

20TH
Anniversary



ANNUAL
REPORT



SARAWAK DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

2015



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Conferences, Workshops, Forums, Talks and Research

Introduction



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

Mission



“Bringing Sarawak Further”



Chairman's Statement



SDI celebrated its 20th Anniversary on 1 December 2015. It was indeed an honour to be a part of this momentous occasion.

For an organisation such as SDI to maintain its operation for 20 years is not an easy feat, and therefore must be acknowledged and celebrated. For the occasion, we decided to pay homage to SDI's Patron, His Excellency Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, the Governor of Sarawak, for his unwavering support to SDI. It was his vision and steadfast belief in Development Communication that led to the establishment of Angkatan Zaman Mansang (AZAM Sarawak) and eventually SDI in 1995. His Excellency was conferred a Special Recognition Award in Development Communication by the College of Development Communication, University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) at the celebration. It was indeed a proud moment for Sarawak and SDI.

This recognition for His Excellency is a result of SDI's close collaboration with the UPLB which started in 2015, and SDI is currently in discussion with them to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to undertake further collaborative work in Communication for Development (ComDev). ComDev is set to become a new and key focus

area of SDI. This ties in with the second in-depth training held on 'Strategic ComDev Planning for Sarawak Development Planners and Implementers' where the participants had to undergo an intensive 18 weeks training to learn and develop a Strategic ComDev Plan for respective projects selected by them. It was not an easy task and filled with challenges, but nevertheless it had equipped the participants with the background knowledge on coming up with a basic strategic ComDev plan. I strongly believe this will support future government project planning, management and deliverables.

I would also like to convey my appreciation to our members for their contribution at the Brown Bag Series which is a platform for members to share on their latest projects, expertise and experience. My appreciation to members like Dr. Henry Chan who shared on Heart of Borneo Corridor Project Implementation; Dr. Roger Harris who presented on Information and Communication Technologies for Indigenised Development In Borneo: Towards The Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda; and Dr. Nurhani Aba Ibrahim who spoke on the Implementation of Minimum Wages in Malaysia: Issues and Challenges. These sessions proved to be informative and interactive where participants also shared numerous opinions and views on the subject matter discussed.

Our Thinking Working Group on Public Policy also initiated a Public Forum on Urban Poor where issues and concerns were discussed from various angles and perspectives to seek common solutions for this development and social issue. One of the crucial issues identified was the lack of accurate data on the urban poor population and this could lead to unsustainable programs and activities to support them in the long run.



We also collaborated with our corporate members and partners such as SAINS and UNIMAS to have joint talks where interesting topics like Info Kenyalang (iK) and language processing projects by the Sarawak Language Technology (SaLT, Unimas) get highlighted and disseminated to a larger audience.

As the secretariat to the Yayasan Perpaduan Sarawak, SDI also organised a number of programmes and activities focussing on fostering greater unity and social harmony among our diverse communities. Among the notable events were Camp United 2015 for our youth from Sarawak, Sabah and Peninsula Malaysia, a Unity Talk Series by renowned Emeritus Prof. Datuk Dr. Shad Saleem Faruqi from UiTM, and the MakanMakan series which bank on our common love for food to create greater understanding and acceptance of the cultures, practices and traditions of the different communities in Sarawak.

Under research, a number of internal exploratory small scale surveys were undertaken in collaboration with UNIMAS, looking at attitude towards English, expectation and perception on employment and addiction with smartphones among university students. These small studies are important to feel the current pulse and emerging issues in society. I find it disturbing to know that the students are aware of their poor command of English and its impact on their future career but are not compelled

to do anything about it. I hope these small surveys will be followed up with more detailed studies to examine the issues further so that remedial measures can be recommended.

Every year, I cannot express enough my gratitude to SDI's Board of Directors and its Thinking Working Groups, members, partners and collaborators for their unwavering support and commitment to the work in SDI. For the past 20 years, there are more familiar faces than new faces, and for a non-profit research organisation, that is a great achievement. I truly salute those who have been with SDI from its early days. The same sentiment also goes to the management and staff of SDI for their hard work and strong commitment throughout these 20 years. Well done, everyone.

On behalf of SDI, once again I wish to record my sincere appreciation to the government agencies, international partners, organisations, sponsors and the local media for their kind support and trust in our activities and programmes. Last but not least, our deepest gratitude and sincere thanks to the Patron of SDI, His Excellency Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, Governor of Sarawak, Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Adenan Haji Satem, Chief Minister of Sarawak and the State Government for their staunch support of our work.

Thank you.

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

Board of Directors



Chairman

Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Datuk Amar (Dr) Haji Mohamad Morshidi Abdul Ghani
State Secretary of Sarawak



Deputy Chairman

YBhg. Datu Haji Ismawi Haji Ismuni

*Director
State Planning Unit*



Director

YBhg. Datu Jaul Samion
*Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Land Development*



Director

YBhg. Datu Haji Chaiti Haji Bolhassan
*Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Rural Development*



Director

YBhg. Datu Dr. Ngenang Jangu
*Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Modernisation of Agriculture*



Director

YBhg. Datu Dr. Penguang Manggil
*Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Local Government and
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Director

Tuan Haji Soedirman Aini
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Director

YBhg. Datu Ik Pahon Joyik
*Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Tourism*



Director

Encik William Patrick Nyigor
*Director
Services Modernization & Quality Unit
Chief Minister's Department*



Director

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

Thinking Working Groups

Development Studies

CHAIRMAN

YBhg. Datu Jaul Samion
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Land Development
Sarawak

MEMBERS

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Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Modernisation
of Agriculture, Sarawak

YBhg. Datu Dr. Penguang Manggil
Permanent Secretary
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Ministry of Land Development
Sarawak

Mr. Joseph Blandoi
Acting Deputy General Manager
and Chief Operating Officer
SALCRA Jaya Sdn. Bhd.

Mr. Ahmad Denney Ahmad Fauzi
Principal Assistant Secretary
Ministry of Rural Development
Sarawak

Mr. Jiram Sidu
Administrative Officer
Ministry of Land Development

Public Policy

CHAIRMAN

**YBhg. Datu Haji Ismawi
Haji Ismuni**
Director
State Planning Unit
Sarawak

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

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

MEMBERS

Prof. Dr. Lau Seng
Director
Centre for Water Research
Institute of Biodiversity and
Environmental Conservation
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

Mr. Abdul Kadir Zainuddin
Director
Finance and Administration Division
State Financial
Secretary's Office

Dr. Ahi Sarok
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Publication Division
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

Socio-Economic Studies

CHAIRMAN

YBhg. Datu Ik Pahon Joyik
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Tourism, Sarawak

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Mr. William Chang
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Madam Norjanah Razali
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Women Entrepreneurs'
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Bumiputera Entrepreneurs'
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Chief Minister's Department

Ms. Aishah Edris
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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



From left to right (1st row)

Abdul Khalik Putit, Lelia Sim, Kamaruddin Sajeli, Rosalind Wong, Evelette Robin, Patricia Nayoi, Nur Asmida, Christine Kiriti

From left to right (2nd row)

Alan Teo, Tang Tze Lee, Ralph Balan Langet, YBhg. Datu Aloysius J. Dris

Visiting Senior Research Fellow



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abdul Mutalip bin Abdullah

Lecturer

Faculty of Social Sciences, UNIMAS

Conferences, Workshops, Forums & Talks

20TH
Anniversary

Roundtable On Bumiputera Entrepreneurship

Sadong Room, Grand Margherita Hotel Kuching

21 JANUARY



Bumiputera entrepreneurship was an issue raised during the 6th Cultural Symposium for the government's attention and action. Among the concerns brought up by the various communities were business opportunities, training, exposure, financial assistance and technical support. The Bumiputera Entrepreneurs Development Unit (UPUB), Chief Minister's Department together with SDI organised the Roundtable on Bumiputera Entrepreneurship as a follow up to the issues raised to identify information available and support provided; to pinpoint and discuss

on the information gaps and other problems in relation to the issues; and to recommend more integrated strategies, solutions and action plan to address the issues.

The roundtable discussion which was attended by more than 40 representatives from the community associations, business chambers and entrepreneurs' associations was moderated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Shahren Ahmad Zaidi Adruce, Director, Institute of Borneo Studies, UNIMAS.

Among the recommendations made from the roundtable were to inculcate quality and integrity as a culture among the Bumiputera entrepreneurs, review the business registration ordinance, consolidate the information pertaining to funding, training, place R & D under one agency, adopt a holistic approach to training and development programmes, establish collaborative and strategic alliance to distribute information to all stakeholders; and establish a well monitored policy to promote and guide the collaboration between Bumiputera entrepreneurs and others.



SDI's BROWN BAG SERIES

Heart of Borneo Corridor Project Implementation

AZAM Conference Room

4 MARCH

Dr. Henry Chan, Head of Conservation Sarawak, WWF Malaysia presented on the 'Heart of Borneo (HoB) Corridor Project Implementation' covering the concept of HOB, the HoB Corridor and the project implementation details.

The HoB Initiative is a transboundary cooperation between Brunei, Malaysia and Indonesia and consists of five pillars namely sustainable forest management, ecotourism based on culture, adventure and nature (CAN), conservation of biological diversity, sustainable agriculture and land use and community based/rural poverty eradication programme. The HoB Corridor is a project within the HoB Initiative with the aims to create corridors through well-managed forest management areas and sustainable agriculture land uses, to form transboundary connected conservation areas that link up protected areas between all three countries, and to facilitate trilateral collaboration that enhances connectivity between protected areas from northern Borneo in Sabah to southern Borneo in Kalimantan, Indonesia to consolidate all existing national parks and protected areas in Borneo.

Another important need for the corridor is to restore landscape connectivity to conserve the biodiversity and protect the ecosystems. The lack of coordination between both forest management plan and Totally Protected Area (TPA) has resulted in adverse impacts on wildlife where they end up being marooned in TPA and the population decline due to lack of access to food and inbreeding. The inbreeding eventually causes genetic variation and overall decline in the population. The plan encompasses continuous belts of natural forest linking the different land uses through: riverine and ecosystem connectivity, wildlife corridors, ecotourism corridors and community movement routes. The corridor is more than 2,000 kilometres long and spanning a million hectares of land from the tip of Sabah (Mount Kinabalu) to Sebangau National Park in Central Kalimantan.

Discussion during the session was centred on the issue of coordination of the corridor where countries involved have different set of policies and regulations, and who would take the lead role to ensure the differences would not hinder the overall aim. Past experiences and challenges were shared on the difficulties to accommodate the different needs of the stakeholders, which could often lead to failure. It is therefore important to have a 'strong' champion to lead and find solutions to the different expectations of the stakeholders.

In a nutshell, the endeavour is about connecting the dots and following the trail of nature through the three countries in Borneo. Dr. Henry ended the presentation by emphasizing that this corridor if managed accordingly to the plan, will address most of the problems plaguing the three countries at the present time, namely environmental degradation, extinction of wildlife, loss of livelihood, unsustainable forest products, etc. He assured that it was not too late but it would take a long time and support from everyone to make it a success.



The Implementation of Minimum Wages in Malaysia: Issues and Challenges

AZAM Conference Room

7 MAY



This topic of current interest was presented by Dr. Nurhani Aba Ibrahim from Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and was attended by more than 40 participants from the public and private sector. Based on her experience as a member of the National Wage Council and her involvement in drafting minimum wage policies, she shared that the implementation of the minimum wage policy was a mechanism to improve wages without reducing employment levels, to reduce reliance on foreign labour, and to increase productivity. This in turn, would improve the lives of citizens, especially the working poor.

She also spoke on the legislative framework through the times, culminating in the government's latest effort – the National Minimum Wages Consultative Council Act 2011, which resulted in the establishment of the National Wages Consultative Council, and setting of minimum wage levels as well as investigation and enforcement mechanisms. She also spoke on the challenges of implementing minimum wages. This included the increased possibility of shifting to the informal sector and the difficulty of SMEs in absorbing increased wage rates. At the end of the session, Dr. Nurhani fielded some questions from the audience, which covered various areas, mainly her opinions on the viability and impact of minimum wage on the private sector and commercial activities.

**Information and Communication Technologies for Indigenised Development In Borneo: Towards The Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda**

AZAM Conference Room

16 JUNE

Dr. Roger Harris, a visiting Professor at the Institute of Social Informatics and Technological Innovation at UNIMAS presented on 'Information and Communication Technologies for Indigenised Development in Borneo: Towards the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda'. The talk was attended by more than 30 participants from the government and private agencies. According to him Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were discussed at the United Nations as part of a new global agenda to finish the job of the Millennium Development Goals. The SDGs include commitments to end poverty in all its forms everywhere and to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. One of the ways forward is to look at indigenised development. Indigenous people comprise 5% of the world's population yet 15% of the world's poor. Their territories span across 24% of the earth's surface and they manage 80% of the world's biodiversity. Whilst contributing little to climate change, they suffer its most severe impacts.

Indigenised development is about acknowledging the role of the indigenous people in development as indigenous knowledge has been shown to be capable of contributing considerably to a better understanding of climate change and its impact on fragile eco-systems as well as providing important insights into the adaptation methods that can mitigate its effects. The world is belatedly acknowledging the contribution of the traditional knowledge and wisdom of indigenous peoples in sustainably managing the environment. These capabilities and possibilities were clearly demonstrated through the flagship e-Bario project and others which have introduced information and communication technologies into remote and isolated indigenous communities across Malaysia. The projects have created many positive impacts on the communities such as documenting their traditional knowledge, providing them with platforms to share their indigenous knowledge and to create alternative income generating activities for the communities like eco-tourism and homestay programmes.

Discussion at the talk was centred on sustainability and how to bring aboard the government to plan for indigenised development in Sarawak. He mentioned the government departments involved in the projects are aware of the need to be inclusive in their planning and decision-making process.



17 APRIL



is using migration. Entry documents also specify the names of persons, organizations, locations, and other information. The documents are also known as naturalized citizenship collection of historical news documents. To 2004, this collection of documents that can be identified to that further project. The completeness of this collection is historical and 1940, but increase value. Sarah's history. Currently, the collection project. The documents need to be

In her conclusion, she said an estimate of 43 per cent of some 6,000 languages spoken across the globe have been listed as 'endangered'. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) stated there are 25 endangered languages in Malaysia and five of them are found in Borneo. If one language dies, this will reduce the intellectual and cultural diversity of our planet. SaLT is concerned with the rate of extinction of some of the Sarawak languages like "*Lelak*" as recorded by Ethnologue. Therefore, they need long term community involvement and support especially from respondents, researchers, students and institutions. They also appeal for more financial support as funds will be needed to collect more data, to improve and develop more language tools and to maintain all the languages for our future generation.

'i-CARE about Sarawak'*Auditorium, Islamic Information Centre*

10 AUGUST

Infocast Kenyalang (iK) is one of SAINS' corporate social responsibility activities that aim to facilitate greater information and knowledge sharing between the public sector and the general public of Sarawak. Essentially, iK is a multimedia display solution that can be used for announcements, documentaries, educational material, information sharing or event reporting. iK display screens are currently available at about 100 locations throughout Sarawak where there is high human traffic such as the district offices, local authorities' offices, transportation hubs, education hubs, etc.

Mr. Allen Liew, Head of Digital Signage, Audiovisual and Energy Unit, SAINS in his presentation showcased videos and other displays shown on iK presently. He also shared on how iK would benefit the local non-governmental organisations by providing them with a free information channel to promote their activities and programs.

Comments made by the audience were on the need to filter through the content of materials submitted to ensure appropriateness and accuracy, to evaluate iK's impact and effectiveness and regularity of screening of materials submitted. SAINS shared that though there are plans to assess the effectiveness of iK, there are limitations since it is a CSR activity by SAINS.

iK is estimated to have about 10,000 viewers daily. The talk was attended by more than 80 participants from the government and private agencies and NGOs.

**Public Forum On Urban Poor***AZAM Conference Room*

9 JUNE

The half day Public Forum on Urban Poor, was organized by SDI's Thinking Working Group for Public Policy. The forum featured 4 speakers from various backgrounds followed by a moderated discussion. Panellists included Ms Ivy Lim, Principal Assistant Director, State Planning Unit, Tuan Haji Abg. Shamshudin bin Abg. Seruji, Director of the Department of Welfare Sarawak, Dr. John Phoa, Head of Development Studies, UNIMAS and Ir. Peter Wong, Chairman of Society for Kuching Urban Poor. The discussion was moderated by Ms Aishah Edris, former Executive Secretary of the Social Development Council, Sarawak. The event was officiated by YBhg. Datu Haji Ismawi Ismuni, who introduced the forum and its intended objective, and on the need for more action on poverty, elaborating on the causes and effects.

The specific objectives of the forum were to provide a platform for the public to voice their opinions and views on existing public policies, to enhance knowledge and understanding on issues related to public policies, to gather feedback and provide inputs to the government on how the public perceive the different policies that have been formulated, and to provide suggestions/recommendations to enhance these policies.

The forum highlighted some of the critical issues faced in dealing with the urban poor. One such issue is a lack of and access to data on the current population of the urban poor as well as access by researchers to such data which are kept by certain departments and agencies in the State. Another issue is lack of skilled manpower to implement projects related to the urban poor at the departmental level.

The panellists also discussed and proposed some strategies to deal with the problem of urban poverty. One such strategy is the concept of Productive Welfare by Department of Welfare that assists aid recipients all the way, in concert with their families, with the aim of moving beyond hand-outs, as well as achieving independence and confidence. It starts with client motivation in the beginning to independence without welfare assistance at the end. Another was on the use of information and communications technology (ICT) as a tool to promote meaningful participation of the poor and marginalized in the global economy. In tandem with this, the importance of human resource development was stressed, through greater investments in education, skills training and lifelong learning to promote employability and financial security among the poor. Other ideas included social protection for low income workers and those in informal sectors, and capacity building of civil society organizations in social services delivery. The forum participants also supported the idea of encouraging the urban poor community to go into urban communal farming for self-consumption and additional income. It was also agreed that all poverty programmes need to be monitored and evaluated to further enhance the poverty eradication mechanism.



JUNE -
OCTOBER

The intensive training used a blended learning method by combining face-to-face session with online coaching to enable the participants to be fully guided by their respective advisers on the various steps needed for communication planning. The participants worked on real data and information and actual case studies.

14 SEPTEMBER

A group of people, including men and women, are seated around a large, U-shaped conference table in a meeting room. The table is covered with a green cloth and has a gold fringe along its edge. Various items like water bottles, papers, and a laptop are on the table. The room has red walls, a chandelier, and a large window in the background.



1 DECEMBER



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SERIES

7th Series: Financial Management *Sarawak Tourism Complex*

The 7th Empowerment Series addressed issues of understanding one's spending habit, tracking expenses, making saving plan and the ability to distinguish between wants and needs. The session aimed to equip the participants with a better understanding on financial management and how to manage their money wisely to stay debt free. Conducted by Ms Ginette Collin of PurpleLily, it was attended by about 40 students from the different universities and colleges in Kuching. The session was done interactively with youth tracking their expenses, making saving goal, planning their budgets, and devising a saving plan.



28 MARCH



8th Series: Waste & Our Generation *Transformation Centre Berhad*

The 8th Empowerment Series was organised in collaboration with Trienekens Sarawak on "Waste and Our Generation". The session covered the current waste management facilities available in Kuching, the amount of waste collected and the types of waste generated, and the need for recycling and waste separation at home, schools, colleges, universities and offices. The overall aim of the talk was to create better awareness and understanding on the need to manage our waste properly and how young people could be a part of the initiatives and solution to reduce, reuse, recycle and up cycle waste. Trienekens also had on display a model of the Mambong Sanitary Waste Treatment Facility and samples of the waste water after undergoing treatment.

19 JUNE



CHILL OUT: Easter Egg Hunt *Kuching Amphitheatre*

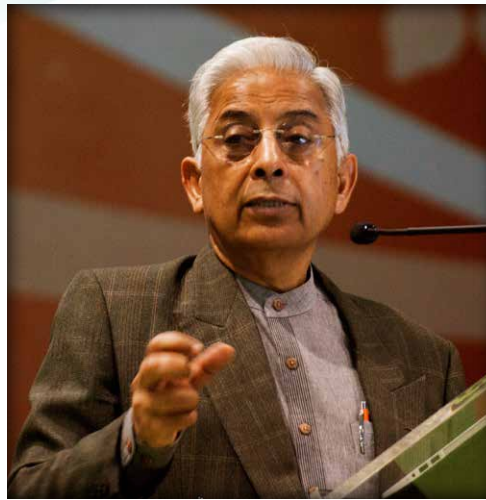
Easter Chill out was held to engage and encourage young families and children and youth to spend their Sunday evening out in the park and to participate in Easter themed games and activities. The goal was to indirectly inculcate a culture of celebrating the diversity of our local communities and to reinforce our communal values of cultural acceptance and understanding. A total of 32 kids aged between 3 1/2 to 12 years old took part in the Egg Hunt for 300 multi coloured painted eggs which were hidden around the grounds at the amphitheatre. There were also colouring activities for the children with a clown in attendance who provided different balloon creations for the children.

19 APRIL



Multi-purpose Hall, Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak Campus

YBhg. Emeritus Prof. Datuk Dr. Shad Saleem Faruqi, Professor of Law and Legal Advisor of Universiti Teknologi Mara, Shah Alam presented a talk on 'Citizens' Role in Promoting Moderation'. His presentation covered the attributes, characteristics or qualities of moderation and the role of individuals, government and media in cultivating moderation. He described moderation as a state of mind, acceptance of the middle path, welcomes social engagement, acceptance of the plural nature of society, rejection of racism and love for God and love for all His creations.



He also shared that the attitude of moderation is not something we are born with. Therefore, it has to be cultivated at home, in the school, places of worship, and in the community. He also emphasised citizens have to play their role in a big or small way. Among the roles include the importance of parental role, respect for each other, improve constitutional literacy, develop constitutional patriotism, be opinion leaders, focus on commonalities, revive the spirit of accommodation of 1957 and 1963, use the internet wisely, be active in the NGOs and neighbourhood activities, set good example, open our minds, reject violence and religious extremism.

He also highlighted the role of the government in cultivating moderation by reforming the education system, go back to the spirit of accommodation of 1957 and 1963, community and political leaders must promote moderation, use law as instrument of social control, review administration of affirmative action policies, race-based political parties must become more inclusive, forge fairer federal-state relations and conference of rulers as reconcilers and mediators. He also urged the media to highlight the positive aspects and stories of inter-communal harmony.

Questions raised were on free speech, nation building aka 1Malaysia issue, individual voice versus collective voice, selective prosecution, and the different expectations and criteria for a Prime Minister by major ethnic groups in Malaysia. The talk was attended by about 100 students, lecturers and officers from local colleges, universities and relevant organisations respectively. The talk was organised in collaboration with Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak.

21 MAY



CAMP UNITED 2015
Yayasan Sarawak

YPS in collaboration with The Champions held its inaugural Camp United, a three and a half day camp designed to foster inter-ethnic unity and understanding as well as provide a platform for youth to voice their views and ideas on ethnic relations. It was held at the Yayasan Sarawak Complex and participants comprised 76 students (57 campers and 19 camp crews)



from tertiary education institutions around Kuching, including UNIMAS, UiTM, Swinburne, UCSI and ICATS. This resulted in a very interesting mix of ethnicities from various parts of Malaysia and two foreign students from Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus. Various teambuilding and communication exercises/activities were carried out during the day. At night, there were discussions and reflections on what the exercises meant in the context of understanding and acceptance, and unity.

Throughout the activities and programmes organised, the participants were able to deepen their understanding on each other's background, forged new friendships among them, talked about issues affecting their life and community and discussed current topics affecting unity and social harmony in the state. The highlight of the camp was an informal dialogue session with the Governor of Sarawak, His Excellency Tun Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud. His Excellency shared about his childhood experiences with multiracial friends before moving on to youth topics such as employment. In particular, he opined that youth should take up opportunities wherever they present themselves, and not necessarily in urban areas. He also spoke about the opportunities in the job market being driven by economic growth in SCORE (Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy) areas such as Bintulu and Miri. His Excellency also took questions regarding youth issues. The camp ended on a high note where most of the campers gave positive feedback and testimonials on how the camp had helped them to learn things that matters beyond their studies and campus life.

31 JULY-
3 AUGUST**SUP4GOOD**
The Granary, Kuching

Organised by The Champions and sponsored by YPS, SUP4GOOD is a casual dinner aimed at crowdfunding for local community development programs. Inspired by Detroit Soup, this project seeks to promote community based development through an inclusive social platform dedicated to empowering local initiatives and projects through community sourced micro-grants and supporting them via established entrepreneurial and social-entrepreneurial organizations.

The format of SUP4GOOD is for all guests to donate a minimum amount of money and they will be eligible to vote for one project that they wish to fund. During this inaugural SUP4GOOD, three community projects were pitched to win the contribution made by the guests. The projects were: Affirmative Employment which was on providing training and employment for women from low income group; Food Waste Management Service on converting food waste into bio-protein (worm-black soldier fly (BSF) larva); and Heart2Offer which was on a community-based mobile platform which aims to bridge the gap between volunteers and volunteer opportunities, making volunteering opportunities easily available to all.

After listening to the pitches, the guests were provided with soups for dinner. The voting was then done where the project with the most votes won the money collected from the guests. The amount collected during the first Sup4Good was RM1,050 and it was awarded to Affirmative Employment. The winner is expected to share her project outcome at the next Sup4Good event.

13 OCTOBER



A Perception Survey on Unimas Students on Emerging Issues

The survey is part of a continuous collaboration project with lecturers from the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Economics and Business in Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas). The main aim of this survey is to gauge students' perception and feelings on emerging issues as well as to identify the determinant factors that may have formed these feelings. Emerging issues selected will depend on their importance (for example, having impact on the country's future)



as well as their popularity (widely covered by the media as well as heated public debate in the social media). Three issues have been selected for the first project and they are a) Attitude towards English; b) Expectations and Perception on Employment; and c) Addiction with Smart-phones.

The research instrument used is a self-administered questionnaire and the survey was conducted on 314 students from Unimas in 2015 using convenience sampling. The survey was supervised by their lecturers. The findings from the survey paint a conflicting picture of the state of English among students. To a certain extent, there is almost an image of glamour attached to those who can speak English. A strong majority agree that it creates a good impression and a perception that one is educated. Although they understand the importance and need to master English, they are reluctant to practice it in social and official settings, preferring to use Bahasa Malaysia.

They are also embarrassed to use and practice their English. This is possibly due to their lack of confidence in their language skills. This is particularly odd, since close to half of the respondents (47.4%) disagree that learning English is a difficult task. This confusing aspect also carries on into other aspects of student life, with most students electing to answer "unsure" to many of the questions asked.

Survey findings shows that students have somewhat realistic expectations about the local labor market. They also hold values that were markedly different from their parents' generation. They are largely in agreement about the value of higher education as a means for a good job in the future. Most aspire to work with the government, due to job security. They are also realistic in terms of labor market remuneration, with many saying they are unsure if they would not accept a job that pays less than RM2,001.00, with an equal number agreeing and disagreeing. There are areas in which respondents demonstrate shifting attitudes towards labor. For instance, most agree that there are other important factors

besides financial rewards, preference for flexi-time jobs (over traditional 8 to 5 schedule) and that they are willing to learn new skills in order to obtain employment. However, these sentiments are tempered by observations of current realities. A majority worry about future prospects due to the rising cost of living, and that life is going to be harder in the future for the present generation. Another interesting area of observation is the choice of backup plans. A substantial number of respondents moderately agree that business and teaching are backup plans in case they could not find a desired employment after graduation. Apparently, they think that teaching is a paid job that is easily available which also means that it ranks at the bottom of their lists.

As part of Generation Y, the respondents show strong usage and attachment to their smartphones. It reaches an extent where a large number of respondents state that they cannot survive without their smart-phones, and that they do check their phone regularly for messages. There is also a level of anxiety attached to smartphone usage. A majority of respondents report that they get worried when their phone battery is low and to ensure that they bring a power bank whenever they go out. As far as social norms are concerned, by and large, they are slightly conservative. Respondents do not see many problems with using their smartphones in company, and that smart-phones are equivalent in terms to speaking face to face. The high level of integration in everyday life is most probably the reason why public acceptance of smart-phones is high.

As a conclusion, there are two major issues that can be discerned from the findings. Firstly, the poor command of English amongst our youth where they are all aware of the importance of English, but do not have the will to strive towards mastering it; and secondly, the lowly-regarded teaching profession may end up with non-committed teachers. The survey has suggested that further detailed studies on these two issues to be carried out in order to identify the causes and formulate remedial action.



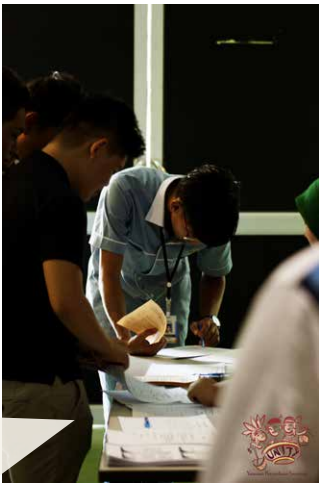
Therefore, it is important to know their preferences before embarking on something that is going to affect them. This quick survey aims to gauge the level of youth civic engagement, explore issues that are of concern to them, identify factors contributing to their willingness to engage, as well as perceived benefits from their engagement. By having the profile of their preferences and liking, the findings of this survey will help the relevant parties to develop and implement effective and suitable programmes to encourage youth to come forward and

This is an in-house survey which is expected to commence in early 2016 as approval to conduct the survey need to be obtained from the selected institutions and organizations. The survey will cover youth aged 18–24 years old only. Among the categories identified are Form 6 students, students at skills and technical development institutions, public and private higher learning institutions and working youth from the public and private sector.



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