

FSSH COMMUNITY UPDATES

December 2023/ Vol 2

Office of Deputy Dean (Industry & Community Engagement)

FOREWARD

Salam UNIMASku sayang,

I would like to congratulate the Office of Deputy Dean (Industry & Community Engagement) under Dr Regina Garai for producing another edition of this e-bulletin: FSSH Community Updates 2023 (Volume 2). It is a very commendable effort as it tries to record and to document the Faculty's engagement with the community and the industry.

The relationship between universities and industries is crucial for fostering innovation, economic development, and the preparation of skilled workforce. This collaboration benefits both parties and contributes to societal progress. A successful university-industry partnership requires effective communication, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to common goals. It contributes to the overall well-being of society.

Reaching out to the community is also important for the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. When a faculty actively reaches out to the community, it establishes a mutually beneficial relationship that can have positive impacts on both the institution and the surrounding community. By actively reaching out and collaborating with the community the faculty can contribute to positive social, economic, and cultural development in the areas they serve.



At the faculty level, both community and industry engagements fall under the auspices of the Deputy Dean (Industry & Community Engagement) Office. Our Faculty has spearheaded numerous USR projects in collaboration with various communities, near and far, exemplifying our commitment to meaningful community engagement.

The faculty also engaged our industry partner. More often than not, our industry partners are invited to share their thoughts, insights and perspectives on what the industry expect from our future ready graduates. This collaborative effort ensures that our university courses remain attuned to industry needs, shaping "future-ready graduates" equipped with the indispensable skills, knowledge, and adaptability to thrive in an ever evolving world.

This e-bulletin serves as a record of our collaboration with both community and industry, capturing impactful activities for future reference and reflection. Congratulations once again on our collective achievements!

Teguh Bersama. Segulai Sejalai

Professor Dr Neilson Ilan Mersat
Dean

Projek Tanggungjawab Sosial Universiti

Bridging FSSH & Community

#FSSKBersamaKomuniti
#FSSHCommunityEngagement
#FSSHUSR



EDITORIAL NOTE



Over the last twelve months, the Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, UNIMAS has been bustling with activity. Our dedicated Faculty members have been involved in numerous community engagement, outreach programmes and knowledge transfer sessions, extending from the rural areas of Kapit and Kanowit, to Serian, Kuching and Kota Samarahan. Additionally, our commitment to community engagement have transcended borders, reaching the Sarawak-Kalimantan divide in Sekadau, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. These impactful engagements fall under the umbrella of University Social Responsibility (USR) projects, reflecting FSSH's commitment to making a meaningful difference beyond the confines of academia. This is also in line with UNIMAS' tagline: community-driven university for a sustainable world.

At FSSH, we recognise the pivotal role of community and industry engagement in fortifying networks among communities, industries and the University. By actively participating in these engagements, we aim not just to establish a presence but to foster genuine connections with communities. Our commitment to community engagement takes diverse forms, spanning across various fields of expertise, and is consistently nurtured through collaborative efforts with a wide array of community and industry partners. Explore the subsequent pages of this e-Bulletin for a deeper insight into these vibrant collaborations and their far-reaching impacts.

UNIMAS also emphasises on community engagement as a fundamental learning platform. For instance, its Service Learning Malaysia - SULAM courses and, more recently, the implementation of the Experiential Learning and Competency Based Education Landscape (EXCEL) framework. Notably, FSSH was selected as a pioneering institution for the implementation of the Community Resilience Experiential Learning (CARE) under EXCEL. This milestone signifies a heightened commitment from us at FSSH to intensify and proactively engage with communities in the times ahead.

Finally, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Dean, the Faculty management, and our dedicated Faculty members for their steadfast support and invaluable contributions to our USR initiatives and community/industry engagements throughout 2023. Your commitment has been instrumental in our endeavours. Here's to an even more engaging and impactful 2024 ahead!

Thank you.

Dr Regina Garai
Editor

USR: KAMPUNG BARU, KOTA SAMARAHAN



Leader: Dr Adibah Yusof
Team Members:
 Dr Khalid Zanudin
 Dr Farah Zaini
 Dr Daniel Ugih Echoh
 Meri Sabas
 Rowena Abdullah

Date: 29 Januari 2023



This USR project is a collaboration between FSSH and JKKK Kampung Baru, Kota Samarahan.

It aims to create awareness on the importance of education to the participants, who include students and parents. It also has an interactive session that provide a platform to motivate the participants in facing the challenges of today's teaching and learning.



USR: KAMPUNG MERANEK, KOTA SAMARAHAN

Leader: Dr Athirah Azhar
Team Members:
 Dr Tharshini Sivabalan
 Dr Dolly Paul Carlo
 Dr Kamsiah Ali
 Dr Zamri Hassan
 Dr Faizah Mas'ud
 Dr Nor Hanim binti Awang @ Mohd Noor
Date: 25 June 2023



This USR was jointly organised by the FSSH, Social Work Student Association and JKKK Kampung Meranek, Kota Samarahan. It is a knowledge sharing session that aims to expose the local community on mental health issues and challenges. A *gotong-royong* was also held that day.

UNIVERSITY SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROJECT (USR)

USR Project at Nanga Lipus, Kanowit

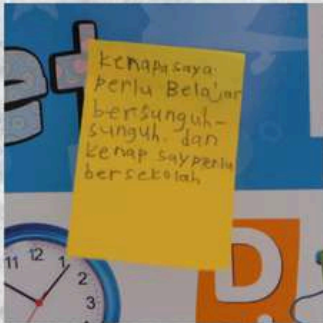


Leader: AP Dr Wong Swee Kiong
Team members:
Dr Nicholas Gani
Kelvin Egay John

Date: 13 March 2023



This USR project is a collaboration between FSSH and JKKK Rh Anthony, Nanga Lipus, Kanowit. It aims to engage with the students in Rh Anthony and discuss the issues and challenges of schooling in post-pandemic time. It also serves as an impactful motivational platform for both students and parents.



USR Project at Sekadau, Kalimantan Barat

Leader: Dr Regina Garai
Team members:
Prof Dr Neilson Ilan Mersat
Dr Nicholas Gani

Date: 23 March 2023



This is a cross-border USR project and a collaboration between FSSH and Keling Kumang Institute of Technology, Sekadau, West Kalimantan.

The sharing session focused on the issues and challenges of higher education in the VUCA environment. The participants were the management of the Institute, its staff as well as students.

"The sharing session was impactful and we, at Keling Kumang Institute of Technology, benefitted from this collaboration."

Dr. Drs. Stefanus Masium, S.H., M.E.



FSSH UNIVERSITY SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (USR) PROJECTS

CHALLENGES OF TODAY'S TEACHING & LEARNING: WITH SK MAPU, SERIAN

Education is highly important for the sustainability of the community ... therefore, this project is in line with the aims of SDG 2030, particularly SDG 11: Sustainable Cities & Communities

Leader: Dr Nicholas Gani

Team Members:

Dr Nur Auni Ugong

Dayangku Norasyikin Awang Tejuddin

Date: 29 April 2023



This USR project is a collaboration between FSSH, SK Mapu, Serian and its Parents-Teacher Association in conjunction with SK Mapu's Open Day 2023. The sharing session aims to provide insights on the present challenges and alternatives in education. This is particularly significant as we are dealing with the post-pandemic challenges in our teaching and learning.



SHARING & ENGAGEMENT SESSION WITH SJK CHUNG HUA SIBURAN, KUCHING

Leader: Bemen Wong

Date: 21 June 2023



This USR project is a jointly organised by FSSH and SJK Chung Hua Siburan. The knowledge sharing session focused on the challenges and issues faced by the students and ways to address those challenges. A total of 189 participants were involved, including the pupils, teachers, and the parents.



USR PROJECT: JUH ECOBRICK! WITH SK ULU YONG, KAPIT

Leader: Dr Haslina Hashim

Team Member: Dr Daniel Ugih Enchoh

Date: 10 May 2023



This USR project is a collaboration between FSSH & Kelab Pencinta Alam Sekitar (PALs) SK Ulu Yong, Kapit. It aims to create community awareness, especially at a young age, about environmental protection and conservation. This project introduced the concept of ecobrick to the participants, provided training on how to make an ecobrick from start to finish, and demonstrated the potential of ecobrick to create functional product (e.g. stools).



USR : GILAP SINAR PROJECT WITH SEKOLAH TUNAS BAKTI, KUCHING

This USR project was organised by Year 3 Social Work Programme, led by Dr Kamsiah Ali. It is a collaboration with Sekolah Tunas Bakti, Kuching. It aims to promote awareness as well as to provide moral supports to the participants via numerous activities. This is in line with the concept of inclusivity and leaving no-one behind as outlined in SDG 2030.

Leader: Dr Kamsiah Ali

Date: 10 June 2023



Leader: Dr Leha Saliman

Team Member:
Prof Dr Neilson Ilan Mersat,
Hafizan Mohamad Naim,
Meri Sabas
Rowena Abdullah

Date: 7 Sept 2023

USR PROJECT WITH SK ST LEO (M) PANTU

Objectives of USR project:

- I. To expose the participants to learning and teaching elements;
- II. To discuss the current issues and challenges faced by students in rural areas;
- III. To motivate participants in continuing education amidst the challenges.

The knowledge-sharing session was organised by FSSH in collaboration with the management of SK ST Leo Gayau Pantu. A total of 69 participants, including pupils, staff and parents were involved in the knowledge-sharing session. Dr. Leha Saliman's talk covered the issues of teaching and learning post-COVID-19 with a focus on rural situations. She emphasised on inclusivity, adaptability, and community involvement, which is very much in line with the SDG 2030.



University Social Responsibility (USR) Projects

Community-driven University for a Sustainable World



FACULTY OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES &
HUMANITIES

SHARING ON MENTAL HEALTH AT PUSPEN

Leader: Puan Meri Sabas

Team members:

Dr Farah Zaini
Masle Terhim
Siti Azizah Abdul Latif
Rowena Abdullah
Rahana Sharkawi
Ketty Daun
Sovyanti Karmani
Suhanawati Brahim
Shahira Ibrahim
Mohd Tharmidzy Sufardi
Mohd Nor Hisyam Merias
Mohd Nasir Othman
Frida John

Date: 21 September 2023

This USR project is a collaboration between FSSH and the Narcotic Addiction Rehabilitation Centre (*Pusat Pemulihan Penagihan Narkotik - PUSPEN*). The project aims to spread awareness on the importance of mental health among the participants. It also discusses the challenges and the coping strategies related to mental health. It was an interactive session and the feedback from the participants are overwhelmingly positive.



MINI LIBRARY PROJECT AT KAMPUNG SAMPUN GERUNGANG, ASAJAYA

Leader: Dr Athirah Azhar

Team member:

Dr Dolly Paul Carlo

Date: 9 December 2023

This USR project is a collaboration between FSSH and Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO (Suruhanjaya Kebangsaan UNESCO Malaysia). It aims to provide a mini library (for books and toys) for the children at Kampung Sampun Gerunggang, Asajaya.

The team members also had sharing session with the parents on learning difficulties among children and how to cope with such challenges.



Siri Bicara Pahlawan 2023



A platform for voices of the community, by the community and for the community



The speaker for our 5th Siri Bicara Pahlawan was Dato Aba Robiyel Huk. He is a prominent figure in the police force who had played a big role during the Confrontation years and in various operations against communist insurgents in Sarawak. This Siri Bicara Pahlawan was jointly organised by FSSH and Persatuan Sejarah Malaysia Cawangan Sarawak.



An online forum was conducted under the Siri Bicara Pahlawan 2023 platform during the merdeka month. This forum was centred on researchers' insights into the local struggles to combat the communist threat in Sabah & Sarawak. It received overwhelming response and was attended by over 100 participants.



Second Lieutenant (Rtd) David Fu Chee Ming, PGB was the speaker for the 8th Siri Bicara Pahlawan. He did a sharing on his experience on the ambush at Klian Intan, Perak in 1970. His bravery and gallantry action during this incident was recognised and he was awarded the Pingat Pahlawan Gagah Berani.



The 7th Siri Bicara Pahlawan seminar delved into a pivotal civilian perspective on encountering insurgency in 1970s Sarawak. The speaker was Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Alfred Jabu anak Numpang, who was directly involved in the resettlement and regrouping exercises in the Rajang Area Security Command (RASCOM) area. He emphasised the role of civilian, police and military in working together for one common goal as well as the challenges that they faced.





Sharing Sessions on Sustainable Community

Two special sharing sessions were held on 19th and 20th June 2023 by the award winning Tuai Rumah Bandi anak Ragai, affectionately called Apai Janggut, of Sungai Utik, Kapuas Hulu, Kalimantan Barat. Apai Janggut and his community was awarded the UNDP Equator Prize 2019 for their excellence and innovative practices in the conservation of their environment and their sustainable practices. Apai Janggut has also been awarded the Tokoh Masyarakat Adat in 2021 for his contribution in promoting culture. In 2023, Apai Janggut was awarded the Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity Award (Eco-system Restoration Leader).

His sharing session focuses on how Sg Utik community practices sustainable land management and the challenges that the community had encountered during their 20 years struggle for land recognition. The land, forest and rivers are everything to the Iban community in Sungai Utik. In the words of Apai Janggut, *"tanah nya apai kitai, kampung nya indai kitai, ai nya darah kitai..."*

They also recently created what they called '*sekolah adat*' in their efforts to preserve their cultural heritage and inculcate passion for culture among the younger generations. This inter-generational knowledge transfer is led by the elders, includes lessons on recognising plants and their usage, weaving (*menganyam*), and playing traditional musical instruments. Now this award winning community has been emulated by other communities.



Community Driven University for a Sustainable World

SANGGAR TARI 2023

FSSH'S SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE



"Other than acquiring new knowledge through lectures, university students need to improve their social skills which may not be found in textbooks. Sanggar Tari project serves as a venue for students to acquire new social skills in ethnic dance and, at the same time, sustaining cultural heritage."

Dean, FSSH

Sanggar Tari is one of FSSH's sustainability initiatives. It aims to promote and preserve our cultural heritage and this semester the focus is on Ngajat Iban. Our primary goal is to foster cultural preservation, aligning with SDG11- Sustainable Cities & Communities. We believe that nurturing cultural diversity is essential for cultivating vibrant, inclusive and sustainable cities and communities. Sanggar Tari is also related to SDG3 - Good Health & Well-being - where dancing is a form of physical activity that can be both enjoyable and beneficial for physical and mental health.



Join us - every Wednesday (5.00 - 6.00 pm) at the LG FSSH Building. No registration required - just walk in. Everyone is welcome to be part of this enriching experience.



Our dance instructors (R - L): Cyril Ladi Anak Dunstan, Rochelle Ooi Jin Qi, and Matthias Jaun Anak Stanley

Community-Driven University for a Sustainable World

OFFICE OF DEPUTY DEAN (STUDENT AFFAIRS & ALUMNI) 2023

Sanggar Tari 2023: The Responses



During Week 6 of Sanggar Tari 2023, an exciting shift occurred as the students decided to introduce live music into the session. A vibrant atmosphere enveloped the space as a group of students skilfully played traditional Iban musical instruments, adding a dynamic layer to the ngajat session and infusing it with newfound energy and liveliness. Kudos to everyone involved.

All musical instruments are graciously provided by the Dean from his own personal collection.



On average, approximately 30 participants attended the session each week. They include staff and students from different faculties and PTJs in UNIMAS, as well as from different ethnic backgrounds. We also have students from other countries, such as Japan and Indonesia, joining the Sanggar Tari as well.



Dance instructors: Rochelle Ooi & Melfiana Shalynn Anak Dilly

Butik Lestari - FSSH's Sustainability Initiative



Butik Lestari is one of FSSH sustainability initiatives under the Office of Deputy Dean (Student Affairs & Alumni), Dr Zamri Hassan. It aims to support our students by providing free and affordable items that they may need, while, at the same time, helping to conserve the environment through its recycling/ re-use principle.



At FSSH, we recognise that preloved items are important elements in promoting responsible consumption and production patterns (as outlined in SDG12). By extending the life of products, reducing waste and encouraging sustainable choices, preloved items support the broader global effort to achieve more sustainable and environmentally friendly responsible lifestyles and economies. This is also in line with contributing to a more inclusive and environmentally conscious campus culture.



Butik Lestari is open every Tuesday (9.00 am - 4.00pm) at CoEDS Room, Level 2 FSSH building. It is run by the Social Work Student Association (SWAS). All are welcome.



Butik Lestari was officially launched on 1st November 2023 by the Dean of FSSH, Prof Dr Neilson Ilan Mersat.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING (CARE) - SSR2103 FIELD COURSE 2023



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The Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak was chosen as one of the pioneers for the Experiential Learning and Competency Based Education Landscape (EXCEL) Framework which was developed and launched by the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) Malaysia in 2021. Specifically, FSSH was chosen to be a pioneer in Community Resilience Experiential Learning (CARE). CARE centres experiential learning around addressing community needs and fostering positive social impact. SSR2103: Basic Concepts & Issues in Development is one of the courses that has been identified as a CARE course for the Development Planning and Management Programme (UW6345001).

A fieldcourse for SSR2103 at Telok Melano was conducted to immerse the students with the community. It was led by Dr Regina Garai (course co-ordinator) and Dr Kiky Kirina Abdillah. A total of 101 students participated in the fieldcourse.

Community Inventory

One of the activities is community inventory. This was designed in such a way that there are interactive engagements between the local community and the students. This facilitates their exposure to the community, e.g. via sharing sessions with the JKKK, meeting the locals and discuss the development issues in the area. This activity enables them to understand the development issues in the community.



Plogging & Environmental Awareness

The students introduced 'plogging' to the community - as one of the ways to conserve the beach. Plogging is an activity that combines jogging with picking up rubbish along the way. They also distributed posters and explained about environmental conservation to the locals as part of their civic engagement.



Impacts of Fieldcourse

Impacts to the community

- Knowledge exchange: increase awareness about plogging and environmental conservation (long term impact)
- Building relationships between students, UNIMAS and the locals - for future collaboration/ partnership (long term impact)

Impacts to the students

- Real world application, i.e. hands on experience in local environment
- Fostering a sense of responsibility via civic engagement



FSSH'S INDUSTRY PARTNERS



SALCRA

Sarawak Land Consolidation & Rehabilitation Authority (SALCRA) is an active FSSH industry partner. In 2023, a number of activities were carried out, including a number of engagement sessions, specifically to discuss potential work collaboration, human development and training. Additionally, a total of seven students were attached at SALCRA for their internship. The SALCRA General Manager, Mr Joseph Elandoi, was also appointed as the Industrial Advisor Panel for SLUSE programme at FSSH.



LCDA

Land Custody & Development Authority (LCDA) and FSSH had signed a MoU in 2022. A number of activities were held in 2023, including training, engagement session, research collaboration and student internship.



Hope Place (Kuching)

Hope Place is a non-governmental organisation that works with the underprivileged in Kuching. FSSH, under the Social Work programme, has been collaborating with Hope Place in a number of activities (including SULAM courses and internship).



Rumah Seri Kenangan (RSK)

Rumah Seri Kenangan (Home for the elderly) is another industry partner that have been collaborating with FSSH. We have had a number of programmes at RSK over the years - involving both staff and students. This includes our community engagement, and SULAM courses.

Mercy Malaysia

Mercy Malaysia is an industry partner for our Social Work programme. In particular, Mercy Malaysia was an active collaborator for our CARE-based project at Kampung Tebakang, Serian.





Courtesy visit to the Governor of West Kalimantan, July 2023

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities has proactively lay the foundation for fostering enduring collaborations with our neighbouring region, Kalimantan.



At the launching of KKN in Sambas, West Kalimantan (January 2023)



FSSH students participating in KNN 2023



Courtesy visit to FISIP, UNTAN (July 2023)

"... laying the foundation is about taking the necessary initial steps to create a solid groundwork or structure that can support future growth, development, and progress."

Prof Dr Neilson Ilan Mersat

Highlights of the our efforts so far:

- research collaboration
- postgraduate supervision
- student mobility/ exchange/ visit
- Staff and student knowledge sharing sessions
- networking and engagement with local institutions (e.g. Institute Dayakology, Puskop Credit Khatulistiwa (PUSKHAT), Keling Kumang Institute of Technology, Keling Kumang Credit Union, and Universitas Tanjung Pura)
- networking and engagement with local community in Kalimantan Barat (e.g. Sg. Utik community)
- close networking with both the Indonesian Consulate in Kuching and the Malaysian Consulate in Pontianak



Close networking with Malaysian Consulate in Pontianak



An online sharing session by both FSSH and UNTAN speakers. It was attended by staff and students from both universities



A visit and sharing session at Keling Kumang Institute of Technology, Sekadau, Kalimantan Barat (March 2023)



Seminar presentation by Primus Segang Lase, a PhD candidate from West Kalimantan (December 2023)



A knowledge sharing session by the award-winning Sg Utik community leader, TR Bandi anak Ragai (June 2023)



3 MAY 2023: SMK SIMANGGANG



12 MAY 2023: SMK SRI AMAN



20 DECEMBER 2023: SMK BINTULU





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#FSSHCommunity Engagement