of the respondents do use other online services such as for flight booking and hotel booking.

The survey has recommended, a) greater market awareness programme should be conducted to promote the e-Government services; b) to create dedicated mobile applications similar to Maybank2U and to provide kiosks with Public Access Point; c) to use social media websites to increase online participation and online Help Desk; d) to consider providing Transaction Authorisation Code (TAC) similar to online banking processes; e) to consider the use of electronic standing instruction (e-SI); and f) to give discounts as encouragement for the public to use e-Government services.

Sexuality & You Survey

This survey was conducted during one of the Empowerment Series which was jointly organized by SDI and Yayasan Perpaduan Sarawak (YPS). The main aim of this survey is to gauge the youth's opinion on the issue of sex. There are assumptions among the general public that our young people today are already indulging in pre-marital sex as there are now more 'open' attitudes towards sex among them believed to be influenced by the electronic media and greater access to information via the Net. The survey was conducted during two of the ES session on 'Sexuality and You'. A total of 174 youth responded to the three questions on: What do you think about pre-marital sex; Do you talk about sex? With whom?; and What are your sources of information about sex?

In general, the survey has revealed significant findings on today's youth attitude and perception towards sex. An important finding to note is that pre-marital sex is not a sensitive topic to be discussed among youth. This could be a sign of challenges to come, especially to parents and relevant agencies involved in religious affairs, social development, family and women affairs, especially regarding pre-marital pregnancy.

Almost half of those who accept pre-marital sex claimed that it is normal and part of growing up as long as necessary precautions are in place such as by wearing a condom. However, half of them still believed that sex should be reserved for marriage and it is morally and religiously wrong to do it before marriage.

The high percentage of those talking about sex, even though a number of them agreed that sex is only meant for married couples, shows that the majority of them are not shy to discuss about sex matters with others. Although it was a taboo in the past, changes in values and lifestyle due to modernization and technological advancement may have made the willingness to talk about sex publicly acceptable. Still, the survey found that, most are only willing to discuss it with their friends and not their family or other groups. This could be due to the fear of being misunderstood or simply feel uncomfortable when discussing this topic with their elders or strangers.

In a nutshell, the youth are quite open about discussing sex amongst their peers. There is thus a need to educate them properly on what sex is all about especially the consequences of pre-marital sex.

Newspaper Clippings

Program 'Chill Out' ajak warga kota luangkan masa bersama

KUCHING: Ketua Persidangan Bahagian, Pengurus Besar Institut Pembangunan Sarawak (SDI) Rosalind Wong berkata Program 'Chill Out' bertujuan mengajak warga kota meluangkan masa bersama.

Kata beliau program itu telah dijalankan sejak Ogos tahun lepas sejurus selepas pihaknya mengadakan 'Traditional Game Family Picnic' yang dirasmikan oleh Menteri Pehin

Antara aktiviti yang dijalankan pihaknya kelmari adalah zumba, tarian aerobik, hula hoop, zinger point, bola sepak dan tiup buih bagi menceriakan waktu hujung minggu.

Pihaknya menjalankan aktiviti itu juga sebagai inisiatif riadah bagi memberi peluang kepada ahli keluarga bersama-sama melakukan aktiviti terluang bersama mereka yang tersayang.

"Sebelum ini iaitu sewaktu



Chill Out at Kuching Amphitheatre every Sunday



KUCHING: Sunday is typically a day when families and friends gather to relax and enjoy the outdoors. The Kuching Amphitheatre has been transformed into a vibrant hub of community activity every Sunday.

The 'Chill Out' program, organized by the Sarawak Development Institute (SDI), offers a variety of recreational activities for all ages. From zumba to hula hoop, the program aims to promote a healthy and active lifestyle while fostering a sense of community.

The event is held at the Kuching Amphitheatre, a scenic location that provides a perfect backdrop for outdoor activities. The program is free of charge and open to the public.



SDI said the program was a response to the need for a community space where people could come together and enjoy the outdoors. The program is part of the SDI's ongoing efforts to promote community development and social cohesion.

The 'Chill Out' program is held every Sunday from 10am to 12pm. For more information, contact the SDI at 082-2533333.

Hiccups in communication planning

CM: DevCom plan should be able to create S'wakians knowledgeable and supportive of SCORE

KUCHING: There is a need to double efforts to strengthen the communication planning of the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE), the state government arrowhead programme targeted to transform Sarawak into the wealthiest state by 2030.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem noted that there were hiccups in the communication planning such as sporadic information flow on SCORE's development, inconsistent information and communication, and lack of people engagement, particularly at grassroots level.

He said part of the problem was caused by a lack of trained development communication personnel when the state needed a brand of communication that was pro-people, value-laden, and participatory, one that allowed those being governed to say their piece, be heard and be given space to participate.

Adenan pointed out that the Development Communication (DevCom) plan for SCORE should be able to create a critical mass of Sarawakians who were knowledgeable and supportive of SCORE.

"Only when they see themselves

as the subject and object of our development efforts will our people be able to support us and partner with us wholeheartedly," said Adenan.

He said this in his opening remarks at a three-day workshop, 'Reinforcing Development Communication for Economic and Social Transformation in Sarawak' held at a leading hotel here yesterday.

Organised by the Sarawak Development Institute (SDI), in collaboration with the College of Development Communication

Los Banos and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the workshop is aimed at providing participants with hands-on experience in strategic DevCom planning.

Adenan said DevCom was a planned social intervention, rooted on the dreams, the will and the participation of people, adding that the ongoing workshop was also meant to encourage the development officer to come up with a DevCom to support SCORE.

"In many of our development projects under SCORE, in relation

there seems to be a huge gap between the government and the affected communities, in terms of information flow and coordination of efforts to meet the needs of communities at the local level," he observed.

Adenan said inconsistencies in communication content, irregularity of information provided, lack of transparency, delays in response to the community's need, and poor preparation of communities to face impending changes, were some of the issues and challenges arising from poor communication planning.

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Strengthening ComDev capacities for Sarawak's socio-economic development

ON 08 AUGUST 2014. POSTED IN EVENTS

The Malaysian state of Sarawak is currently embarking on a transformational journey to bring greater development to its people, with a massive development agenda in the form of the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE). People participation is a key element in the implementation process.

In response to a growing need for better stakeholder, the Sarawak Development Institute (SDI) has organized a three-day workshop on Reinforcing Development Communication for Economic and Social Transformation in Sarawak, at Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak.

This training workshop is organized in collaboration with the College of Development Communication, Philippines Los Baños (COC-UP) and the Communication for Development Centre, Philippines Los Baños (COC-UP).

Penghijrahan dari luar bandar ke bandar

Untuk elak kepupusan penduduk luar bandar khususnya generasi muda seperti di Jepun

KUCHING: Bagi menangkul kepupusan penduduk luar bandar khususnya generasi muda seperti di Jepun, Sarawak perlu mengambil langkah proaktif.

Salah satu langkah yang boleh diambil adalah dengan meningkatkan pembangunan infrastruktur di luar bandar. Ini akan membantu menarik penduduk ke luar bandar dan mengelakkan mereka berpindah ke bandar.

Salah satu lagi langkah yang boleh diambil adalah dengan meningkatkan pembangunan ekonomi di luar bandar. Ini akan membantu mencipta peluang pekerjaan di luar bandar dan mengelakkan mereka berpindah ke bandar.



Oleh itu, tujuan saya mengadakan kajian seterusnya ceramah ini adalah bagi membimbing dan memastikan agar penduduk di negeri dan negara ini dapat didedahkan dengan perkara yang berlaku di Jepun pada masa ini.

Kedah, Sarawak, dan Sabah adalah tiga negeri yang paling banyak mengalami penghijrahan dari luar bandar ke bandar. Ini adalah kerana mereka mempunyai banyak peluang pekerjaan di bandar.

Salah satu langkah yang boleh diambil adalah dengan meningkatkan pembangunan infrastruktur di luar bandar. Ini akan membantu menarik penduduk ke luar bandar dan mengelakkan mereka berpindah ke bandar.

Pemindah peranak ari menua pesisir ngagai mengeri dipanisk



KUCHING: Dikawatirkan, pemindahan penduduk dari luar bandar ke bandar akan semakin meningkat dalam masa terdekat ini.

Salah satu faktor yang menyebabkan ini berlaku adalah kerana banyak peluang pekerjaan di bandar. Ini akan membantu menarik penduduk ke bandar dan mengelakkan mereka berpindah ke luar bandar.

Salah satu lagi faktor yang menyebabkan ini berlaku adalah kerana banyak infrastruktur di bandar. Ini akan membantu menarik penduduk ke bandar dan mengelakkan mereka berpindah ke luar bandar.

Urban migrants in Sarawak are likely to be involved in the oil palm sector. Longhouse residents are experiencing a 70 per cent drop in residents as many have migrated to Miri over the years.

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